United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name   Elkton Commercial Historic District

other names/site number   N/A

2. Location

street & number   The perimeter of the public square, intersected by   N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town   Elkton   North, South, East and West Main Streets. ☐ vicinity

state   Kentucky   code   KY   county   Todd   code   219   zip code 42220

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
☒ private	☐ building(s)			
☒ public-local	☒ district	19	6	buildings
☐ public-State	☐ site	_____	_____	sites
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	_____	_____	structures
	☐ object	_____	_____	objects
		19	6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

    N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official   David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer   Date   Oct 6, 1989

Kentucky Heritage Council

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official   Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
   ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper   11/13/89

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE - Professional, Specialty Store, Department Store, Financial Institution, Resturant: SOCIAL - Meeting Hall: GOVERNMENT - Courthouse: RECREATION AND CULTURE - Theater

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE - Professional, Financial Institution, Specialty Store, Department Store: SOCIAL - Meeting Hall: GOVERNMENT - City Hall: EDUCATION - Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Colonial Revival
OTHER/19th Century Vernacular/20th Century Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation ___Brick/Stone (Limestone)___
walls ___Brick___

roof ___Asphalt___
other ___Wood___
___Cast Iron___

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Elkton Commercial Historic District is a notable assemblage of mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture in Elkton, Kentucky. The district contains twenty-six buildings used for commercial and governmental purposes and all but six of them contribute to the architectural and commercial significance of the district. The district is centered around the nineteenth century public square of the town. The buildings within the district all primarily one-to-two-story masonry structures with detailing and designs reflecting local interpretations of the Italianate and Colonial Revival commercial forms of the period. While the majority of the commercial buildings have altered storefronts, most retain original upper facade detailing.

The public square is the commercial center of Elkton and Todd County. Elkton (1980 pop. 1,612) is the county seat of Todd County which is located in the western Pennryile section of the state. Elkton is the center of rural Todd County with an agriculture based economy. Surrounding the community is an undulating landscape of rich soils which produce tobacco, soybeans, and corn. In recent years a few small industries have located in Elkton but agriculture continues to be of primary importance. Elkton is connected with Hopkinsville to the west and Russellville to the east by U.S. Highway 68. State route 181 extends through the community in a north/south direction and connects with Greenville on the north and Guthrie on the south. A railroad built in 1885 between Elkton and Guthrie was abandoned in 1952 and no railroads presently serves the community. Development has been limited in Elkton and the public square remains the focal point for county commerce and banking.

The public square was laid out in 1820 when Elkton was established as the county seat of Todd County. A hewn log jail was erected near the square and the first courthouse was completed in 1822. This courthouse was replaced in 1835 by the existing courthouse standing in the center of the square. During these early years the public square consisted of brick, log, and frame buildings which were used for residential and commercial purposes. The public square contained several shops, hotels, and small industries such as flour mills. The only extant building on the square thought to be from this early period is the Millen Building at 33 Public Square. It is believed to have been built by Jesse Russell, a mason who constructed most of the brick commercial and residential buildings in early Elkton. Although the main facade was altered around 1920

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally　　☐ statewide　　☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria　☒ A　☐ B　☒ C　☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)　☐ A　☐ B　☐ C　☐ D　☐ E　☐ F　☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1821 - ca. 1930	
Government	1821 - ca. 1940	1835
Commerce	1821 - ca. 1940	

Cultural Affiliation
　N/A

Significant Person
　N/A

Architect/Builder
　Jesse Russell
　Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Elkton Commercial Historic District is a notable collection of mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth commercial architecture in Elkton, Kentucky (1980 pop. 1612). The district is being nominated under criteria A and C for its architectural significance and importance in local government and commerce. Since the establishment of the public square in 1820 it has been the county's largest commercial center and the courthouse has been the focal point of county government. The district is centered around the original public square of the town and contains twenty-six buildings, twenty of which retain their original architectural character. The district contains the largest and most intact grouping of commercial buildings in Elkton and Todd County and have been occupied by the community's most important businesses such as banks, hotels, and retail stores. The public square continues to be the main commercial center of Elkton.

Todd County was formed in 1819, carved from adjacent Logan and Christian Counties and is located in the western Pennyrile region of Kentucky. Elkton is located in the central section of the county and is surrounded by fertile farmland. The rich soils of the gently rolling hills made the area appealing to new settlers. By the time Todd County was apportioned, a few small settlements existed on the trace that ran east and west from Russellville to Hopkinsville. Newberg, about two miles west of Elkton's current site and halfway between Russellville and Hopkinsville, was considered the "first capitol of Todd". As early as 1812, it had a hotel and brick dry goods store. "Elk Town" was settled about 1818 on Elk Creek. Located just northeast of the center of current-day Elkton, it was platted with 18 lots in March 1819 by miller Thomas Garvin.

Both sites were considered for the new county's seat of justice and prominent landowner, Major John Gray, offered land for the new county seat and platted a townsite adjoining Elk Town. This townsite was named Elkton and it was chosen as the location for the county seat on May 8, 1820. It contained the area now

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):   NA
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other
Specify repository:
_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property ___2.8 acres_____

UTM References

A |1,6| |4,8,6|1,1,8,5| |4,0|7,3|6,2,0|
  Zone Easting   Northing

B |1,6| |4,8,6|3,2,8| |4,0|7,3|6,0,0|
  Zone Easting   Northing

C |1,6| |4,8,6|1,7,4| |4,0|7,3|4,8,0|

D |1,6| |4,8,6|3,0,5| |4,0|7,3|4,8,5|

Elkton Quadrangle

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____Gail Long/Philip Thomason_____

organization ___Thomason and Associates_____ date ___7/25/89_____

street & number ___P.O. Box 121225_____ telephone ___(615) 383-0227_____

city or town _____Nashville_____ state Tennessee____ zip code 37212____

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with the application of a brick veneer, the original walls are intact. The date "1821" is crudely etched in the upper west corner of the building.

The present appearance of the square began to take shape after the Civil War with solid rows of brick commercial buildings lining its perimeter. The extant one story brick building at 14 Public Square is typical of the simple vernacular style of the period. The courthouse underwent extensive interior remodelling at that time and a Second Empire tower was added to its roof. The 1880s were prosperous years for Elkton. Construction was completed on the Elkton and Guthrie Railroad, an eleven mile line that ran south to a junction with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad at Guthrie. This construction resulted in increased commercial activity around the square. The 1886 Sanborn Map of Elkton shows the square containing a bank, three drugstores, three general stores, four grocery stores, two hotels, and shops for furniture, tinware, dry goods, milinary, hardware, and harnesses. Merchants Perkins and Wells built a stylish commercial building on the square and opened the Elkton Opera House on the second floor. Their building, extant at 41-42 Public Square, had cast iron columns and elaborate Italianate detailing until it was remodelled around 1925.

A fire in late 1886 destroyed much of the northwest, north, and east sides of the square, but within a few years, new one-and-two story buildings were erected. One of these was the three-story Kennedy Hotel (renamed the Elkton Hotel) built in the Second Empire style at the northeast corner of the square which was the largest building constructed on the square.

Throughout the late nineteenth century, the present appearance of the square continued to take shape and many of these buildings still exist. While the original storefronts have been replaced, upper facade features are intact and reflect the Italianate style of the period. Typical detailing included arched windows, decorative corbelled brickwork, pressed metal facades, and sheet metal cornices with brackets. Examples can be seen at 10-11 Public Square, 39 Public Square, and 55-57 Public Square.

After the turn of the century, construction abated with only a few new buildings erected around the square. The large Farmers and Merchants corner block was built in 1915 with Colonial Revivial influenced detailing to replace an earlier building. Most of the construction that occured during the first decades of the century was to replace buildings destroyed by isolated fires, or to modernize the facades and interiors of older buildings. The buildings at 43, 64-65, and 73 Public Square replaced buildings consumed by fire and reflect the vernacular detailing of the early 20th century. Around 1929, the Second Empire style Elkton Hotel underwent an extensive interior remodelling and a new facade was added to its main and south elevations.

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Since around 1930 construction has been limited on the public square. Most of the buildings retain their upper facade detailing and many retain original interior features and spatial arrangements. Along North Main Street and South Main Street outside of the public square area are modern commercial buildings added in the mid-20th century or altered pre-1940 buildings. To the east and west along East Main and West Main Streets are a few modern commercial buildings and residential sections of the community. Most original storefronts have been removed or altered and commercial buildings in and adjacent to the public square were considered contributing to the character of the district if they retained the majority of their original upper facade form and detailing.

The present appearance of the public square has not changed extensively in recent years and it retains its early 20th century character. The courthouse continues to visually dominate the square and is the focal point of the district. The Elkton Commercial Historic District remains an active business center and it contains the community's most significant commercial architecture.

Individual Property Descriptions:

1. One Public Square, Todd County Courthouse, (TO-E-1): The Todd County Courthouse is a two-story, brick, rectangular plan building constructed with Greek Revival detailing in 1835. The building was designed and built by local brick mason, Jesse Russell, and has not been significantly altered. It features a low-pitched hip roof of composition shingles with a pedimented gable on the north and south facades, Flemish bond coursing, and a raised stone foundation. The walls below the gables project slightly from the main block. Six interior brick chimneys pierce the roof. The five bay north and south facades have 16/12 replacement sash windows on the first story, 12/12 on the second story, all with flat stone lintels with bulls eye corner blocks and stone lug sills. The windows in the central bays are tripart. The east bay of the south facade is a simple secondary entranceway, with a panelled frame door topped by a rectangular 2/2 light transom and stone lintel. The three bay east and west facades are main entrances, each with centrally located paired frame doors, surrounded by four light transoms and two light sidelights. In 1871, a square, frame Second Empire style tower with a convex mansard roof was added to the center of the courthouse roof. Each side of the tower has decorative shingles, a pointed-arch ventilator opening, and a round arch dormer with a clock face in the mansard roof. A bulbous finial tops the tower. The interior retains its heavy, bold original detailing as well as features from the 1871 remodelling. The Todd County Courthouse was placed on the National Register in August, 1975.

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2. 10-11 Public Square (TO-E-12): Two-story, three bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1895. The lower main (W) facade has a centrally located entrance to the second floor with a c. 1980 metal and glass single door. This entrance is flanked by large storefronts with c. 1980 metal bulkheads, and metal and glass display windows and doors. Mounted over the storefronts is a c. 1980 metal shed roof awning supported by plain square columns. Above the awning is a modern full-width glass and metal sign panel. The three bay upper facade retains original detailing. It has a surface of stamped sheet metal to resemble rusticated stone blocks. At the corners and dividing the central bay are sheet metal pilasters. The central bay has a paired 1/1 sash window with three single 1/1 sash windows on each side of it. At the roofline is a bracketed sheet metal cornice. Above the cornice in the central bay is a metal name plate inscribed "J. W. Gant & Son". (C)

3. 13 Public Square (TO-E-13): One-story, eight bay, brick and stone rectangular plan commercial building contructed c. 1895. The twin storefronts retain no original detailing. They have c. 1980 glass and metal display windows and double doors, with added metal siding. Above the storefronts and centered in the lower facade are modern glass and metal sign panels. Dividing the lower and upper facades is an original stone belt course. The upper facade is a false front, covered with smooth-faced coursed ashlar, punctuated by three star shaped anchor irons. In the false front are eight false rectangular window openings, covered with closed louvered shutters. Over the "windows" are label molds with raised keystones. (C)

4. 14 Public Square (TO-E-14): One-story, two bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1870. The building has an off-center entranceway with a modern multi-light glass and frame door, framed by fluted pilasters. Over the entranceway is a projecting triangular pediment, supported by scrolled brackets. The window is a replacement 6/6 sash with a segmental arch lintel and stone sill. A modern metal and glass name sign is on the north side of the entrance. At the roofline are three rows of corbelled brick. (C)

5. 20 Public Square (TO-E-15): Two-story four bay brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1875 and modified with a brick veneer applied to the main facade in 1905. The storefront has been altered. It has a recessed entrance with c. 1970 metal and glass double doors flanked by canted metal and glass display windows. The bulkheads are c. 1970 brick veneer. In the storefront's west bay is a second story entrance with a modern glass and metal door. Above the storefront is a full-width c. 1970 glass and metal sign band. A string course of masonry rope molding divides the upper and lower facades. Above it and centered in the building's facade is a recessed name plate

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inscribed "J. H. Armstrong 1905" with egg and dart molding. The upper facade has four 1/1 replacement sash windows with segmental arch lintels and stone sills, each set in a rectangular recessed panel. Above each window are two small rectangular vent openings and a corbelled brick frieze. The interior retains its original pressed metal ceiling. (C)

6. 21 Public Square: One-story brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed ca. 1900, remodeled c. 1980. Removal of the added facade may enable this property to be contributive in the future. (NC)

7. 22 Public Square (TO-E-16): Two-story, three bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1880 and modified with a new facade c. 1915. The storefront was altered c. 1986 with a glass and metal entrance door located in the west bay and two large glass and metal display windows adjacent. Above the storefront is a c. 1986 rounded canvas awning. Above the awning is a rectangular neon sign. A stone belt course divides the upper and lower facades. The upper facade retains a c. 1915 smooth faced coursed ashlar sheathing with three rectangular metal and glass windows, above which are three Union Jack motif transom windows. A stone cornice below the roofline has modillion blocks at the corners and dividing the bays. The first floor interior has been remodelled. (C)

8. 30 Public Square (TO-E-17): The Farmers and Merchants Bank is a two-story, two bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building built in 1915. The main (N) facade is divided at the center and each corner by brick pilasters on stone pedestals with stone capitals. The east bay of the lower facade features a large single metal and glass window with single light transom and flat arch lintel and metal and glass double entrance doors. Over the entrance is a sloping canvas awning. The west bay has two large glass and metal windows also with single light transoms and flat arch lintels. A continuous stone sill wraps around the building. The upper and lower facade is divided in both bays by rectangular stone name panels inscribed "Farmers & Merchants Bank". Each bay of the upper facade has three 1/1 sash windows with flat arch lintels and stone lug sills. Below the roofline is a projecting stone cornice. Mounted on the main facade's central pilaster is a c. 1919 iron alarm box. The six bay east elevation has large single light windows with transoms on the lower facade and 1/1 and 2/2 windows with flat arch lintels and stone lug sills on the upper facade. The south bay of the lower facade is a secondary entranceway with a frame door and single light transom. The interior retains the original marble and brass teller stations, multi-colored tile floor, and rich walnut panelling, moldings, and doors. (C)

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9. 31 Public Square: Two-story brick commercial building constructed c. 1880 but significantly altered c. 1974 when the building was made to form part of adjacent Elkton Bank and Trust. (NC)

10. 32 Public Square: One-story brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1860 with a c. 1950 facade. (NC)

11. 33 Public Square (TO-E-18): One-story, three bay brick rectangular plan commercial building possibly constructed in 1821. The date "1821" and an illegible name is scratched on the northwest corner of the main (N) facade. The main facade was altered c. 1920 with the addition of a brick veneer and false front with stepped parapet. The storefront, also c. 1920, has a centrally located single frame and glass entrance door with a single light transom, flanked by large single light display windows on brick veneer bulkheads. Above the storefront are two c. 1960 glass and metal name signs. (C)

12. 39 Public Square (TO-E-19): One-story, three bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1895. The building has retained its original detailing, including a storefront with centrally located frame and glass double entrance doors, flanked by two large 2/2 frame and glass display windows on frame bulkheads. Narrow rectangular recessed panels are aligned across the bulkheads and door bottoms. Above the display windows and entrance doors are fluted transom bars and two light transoms. The transoms are partially obscured by a c. 1982 metal and glass name sign. Dividing the lower and upper facades is a brick frieze laid in a modillion block motif. The upper facade's false front has three rectangular recessed panels, topped by three rows of corbelled brick. The interior retains original detailing. (C)

13. 41-42 Public Square (TO-E-20): Two-story, six bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed in 1884. The entire main (E) facade was altered c. 1925. The building has two storefronts, both altered with c. 1960 recessed entrance doors of metal and glass and large angled display windows of metal and glass on brick bulkheads. A c. 1960 flat metal awning is suspended over the storefronts. Large sheets of corrugated metal obscure the facade above the storefronts. The upper facade retains its c. 1925 detailing. It is divided at the middle and corners by brick pilasters, with three rectangular eight light steel casement windows with single light transoms centered over each storefront. Above the windows is a brick beltcourse. At the roofline is a parapet. The first floor interiors have been remodelled, however, the second story interior retains its original tongue and groove wainscoting, floors, ceiling, and evidence of a central staircase leading from the street. (C)

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14. 43 Public Square (TO-E-21): Two-story brick four-bay rectangular plan commercial constructed in 1926. The storefront was altered c. 1960 with an off-center entrance door of glass and metal and large single-light glass-and-metal display windows on brick bulkheads. A c. 1980 canvas awning slopes over the storefront and above it is a c. 1980 metal and glass name sign. The upper facade has four paired 1/1 metal-and-glass windows, with a brick belt course above the windows. Below the corbelled brick cornice at the roofline is a recessed brick name panel. The first story interior retains the original pressed metal ceiling. The second floor retains original detailing, including a large wheel-operated platform elevator used for lowering caskets. (C)

15. 44 Public Square (TO-E-22): Two-story, three bay brick, rectangular plan commercial building originally constructed c. 1875. Around 1906, the second story was rebuilt, with the original one-story rear portion of the building extended and made two stories. The storefront's centrally located recessed entranceway has c. 1980 double glass and metal doors, flanked by canted c. 1980 glass and metal display windows. Vertical board siding has been applied to the lower facade. Above the storefront is a c. 1985 sloped canvas awning and over it is a c. 1980 glass and metal name sign. The upper facade has three 1/1 rectangular sash windows with stone lintels and lug sills, set in rectangular recessed panels. At the top of the panels is brick corbelling, with three smaller rectangular panels above them, also with brick corbelling. The interior has been remodelled. (C)

16. 54 Public Square: One-story brick commercial building originally constructed as a service station, c. 1942, altered and converted to a restaurant c. 1975. (NC)

17. 55-57 Public Square (TO-E-23): One-story, seven bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1890 with Romanesque influence. The building is divided into two sections by three brick pilasters, one located off-center and one at each corner. The south portion of the building has a round arch entrance in the north bay, with glass and panelled frame double doors. Above the doors is a transom bar with pellet molding and a multi-colored stained glass transom. Adjacent to the entrance is a large, tripart round arch window with a stone lug sill. The north portion of the building has a centrally located entrance with a panelled single frame door, pellet molding transom bar, and multi-colored stained glass transom. That entrance is flanked on each side by two 1/1 round arch windows with stone lug sills. Above the windows and doors across the facade are connecting corbelled brick arches. At the roofline is a corbelled brick frieze and sheet metal cornice. The building has a false front semi-circular gable on the south portion; a pedimented gable on the north

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portion. The interior retains much of its original detailing, including four-panel doors with two-light transoms, moldings, trim, and wainscoting. (C)

18. 60-61 Public Square: Two-story brick commercial building constructed c. 1945. (NC)

19. 62 Public Square: One-story brick commercial building constructed c. 1945. (NC)

20. 63 Public Square (TO-E-24): One-story, two bay brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1890. The storefront was altered c. 1965. It has a single glass and frame entrance door and one large single light display window. Vertical board siding has been applied to the lower facade. Over the storefront is a shingled shed roof awning and modern name signs. The upper facade retains original detailing, including a brick frieze of corbelled brick topped by an elaborate sheet metal cornice with prominent end caps. The interior has been remodelled. (C)

21. 64-65 Public Square (TO-E-25): One-story brick rectangular plan commercial building with two storefronts built c. 1925. The west storefront was altered c. 1980 with added vertical board siding, a glass and frame entrance door, and tripart multi-light display window. The interior and storefront on the east side were destroyed by recent fire. Over both storefronts is a shingled shed roof awning. The upper facade has brick string courses, large rectangular recessed brick panels with cast iron vent grills, and a corbelled brick frieze. The brick cornice is laid in a modillion block motif. (C)

22. 70 Public Square (TO-E-26): Two-story brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1900. The storefront has a central entrance with a single c. 1980 glass and metal door with four large single light c. 1980 glass and metal display windows on each side of it. Over the storefront is a curved canvas awning. The five bay upper facade retains original detailing. It has a surface of stamped sheet metal to resemble rusticated stone blocks. The windows are rectangular 1/1 sash with a continous sill. The windows are framed by narrow stamped metal "shutters" with a floral motif. Above a dividing belt course is a stamped metal frieze with a garland motif. At the roofline is a bracketed cornice with prominent end caps. The interior has been remodelled. (C)

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23. 72 Public Square (TO-E-27): Two-story, two bay brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1920. The storefront was altered c. 1988 with added siding, a single metal and glass entrance door, and glass and metal display windows. Over the storefront is a c. 1988 shed roof canvas awning. Two rectangular metal and glass casement windows divide the upper and lower facade. A stone name panel inscribed "Elkton City Hall" is above. At the roofline is a simple brick cornice. (C)

24. 73 Public Square (TO-E-28): Two-story, three bay brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed in 1911. The altered storefront has painted brick bulkheads, a modern single entrance door of glass and metal, and large single light metal and glass display windows. The building's wide transoms and west bay display windows have been obscured by vertical board siding. The upper facade retains its original detailing and high contrast polychromed designs. A belt course, diamond-shaped panels between the windows, segmental arch lintels, and roofline frieze of dark red brick stand out against the upper facade's ochre brick. The rectangular windows have replacement single lights. Above the central window is a stone block inscribed with several names and the date "1911". (C)

25. 82-84 Public Square (TO-E-29): Three-story, three bay brick rectangular plan hotel originally built in 1888. In 1929 the building was extensively remodelled on the interior and main (W) and south facades. The east and north facades retain original 1888 detailing. The main facade is divided into three bays by brick pilasters on stone pedestals with stone capitals. The lower facade has five storefronts, each with single metal and glass entrance doors and large single light metal and glass display windows with glass block transoms on brick bulkheads covered with glazed hexagonal tiles. The south bay is the hotel entrance. A brick belt course divides the lower and upper facades. The upper facade of each bay has four 1/1 rectangular sash windows with plain brick lintels and stone lug sills. At the roofline is a simple brick cornice and frieze. The three bay south facade has similar detailing in its vertically aligned symmetrical fenestration. Single door entrances are located in the central and east bays. The early detailing remaining on the east and north facades includes a straight mansard roof and segmental arch window and door openings with brick hood moldings and raised stone keystones. The interior retains its c. 1929 detailing. The lobby has a pressed metal ceiling, tile floor with Greek Fret motif border, mahogany registration area, and bus station. The second and third floors contain guest rooms with private baths. Lighting, plumbing fixtures, doors, moldings, and trim are all original. (C)

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26. 103-105 S. Main Street (TOE-30): One-story, four bay, brick rectangular plan commercial building constructed c. 1880. The building is divided into two sections, each with a segmental arch entranceway and window opening set in a recessed vertical panel. The north storefront has a c. 1970 multi-light frame and glass door and plywood covered transom. The adjacent window opening has been covered with plywood. The south storefront also has a c. 1970 multi-light frame and glass door. The transom has been bricked in. The window is a 1/1 frame and glass replacement. In each bay in the upper facade are two horizontally aligned sections of corbelled brick. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. Modern name signs have been mounted to the main facade. The interior has been remodelled. (C)

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covered by the major portion of Elkton, dominated by a public square at its center. The surrounding lots were 66' wide by 165' deep, with alleys at the rear of each lot and along the sides of each second lot. The Russellville-Hopkinsville and Clarksville-Greenville Roads intersected at the center.

Lots were soon sold and several brick, frame, and log commercial and residential buildings were constructed around the square. The Nick and Will House, a large hotel stood on the northeast side. A public jail of hewn logs was built, and the new county commissioners authorized the buildings of a brick clerk's office and courthouse. These buildings were used until 1835 when a new courthouse was constructed in the center of the square. Many of the brick buildings in nineteenth century Elkton were attributed to Jesse Russell. Russell was born in Virginia and settled in the Elkton area in the early 1800s. He became a successful mason who built and owned many of the buildings in Elkton. In 1835, he supervised the construction of the new courthouse. The courthouse and some of Russell's other buildings still exist today, including examples at 20 and 33 Public Square and 103-105 S. Main Street.

In its early years Elkton became an important trading center. Todd County is noted for its rich agricultural lands and in the 19th century tobacco, corn, wheat and fruit were its principal crops. Mills were built on Elk Creek in Elkton to refine these agricultural products and the extensive trade of the region led to the construction of many frame and brick buildings around the square. These buildings contained businesses such as tobacco warehouses, hardware stores, harness stores, and blacksmith shops to support the local agricultural economy. Other businesses such as grocery stores, shoeshops, jewelry stores, and drug stores catered to both rural farmers and townspeople.

With the absence of a major waterway, goods were transported by stage on several lines that extended throughout the county with Elkton serving as the main shipping point. Excellent roads extended in all directions and Elkton also became a well known stage coach stop on the roads connecting Greenville and Clarksville to the north and south and Bowling Green and Hopkinsville to the east and west. To take advantage of the brisk stage coach trade a number of well known hotels operated on the public square both before and after the Civil War.

During the Civil War, most Elkton citizens were Confederate sympathizers and sent a number of men into the Kentucky infantry of the Army of Tennessee. Although no major engagements were fought near the community, both Confederate and Union troops occupied the area. In 1865, the Elkton courthouse served as headquarters for the Union Army.

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Elkton prospered in the years following the war. In 1866, the Bank of Elkton was chartered under directors James T. Clark, G. B. Lewis and John W. Lewis, who were local merchants. In 1871, the courthouse was remodelled during which time the mansard roof tower was added. That same year, the Elkton Railroad Company was incorporated and $25,000 was raised by public subscription to finance an eleven mile line south to a junction with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad at Guthrie. The right of way of obtained and the road bed completed, but the line was not placed in operation until 1885. In 1876, Elkton's population was 700. The town boasted a steam flouring mill, four churches, a public school, daily mail, stage lines, and a newspaper.

With the completion of the railroad line in 1885, Elkton grew in prominence with the population climbing to over 1,200. The 1886 Sanborn Map of the square shows solid rows of brick and frame buildings including three hotels, a bank, and an opera house. Many of these buildings were destroyed by a fire that ravaged the square's northwest, north, and east sides in late 1886. Within a few years new buildings were constructed on their site and several of these still exist, reflecting detailing of the period. The Bank of Elkton was constructed with Romanesque brick arches, multi-colored glass transoms, and elaborate brick corbelling. The Elkton Hotel Company was formed and constructed a three-story building with a straight mansard roof, bracketed cornice, and arched dormers. While the building is extant today, its facades were remodeled in 1929. Another notable building of the period was the Elkton Opera House built on the southwest corner of the square in 1884. It was the site of many theatrical and musical performances until about 1912 when it was used for a public skating rink.

Elkton was the undisputed commercial and governmental center of the county in the late nineteenth century. Other communities in the county such as Guthrie, Allensville, and Clifty grew and prospered in these years but never achieved or sustained the commercial dominance of Elkton. Most county lawyers practiced in Elkton and county government centered around the courthouse and the public square. Elkton's second bank, the Farmers and Merchants, was opened in 1890 by a group of prominent businessmen, including merchants S. H. Perkins, S. H. Wells, and E. B. Weathers. Many new brick buildings housing retail and wholesale businesses were erected in these years and on into the early 1900s. The polychromed Union Benevolent Society Building on the square's northeast corner was built in 1911 after a fire consumed a grocery store there. The UBS was a black lodge formed in Elkton many years before and served as a lodge hall for the community's black citizens. The Farmers and Merchants Bank razed their original building on the square's south side and built a larger brick building on the same site in 1915. Constructed with Colonial Revival influences it retains its rich marble and walnut interior features.

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By the 1920s, the majority of the present buildings on the square had been constructed and few new buildings were erected over the next several decades. The J. H. Ramsey Furniture store was erected on the west side around 1926, as was the Todd County Standard building on the square's north side. Both buildings were constructed of brick with minimal decoration on the upper facade. At the end of the decade the Elkton Hotel changed ownership and underwent extensive exterior and interior alterations. The main facades were rebricked, the original mansard roof was obscured and it was renamed the Jefferson Davis Hotel. With the coming of the Depression, no major building was constructed on the square in the 1930s.

In recent decades the major change to the public square has been the demolition of several buildings on the south side of the square for parking lots. All other sides of the square retain their early 20th century appearance and only a few modern buildings have been constructed in recent years. Most non-contributing buildings in the district are pre-1940 structures which have been altered with added materials. In the 1970s the courthouse was vacated by the Todd County government but remains integral to the community as its public library. Also in the 1970s the Jefferson Davis Hotel was closed although shops continue to occupy the first floor.

The Elkton Commercial Historic District remains an active business center and contains Todd County's most significant historic commercial architecture. The historic commercial sections of Allensville, Guthrie, and Clifty have lost many of their original buildings and alterations have been extensive. Most buildings in Elkton continue to be occupied by retail stores, businesses and professional offices. Few intrusions are in the district and it contains a cohesive grouping of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings. The Elkton Commercial Historic District is an important architectural, historical, and commercial resource of Elkton and Todd County, Kentucky.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Elkton Commercial Historic District is illustrated as the heavy black line on the accompanying district sketch map and Todd County property map. The boundary includes all of the following lots: Map 3, Block 5, lots 1, 4, 5, 6; Map 3, Block 8, lots 1 and 6; Map 3, Block 7, lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9; Map 2, Block 7, lots 1, 2, 3, 18A, 4, 5, 6, 7; Map 2, Block 4, lots 41, 42, 48, 49, 50, and 51.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundary for the Elkton Commercial Historic District includes all properties which are oriented towards the public square. Also included is a contiguous pre-1940 commercial building on South Main Street. These buildings represent the most significant unaltered masonry commercial structures which comprise the court square area. Buildings outside the district are either substantially altered pre-1940 commercial buildings, post-1940 commercial buildings, or residential structures.
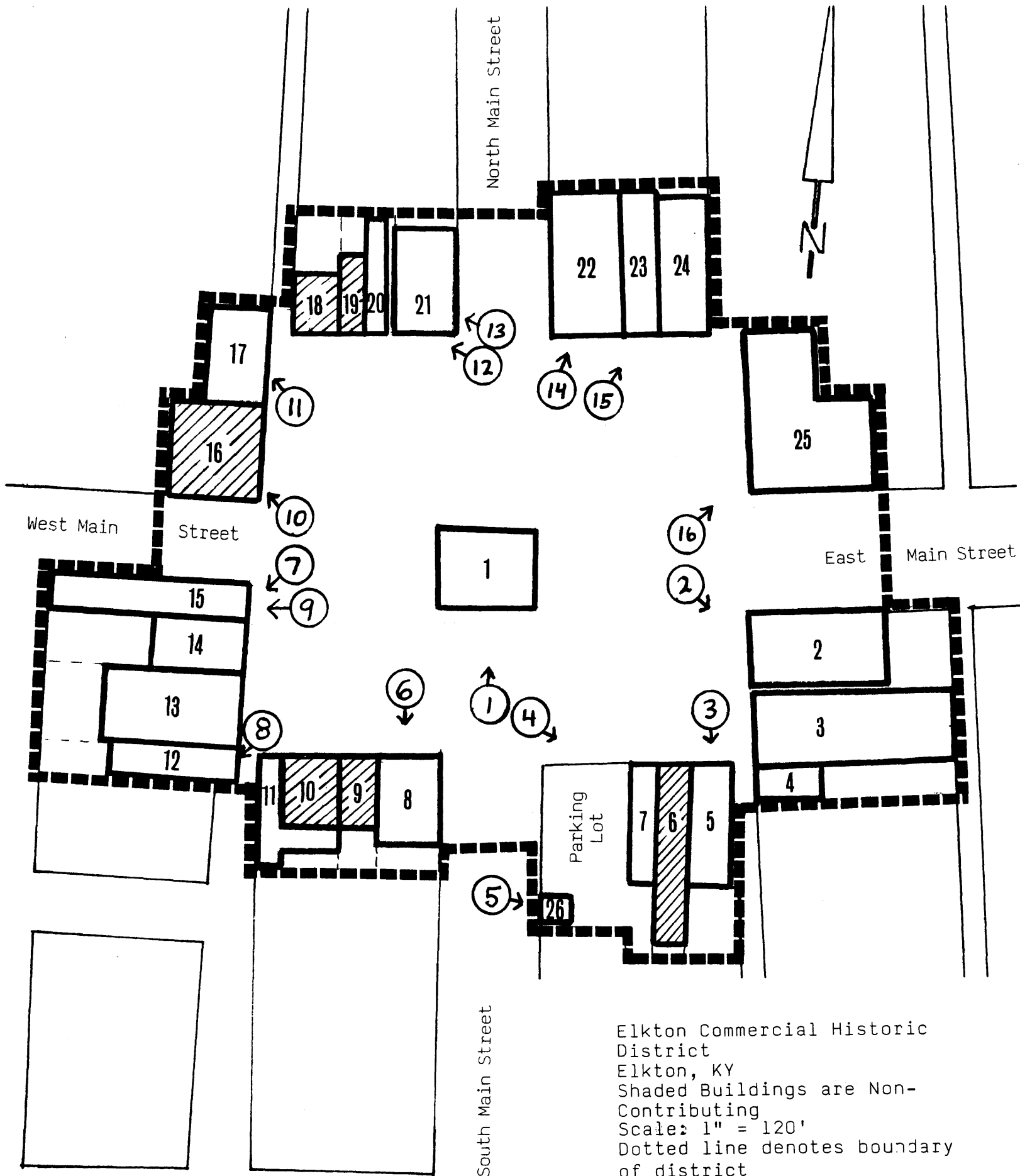
Elkton Commercial Historic
District
Elkton, KY
Shaded Buildings are Non-
Contributing
Scale: 1" = 120'
Dotted line denotes boundary
of district
Photo key as shown