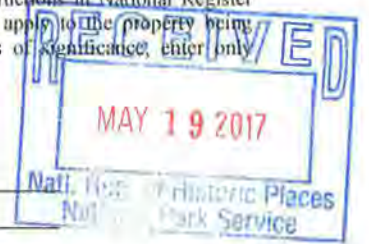


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SG 1257

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Leslie Commercial Historic District

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

### 2. Location

Street and number: 319-424 Main Street and 205 Oak Street

City or town: Leslie State: Arkansas County: Searcy

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ X C \_\_\_ D

		<u>3-24-17</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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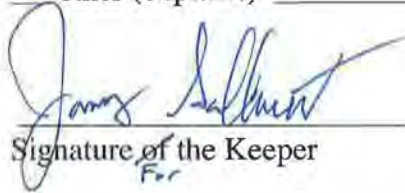
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper  
For

7-3-2017  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object



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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- GOVERNMENT/post office
- COMMERCE/TRADE/business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
- SOCIAL/meeting hall

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/business, restaurant
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/playground/park
- DOMESTIC/residential
- SOCIAL/meeting hall, event center
- GOVERNMENT/county agency
- RELIGIOUS/church

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Twentieth Century Standard Commercial

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, CONCRETE, WOOD/Log

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Leslie Commercial Historic District consists of 18 buildings, Leslie City Park, one public playground/park, and one vacant lot. The District essentially runs north-south and the length of one block between Oak and Walnut streets in downtown Leslie, Searcy County, Arkansas. Leslie reported a population of 441 residents in 2010. Located in southeastern Searcy County, the city encompasses approximately 0.8 square miles of land and is located off Arkansas Highway 66 at the intersection of Oak Street. Arkansas Highway 66 runs the length of the nominated District. Marshall, the county seat, is 8 miles northwest of Leslie on U.S. Highway 65. The City of Little Rock, the state capital, is approximately 91 miles south of Leslie. Searcy County is located in northern-central Arkansas within the Boston Mountain Range of the Ozark Plateau.

Leslie Commercial Historic District embraces approximately 4.77 acres of land. There are 11 contributing resources and 10 non-contributing resources. Three properties were previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and contribute to the nominated district. The non-contributing resources were either constructed after the period of significance or are older buildings that have undergone modern façade renovations and no longer retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the district. Leslie's Main Street represents a concentration of predominantly attached commercial buildings that served as the central business district for the City of Leslie and the surrounding area by 1900. Commercial buildings in the nominated District were constructed between 1905 and 1988. The buildings form a cohesive grouping that conveys the significance of the district as the commercial center of the City of Leslie with the arrival of the railroad in 1903 and Williams Cooperage Company in 1906, and remain an active business district through today. The District includes mostly one- and two-story brick commercial buildings with first floor storefronts and upper stories for commercial or private use. The predominant style is Early Twentieth and Mid-Twentieth Century Standard Commercial. Common details include

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recessed entrances, transoms, display windows, metal canopies, and brick cornices. The storefronts of the two-story buildings are visually separated from the upper story. The District includes mainly commercial properties (some with residential spaces above), a church located in an early mercantile building, Leslie City Park, a playground/park, and one vacant lot. Several of the storefronts are currently vacant or closed for an indefinite period.

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**Narrative Description**

The buildings of the Leslie Commercial Historic District are largely in good condition and retain adequate integrity to convey their significance as components of an early twentieth-century central business district. Most of the windows have been replaced and some of the storefronts have been altered; however, many of the storefronts updated in the mid-twentieth century possess integrity of materials and design. The contributing buildings retain their original form, ornament, and continue to represent their use and design. Though individual buildings may be altered, the district as a whole retains integrity of design, location, workmanship, setting, feeling, association, and materials. The majority of the buildings within the district retain most of their original façades. The district has no modern intrusions.

Setting

The Leslie Commercial Historic District represents the central business district of the City of Leslie. Located along Main Street, it is representative of the type of commercial center adjacent to the railroad depot and rapid expansion with the arrival of the Williams Cooperage Company. The depot is located between Main Street and Cove Creek to the west of the district and is privately owned by a local lumber company. All of the train tracks were removed in 1949 after the railroad's maintenance shops were relocated to Marshall. The surrounding buildings immediately outside of the Leslie Commercial Historic District boundary north of Oak Street are commercial businesses, those south of Walnut Street are a mix of commercial and government buildings, commercial and residential structures are located west and east of Main Street along Oak Street, and residences populate Walnut Street west and east of Main Street. These buildings are not included within the district boundary, as they are residential in use, of modern construction, or have been heavily altered. A two-lane highway (Arkansas Highway 66) runs through the district beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highway 65 moving east on Oak Street, turning south at Main Street, and then turning east onto Walnut Street. The highway is a thoroughfare for all types of vehicles including eighteen-wheelers running between Mountain View, Arkansas, and U.S. Highway 65 in Leslie, Arkansas.

The District is centered along one block of Main Street between Oak and Walnut streets. The eastern side of Main Street includes the odd numbers between 319 and 423, and the western side numbers are even. Two properties are located north of the intersection of Oak and Main streets (319 and 320 Main Street); otherwise, all other properties are within the same block. Alleys are located to the east and west of the buildings facing Main Street from 402 to 424 Main Street, and are referred to as the "East and West Alleys." The alleys are one-vehicle wide paved surfaces that run north-south between Oak and Walnut streets. Some parking space is provided behind the buildings. Sidewalks are located on both sides of Main Street and along Oak and Walnut streets, and all District properties abut the sidewalks. Properties outside the immediate District are distinctly altered, early twentieth-century commercial buildings or residences.

An inventory list of all resources in the Leslie Commercial Historic District is provided at the end of Section No. 7. This nomination includes the following figures: Leslie Commercial Historic District Boundary with Universal Transverse Mercators (UTMs; Figure 1); resources identified by Arkansas



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Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) resource numbers (Figure 2); and Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources identified by street address (Figure 3).

Individual Building Descriptions

The narrative summary includes the buildings and open spaces located at 319–424 Main Street. Corner buildings at 319 and 320 Main Street are located north of Oak Street with all other resources located on Main Street between Oak and Walnut streets. West and east boundaries are the alleys running behind the Main Street buildings. Individual building descriptions are presented in sequential street address.

Meek Building, 319 Main Street, ca. 1905, 1998  
SE0216

*Contributing; NRHP Listed 2000*

The Meek Building was originally constructed in the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The building is a two-story, one-part commercial block with a flat roof. It has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, and an elevated slab on concrete block foundation. The original storefront was modified in the late twentieth century with new windows and doors. The corner storefront has a brick veneer; a replacement, single-leaf, lead glass and wood door at the corner entrance with concrete step; and large display windows (all replacements) on the west and south facades. An entrance on the south (Oak Street) façade has been blocked into a window opening. The two single-leaf doors on the west (Main Street) façade are replacement wood doors with transoms. The northwestern door leads to a second story apartment. The rear (north) yard is fenced. The north (rear) façade has a new porch addition with a shed-roofed storage room. The second story rear (north) and eastern walls are fieldstone. All second story windows have been replaced with one-over-one metal sash windows. The building has been vacant for several years. The roofing materials are tar and gravel. The total floor area is 4,228 square feet. The adjacent property at 205 Oak Street (an enclosed courtyard in the space of an earlier building) is associated with 319 Main Street by ownership and use.

Findley Grocery, 320 Main Street, ca. 1930  
SE0220

*Contributing*

The Findley Grocery building is an example of a vernacular one-story, corner storefront, with a stone and rusticated concrete-block veneer. The materials used to construct the building were taken from a dismantled building previously located at 417 Main Street. The building has a concrete-block construction, flat and shed roofs, a rear (north) addition, and a loading dock addition on the northwestern corner. It has an L-shaped plan, a continuous concrete block foundation, and a corner entrance on Main Street. The recessed entrance has double-leaf, glass and metal, replacement doors with transom, flanked by angled display windows. The east façade has a triple-light display window, and two single-leaf metal doors (one at the rear addition). The south façade (Oak Street) includes three paired display windows with covered transoms. The west façade includes one single-leaf glass and wood panel door. A loading dock is located on the northwestern corner of the rear (north) concrete-block addition. The addition includes a two-over-two, double-hung, aluminum sash window on the south façade. A gravel parking area is located on the western side of the building. The roofing material is corrugated metal. The total floor area is 3,096 square feet.

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Building at 402 and 404 Main Street, ca. 1910

*Contributing*

SE0227

The two-story, one-part commercial building is an example of the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. It has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, a brick and stone foundation, a flat roof, and two-storefronts. 402 Main Street remains a commercial business (antique store) and 404 Main Street along with 406 Main Street was renovated in the early 2000s as the New Life Church.

402 Main Street has a central, double-leaf, recessed entrance flanked by display windows with transoms. The storefront at 404 Main Street has recessed, central, double-leaf glass entrance doors with transom flanked by a single-leaf glass door on the south and an angled display window on the north. A single-leaf glass door is located on the southern end of the front façade. The display windows are topped with a fenestration of eight single-light windows. The second floor of 402–404 Main Street has five window openings: two are one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows with concrete lintels and sills topped with a brick jack arch; and three are single-light, metal sash windows. A brick frieze with corbelling tops the front (east) parapet. The north (Oak Street) façade has a single display window, a painted advertising sign (Coca-Cola), a single-leaf wood paneled door with transom and awning, and double-leaf wood panel doors with transom near the western corner. The first floor has four single-pane windows with concrete lintels and sills. The upper story has ten one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash windows with transoms, and concrete lintels and sills. The west (rear) façade at 402 Main Street has a screened-in porch with shed roof and two, one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows with transoms topped by jack arches. The 404 Main Street side has two filled-in window openings flanking a single-leaf door and an exterior, wood stair tower to a second story entrance. All windows are replacements. The roofing material is corrugated metal. 402 Main Street has a total floor space of 4,758 square feet and 404 Main Street has 5,000 square feet.

Leslie City Park, 403 Main Street, date unknown

*Non-Contributing*

SE0466

Leslie City Park is located at the corner of Oak and Main streets on the site of a mercantile store that burned in the 1930s. The park was constructed in the 2000s. The area is enclosed by a brick retaining wall and has a concrete sidewalk that runs west-east through the centrally located gazebo. A small concrete pad provides parking off the East Alley. Plantings, shrubs, benches, and a flagpole complete the landscape.

American Legion Post 131, 405 Main Street, ca. 1935, 2000s *Contributing; NRHP Listed 1993*

SE0268

The meeting hall was built by Works Progress Administration labor in 1935 under the supervision of Leslie resident, Lloyd Harness. The building is an example of Rustic style architecture with its log-and-chinking veneer and corner Lincoln-type notching. The log building has an eastern end addition. Rectangular in plan, the original portion of the building has log construction, a stone foundation, and gable roof with either knee braces or exposed rafters in the extending eaves. Access to the original entrance (west façade) is through a gate off Main Street. The west façade has a central, single-leaf, glass and wood door flanked by paired, four-over-four, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. A set of concrete steps provides access to the entrance. The log building has three sets of paired, six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the north and south facades. The south façade has three vertical logs anchored to the wall. The building's frame addition has a concrete-block foundation, drop siding, board-and-batten siding in the gable, an eight-over-eight, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the south façade, and a single-leaf, metal

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door on the east façade. The roofing material is corrugated metal. The total floor area is 1,404 square feet. A pre-existing chimney located at the eastern end of the log structure has been removed.

The Henderson and Matheny American Legion Post 131 is named in honor of Roy W. Henderson, who was killed in action during World War I in France, and John Matheny, who died of pneumonia during World War I on 30 January 1919.

**Building at 405 Main Street, ca. 1946**  
SE0237

*Non-Contributing*

The building at 405 Main Street is an example of a mid-twentieth-century, one-part commercial building. The building has two storefronts, each with a single-leaf wood door and one large display window with concrete sill. A continuous concrete lintel extends across the west (front) façade above the windows and doors. A metal, shed-roofed awning supported by four square, wooden posts extends across the storefront. The building has a rectangular plan, concrete block construction, concrete foundation, and a sloping corrugated metal roof. The north façade has two modified, one-over-one, double hung, vinyl sash windows. The rear (east) façade has a central, single-leaf door flanked by two window openings. The northern window opening has been infilled and the eastern opening is also a modified one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The roofing material is rolled roof. The total floor area is 920 square feet.

**Building at 406 Main Street, ca. 1915**  
SE0228

*Contributing*

The building at 406 Main Street is home to the New Life Church along with 404 Main Street. The building is an example of the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The building is a two-story, one-part commercial block with a flat roof. The building has a rectangular plan, and brick masonry construction and concrete foundation. It has a single storefront with a central, recessed entrance that was modified in the mid-twentieth century. The entrance includes a double-leaf, glass door and transom with a single-leaf, glass and wood door replacing a display window south of the main entrance. The east (street) façade has display windows across the front topped with a row of single-pane windows covered with metal paneling. A cast-iron column supports the recessed entrance. The second floor east (street) façade has three replacement, one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash, arched window openings with brick sills. The east façade has a brick cornice and parapet. The southern side has replacement, six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash, arched windows. A stepped parapet extends along the southern side. The western (rear) side has a modified double-leaf, central entrance that now includes only a single-leaf, metal door and infill. The doorway's original transom and segmental arch remains. The entrance is flanked by two infilled window openings with brick arching lintels and sills. A raised wooden deck and stairs allow access to the doorway from the alley. A shed roof, metal awning extends over the deck. The roofing material is rolled roof. The total floor area is 4,922 square feet.

**Building at 407 Main Street, ca. 1940**  
SE0236

*Non-Contributing*

The building is an example of the Mid-Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The 407 Main Street building is a two-story, one-part commercial block with a front gable roof. The main block has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, and a concrete foundation. It has a single storefront with a recessed, angled entrance with replacement, mid-twentieth-century, double-leaf, glass and wood doors with a divided transom and concrete steps. The double-height entrance is flanked by inset bays of second story sliding glass, metal sash windows above the first floor single-pane display windows. The window



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openings have wood surrounds. Below the new display windows are common bond brick walls, with a soldier course topped by decorative tiles. The front gable has wooden siding. The south façade has no opening and was used at one time to project movies onto, thereby providing entertainment to the residents. The east (rear) façade has a modified central entrance (from a double-leaf entrance) of a single-leaf door and sidelight with segmental arch and transom flanked by replacement one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash windows. The original stone lintels and sills remain. The rear (east) gable has board-and-batten paneling that wraps around the side elevations under the projecting eaves. The roofing material consists of asphalt shingles. The total floor area is 972 square feet. The building has been heavily modified.

Leslie Café at 408 Main Street, ca. 1910

*Contributing*

SE0229

The building is an example of the Mid-Twentieth Century Urban Renewal Commercial style. Originally a brick face building, mid-century modifications included decorative metal screening over the upper story and the installation of tilted display windows. The building is a one-part commercial block with a flat roof. It has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, and a concrete foundation. A single-leaf, glass door with transom and sidelights is located on the northern end of the tilted, full-height display windows set in aluminum framing. A canvas canopy shields the windows. The west (rear) façade has a central, single-leaf, door flanked by two one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash windows. A wooden deck runs from the entrance to the southern window. The roofing material is corrugated metal. The total floor area is 2,064 square feet. The State Bank was also located at this address. A shed-roofed, wood and metal paneled storage shed stands along the back parking area.

Public Playground/Park at 409 and 413 Main Street, ca.2000s

*Non-Contributing*

SE0467

Located in the middle of the district is a public playground/park that covers two land parcels that have remained vacant lots until the installation of the playground/park. A local informant stated the playground/park is owned and maintained by a nearby Baptist church to provide a diversion for local and visiting children. The fenced-in area includes benches, flowerbeds, and playground equipment. A wrought iron fence and gate extend across the street side. A gravel parking area is accessible from the East Alley.

Building at 410 Main Street, ca. 1918

*Contributing*

SE0230

The building at 410 Main Street is an example of the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The building is a one-part commercial and residential building with a flat roof. The building has a rectangular plan, masonry construction, and a concrete foundation. The storefront was modified in 1991. It consists of a three-quarter wide, recessed entrance, large display windows resting on limestone panels, and a tile floor. The entrance has a recessed, single-leaf, glass and wood door. A bulkhead of seven single-pane windows tops the entrance bay. The upper portion of the east façade has a recessed brick panel, corbelling, and parapet. A combination lantern and lighted sign hangs above the entrance bay. The rear 40' x 25' area of the building is an apartment. The west (rear) façade has a central entrance of replacement, double-leaf, glass doors flanked by a replacement, one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash window on the south and a wooden paneled door to the north. A lattice fence encloses the northern entrance. Concrete steps provide access to the rear (west) entrance. The roofing material is corrugated metal. The total floor area is 2,386 square feet.

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Morisette Pottery, 411 Main Street, ca. 1940  
SE0468

*Non-Contributing*

The building at 411 Main Street is an example of the Mid-Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The building is a one-part commercial block with a flat roof. It has a rectangular plan, concrete-block construction, and a closed-pier foundation. The west (street) façade has been modified and includes a framed bay of wood siding that surrounds the front windows that includes a central display window flanked by one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. A single-leaf, glass and wood door entrance is located south of the windows. The sides have one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. The rear (east) façade has an open porch with a metal shed roof supported by wooden posts that sit below grade. There is a central entrance flanked by replacement windows of one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. A large expanse of grassy lawn lies between the building and the East Alley. The building has a rolled roof. The total floor area is 720 square feet. The building was originally a beauty salon and then a barbershop.

Rogers Building at 412 and 414 Main Street, ca. 1915  
SE0231

*Non-Contributing*

The Rogers Building at 412 and 414 Main Street is an example of the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The building is a one-part commercial block, with a flat roof. The building has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, and a stone foundation. It has two storefronts. The storefront at 412 Main Street includes a recessed central entrance flanked by flush and angled display windows. The single-leaf entrance is a glass and wood door with transom, and a small concrete pad entrance space. The aluminum-framed display windows rest on top of wooden panels. A metal awning shields the storefront. The 414 Main Street storefront has been completely altered. Board-and-batten paneling extends across the east façade, surrounding the new display windows and central, single-leaf, entrance wood door. An enclosed awning with wooden shingles shields the storefront. The upper portion of both storefronts has a painted stucco finish and does not have any corbelling at the parapet. The west (rear) façade, also extensively altered, has a raised wooden deck and stairs. All window and door openings have been altered with replacement materials. The segmental, arched window openings have been altered to accept one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows with transoms. The rear entrance to 412 Main Street is a replacement, double-leaf, wooden door with infilled transom. The 414 Main Street rear (west) entrance has been modified from a double entrance to a single-leaf doorway with brick infill. The segmental arches over the entryways remain. The roofing material is corrugated metal. The total floor area is 4,960 square feet.

Junk For Sale, 415 Main Street, ca. 1910, 1988 renovation  
SE0469

*Non-Contributing*

415 Main Street was most likely an example of an Early Twentieth Century Standard commercial building, but subsequent renovations make this building a “work in progress.” The building’s original core is a one-story, gable front, rectangular building with concrete-block construction. The building is reached by a long sidewalk that ends at an open patio encased by a four-foot concrete wall. Entrance to the one-story west façade is via a single-leaf door with awning on the southwestern corner. A single-pane window is located north of the door. Single-pane windows are also located on the north and south façades. Vertical paneling is located in the first story gable. A two-story gable front addition was added to the eastern end of the original one-story building. Also of concrete block, the addition has a gable roof, sliding windows, and one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. A single-leaf door is located at the upper story on the rear (east) façade (with no stair access), and another single-door and double-leaf

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doorway on the first floor. The addition is covered only in moisture barrier wrapping. The roofing material is asphalt shingles. The total floor area is 2,066 square feet.

**Building at 416 Main Street, ca. 1920**  
SE0470

*Contributing*

The building at 416 Main Street was an example of the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style when constructed. The building is a two-story, one-part commercial block with a flat roof. It has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, and a concrete and stone foundation. In the process of being renovated, the three-bay east (street) façade has been completely modified—less one original display window, transom, and field stone panel. The central doorway has infill cedar siding and no door. The transom has also been trimmed in cedar. The original transom was a two-over-two, square light arrangement. A single-leaf, metal door is located in place of the original southern display window. The original opening has been infilled with drop siding, single-pane sidelight, and two single-pane fixed windows. The door leads to a second floor radio station office. The only original window is a three-over-one, fixed, display window north of the entrance. A metal, shed roof awning supported by cedar beams shelters the storefront. The upper portion of the east (street) façade displays a cut-stone veneer and parapet roof. The west (rear) and south façades are of their original fieldstone. The south façade has no window or door opening. The rear (west) side has a central double entrance, flanked by square window openings. Each opening has a cut-stone, flat lintel. All openings have been boarded, as there is no window or doors. A local informant and observation concluded that the entire interior of the building has been gutted, including lowering of the floor grade. The roofing material is corrugated metal. The total floor area is 2,572 square feet.

**Vacant Lot, 417 Main Street**  
SE0471

*Non-Contributing*

Located on the southern end of Main Street, this vacant lot was originally the site of a one-story commercial building. The building was dismantled (reason unknown) and the materials reused to construct the Findley Grocery Store at 320 Main Street. The lot is included here to provide reference to the earlier existence of a building at this location.

**Building at 418 and 420 Main Street, ca. 1935**  
SE0232

*Non-Contributing*

The building at 418 and 420 Main Street is an example of a Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style building. The building is a one-part, double-storefront, commercial building with a flat roof. It has a rectangular plan, brick and concrete block construction, and concrete and concrete block foundation. Identical in appearance, both storefronts have three bays consisting of a central entrance bay flanked by angled display windows resting on brick walls. Each single-leaf, glass and wood doors have single-pane transoms and wood screens. The southern (side) wall is constructed of concrete block and has no opening. The west (rear) façade is covered in corrugated metal and has a centrally located single-leaf entrance. Corrugated metal encapsulates the front and side parapets, as well as the front wall above the canopy. The roofing material and canopy is corrugated metal. The total floor area is 1,944 square feet.



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**Building at 419 Main Street, ca. 1903**

*Contributing*

SE0472

419 Main Street is a one-part commercial building in a grouping of three. The building has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, a brick and concrete foundation, and a flat roof. The storefront has a central entrance with a recessed single-leaf, glass and wood door with a four-light transom and concrete steps. The angled entranceway is flanked by display windows with either two-light or three-light transoms. Recessed wooden panels are located below the windows. Two cast-iron columns, one on each side of the entrance, support the upper wall. A corrugated metal, shed roof canopy supported by wooden posts shields the storefront. The northern side is a brick wall with no openings, but several advertising signs appear in the top right corner. The east (rear) façade has a new roll-up door; a single-leaf, metal door on the northeastern corner; and a one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The east (rear) façade is covered with corrugated metal. The roof material is also corrugated metal. The total floor area is 1,976 square feet.

**Building at 421 Main Street, ca. 1903**

*Contributing*

SE0235

The building at 421 Main Street is an example of an Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The one-part commercial block building has a rectangular plan, masonry construction, brick and concrete block foundation, and a flat roof. It is the center building in a grouping of three. The three-bay storefront has been modified with the infill of the central bay with siding and a single-leaf door. The outside bays retain their original display windows with transoms and recessed wooden panels. A metal awning shields the storefront. The east (rear) façade has been reconstructed with concrete block and includes one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash windows, and a single-leaf metal door. The central section of the east façade is covered with vertical wooden siding. The roofing material is rolled roof. The total floor area is 2,000 square feet.

**Vacant lot and Building at 422 and 424 Main Street, ca. 1908**

*Non-Contributing*

SE0233

The building at 424 Main Street is an example of an Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. The one-part commercial block building has a rectangular plan, brick construction, stone foundation, and a flat roof with stepped parapet. It is located at the corner of Main and Walnut streets. The storefront has a single-leaf, wood door with covered sidelights on the northern corner. Three display windows pierce the east (front) façade. Corrugated metal siding covers an upper fenestration of windows and a metal canopy shields the storefront. The upper portion of the street side is covered in asbestos shingles. The southern (Walnut Street) side is covered in corrugated metal and has four single-pane fixed windows; and a paired two-over-two, metal sash window on the western corner. The western (rear) and northern sides are brick. The northern side has infilled, segmental, arched windows and an infilled doorway at the northern corner. The roofing material is rolled roof. The total floor area is 2,476 square feet.

The vacant lot at 422 Main Street is associated with 424 Main Street by ownership. It has always been a vacant lot.

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Farmers Bank, 423 Main Street, ca. 1905  
SE0234

*Contributing; NRHP Listed 1993*

Located on the southeastern corner of Main at Walnut streets, the Farmers Bank building is an example of the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style. Originally built as a bank, it later served as the post office, and is currently Serenity Farm Breads. The building is a one-part commercial block with a flat roof. It has a rectangular plan, brick masonry construction, and a concrete and brick foundation. The Main Street side has formal stylistic elements and more refined materials than the Oak Street side. The Main Street façade has three framed bays separated by protruding brick pilasters, limestone windowsills, and water table. Two bays have semi-circular windows with divided four-pane transoms with Roman arches complete with keystones. The corner bay shelters the angled, double-leaf entrance supported by a brick column. There is some infill surrounding the replacement doors. The original paneled transom, decorative frieze, and bead board ceiling remain above the doorway. The upper portion of the front side is broken by a limestone course (that wraps around to the side) and a recessed brick panel below the parapet. The parapet has egg and dart edging, and limestone coping. The southern (Oak Street) side includes four bays of paired one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows and a single-leaf, wood door entrance. Attached to the original core are two storefronts on the south (Oak Street) façade used for office space. Located on the eastern corner, both storefronts have a combination single-leaf, glass and wood door with transom and display window bay, and a paired display window bay. The paired windows have a limestone windowsill. The end unit has a side (east façade) one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash window. A limestone watercourse runs the length of the southern side. An enclosed metal canopy shields both storefronts and the single-leaf side entrance to the bakery. The rear (east façade) includes the window mentioned earlier and a double-leaf, metal doorway. The roofing material is rolled roof. The total floor area is 2,476 square feet.

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**Leslie Commercial Historic District Resources.**

Resource No.	Street No.	Street Name	Historic Name(s)/Uses	Built Date	Contributing/ Non-Contributing/ NRHP Listed
SE0216	319	Main Street	R.C. Meek Grocery Co., The Carousel, The Corner Pocket, Redman's Grocery, Olivi's Garden Restaurant	ca. 1905	Contributing Listed, 2000
SE0220	320	Main Street	Findley Grocery Store, Derickson Lumber Warehouse	ca. 1930	Contributing
SE0227	402 & 404	Main Street	Chadwick Building Mercantile, Hardware, and Dry Goods Store, later Sutterfield Drug Store	ca. 1910	Contributing
SE0228	406	Main Street	Furniture Store, Killebrew Hardware Store	ca. 1915	Contributing
SE0229	408	Main Street	State Bank, Leslie Café	ca. 1915	Contributing
SE0230	410	Main Street	Cotton Drug Store, Lillebrew Fabric Store	ca. 1918	Contributing
SE0231	412 & 414	Main Street	Dry Goods, Clothing, and Shoe Store and later Movie Theater	ca. 1915	Non-Contributing
SE0232	418 & 420	Main Street	Florist and Salon	ca. 1935	Non-Contributing
SE0233	422 & 424	Main Street	General Merchandise Store, Flour and Feed Store	ca. 1908	Non-Contributing
SE0234	423	Main Street	Farmers Bank	ca. 1905	Contributing Listed, 1993
SE0235	421	Main Street	Drug Store	ca. 1910	Contributing
SE0236	407	Main Street	Mercantile, Specialty Shop	ca. 1940	Non-Contributing
SE0237	405	Main Street	Bookstore, Coffee Shop, Leslie Café, now County Literacy Council Office	ca. 1940	Non-Contributing
SE0268	405	Main Street	American Legion Post 131	ca. 1935	Contributing Listed, 1993
SE0466	403	Main Street	Previous site of a General Mercantile Store (burned 1936); now Leslie City Park;	ca. 1905; ca. 2000s	Non-Contributing
SE0467	409 & 413	Main Street	Vacant Lots; now a Public Playground/Park	ca. 2000s	Non-Contributing
SE0468	411	Main Street	Salon, Barber Shop, Pottery Shop	ca. 1940	Non-Contributing
SE0469	415	Main Street	Storefront	ca. 1988	Non-Contributing
SE0470	416	Main Street	Storefront	ca. 1920	Contributing
SE0471	417	Main Street	General Store prior to being dismantled; now an Empty Lot	n/a	Non-Contributing
SE0472	419	Main Street	Confectionary	ca. 1915	Contributing

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1905-1967

**Significant Dates**

1905: Date of the oldest building in the district  
1903-1949: Operation of the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad  
1906-1920: Williams Cooperage

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The period of significance for the Leslie Commercial Historic District extends from 1905, the date of the first building in the district, through 1967, as the district remained an active commercial center. During the first decade of the twentieth century, Leslie experienced increased expansion and commercial prosperity. The city's prominence as a stop on the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad, and home to the Williams Cooperage Company continued through the 1940s. The majority of commercial buildings in the nominated district were constructed during 1905–1940. The Leslie Commercial Historic District, located in the City of Leslie, Searcy County, Arkansas, is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the area of Commerce, Social History, and Entertainment and Recreation; and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Leslie's central core is organized along Main Street, which served as the primary commercial and municipal district of the town since the early twentieth century. The buildings retain most of their original design features, and comprise a visually cohesive grouping of commercial buildings constructed ca. 1905–1988. The development of this district reflects local and regional commercial development trends as reflected in the early period of Leslie's history during its heyday as a railroad town and home to one of the largest cooperage companies, and now a commercial city. It also represents an important era in civic activities, financial organizations, and social and fraternal clubs in Leslie. The predominately brick-clad, one- to two-story buildings display the popular vernacular commercial styles of the early to mid-twentieth century. Three individual NRHP buildings are located in the historic district: Meek Building (built ca. 1905) at 319 Main Street; Farmer's Bank (built ca. 1905) at 423 Main Street; and American Legion Post (built ca. 1935) at 405 Main Street.

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The period of significance for the Leslie Commercial Historic District extends from 1905 through 1967. Platted in 1902, Leslie began as a small crossroads community. With the arrival of the railroad and cooperage in the early 1900s, the town rapidly grew and supporting businesses developed along Main Street, which was adjacent the train depot and south of the Williams Cooperage Company. The earliest buildings in the district date to 1905. These early buildings provided space for a wide variety of commercial enterprises that supported Leslie, which were generated by the influx of residents associated with railroad, lumber, and cooperage enterprises, as well as some outlying agricultural pursuits. Specialty stores and retail businesses lined Main Street, as did city government offices, banks, and the post office. Downtown Leslie also served as the center of fraternal, public, and social activities.

Buildings typically had first floor commercial uses with upper levels utilized as residences, offices, or other commercial enterprises. Downtown Leslie served as a social and recreational gathering place for its residents. The open lots at 409 and 413 Main Street served as an open-air movie theater, as movies were projected on the southern wall of 407 Main Street. The majority of the businesses remained within the historic downtown commercial blocks. The retail businesses along Main Street continued to operate in historic one- and two-story brick buildings through the middle of the twentieth century and on to the end of the district's period of significance (1967). The district continues to serve as a central business district. With only a few empty storefronts, Main Street remains the historic center of the city.

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## Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information

### Areas of Significance: Criterion A

#### Commerce and Social History

The significant history and development of the City of Leslie is presented as *A Brief Summary of Searcy County* followed by *Crossroads Community to Boom Town: City of Leslie, late 1880s–1927*; *The St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad*; *Leslie Timber Industry*; and *Decline and Resurgence, 1928–1966*.

#### *A Brief Summary of Searcy County*<sup>1</sup>

Northwestern Arkansas was Osage territory from the sixteenth century until 1808, when the Osage sold their land rights to the United States and moved to Indian Territory. Obtaining title to the land through the Louisiana Purchase, the government granted several thousand acres, including all of future Searcy County to the establishment of “Western Cherokee Reservation” from 1817 to 1828. This territory encompassed most of the Ozark Mountains and the northern-central section of what became the State of Arkansas. In 1828, the Western Cherokees agreed to relinquish their Arkansas lands via purchase by the United States. Once the land returned to the possession of the Federal government white settlers were introduced to the area.

Searcy County is located in northern-central Arkansas. The Arkansas Territorial Legislature created the first Searcy County in 1835. Originally the county included today’s Marion and Searcy counties, as well as lands from three other adjacent counties. The county was renamed one year later to Marion County in honor of Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion. Due to the rapid influx of families into Marion County between 1835 and 1838, the second Searcy County was created from Marion County and named in honor of Richard Searcy, a pioneer in Arkansas Territory. Searcy was born in Tennessee and migrated with early settlers to Davidsonville, Arkansas, where he served as postmaster.<sup>2</sup> Moving in 1820 to Batesville, Searcy practiced law until he was appointed as a territorial court judge in 1823. Serving on the bench for nine years, Searcy died sometime during 1832–1833.<sup>3</sup>

The earliest pioneers to Searcy County settled on Raccoon Springs near present day Marshall, as well as Wiley’s Cove (present day Leslie). The first county seat was located at Lebanon, approximately 6 miles west of Marshall near Bear Creek.<sup>4</sup> Relocated in 1855, the new county seat was initially known as “Raccoon Springs,” then “Burrowsville,” and finally renamed Marshall in honor of John Marshall.

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<sup>1</sup> The early history of Searcy County is culled from “Searcy County,” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>2</sup> Ernie Deane, *Arkansas Place Names* (Branson: The Ozarks Mountaineer, 1986), 77.

<sup>3</sup> Mary Frances Harrell, *History and Folklore of Searcy County, Arkansas* (Harrison: New Leaf Press, Inc., 1977), 93.

<sup>4</sup> Orville J. McInturff, *Searcy County My Dear: A History of Searcy County, Arkansas*. (Marshall: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963), 10.

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Marshall was incorporated in 1890 and remains the county seat.<sup>5</sup> The county had a population of 936 in 1840 and 5,271 by 1860.<sup>6</sup>

As Searcy County began to expand at the turn of the nineteenth century, so did its infrastructure and amenities.<sup>7</sup> The county's first gristmill was located at Sulphur Springs; followed by a cotton gin, saw mill, and hotel at Lebanon by 1836. The first livery stable, associated with the Lebanon hotels, was established in 1856. Jack Leslie built a steam-powered gristmill at Wiley's Cove in 1880, the first county newspaper began production in 1884, and a roller mill at Duff was producing flour by 1887. With the discovery of lead and zinc resources in the county, mining attracted people and money to northern Searcy County.<sup>8</sup> The first bank located in Marshall in 1901, followed in 1905 by Leslie's Farmers Bank. The earliest telephone lines and exchange were installed in Marshall ca. 1902. Most important to the rapid growth of the county was the arrival of the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railway in 1903, which opened the area to agriculture, mining, and timber exporting.<sup>9</sup> Leslie was home to the county's first stave mill in 1904, and was the location of several timber factories using white oak to produce whiskey barrels, wagon hubs, and other products by 1910.<sup>10</sup> Also active in agricultural pursuits, the county saw its first hay loader and steam-powered threshing machine in 1908, Leslie had a commercial dairy providing daily milk delivery beginning in 1910, and the first riding plow was brought in from Nebraska about 1912. Cultural happenings around the county included the first movie show in Marshall ca. 1911–1912 and the first automobile arrived ca. 1913–1914. The increased numbers of automobiles in Searcy County prompted the completion of the first road from Marshall to Harriet. Commissioned in 1915 under the Alexander Road Law Act 338, the road was completed in 1916.<sup>11</sup> The first local sighting of an airplane was during the 1914 County Fair in Leslie. Zinc mining proved successful in the county, while drilling for oil intermittently from 1900 to 1960 did not. Population during the county's expansion period rose from 5,614 in 1870 to 14,590 in 1920.<sup>12</sup> The 1920 census count marks the highest population of Searcy County to date. Since then, population counts have decreased in all but two decades (1980 and 2000).<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Orville J. McInturff, *Searcy County My Dear: A History of Searcy County, Arkansas*. (Marshall: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963), 12.

<sup>6</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>7</sup> The list of new infrastructure and amenities in Searcy County illustrates Searcy County's growth and rise in population during 1880–1915. The list of the county's firsts is described in Orville J. McInturff, *Searcy County My Dear: A History of Searcy County, Arkansas*. (Marshall: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963), 56–57.

<sup>8</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>9</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>10</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>11</sup> Orville J. McInturff, *Searcy County My Dear: A History of Searcy County, Arkansas*. (Marshall: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963), 57.

<sup>12</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>13</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.



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Searcy County's population began to decline after World War I due to the falling price of lead and zinc, railroad labor strife that resulted in closing the line for several months, and the Eighteenth Amendment putting a halt to the need for manufacturing staves and whiskey barrels.<sup>14</sup> During the Great Depression (1929–1939), Searcy County saw little advancement and the population did not greatly fluctuate between the Great Depression and World War II. The county suffered casualties during World War II, but as the men returned home, a new industrial/economic opportunity arrived via a shirt factory in Marshall and a new cultural advancement arrived with the construction of a library. Eastern Searcy County experienced the development of strawberry farms that remained viable through the 1960s until labor was scarce. Since the 1970s, the county's economy has been sustained by cattle farming, timber cutting, and producing wood products, as well as the Buffalo National River Recreation Area, which provides jobs supported by tourism dollars.<sup>15</sup> The population hit its lowest number in 1970 at 7,731. The most recent census counted 8,195 Searcy County residents in 2010.

*Crossroads Community to Boom Town: City of Leslie, late 1880s–1927*<sup>16</sup>

The City of Leslie is situated in southeastern Searcy County amid the rugged Boston Mountain region of the Ozark Plateau. Founded as a railroad and lumber town, Leslie was one of the Ozark region's centers of industry in its heyday (1903–1925). The town of Leslie was initially known as "Wiley's Cove." Some sources say it was named for John Wiley, "an Indian Chief of a small clan, in that section when the white man came, but the name may have derived from one of the white settlers squatting in northern-central Arkansas in the early nineteenth century."<sup>17</sup><sup>18</sup> The city was renamed Leslie in 1887, in honor of either Colonel Sam Leslie or his brother Jack "Old Jack" Leslie. Before its incorporation on June 19, 1902, Leslie was a small crossroads village. The town was platted in 1902 and early maps depict a few commercial buildings located on the eastern side of Main Street boasting four stores, a post office, gristmill, flourmill, and blacksmith shop. With the arrival of the railroad in 1903, and an abundance of surrounding timber forests to support the wood industry, Leslie soon became the largest town in the county. Leslie's highest population count to date was 1,898 in 1910.

The timber industry in Arkansas fully developed after the Civil War. In northern-central Arkansas's Ozark Mountains, the forests were rampant with a mix of pine and hardwood. Not until the railroad came to the state did the lumber industry reach beyond local communities. But once a main rail line (such as the early Cotton Belt Railroad) was in place, lumber capitalists began to acquire Arkansas timberlands.<sup>19</sup> The

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<sup>14</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>15</sup> "Searcy County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated February 26, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

<sup>16</sup> The history of Leslie is culled from "Leslie (Searcy County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated December 20, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2823>.

<sup>17</sup> Orville J. McInturff, *Searcy County My Dear: A History of Searcy County, Arkansas*. (Marshall: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963), 107.

<sup>18</sup> "Leslie (Searcy County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated December 20, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2823>.

<sup>19</sup> The history of the Arkansas timber industry is culled from "Timber Industry," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated November 16, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2143>.

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relationship amongst the railroads, the timber industry, and labor were mutually beneficial, as the railroads required crossties and products to transport, the timber industry required transportation for their products to reach market, and the skilled railroad men worked the timber company's train engines and lines.<sup>20</sup> A town founded on the railroad and timber resources, Leslie grew rapidly from 1903 with the arrival of the railroad and cooperage mills through World War I. However, there were drawbacks to towns relying on an economy driven by the timber industry: was once the timber was cut and gone, so were the mills. As for the railroads, their demise was due in part to the growing network of the new highway system and the rise of the trucking industry. Leslie ultimately suffered from the loss of both the railroad and cooperage industries.

*The St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad*<sup>21</sup>

In an effort to bring the railroad into the mountainous region of the Ozarks, a group of New York, St. Louis, and Little Rock capitalists filed a charter on May 24, 1899, for the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad. Their mission was to construct a 50-mile line from Eureka Springs to Harrison, thus providing an economical means to bring the region's mineral and agricultural products to nearby urban markets.<sup>22</sup> With \$3,350,000 in capital stock, the new company purchased the Eureka Springs Railway and its tracks from Seligman, Missouri, to Eureka Springs. By 1901, the line extended to Harrison. In early 1903, the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad laid tracks in Leslie with the first train arriving on September 6, 1903.<sup>23</sup> The company later built an engine shed, shop buildings, and yard tracks at Leslie. A depot was constructed in 1903 that was later replaced with the current stone depot in 1914 by the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Company. The depot is located west of the nominated district and is listed on the NRHP.

In 1906, the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad was foreclosed due to defaulting on bond obligations. As a result, the company was sold to the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Company whom acted immediately to extend the line north through Missouri and south to Helena to connect with the Illinois Central Railroad at the Mississippi River. Unable to make payment on their bonded debt, the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad went into receivership in 1912. Just prior to defaulting on its debt, the railroad relocated their machine shops from Leslie to the City of Harrison in Boone County, Arkansas. This was the first of several times Leslie residents suffered loss of employment due to ailing railroad operations. This trend would continue through 1946. With debt continuing to multiply over the next two years, a 1915 train crash between a Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad car and a Kansas City Southern Railroad passenger

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<sup>20</sup> "Timber Industry," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated November 16, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2143>.

<sup>21</sup> The brief history of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Company presented only pertains to its effect on the City of Leslie during its existence during 1903–1946.

<sup>22</sup> Donald Kennedy Campbell, III, "A Study of Some factors Contributing to the Petition for Abandonment by the Missouri and Arkansas Railroad in September, 1946," *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Vol. VIII No. 4 Winter 1949, 267–269. Campbell states the Ozark Region was an island without rail transportation as established rail lines were located in all directions from the mountainous area. Finally by 1890, with the disadvantage of shipping costs outweighing the value of the goods themselves, a final push was made for rail service.

<sup>23</sup> "Leslie (Searcy County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, last updated December 20, 2016. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2823>.

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car more than doubled the company's debt.<sup>24</sup> Showing profit only in the years 1907 and 1917, the line went back into receivership in 1920, but was now faced with a labor dispute over wages. Even though the company raised fares for freight and passenger tariffs, the results did not increase income—instead business decreased, which left the company to cut labor rates. The wage cuts by the company inevitably resulted in a strike by all of its employees. On July 21, 1921, the Federal Court issued an order permitting cessation of operations of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad culminating in the second blow to the Leslie work force via the railroad, as rail service was suspended for several months.<sup>25</sup>

A subsequent effort to reopen the line was attempted in 1922, which ended in another strike, this time with the consequences of railroad property being vandalized or burned, lynching, and hangings. Eventually recovering from the 1922 strike, the railroad was stable until the floods on the Arkansas, White, and Mississippi rivers washed out lines, and the cost of repairs pushed the company back into receivership that same year. Subsequent sales of the railroad and attempts at improvements by new owners were again undertaken in 1927 and 1935. These attempts were overshadowed by the burning of the general offices located in Harrison in 1941 (reason unknown) and a second flooding of the White River in April 1945. Paying out all of the profits earned during 1941–1945 to repair the washed out tracks, the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad was running in the red by year's end. With no cash on hand and the nation-wide railroad strike of 1946 that implemented an 18.5¢ hourly wage increase that the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad could not pay, the railroad again was in peril. Seven months after posting a profit in February 1946, the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad workers went on strike for the last time over a wage dispute. The line went idle in late September 1946, never to reopen.<sup>26</sup>

Leslie Timber Industry

Along with the arrival of the railroad, Geyhouser & Galhouse built the first stave mill in Leslie prior to 1906. Employment in the stave plant and timber forests soon brought change to Leslie with the construction of hotels, company housing, and financial institutions such as Farmers Bank, that was quickly followed by the Searcy County Bank, the American Exchange Bank, and the Leslie State Bank. By 1906, the first of several large businesses, such as H.D. Williams Cooperage Company, Pekins Stave Manufacturing Company, and Mays Manufacturing Company, called Leslie home. With them came hundreds of workers creating the need for new infrastructure and amenities, which in turn created local job opportunities and city growth. The Meek Building (ca. 1905) was constructed at the corner of Main and Oak streets, serving as a grocery and offices for the telephone exchange upstairs. Additional stores

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<sup>24</sup> Donald Kennedy Campbell, III, "A Study of Some factors Contributing to the Petition for Abandonment by the Missouri and Arkansas Railroad in September, 1946," *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Vol. VIII No. 4 Winter 1949, 272–273. Of note, the crash resulted in the death of forty-three people; both companies shared the legal responsibilities.

<sup>25</sup> Donald Kennedy Campbell, III, "A Study of Some factors Contributing to the Petition for Abandonment by the Missouri and Arkansas Railroad in September, 1946," *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Vol. VIII No. 4 Winter 1949, 276. In the end, \$11,000,000 had been invested in the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Company, \$6,000,000 was due in interest to note holders and \$2,000,000 in receiver's certificates were outstanding.

<sup>26</sup> Donald Kennedy Campbell, III, "A Study of Some factors Contributing to the Petition for Abandonment by the Missouri and Arkansas Railroad in September, 1946," *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Vol. VIII No. 4 Winter 1949, 286–286. The author presents nine causes for the failure of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad, including: difficult topography through the Ozark Mountain region; poor construction; poor maintenance; and the effects of the newly expanded highway system (1946).

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housing mercantile, hardware, pharmacy, and flour and feed goods were constructed from north Main Street to south Main Street at 402, 404, 406, 415, 421, and 423 Main Street.

In 1906, the H.D. Williams Cooperage Company relocated its entire work force and operation to Leslie from Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The plant was located north of downtown Leslie, just over the creek. The largest plant of its kind, the plant had the capacity of 4,500 finished barrels a day and employed more than 1,200 men working between the factory and the woods.<sup>27</sup> When H.D. Williams relocated to Leslie, he brought 500 families of Negroes and set up the “End of the Line” community with housing, a school, and a church across Begley’s Creek, west of town on U.S. Highway 65.<sup>28</sup> Supporting amenities to the End of the Line community included a company store, blacksmith shop, boarding house, eat shack, and a mule barn. The company also built a hotel and white worker’s housing in town. Leasing 130,000 acres of forests, H.D. Williams laid 18 miles of track from his Leslie plant to the headwaters of the Little Red River that ran through virgin forests of white oak timber. Known as the “Dinky Line,” the rail line operated for 20 years. It hauled cut timber to the plant and finished product to the depot for shipping. It was stated that at one time, half of the county worked directly or indirectly for the H.D. Williams Cooperage Company.<sup>29</sup>

Commercial opportunities continued to multiply with the influx of handle mills, hub mills, and small timber mills. Other industries established during Leslie’s boom time included a number of general mercantile stores, produce vendors, a canning company and bottle works, drug stores, hardware stores, meat markets, a confectionary, and a millinery shop.<sup>30</sup> Ed Mays of the Mays Manufacturing Company built the first electric light and ice plant, and there were five hotels operating in Leslie by the 1920s.

Continuing to prosper, Leslie reported 2,000 inhabitants in 1912 due to work opportunities at the H.D. Williams Cooperage Company, “the largest tight-barrel manufactory in the world.”<sup>31</sup> Pekins Stave Manufacturing Company also had an extensive plant that employed hundreds of men. City improvements during this time included the construction of a new \$3,000 school, a new church, and several brick store buildings along Main Street.<sup>32</sup> Work could also be found in the numerous peach orchards or the strawberry fields. In an attempt to lure people to relocate to counties along the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad line, the company published a special edition of their magazine, *Oak Leaves Magazine* in 1912. Published as the “Home Seeker’s Special Edition,” Searcy County was described as being “abundant with springs of pure, cold water, mild, bracing, healthful climate, good schools, clever, healthy-looking, prosperous population, growing towns, rich zinc mines, immense forests of Oak and

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<sup>27</sup> Mary Frances Harrell, *History and Folklore of Searcy County, Arkansas* (Harrison: New Leaf Press, Inc., 1977), 127.

<sup>28</sup> Mary Frances Harrell, *History and Folklore of Searcy County, Arkansas* (Harrison: New Leaf Press, Inc., 1977), 128. End of the line was the last stop on the Dinky Line.

<sup>29</sup> Mary Frances Harrell, *History and Folklore of Searcy County, Arkansas* (Harrison: New Leaf Press, Inc., 1977), 115.

<sup>30</sup> Orville J. McInturff, *Searcy County My Dear: A History of Searcy County, Arkansas*. (Marshall: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963), 107.

<sup>31</sup> “North Arkansas Line: A New Railroad Through the Best Part of Arkansas.” *Oak Leaves Magazine: Home Seeker’s Special Edition 1912*. Eureka Springs: Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad, 1912), 25.

<sup>32</sup> “North Arkansas Line: A New Railroad Through the Best Part of Arkansas.” *Oak Leaves Magazine: Home Seeker’s Special Edition 1912*. Eureka Springs: Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad, 1912), 25.

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Hickory, and the peaceable, law-abiding and God-fearing spirit of her society.”<sup>33</sup> Claiming high profits for farmers raising stock, poultry, and crops in Searcy County, the publication also informed future residents of the availability to purchase land for as little as \$7.50 an acre just six miles from Marshall and upwards to \$60.00 an acre for improved lands. In lieu of cattle ranching and timber pursuits, the author stated that crops of grains, cotton, strawberries, and peaches also made a lucrative return for the local farmer with little investment necessary.

Unfortunately, 1912 proved to be the beginning of the end for boom times in Leslie. After a fire destroyed a block of buildings on Oak Street in January 1912, a later fire destroyed a portion of the H.D. Williams Cooperage Company plant that resulted in shutting down production for several months. As stated earlier, this was also the year the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad relocated their machine shops to Harrison. The H.D. Williams Cooperage Company never fully recovered and eventually sold to the Mays Manufacturing Company who stayed on producing wooden products, but a lesser quantity. The Export Cooperage Company bought the plant and the Dinky Line from Mays and operated them until 1927, when the doors of the cooperage plant closed for good.

Working under the motto of “Cut and Go,” when the forests of white oak were depleted and prohibition proved the death of stave mills, production at the mills ceased and most of Leslie’s citizens were out of jobs or left town to follow the timber mills. With the mills gone, most of the employment for the supporting infrastructure such as hotels and restaurants also disappeared.

*Decline and Resurgence, 1928–1966*

Leslie’s citizens suffered greatly with the lack of rail transportation. With the cessation of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad line, “the Red Cross felt it necessary to serve two meals a day at the schools in Leslie in order to keep the children from suffering actual hunger.”<sup>34</sup> During The Great Depression land prices fell up to 40%, tax payment deadlines were extended, the price of gasoline increased, and bankruptcy was widespread. Campbell III states that Leslie was the hardest hit of all the towns. The few buildings constructed during 1930–1940 were of concrete-block construction, except one. With the help of Works Progress Administration labor, local residents helped construct the American Legion Post 131 in 1935. This building activity provided some relief of employment for Leslie, as well as providing a social center for the town. Other new businesses included a beauty salon at 411 Main Street (ca. 1940) and a bookstore and coffee shop in front of the American Legion Post 131 at 405 Main Street (ca. 1940). The town of Leslie may have been down, but most certainly was not out, as it survived the Great Depression and World War II eras.

Slow to recover, census records indicate the population had increased in Leslie beginning in the 1970s through the 1980s. New proprietors bought the downtown buildings. Through renovation and repurposing, downtown Leslie began to emerge as a row of specialty shops such as antique shops, furniture and fabric stores, restaurants, a bakery, and an outdoor gear shop. These stores are sustained by

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<sup>33</sup> “North Arkansas Line: A New Railroad Through the Best Part of Arkansas.” *Oak Leaves Magazine: Home Seeker’s Special Edition 1912*. Eureka Springs: Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad, 1912), 24.

<sup>34</sup> Donald Kennedy Campbell, II, “A Study of Some factors Contributing to the Petition for Abandonment by the Missouri and Arkansas Railroad in September, 1946,” *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Vol. VIII No. 4 Winter 1949, 276.

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the through-traffic on U.S. Highways 65 traveling to Marshall and beyond, or via Arkansas Highway 66 that passes through Leslie and onward to the resort town of Mountain View. With the influx of new businesses since the 1970s, as well as agricultural endeavors of local farmers, downtown Leslie remains a vibrant and busy hub of social, tourist, and government activity; much the same as in 1905.

**Area of Significance: Criterion C  
Architecture**

The Leslie Commercial Historic District is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Centered along Main Street and inclusive of the early and mid-twentieth century commercial buildings, the district includes a collection of buildings representing a significant and distinguishable entity. The district contains three individually listed NRHP buildings of high architectural merit, as well as several that lack individual distinction, but contribute to the district as a whole. The contributing buildings in the district were constructed between 1905 and 1940 on parcels platted in 1902. Most of the buildings incorporated State and local trends in commercial architecture of the period. The buildings fronting Main Street and the adjacent side streets were erected in the preferred popular Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style, and largely retain their architectural integrity. The buildings within the district exhibit architectural details and materials of construction typical of the time period, inclusive of the additions and alterations to the original storefronts, as well as convey the significance of downtown Leslie as the commercial and civic center of town.

At the turn of the twentieth century, buildings in the district were constructed in the Early Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style, though the earliest of which held on to elements more common with the preceding standard commercial building style. In the first two decades of the twentieth century, commercial buildings in the district continued in the tradition of erecting brick masonry buildings of one and two stories in the form of one-part commercial blocks. This was the most common building type for small- and moderate-sized commercial buildings regionally, as well as throughout communities across the country. These buildings have a horizontal emphasis enforced by the storefront division and other horizontal elements such as cornices and parapets. For two-story buildings, the first was reserved for retail stores and the upper floor was used for a variety of purposes such as offices, meeting halls, apartments, or other businesses.

The earliest commercial buildings within the district were constructed ca. 1905. It is assumed that local builders constructed these early twentieth-century buildings with regional quarried stone and manufactured brick. No specific reference to the builders or materials was discovered during research. Local vernacular interpretations of the Twentieth Century Standard Commercial style were incorporated in the construction of Leslie's commercial blocks. The application of detail was limited mostly to cornice treatments and windows. One of the most ornate displays of vernacular Romanesque-style is exemplified by the Farmers Bank building (ca. 1905) at 423 Main Street. The building stands out for its application of Romanesque-inspired window treatments and distinctive brick and stone work. Distinct architectural elements include half-circle windows with four-light transoms topped by Roman arches complete with keystones. Stone coursing breaks the upper front façade and the window lintels, and was used as a decorative line on the pilasters and columns. Brick egg-and-dart edging at the parapet, as well as the recessed, beveled entrance comprise a striking building of materials and design.

Two other buildings stand out in the district: the Works Progress Administration-era Henderson and Matheny American Legion Post 131 (ca. 1935) at 405 Main Street and the Meek Building (ca. 1905) at 319 Main Street. The American Legion Post 131 displays the Rustic style with its log-and-chinking

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construction, corner Lincoln-notched joints, and knee braces. Built in 1935, the building provided not only a meeting hall/social center, but also its construction offered some employment relief to local residents during the Great Depression.

Most of the one-part and two-part commercial buildings of the period are more restrained in stylistic detail. Typical design elements include display windows resting on bulkheads, transoms, and recessed entrances with glass and wood doors. Several commercial buildings in the district were constructed in the years just prior and after World War II. These buildings are one story with flat roofs and concrete block construction with a painted finish. The appearance of the concrete construction appears throughout the district's boundary of Main Street. Concrete block construction can be seen at the buildings located at 320, 405, 411, 418 and 420 Main Street that date to 1930–1940.

During the mid-twentieth century, original storefronts were updated. Modern materials such as large display windows with aluminum glazing strips, metal and glass doors, and modern brick or stone veneers were incorporated into or replaced original storefront materials. Most telling is the metal screen on the street façade of the Leslie Café Building at 408 Main Street. Indicative of 1960s urban renewal, the decorative screen and tilted windows display a Mid-Century Modern influence.

The most common alterations to buildings within the district are the replacement of windows, removal of canopies and awnings, and the updating of storefronts. As many of the storefronts altered in the twentieth century have gained significance over time, only a few of the storefronts are not in character with the district; however, most of the buildings within the district retain the appearance of their original façades. The majority of the buildings within the district retain their historic form, and most details and materials; these buildings continue to convey the district as a significant business district dating from the early twentieth century to present day, although some storefronts are currently vacant.

Integrity:

The Leslie Commercial Historic District represents a cohesive collection of commercial buildings that are significant for their role in the commercial, social, and architectural development of the city from ca. 1905 through 1967. The only property within the nominated district not constructed during its period of significance is the Leslie City Park at 403 Main Street (ca. 2000s). Several storefronts were renovated during the twentieth century and a few are currently under renovation. The district has lost only two buildings: a mercantile building at 401 and 403 Main Street burned in 1936; and the building located at 417 Main Street was dismantled in the 1930s (the lot has remained vacant since then).

Overall, the buildings retain most of their character-defining details representative from initial construction through the early to mid-twentieth century. Common details include parapet façades, window openings, storefronts, cornices, and other design elements from the period. The district as a whole contains few modern intrusions or vacant lots, and retains integrity of setting, location, association, and feeling. Despite most of the buildings within the district having undergone updates and alterations, such as window replacement, they have retained their original street façades, storefront arrangements, and other character-defining architectural details.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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McElmurry, A.L. "Living at the End of the Dinky Line: Memories of the Leslie, Ark., Logging Train." *The Ozarks Mountaineer* [Kirbyville, Arkansas], February/March 2003.

McInturff, O.J. *Searcy County, My Dear: A History of Searcy County, Arkansas*. Marshall, AR: Marshall Mountain Wave, 1963.

"North Arkansas Line: A New Railroad Through the Best Part of Arkansas." *Oak Leaves Magazine: Home Seeker's Special Edition 1912*. Eureka Springs, AR: Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad, 1912.

Sanborn Map Company

*Leslie, Searcy County, Arkansas*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1914.

*Leslie, Searcy County, Arkansas*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1919.

Searcy County Chancery Clerk. *Map of Leslie, ARK, 1902*. Original Town Plat, 1902.

Searcy County Tax Assessor. *Searcy County Property Record Cards-2016*. Marshall, AR: 2016.

*Telephone Directory, Leslie-Marshall Arkansas, 1925*. On microfiche at the Arkansas State Library and Archives, Little Rock, AR.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Arkansas State Library and Archives, Little Rock, AR; Searcy County Courthouse, Chancery Clerk Office, and Tax Assessor Office, Marshall, AR; Marshall Public Library, Marshall, AR; Leslie City Hall, and the Leslie Heritage Museum.

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** SE0474

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 4.77 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:                      Longitude:
  
2. Latitude:                      Longitude:
  
3. Latitude:                      Longitude:
  
4. Latitude:                      Longitude:

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map): See attached Figure 1

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting:                      Northing:
  
2. Zone: Easting:                      Northing:
  
3. Zone: Easting:                      Northing:
  
4. Zone: Easting :                      Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Leslie Commercial Historic District is shown on the accompanying figures (Figures 1–3). The NRHP boundary for the Leslie Commercial Historic District includes 18 buildings, one municipal park, one public playground/park, and one vacant lot. The boundary encompasses all parcels from 319-424 Main Street that begins at the two corner buildings north of Oak Street North Main Street to Walnut Street on the south end of Main Street.

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The NRHP boundary for the Leslie Commercial Historic District includes those properties that are historically associated with the commercial center during its period of significance (1905–1967) and retain adequate integrity to convey their relationship to the historic central business district. The boundary encompasses all of the significant resources and features distinguishing the district, as well as 11 contributing resources including three resources previously listed on the NRHP. The non-contributing resources include 10 resources that have undergone alterations that have notably modified their appearance since the period of significance.

The boundary was drawn based on the limits of the Leslie Commercial Historic District during its period of significance and to exclude modern intrusion and buildings that have lost integrity. The district was limited to Main Street bound to the north by Oak Street, Walnut Street to the south, and the East and West Alleys that run behind the commercial buildings fronting Main Street.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title: Stacey L. Griffin, M.A./Sr. Architectural Historian

Organization: Panamerican Consultants, Inc.

Street and number: 91 Tillman Street

City or town: Memphis state: Tennessee zip code: 38111

E-mail: [sgriffin@panamconsultants.com](mailto:sgriffin@panamconsultants.com)

Telephone: 901-454-4733

Date: 28 October 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **U.S. Geological Survey map** or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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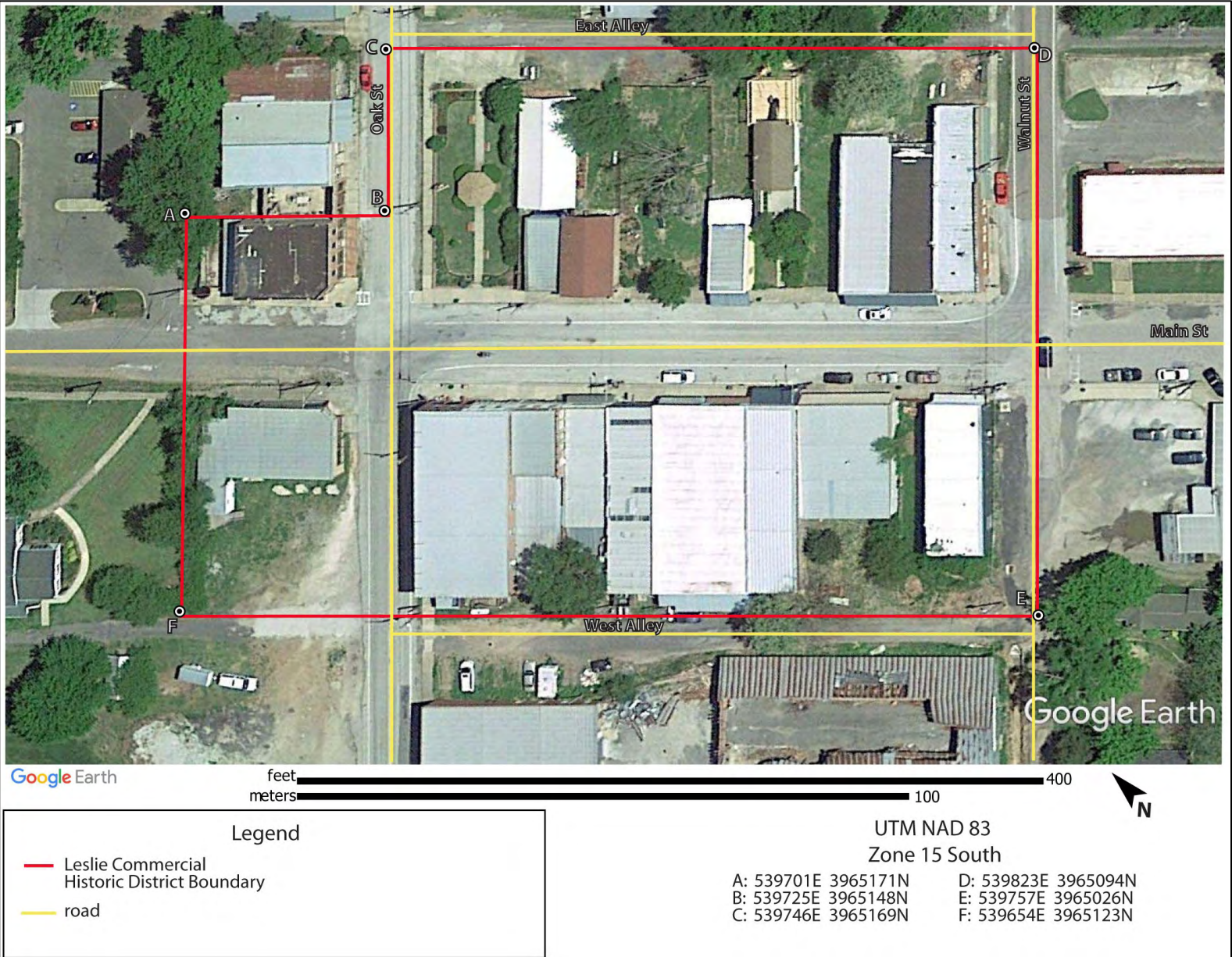


Figure 1. Leslie Commercial Historic District (SE0474) boundaries (Google Earth 2016).



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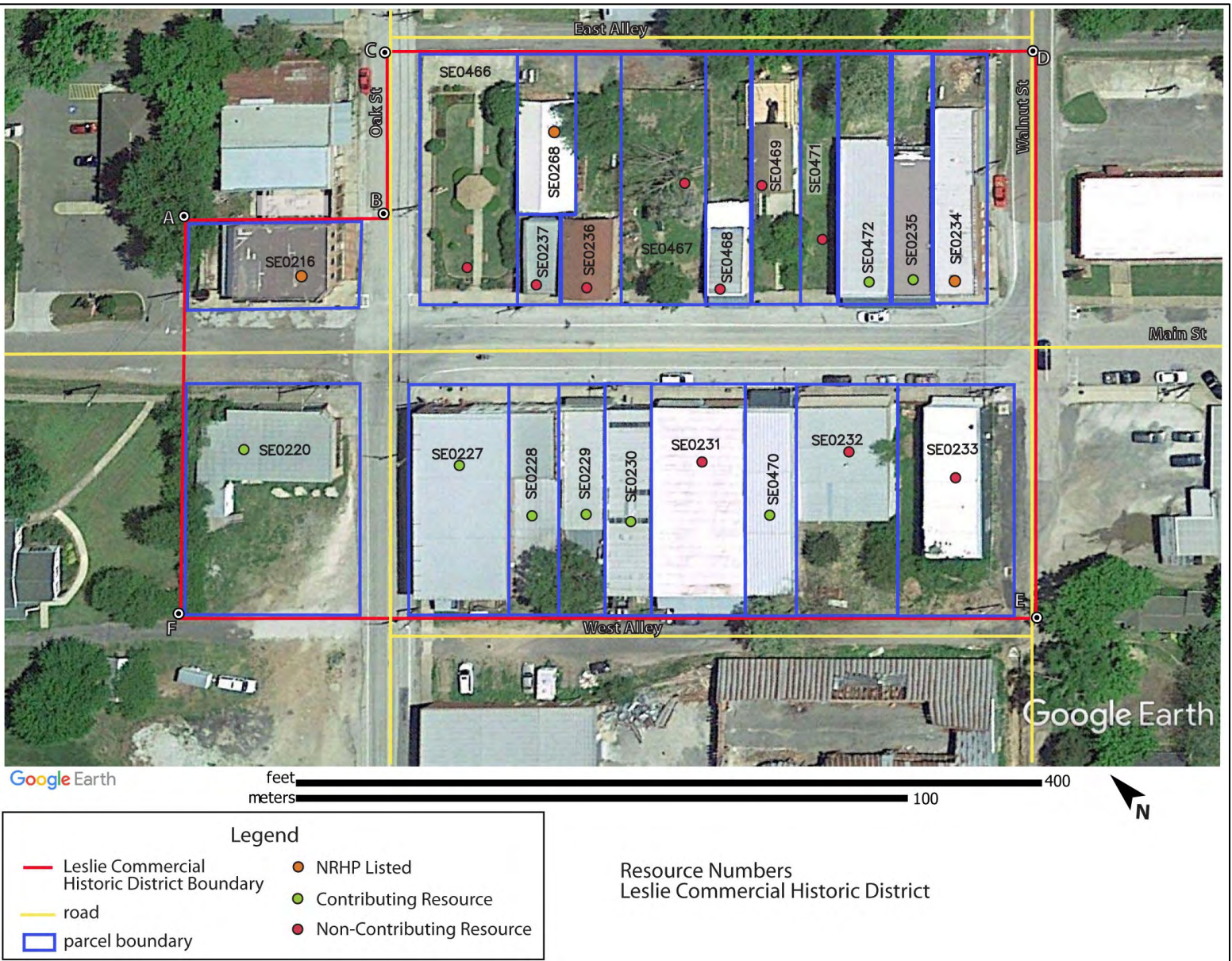


Figure 2. Leslie Commercial Historic District with resources identified by AHPP resource number (Google Earth 2016).



**Leslie Commercial Historic District**  
 Name of Property

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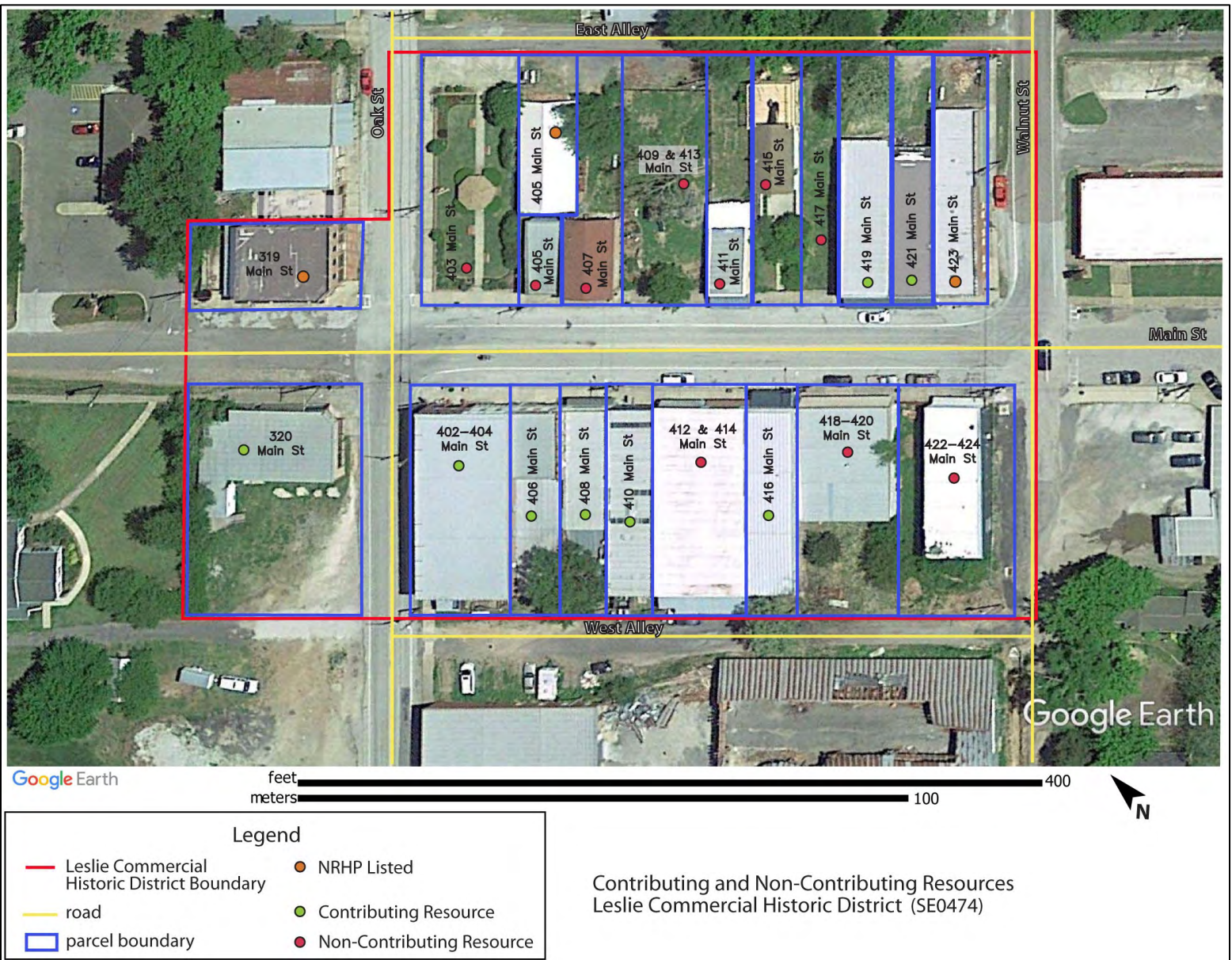


Figure 3. Leslie Commercial Historic District with resources identified by street address (Google Earth 2016).



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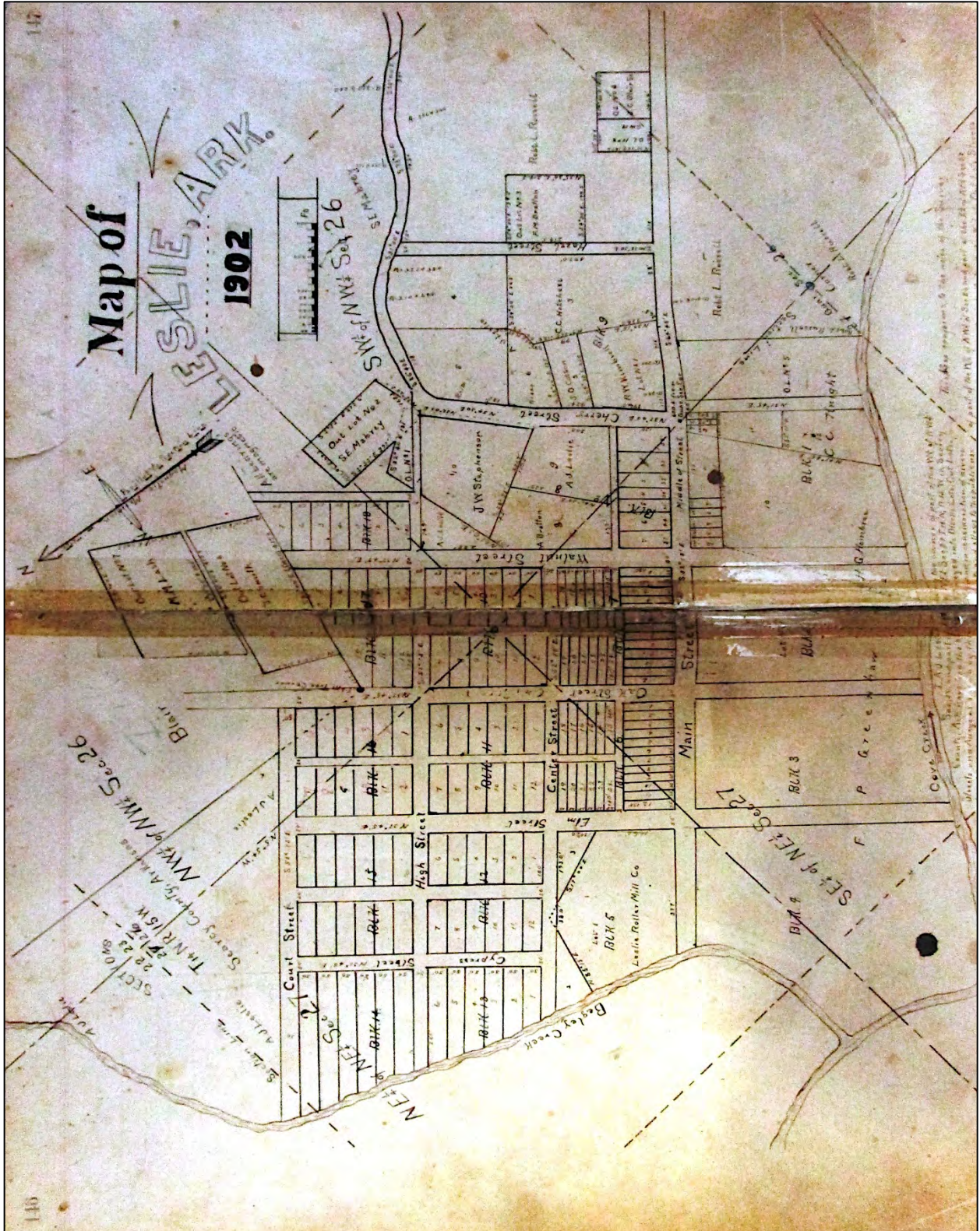


Figure 4. Leslie Original Town Subdivision plat map, 1902 (Searcy County Tax Assessors Office).



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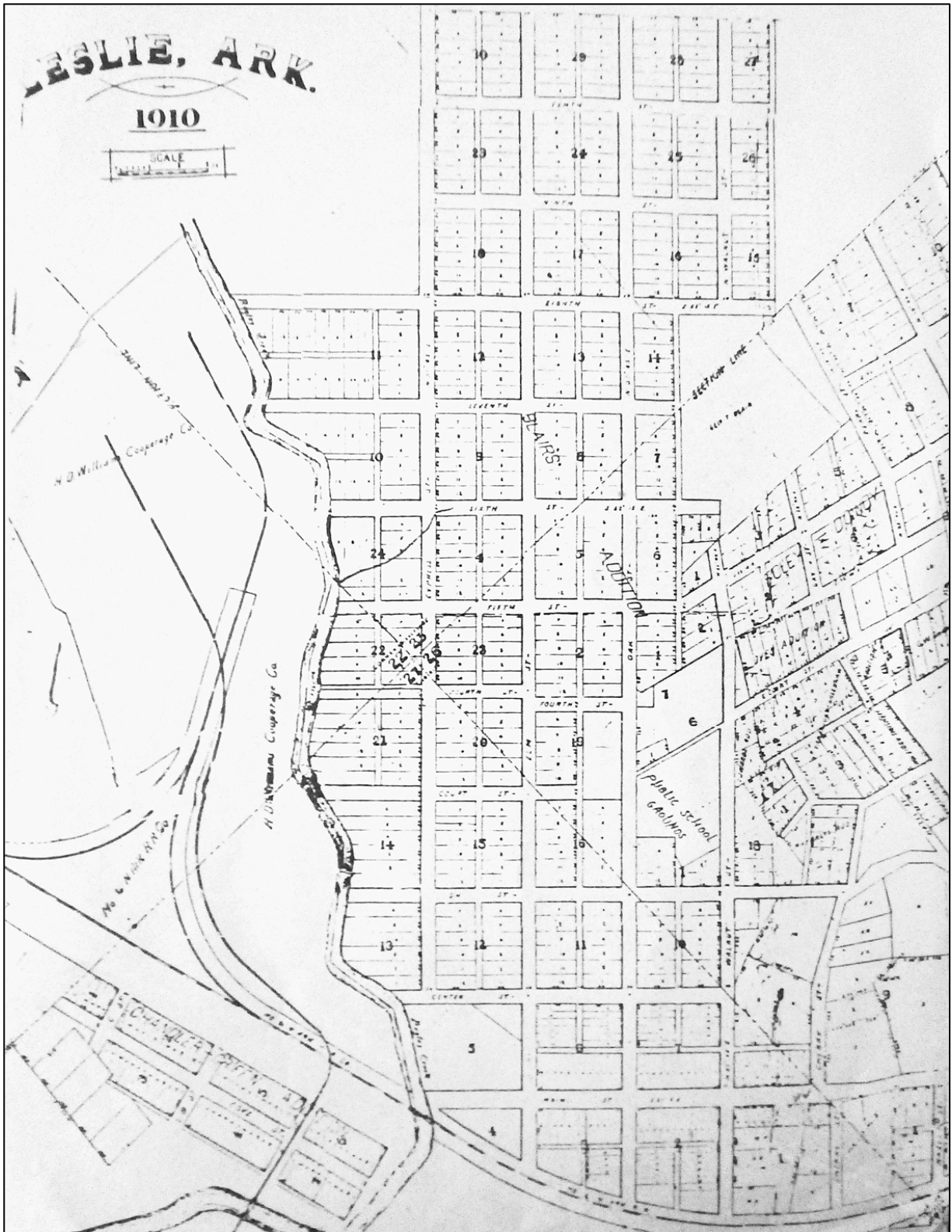


Figure 5. 1910 layout of Leslie (Leslie City Hall).



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**Figure 6. Aerial view of Leslie, 1912 (*Leslie Heritage Museum*).**

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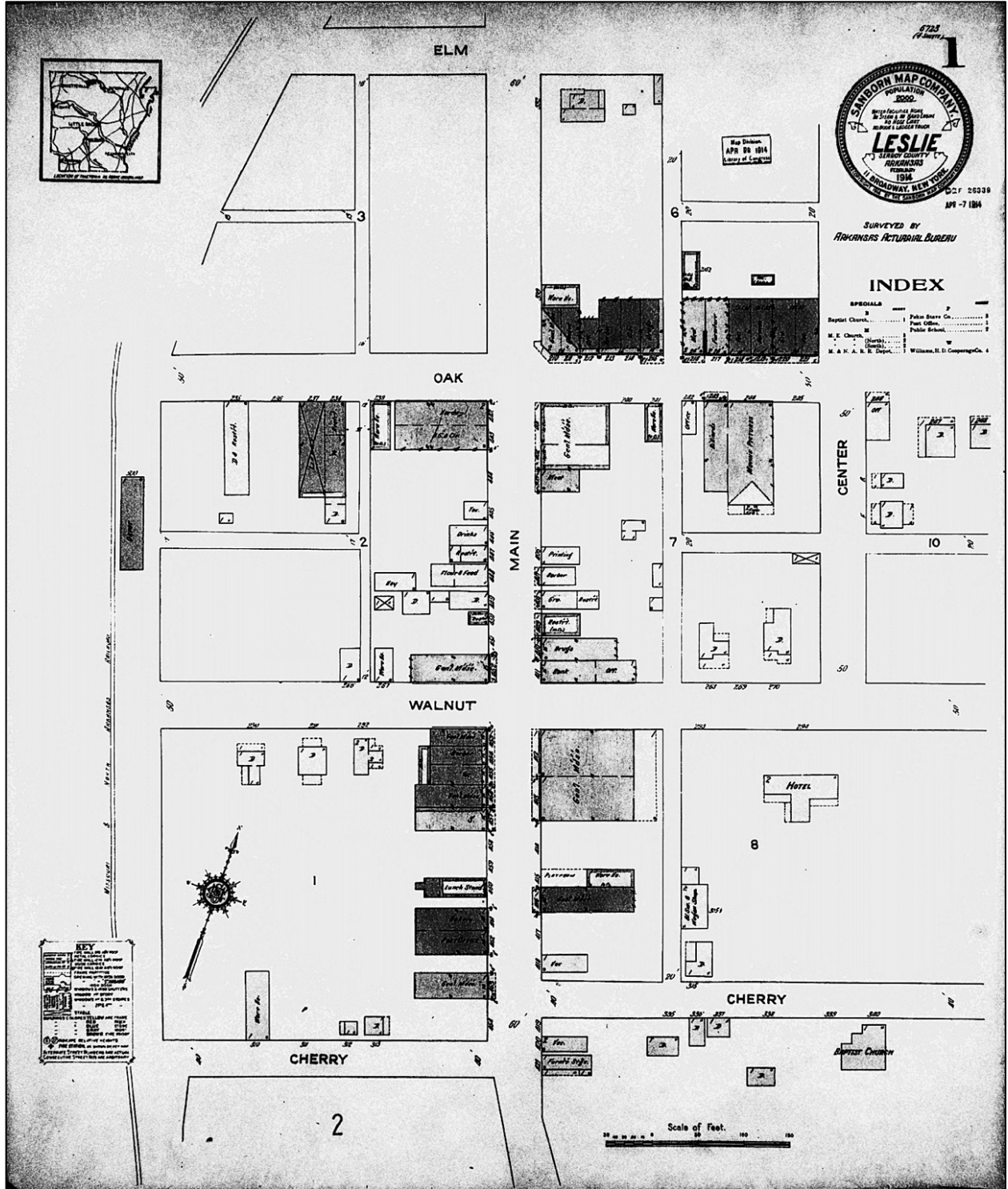


Figure 7. City of Leslie including the Leslie Commercial Historic District area (1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map).



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Leslie, AR 1916

**Figure 8. 1916 aerial view of Leslie; facing southeast (*Decker Photography Collection*).**



Oak Street, Leslie, AR

**Figure 9. View of Oak Street from Main Street; facing east (*Decker Photography Collection*).**



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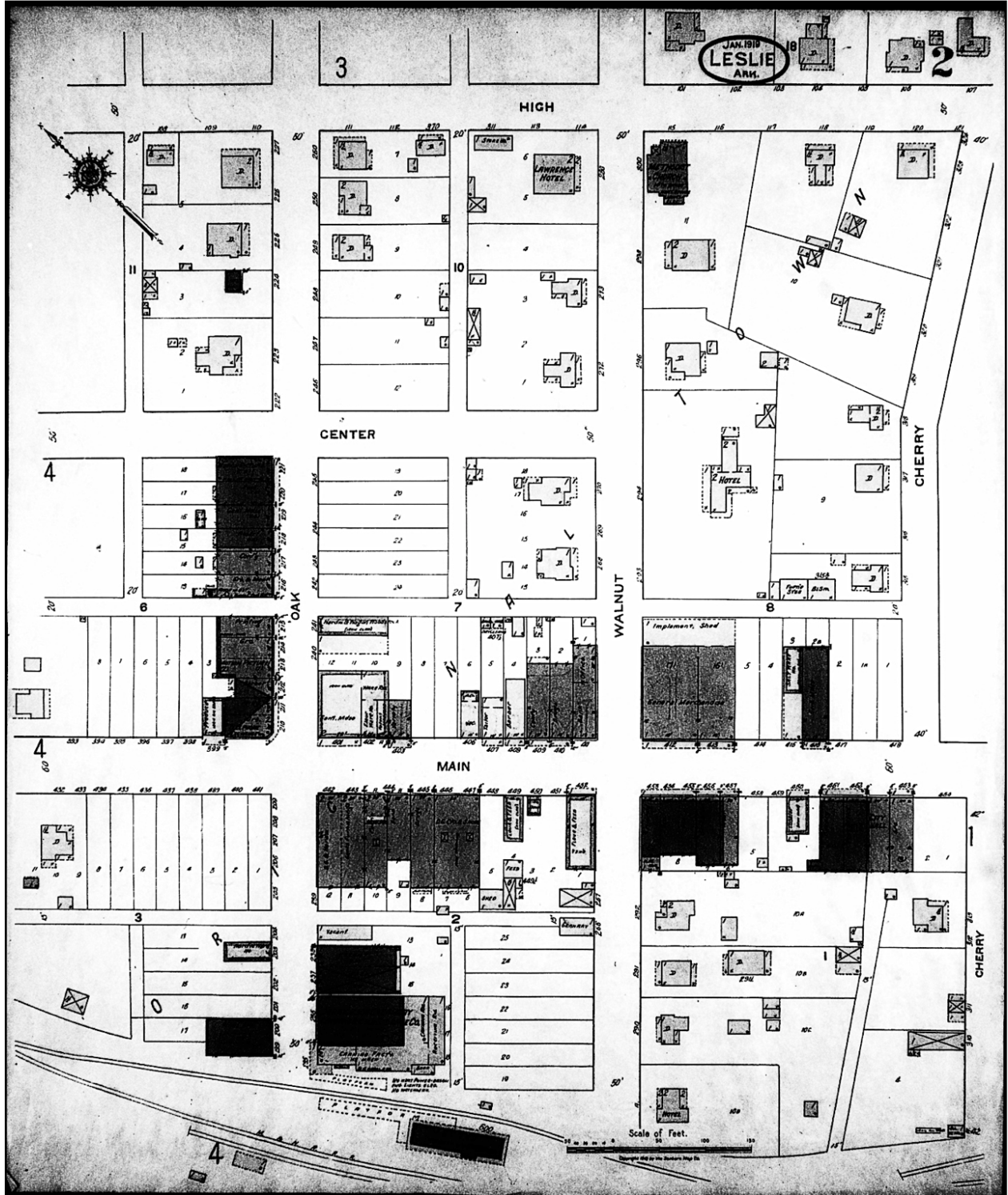


Figure 10. City of Leslie including the Leslie Commercial Historic District area (1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map).

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**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x 1200 pixels (minimum), 3000 x 2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map (Figure 11). Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Leslie Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Leslie

County: Searcy State: Arkansas

Photographer: Stacey L. Griffin

Date Photographed: September 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo No.	Description	View
1	Oak Street from U.S. Highway 65	facing east
2	Intersection at Oak and Main Streets	facing southeast
3	Oak Street from Man Street	facing west
4	Oak Street from Main Street	facing northeast
5	Oak Street from East Alley	facing southwest
6	East Alley from Oak Street	facing south
7	Northern end of East Alley	facing southwest
8	East Alley from Walnut Street	facing north
9	Walnut Street and East Alley	facing northwest
10	Intersection of Walnut and Main streets	facing east
11	Walnut Street from Main Street	facing northwest
12	Walnut Street from West Alley	facing east
13	West Alley from Walnut Street	facing north
14	West Alley from Oak Street	facing southeast

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<b>Photo No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>View</b>
15	Main Street north of Oak Street	facing south
16	Main Street at Oak Street	facing north
17	Oak Street from Main Street	facing northwest
18	Main Street at Oak Street	facing south
19	Eastern side of North Main Street from Oak Street	facing southeast
20	Western side of North Main Street from Oak Street	facing southwest
21	Eastern side of southern end of Main Street	facing southeast
22	Western side of southern end of Main Street	facing southwest
23	Main Street	facing north
24	Eastern side of the northern end of Main Street	facing northeast
25	Western side of Main Street	facing northwest
26	Southern end of Main Street	facing south
27	Main Street at Walnut Street	facing north
28	Eastern side of Main Street from Walnut Street	facing northeast
29	Western side of Main Street from Walnut Street	facing northwest



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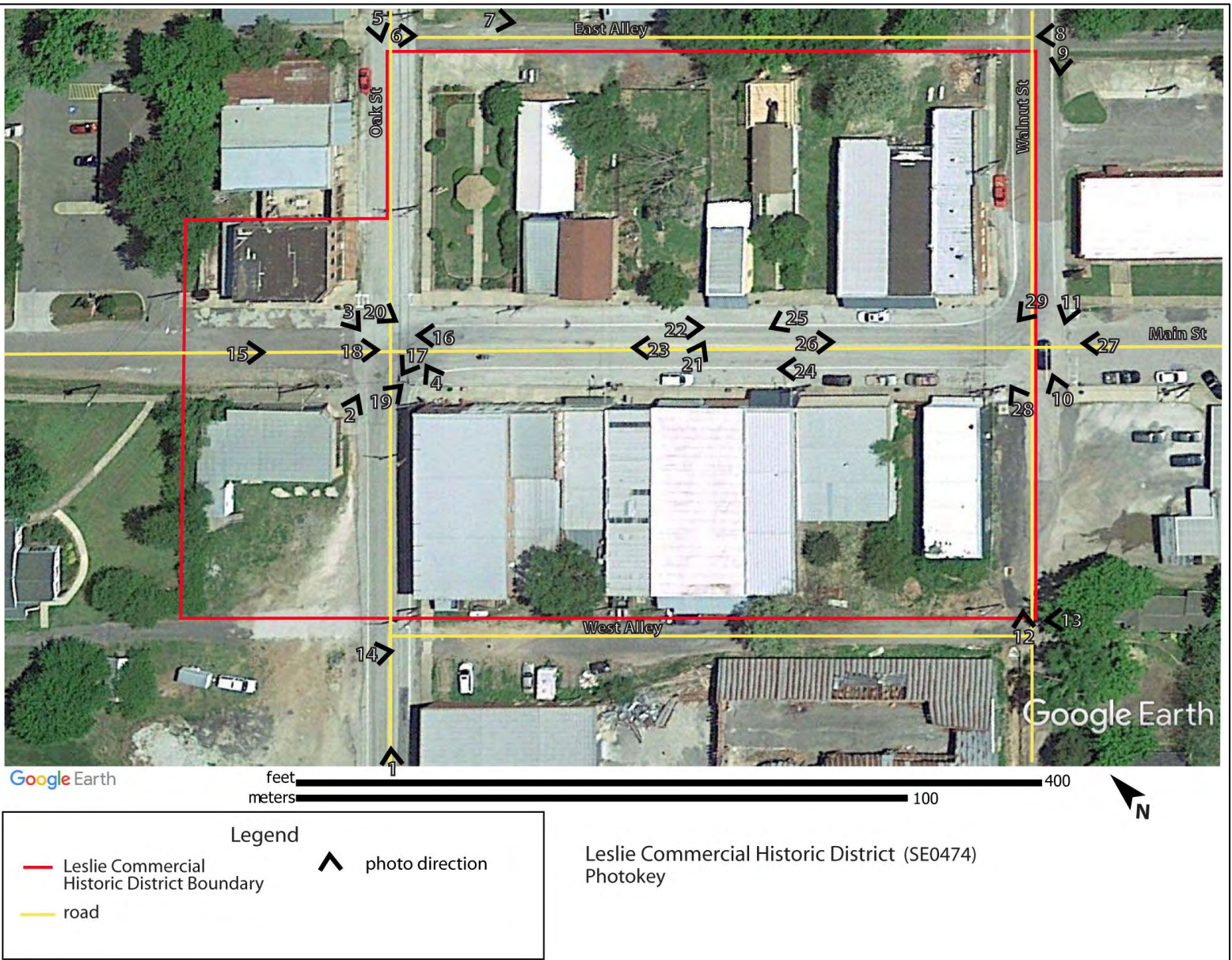


Figure 11. Sketch map of the Leslie Commercial Historic District showing National Register of Historic Places district boundary and keyed photographs (Google Earth 2016).



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**Photo 1. Oak Street from U.S. Highway 65; facing east.**



**Photo 2. Intersection at Oak and Main Streets; facing southeast.**



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**Photo 3. Oak Street from Man Street; facing west.**



**Photo 4. Oak Street from Main Street; facing northeast.**



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**Photo 5. Oak Street from East Alley; facing southwest.**



**Photo 6. East Alley from Oak Street; facing south.**



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**Photo 7. North end of east alley; facing southwest.**



**Photo 8. East alley from Walnut Street; facing north.**



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**Photo 9. Walnut Street and East Alley; facing northwest.**



**Photo 10. Intersection of Walnut and Main streets; facing east.**



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**Photo 11. Walnut Street from Main Street; facing northwest.**



**Photo 12. Walnut Street from West Alley; facing east.**



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**Photo 13. West Alley from Walnut Street; facing north.**



**Photo 14. West Alley from Oak Street; facing southeast.**



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**Searcy County, AR**  
County and State



**Photo 15. Main Street north of Oak Street; facing south.**



**Photo 16. Main Street at Oak Street from Main Street; facing north.**



**Leslie Commercial Historic District**

Name of Property

**Searcy County, AR**

County and State



**Photo 17. Oak Street from Main Street; facing northwest.**



**Photo 18. Main Street at Oak Street; facing south.**



Leslie Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Searcy County, AR  
County and State



**Photo 19. Eastern side of North Main Street from Oak Street; facing southeast.**



**Photo 20. Western side of North Main Street from Oak Street; facing southwest.**



**Leslie Commercial Historic District**

Name of Property

**Searcy County, AR**

County and State



**Photo 21. Eastern side of southern end of Main Street; facing southeast.**



**Photo 22. Western side of southern end of Main Street; facing southwest.**



**Leslie Commercial Historic District**  
Name of Property

**Searcy County, AR**  
County and State



Photo 23. Northern end of Main Street; facing north.



Photo 24. Eastern side of the northern end of Main Street; facing northeast.



**Leslie Commercial Historic District**

Name of Property

**Searcy County, AR**

County and State



**Photo 25. Western side of Main Street; facing northwest.**



**Photo 26. Southern end of Main Street; facing south.**



**Leslie Commercial Historic District**

Name of Property

**Searcy County, AR**

County and State



**Photo 27. Main Street at Walnut Street; facing north.**



**Photo 28. Eastern side of Main Street from Walnut Street; facing northeast.**

Leslie Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Searcy County, AR

County and State



**Photo 29. Western side of Main Street from Walnut Street; facing northwest.**

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





EAST

66

66-1  
0.003

BERICKSON  
LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES





MAIN ST



WELCOME

DEAD END

WALKER'S

CITY PARK

66



NO PARKING





MERCANTILE ANTIQUES

NO  
PARKING  
EXCEPT  
AS NOTED

TY DRUG  
TESLIE  
Cafe  
WE  
SITTEPPE

Coca-Cola

DERICKSON  
Lumber  
COMPANY  
BUS HEAD

WINDOWS  
DOORS

Baker RD

66







A two-story red brick building with a central entrance and several windows. The building is situated at the corner of Main Street. The ground floor features a central door with a sign that reads "Only" and "SALE". To the left of the door is a large window, and to the right are more windows. The second floor has several windows, some with white frames. A utility pole is visible to the right of the building.

DEAD END

SMILEY'S SAWMILL

←

♿

MAIN

NO LEFT TURN

Only

Only













Wilson Lodge  
Lodge # 321





SEVENTY FIVE YEARS  
1920-2015



11111  
11111











Serenity Farm Bread

NO PARKING  
EXCEPT  
AS SHOWN

WALKING  
ROAD





MAIN

DEAD  
END

66

→

→

DAVE'S AUTO PARTS

PENDABLE  
PIC...  
PLUGS  
AUTO PARTS













66



NO PARKING ANY TIME







STOP

CIT





NICKSON  
Lumber  
COLLEGE  
WINDOWS  
DOORS

66



TRUCK  
TRAFFIC

OAK ST

Century  
21  
LIVING REALTY EXP. INC.  
870.492.7653



MERCANTILE ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES  
Collectibles

LESLIE  
Lake  
BACK UP

DERICKSON  
Lumber

WINDOWS  
DOORS

Winding  
Kilbuck House  
Inn





DEAD  
END

LEFT  
ARROW

NO  
PARKING

NO  
PARKING

Eagle

NO  
PARKING

ANTIQUE  
&  
Collectibles

CITY

Co





CITY PARK  
WELCOME TO LESLIE

Elk Eagle

Cove Creek

WELCOME  
Leslie

FAB  
CENT





OLD MERCANTILE ANTIQUES

CAFE

New Life

FABRIC CENTER

ANTIQUES & Collectibles

CITY

Co



66

77



MORRISETTE  
**POTTERY**  
LOCAL Est 1991 HANDMADE

DEMOS!

Made

JUNK FOR SALE

SPEED  
LIMIT  
25

Skylark  
Cafe  
**Cove Creek**  
Emporium  
COFFEE BAR  
Espresso Lattes Cappuccinos  
**ANTIQUES**  
ICE CREAM  
Cakes Sundaes Banana Split

Shady Grove



Arkansas  
HANDMADE

Gifts Antiques

66  
←

EAST  
66  
←

CHAMPION







FABRIC CENTER

One of Kansas' best kept secrets

66

66

Elk & Eagle





MORRISETTE  
**POTTERY**  
LOCAL EST. 1991 HANDMADE

Elk Eagle

66  
←

POTTERY DEMOS  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Kansas  
HOMEMADE

Vintage Jewellery  
Books

FABRIC  
CENTER

Leslie's

One of Kansas' best kept secrets

CAFE

New Life





Skylark  
Cafe

Love Creek  
Emporium

COFFEE BAR  
Espresso Lattes Cappuccino

ANTIQUES

ICE CREAM  
Sundae Sundaes Banana splits

66  
←

EAST  
66  
←

CHAMPION  
DAIRY EQUIPMENT







66



DEPENDABLE  
**CHAMPION**  
SPARK PLUGS  
DAVE'S AUTO PARTS

Dr Pepper

Serenity Farm Bread

NO  
PARKING  
CORNER  
TO HERE

66





Serenity Farm Bread

NO PARKING  
LOADS TO BE  
TO HERE

66

66





66



DAVE'S AUTO PARTS

NO PARKING  
CORNER  
TO BE HERE

66





EAST

66

66-1  
0.003

DERICKSON  
LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES

WYOMING CENTRAL  
COMMUNITY CENTER





66



NO PARKING  
CORNERS  
LTO HERE

DEAD  
END

CITY PARK

MAIN ST



WELCOME  
TO  
TOWN



MERCANTILE ANTIQUES

NO PARKING  
FORNERS  
TO STRE

TY DRU  
LESLIE  
Cafe  
BACK UP

Coca-Cola

"One of  
Alabama's  
best kept  
secrets"

DERICKSON  
Lumber  
COMPANY  
100% AHEAD

WINDOWS  
DOORS

Baker RD

66

←

the  
Killeby





A two-story red brick building with a flat roof and a decorative cornice. The ground floor features a central door with a decorative glass insert and a sign that reads "Cortney's". To the left of the door is a large window, and to the right are several smaller windows. The second floor has a series of windows, some with white frames. A utility meter is visible on the left side of the building. A small sign on the sidewalk in front of the building reads "Cortney's" and "778.473.3863".

MAIN ST  
NO LEFT TURN

DEAD END

SMILEY'S SAWMILL  
←

Handicap Accessible Sign

A silver car parked on the street.

A wooden utility pole with several cross-arms and wires.

A street light fixture mounted on a pole.

Asphalt road with white dashed lines and yellow dashed lines. A shadow of a person is cast across the road in the foreground.





STOP

MERCHANT  
OUTS

WINDOWN  
DOORS





Whitney Center  
204

204





Wiley's Cuss  
Lodge #521





SERENITY FARM BREAD  
OLD FASHIONED HOLLANDER  
BRICK OVEN BAKED  
SEE IT MADE

STOP

J





SERENITY FARM BREAD  
MADE IN THE USA

66

66





Serenity Farm Bread

NO PARKING  
EXCEPT IN SPACES  
MARKED

SERENITY FARM BREAD

LET US BRING  
YOU THE BEST





MAIN ST

DEAD  
END

66

→

→

DAVES AUTO PARTS

PENDABLE  
PICKUPS  
PLUGS  
AUTO PARTS

North-Central  
Auto Glass













66



NO  
PARKING  
ANY  
TIME







STOP

CIT





TICKSON  
Lumber  
WINDOWS  
DOORS

66



TRUCK  
TRAFFIC

Baker Rd

OAK ST

Century  
21  
UNION REALTY, LLC  
Century21.com  
870.492.7653



MERCANTILE ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES  
Collectibles

LESLIE  
Cafe

BACK UP

DERICKSON  
Lumber  
COMPANY  
FIVE MILE HEAD

WINDOWS  
DOORS

Historic  
Kilbuck House  
Inn





DEAD  
END

HIMLEY'S  
GARAGE  
←

NO  
PARKING  
EXCEPT  
FOR  
LOADING  
& UNLOADING

NO  
PARKING  
EXCEPT  
FOR  
LOADING  
& UNLOADING

Eagle

NO  
PARKING  
EXCEPT  
FOR  
LOADING  
& UNLOADING

OLD FASHIONED ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES  
&  
Collectibles

CITY

Co





CITY PARK  
WELCOME TO LESLIE

Elk Eagle

Cove Creek

WELCOME  
Leslie

FAB  
CENT





OLD MERCANTILE ANTIQUES

New Life

Lava CAFE

FABRIC CENTER

WELCOME

LANDMARKS

ANTIQUE & Collection

CITY

CO

NO PARKING

FINE

45

66

66

CHAMPION







Arkansas  
HANDMADE

Gifts Antiques

66  
←

EAST  
66  
←

CHAMPION  
DAVE'S AUTO PARTS







FABRIC CENTER

LOKAL

One of Arkansas' best kept secrets

CAFE

66

←

66

←

Elk Eagle Trading Post





MORRISETTE  
**POTTERY**  
LOCAL Est. 1991 HANDMADE

Elk Eagle

66  
←

POTTERY DEMOS  
Open all hours

CLOSED



Kansas  
**HOME MADE**

Vintage Jewellery Books

Blue corrugated metal awning

FABRIC CENTER

Leslie's

CAFE

New Life





Skylark  
Cafe

Love Creek  
Emporium

COFFEE BAR  
Espresso Lattes Cappuccino

ANTIQUES

ICE CREAM  
Cones Sundaes Banana splits

Seaside Farm Stand

66  
←

EAST  
66  
←

CHAMPION  
CAR'S AUTO PARTS







66



DEPENDABLE  
**CHAMPION**  
SPARK PLUGS  
DAVE'S AUTO PARTS

Dr Pepper

Serenity Farm Bread

NO PARKING  
CORNER  
TO HERE

66





Serenity Farm Bread

NO PARKING  
LOUNGE TO HERE

66

66

66





66



DAVE'S AUTO PARTS

AUTO PARTS

NO PARKING  
CORNER  
TO HERE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Leslie Commercial Historic District

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: ARKANSAS, Searcy

Date Received: 5/19/2017      Date of Pending List: 6/28/2017      Date of 16th Day: 7/13/2017      Date of 45th Day: 7/3/2017      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100001257

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

X Accept       Return       Reject      7/3/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Small commercial district in somewhat isolated part of Ozarks. Native stone used in a number of buildings.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

April 5, 2017

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

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Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

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RE: Leslie Commercial Historic District – Leslie, Searcy County,  
Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Leslie Commercial Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure



ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880  
fax: (501) 324-9184  
tdd: 711

e-mail:  
[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)  
website:  
[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

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