

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 21 1985**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Greenville, Kentucky Multiple Resource Area

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number See individual inventory forms. N/A not for publication

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_

state Kentucky code 021 county Muhlenberg code \_\_\_\_\_

**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"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                | <b>Accessible</b>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>N/A</u> in process                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   | <u>N/A</u> being considered              | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted           | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial            | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                          | <input type="checkbox"/> military              | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple ownership - See continuation sheets.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Muhlenberg County Courthouse

street & number Main Street - Public Square

city, town Greenville state Kentucky

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Survey of Historic Sites in KY has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

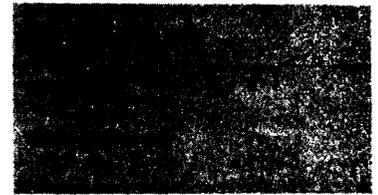
depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

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Continuation sheet

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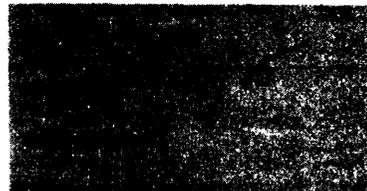
Owner's List - Greenville Multiple Resource Nomination, Greenville, Kentucky

Individual Properties:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Rice Tobacco Factory, 112 N. Cherry St. | C.J. Rice Jr.<br>214 Hopkinsville St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345                             |
| 2. Old Jail, Court Row                     | Muhlenberg County<br>Muhlenberg County Courthouse<br>Court Square<br>Greenville, KY 42345 |
| 3. City Hall                               | City of Greenville<br>City Hall<br>Court Row<br>Greenville, KY 42345                      |
| 4. Martin House                            | Mr. Felix Martin<br>159 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345                            |
| South Cherry Street Historic District      |   |
| 1. Williams House, 202 Hopkinsville Rd.    | Christine Strader<br>202 Hopkinsville Rd.<br>Greenville, KY 42345                         |
| 2. Wickliffe House 127 S. Cherry           | Mrs. J.E. Wickliffe<br>127 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345                       |
| 3. 125 S. Cherry                           | Reynolds E. Wickliffe<br>Foxboro Subdivision<br>Greenville, KY 42345                      |
| 4. Short House 123 S. Cherry               | Mrs. Dorothy Dukes<br>123 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345                        |
| 5. Roll-Bray House 119 S. Cherry           | Mrs. J.M. Bray<br>119 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345                            |

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 6. 117 S. Cherry   | Mr. Gardner Stovall<br>117 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345        |
| 7. 115 S. Cherry   | Mrs. Ann Dougherty<br>115 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345         |
| 8. 109 S. Cherry   | Mr. James Mulligan<br>109 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345         |
| 9. 107 S. Cherry   | Mr. Lewis Collier<br>107 S. Cherry St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345             |
| 10. Hutchinson House 105 S. Cherry                             | Mr. Raymon Hutchinson<br>105 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345      |
| 11. 101 S. Cherry Street                                       | Jane J. Wilkins<br>101 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345            |
| 12. Womens Club 201 W. Main Cross                              | Women's Club of Greenville<br>201 W. Main Cross<br>Greenville, KY 42345    |
| 13. First Baptist Church, 101 N. Cherry                        | First Baptist Church<br>101 N. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345       |
| 14. 125 W. Main Cross  | Mr. Robert Holt<br>125 W. Main Cross<br>Greenville, KY 42345               |
| 15. Roark House 121 W. Main Cross                              | Mrs. Carol Roark<br>121 W. Main Cross<br>Greenville, KY 42345              |
| 16. 126 W. Main Cross  | Anne F. Rogers<br>126 W. Main Cross<br>Greenville, KY 42345                |
| 17. and 18. Cumberland Presbyterian Church<br>S. Cherry Street | Cumberland Presbyterian Church<br>S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345 |

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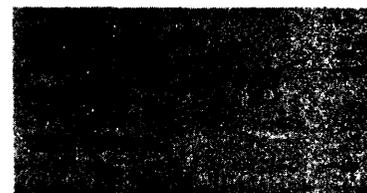


- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 19. 110 S. Cherry Street                 | Michael Roll<br>110 S. Cherry St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345       |
| 20. 112 S. Cherry Street                 | A.G. Jenkins<br>112 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345    |
| 21. Open Lot                             | A. G. Jenkins<br>112 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345   |
| 22. Open Lot                             | A. G. Jenkins<br>112 S. Cherry Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345   |
| 23. 120 S. Cherry Street                 | Mabel Martin<br>120 S. Cherry St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345       |
| 24. 122 S. Cherry Street                 | Hamilton Duncan<br>122 S. Cherry St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345    |
| 25. Wickliffe House, 112 Hopkinsville Rd | Mr. Wesdi Webb<br>112 Hopkinsville Rd.<br>Greenville, KY 42345  |
| North Main Street Historic District      |   |
| 1. Short House 151 N. Main Street        | Mrs. Hugh Lewis<br>151 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345   |
| 2. 153 N. Main                           | W. Andy Smith<br>153 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345     |
| 3. 155 N. Main                           | Griffin Arnold<br>155 N. Main St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345       |
| 4. 157 N. Main                           | Mr. William Ewing<br>157 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345 |

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- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 5. 159 N. Main  | Ima Martin<br>159 N. Main St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345            |
| 6. 161 N. Main  | Mr. Joe Wilkins<br>161 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345    |
| 7. 163 N. Main  | Ernest Wells<br>163 N. Main St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345          |
| 8. 165 N. Main  | Karl DeArmond<br>165 N. Main<br>Greenville, KY 42345             |
| 9. 167 N. Main  | Edith Bray<br>167 N. Main<br>Greenville, KY 42345                |
| 10.201 N. Main  | Mr. A.W. Nimohay<br>P.O. Box 638<br>Greenville, KY 42345         |
| 11. 168 N. Main | Loney's Electronics<br>168 N. Main St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345   |
| 12. 164 N. Main | Mr. John Boggess<br>164 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345   |
| 13. 162 N. Main | Mr. Robert Schmidt<br>162 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345 |
| 14. 158 N. Main | Barbara Gregory<br>158 N. Main<br>Greenville, KY 42345           |
| 15. 156 N. Main | Franklin Wilson<br>156 N. Main St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345       |
| 16. 154 N. Main | Mrs. Katie Eanes<br>154 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345   |

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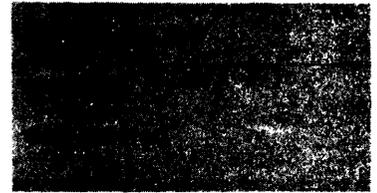
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 17. 152 N. Main                         | Mrs. Leslie Hale<br>152 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345                |
| 18. 150 N. Main                         | Delpha Carnall<br>150 N. Main St.<br>Greenville, KY 42345                     |
| 19. 148 N. Main                         | Robert Vick<br>148 N. Main<br>Greenville, KY 42345                            |
| 20. 146 N. Main                         | Greenville United Meth. Church<br>146 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345  |
| 21. Greenville Methodist 144 N. Main    | Greenville United Meth. Church.<br>144 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345 |
| Greenville Commercial Historic District |   |
| 1. 129-131 N. Main                      | Gordon Depoyster<br>Highway 181 North<br>Greenville, KY 42345                 |
| 2. 127 N. Main                          | Same as above.  |
| 3. 125 N. Main                          | Mr. Loran Dempsey<br>123 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345               |
| 4. 123 N. Main                          | Mr. Loran Dempsey<br>123 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345               |
| 4. 121 N. Main                          | Greenville Theater Co.<br>121 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345          |
| 5. 117 N. Main                          | Mr. Harry Brown<br>117 N. Main Street<br>Greenville, KY 42345                 |
| 6. 115 N. Main                          | Mrs. Carol Roark<br>121 W. Main Cross<br>Greenville, KY 42345                 |

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7. 111-113 N. Main

Mr. Charles Neeley  
113 N. Main Street  
Greenville, KY 42345

7. 109 N. Main

Mrs. Peggy Bryan  
109 N. Main Street  
Greenville, KY 42345

8. 101-103 N. Main  
105 N. Main

101 and 103 demolished  
William Hill  
105 N. Main  
Greenville, KY 42345

107 N. Main

Roger Miller and W. Hill  
107 N. Main  
Greenville, KY 42345

9. 101 E. Main Cross

Mr. Fred Rowe  
101. E. Main Cross  
Greenville, KY 42345

10. 103 E. Main Cross

Mr. Phil Thomas  
103 E. Main Cross  
Greenville, KY 42345

11. 102 E. Main Cross 1st Ntl. Bank

Mr. Don Baugh  
102 E. Main Cross  
Greenville, KY 42345

12. 106 N. Main

Mr. H.N. Kirkpatrick  
c/o 106 N. Main Street  
Greenville, KY 42345

13. 108 N. Main

Mr. H.N. Kirkpatrick  
c/o 106 N. Main Street  
Greenville, KY 42345

*Taken out of context*

## 7. Description

|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Greenville, Kentucky is the county seat of Muhlenberg County which is located in the western Pennyryle region of southwestern Kentucky. Greenville, with a population of 4,613, is the second largest city in the county exceeded only by Central City (pop. 5150). Muhlenberg County covers an area of 580 square miles with Greenville located in the center of the county. Greenville is surrounded by rolling hills and the city is laid out around a central square and courthouse.

Muhlenberg County has been characterized by small farms and an emphasis on coal and timber production. There are pockets of fertile farmland along waterways and for many years tobacco was the main crop of the county. Tobacco is still grown today but agriculture has ceased to be the mainstay of the area. Coal was mined in the early 1800s but it was not until after the Civil War that production began to dominate the county's economy. Located in the rich Western Kentucky coal field, Muhlenberg County continues to support large scale shaft and strip mining.

Greenville is centrally located in the county on a slight plateau ringed by hills. The site was originally a trail junction and was a favorite stopping place for Indians and early explorers because of its two nearby springs. The area's earliest settler, Colonel William Campbell, donated this site for the county seat in 1798. Like many other Kentucky communities the town was laid out on a grid pattern with a central square containing the courthouse. A log courthouse was completed in 1800 and Greenville grew slowly around the central square. By the mid-1800s Greenville was a small community of several hundred inhabitants containing shops, tobacco factories and frame residences.

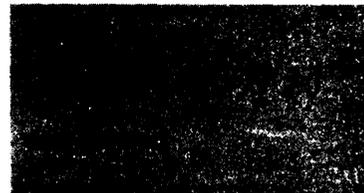
Rapid growth occurred in the county and Greenville following the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1871. The railroad provided greater access to the county's coal fields and coal mining and production increased rapidly in the area surrounding Greenville. Within two years the population of Greenville doubled as laborers and their families moved to the new coal fields. The new rail lines also enhanced tobacco production and distribution and four factories shipped "Greenville Tobacco" throughout the country. By 1873 the population stood at 1,000 with new homes being built in the Queen Anne and other Victorian styles along Cherry Street, Main Street and other thoroughfares. The commercial area was also transformed in these years as new brick Italianate style structures were completed around the courthouse on the square.

At the turn of the century Greenville's population stood at 1,500 and coal mining was firmly entrenched as the chief source of income in the county. New banks were formed and several mine owners such as William Duncan and William Wickliffe became civic as well as business leaders. Coal mining has continued to be the dominant industry in the county.

A comprehensive survey of Greenville was conducted during the summer and fall of 1984 in accordance with survey guidelines. Each street within the city limits was examined and buildings which possessed sufficient historical and

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architectural significance were surveyed. The survey process involved photographic documentation of each structure, architectural description, historical documentation where possible and mapping on city tax forms. This information was recorded on Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory forms and each property was given a specific number in the Kentucky state inventory.

From this research and the distribution of questionnaires to property owners a total of 48 sites were surveyed in the city. The survey also re-examined two properties which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Muhlenberg County Courthouse listed in 1978 and the George Short House listed in 1980. At the conclusion of the survey in Greenville several areas and sites were identified as potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register. This identification was performed by the surveyors with recommendations also made by members of the Kentucky Heritage Council.

Within Greenville three historic districts and four individual properties were identified as eligible. Two of the historic districts are residential areas located along North Main and South Cherry Streets. These two streets contain the largest and most intact areas of historic residential architecture dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The remaining district is a grouping of historic commercial structures located along North Main street and the public square in the downtown area. Also included in the nomination are the Rice Tobacco factory, the old Muhlenberg County Jail, the Art Deco City Hall and the Martin House. Together with the buildings presently listed on the National Register, these properties and districts represent the significant historical and architectural resources of the city.

# 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 checked="" 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/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1800-1935

Builder/Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Greenville Multiple Resource Nomination contains four individual properties and three historic districts of historical and architectural significance. The individual properties include residential, commercial and governmental buildings notable in the growth and development of the city. The historic districts included in the nomination reflect the development of Greenville between 1840 and 1930 and contain both residential and commercial structures. These properties, combined with those presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, represent the historically and architecturally significant structures existing within Greenville, Kentucky.

Early Settlement and Growth 1790-1870

Muhlenberg County was formed in 1798 and was the thirty fourth county created in the state. The county was named in honor of Brigadier General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg who fought with Washington during the Revolutionary War. The first settlement in the county occurred about 1795 with the establishment of Caney Station about one mile northwest of the present site of Greenville. Caney Station was founded by Colonel William Campbell who came to settle on a military land grant. Campbell owned hundreds of acres in this section and soon after the settlement at Caney Station he was attracted by a site which offered more advantages such as extensive level ground, a trail junction and watered by two springs. This location which became Greenville was offered by Campbell as the site for the county seat in 1798.

By 1800 several taverns, stores and homes had been constructed at the settlement which was named Greenville. The name of Greenville appears to have been chosen in honor of General Nathaniel Greene, however, some sources also state that the name was chosen because of its lush, verdant site. The exact source of the name remains unknown. After creation of the county a log courthouse was completed on February 25, 1800 and was followed by a log jail in August of the same year. Most settlers to the area were of English and Scotch-Irish ancestry although a number of Germans also settled in the county. Many came to the county to claim military land grants. While much of the land would not support large scale farming it did support many small farms. Wheat and corn were the principal crops in the area surrounding Greenville during the early 19th century.

Greenville soon evolved into a trading center of the county. A log store was established on the square by merchant James Weir in 1799 and he later built a two-story brick building on the southwest corner of the square. In 1818 and 1819 two banks were organized by several of the most prominent residents of

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Greenville including Charles F. Wing, Robert McLean and John Eaves. One of these was in a brick building on the west side of the square while the other was a two-story brick bank building located on the northwest corner of the square. Although the charter for the banks was repealed in 1820 the bank building on the square was an important landmark during the 19th century. Despite the increased trade and new buildings Greenville remained a small community during the early 1800s with the 1820 population estimated at twenty-five.

In 1812 a one-story brick courthouse was constructed which stood until 1836 when it was replaced with a new two-story brick courthouse which stood until 1906. Also by the 1830s Greenville began to prosper with the increase in tobacco production in the county. Muhlenberg County became known for its dark burley tobacco in the early 1800s and by 1830 production reached 2,500,000 pounds. William Martin began manufacturing plug tobacco in 1835 and "Greenville Tobacco" became a well known brand in the Southeast. Martin's sons Dabney and Ellington Martin established a tobacco plant on Main Street which increased the production of the brand. The Martin family remained prominent in the development of Greenville's tobacco trade and dry goods sales throughout the 19th century. Other early tobacco merchants included George Short and his brother Jonathan Short and Ezekial Rice, a grandnephew of William Martin.

By the 1840s the tobacco trade had become the major export of the county. Both of the Short brothers celebrated their new wealth by constructing large frame homes in Greenville. At 151 North Main Street George Short constructed a two-story frame house in 1841 which is the oldest residence remaining in the city (MUG-3). This house was built in a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. Following his brother, Jonathan Short constructed his home at 123 S. Cherry in 1842 also in this style although the house has since been remodeled (MUG-9).

Other large homes were built in Greenville during these years as the community grew to a population of several hundred. These homes included the Wier home built in 1839 (demolished) and the Eaves home built in 1855 on Cherry Street (MUG-13). In the early 1850s the Greenville Female Academy and the Presbyterian Academy for Men were established. The Greenville Female Academy was located on East Main Cross at the old site of the Greenville High School. The academy building stood until it was razed in the mid-1930s. The house which served as the residence of the president of the Academy still stands at 105 Paradise Street (MUG-31). Constructed ca. 1855 this building was altered in 1915. The Presbyterian Academy was established January 7, 1852 and was built on a hill on North Cherry Street. The school closed down during the Civil War and later operated intermittently until 1873 when it ceased operation. The original school building still stands although greatly altered (MUG-24).

By 1860 Greenville was a thriving county seat of several hundred inhabitants. The downtown square boasted a large brick courthouse and several brick commercial businesses and residences. Also around the square were a number of

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frame commercial buildings, residences and hotels. A number of large frame houses in the Greek Revival and vernacular I-House styles were built along Cherry Street, Main Street and East Main Cross Street. Historic views of the town shows the majority of buildings to have been clustered around the square and its side streets.

During the Civil War Muhlenberg County and Greenville was primarily sympathetic to the Union cause. A total of 836 men entered the ranks of the federal forces while approximately 150 fought on the side of the Confederacy. There was no significant fighting in and around Greenville although the community was briefly occupied by Confederate forces on several occasions. In September of 1861 General Simon Buckner's troops passed through Greenville and on December 27, 1861 cavalry under Colonel Nathan B. Forrest also marched through Greenville. The town was occupied again briefly on October 24, 1862 by John Morgan's cavalry on their retreat from Kentucky.

The years after the Civil War witnessed rapid growth in the county and in Greenville. Large coal deposits had been known to exist throughout the county since the early 1800s and coal mining had begun by the 1830s. Transportation difficulties had made extensive mining unprofitable with the exception of mines along the Green River in the eastern section of the county. With the construction of the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railway (now the Illinois Central) through the county in 1871 both the mining operations and population of the county rapidly increased.

The Post War Period 1870-1900

In 1870 the population of Greenville stood at 557, but with the completion of the railroad and opening of new mines the population doubled to 1,000 by 1873. By 1874 Greenville boasted of five churches, 13 stores, 3 hotels and 4 tobacco factories. This rise in population caused the community to expand away from the square and many large Queen Anne and other Victorian style homes were constructed along Cherry Street and North Main Street. New brick commercial buildings in the Italianate style began to replace earlier frame and log structures on the square. In 1875 there were twelve operating coal mines in the county many of which were within a few miles of Greenville.

By 1895 Greenville boasted a population of 1,500. There were four churches serving the white community and two black churches. Tobacco continued to be an important export with four factories turning out "Greenville Tobacco" for shipment to the south and west. In 1896 the tobacco crop in the county amounted to 3.5 million pounds. As part of this increase in commerce the First National Bank of Greenville organized in 1890 and erected a two-story brick building in 1894 (MUG-39). A second bank, the Muhlenberg County Savings Bank, was organized in 1901 and built in 1903 on the square. Many new businesses

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opened during these years and occupied one to two story brick buildings along Main Street and East Main Cross.

The rise in coal mining continued to have a major impact on the growth of Greenville in the late 19th century. There were several prominent coal miners who had a hand in the development of the the community. One of these was Andrew Duncan who moved from Scotland to Kentucky in 1855 and began coal mining. His son, William Duncan the "Coal King of Muhlenberg County", continued the family coal operation and by 1900 he operated two of the largest coal companies in the county. The Duncan family settled in Greenville and built several notable houses along South Cherry Street (MUG-11, MUG-21). Another prominent coal operator was William Wickliffe who ran several coal mines in the county. Wickliffe also built a notable house on Hopkinsville Street (MUG-22) and served as the first mayor of Greenville from 1893 to 1896.

Greenville in the 20th Century

At the turn of the century Greenville contained a busy commercial area and several streets lined with homes built in the Victorian styles. The growth of the community necessitated the construction of a new courthouse and in 1907 a three-story Neo-Classic style structure was completed on the square and it remains the city's largest building (MUG-1). New brick commercial buildings and churches were also erected during the early decades of the century. Another notable building was the Spanish Mission style county jail built on the square in 1912 (MUG-42). By 1923 the population had risen to 2,500 and by 1940 it was up to 3,000. Little construction occurred in the downtown area after the 1920s. In 1938 the present Post office was constructed by the Works Projects Administration (MUG-44). In 1940 the City Hall was built at a cost of \$80,000 and is the community's only example of the Art Deco style (MUG-43).

Coal production has continued to be the dominant industry of the county and city during this century. In 1949 coal production in the county was listed at 2,267,000 tons valued at seven and one-half million dollars. The Graham-Luzerne Company was the largest company producing one-third of the county's total. Many Greenville citizens have been employed by the mines and the up and downs of the industry have a direct bearing on Greenville's commercial vitality.

Concurrent with the rise of the coal industry was the decline of the tobacco trade as other markets began to dominate. In 1913 only the Rice and Martin tobacco companies remained in operation. The last building associated with the tobacco industry was the Rice factory on North Cherry Street constructed in 1922 by S.E. Rice (MUG-23). This factory's output in 1948 was listed at 300,000 pounds but the factory was closed in recent years and it is presently vacant.

Today, Greenville is a community of over 4,600 residents. Coal mining continues to be the main employer and the per capita income in the county is only slightly below the national average. New residential subdivisions have developed to the

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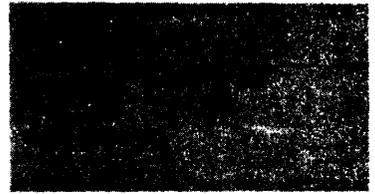
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Greenville, KY

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north and west of Greenville and few changes have occurred in areas of older homes. The commercial area around the square has had only a few new buildings constructed in recent years although alterations to existing buildings have been numerous. During 1984 the old Muhlenberg County Bank Building was demolished at the corner of Main Street and West Main Cross but an important concentration of historic architecture remains on Main Street. Restoration efforts in both the residential and commercial areas have been limited but interest in local history and preservation has grown since the creation of the Greenville Heritage Committee in 1983.



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Greenville Kentucky Multiple Resource Area  
State KENTUCKY

*Corn* Amy Schlager 8/15/85  
Date: Signature

Nomination, Type of Review

1. Greenville City Hall

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Amy Schlager 8/15/85

2. Martin House

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Amy Schlager 8/15/85

3. Old Muhlenberg County Jail

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Amy Schlager 8/15/85

4. Rice Tobacco Factory

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Amy Schlager 8/15/85

5. Greenville Commercial Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Amy Schlager 8/15/85

6. North Main Street Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Amy Schlager 8/15/85

7. South Cherry Street Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Amy Schlager 8/15/85

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest