

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED JUN 5 1979
AUG 1 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC Springfield Town Square Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

U.S. 41 and TN 49

STREET & NUMBER Public Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Tennessee

CODE
047

COUNTY

Robertson

CODE

147

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Robertson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Tennessee

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

January 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville,

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Springfield Town Square Historic District is comprised of thirty-four historically or architecturally important buildings in a four-block area surrounding the Robertson County Courthouse which is a National Register property. The square is a cohesive unit of one and mostly two story commercial and governmental buildings, constructed in the period from 1890 to 1925, majestically situated atop a hill overlooking the entire town of Springfield.

As such, clearly distinguishable boundaries of the district are formed by the topography of the land and by the cohesiveness of the four-block area. On the eastern side of the square the block of buildings are bounded in the rear by hillside parking lots and also by a large parking area on the south side. Behind the northern block is a modern community center building located at the base of the hillside. An older residential neighborhood fills the eastern hillside and valley. All of which are physically separated by wide alleys or major streets. Hence, the boundaries follow rear and side property lines and encompass only the buildings that were constructed during this particular period, which are distinct visually because of their location atop the hill and surrounding the courthouse.

Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

1. Beasley Building, "Peoples Bank Building," (500 South Main Street): ca. 1899, two story brick painted white, 3 bay original first floor facade with pedimented door flanked by columns and two large windows, corbeling separates first story and three 1/1 windows of second story and dentilled cornice of the parapet.
2. Beasley Cotton Bale Building, "Hart and Tanner Drugs Building," (502 South Main Street): ca. 1899, two story brick painted white, minor alterations of first story, ornate 3 bay second story capped by brick dentil work and corbeled parapet.
3. Robertson State Bank Building, "Springfield National Bank Building," (504 South Main Street): ca. 1899, two story brick with stone-tiled facade, remodeled first story with Ionic columns dividing windows and supporting entablature, 3 recessed panels decorate parapet.
4. Williams Jewelers Building, "Peck Dry Goods Building," (506 South Main Street): ca. 1899, two story brick, first floor slightly remodeled but maintains much of original configuration, topped with entablature, 3 bay second story filled with Palladian window flanked by small round windows on either side, plain cornice on parapet.
5. Chandler-Murphy Family Store Building, "Roseblum Building," (508 South Main Street): ca. 1899, two story brick, somewhat remodeled first floor with display windows similar to original, three arched windows supported by pilasters decorate second story, parapet has corbeled frieze and a cornice which support three recessed panels.
6. Chandler-Murphy Family Store Building (510 South Main Street): ca. 1899, two story brick, first story remodeled, five arched windows with metal hoods decorate second story, five hooded decorative vents of the mansard roof correspond with second story windows.
7. Downey Jewelers Building, "Couts and Poor Saloon Building," (514 South Main Street): ca. 1890s, one story brick, remodeled, remaining architectural feature is the ornate metal cornice.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The buildings of the Springfield Town Square Historic District remain as an excellent example of late Victorian commercial architecture that has survived with relatively little change since its construction period between 1890 and 1925. Together with the Robertson County Courthouse, which is listed in the National Register, these buildings comprise a cohesive, clearly definable court square. Springfield has been the county seat of government since 1798 although the buildings surrounding the courthouse date to the turn of the century. Fires swept parts of all four sides of the square in 1899 and 1900 which necessitated new construction. At this time, the elaborate Victorian architecture replaced the earlier buildings, exemplifying renewed zest and the zenith of Springfield's prosperity. The town was experiencing revitalization due in part to the wealth of its inhabitants. That is, wealth resulting from the tobacco trade and whisky production Springfield is famous for.

Continuing the tradition of the court square, many of the buildings are used much the same as originally intended and retain a great deal of exterior and interior architectural details. The court square continues to serve the community as a functional and social center where politics and government are carried on, the newspaper is printed, merchandise and goods are sold, and people are able to use buildings built at a human scale and that maintain a link to the past through their quality of design and craftsmanship.

Although the majority of the buildings on the square are architecturally important, some have little architectural merit but are important parts of the square due to their integral and functional relationships with it. Building #29, historically referred to as the Garner Law Office, is the oldest, built in the early 1850s for one of Springfield's prominent lawyers, Judge John E. Garner. The Chamber of Commerce now occupies it and plans to restore and rehabilitate it beginning in the next few months. The gas stations on both ends of the west block of buildings were built in the 1920s and remain with minor alterations as examples of the very first service stations. Building #27, which was originally the 638 Service Station, was Springfield's first and was also the location of the first WSIX station and broadcast. Also, building #30 has continued to house the Robertson County Times since its completion in the early 1900s.

The old U.S. Post Office, which contributes architecturally and historically to the square, has recently been purchased by the County to rehabilitate and restore in a manner that will maintain its integrity and features that make it important. In addition, plans are made for the courthouse's rehabilitation and restoration. Both activities are planned to utilize the historic buildings for County and City office space.

The Springfield town square stands today as a lasting tangible example of the fashion in commercial architecture at the turn of the century and remains intact as a court square of buildings virtually undisturbed by modern construction.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Love, Charles L. The Springfield I Have Known. Robertson County Times, 1943.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Springfield Town Square Historic District is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled, "Springfield Town Square Historic District," and drawn at an approximate scale of 1" = 260'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Shain Terrell, Historic Preservation Specialist Nancy Alexander, Intern	
ORGANIZATION	Mid-Cumberland Council of Governments and Development District	DATE March 13, 1979
STREET & NUMBER	Suite 600 501 Union Street	TELEPHONE 244-1212
CITY OR TOWN	Nashville	STATE Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hays

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

5/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Jann H. Gilmore*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-1-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/30/79

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8. Georgia Girl's Fashions Building, "Pitt Brothers Wholesale and Retail Whiskey House," (516 South Main Street); ca. 1890s, one story brick remodeled with aluminum siding covering original facade.
9. Vacant, "Deberry and Coutts Saloon Building," (518 South Main Street): ca. 1890s, remodeled with stucco covering original features of parapet.
10. Robbies Fashion Shop Building (520 South Main Street): ca. 1890s, one story brick remodeled with aluminum siding, cornice remains although covered by store sign.
11. Randolph House Company Building (600, 601 South Main Street); 1913, two story brick with yellow enameled facade and remodeled glass storefront, three large window sections of the second story are capped by a denticulated cornice supported by brackets.
12. Scotties Discount Drugs, Draper and Darwin Stores, J.C. Penny's, and Western Auto Building, "Glenn Building," (612 South Main Street): 1905, two story brick, first floor remodeled although a portion of the original remains, second story has nine recessed sets of double windows divided by pilasters which support denticulated cornice and continue to divide the parapet roof line that is flanked by decorated pediments on each side.
13. Lad and Dad Building (614 South Main Street): turn-of-the-century, one story brick, remodeled on street level, remaining are four pilasters supporting a full entablature, above which are three recessed panels.
14. Tennessee Lighting and Appliance Company Building (616 South Main Street): ca. 1900, two story brick with white enameled brick facade, first story maintains its original show window configuration topped by an entablature, 3 bay second story windows are boarded over, parapet has three diamonds in dark enameled brick that correspond with second story windows.
17. Bell Building (613 South Main Street): 1922, one story brick first floor has four storefronts, originally four stories, extensive remodeling blends well with architectural characteristics of the square.
18. Holman and Holman Building (611 South Main Street): ca. 1900, two story brick, first floor extensively remodeled, second floor has 3 plain arched windows topped by three recessed panels.
19. Fred Smith Insurance Building (609 South Main Street): ca. 1900-1910, two story brick, first floor has three arched openings recessed in rectangular bays, second floor also has three arched openings, corbeling is found at the top of all bays, cornice features pediment with the word "BANK" in its center.
20. Hen House Building (South Public Square): ca. 1900, two and a half story brick painted to simulate two separate buildings, first story extensively remodeled, six bays of plain arched windows are featured on the second floor above which are small, circular windows under a decorative brick cornice.

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21. Robert English Law Office Building, "Security Federal Savings and Loan Association Building," (108 Public Square): early 20th century, one story brick with three bay masonry facade, featuring pilasters, wide frieze, and parapet.
22. Wilkerson and Looney Building (110, 111 South Public Square): ca. 1900, two story brick with original four bay facade remaining except for 4th bay which has been bricked in, second story features circular vents, corbeling, and metal cornice.
23. Wells Cleaners and Crawford & Herndon Heating and Plumbing Building (114, 116 South Public Square): ca. 1900, two story brick building with remodeled first story, six square vents covered with grill work and surrounded by offset brick decorate second story, which is capped with an ornate metal cornice.
24. Larry Simmons Law Office Building (126 South Public Square): ca. 1900, one story brick building with possibly original first floor 2 bay configuration, parapet has three recessed panels and is topped with corbeling.
25. Joe Walker Law Office Building (124 South Public Square): ca. 1900, two story brick with remodeled storefront, second story features brickwork in layered panels of herringbone and basketweave patterns under diagonal corbeling and a crenelated parapet.
26. Old Post Office Building (South Public Square): 1913, Neo-classical, two story brick featuring four engaged Doric columns that divide three arched recessed panels in which the main door is centered between multi-lighted windows.
27. Vacant, "638 Service Station," (North Sixth Street): 1925, two story brick somewhat remodeled but remains essentially the same, decorative basketweave brickwork is featured as only decoration.
28. Sprouse, Long, and Walker Law Office Building, "Masonic Lodge," (507 South Public Square): late 19th century, one story brick remodeled with fake mansard roof, retains original three arched bays and quoins.
29. Chamber of Commerce Building, "Garner Law Office Building," (West Public Square): ca. 1850-1860, one story brick, oldest on square, decorated with 3 bay radiating voussoir window and door surround head over which are three recessed panels of corbeling, parapet features an inset of basketweave brickwork.
30. Robertson County Times Building (West Public Square): ca. early 20th century, one story brick with drastically remodeled facade, has housed the newspaper business since its construction.
31. Vacant, "Esso Service Station," (Fifth Avenue West): ca. 1920s, Art Deco, one story brick and stucco.

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32. Vacant, "Col. W.W. Pepper's Law Office," (117 Fifth Avenue West): ca. 1890s, one story white frame with 3 bays and gable, with plain boxed cornice and returns, that features decorative vents placed one over the other.

33. "Albion Hotel," (111-115 Fifth Avenue West): late 19th century, two story brick, excepting minor alterations of the first story and absence of original two story veranda, the building retains many original features, second story has seven window bays capped by flat decorative metal hoods, crenelated parapet is accented with three circular windows and corbeling.

34. Mr. Sandwich Shop and Springfield Herald Building (107 Fifth Avenue West): ca. 1900, two story brick with its facade retaining original architectural elements except for first story window replacements, a central pavilion is arched and contains a unique semi-circular opening with three doors, second story bays are filled with a central double arched window flanked by flat double windows on either side, a decorative gable caps the central pavilion and parapet.

35. Vacant, "Crescent Princess Theatre," (105 Fifth Avenue West): ca. 1900, two story brick with remodeled first story, second floor features seven arched windows with corbeled surrounds and a central projecting bay, four small round windows decorate parapet.

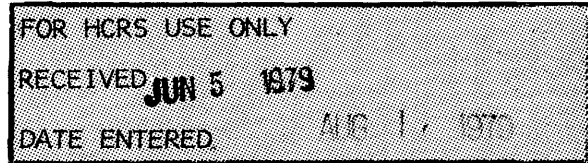
36. Walling Radio and TV and Woodard Hardware Building, "Woodard Hall," (101, 103 Fifth Avenue West): 1899, two story brick with completely original facade features two individual although similar storefronts, 3 bays of window groupings divided by pilasters on the second story, and a parapet with a central bay double window and 3 round vents in front of a truncated roof.

Buildings not contributing to character of the district:

15. Catos (618 South Main Street): ca. 1900, one story brick, facade drastically remodeled whereby original features were removed.

16. Eckles Printing Shop (1201 South Main Street): early 20th century, one story cinder block with three bays.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



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List of property owner's names and addresses as keyed to map:

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| 1. | Ann P. and Charles Beasley
500 S. Main Street
Springfield, TN 37172 | 11. | Third National Bank
c/o Martha Simpkins
11329 Surry Oak Dr.
Houston, TX 77024 |
| 2. | Same as above | 12. | J. M. Draper
801 Hill Street
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 3. | James L. Chandler
504 South Main Street
Springfield, TN 37172 | 13. | Anne N. Caldwell
201 Fourth Avenue N.
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 4. | L. A. Williams
c/o Williams Jewelers
Springfield, TN 37172 | 14. | Carney Bell
Box 188
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 5. | James L. Chandler
311 Garner
Springfield, TN 37172 | 15. | H. O. Barber, Jr.
P.O. Box 666
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 6. | Harrison A. Hardison
405 Pawnee Drive
Springfield, TN 37172 | 16. | Walter L. Bentley
1201 S. Main Street
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 7. | G. L. Downey and
C.B. Alford
514 South Main
Springfield, TN 37172 | 17. | Robert D. Moore and
Joe H. Moore
c/o G.S. Moore and Sons
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 8. | Louis R. Draughon
Route 5
Springfield, TN 37172 | 18. | James Palmer and David
Sciortino
Rt. 1, Box 315
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 9. | Robertson State Bank
1203 Memorial Blvd.
Springfield, TN 37172 | 19. | Stokes Brown and
Virginia Brown
203 Fifth Avenue
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 20. | Ross D. Fann
506 Oak Street
Springfield, TN 37172 | | |

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- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|--|
| 20. | Stokes Brown, Virginia Brown,
and Mattie L. McMurry
203 Fifth Avenue
Springfield, TN 37172 | 30. | Clinard Berlin
P. O. Box 637
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 21. | E. A. Covington
Rt. 3
Franklin, TN 37064 | 31. | Louis Draughon
Rt. 5
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 22. | J. E. Wilkinson
112 Court Square
Springfield, TN 37172 | 32. | Thomas Pepper
403 Fifth Avenue
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 23. | Jean Lazzara
615 Crestview
Springfield, TN 37172 | 33. | W.W. McClanahan
316 Oak Street
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 24. | Stokes Brown and
Virginia Brown
203 Fifth Avenue
Springfield, TN 37172 | 34. | W.P. Bryant, Jr.
First National Bank
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 25. | Joe K. Walker
124 Sixth Avenue W.
Springfield, TN 37172 | 35. | Louis Draughon
Rt. 5
Springfield, TN 37172 |
| 26. | Robertson County
Public Square
Springfield, TN 37172 | 36. | John T. Woodard
Golfview Lane
Springfield, TN 37122 |
| 27. | ✓ Louis Draughon
Rt. 5
Springfield, TN 37172 | | |
| 28. | Amelia Alice Moore
800 Main St.
Springfield, TN 37172 | | |
| 28. | Culver Burnett
First National Bank
Springfield, TN 37172 | | |

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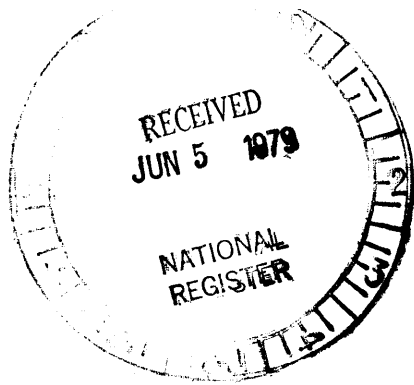
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Quad name: Springfield North, Tenn.

Quad Scale: 1:24000

Latitude and Longitude Coordinates (no UTM grid ticks)

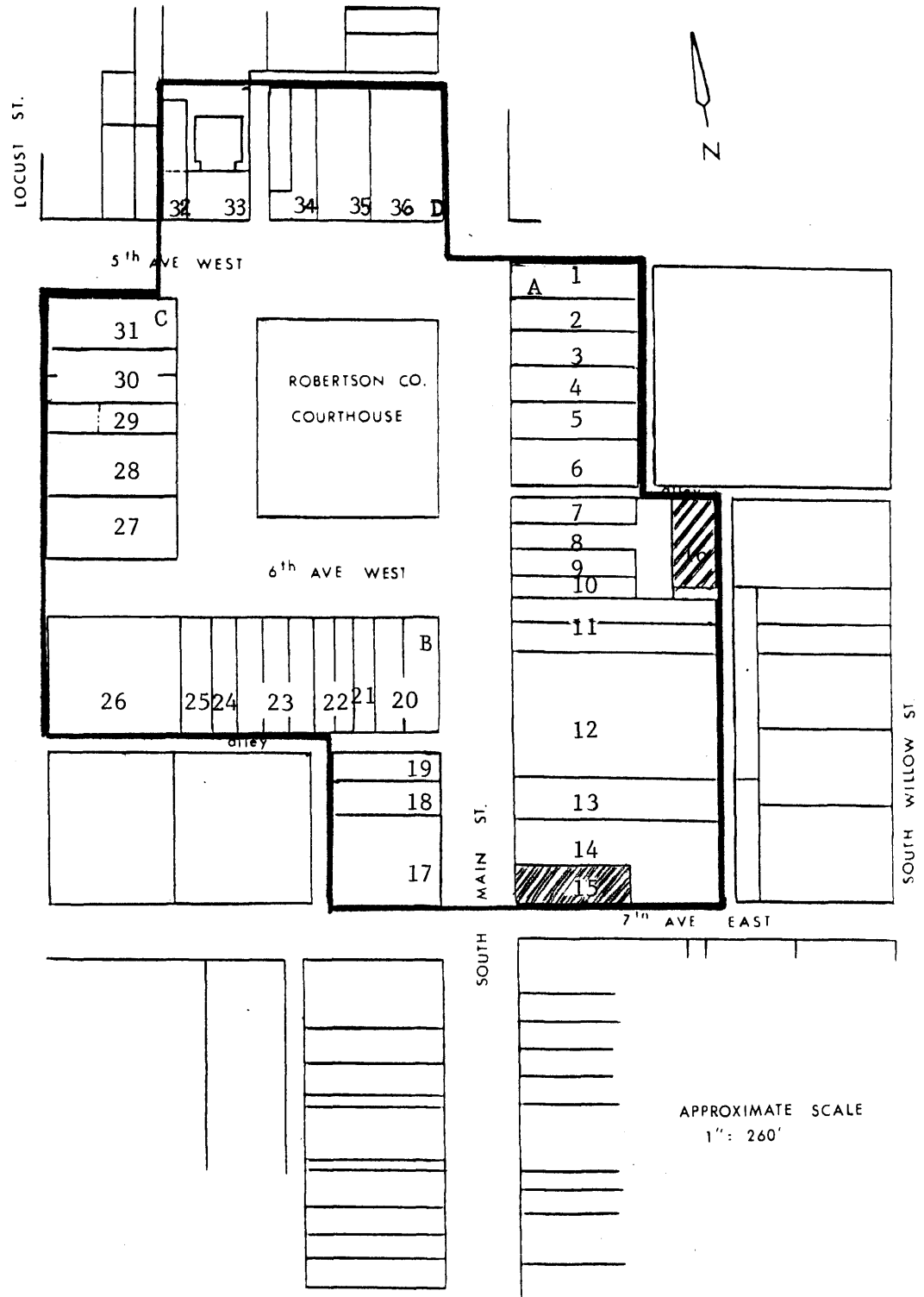
- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| A. 36° 30' 33" | 86° 53' 04" |
| B. 36° 30' 28" | 86° 53' 04" |
| C. 36° 30' 29" | 86° 53' 12" |
| D. 36° 30' 33" | 86° 53' 10" |



SPRINGFIELD TOWN SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

— Boundary lines

/// Non-contributing buildings



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Springfield Town Square Historic District Robertson County, Tennessee

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Melanie Byers
4/22/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 31 1993

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page NA Springfield Town Square Historic District
Robertson County.

The Robertson County Times Building (inventory #30) was listed as a contributing building. It has come to our attention that this is actually a circa 1960 building (outside the period of significance) and should be noncontributing.

Herbert L. Harper
Herbert L. Harper

3/26/93
Date