

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 17 1984

date entered AUG 16 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Columbia Commercial Historic District

and/or common name

2. Location

roughly bounded by 7th, 8th, Woodland and

Public Square and W. Seventh, S. Garden, N. Main,
street & number S. Main, and E. Eighth Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 117

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maury County Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Central Tennessee Development District

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38402

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Columbia Commercial Historic District is composed of 91 buildings arranged around the Maury County Courthouse on the Public Square of Columbia, Tennessee (pop. 21,471) in south central Tennessee. These buildings, which occupy a six block area, are predominantly commercial, with three churches and a number of government buildings interspersed. The buildings date from the 1820s, with examples from each succeeding decade, and reflect a variety of architectural styles, from early Federal period structures to the 1940 U.S. Post Office and Court House which typifies the architecture of the New Deal. The majority of the buildings are of brick construction, and range in height from one to four stories. Although a number of early original storefronts survive in the district, most of the ground floor storefronts have been extensively altered or modernized. Nevertheless, the majority of the structures retain their original upper levels in unaltered form; these upper stories contain much of the best architectural detailing in the district.

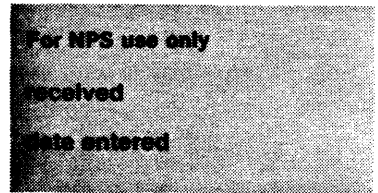
Columbia is located on the south bank of Duck River, the second largest river in Middle Tennessee and a major tributary of the Tennessee. The site was chosen on account of a good ford, later the location of the first ferry and the first bridge. The Public Square and surrounding blocks are located one and one-half blocks south of the river on an eastward spur of a shoulder of Mt. Parnassus, the principle summit in the area. The downtown is drained on the south and east sides by Helm's Branch and on the north by Duck River.

The heart of the district is the Public Square, where an excellent collection of Victorian and early-twentieth-century commercial buildings surround the 1904 Maury County Courthouse, a monumental building of classical design topped with a Beaux-Arts lantern. Major buildings on the square include the eleven-bay Brown-Walker Block and the three-story, nine-bay 1858 Vaught Block currently being rehabilitated for Maury County office space. Earliest structures are from the Federal period; these include the Nelson Tavern on North Main, 19 Public Square, and 806 South Garden, as well as a number of smaller buildings. The majority of structures date from the Victorian era; elements of the various formalized styles of the period are incorporated into the upper stories, cornices, and window trim of the buildings. The district extends from the square on Main and Seventh Streets to include the main surviving commercial blocks of the downtown area. The "Mink Slide" or "Bottoms", the black commercial district along East Eighth Street, has also been included within the historic district; this area includes two historic churches, Holy Comforter Episcopal and the First Baptist Church, a Victorian cross-gable cottage, and a row of small businesses dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Twenty-six buildings within the district are listed as non-contributing; these buildings are either of relatively recent construction or have been altered to the point they no longer retain integrity. The current occupant of each building is listed in parentheses.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

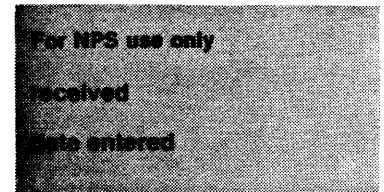


Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Item number 7 Page 2
Historic District

1. 1 Public Square, Maury County Courthouse, 1904-05, Carpenter & Blair architects, Neo Classical, three-story stone, rectangular-shaped, rusticated stone basement, octagonal lantern with clock, east and west porticoes supported by Doric columns. Interior dome. (C)
2. 2,3 and 4 Public Square, Vaught Block, 1858, architect Nathan Vaught, three-story, nine-bay, three altered storefronts, bricked third story windows, plain brick pilasters and dentils on west side, rehabilitation in progress. (C)
3. 5 and 6 Public Square (Maury Beauty School/Shamrock Pool Hall) altered 1950s, upper story removed, one-story brick covered with metal. (N)
4. 7 Public Square, (Bob Hunter Furniture), ca. 1890, two-story brick, two bay, corbeling, crenelated parapet, altered storefront. (C)
5. 8 Public Square, (Bob Hunter Furniture), ca. 1920, three-story brick, four bay, two-story showroom windows, largely altered. (N)
6. 9 and 10 Public Square, (Park Seed Company/Hop's Cafe), ca. 1860, two-story brick, six bay, corbeling, parapet, segmental-arched 1/1 windows, second story pilasters, Park Seed is oldest downtown business, unaltered interior; Hop's once Andrew Johnson's tailor shop. (C)
7. 101 E. Seventh St., (A to Z Pawn Shop), ca. 1900, two-story brick, five-bay, corbeled and crenelated parapet, 9/6 short rectangular windows with flat lintels, two shops with three single-leaf entrances. (C)
8. 11 and 12 Public Square, Martin & Vaughn Building, (The Wheel), ca. 1870, italianate, two-story brick, six-bay, round-arched windows, recessed panels and corbeling, paneled and pedimented parapet, altered storefronts, dentils on side elevation. (C)
9. 13 and 14 Public Square, (Hargrove Building), ca. 1875, two-story brick, six-bay segmental-arched 4/4 windows, parapet with recessed panels and pediment, structural stars, first story stone pilasters, altered storefronts. (C)
10. 15 and 16 Public Square (Porter-Walker), 1858/remodeled ca. 1939, two-story yellow brick, two-bay, square-shaped corner building with inverted "V" facade, large multi-light window on each second story facade, enclosed portholes, brick corbeling, 1930s glass and wood storefront with double-leaf entrance. (C)
11. 17 Public Square, George D. Hodge Building, 1875, two-story brick, three-bay, round-arched 1/1 windows, recessed panels, brick corbeling, decorative hood lintels over wood letters "G.D.H.", wood and glass Victorian storefront intact. (C)
12. 18 Public Square, (R.C. May Jewelry), ca. 1820s/altered 1960s, two-story brick with metal sheathing. (N)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

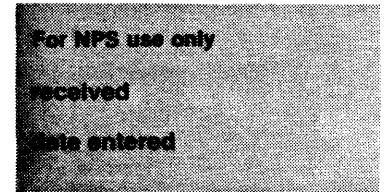


Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Historic District **Item number** 7 **Page** 3

- 13. 19 Public Square, 1820s two-story brick, three-bay, rectangular 9/6 windows with flat wood lintels, original storefront with recessed entrance and cast iron columns. (C)
- 14. 20 Public Square, (Walker Project), ca. 1900, two-story brick, cut-away corner, rectangular window openings, rehab in progress. (N)
- 15. 803 South Main St., (Stofel Shoes), ca. 1870s, three-story brick, three-bay, rectangular 1/1 windows with segmental-arched surrounds and radiating brick voussoirs, brick corbeling, large wood cornice, older storefront with double-leaf offset central entrance and cast iron columns. (C)
- 16. 805 South Main St., (Burt Brothers), late-nineteenth century/alterd 1950s, three-story brick with metal sheathing, second story showroom windows. (N)
- 17. 807 South Main St., (Burt's Fashions), late 19th century/alterd 1950s, three-story brick, stuccoed. (N)
- 18. 809 South Main St., Odd Fellows Hall, 1898, three-story brick, three-bay, rectangular 1/1 windows with paired-arch grouping in center, radiating voussoirs with keystones, corbeling, bracketed and modillioned cornice, altered storefront. (C)
- 19. 811 South Main St., (Kannon Johnson Jewelry), ca. 1910, one-story brick, plain paneled facade with some corbeling, recessed single-leaf entrance, glass, wood and brick storefront. (C)
- 20. 813 South Main Street, (Byrum Building), ca. 1910 one-story brick, corbeled parapet, plain facade, minor alterations to storefront. (C)
- 21. 815 South Main St., (Tobrook Agency), ca. 1880s, two-story brick, three-bay, recessed porches on both stories with single-leaf door and transom between 4/4 rectangular windows on each, decorative turned posts, brackets and balustrade, fish-scale mansard roof. (C)
- 22. 817 South Main St., (Harvey's Magnum Gym), 1960s, two-story brick, metal and glass storefront, plain brick upper story. (N)
- 23. 819 South Main St., (Old Town Furniture), facade ca. 1900, two-story brick, six-bay bricked windows, corbeling, corbelled and paneled parapet, altered storefront, side elevation has two segmental-arched basement entrances. (C)
- 24. 111 East Eighth St., (B-W Ice Plant), ca. 1920, one-story concrete block with rear two-story frame section, stepped gable roof, loading dock on facade, tin roof. (C)
- 25. 115 East Eighth Street, (Mrs. A. J. Morton & Son Funeral Home), ca. 1920s, one-story brick, corbeled parapet, three-bay, drive-thru entranceway, shed porch with square Tuscan posts. (C)
- 26. 117 East Eighth St., First Baptist Church (CMBC), 1882/remodeled 1914, one-and-a-half story brick, vernacular Romanesque, gable roof flanked by square towers with battlements, round-arched windows, pilasters on towers, stone foundation. (C)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

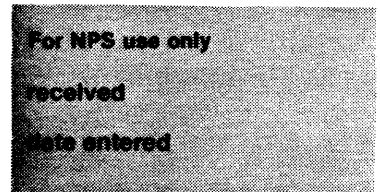


Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Historic District Item number 7 Page 4

27. 814 South Woodland St., (Residence), ca. 1875, one-story frame cottage, gable roof, two-bay with single-leaf door and segmental-arched transom at left and paired rectangular windows at right, veranda with turned posts and brackets. (C)
28. 128 East Eighth St., Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 1888, one-story frame, Carpenter Gothic, gable-roofed, frame gabled-roofed vestibule with pointed-arched double-leaf entrance door, boarded pointed-arched side windows, round gable vent, gable-roofed bell tower. (C)
29. 126 East Eighth St., (Ray's Tavern), ca. 1930s, one-story brick, rectangular-shaped, flat-roof, four-bay, storefronts altered, corbeling. (C)
30. 124 East Eighth St., ca. 1930s, one-story frame, weatherboarded, gable-roof, two-bay. (C)
31. 114 East Eighth St., (Dump's Cafe), ca. 1915, one-story brick, two original storefronts, three bays each, decorative colored and patterned brickwork, recessed panels. (C)
32. 112 East Eighth St., ca. 1930s, one-story brick, two narrow storefronts with recessed single-leaf entrances. (C)
33. 110 East Eighth St., Masonic Hall, 1875, One-story brick, recessed panels, corbeling, a cast iron Corinthian column flanking central entrance with transom, boarded windows. (C)
34. 104 East Eighth St., (Bijou Theatre), ca. 1920s, plain one-story brick, some corbeling, recessed central entrance with ticket booth flanked by single-leaf doors, somewhat altered with enclosed windows. (C)
35. 102 East Eighth St., ca. 1910, narrow one-story brick, concrete block parapet, molded and corbeled brickwork, single-leaf door and boarded window. (C)
36. 100 East Eighth St., (Maury Democratic League), ca. 1930, narrow two-story yellow-brick, glazed brick around short second story 6/6 window, single-leaf door shares lintel of wide window. (C)
37. 901-903 South Main St., Wolf Building, (Transportation Salvage), ca. 1870s, two-story brick, six-bay, segmental-arched windows, corbeling and recessed panels, three fairly unaltered storefronts. (C)
38. 905 South Main. (Transportation Salvage annex), ca. 1870s, two-story brick, identical to 901-903. (C)
39. 909 South Main St., (Lynnville Taxi Stand), ca. 1960s, one-story stuccoed brick, flat-roofed, three-bay. (N)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

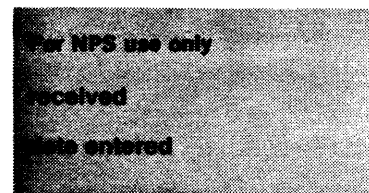


Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Historic District Item number 7 Page 5

40. 921 South Main St., Columbia Hotel and Saloon, (Norton and Steeley), ca. 1880, two-story brick, mansard roof with bracketed frieze and cast iron urns, nine-bay, narrow rectangular 2/2 windows with hood molds, three storefronts with central double-leaf entrances and cast iron columns. (C)
41. 822 South Main St., (Lucilles), ca. 1930, narrow one-story stuccoed brick, parapet. (C)
42. 816-820 South Main St., (Craft Cottage, Reba's), ca. 1930, large two-story stuccoed brick with pointed parapet, 8/8 second story windows, two altered storefronts. (C)
43. 812 South Main St., (JOUAM), ca. 1930, one-story brick, sheathed in metal, 1950s storefront. (N)
44. 810 South Main St., (Champion Shoes), ca. 1880s, two-story brick, three-bay, rectangular windows, facade sheathed in metal below corbeled parapet, altered storefront. (C)
45. 808 South Main St., (Ted's), turn-of-the-century, one-story brick, new brick facade, older storefront with recessed entry. (N)
46. 806 South Main St., ca. 1940, three-story, brick, three-bay, second story showroom windows, third story multi-light square windows, recessed central bay entranceway. (N)
47. 802-804 South Main St., (Southern School Supply), ca. 1890, two-story brick, six-bay, two original storefronts with central single-leaf doors flanked by cast iron columns and large windows, segmental-arched windows with radiating voussoirs, contrasting brick around panels, paneled and corbeled parapet. (C)
48. 21-25 Public Square, (Brown/Walker Block), earlier building rebuilt after 1890 fire, large two-story brick, corner building, eleven bays wide and five bays deep, round-arched windows on second story with terra cotta hood molds, panels, brick pilasters on upper story, stone pilasters on first story, corbeling, metal cornice, four heavily altered storefronts. (C)
49. 26 Public Square, (The Smart Shoppe), ca. 1970s, two-story brick, gable-roofed, dormer. (N)
50. 27 Public Square, (Zing Wheel), ca. 1880s, two-story brick, three-bay, arched windows in recessed panels, dog-tooth corbeling, altered storefront with recessed entry. (C)
51. 28 Public Square, (Steenbergen Law Offices), ca. 1890, two-story brick, two-bay, segmental-arched 2/2 windows, corbeled parapet, altered storefront. (C)
52. 29-31 Public Square (Phoenix Bank), 1904, rehabilitated after 1981 fire, large two-story brick corner building, metal cornice with brackets, thirteen-bay, rectangular 2/2 windows with radiating voussoirs and keystones, quoins, round-arched windows on first story, egg and dart moldings, stone plinths. (C)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

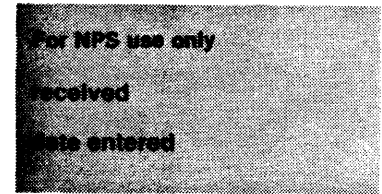


Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Historic District Item number 7 Page 6

53. 105 West Seventh St., Patrick Maguire House, (Sandwich Shop), 1830s, Federal period, two-story brick, gable-roofed, three-bay, rectangular windows, radiating brick voussoirs, altered storefront. (C)
54. 107,109,111 West Seventh St., (Barries/Columbia Health Foods/Le Papillion), ca. 1910, two-story brick, six-bay, rectangular windows, second story pilasters, panels, corbeled parapet, three altered storefronts. (C)
55. 113 West Seventh St., (Derryberry Drugs), ca. 1926, remodeled facade, one-story brick, metal stripping, glass storefront, site of old "Political Alley", closed 1926 for H. G. Hill's. (N)
56. 117-119 West Seventh St., (Union Bank/Rosenthal Store/Pigg and Parsons), 1895, two-story brick, six-bay, narrow 1/1 rectangular windows with hood molds, corbeling cornice parapet, altered storefront. (C)
57. 125-129 West Seventh St., (Sullivans/Woldridge Building), ca. 1899, three-story brick, nine-bay, paired windows with transoms, corbeling, dentiled cornice, stone pilasters on ground floor, altered storefronts and third bay window groupings. (C)
58. 805 South Garden St., (Colley Law Office), older building with 1980s facade, three-story brick, mansard roof, three-bay. (N)
59. 807 South Garden St., (Foster Insurance), mid-twentieth-century, two-story brick, upper story sheathed with metal, four-bay ground floor covered with smooth faced tile. (N)
60. 809 South Garden St., (Greene Office Supply), ca. 1870s, two-story brick, three-bay, round-arched 4/4 windows, radiating brick voussoirs and stone keystones, round vents, corbeling, bracketed cornice, altered storefront. (C)
61. 809 South Garden St. Annex, ca. 1880s, two-story brick, two-bay, mansard roof, segmental-arched 4/4 windows, bracketed cornice, corbeling, large round arch (bricked), with keystone remains from original use as funeral parlor. (C)
62. 811-813 South Garden St., (White-Woodard Building), ca. 1920s, two-story brick with one-story side addition, severely altered with shake shingles covering second story. (N)
63. 815 South Garden St., U. S. Post Office, 1940 by PWA, four-story, square-shaped, central projecting section with pilasters on facade, five-bay, smooth ashlar stone, parapet on projection section, interior has excellent WPA mural and brasswork. (C)
64. East Eighth St., (Middle Tennessee Underwriters, Inc.), 1950s, one-story brick, flat-roofed. (N)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

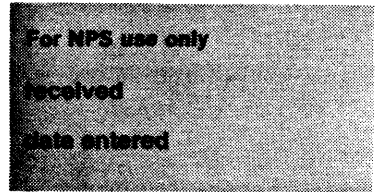


Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Item number 7 Page 7
Historic District

65. 810 South Garden St., (Shelton Law Offices), 1830s, two-story brick, gabled roofed, return gable pediment, brackets, three-bay, recessed panels, second story 1/1 rectangular windows flank a short rectangular window, shed porch roof supported by brackets, central single-leaf door with transom between segmental-arched 1/1 windows, somewhat altered. (C)
66. 808 South Garden St., (Dale Building), ca. 1940s, two-story brick, three-bay, paired 2/2 windows, two entrances. (N)
67. 806 South Garden St., ca. 1845, two-story brick, metal-covered gable roof, three-bay, rectangular 6/6 windows with bull's eye corner block lintels, classical central entrance with three single-leaf doors, tie rods visible on side elevation. (C)
68. 806½ South Garden St., ca. 1880s, originally a tenant house, small one-story cross-gable brick cottage, rectangular windows, not visible from street. (C)
69. 808½ South Garden St., Dale House, ca. 1890, two-story stuccoed brick, residence, rectangular-shaped, hip roof covered with tin, 6/6 rectangular windows. (C)
70. 201 West Seventh St., State Bank of Tennessee, NR 11/2/78, 1839-40, designed and built by Nathan Vaught, Greek Revival style public building, two-story brick, two-story stone portico with four stone Tuscan columns and a Doric entablature, pilasters, recessed entrance with double-leaf door and stone surround, quoins, metal gable roof. (C)
71. 207 West Seventh St., (First National Bank), remodeled 1960s, two-story brick faced with smooth dressed stone and marble. (N)
72. West Seventh St., William Polk's house, (Elk's Lodge), ca. 1890, two-story brick, three-bay, paired 1/1 windows with flat lintels, bracketed and denticulated cornice, paneled and creelated parapet, recessed porch with three round-arched supports with key stones. (C)
73. 209 West Seventh St., (Bargain House Furniture), ca. 1950s, one-story brick, show-room windows, corbeling, recessed entrance. (N)
74. West Seventh St., First Presbyterian Church, 1916, One-story over basement, Beaux-arts style limestone sheathed church building, rectangular sanctuary, gable roof, pediment with engaged Ionic columns at entrance, Roman dome over center of sanctuary, pilasters flank round-arched stained-glass windows on side elevations, large classroom addition to rear. (C)
75. 712 North Garden St., (Count's Cafe), 1930's, one-story stuccoed brick, six short windows, single-leaf door. (C)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Historic District Item number 7 Page 8

76. 118-120 West Seventh St., Old Masonic Hall, (Carson, Ltd./Emmitt Clothiers), 1850s, large two-story brick, six bays wide, thirteen bays deep, elaborate brickwork, terra cotta frieze, rectangular 1/1 windows with flat hood molds, paneled parapet, two altered storefronts with fluted Corinthian pilasters on corner storefront, carrara glass on other storefront. (C)
77. 114 West Seventh St., Jones Building, (Hancock Fabrics), 1946, two-story brick, six-bay, 6/6 windows, corbeling, two storefronts, altered. (N)
78. 108-110 West Seventh St., (Wilma's/Columbia Office Supply), ca. 1915, three-story, Sullivanesque, terra cotta facade and elaborated glazed terra cotta ornamentation, fourteen-bay. (C)
79. 106 West Seventh St., (Jones Building), 1950s facade, two-story brick, four-bay, multi-light square windows, corbeling, two storefronts. (N)
80. 102 West Seventh St., (Davis Shop), ca. 1870s, two-story brick, three-bay, bricked round-arched windows, dog-tooth corbeled cornice, upper story pilasters, altered storefront. (C)
81. 100 West Seventh St., (Helm's Jewelers), 1870s, facade completely covered with metal and storefront severely altered. (N)
82. 32 Public Square, (Reynold's Drugs), ca. 1870s, Italianate, two-story brick, three-bay, round-arched windows, wide dog-tooth corbeling, panels, four molded crenels on parapet, altered storefront. (C)
83. 33 Public Square, (Ray Jewelers), ca. 1870s, two-story brick, three-bay, ogee-arched 2/2 windows, narrow dog-tooth corbeling, paneled parapet, cararra glass storefront. (C)
84. 34 Public Square, (Duck River Slack Water Navigation Company), ca. 1870s, two-story brick, three-bay, bricked ogee-arched windows, narrow dog-tooth corbeling, paneled parapet, altered storefront. (C)
85. 36 Public Square, (Eley's TV), 1960s, one-story brick, corner infill building with archade, plain facade. (N)
86. 37 Public Square, (Kerley Furniture), 1953, three-story yellow brick, three-bay, plain facade with tripartite window arrangement, two entrances with showcase windows on first story. (N)
87. 39 Public Square, (Lovell-Holloway Law Office/Barclay Finance), remodeled 1960s, three-story, facade covered with metal and aggregate panels, four-bay. (N)
88. N. Main St., (Jack and Jill), ca. 1880s, two-story brick, seven-bay, segmental-arched 4/4 windows, hood molds, bracketed cornice, three entrances, one altered storefront, one original storefront with double-leaf central entrance. (C)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial Historic District Item number 7 Page 9

89. 706 N. Main St., Nelson House Tavern, 1828, three-story brick, five-bay, 6/6 rectangular windows with bull's eye corner block lintels, elliptical-arched central entrance with Italianate triple-arch single-leaf door and side lights, paired brackets on cornice, hip roof. (C)

90. 708 N. Main St., (Albert's Exceptional Dining), 1885-89, three-story brick, five-bay, rectangular 1/1 windows, corbeling, parapet, altered storefront. (C)

91. 710 N. Main St., Jones Building, 1870, by James Hodge, three-story brick over stone basement, five-bay, rectangular 1/1 windows with radiating voussiors and keystones, pilasters, central bay paired windows in round-arched openings, recessed round-arched entrance, bracketed and modillioned wood cornice. (C)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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	1820-1940	Builder/Architect	Multiple
-----------------------	-----------	--------------------------	----------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Columbia Commercial Historic District in Maury County is comprised of 91 predominantly commercial buildings constructed in the period from the 1820s to the 1930s; the district includes parts of six blocks and is centered around the Maury County Courthouse on the Public Square. The district is nominated under National Register criteria A and C for significance to Columbia and Maury County in architecture and in state and local history. Buildings within the district represent the various styles of architecture from the Federal period to the Art Deco style of the 1930's. The district is one of the most concentrated areas of and with the best examples of historic commercial architecture in South Central Tennessee.

During the nineteenth century, Columbia grew to be one of the largest and most influential cities in Tennessee. By 1850 its population had passed that of Knoxville and was surpassed only by Nashville and Memphis. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Columbia was the county seat of the wealthiest county in the state; large farms or plantations flourished here as they would no place else in Tennessee, and Maury citizens played pivotal roles in state and national affairs. A railway junction and regional center of South Central Tennessee, Columbia might have become one of the great cities of the state had slack water navigation of the Duck River not proved impossible.

Legal settlement of the area began after the signing of the Dearborn Treaty of 1806, which opened up the Indian lands south of the Duck River to settlement. Maury County was created by the General Assembly as a reduction of Williamson County to its constitutional limits in November 1807. On May 20, 1808, commissioners of the newly organized county, Joseph Brown, John Lindsey, Issac Roberts and William Frierson, purchased 150 acres on the south bank of the Duck River from John White of Williamson County for a new county seat. The Court had been meeting at Maury County Court House, the first county seat, off today's Mooresville Pike about three miles south of present-day Columbia. Lot sales began on August 1, and netted \$20,153.25. The town site was covered with timber and three small ponds. The place was given the name of Columbia, after the Columbian Highway, official name for the nearby Natchez Trace; there had been talk of naming the town Commerce. A log courthouse was erected near the Duck River ferry, near what is now the intersection of Seventh and Woodland Streets. This was apparently an unsatisfactory structure; the court met there on December 21, and on December 23 voted to move to the counting room of merchant William Berryhill.

A public square was established two blocks to the west of the log courthouse on the shoulder of a low hill, and the first streets were opened: North, East, and South Main and West Market Street. East Main later became East Market, and then Seventh Street. Free Street (Sixth) was opened in 1810, establishing the city's orthogonal grid plan. A new courthouse was begun in 1808 by A.O.P. Nicholson and John M. Goodloe. The sixty-by-thirty building stood one-story-and-a-half high with a cupola and cost \$6,900 at its completion in 1811. A curious entry will be found in the March 1831 court minutes, which ordered the sheriff to buy a lock for the courthouse door and dictated "no person shall be allowed to reside in the courthouse". James K. Polk, a lawyer and member of the Maury County bar, practiced in this courthouse, as did Thomas Hart Benson, later Senator from Missouri.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 15 acres

Quadrangle name Columbia, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 6	4 9 7 0 9 0	3 9 4 1 0 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 6	4 9 7 0 5 0	3 9 4 0 7 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 6	4 9 6 9 2 0	3 9 4 0 7 3 0
---	-----	-------------	---------------

D	1 6	4 9 6 6 2 0	3 9 4 0 9 6 0
---	-----	-------------	---------------

E	1 6	4 9 6 6 5 0	3 9 4 1 1 3 0
---	-----	-------------	---------------

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

11. Form Prepared By

Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner
 name/title Shain Dennison, Consultant

organization South Central Tennessee Development Dist. date April 1984

street & number P.O. Box 1346 telephone 615-381-2040

city or town Columbia state Tennessee 38402

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Herbert L. Huger*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 7/11/84

For NPS use only.

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register

for Shain Dennison
 Keeper of the National Register

date 8-16-84

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Columbia Commercial
Continuation sheet Historic District

Item number 8

Page 2

The first house in Columbia was built by William Voorhies and Peter J. Voorhies. The first store, a log structure, was built on what is now the southeast corner of the intersection of South Main and Mechanic Streets. Some of these early buildings were destroyed by an earthquake at 2 A.M. December 16, 1811, the Annus Mirabilis. Nevertheless, by 1816 the new square was largely occupied. John Hodge had a log store on the south side of the square. Peter Cheatham had an inn, as did Jeremiah Cherry, and Peter Cohea traded whiskey, china, and guns to Indians for pelts and furs. A Mrs. McCain held tea parties and social gatherings in a small shop, and was the first businesswoman in Columbia.

No buildings remain from this period. The earliest surviving buildings in the district are vernacular translations of the waning Federal style of architecture; 19 Public Square (1820's), the Nelson House Tavern on North Main (1828), and 806 South Garden (1830s).

There were two banks in Columbia in the 1820s and the 1830s. The Union Bank (1832) was located on Market Street; it was robbed in April, 1834. There was a bank scandal in 1840; the bank president diverted funds, was caught, and committed suicide, cutting both of his wrists and his throat so that he bled to death. A branch of the State Bank of Tennessee was established later in the decade; its fine prostyle Doric building occupies the southwest corner of Market and Garden; it, too, was robbed, on October 22, 1839.

By this time, the town had increased to some 1,500 inhabitants. Businesses consisted of 20 stores, 3 taverns, 2 groceries, 4 blacksmiths, 3 bricklayers, 3 carpenters, 4 cabinet makers, 3 gunsmiths, 2 hatters, 4 tailors, 2 tanners, 2 wagon makers, 2 card machines, 2 rope factories, 2 banks, and a gin. Development of the downtown area centered on the Public Square and the river approaches.

The Columbia Review noted in 1832 that it was a common thing for merchants to receive their goods by a steamboat on the Duck River and that there was a large warehouse for that purpose on the river bank. Captain St. Leger White recalled as a boy seeing a steamboat dock in Columbia, perhaps the Madison. The Review article refers to the steamboat General Greene. Many citizens long remembered the Lily of the West ("Little of the Worst") that arrived in the 1840s. Much freight and cotton was carried down the river by negroes in flatboats. About 1850 the Duck River Slack Water Navigation Company put in a good lock and dam below Columbia, but for some reason their work was abandoned.

Much of the downtown area was destroyed by disastrous fires in 1834 and 1847, a terrible year for the community, the Duck River bridge was washed away that year in a freshet, and the Presbyterian Church on South Garden Street was lost in another blaze.

The 1810 courthouse was replaced by a three-story brick structure erected in 1846 by Nimrod Porter, long-time Sheriff of Maury County. During the Civil War the structure was fortified by occupying Federal troops, and light artillery was installed in the north, south, and west entrances. Common opinion held that the walls would deter any attack save one by artillery. The funeral of Confederate General Earl Van Dorn, who was assassinated at nearby Spring Hill, was held in this courthouse. In 1898, the Herald claimed that the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial
Historic District Item number 8 Page 3

courthouse, which was less than fifty years old, was the shabbiest in the state. It was razed in 1903 and replaced by the present 1904 structure of Indiana stone, classical in fashion and topped with a Beaux-Art lantern.

The district is a collection of buildings representing a wide range of architectural styles, including Federal period structures like the Nelson Tavern, the Greek Revival State Bank of Tennessee and its stables, and a plethora of examples from the Victorian era and the early twentieth century. The main commercial blocks are comprised of two and three-story brick buildings, from two to eleven bays in width, and are distinguished by elaborate cornices and varied window treatments. Many downtown buildings were influenced by the Italianate style; Park Seed Company, the G.D. Hodge Building, the Brown-Walker Block and others incorporate the rounded-arch windows and bracketed cornices of the style. Other Victorian buildings feature Gothic four-point arch windows and heavy window hood moldings. Several of the buildings retain their original nineteenth-century storefronts, including cast-iron columns made in the city by the old Columbian Foundry. Twentieth-century structures of interest include the restored Phoenix Bank, the terra-cotta Columbia Office Supply building, and the U.S. Post Office and Court House, built by the Public Works Administration and one of the best surviving examples of the architecture of the New Deal in southern Middle Tennessee.

Six blocks and the Public Square are included in the district; this area contains the county courthouse, the square, and the main downtown commercial blocks. The surrounding blocks in the downtown area are excluded because construction in these is relatively new or lacks architectural significance or integrity.

Downtown Columbia has been the scene of numerous events in local, state and national history. James K. Polk, eleventh President of the United States, had a law office at the corner of Market and Garden, and was seated on a bench beneath a hickory tree in front of this office when he learned of his nomination as Democratic candidate for the office. Thomas Hart Benton, later U.S. Senator from Missouri and a rival, practiced law briefly in the town. Other famous politicians who lived or worked in the district include Senators A.O.P. Nicholson and W.C. Whitthorne and Congressman Houston Thomas. During the Civil War, Columbia changed hands several times, and the downtown area was the scene of much activity, including the drill of troops, the fortification of the courthouse, the housing of prisoners, the funeral of Van Dorn, and the famous fight between General Nathan Bedford Forrest and Lt. Wills Gould. (This occurred on June 16, 1863, on the northeast corner of Market and Garden. Gould was taken to the Nelson House Tavern, where he died on June 26. Forrest recovered in seven months.) After the war, Columbia remained a regional market town and county seat, a quiet place until the phosphate industry began to boom in the 1920s. A government seat and business center, downtown Columbia has witnessed war and its depredations, earthquakes and fires, mob lynchings and riots, its establishment as a major mule market, and a general progress in economic conditions. The buildings within the Columbia Commercial Historic District convey the sense of the past environment and reflect the historic development and importance of the town.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial
Historic District Item number 9 Page 2

MAJOR BIOLOGICAL REFERENCES

- Andrews, William. "Plantation Purchases in Middle Tennessee: A Profile of Retail Purchasing in the Mid-19th Century" - CSDD lecture, 12 April, 1983 in Parker, Cerise, The Polk Family. Columbia: James K. Polk Auxiliary, 1983.
- Fleming, Williams Stuart. A Historical Sketch of Maury County, Read at The Centennial Celebration in Columbia, Tennessee, July 4th, 1876. Columbia: Excelsior Printing office, 1876. Reprint: Maury County Historical Society, 1967.
- Garrett, Jill. "Columbia -- Its Streets and Eponyms" Daily Herald, 4 June, 1977, "Focus", Page 2.
- "Garden Street and Its Intersections", Daily Herald, 11 June 1977, Sup. 2.
- "A History of the Maury County Courthouse", Daily Herald supplement, 15 February 1979.
- "Maury County Bicentennial Almanac", Daily Herald, 3 July, 1976, Section 1, Page 12.
- "Maury County -- The First Hundred Years", typed text for local history class at Columbia State Community College.
- "The Street Where You Live", Daily Herald, 18 June, 1977, Supplement, Page 2.
- "A Small Puzzle in Maury's Past", Daily Herald, Supplement, 4 December, 1976, Page 2.
- Glenn, Oscar. "Columbia of 60 Years and More Ago Recalled; 1876 Big Voting Event", typed copy transcript, originally published in the Daily Herald, n.d.a.
- Redman, Louise Sowell. "Random Jottings", MSS, n.d.
- South Central Tennessee Development District and Waterfield, Goodwin and Associates. Columbia, Tennessee Downtown Revitalization Plan. Columbia: Maury County Chamber of Commerce, December, 1982.
- Vaught, Nathan. Youth and Old Age. MSS, copy, n.d.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Columbia Commercial
Historic District Item number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The district generally includes buildings in the four blocks around the Public Square and parts of two blocks along E. Eighth between S. Main and Woodland; on the east side of S. Main between E. Eighth and E. Ninth; on S. Garden between W. Seventh and W. Eighth; and on the south side of W. Seventh between S. Garden and High. The boundaries were chosen to include a concise concentration of Columbia's most architecturally and historically significant commercial and public buildings which are linked to the Public Square and its development. The boundaries exclude as many non-contributing buildings as possible.