Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eminence Historic Commercial District consists of 28 buildings that front either Broadway, Main, or Penn Streets in Eminence, Kentucky (1970 pop., 2,225). Although it is not the seat of county government, Eminence is the largest community in Henry County, and the town derives its name through being the highest point between Louisville and Lexington.

Main Street (Ky. 55), the principle thoroughfare, runs on a north-south axis. Main is diagonally intersected by Broadway which ran parallel to the former L&N railroad tracks, and Broadway is crossed by Penn Street at a right angle.

The district's boundaries have been designed to exclude intrusions south of buildings 8 and 9 on the site location map, and to exclude residential areas on all other sides. Those buildings occupying the triangular area bounded by Broadway, Penn, and Main are a recent commercial building and a 1960s bank building with drive-in facilities. The boundaries are arranged to exclude these buildings also. Of the 28 components of the Eminence Historic Commercial District, 25 contribute to the architectural fabric and character.

Information on individual buildings follows. For facility of reading, their histories, when known, have been combined with respective physical descriptions.

The former L&N Railroad Depot occupies a key location at the intersection of Broadway and Main, with the railroad tracks running along this 1908 building's east side. The shape is somewhat that of a cruciform, and construction is of brick with soldier courses above the openings and above the continuous stone stringcourse in the lowermost level. Stone blocks are set into the brickwork and decorative wooden brackets support the widely over-hanging eaves. Red tiles and hip rolls further contribute to the texture variation, and the chimneys are decoratively corbelled at their tops.

Railroad tracks were laid through Eminence as early as 1847, and the first freight and passenger depot was located on the same site of this former passenger depot. The first tracks were laid by the Louisville and Lexington Railroad Company which later became the Louisville, Lexington and Cincinnati, and finally the Louisville and Nashville (see photo 1 and site 1).

The Koenigstein Building (see photo 2) is notable for the subtle manner in which it turns the corner of West Broadway and South Main. This one-story building houses several shops and has an altered street level. Retained, however, is a high parapet of pressed tin that renders the building a sense of greater height. A row of swags is in the lowest level of the parapet, and above this is a band of egg-and-dart molding. There is also simulated brickwork crowned by an entablature that incorporates imitated dentils and modillions (see site 2).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eminence Historic Commercial District is significant in being a fine collection of late 19th-century commercial buildings which has retained its architectural integrity. The buildings combine with the arrangement of streets to speak of the importance of the former railroad, which existed ten years before the founding of the town.

Eminence was incorporated in 1857, but the railroad tracks going through what would become the very center of the town had been laid a decade before. Obvious care was taken in the arrangement of streets to maintain a sense of concordance between the railroad route and the town plan. The site of the former freight depot (later to be replaced by a passenger depot) was a prominent one near the intersection of Broadway and Main. Broadway, which dead-ends at its far southeast extent, ran parallel to the tracks.

The first coming of the trains was a source of great excitment:

For weeks the citizens had breathlessly discussed the event, and on the day appointed, gathered to see the marvelous invention, but as the huge locomotive rounded the corner, spurting out fire and ashes, the citizens, from miles around, became so frightened they "took to their heels." A few days later the railroad company invited them for a ride to Louisville, which some hesitantly accepted, but when the bell clanged and the train moved off, the old fear returned, and guests could be seen tumbling off here, there, and everwhere along the tracks for a half-mile (Maude Johnston Drane, History of Henry County, p. 51).

Henry County has been the location of considerable farming activities. An 1887 account states: "The face of the country is generally undulating, with considerable hills in certain localities, and the lands are designated the "sugar lands, " the "Oak Lands," and the "beech Lands.' The first produce hemp abundantly, the second the finest of tobacco, and the last yield corn profusely" (Perrin, Battle and Kniffin, <u>Kentucky. A History of the State</u>, p. 599). That same year, Eminence was described as being: "The largest town in the county . . . It is an enterprising, pushing town of 1, 043 inhabitants" (Ibid., p. 599).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drane, Maude Johnston. History of Henry County, Kentucky. Privately printed, 1948.

Perrin, W.H., Battle, J.H., and Kniffin, G.C. <u>Kentucky</u>. A History of the State. Louisville: F.A. Battey and Company, 1887.

10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <u>approx. 12 acres</u>

OTM REFERENCES	E. 16/658940/4248360
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Noncontiguous; at the far southeast, those buildings facing Penn Street between Main and Broadway. Next, those buildings facing Broadway between Penn and Main. Then 100-124 North Main. The boundary proceeds east to encompass 123 North Main, 100 W. Broadway and the former L&N Passenger Depot. Next, 64-80 South Main.

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
FORM PREPARED BY			<u></u>	
NAME / TITLE			-	
Daniel Kidd, Architectural His	torian			<i>.</i>
ORGANIZATION			DATE	
Kentucky Heritage Commission	1		July, 1978	
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104 Bridge St.			502-564-3741	
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Eminence Historic Commercial District CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER

> Mr. Leslie McGrew North Main Eminence, Kentucky 40019

> Jack Helburn 114 Sulphur Ave. Eminence, Kentucky 40019

> Kentucky Utilities Broadway Eminence, Kentucky 40019

John Coomes, Sr. New Castle, Kentucky

James Cain 108 W. Broadway Eminence, Kentucky 40019

Lydia Fremd 212 North Main Eminence, Kentucky 40019

J.T. Wilson Broadway Eminence, Kentucky 40019

A.B. McCaniel 122 E. Broadway Eminence, Kentucky 40019

I.O.O.F. Lodge 140 Eminence, Kentucky 40019 Eminence Police Dept. 106 E. Penn Eminence, Kentucky 40019

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PAGE

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Helen Brammel 309 N. Main Eminence, Kentucky 40019

James Barnett 319 South Main Harrodsburg, Kentucky 438

Mrs. George Carroll 307 N. Main Eminence, Kentucky 40019

Floyd Creek Barton Lane Pleasureville, Kentucky

Bill Purvis 236 West Broadway Eminence, Kentucky 40019

Dee Ellis Route l Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065

Eli Jackson Eminence Road Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065 John Land Eminence, Kentucky

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Eminence Historic Commercial District

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE	2		
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72 South Main is a two-story, three-bay brick building whose main facade's street level remains intact. There is a plain fascia supported by slender Neo-Grec pilasters of cast iron. Three windows with flat hoodmolds pierce the second level. The crowining element is an attractive cast-iron entablature that equates those decorative elements below (see photo 3). The date of erection, 1893, is contained in the entablature (see site 3).

74 South Main's original arragement was much in rhythm with its neighbor on the north. The only remaining element characteristic of its 1890s erection is a fascial between the two levels (see photo 3 and site 4).

Although sandwiched between taller structures, the Cain Building (see photo 4) achieves visual distinction through pleasing proportions and embellishments. The street level contains a recessed door and two display windows with one-pane transoms. Thin pilasters uphold an unadorned fascia. Above this element is a high brick parapet topped with a cast-iron fascia that is a smaller version of that on 72 S. Main (See site 5).

Among the most plastic buildings in the commercial area of Eminence is 78 S. Main (see photo4). This two-story, three-bay brick structure's exterior is much in its original condition. The display windows have been enlarged, but a section of numerous semi-opaque panes survives. An oriel window with inset colored glass in its upper panes projects from the second floor's center. Flanking it are rectangular windows with flat hood-molds. The entablature is a ponderous, but attractive feature; there are pinnacles at the corners and atop the centered pediment (see site 6).

The Purvis Tavern (see photo 4) is a two-story, three-bay brick building erected in 1892. The cast-iron street level is much in its original state. Slightly recessed from the sidewalk, this portion incorporates two free-standing columns, and pilasters with Neo-Grec details. The three windows that pierce the second level are evenly spaced, but are not centered within the wall surface. A chaste cast-iron entablature is at the street facade's apex (see site 7).

What now houses the Chic Shoppe is a somewhat twin building to its northern neighbor. The street level is completely altered, but a pressed-tin fascia with delicate swags in relief has been retained. The second-floor windows and the entablature are much like those of the Purvis Tavern (see photo 4 and site 8).

112-114 Penn is a 2-story, 6-bay double building of brick construction. The lower level has been substantially altered but the second floor's appearance remains much the same. Windows on this level have semi-circular heads. Their upper halves have been filled and the panes have been changed. Two courses of corbelled bricks are in the building's uppermost

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Eminence Historic Commercial District				
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE	3

portion (see photo 5 and site 9).

The former Farmers: and Drovers Bank Building at 108 Penn St. is a two-story brick construction covered with stone on the street facade. Large glass panes have been inserted in the lower level, and the whole interior was gutted by fire in 1975. Little exterior damage occured, however. The upper level is notable for containing a modified Palladian window (see photo 6 and site 10).

Occupying the corner of Penn and Broadway is the 1911 Odd Fellows Building, a three-story brick construction whose exterior is covered with stone (see photo 7). The rounded corner contains the main entrance, and this opening has a square column on either side. Above is a bowed window filled with painted glass. The corner appears to have had a dome at one time, or perhaps such an element was intended but never provided. To the south is a shaped gable containing an oculus. Smoothly finished stone bands on the three exposed sides define the building's sections and provide a contrast in textures.

The Eminence Lodge of the I.O.O.F. was chartered in 1858, and by 1916 Eminence boasted of being the location of one of only two Odd Fellows Homes in Kentucky (the other was in Louisville). See site 11.

What now houses King Auto Parts is a two-and-one-half story brick building occupying the northeast corner of East Broadway and Penn. The cast-iron street facade facing Broadway incorporates recessed entrances, large windows, and fine Neo-Grec pilasters. This facade's second floor includes five rectangular windows with segmental relieving arches above each within a recess that is corbeled at the top. Three four-pane oculi pierce the attic, and a modillioned entablature is at the apex. A dramatic element that establishes this as a corner building is the nonfunctional turret covered with shingles and topped with an iron orb and finial (see photo 8 and site 12).

The B&M Grill (site 13) retains cast-iron pilasters with Neo-Grec details at the corners of its first floor. A shed-roofed sidewalk shelter has been appended, but the upper level of this four-bay brick construction is unchanged. There are segmental relieving arches above the slightly recessed windows of the second floor, and the cast-iron entablature is treated with both dentils and modillions (see photo 9).

The Fremd Building, erect ed in 1914, is of brick construction with stone elements. The lower level contains large display windows. A five-window arrangement in the second floor is visually separated from the street level by a stone fascia that spans the building's entire width. Small coupled windows pierce the attic level, and the parapet with a raised central section is coped with stone (see photo 9 and site 14).

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Eminence Historic Commercial District				•
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 7	PAGE	4	

112 E. Broadway carries on the rhythm of its northern neighbors. Much of the street level has been altered by the application of wooden panels, but the original arrangement is still discernable. The four windows piercing the second level have cast-iron hood molds above, and there are slender, decorative brackets below the projecting cornice (see photo 9 and site 15).

110 East Broadway (site 16) repeats the fenestral rhythm of its northern neighbor. The windows in the upper level of this two-story, seven-bay brick construction have segmental heads. In recent years, these openings have been filled with wooden panels. Small coupled brackets are beneath the wooden cornice (see photo 9).

104-106 Broadway (see site 17 and photo 9) is a two-story, seven-bay double building whose street level has been modified by the application of wooden panels in the northern half and over the transom of the southern entrance. The upper level's exterior is unimpaired excepting the installation of larger panes. Stone lintels are at the heads and sills of the windows, and there are small grooved brackets beneath the wooden cornice. This is among the oldest commercial buildings in Eminence, and it appears to have been constructed in the 1860s.

The second Farmers and Drovers Bank Building (see photos 9 and 10) is a two-story structure with a polygonal facade that nicely turns the western corner of Main and Broadway. The first floor contains a centered entrance with double doors and a three-pane transom. Flanking the entrance are stone pilasters and large windows with three-pane transoms also. A stone fascia wraps around the three-sided facade and separates the two floors. Three identically-treated windows pierce the upper level which is of stuccoed brick. An otherwise stark appearance is avoided through the use of granite lintels, keystones, and slightly protruding blocks. See site 18.

The 1903 C. W. Bauer Building (see photo 10) is a commercial structure whose street level has been completely mutated beyond any indication of its original appearance. The second level, however, has retained its initial arrangement. There is a single window with a semi-circular transom flanked by paired windows with elliptical transoms. Granite bands and keystones unite the composition. A brick pilaster is at either corner, and the facade is surmounted by a fine cast-iron entablature embellished with paterae, modillions, and coupled brackets. The entablature's most dramatic element, however, is a semi-circular projection that bears the original owner's name and the date of completion. See site 19.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Eminence Historic Commerical Distr	ict			
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE	5

The 1872 Moody House Hotel is the largest component in the district. This T-shaped, threestory building is of brick construction, and is a chaste example of the Italianate. An old photograph reveals that a four-bay, one-story porch of cast iron with a balcony above originally served the street facade. Due to changing usages though, this was removed and the street level has been substantially altered by the installation of display windows and large wooden panels. Openings of the second floor, including the recessed entrance that opened onto the one-time balcony, have segmental heads. Window heads of the third floor are semicircular, and there are modillions and sawn-scroll brackets beneath the cornice (see photo 11), The Moody House was built for a company headed by a Mr. Moody, a Mr. Wooldridge, and a Dr. Porter, with George and Sam McMann as the contractors. This establishment was later named the Halcyon Hotel See site 20.

The former Deposit Bank, though smaller than many of Eminence's commercial buildings, possesses a high degree of vitality, largely due to the structure's three-dimensional qualities. Two stories high, it is of brick construction with brickwork arranged into quoins around the first-floor windows. The southern corner is bowed and contains a recessed entrance emphasized by two Ionic columns that support a bowed entablature-- all of stone. Engaged columns and piers flank those second-story windows that directly face Main Street. There is a full entablature that includes a dentiled and modillioned cornice of wood. A wellintegrated feature is a hemispherical dome above the bowed corner. Abbreviated sections of Chippendale lattice-work add to this building's charm.

The Deposit Bank of Eminence was founded in 1898 with a capital stock of \$100,000. The present building was constructed that same year. In 1930 this establishment merged with the Farmers and Drovers Bank-- to be called the Farmers Deposit Bank. The banking institution was housed in this building until 1960, and it is presently used as a barber shop and apartments. See photo 12 and site 21.

Situated northwest of the former depot, the 1892 Moody Building is a two-story, four-bay building that ranks among the most substantial commercial structures in Eminence. Display windows have been enlarged, but a cast-iron fascia and pilasters with stylized Grecian motives remain. The hood-molds over the four windows of the upper floor inflect the crowning entablature (see photo 13). The building was originally a grocery owned and operated by Richard Moody, and the builders were Benny and Lighter. See site 22.

100 West Broadway is a one-story brick building whose masonry is stuccoed. There are large openings, some of which are filled or partially filled with panels. A plain fascia and a modillioned cornice of pressed tin spans the facade's parapet (see photo 14 and site 23).

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Eminence Historic Commercial District

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	2		

Since 1887, the population of Henry County has decreased from 14, 492 to 10, 910. Eminence, however, has increased from 1, 043 to 2, 225. Despite its growth, the agricultrual nature of the surrounding region is still evident in the town. The name of a former bank, "The Farmers' and Drovers, Bank'(now the Farmers' Deposit Bank), attests to this fact.

With changing retail practices, the majority of buildings' first floors have been altered. Most, however, have upper levels that remain intact. Of the 28 buildings in the district, 10 have street facades that have not been noticeably changed in any manner. Numerous smaller elements contribute to the over-all flavor of Eminence's commercial buildings. Many retain sections of brick corbelling, pressed tin, cast iron, or stone details. In addition, there are four buildings that turn a corner in an expert manner (see the Koenigstein Building, photo 2; the I.O.O.F. Building, photo 7; 122 East Broadway, photo8; and the second Farmers' and Drovers' Bank, photo 9). Although there is architectural variation, most buildings in the commercial district adhere to those building fashions that were prevalent in the 1880s and 1890s -- the period of the town's greatest growth, and the era during which the railroad was the most active. The tracks have been removed in recent years, but the contributory role that railway transportation played in the commercial advancement of Eminence is still evident.



RED LINES DEFINE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

* NOTE -- Railroad Tracks Have Been Removed, But Are Included In Map To Show Former Relationship To Streets.



Eminence Historic Commercial District Henry County, Kentucky Site Location Map

Map 2. No Scale.

FEB 14 1979