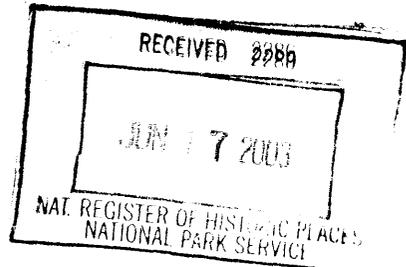


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



710

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fulton Downtown Historic District
other names/site number See p. 7.16

2. Location

street & number Part of Carr, Commercial, Lake, Main & Walnut streets N/A not for publication
city or town Fulton N/A vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Fulton code 075 zip code 42041

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official/Title David L. Morgan, SHPO Date 6-13-03
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
See continuation sheet. Charl H. Ball AUG 1 2003
 determined eligible for the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain): _____

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
21	6	buildings
0	3	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
22	9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC	hotel
COMMERCE	professional
COMMERCE	financial institution
COMMERCE	specialty store
COMMERCE	department store
SOCIAL	meeting hall
SOCIAL	clubhouse
GOVERNMENT	post office
EDUCATION	library
HEALTH CARE	hospital
HEALTH CARE	clinic
TRANSPORTATION	road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
LANDSCAPE	park
GOVERNMENT	government office
COMMERCE	professional
COMMERCE	financial institution
COMMERCE	specialty store
COMMERCE	department store
SOCIAL	meeting hall
EDUCATION	library
TRANSPORTATION	road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Italianate
- Colonial Revival
- Classical Revival
- Craftsman
- Moderne
- Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
- walls Brick
- roof Metal
- other Stone
- Wood
- Concrete
- Metal
- Glass
- Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

- X 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1875-1953

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Architect/Builder

Graham, Ray (contractor)
Wenderoth, Oscar (supervising architect)
Christopher & Simpson (iron fabricator)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
#

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 10 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	16	331810	4041240	3 16 332320 4041350
2	16	332020	4041360	4 16 332320 4041100

 See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>		
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	date	<u>December 31, 2002</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u>Chamber of Commerce of the Twin Cities (local project sponsor)</u>		
street & number	<u>PO Box 5077</u>	telephone	<u>(901) 479-7029</u>
city or town	<u>South Fulton</u>	state <u>TN</u>	zip code <u>38257-5077</u>

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Fulton Downtown Historic District occupies approximately ten acres in Fulton, Kentucky's historic downtown commercial area. Fulton, a city of approximately 3,000 population, lies in the gently rolling topography of the state's Jackson Purchase region. Fulton adjoins the city of South Fulton, Tennessee, and it is located within three miles of the juncture of five counties: Fulton, Hickman, and Graves counties in Kentucky and Obion and Weakley counties in Tennessee. The city's watercourses, foremost among them Harris Fork Creek which crosses the west end of the district, ultimately flow into the Obion and Mississippi rivers to the southwest. The principal streets in the district are Commercial, Lake, Main, and Walnut streets.

Of the thirty-one resources in the district, twenty-two or 71% are classified as contributing resources; that is, they were built during the period of significance (ca. 1870-1953) and they retain architectural integrity. The contributing resources range in date from the 1870s to the early 1950s. The majority of contributing resources are classified as buildings; one contributing resource is classified as a structure (inventory number 6). Most of the contributing resources are commercial buildings; there are also several buildings of a more civic character including a post office, a library, and a hospital. Noncontributing resources include six buildings that post-date the period of significance or that were built during the period of significance but have had their integrity severely compromised; a modern park; and two vacant lots that were formerly occupied by buildings that dated to the period of significance.

The district's commercial buildings are typically one or two stories in height and are of brick or brick veneer construction with parapet shed roofs. Many have mid- to late-twentieth-century storefront alterations that are generally in keeping with historic precedent, and most preserve historic facades above street level. Decorative brickwork, parapets, copings, and (where they survive) iron or stone storefront pilasters number among the buildings' decorative features. Stylistic influence is apparent from the Italianate, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Art Deco, and various other Modern Movement styles. Historically the district's buildings were built side by side in standard party-wall configuration, creating a dense urban character that is well preserved on Lake Street. The district has improvements such as decorative concrete pavements and reproduction street lights dating to the late twentieth century. The sidewalks were installed in the late 1960s and early 1970s by Operation Townlift, a Tennessee Valley Authority initiative.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

**Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.**

Description (continued)

Integrity Statement

The Fulton Downtown Historic District possesses sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This includes integrity of feeling, association, workmanship, materials, setting, design, and location. Commercial buildings comprise the majority of contributing resources, and to be classified as contributing generally they must retain their historic street facade (above storefront level in two-story buildings). Demolitions resulting in vacant lots and modern buildings are few. The district is surrounded by historic commercial and residential areas; for example, the Carr Historic District adjoins the district on the west, and the district is adjoined by sections of Lake and Main streets built up with historic commercial buildings, albeit with insufficient integrity for inclusion in the district.

Inventory Introduction

The inventory list is organized alphabetically by street name (regardless of north, south, etc. prefix) and numerically by street address. Included are properties on the following streets: Carr, Commercial, Lake, Main, and Walnut. Each inventory entry gives the status of the property as contributing (C) or noncontributing (N) to the character of the district and the inventory number, followed by the street address; the known or approximate date of construction and (where relevant) major alteration; the property name, either historic ("Fulton Library and Woman's Club") or generic ("Building"); and the Kentucky Heritage Council site number (FUF-#). Historic property names are generally derived from the original or earliest known building name, owner, or occupant of a property; others are taken from a 1936 city directory. The body of the entry describes the style, form, height, construction materials, and important exterior details of a property. It also provides pertinent historical information when that information is known, usually with a parenthetical note on the source. Three groups of sources that provided general information on building dates, historic functions and occupants, and historic appearance are noted here rather than individually in the parenthetical citations that follow the inventory entries. These are the aforementioned 1936 directory (*Fulton, Kentucky, City Directory, 1936*); Sanborn maps for the years 1886, 1889, 1894, 1899, 1903, 1909, 1914, 1925, 1930, and 1948; and the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of *The Fulton Leader* (July 31, 1998), especially an early 1950s view of Lake Street that appears on page 1B.

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Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

Description (continued)

Inventory

C 1. 118 Carr. Ca. 1940. Collier's Body Shop. FUF-165

One-story Art Deco automobile repair garage constructed of glazed blond brick with a shed roof with stepped side parapets and projecting piers with cruciform ornaments at their tops. Other features include stone or concrete parapet copings and accent blocks, a parapet signage panel with Collier's Body Shop painted in black block letters with light blue dimensionality, plate glass office windows with blocked transoms, an angled entry, garage bay on south end, and a folding metal and glass garage door on the north end where there is evidence of a formerly attached building or wing. The concrete pier foundation along Harris Fork Creek extends under a concrete deck in front of (south of) the building. Presently storage.

C 2. 101 Commercial. Late 1890s; 1902. Meadows Hotel (part). FUF-140

Two-story brick building that may date in part to the late 1890s (perhaps 1898) and was definitely in existence by the date of a 1902 rehabilitation and/or partial rebuilding following a fire. The building has cast iron storefronts with a cornice and paneled pilasters with (illegible) name plates at their bases. The storefronts have blocked transoms, early wooden glass-panel doors, and late-twentieth-century aluminum frame doors and display windows. Other features include a reworked parapet, and angled corner, square-headed second-story front windows, segmental-arched south and east elevation windows, some windows covered with plywood panels, others with 6/6 sash and bars.

W. W. Meadows operated a cotton gin on this block in 1894. Several years later, perhaps in 1898, he built the block-long Meadows Hotel, which may have incorporated a ca. 1890 dry goods and clothing store into its north end. The two and three-story hotel burned on December 1, 1900, but it was rebuilt and reopened in 1902. The April 4, 1901 special edition of the *Fulton Daily Leader* features an architect's proposal for the reconstruction of the building. The rendering portrays a two-story building with a domed cupola on the corner of Commercial and Main (unfortunately the architect's name is not identified). Meadows also owned the adjacent Vendome Opera House (now gone) on Main Street, which is pictured in the same rendering with a Classical Revival facade; perhaps the same architect designed both buildings. Fulton brick manufacturer G. H. Bransford supplied the brick for the hotel; he may also have built it, since he was described as Fulton's leading contractor of the period. Christopher & Simpson may have produced the hotel's cast iron storefronts, since they supplied iron to the Vendome and the

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Continuation Sheet

Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

Section number 7 Page 4

Description (continued)

surviving building at 309-311 Walnut. As rebuilt the hotel was three stories in height (not the two stories portrayed in the architect's rendering) and featured parlors, a living room, sample rooms for traveling salesmen, and bathrooms. The hotel's street level was occupied by commercial tenants with guest rooms and hotel services above. The hotel dining room and kitchen occupied the second floor of the surviving section in the early twentieth century. The Meadows Hotel went through at least two name changes; by 1909 it had become the New Meadows Hotel and by 1925 it had been rechristened the Southern Hotel. In 1933 fire destroyed the north end of the building and in 1936 much of the surviving section was vacant. Jones Auto Parts, Inc., the present occupant, moved in before 1948. (*Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 3B, 9D; *Fulton Daily Leader*, April 4, 1901; Jewell, "Vendome Opera House;" *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama; Fulton, Kentucky, City Directory, 1936*)

C 3. 109 Commercial (south). 1946. Exchange Furniture Store. FUF-141

Two-story brick building with a utilitarian front with glass block second-story windows and a canvas awning over display windows.

The Exchange Furniture Store was established on Lake Street in 1930 by the Graham family and was run by Robert Graham beginning in 1938. The present building was described in 1959 as "a modern 1 1/2-story building, featuring furniture, wall paper, and paints." In 1992 this building and the one at 109 Commercial were remodeled as a senior center using a \$294,000 Community Development Block Grant. Presently part of Senior Citizens Center. (*Ken-Tenn-O-Rama; Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 13B)

N 4. 109 Commercial (north). 1950s. Building. FUF-142

Two-story cinder block building with pinkish brick-pattern Permastone or equivalent front, glass block second-story window, a shed roof with stepped side parapets, and a canvas awning over display windows. Andrews Jewelry, run by Charles Andrews, moved into this building about 1955. Presently part of Fulton Senior Center. (*Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 13B)

N 5. 112 E. State Line. Early 1990s. Pontotoc Park. FUF-166

Park planted in grass with asphalt and brick walks, benches, young shade trees, and reproduction lamp posts. At the center of the park is a ten-sided frame gazebo with an asphalt-shingle roof with cupola and a concrete foundation. In the park's southeast corner is the triangular concrete

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Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

Description (continued)

basin of the Dancing Waters fountain.

A group of buildings including the so-called Flat Iron Building were razed in the early 1990s to create this park. President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore were greeted in the park during the 1996 presidential campaign. (*Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 13B)

C 6. 100 block Lake. Ca. 1930. Lake Street Bridge. FUF-167

Three-span concrete bridge with a north balustrade with arched openings and end plinths on which stand tapered and chamfered concrete lamp posts. The 1925 Sanborn map shows an iron bridge at this general location. The 1948 Sanborn map shows the present bridge.

C 7. 110 Lake. Ca. 1950; 1950s. Treas & Menees Service Station. FUF-168

One-story brick building with cinder block addition and painted metal cladding. Other features include a shed roof, a corner office with plate glass windows under an aluminum awning, four garage bays, industrial windows, a metal drive-through canopy on the front, and a concrete foundation along Harris Fork Creek.

A frame service station occupied the site in the 1920s and was known as Grissom's in the 1940s. Apparently soon after 1948 the original brick section was erected and the building was more or less complete in 1959 when James Buck Menees and his partner Joe Treas opened in the station, which they rented from Ernest McCollum. Presently serves as a warehouse for the Fulton Decorating Company. (James Buck Menees; Jewell, *Backward Glance*, vol. 1, 30)

C 8. 114 Lake. Ca. 1920. City Motor Company Building. FUF-169

One-story brick building with a composition shed roof, a front parapet with a ceramic coping and a basketweave signage panel, a stepped side parapet, a garage bay, and display windows under a suspended aluminum awning.

This building appears to incorporate three individual buildings constructed between 1914 and 1925. The south half was originally two stories in height with an elevator and served in 1925 as an automobile garage. In 1936 the buildings were occupied by the City Motor Company, a Chevrolet dealership, and in 1948 the south half contained a repair garage and the north half a sales floor. In 1956 the business was owned by John Earle and Earl Taylor. Later occupants

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Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

Description (continued)

included the Charlie Scates Store (which sold B. F. Goodrich tires in 1959), Sherwin-Williams (in the 1960s), and, since 1975, the present occupant, the Fulton Decorating Company. (Woody Brundige; *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*; Jewell, *Backward Glance*, vol. 1, 147)

C 9. 208 Lake. Late 19th c.; 1920s. Graham-Beadles Building.

FUF-170

Two-story brick building with a composition shed roof. The Craftsman-influenced facade dates largely to the 1920s, with textured brown brick, soldier courses and corbeling in the parapet, concrete bands and accent blocks, a parapet panel with metal vent grilles, and decorative lintels over second-story windows. The storefront has modern display windows with brick aprons under a suspended aluminum awning and a 1920s translucent glass transom. One pre-1920s element is a pilaster of rusticated white limestone blocks. The rear elevation has 1/1 windows with interior metal bars and a one-story cinder block addition.

The Graham Furniture Co. opened in this building in 1901 and remained at the location into the late 1920s. The Fulton Hardware Co., owned by George T. Beadles, moved into the building in 1928. The company's name was changed to the Fulton Hardware & Furniture Co. in 1938. Frank T. Beadles became associated with the firm in the 1930s and remained there through the 1950s. Presently Rentway.

N 10. 214 Lake. Late 19th c.; 1969. Building.

FUF-171

Two-story brick building with a shed roof and a 1969 front elevation. The front has decorative metal panels above a cantilevered aluminum awning and display windows with three-tone blue tile surrounds. Other features include a recessed entry, blocked rear second-story segmental-arched windows, and a one-story brick-faced rear addition with a recessed drive-through area with a drive-up window.

The building was apparently built before 1886 and formerly featured an ornate brick front with corbeled hood moldings over the second-story windows. A hardware store occupied the first floor in 1886 and offices occupied the second floor. The Shacklett-Thomas Hardware Co., founded in 1898, apparently occupied this building in 1901 before moving to the Meadows Hotel block the following year. The A&P Food Store occupied the building in 1959. The building still contained a grocery store in 1969 when Charles Binford purchased it for use as a drug store. Binford hired McDade Construction of Fulton to install the present facade and storefront. Presently Evans Rexall Drugs. (Charles Binford; Joe Follis Bennett; *Fulton Leader*, July 31,

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Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

Description (continued)

1998, 1B, 9D)

C 11. 216-218 Lake. 1902. Paschall Bros. Building.

FUF-172

Two-story brick building with a metal-sheathed shed roof. The front parapet features a pressed metal cornice with brackets and dentils and a semicircular cresting with the name Paschal Bros. and the date 1902. Below the cornice are corbeling, a white stone belt course, and two boarded-up windows. The piers flanking the facade have corbeling and white stone banding. The second story has vestiges of painted signage reading [E]vans Drug Co. Druggists, The Rexall Store, and Wall(moss?). The storefront has a boarded-up transom, a suspended metal awning, display windows with a tile apron, a recessed entry, and a side entry to the second floor (218).

The firm of Paschal Bros., comprised of Julian and Ed C. Paschal, operated the Gem Pharmacy in this building. In 1911 the pharmacy advertised: "Our Soda Fountain and Parlor is the most delightful and attractive retreat in the city. We serve delicious drinks, best ice cream, fresh limes, grape juice and True Fruit Syrup." Later Evans Drug Store occupied the space. Presently Friends Consignment Shop. (Joe Follis Bennett; *Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 5D)

C 12. 220-224 Lake. Late 19th c. (ca. 1890?); ca. 1900; mid- and late 20th c.
Carr Building.

FUF-173

Two-story brick building remodeled in the Classical Revival Style about 1900. The building has a shed roof behind a ceramic-coped brick parapet. Below the parapet on the front are a pressed metal modillion cornice and second-story windows with marble lintels and sills and fiberglass panels. Above the storefronts are a cornice, a blocked transom, and two suspended metal awnings. The left storefront has early-twentieth-century display windows and a deeply recessed entry, and the right storefront has a high apron of Roman brick laid in stack bond with small display windows above (suggesting the storefront was constructed for a jewelry store about 1950). Between the storefronts is an entry to the second floor under a scrolled pediment with brackets, a heavy cornice, and a broken-off center urn. The north side elevation on Commercial Street has a corbeled brick cornice, windows like those on the second-story front, an oriel window with a dentil cornice, late-twentieth-century concrete panels below the second-story windows, and evidence for a former storefront under the oriel window.

A two-story brick building containing a dry goods store occupied this site in the 1880s. By 1894 a somewhat different two-story brick building with a cast iron front occupied the site; either this

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Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

Section number 7 Page 8

Description (continued)

was a remodeling of the 1880s building or--more likely--an entirely new building. The elaborate ca. 1890 iron front, which featured fluted pilasters and a pyramidal turret, may have been fabricated by the Geo. Mesker iron works of Indiana. The iron front was replaced between 1899 and 1903 with the present more reserved Classical Revival facade, a reflection of the building's principal tenant from 1897 to 1906, the City National Bank. About the time the bank vacated the building for new quarters across Commercial Street, Mike Fry and "Pony" Morris opened their shoe store in 220. The successor to this firm, the Fry & Newhouse Shoe Store, occupied 220 in 1936. The same year the jewelry store of M. F. DeMyer & Son occupied 224 and the upstairs offices were occupied by attorneys including the firm of Carr & Carr, for whom the building was presumably named (Judge Herbert Carr was the senior member of this firm in 1911). A jewelry store occupied 224 into the 1980s. Presently Carnival Antiques and Stuff, Inc. (220) and Twin Cities Insurance (224). (*Ken-Tenn-O-Rama; Fulton County History*, 490; *Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 2D)

N 13. 306 Lake. 1960. City National Bank.

FUF-174

Two-story Colonial Revival building of brick-veneered cinder block construction with a flat roof. Centered on the front elevation is a Doric portico with monumental stuccoed masonry columns and brick-faced bases. The rear elevation has pilasters that mimic the form of the portico on the opposite elevation. Other features include a paneled parapet, a plain cornice, a front entry with a transom and a broken pediment surround with a center urn, two recessed rear entries, and false-muntin windows.

Organized as Citizens Bank in 1897, the bank was renamed City National Bank in 1902. The institution was the only bank in Fulton to survive the depression of the 1930s. The present building was built while Clyde Williams served as bank president. A 1983 account of the bank's history refers to the 1960 work as a remodeling, suggesting fabric from the Weaks Building that formerly stood on the site may have been incorporated into the present building. City National sold its building to an Indiana bank, Old National Bank, which in turn sold it in 2002 to a Hopkinsville bank now known as Heritage Bank. (Karl F. Ivey; *Fulton County History*, 490; *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*)

N 14. 312 Lake. Late 19th c.; 1955. K. Homra Dry Goods Store.

FUF-175

Two-story brick building with a rubber membrane shed roof. The 1955 buff brick facade has four belt courses below the parapet for ornament. Other features include a storefront with plate

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Fulton Downtown Historic District
Fulton Co., Ky.

Section number 7 Page 9

Description (continued)

glass windows and a recessed entry and a one-story shed-roofed frame addition to the rear.

The Lebanese Homra brothers--Mose, Asbir, Kimlen--opened a dry goods and clothing business in Fulton in 1902, apparently at this location. Previously the building was occupied by a dry goods store. Between 1909 and 1914 Homra Bros. expanded into 314 Lake; in later years 312 housed the women's department and 314 the men's department. During its early years the firm opened branch stores in Water Valley, Wingo, Bandana, and possibly other western Kentucky communities. Kimlen took the reins of the business after his brothers passed away, and after World War II he was joined by his son David. In 1955 David hired the Hill Brothers construction firm to build the present brick facade. The business closed in 1987. Presently NCB Realtors. (David Homra; Jewell, *Backward Glance*, vol. 1, 195)

C 15. 314 Lake. Ca. 1894; ca. 1990. Homra Bros. Store.

FUF-176

Two-story brick building with a rubber membrane shed roof. The facade has a corbeled parapet with a recessed stucco signage panel and boarded-up second-story windows. The storefront was altered about 1990 and now features recessed round-arched windows with fanlights flanking a center wood panel door. To the rear are a one-story shed-roofed frame extension and second-story segmental-arched windows with 2/2 sash.

This store is thought to have been built about 1894, possibly on the site of an earlier building. Early occupants included grocery and hardware stores. Between 1909 and 1914 the Homra Bros. dry goods and clothing store expanded into the space from their original building next door at 312 Lake. The National Store briefly occupied the space in the 1950s, then it reverted to Homra Bros. which closed in 1987. The brick storefront was added after that date. (Karl F. Ivey; David Homra)

C 16. 320 Lake. 1870s; 1949. Collins-Baldrige Building.

FUF-177

Two-story Moderne brick building with a rubber membrane shed roof behind stepped side parapets. The front features louvered rectangular attic vents and two large glass block second-story windows with the painted plywood profile of a woman between them. The storefront has a vinyl-covered transom, a metal awning, display windows in beige architectural glass surrounds, and a recessed entry. The front elevation and the now window-less north side elevation have bricked-up windows and star-shaped tie rod ends. To the rear are a metal-sheathed elevator tower, original or early one-story shed-roofed brick extensions, and bricked-up second-story

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Description (continued)

windows with corbeled round-arched Italianate heads.

J. A. Collins operated a dry goods store in this building about 1878, the date of a photograph of the building featured in the 1959 *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama* publication. The building's Italianate round-arched windows and its formerly richly ornamental brickwork are consistent with a date of construction in the 1870s. When it was built, the building was one of the largest and probably the tallest in the downtown. Originally the building featured an exposed cast iron storefront; in the late 1880s this was sheltered by a veranda which in the late 1890s was wrapped around the north side of the building and, probably at the same time, raised to two tiers. The second floor contained apartments during the late nineteenth century and the third floor was used as a Masonic meeting room. Around 1900 the building may have contained the Taylor & Royster Dry Goods & Clothing Store. A. G. Baldrige (d. 1958) operated Baldrige's 5-10-25 Store in the building in the early twentieth century, perhaps as early as the establishment of his "Dime Store" in 1910. After a fire in 1948 the third story was removed and the building was given its present streamlined appearance. Baldrige's department store reopened on March 2, 1949. Recently Anthony's Fashions & Wigs, now vacant. (*Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*; *Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 7D; Jewell, *Backward Glance*, vol. 1, 51)

N 17. 101 Main. Ca. 1981. First Federal Savings & Loan.

FUF-143

One-story International Style bank with a flat roof, brown brick veneer, an angled entry, a drive-through canopy, and plate glass windows in anodized aluminum frames. Associated with the bank is a surrounding parking lot that includes the site of a restaurant and dry cleaners built before 1948.

The building was built as First Federal Savings & Loan. City National Bank briefly operated it as a branch bank in the 1990s. Presently ONB Insurance/Fall & Fall. (Roger Kephart)

C 18. 229 Main. 1950. Huddleston Hardware Store.

FUF-144

One-story brick building with an upstairs storage attic and a flat roof behind a parapet with panels defined by soldier courses and basketweave brickwork. Other features include concrete parapet copings, angled display windows, a front entry with wood glass-panel doors with transoms, and a rear loading area under a suspended metal awning.

A. Huddleston Company was established in 1893 and originally included a tin shop. It built a

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Description (continued)

two-story brick store building on the north side of Main Street in 1895. Arch Huddleston had the present building erected shortly before his death in 1951. In 1959 the store carried china, glassware, and gifts in addition to hardware. Presently A. Huddleston Co. Electrical Supplies. (Joe Follis Bennett; *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*)

N 19. 231-237 Main. Vacant lot.

FUF-145

A carriage repository was erected on this site in the early twentieth century and remodeled as the Fulton Theater in the 1930s. The building was demolished in 2002.

C 20. 301-309 Main. Ca. 1948; early 1950s. Graham Building.

FUF-146

One-story Art Deco brick-veneer building with an early two-story extension, both sections with shed roofs with stepped side parapets. The two sections also share identical ornamentation, with concrete parapet copings with a repeating x-form motif and concrete storefront cornices with a repeating geometric motif. The two-story section has variegated red and yellowish brick with the latter concentrated above the storefront cornice. Other features include angled display windows, glass-panel doors with transoms, 2/2 and glass block windows, and exposed cinder block construction to the rear.

Ray Graham, a partner in the Graham Furniture Store that stood nearby on Walnut Street, is believed to have built this building for rental retail and office space in 1948 or 1949, shortly after acquiring the site in 1947. Graham probably served as his own contractor. Presently multiple tenants including The Color Corner (301), run by Ray Graham's granddaughter, JenRay Gearhart. (JenRay Gearhart; Joe Follis Bennett)

C 21. 312 Main. 1914-15. Fulton Post Office (former).

FUF-148

One-story (monumental) Colonial Revival brick building with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The five-bay front projects slightly around the middle three bays. The front and side windows and entries are contained in round-arched openings or recesses with limestone keystones and imposts. The center front bay contains the main entry in a classical surround with fluted pilasters with paterae in the capitals and a paneled frieze, and surmounted by a transom that fills the arch. Flanking the entry are two windows with pilaster mullions and paneled aprons. Flanking these are 6/6 windows in blind-arched recesses. The gable ends have parapets with false chimneys and lunettes, splayed jack arches over the windows, and diamond-shaped basketweave accent panels.

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Other features include a limestone watertable and dentilated cornice, pedimented dormers, and a ca. 1950 flat-roofed rear loading dock.

Fulton's post office formerly occupied a number of downtown commercial buildings. The present building was built to a design by Treasury Department

Presently Fulton Public Library.

C 22. 313 Main. 1942. Haws Memorial Hospital.

FUF-149

Two-story Art Deco brick building with a stepped-out center pavilion. The parapet has a concrete coping above a band of header brickwork, and identical brickwork runs above a concrete foundation. Other features include metal casement windows with transoms, a recessed front entry, and attic vents with decorative perforated metal grilles.

Dr. M. W. Haws (d. 1952) founded the Haws Memorial Hospital in 1940. His widow converted the hospital into the Haws Nursing Home in 1958. Presently Fulton City Board of Education. (*Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*; Chapman, "Community Facilities," 21, map; *Fulton County History*, 21; *Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 12B)

C 23. 400 Main. Late 19th c.; ca. 1940s. Fulton Daily Leader Building (former) FUF-150

Two-story brick building with a parapet shed roof. The ca. 1940s facade has plain metal attic vents above second-story metal casement windows. Other features include a storefront infilled with cinder block, stepped side parapets, and a corner pier that is a remnant of a late-nineteenth-century brick building that formerly stood beside this building.

The *Fulton Daily Leader* commenced publishing in 1898 in a building that formerly stood next to the Masonic Temple on Walnut. It moved to this building in the early twentieth century and remained there until the 1950s. The building was apparently built before 1886. (*Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998)

C 24. 300-304 Walnut. Early 20th c; ca. 1940. Irby's Fashion Shop.

FUF-178

Two-story brick building with an irregular form and a parapet shed roof. A corbeled cornice runs above boarded-up second story windows. Some storefronts have plate glass windows; others were

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bricked up before about 1950. Other features include entries with transoms, a metal awning over the storefront on the angled corner, a remnant original cast iron pilaster with a decorative base, and a metal sign on the northwest side elevation that reads Barker Chiropractic Clinic.

Irby's Fashion Shop occupied 300 in 1936, succeeded by Wood TV in the 1950s. Other tenants in 1936 included the Fulton Wall Paper & Office Supply Company, the Marinello Beauty Shop, and doctor, dentist, and insurance offices on the second floor. Presently Heads Up Hair Emporium (300) and Louis Kleid DC chiropractor office (304). (Joe Follis Bennett)

C 25. 306-308 Walnut. Ca. 1900; ca. 1950. R. H. Cowardin Plumbing Shop. FUF-179

One-story brick building with a parapet shed roof and a ca. 1950 facade with random gray bricks or brick-sized cinder blocks as ornaments above the storefront. Other features include a stepped side parapet, plate glass display windows, off-center recessed entries, and a stuccoed side elevation.

R. H. Cowardin's Plumbing Shop occupied the building in the 1936. Recently Electrology Clinic & Massage Therapy (306) and presently antique store (308).

C 26. 309 Walnut. Building. Ca. 1900. FUF-180

One-story brick building built as infill between 311 Walnut on the east and the former Graham Furniture Building, which stood to the west. The west wall of 309 appears to be the original east wall of the Graham Furniture Building; it is fronted by a cast iron paneled pilaster with rosette ornamentation and a decorative manufacturer's name plate at the base that reads in part "Christopher" (the rest of the inscription is illegible). The building has a ca. 1950 plate glass storefront under a metal awning.

The name plate probably identifies the Christopher & Simpson iron works, which is known to have supplied architectural ironwork for other Fulton buildings around the turn of the twentieth century. In the 1940s Ninamae McKenny's beauty shop occupied 309. Presently First Klass Cutz Barber Shop. (Joe Follis Bennett)

C 27. 311 Walnut. Bennett-Lanzer Radio Shop. Late 19th c. FUF-181

Two-story brick building with a boarded up second-story window, metal and vinyl-sided side

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elevations, and a ca. 1950 plate glass storefront under a metal awning.

Fulton's 1886 Sanborn map may show the building with a furniture store and undertaker on the first floor and a print shop on the second floor. In 1936 the Bennett-Lanzer radio shop occupied the building, which is now vacant. (Joe Follis Bennett)

N 28. 323 Walnut. Vacant lot.

FUF-184

The 1886 Sanborn map shows two two-story buildings on this lot, a store and a furniture store that shared a party wall. Subsequent maps show other uses, but the 1948 Sanborn map shows a return to the store and furniture store functions. Fulton County PVA Map No. 4, adapted from a 1971 aerial photograph, shows the buildings as being extant.

N 29. 325 Walnut. 1954-55. Masonic Temple.

FUF-182

Two-story Moderne building of brick veneer construction (probably over cinder block) with a parapet flat roof. Along Walnut and wrapping the corner part way along Washington are plate glass display windows under a cantilevered aluminum awning. Above the cutaway angled corner entry are a sign with Masonic emblems and a silver-painted corner block with the Masonic square and dividers and the date 1864. Other features include glass block second story windows, a double belt course in the parapet, and an entry to the second-floor lodge rooms at the rear corner on Washington.

Roberts Lodge No. 172 Free and Accepted Masons was organized in 1847 in the town of Feliciana near Fulton. It moved to Fulton in 1868 and in 1904 established itself in the City Hall that formerly stood on Main Street at the site of the present municipal building. The present temple was built in 1954-55 for a cost of \$85,000. Joining Roberts Lodge in the building are Calvert Chapter No. 85 Royal Arch Masons (established in 1894), Fulton City Council No. 63 Royal and Select Master Masons (1895), and Fulton Commandery No. 34 Knights Templar (1909). Bennett Electric, run by Paul Bennett, was probably the first commercial tenant in the building. Presently Fulton Furniture (first floor) and lodge rooms (second floor). (*Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*; Joe Follis Bennett)

C 30. 341 Walnut. Ca. 1940. Wade Ice Plant.

FUF-183

One-story brick building built in two phases with a shed roof with stepped parapet, ceramic

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copings, a corbeled cornice, industrial windows, and display windows.

The building was constructed in two or possibly three phases beginning apparently with an ice plant, the present west section. According to tradition the ice plant was begun to compete with the well-established Fulton Ice Plant, run by R. H. Wade, but the Wade interests bought out its competitor. By 1948 a creamery (east section) had been added. R. H. Wade's son-in-law Harvey Caldwell converted the building into an office supply store in 1952. In 1969 James O. Butts purchased the business, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2002. Note: address is out of sequence on street. Presently Office Outfitters Inc. (James O. Butts; *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*)

C 31. 401 Walnut. 1935. Fulton Library & Woman's Club.

FUF-22

One-story building of brown clinker brick construction with Colonial Revival and Craftsman stylistic influence. The front parapet is stepped and has the word "Library" inscribed on a stone or concrete panel. The corner stone identifies the Woman's Club Building Committee, chaired by Mrs. J. E. Fall, as the building's sponsor. Other features include 6/6 windows, a two-leaf front entry under an early suspended aluminum awning, and a boulder-form stone monument with a plaque dedicated to the Illinois Central railroad.

A Fulton Woman's Club was organized in 1896 but in its present form the club dates to 1921. During the early years a key objective of the club was the construction of a library, which was achieved in 1935. Presently Tae-kwon-do. (*Manufacturers Record Daily Construction Bulletin*, vol. 74 no. 10, January 15, 1935: 3; *Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 12B, 5D)

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List of Resources

Inv #	Res # FUIF-	Address	1	2	BR	BV	CB	PC	Alt Y	Alt N	Date	C	NC
1	165	118 Carr	X		X					X	Ca. 1940	X	
2	140	101 Commercial		X	X				X		1890s	X	
3	141	109 Commercial		X	X				X		1946	X	
4	142	109 Commercial		X			X		X		1950s		X
5	166	112 E. State Line									1990s		X
6	167	1XX Lake	X					X		X	Ca. 1930	X	
7	168	110 Lake	X		X		X		X		1950s	X	
8	169	114 Lake	X		X				X		Ca. 1920	X	
9	170	208 Lake		X	X	X				X	1920s	X	
10	171	214 Lake		X	X				X		L. 19th c.		X
11	172	216-218 Lake		X	X					X	1902	X	
12	173	220-224 Lake		X	X				X		L. 19th c.	X	
13	174	306 Lake		X		X	X			X	1960		X
14	175	312 Lake		X	X	X			X		L. 19th c.		X
15	176	314 Lake		X	X				X		Ca. 1894	X	
16	177	320 Lake		X	X					X	1870s	X	
17	143	101 Main	X			X	X			X	Ca. 1981		X
18	144	229 Main	X		X					X	1950	X	
19	145	231-237 Main (VL)											X
20	146	301-309 Main	X			X	X			X	Ca. 1948	X	
21	148	312 Main	X		X					X	1914-15	X	
22	149	313 Main		X	X					X	1942	X	
23	150	400 Main		X	X				X		L. 19th c.	X	
24	178	300-304 Walnut		X	X					X	E. 20th c.	X	
25	179	306-308 Walnut	X		X					X	Ca. 1900	X	
26	180	309 Walnut	X		X					X	Ca. 1900	X	
27	181	311 Walnut		X	X				X		L. 19th c.	X	
28	184	323 Walnut (VL)											X
29	182	325 Walnut		X		X	X			X	1954-55		X
30	183	341 Walnut	X		X					X	Ca. 1940	X	
31	22	401 Walnut	X		X					X	1935	X	

1 - 1 STORY, 2 - 2 STORIES, BR - BRICK, BV - BRICK VENEER, CB - CONCRETE BLOCK, PC - POURED CONCRETE,
ALT Y - ALTERATION YES, ALT N - ALTERATION NO, C - CONTRIBUTING, NC - NONCONTRIBUTING

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary and Statement of Applicable National Register Criteria

The Fulton Downtown Historic District meets Criterion A, significant for its association with the trading of goods and services as Fulton, Kentucky's historic central business district. Commercial activity was established in the district by about 1870--within a decade of the community's founding. By the end of the nineteenth century the district was densely built up with brick commercial buildings. The district's primacy in Fulton's commercial life continued into the post-World War II period and did not decline until after 1953, the end of the period of significance.

This nomination is an outgrowth of an assessment of Fulton's historic resources sponsored by the Kentucky Heritage Council and the Chamber of Commerce of the Twin Cities and conducted by J. Daniel Pezzoni of Landmark Preservation Associates in 2000-01. Another product of that assessment was the preparation of a nomination for the Carr Historic District, a historic residential area that adjoins the Fulton Downtown Historic District and that was listed in the National Register in 2001 for its importance to the history of its community, the city of Fulton.

The Statement of Significance is structured accordingly. The "Historic Overview" provides a general overview of the historic and physical development of Fulton, Kentucky, with a special emphasis on events pertaining to the district. The historic overview relies in part on historic context developed for Fulton as a product of a 2001 Kentucky Heritage Council-sponsored initiative (J. Daniel Pezzoni, "A Historic Resource Survey and National Register Nomination for Fulton, Kentucky"). The section entitled "The Commercial Significance of the Fulton Downtown Historic District" provides documentation in support of the area of significance identified for the district. This section also presents information on the architectural development and characteristics of the district.

The period of significance extends from ca. 1870, embracing the decade of the 1870s from which fabric from the earliest contributing resource dates, to 1953, embracing post-World War II construction and remodeling in the district. The district is not of exceptional importance for the period after 1953, therefore the period of significance is not extended beyond the National Register fifty-year cut-off. The Fulton Downtown Historic District is eligible at the local level of significance. The National Register defines local significance as: "Importance of a property to the history of its community, such as a town or county" (Bulletin 16A, Appendix IV, p. 2). The Fulton Downtown Historic District is important to the history of its community, the city of Fulton.

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Historic Overview

Fulton, Kentucky owes its existence to the construction of the New Orleans & Ohio Railroad from Paducah to the Tennessee line in 1859-60. Chartered in 1852, the NO&O ultimately connected through to Memphis; in later years it was known as the Paducah & Gulf Railroad and the Paducah & Memphis Railroad. A station was established at the junction with the projected Cairo extension of the Mississippi Central Railroad and was later named Fulton after Fulton County (which in turn was named after steamboat innovator Robert Fulton). Prior to the coming of the railroad the town site belonged to a handful of property owners, principal among them Benjamin F. Carr Jr., whose family had begun to acquire land in the Fulton area in the 1820s.¹

The formal platting of streets and lots in Fulton began in earnest in the 1870s but was preceded by apparently piecemeal surveys along Lake Street. In 1860, B. F. Carr sold G. W. Paschall twenty-seven acres in the triangle formed by the railroads and the Tennessee state line across the NO&O from Lake Street, the Main Street portion of the district, and by 1874 Paschall had surveyed this area into lots, streets, and alleyways. The Downtown Fulton Historic District is located almost entirely in the Lake Street and 1874 Paschall surveys.²

Fulton experienced rapid growth during the final three decades of the nineteenth century. The town benefitted from agricultural production in its hinterland--tobacco and grains were principal crops by 1900--and from enhancements to the state's rail networks, which nearly tripled in mileage between 1870 and 1890. Consolidation of the rail lines serving the town by the Illinois Central in the 1890s linked Fulton to the nationally important carrier and inspired the local newspaper to boast that Fulton was the IC's "most important crossing in the South." With the IC's dominance of banana shipping after 1880 Fulton emerged as the system's primary banana refrigeration stop in the early twentieth century. This distinction inspired the International Banana

¹ Pezzoni, "Historic Resource Survey and National Register Nomination for Fulton"; *Kent-Tenn-O-Rama* (no pagination); Corliss, *Main Line of Mid-America*, 263-66; and Henderson, "Ben F. Carr, Jr. House."

² Pezzoni, "Historic Resource Survey and National Register Nomination for Fulton"; Fulton County Deed Book 5, p. 490 and Deed Book 9, pp. 354.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Festival, first hosted in 1963 and a popular Fulton event until its discontinuance in recent years.³

The Commercial Significance of the Fulton Downtown Historic District to the Fulton Community

The area contained within the Fulton Downtown Historic District acquired commercial significance to the Fulton community during the first decades of the city's development. Commercial activity was present from the beginning in Fulton. The earliest known description of the town, dating to 1861, notes the existence of two stores. One or both of these stores were apparently located in or immediately adjacent to the district along the railroad, the primary economic and developmental focus of the community. Commercial development was arrested by the Civil War but resumed in the late 1860s when principal downtown landowner B. F. Carr began to sell off commercial lots along the NO&O, the origins of the Lake Street business district. A depiction of this area, drawn from an 1871 photograph and published in 1899, shows a row of four store buildings of one-story weatherboarded frame construction with wood-shingled gable roofs behind false fronts. Two featured shed-roofed porches. From other sources it is known that two of these buildings contained general mercantile businesses and one contained a grocery. In addition to serving the nascent Fulton community, these early stores presumably served portions of the five-county area centered on Fulton: portions of Fulton, Hickman, and Graves counties in Kentucky and Obion and Weakley counties in Tennessee lie within three miles of Fulton. Beginning in the 1870s with the development of residential areas adjacent to the downtown, the district's principal association is with the Fulton community.⁴

The 1886 Sanborn map set, the first prepared for Fulton, illustrates the primacy of the district

³ "Industrial Resources," 3; Harrison and Klotter, *New History of Kentucky*, 313; Corliss, *Main Line of Mid-America*, 401-07; Sanborn maps; "Supplement to the Fulton Daily Leader"; *Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, p. 3B; and "Seventeenth Annual International Banana Festival, 9.

⁴ Jewell, *Backward Glance*, vol. 1, p. 25; Fulton County Deed Book 7, pp. 104 and 333, and Deed Book 9, p. 562; Morgan, "Survey of Agriculture in Fulton County," 3; "The Fulton Daily Leader 1911 Special Edition," p. 1D; *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama*. The 1871 view was first published in the June 1899 "Illustrated Industrial Supplement" of the *Fulton Leader* and was reprinted in *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama* in 1959.

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in the commercial life of the Fulton community. The densest commercial development occurred along Lake Street fronting on the railroad and in close proximity to its passenger and freight depots. Commercial development was more diffuse in the Main Street portion of the district. Functional types represented in the district in 1886 included hardware stores, drug stores, printers, professional offices, barber shops, milliners, a furniture and undertaking shop, a cigar store, a harness shop, and a hotel, as well as numerous establishments that sold general merchandise and dry goods. The 1886 Sanborn map, period photographs, and surviving fabric indicate that the first generation of flimsy frame stores on Lake Street had given way to brick business houses of mostly two-story and occasionally three-story height. Presumably many of the district's buildings were built by, or with materials from, G. H. Bransford's brickmaking and contracting firm, established in 1875. Bransford was described as Fulton's leading contractor, and at least one surviving building in the district, the Meadows Hotel at 101 Commercial (FUF-140), used Bransford bricks in its construction.⁵

The brick commercial architecture constructed in the district during the late nineteenth century was typical of its period and context. The standard type was (and remains) a building of rectangular form, typically with the narrow dimension aligned with the street, and a shed roof that slopes from front to rear behind parapets on the front and sides. The street-level storefront, or multiple storefronts in the larger buildings, had large display windows to either side of a recessed entry. These storefront features served a number of purposes: they enticed prospective customers to view the merchandise within, they encouraged entry, they allowed the merchant to keep tabs on items displayed on the sidewalk in front of the building, and they provided natural lighting of the interior. The last function was not unimportant, as the building type was adapted to party-wall construction that reduced or eliminated side windows. Second and third stories, when they existed, typically contained professional offices or apartments. The commercial type characteristically featured a host of secondary attributes and architectural embellishments: front parapets with ornamental cornices of corbeled brickwork, sawn woodwork, or pressed metal; decorative storefront surrounds, sometimes--in the case of cast iron storefronts--with the name of the ironworks displayed on the pilasters; front porches or awnings; segmental-arched door and window openings; stepped side parapets incorporating stove flues; and generally utilitarian rear elevations for the reception of goods. Ornamental features served for more than mere decoration; they attracted the attention of customers amid the intense visual competition of the street.

⁵ *Fulton Leader*, April 4, 1901, and July 31, 1998, 3B.

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The largest and one of the most architecturally impressive early commercial buildings in the district was the 1870s Collins-Baldrige Building at 320 Lake (FUF-177). The three-story dry goods emporium boasted an intricately corbeled brick cornice with elliptical attic vents, corbeled round-arched Italianate window heads, cast iron storefronts, and an angled corner entry. Because the north side elevation faced onto a cross street rather than an adjoining building, windows were possible; those on the first story were elliptical in form in harmony with the attic vents and they were placed high on the wall so as not to interfere with shelving on the interior. The Collins-Baldrige Building was remodeled and lowered to two stories after a fire in 1948, but vestiges of its original character survive.⁶

The commercial type and its attributes influenced the architectural development of the district through the end of the period of significance in 1953. The ornamental exuberance that once characterized the Collins-Baldrige Building is best preserved in the 1902 Paschall Bros. Building at 216-218 Lake (FUF-172), which retains a pressed metal cornice with a semicircular cresting, corbeling and white stone belt courses under the cornice, and vestiges of painted signage. The architectural detail of the Carr Building at 220-224 Lake (FUF-173), remodeled about 1900, is Classical Revival in character with a pressed metal modillion cornice, marble lintels over the second-story windows (rather than the round or segmental arches dominant in the late nineteenth century), and a front entry under a scrolled pediment.

The latest contributing commercial buildings erected in the district, dating to the late 1940s and early 1950s, perpetuated the traditional form and features. An example is the Graham Building at 301-309 Main (FUF-146). The boxy brick-veneered cinder block building has shed roofs with stepped side parapets, angled plate-glass display windows, and ornamental cornices. The Graham Building cornices are more reserved than those of earlier decades, with simple repeated geometric motifs in the Art Deco Style. Few buildings were built on Lake Street after the turn of the twentieth century; most of the construction activity that did occur was in the form of remodeling of storefronts and the facades above. The Craftsman-influenced facade added to the Graham-Beadles Building at 208 Lake (FUF-170) in the 1920s is a remodeling from the period of significance. Storefronts received frequent upgrades, with the general trend being away from the wood, cast iron, and brass door and window frames of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries towards the aluminum frames of the mid-twentieth century. The mid-twentieth-century storefront remodelings generally preserved the historic arrangement of display windows flanking

⁶ *Ken-Tenn-O-Rama; Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 7D.

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a recessed entry.

Construction in the Main Street area across the tracks initially lagged, but in the late 1880s and 1890s the area began to achieve the same density of development as Lake Street. Shortly before 1900 the corner of Main and Commerce streets witnessed the construction of two of the town's most prominent commercial buildings: the Meadows Hotel, which survives in part at 101 Commercial (FUF-140), and the Vendome Opera House on the 200 block of Main. Both buildings incorporated street-level retail space. The Vendome was an imposing Classical Revival building with banded brickwork, large round-arched window openings, and round attic windows. The building was demolished in 1975 shortly after it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.⁷

The Vendome Opera House was a trend setter in two respects: it was the first in a series of architecturally distinguished, classically detailed buildings to be erected on Main Street, and it marked the beginning of a more civic aspect to the development of the Main Street area, in contrast to the more purely commercial character of Lake Street. About 1905 the Vendome was followed by the Fulton City Hall, a three-story combination municipal office building, jail, and fire department that shared with the earlier building classical details such as banded brickwork and roundel attic openings (the ca. 1905 city hall stood on the site of the present municipal building at the corner of Main and Nelson Tripp Place). In 1914-15 the former Fulton Post Office was built at 312 Main (FUF-148). The Colonial Revival brick building--now used as the city's public library--features large windows in round-arched openings or recesses, a main entry in a classical surround, and gable parapets with false chimneys and lunettes. Civic construction continued into the second quarter of the twentieth century in the Main Street area. The 1935 Fulton Library & Woman's Club at 401 Walnut (FUF-22) mixed Colonial Revival elements with brown clinker brick construction indicative of Craftsman stylistic influence. A restrained interpretation of the Art Deco Style was employed for the Haws Memorial Hospital, built in 1942 at 313 Main (FUF-149). After World War II, construction became even more simplified, with unadorned brick facades and large glass block windows as typified in the 1946 Exchange Store at 109 Commercial (FUF-141) and the 1949 post-fire remodeling of the Collins-Baldrige Building at 320 Lake (FUF-177).⁸

⁷ Sanborn maps; Jewell, "Vendome Opera House."

⁸ *Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998, 7B.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Resources associated with the sale and service of automobiles are present in the district from the 1920s onward. The one-story brick building at 114 Lake (FUF-169) served as an automobile repair garage in 1925 and in the 1930s was occupied by the City Motor Company, a Chevrolet dealership. More flamboyant architecturally is Collier's Body Shop at 118 Carr (FUF-165), a ca. 1940 Art Deco automobile repair garage constructed of glazed blond brick. These resources and a ca. 1950 service station at 110 Lake (FUF-168) cluster at the western access to the downtown commercial area from State Line Street.

The district remained the commercial center of Fulton through the end of the period of significance. A panoramic view of Lake Street taken in January 1954 (published in the 100th Anniversary Edition of *The Fulton Leader*, July 31, 1998) depicts a prosperous central business district. The 1954 photo is also one of the last to depict a number of buildings with their original facades. Beginning in the mid-1950s and continuing through the 1960s, a number of merchants added plain brick veneers or metal facade panels to modernize the appearance of buildings. An example is the 1969 remodeling of the late-nineteenth-century building at 214 Lake (FUF-171), which resulted in the installation of metal facade panels above a cantilevered aluminum awning and decorative tile display window surrounds.

Despite efforts by merchants to attract customers to the downtown through building upgrades, the last half of the twentieth century saw Fulton's commercial life shift to suburban shopping plazas and commercial strips. Loss of vitality affected the Main Street area more severely than Lake Street, with the destruction of a number of historic commercial buildings, including, in 2001-02, the demolition of the deteriorated Fulton Theater on the 300 block of Main (FUF-145). Lake Street has fared better, with a minimum of demolition, although post-1953 facade remodelings have rendered sections of the street ineligible for inclusion in the district. Commercial activity remains important to the district, and in recent years increasing numbers of merchants have indicated interest in rehabilitating their buildings. This nomination intends, in part, to assist that interest by making Rehabilitation Tax Credit opportunities available.

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A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these was the local sponsor, the Chamber of Commerce of the Twin Cities, represented by its Executive Director, Lois Birk. Marty Perry, National Register Coordinator with the Kentucky Heritage Council, served as the state contact. Others who provided assistance (all Fulton area residents unless otherwise noted) included individuals cited as sources in the inventory and William MacIntire and Lynn Webb of the Kentucky Heritage Council.

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UTM References (continued)

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UTM reference points 1, 2, and 5 are located in the Crutchfield, KY/TN USGS quadrangle.
UTM reference points 3 and 4 are located in the Water Valley, KY/TN USGS quadrangle.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district are portrayed on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination, which is drawn from Fulton County PVA map Fulton No. 4.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district encompass a contiguous concentration of historic resources located in Fulton's historic commercial area that retain sufficient integrity to render them contributing to the district. The boundaries are defined on the west side by the adjacent National Register-listed Carr Historic District, on the south side by the Tennessee state line, and on the north and east sides by commercial areas with low-integrity historic resources, modern resources, and intermixed vacant lots and parking lots.

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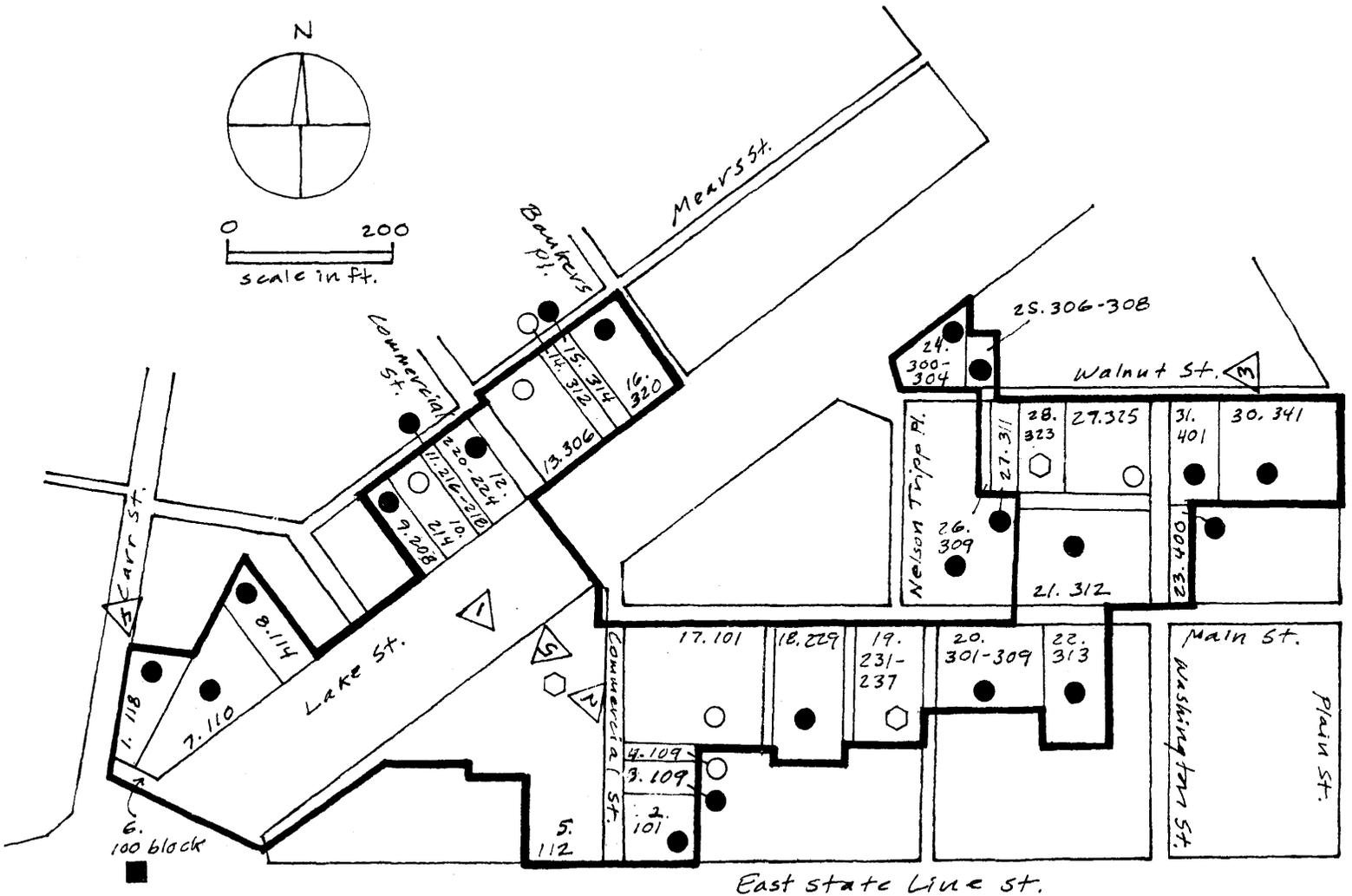


Exhibit A: Fulton Downtown Historic District. Scale: 1 inch equals 200 feet. Resources keyed to inventory by inventory number followed by street address. Key: black circles indicate contributing buildings; open circles indicate noncontributing buildings; black squares indicate contributing structures; open hexagons indicate noncontributing sites and vacant lots. Number and direction of view of exterior photographs indicated by numbered triangular markers. Map drawn from Fulton County PVA map Fulton No. 4.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Subject: Fulton Downtown Historic District (same for all photos)
2. Location: Fulton Co., Ky. (same for all photos)
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)
4. Photo date: October 2002 (same for all photos)
5. Original negative archived at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort
(same for all photos)
6. Description of view: Lake Street, 200 and 300 blocks (north side).
View looking northeast.
7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2. 6. Commercial Street, 100 block (east side). View looking southeast.
3. 6. Walnut Street, 300 block (north and south sides). View looking west.
4. 6. Collier's Body Shop (118 Carr St.) with Lake Street Bridge beyond.
View looking southeast.
5. 6. Pontotoc Park (112 E. State Line). View looking southwest.