

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

JUL 28 1988

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Paris, Tennessee

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number See individual forms N/A not for publication

city, town Paris N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Henry code 079

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name See Individual forms

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Henry County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Paris state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Henry County Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1983-1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission 701 Broadway

city, town Nashville, state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☒ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Paris, Tennessee is located in the western section of the state approximately ten miles west of the Tennessee River (Kentucky Lake). Paris is the county seat of Henry County and in 1980 had a population of 10,728. The town encompasses approximately four square miles and rests atop a series of hills which make up the Tennessee Valley Divide. The landscape of Paris is characterized by rolling hills interrupted by deep ravines. At one time agriculture was the primary economic base for the town and in the 19th century it was a leader in cotton milling and tobacco products. The economy of Paris has diversified in the 20th century with many factories and manufacturing plants now located in and adjacent to the town limits. Paris continues to be the industrial, commercial, and governmental center of Henry County.

Located in the center of Henry County, Paris is connected to adjacent parts of the state and Kentucky by excellent road and rail facilities. Highway 641 connects the town with Murray, Kentucky to the north and Camden, Tennessee to the south. Highway 79 extends from Clarksville to Memphis through Paris and Highway 54 runs west towards Dresden. In the 19th century Paris was a leading rail center with both east/west and north/south rail lines provided by the Louisville and Nashville and Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroads. Both lines remain in operation and are part of the Seaboard Line rail system.

During the 19th century Paris was centered around its downtown square with most residences built within a few blocks of the courthouse. After 1900, residential development occurred primarily to the west and east of the town along the major roads. In the past several decades growth has continued to the southeast and east of the community and the town limits now extend approximately one mile in several directions from the court square.

Settlement in the area of Paris occurred ca.1819-1823 when West Tennessee was organized into civil divisions after the cession of the territory west of the Tennessee River by the Chickasaw Indians in 1819. In 1823, Paris was established as the seat of justice in Henry County with fifty acres of land donated for this purpose. At this time the courthouse and the surrounding square were laid out and several of the adjacent streets were named and subdivided.

The town of Paris was organized in a grid plan radiating from the Public Square with residential development occurring on neighboring streets such as Poplar Street, Dunlap Street, Washington Street, College Street, and Blythe Street. Around the public square were originally log and frame buildings but by the 1830s several brick commercial and residential buildings had been constructed. By the 1840s, a number of tobacco and cotton factories were in operation and goods were transported by wagon to landing sites along the Tennessee River for shipment throughout the country. In 1860, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was completed through Paris providing rail connections with Memphis and Louisville. By the Civil War, Paris was a thriving community of close to two thousand inhabitants and it was one of the largest towns in west Tennessee.

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Paris was captured by Union forces in 1862 and only minor skirmishing took place in the community during the Civil War. The town served as a supply depot for Union troops occupying west Tennessee and few homes or businesses were destroyed during the war.

After the Civil War agricultural products continued to be the mainstay of the local economy for several decades. Cotton mills, tobacco factories and lumber mills provided hundreds of jobs for residents and a rising business class constructed one to three story masonry buildings around the public square. Several banks were opened in these years, new schools and academies were formed and fine residences were constructed on Poplar and Washington Streets. In 1891, the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad was built through the town which improved its rail connections.

By the 1890s, many of Paris's important early industries were in decline. The number of tobacco factories, cotton mills and lumber companies fell due to competition and diversification of crops in the county. This economic decline was offset by the establishment of repair shops to serve the Louisville and Nashville Railroad (L&N) in 1897. Located to the northwest of the public square this complex of mills and shops employed over 400 workers and resulted in a new era of growth and prosperity in the community. From the late 1890s until the 1920s, many new homes and commercial businesses were constructed in Paris. The present courthouse was completed in 1897 and the building of the west side of the public square and Crete Opera House occurred in 1899 following a major fire. The present appearance of the court square dates largely from this period.

From 1900 until 1930, Paris continued to be a important rail and manufacturing center. Extensive new construction took place along Poplar, Dunlap, Washington and Hudson Streets and these homes make up the majority of existing historic residential architecture. Along the railroad tracks a number of homes were built to house L&N employees and new streets were laid out adjacent to the older downtown areas. Many fine brick and frame Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow and vernacular design residences were built in this period.

Since the 1930s, the economy of Paris has continued to diversify with many new plants locating here in recent years. The population has grown steadily from 4,000 in 1900 until close to 11,000 in 1980. Automotive plants, clothing manufacturers, electrical products and other industries are now the primary economic base for the town. The downtown commercial area remains a strong shopping area despite commercial strip development in recent years. Several of the original streets off the square continue to display their historic architecture especially along North Poplar and College Streets. Today, Paris continues to display a variety of historic and architectural resources from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Architectural Resources

The historic and architectural resources of Paris are composed primarily of late 19th and early 20th century commercial and residential buildings. Before the Civil War, Paris was home to some 2,000 inhabitants and many brick and frame buildings were located around the public square. Very few ante-bellum buildings remain in Paris and most which survive have been altered. No pre-1860 commercial or industrial buildings have been identified as remaining in Paris although the ca. 1838 Benjamin Brown House on North Poplar Street is presently in commercial use. This two-story brick building is one of the oldest in the community and although significantly altered it is included in the Paris Commercial Historic District.

A few ante-bellum residential structures remain in Paris. The most notable of these is the Thomas Crawford House built in 1848 on Dunlap Street. This two-story central passage plan residence was originally constructed with Greek Revival detailing but it has been altered several times and does not retain its original design. The house was later purchased by James D. Porter who served as Tennessee governor in the 1870s. It was listed on the National Register in 1973.

Other ante-bellum homes in Paris include the T.A. Crawford House at 510 Hudson (West Paris Historic District) and the Charles M. White House on Whitehall Circle (Site # 1). Both homes were built in the 1850s and are two-story central passage plan frame residences. They were originally built with Greek Revival detailing but both residences were altered in the early 20th century with Neo-Classical porticos and other detailing. Local tradition states that a section of the J.M. Corum House on S. Dunlap Street supposedly dates to the 1830s but was altered ca. 1910 (Site # 7). No other ante-bellum residences have been identified in Paris.

From 1865 until the mid-1890s Paris grew into a prosperous commercial and manufacturing center. These years witnessed the construction of many of the extant commercial buildings on the north and east side of the public square. By 1886, two and three story masonry buildings had been built on the square. Most of these were designed in Commercial Italianate and vernacular designs of the period. Typical detailing included glass and frame storefronts with cast iron columns or pilasters, arched sash windows on the upper stories and sheet metal window hood molding and cornices. Other decorative details included corbelled brick designs over windows and at the cornice.

In 1899, a fire destroyed the west side of the public square but it was quickly rebuilt. The design for this row of buildings reflected the Colonial styles of the

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period in the upper facade treatment. These details included rectangular windows, terra cotta cornices with dentils and modillion blocks and at the roofline a terra cotta balustrade extended across several of the buildings. Other important buildings constructed around the square in the 1890s were the Henry County Courthouse built in 1897 and Crete Opera House completed in 1899. Both buildings were large brick Victorian Romanesque designs with large arched windows and extensive brick decoration. These two buildings remain the largest and most significant in the area of the public square.

Several large brick mills and manufacturing plants were built during these years to the east and north of the public square. Historic photographs show these buildings generally were of two to three stories in height with arched windows on the upper facade. Decorative detailing was limited on these industrial buildings and no architecturally important designs appear to have been built in Paris. In addition to these brick buildings a complex of frame mills and repair shops was built by the L&N Railroad in 1897 at the northwest edge of town. Photographs also show these to be large utilitarian buildings with little or no detailing. Despite the large number of industrial buildings constructed in Paris at the turn of the century, no unaltered examples survive.

Two important school buildings survive from this period: the Robert E. Lee School built in 1893 (Site # 2); and the E.W. Grove High School built in 1906 (NR-1980). Both schools were built with Victorian Romanesque influences and feature arched entrances, rectangular windows and prominent central towers on the main facades. Both schools were large two-story brick structures and served as the main schools in the town for many years. The E.W. Grove school was built on a hill south of the public square and is a dominant feature of Paris.

The Victorian Gothic style was used primarily for church architecture in the town and the only remaining example of this style is the Grace Episcopal Church on S. Poplar Street (Commercial Historic District). This church features its original Gothic arched entrance, windows and bell tower.

Most of the existing residential architecture in Paris was built after 1890 with only a few exceptions. The Williams House at 202 N. College is a two-story brick Italianate residence constructed ca. 1875 (West Paris Historic District). This house is perhaps the best remaining example of the residential Italianate style of the late 19th century. After 1890, the residential areas of Paris were transformed as many new residents moved to the town and many homes were replaced with more modern structures of the period. This burst of development occurred as a result of increased industry in the community particularly following the establishment of the L&N machine shops in 1897. New homes were built in all directions around the public square with the most significant homes built along West Washington and North Poplar Streets.

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Some of the finest residences built in Paris were constructed along West Washington Street. Historic photographs show many fine frame Queen Anne residences built between the Public Square and College Street. Of these homes only the W.C. Johnson residence at 509 W. Washington survives. This Queen Anne residence has had its towers removed but displays its original bay windows and porch details. Other fine Queen Anne designs were built along Poplar and Dunlap Streets but all of these were razed in the 20th century.

The finest remaining example of late 19th century residential architecture in Paris is the John Sweeny House at 1212 Chickasaw Road (Site # 3). This Queen Anne residence shows the influence of the Shingle style. The house is two and one-half stories in height, of frame construction with an exterior surface of square wood shingles. The house features original windows, doors and gable and hipped dormers. Prominent details include large porches on the east facade and a porte-cochere on the west facade.

The majority of residences in the North Poplar and West Paris Historic Districts are variations of vernacular forms and Colonial Revival designs of the early 1900s. These vernacular forms consist largely of the following:

- One and two story T-plan designs. These residences are both one and two stories in height and of both brick and frame construction. They are distinguished by a projecting gabled bay on the main facade and have milled decoration on the porch and eaves. Good examples of this form are found at 301 N. College, 502 N. Hudson and 701 N. Poplar.
- Central passage plan designs. This house type is often a simple rectangular form of three to five bays with the main entrance in the central bay. These residences are usually of frame construction and have a rear one story ell or wing. Milled decoration on the porches and eaves are common. An example of this form can be seen at 510 N. Poplar.
- Hipped or pyramidal roof forms. These house forms are generally one-story frame residences built in rectangular floor plans. From the corners of the house the roof line extends to form hipped or pyramidal roof forms. Most of these residences have the main entrance in the central bay with decoration limited to eaves and porch. An example of this form can be seen at 303 N. College Street.

Colonial Revival variations are found in the districts and individual properties. In the N. Poplar district an example of a transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival design is at 608 N. Poplar. This house has the asymmetrical massing and plan of a Queen Anne residence but displays Colonial Revival influenced porch columns and balustrade. A more correct example of the Colonial Revival style can be seen at 610 N. Poplar which displays a symmetrical facade and two-story Ionic portico. A brick example of this style is the Grove House at 605 N. Poplar which features a two-story Doric portico. Other fine examples of this

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style include the Thomas P. Jernigan House at 918 S. Dunlap (Site # 4), the H.L. Bruce House (Site # 5), and the remodeled Charles White House (Site # 1). These three residences are the best examples of the Colonial Revival style outside of the historic districts. They display two-story porticos on the main facade and have not been significantly altered.

Other Colonial Revival variations include Dutch Colonial designs and American Foursquares of the early 1900s. Three identical Dutch Colonial homes are found at 205-209 N. College Street and display prominent gambrel roofs. Excellent Foursquare designs can be seen at 504 N. Poplar and 316 N. Poplar. These houses are rectangular in form with hipped roofs and simple square porch columns. Other examples of this residence can be found elsewhere in the district.

A late Second Empire style residence was constructed ca. 1910 by E.K. Jernigan on Dunlap Street and features a straight sided mansard roof and dormer windows (Site # 6). This residence is the only remaining example of the Second Empire style. The O.C. Barton House at 614 N. Poplar Street is an unusually ornate example of the Italian Renaissance style. Constructed in 1912, it is one of the largest and most significant residences in Paris. It is two-stories in height, of glazed brick construction and has a hipped roof. The house has arched doors and windows, terra cotta classical decoration, balustrade, belt coursing and a porte-cochere on the north facade. The interior of the house is presently used as a health clinic but retains original wall murals, mantles and marble and tile decoration.

By 1920, frame and brick Bungalows were the preferred residential house form in Paris. These designs can be found throughout the town and especially in the two districts. Both brick and frame Bungalow variations were constructed and feature large porches, gable and hipped roofs, wide roof eaves and exposed eave rafters and purlins. Examples of this style can be seen at 504 Hudson, 718 and 503 N. Poplar and 104 E. Church Street. This style was the dominate house form built in Paris from 1915 until 1935. No examples of the Art Deco or International style exists but a good example of a Spanish Colonial design was built ca. 1930 at 601 N. Poplar.

After 1900, only a few buildings were constructed around the public square. The most notable of these was the U.S. Post Office built in 1908. This Colonial Revival design was a typical plan of post office architecture and features arched doors and windows, pedimented entrances and fanlight door transoms. Another notable design was the five story First National Bank Building constructed in 1925. This building was erected with classical influences

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including Corinthian motif columns on the first story and a simple stone cornice at the roofline. Another building constructed in the 1920s was the theater on S. Poplar Street which was altered in the 1930s with decorative Carrara glass on the upper facade. The last pre-1935 building constructed on the square was the two-story brick and stucco Spanish Colonial design at 101 E. Wood Street. This building displays an original tile roof and terra cotta Spanish columns and moldings over the doorway.

Since 1935 little new construction has occurred in the residential and commercial historic districts. On the southeast corner of the square a modern bank has been erected but this is the only major modern intrusion built on the square. While some of the historic facades have been covered with modern materials the majority of buildings retain their original upper facades. In the residential districts only a few modern homes have been built and they make up a small number of properties in the districts. Most new residential construction has occurred to the east and south of the older neighborhoods.

Survey Methodology

The Paris Multiple Resource Area nomination is based on an initial survey of architectural and historical properties in Paris conducted in 1983-84 by the Henry County Historical Society in cooperation with the Tennessee Historical Commission. All properties which appeared to be over fifty years old and not significantly altered were inventoried, photographed, and mapped in accordance with the procedures of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The survey was limited to above ground resources.

Between 1973 and 1987 two properties were listed on the National Register in Paris. These are:

1. James D. Porter House, 407 S. Dunlap Street, 4/11/73.
2. E.W. Grove County High School, Grove Blvd., 11/25/80.

In 1987, the North Poplar Street Neighborhood Association contracted with Thomason and Associates, an historic preservation consulting firm of Nashville, Tennessee, to complete a Multiple Resource Area nomination for the town of Paris. An examination of the existing survey materials and reconnaissance by the consultant and staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission resulted in the determination that three historic districts and six individual properties met the criteria for listing on the National Register. Properties included in the nomination are listed by district or site number.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 See individual forms **Builder/Architect** See individual forms

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Resources of Paris, Tennessee Multiple Resource Area are being nominated under National Register criteria A and C. The six individual resources and three districts included in the nomination are associated with the growth and development of Paris between 1823 and 1930. Paris was originally a county seat with cotton and tobacco the primary economic base of the community. During the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries Paris became an important rail and manufacturing center and during these years the present appearance of the older commercial and residential areas took shape. Since the early 20th century most new construction has occurred in areas outside the historic commercial and residential areas and many important buildings remain extant in the town.

Paris, Tennessee, 1823–1860

The city of Paris, the county seat of Henry county, is situated on the old Memphis Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway (now Seaboard Line). The city sits on a high plateau that surmounts the ridge dividing the waters of the Tennessee River from those of the Mississippi River. Paris is surrounded by fertile farming land to which it owes its success as a commercial and business center. From the period when the first settlements were made in the newly located town in 1822, its growth was rapid, and it soon became Tennessee's most important center of trade west of the Tennessee River.

The formation of Paris occurred after the organization of West Tennessee into civil divisions which began soon after the extinguishment of the title of the Chickasaw Indians to the territory west of the Tennessee River in 1819. On November 7, 1821 the Legislature of Tennessee passed an act creating the county of Henry. On November 16, 1821 the same Legislature appointed a commission consisting of Sterling Brewer, James Fentress, and Abram Maury to select the site for the county seat of Henry county. These commissioners were required to procure, by purchase or donation, not less than fifty acres of land within three miles of the center of the county as then organized. They obtained from Joseph Blythe thirty-seven and a half acres of land and from Peter Ruff twelve and a half acres.

The same legislative act provided that the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the new county should appoint five commissioners to lay off the town and superintend the sale of lots and the erection of public buildings. The justices of the county met in their first session on the first Monday in December, 1821, and organized the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Edmund Hickman, for whom

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Individual Forms

See Continuation Sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See Individual Forms

Quadrangle name Paris, IN 8SE

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See individual forms

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets

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

name/title Philip Thomason

organization Thomason and Assoc.

date February 1, 1988

street & number P.O. Box 121225

telephone (615) 383-0227

city or town Nashville

state Tennessee 37212

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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. Hager

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 7/26/88

For NPS use only

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

Ruby Schlager

date 9/7/88

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Hickman County was named, was commissioned to survey Paris as well as Henry County.

The 104 town lots in Paris were sold on April 14 and 15, 1823, and buildings were soon erected around the court square. The first lot was struck off to Daniel Culp who thereupon built a log storehouse for the sale of clothing and other merchandise. Culp's drygoods store was reportedly located at the southeast corner of North Poplar and West Washington Streets and soon after many other log and frame commercial buildings were built around the square.

Other early builders in the town included County Clerk James Hicks, who built a frame structure which he operated as a hotel for few years. James McClure put up a storehouse on the northwest corner of the intersection of today's West Washington and North Market Streets. Armen and Lake bought lots on the north side of the Square from John McLemore, built a log storehouse, and by fall had a stock of drygoods ready for sale. John W. Cook built a two-story log hotel on the northwest corner of the Public Square. Major H.H. League opened a house of entertainment early in the fall of 1823. Three more drygoods stores were constructed by John Brown, John Young, and Colonel Richard Porter.

In the fall of 1823 Samuel McCorkle began construction of a brick hotel building. It was located on the south side of the Public Square and was later known as the Carter House. The hotel was rebuilt and remodelled several times and was the leading hotel in Paris for more than seventy-five years. The Post Office now stands on the former site of the Carter House.

Within a few months of settlement the business district in Paris comprised six stores, three hotels, and one house of entertainment. Also by this time a courthouse had been constructed of small poplar logs which consisted of two rooms separated by a hallway; the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions met in one room and a vender of pies and liquors sold his products in the other room. A brick courthouse was soon under contract by F. McConnell, and it was built later that fall.

On September 23, 1823 the Legislature of the State of Tennessee passed "an Act to establish permanently the seat of justice in Henry County". The first section of this act provides "that the permanent seat of justice is hereby established and fixed in the county of Henry at the place chosen by Sterling Brewer and James Fentress, the commissioners appointed for that purpose at the session of our General Assembly in the year 1821". The second section of the Act provides "that the name of the town in the county of Henry shall be called 'Paris'". James R. Randle was the first Mayor of Paris, and Jesse Tannehill was the first town constable.

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Paris was originally organized in a simple nine-square grid plan, at the center of which was located the courthouse, the town's most important building. Surrounding the courthouse square were the commercial buildings of the town interspersed with a few residences. Radiating away from the square on side streets such as Washington, Blythe and Poplar were the residential areas and the locations of the town's industries. This initial city plan of Paris remained largely unchanged into the 20th century.

The first decade in the history of the town of Paris saw the arrival in 1825 of the Methodist Church, and under the leadership of the Reverend Phineas T. Scruggs, a congregation was formed. Also in that year the Paris Lodge #55 of Free and Accepted Masons was organized with Hugh Dunlap as Worshipful Master. The men of Paris discovered another method of entertainment by establishing the Paris Jockey Club which became famous for their racehorses throughout the South. In order for Paris to remain abreast of current local and national events, A.R. Johnston edited Paris' first newspaper, The West Tennessean, which was published on March 26, 1826.

During its formative years, Paris achieved a reputation for being a commercial center. Located near Paris was Paris Landing on the Tennessee River which acted as a major shipping route in western Tennessee before the advent of the railroads. In these years Henry County had primarily an agrarian economy centering around the production of cotton and tobacco. Paris, in turn, became a center for the manufacture of cotton and tobacco products during the nineteenth century. In 1823 John Brown established the first cotton gin in Paris, and Charles Crutchfield founded Crutchfield Cotton Mills.

By the early 1830s Paris contained 800 inhabitants, twelve lawyers, twelve doctors, two clergymen, one church (Methodist), one printing office, one academy, three schools, ten stores, two taverns, five carpenters, four bricklayers, two cabinetmakers, two hatters, eight tailors, two shoemakers, five blacksmiths, one silversmith, four tanners, two tinners, seven saddlers, one cotton gin, and two factories.

In 1833, Nathaniel and James C. Currier arrived in Paris from Boston, Massachusetts, and purchased a site appropriate for a cotton mill. When the building was completed and the machinery installed, the Curriers began the operation of Chickasaw Cotton Mills and the manufacture of carpet warp, twine, and yarn. The factory was located two miles east of Paris on the Baily Fork. In 1835, coinciding with the founding of the Chickasaw Mills, Oakley, White and Company established Embryo Mills which manufactured cotton products a mile and a half southeast of Paris.

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Paris' increased prosperity improved the town's charitable and educational resources. In 1837, the first county asylum for the poor was built. The funds which supported the asylum and two academies, the Paris Male Academy and the Odd Fellows Female Institute, came from the State Academy Fund, churches, fraternal organizations, lotteries, private donations, and private corporations. The academies specialized in a liberal arts curriculum and were attended by children of affluent families as the tuition was expensive. The attendance at the academies improved during these years and new brick buildings were erected. In August of 1848 a contract was drawn up to build the first unit of the new building for the Paris Male Academy (now the site of Lee School). The ca. 1845 Odd Fellows Female Institute was located on the corner of McNeill and Market Streets. The building was two-stories tall with two study halls and two recitation rooms on each floor. A two-story porch was attached to the main facade, and it was supported by three brick piers. A dome-shaped belfry crowned the building.

In 1850, a larger brick courthouse replaced the one built in 1823-24. Calvin Sweeney, an expert carpenter and brickmason newly arrived in Paris, oversaw construction of the courthouse. The courthouse was crowned with a cupola and the cost amounted to \$42,000. During the 1850s, Paris continued to be a commercial center for the region and cotton and tobacco mills remained important industries. In 1852, Calvin Sweeney, the contractor of the Courthouse, opened the Sweeney Distillery, the first distillery in Paris.

By 1855 the prosperity of the community resulted in the formation of its first bank. A Philadelphia financial organization regarded Paris as a profitable location for a bank and the Bank of Paris was founded. The Philadelphia firm later sold the bank to James C. McNeill of Paris. The operation of the bank was shortlived as the Panic of 1857 forced it into bankruptcy and dissolution. Despite the economic setback caused by the Panic of 1857, Paris continued to prosper, and on the eve of the Civil war it contained twenty business establishments.

Few architectural resources remain in the community from the pre-war period. The Benjamin C. Brown House on the southwest corner of Ruff and North Poplar Streets was built in 1837 and earliest remaining building in the town. The house was built in a central hall plan with Federal detailing. The Brown House has since been altered but exists in the Paris Commercial District. The Charles M. White House known as Whitehall (Site # 1), was built in 1850 and the Thomas Crawford House was built in 1854 (West Paris Historic District). These two houses were central hall plan residences with Greek Revival detailing but both were altered with Colonial Revival details in the early 1900s.

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Another notable home from the period was the James D. Porter House on Dunlap Street. This two-story brick house was constructed in the 1870s as the residence for Circuit Court Judge James D. Porter. Porter had a distinguished law career and was elected governor in 1874. Porter served two terms before leaving office in 1878. His home remains on Dunlap Street and was listed on the National Register in 1973.

Paris, Tennessee 1860-1890

In 1860, the population of Paris had reached 2,000. Transportation to the town greatly improved with the completion of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The railroad connected the town with Louisville and Memphis and would have a large effect on the town's fortunes in the late 19th century. The community was one of the most prosperous towns in West Tennessee on the eve of the Civil War with the economy depending largely on cotton and tobacco products from the county's many plantations.

The plantation economy and large number of slaveholders in the county made Henry County strong for secession. A number of Paris citizens held significant positions in the state and federal governments in the Civil War years. Isham G. Harris who lived in Paris in the 1850s before moving to Memphis was Governor of Tennessee, J.E.R. Ray was Secretary of State of Tennessee and J.T. Dunlap was Comptroller. James D. Porter wrote the resolutions under which Tennessee dissolved her connections with the Union. J.D.C. Atkins served as a U.S. Congressman and as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. He later served as a Congressman in the Confederate Congress and after the Civil War returned to Washington, D.C. to serve four more terms as Congressman.

In the Civil War, 2,160 men from Henry County served in the 5th and 46th Tennessee Regiments of the Confederate army. In 1861, all the railroads in Tennessee were seized by the Confederate army and used to distribute supplies. In March of 1862 the Union forces under the command of Colonel William W. Lowe of the Fifth Iowa Cavalry moved toward Paris in order to "protect the citizens as much as possible from conscription."

The Confederate forces in Henry County consisted of cavalry under the command of Major Henry Clay King, and they were required to enforce conscription and to distribute supplies collected at Paris by way of the railroad. The Federal forces commanded by John T. Croft encountered the Confederate command on March 11, 1862. After a minor skirmish, the Union forces took possession of Paris and continued to garrison the town during the war. No other significant fighting took place in Paris.

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After the war the L&N Railroad lines were repaired, and new businesses and industries were quickly established. In 1866, Robert Eastwood opened a woolen mill, and S.H. Caldwell built a three-story tobacco factory. By 1873, the commercial district was populated with twelve law firms, five physicians, eleven general stores, three drug stores, five clothing stores, a tinner, barber, two flour mills, three hotels, two cotton mills (Chickasaw Mills and Freeman Brothers Mill), one tobacco manufacturer (S.H. Caldwell) and three saloons. In 1873, a fire destroyed much of the west side of the public square but it was largely rebuilt in the following years.

Paris grew steadily in the 1870s and 1880s. Between 1876-1880 industry in Paris greatly expanded. In 1876, Paris Rolling Mills was founded by A.B. White, W.C. Humphries, Charles Hudson, and Sam Miller. It was housed in a four-story brick building with an attached warehouse northeast of the square. Dunlap and Rodgers, with the first steam engine in Henry County, operated a foundry, wagon and carriage works. William & Hudson and Molton & Valentine were two tobacco factories also built in 1876. This rapid industrial growth facilitated the organization of the Commercial Bank of Paris in 1877 which increased its assets throughout the late 19th century.

With the rise in industrial and commercial growth the residential areas of the community expanded during the 1870s and 1880s. The areas along North Poplar Street, W. Washington and College Streets saw an increase in development with Italianate and Queen Anne residences constructed. Most of these homes were replaced during the building boom at the turn of the century with only a few homes dating from this period. The most significant of these are the Abernethy House on College Street and the W.C. Johnson House on W. Washington Street (West Paris Historic District). In addition to these homes the Judge John Sweeny House built on Chickasaw Road was one of the largest houses built in the late 19th century (Site # 3).

During the 1880s the population of Paris reached 1,100, and the city undertook governmental reorganization. In 1888, the City Charter was repealed, and the town was reincorporated under the name and style "the Mayor and Board of the Alderman of the City of Paris". Under this new charter the people elected the Mayor, Marshall, Recorder, and the Alderman. Despite these changes in city government education in the city was still provided by private schools and it was several more years before the first public school was built. The best known private school was operated by Mrs. S.H. Welch on the west side of North Poplar Street which housed her co-educational school for 250 pupils. There were also Mrs. Bruce's Infant School, Mrs. McAnulty's Primary School, and a colored public school.

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Paris 1890-1900

Between 1890 and 1910 Paris experienced rapid expansion and prosperity due to a combination of factors. In 1891, the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad became the second railroad to run its line through Paris. This railroad ran north/south through the county and connected the town with Nashville and Paducah, Kentucky. This railroad brought additional passenger and freight connections to the town and stimulated commercial growth.

Of even greater importance was the decision by Louisville and Nashville Railroad officials to establish a major machine shop complex in Paris in 1897. The company purchased 18 acres adjacent to the L & N tracks on the northwest edge of the town. The company built nine buildings including a cab and tender building, machine shop, a boiler shop, blacksmith shop, and engine and boiler house. The entire complex cost \$250,000.00 and was completed in 1899 by R.M. Newbold Company, Railroad Building Contractors from Birmingham, Alabama. Unfortunately, none of these structures remain.

The impact of these developments transformed the appearance of the community as the population doubled by 1900. In 1896, the city waterworks and light plants were completed. The light plant cost \$10,000 and supplied electric light to street lamps and homes. The waterworks were completed at a cost of \$35,000 and supplied a regular flow of water to homes, commercial businesses and fire hydrants. A public high school was completed in 1891 on the north side of town but it soon burned. A second school known as the City High School was completed in 1893 and was the major school in the community for many years. Later known as the Robert E. Lee School, its construction had a great impact on public education in Paris (Site # 2).

In 1897, the city once again reorganized to meet the challenge of growth and expansion. A new form of government with six Alderman and a Mayor was enacted and many new boards were established. By 1900, the city had Boards of Public Works, Education, and Health and a new Fire Department. As the city government was enlarging its powers, the county decided that new facilities were necessary, and in 1897 the old brick courthouse was razed and construction began on a new Henry County Courthouse. Chattanooga architect, Reuben H. Hunt designed the building in the popular Victorian Romanesque style of the period, and it remains the center for the county government (Paris Commercial Historic District).

By 1900, the town of Paris had grown to approximately 4,000 residents. The town was served by a telephone company and other utilities, and many new businesses opened on or near the public square. One of these new businesses brought immense fortune to many of the town's citizens. In the 1870s, Dr.

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Edward Grove moved to Paris and worked as a local druggist for many years. He formulated several medicines, and many of Paris' merchants invested in Grove's company, the Paris Medicine Company. By 1899 this company produced "Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic" and had revenues of over half a million dollars. Because of this success, Grove moved his operation to St. Louis where it became a leading pharmaceutical firm of the 20th century. His early backers such as O.C. Barton and Thomas Jernigan gained wealth from this enterprise. Grove built a large brick home on North Poplar Street and later gained fame as a developer in Asheville, North Carolina.

Many new brick commercial buildings were erected around the square during the 1890s, and much of its present appearance dates from this period. Most of the buildings were two or three story masonry structures and contained a wide variety of shops and offices. On the north and east sides of the square were solid rows of brick buildings constructed in the 1880s and 1890s. These buildings were designed in the Italianate Commercial styles of the period and featured cast iron storefronts, arched windows with sheet metal or brick hood molding, and decorative sheet metal cornices at the roofline. On the south side of the square was the Second Empire style Carter House Hotel and City Hall.

The west side of the square suffered total destruction in a fire on July 4, 1899. An indication of the economic vitality of the town was the complete rebuilding of this side of the square within six months with several businesses open for Christmas shopping. This row of two-story was designed by architect David Stroop of Paris and features Neo-Classical features in the terra cotta designs and roof balustrade. This block is one of the few unified designs of a single architect in any of the court squares in Tennessee. Stroop later moved to Chattanooga where he designed other buildings in the early 1900s.

In addition to the construction of many of the buildings on the square, Paris also witnessed the erection of the Crete Opera House in 1899. This Opera House was built by a group of Paris investors and was one of the largest structures built during the period. The three-story Victorian Romanesque design housed offices on the first two floors and a large stage on the third story. The opera house was the site of many vaudeville productions and plays during the early 1900s.

This rapid expansion of the community was reflected in many of the residential areas. By the early 1900s a series of large Queen Anne residences had been built along West Washington Street, North Poplar Street, the Chickasaw Suburb, and other streets off the square. These homes were the residences of the town's leading citizens such as druggists E.W. Grove and George Trevathan, banker A.B. Lamb, and merchants O.C. Barton and F.M. Vancleave. These large homes were some of the most ornate and sumptuous built in Paris and reflected the

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overall prosperity of the times. In addition to these homes, many more new modest Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and vernacular style homes were built in these years. Construction of the new middle class housing occurred primarily west and north of the public square and south along Dunlap Street. Areas to the east and southwest of the square were developed at a later time due to their steep topography. Many of the present homes along College and Hudson Streets (West Paris Historic District) were built in the early 1900s. The L & N Railroad also contracted for the construction of many modest frame houses in these areas to house their many shop workers. These new homes replaced earlier 19th century structures, and few pre-1900 residences exist in these residential areas. A number of these homes have been identified as built by the firm of Barton and Lasater, an influential lumber company of the period. William Lasater advertised himself as an architect in these years, and the firm is probably responsible for many of the homes built in the residential areas of this period.

Along Dunlap and streets around the public square many notable new homes were built by 1910. These include several constructed by owners who gained wealth from investments in the Paris Medicine Company. The two Jernigan Houses along Dunlap Street were both built in the early 1900s although in different styles. The Second Empire design E.K. Jernigan House (Site #6) is the only remaining example of this style in Paris while the Thomas P. Jernigan House (Site #4) is a good example of the Neo-Classical style. The H.L. Bruce House (Site #5) is also a fine Neo-Classical style home.

Perhaps the finest example of residential architecture is the O.C. Barton House on North Poplar. Barton had previously erected a fine Queen Anne residence on this site in the 1890s. He gained immense wealth through his investments with Dr. Grove and constructed an ornate Italian Renaissance style residence in 1912. The two-story brick home featured elaborate terra-cotta decoration, interior marble and tile designs, and a two-story carriage house. The Barton House remains one of the town's most significant designs.

Paris in the 20th Century

Since the early 1900s Paris has remained a prosperous county seat and commercial center of West Tennessee. By the 1920s the tobacco and cotton mills had been largely replaced with new businesses such as lumber mills and flour mills. The ample clay of the county gave rise to pottery mills just outside the city limits such as the Russell Pottery Company. Another major company was the Paris Toilet Company established in 1914 which manufactured a cosmetic bleaching cream and was later renamed the Golden Peacock Company. This company occupied the Crete Opera House for a number of years.

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From 1910 to 1930 the continued growth of Paris was reflected in the development of the residential areas. Many frame and brick Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and vernacular designs were built in neighborhoods extending to the southeast along Dunlap Street, to the north along North Poplar Street, and west along Washington and Hudson Streets. North Poplar Street remained one of the most popular areas for the middle and upper class, and new homes were built along the street throughout this period. In addition to the residences along the street a new Baptist Church was erected at the corner of Ruff and North Poplar in 1923.

In the downtown area the commercial district remained largely unchanged along the west, north, and east sides of the square. The only major building constructed on the east side of the square was the First Commercial Bank built in 1925. This five-story building was the tallest constructed on the public square and was the town's most prosperous bank. On the south side of the square the Carter House Hotel was razed in 1908 for construction of the present Colonial Revival design post office. Other buildings constructed adjacent to the square during this time were the First Presbyterian Church on South Market Street in 1916, the Masonic Temple on Blythe Street in 1924 and the Hotel Greystone on West Washington Street in 1925.

The railroad industry continued to be of great importance in the community in these years. The Louisville and Nashville rail shops remained a significant employer with several hundred workers employed at the yards. Around 1910 a new Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad depot was constructed on Fentress Street and several hotels were located nearby to serve the passenger traffic. Small mills and industries located near the railroad lines throughout the early 20th century.

By 1930, Paris had a population of just over 8,000 residents. The town contained twenty miles of asphalt streets, three schools and three hospitals. A new theater was built downtown on Poplar Street in the 1930s and a few brick commercial buildings were constructed in and around the square. In the 1930s paved highways were built providing better transportation to Paris and the county. In the residential areas a few Bungalows were built in these years, but most construction halted during the Depression.

Paris has continued to be a commercial and industrial center of West Tennessee since 1940. Although the L & N Railroad shops were gradually closed in recent decades, new industries came to take its place. In the 1950s the Campbell-Rhea Manufacturing Company opened to produce furniture, and in the 1960s Holly Carburetor, Emerson Electric, and the Celotex Corporation all opened to provide a variety of jobs for the community.

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In 1980, the population of Paris stood at just under 11,000 residents. Most new commercial construction has occurred along Highway 641 and Highway 79 to the south and east of town. The court square area has remained largely unscathed by new construction and continues to retain its early 20th century character. New residential construction has also occurred in adjacent suburbs and few new homes have been built in the older North Poplar and West Paris areas. Today, Paris continues to display many of its late 19th and early 20th century residential and commercial structures.

Planning, Preservation and Restoration Activity

The Paris Multiple Resource Nomination was written due to the efforts of the Henry County Historical Society and the North Poplar Street Neighborhood Association. In 1983-84 a survey of historical sites in the town was undertaken by members of the society. This survey resulted in the gathering of historical information on many of the town's notable sites. In 1987, this information was utilized along with a reconnaissance survey by Thomason and Associates and the Tennessee Historical Commission. The members of the North Poplar Neighborhood Association assisted in the preparation and completion of the nomination as part of their ongoing efforts to promote community preservation, especially along North Poplar Street. In 1987, North Poplar Street was designated a local historic district by the city. Renovation of buildings in the commercial area has been minimal but it is hoped that listing on the National Register will stimulate rehabilitation in the future. Survey information and in the nomination can be utilized into the review and planning process of the Tennessee Historical Commission and other state and/or federal agencies.

Significance: Architecture

Three historic districts and five residences are nominated under criterion C for their architectural significance. The North Poplar Street Historic District contains an excellent collection of early 20th century residential architecture including Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and Bungalow designs. The West Paris Historic District is a collection of generally modest one and two-story frame dwellings constructed in the late 19th and early 20th century although several notable dwellings are also within the district. The Paris Commercial District contains a remarkably intact grouping of late 19th and early 20th century commercial and governmental architecture centered around the historic public square of the community.

The nominated individual residences were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and represent the most significant residential architecture outside of the historic districts. These include the Judge John Sweeney House

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(Site # 3) which is the only existing example of the Shingle style in Paris; the Second Empire style E.K. Jernigan House (Site # 6); and three Neo-Classical style residences; the Charles M. White House (Site # 1); the Thomas P. Jernigan House (Site # 4) and the H.L. Bruce House (Site # 5).

Significance: Commerce

The Paris Commercial Historic District is also nominated under criterion A for its role in Paris business and commerce. The earliest commercial buildings in Paris were constructed around the court square and the square was the center of the community's business throughout the 19th and into the 20th century. Most of the existing buildings were constructed between 1880 and 1930 and contained general merchandise and hardware stores, banks, attorneys offices, hotels and other commercial establishments. The court square continues to be an important business center in the community.

In the North Poplar Historic District properties are also recognized under criterion A for their association with the commercial history of the community. At 605 N. Poplar Street is the residence of Dr. Edward W. Grove who organized the Paris Medicine Company and was one of the most successful businessman of Paris. This company gained national renown and became a multi-million dollar enterprise in the 20th century. Grove's benefactor and business associate in the early years of the company was O.C. Barton whose residence was built at 614 N. Poplar Street. Barton was owner of Barton, Lasater and Company an important lumber and construction company of the period. He invested heavily in the Paris Medicine Company and helped it become a national firm. Barton became wealthy from his investment and constructed the ornate house at this location in 1912. Other investors in Paris who reside in the district made large sums of money from the Paris Medicine Company.

Significance: Education:

The Robert E. Lee School (Site # 2) has been nominated under criterion A for its role in public education. The Lee School was constructed in 1893 and served as the major high school and grade school for the town for almost fifty years. Hundreds of students completed their education at the school in the late 19th and early 20th century. The Lee School and the E.W. Grove School (NR-198) are the oldest remaining school buildings in Paris. The school replaced an earlier school constructed in 1892 which burned and the Lee School is considered the first public school of consequence in the town. The building continues to be utilized by the school board for offices.

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7/25/88

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Paris MRA
State Henry County, TENNESSEE

Nomination/Type of Review

- | Cover | Substantive Review | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Bruce, H.L., House | Entered in the
National Register | |
| 2. Jernigan, E.K., House | Entered in the
National Register | |
| 3. Jernigan, Thomas P., House | Substantive Review | |
| 4. Lee, Robert E., School | Entered in the
National Register | |
| 5. North Poplar Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | |
| 6. Paris Commercial Historic District | Substantive Review | |
| 7. Sweeney, Judge John C., House | Entered in the
National Register | |
| 8. West Paris Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | |
| 9. White, Charles M. House | Entered in the
National Register | |
| 10. | | |

Date/Signature

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