

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **MAY 10 1983**  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic ~~HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CLOVERPORT, BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY, KENTUCKY~~ <sup>MRA</sup>  
and/or common

2. Location

street & number Cloverport Area \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Cloverport \_\_\_ vicinity of  
state Kentucky code 021 county Breckinridge code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership  
street & number  
city, town \_\_\_ vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Breckinridge County Courthouse  
street & number Main Street  
city, town Hardinsburg state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date January 1983  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council, Capital Plaza Tower  
city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

# 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**

The Historic Resources of Cloverport consists of the Cloverport Historic District, the Conrad House, the Fisher Homestead, and the Skillman House, three individual dwellings located outside of the corporate limits of the town. The district comprises the core of the town's nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture, and consists of 24 blocks.

Cloverport is a small river town nestled in a bend of the Ohio River with a population of 1,585, it is the second largest town in Breckinridge County, a river county in the northwestern section of Kentucky. The county is predominately rural with 94.5 percent of the land in forests, pastures, and croplands. Hardinsburg, the seat of government with a population of 2,211, and located in the center of the county, fourteen miles southeast of Cloverport, is the largest town in Breckinridge County. Until 1960 Cloverport was the largest town in the county, and historically the town has been the commercial center and major river port of Breckinridge County. Twenty-eight miles to the west is Owensboro, the only metropolitan center in the region, and ninety miles to the east is the large urban center of Louisville. Tell City, Indiana, located across the Ohio River, is a large town of 8,704.

The district is bounded on the north by the Ohio River, on the east and west by residential areas, and on the south by Clover Creek and residential areas. US 60 which is Main Street is the major thoroughfare through the town.

Although ranging from the first quarter of the nineteenth century to 1930, the greatest percentage of the buildings were constructed during the last three decades of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century. Of the one hundred twenty-one buildings included within the district boundaries, eighty-three are dwellings, five are municipal buildings, twenty-nine are commercial structures, and four are churches. Over half of the buildings are of frame construction, and thirty-three structures are of brick, primarily the commercial, municipal and church structures. Seventy-three of 83 dwellings documented in the comprehensive survey of the town are of frame construction, with only seven brick houses, two sandstone structures, and one log house. The district is very cohesive and there are only six non-contributing structures within the boundaries. Non-contributing buildings are: the Cloverport Baptist Church, constructed in 1953, on the south side of West Main Street; 222 West Main Street, a single-story concrete block building constructed in 1958 on the south side of West Main Street; the Ashland gas station on the south side of East Main Street at the corner of Maple Street; the Wesleyan Church on the north side of East Main Street at the corner of Maple Street; the Sunoco gas station on the south side of East Main Street at the corner of Locust Street; the Cloverport Post Office on the east side of North Poplar Street; and a municipal playground on the north side of the West Main Street commercial block.

The Cloverport Historic District represents a diversity of architectural styles. The oldest structure is a simple one-and-one-half, single-pen log house situated on the east bank of Clover Creek, the first settlement area in the town. There are several good representations of Federal style vernacular dwellings, primarily single-story houses of frame construction (see photo #1). Excellent examples of the Greek Revival style abound in the river community. A significant illustration of the style is a two-story house of sandstone construction situated on Elm Street (see photo #2). Other pre-Civil War architectural styles include a few Italianate style buildings as well as several I-houses of frame construction.

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Yet, the majority of the structures in the district were constructed during the last three decades of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century. The major reason for the later construction of many of the buildings especially in the early twentieth century was the disastrous fire in March 1901 which devastated both the commercial and residential areas of Main Street. Over five and one-half blocks were destroyed by the fire. Rebuilding began immediately after the loss, and by early 1902 the entire commercial core of the town was completed. The newly constructed commercial buildings were of brick construction while the majority of the houses were of frame construction.

The majority of the buildings constructed after the Civil War are of various vernacular architectural styles. One of the most popular vernacular styles was the one and two-story frame T-Plan. Other vernacular structures are represented by the American Four-square and Princess Anne styles. Several Victorian style dwellings were constructed during this period, but are not as ornate as Victorian period houses in the larger urban centers.

The commercial core of Cloverport comprises one block of West Main Street between North Poplar Street and Elm Street. To the east and west of the commercial block are residential areas. The commercial buildings are primarily one and two-story brick structures. Fifteen of the buildings retain their original cast iron store fronts, all of which were manufactured by the George L. Mesker and Company, Architectural Irons Works of Evansville, Indiana, with the exception of one made by the Southern Iron Foundry Company of Owensboro, Kentucky. Many of the commercial buildings have similar store front motifs. Style nos. 301 and 302 from the George L. Mesker and Company catalogue were popular facade embellishments. The store owners made use of the cast-iron columns, sills, and lintels, and galvanized iron cornices, window caps, moldings and sills offered by the Mesker Company. Many of the commercial structures retain the original stamped steel ceilings also manufactured by Mesker.

The north side of West Main Street is comprised of primarily one-story brick commercial structures with two two-story brick buildings, dating from 1901 to 1930 (see photo #3). One of the more interesting buildings is the one-story brick structure executed in common bond, which housed the first automobile dealership in the town (see photo #3). A galvanized iron cornice and cast iron store front components enhance the facade. The Masonic Building, a two-story brick building at the eastern end of the block, is quite an impressive structure exhibiting a cast iron storefront and completed by a dentilled cornice accentuated by pilasters (see photo #4). Five round-headed windows enhanced by semi-circular arches pierce the upper level of the facade. Completing the north side of the commercial block is a two-story brick building originally constructed for the Breckinridge Savings Bank (see Photo #5). The common bond facade is enhanced by pilasters and pierced by straight-headed windows. A pediment and finials complete the cornice which is enhanced with tile sections. The municipal playground on the east side of the Cloverport Fire Department is the only non-contributing element on the north side.

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A densely built row of one and two-story brick structures constructed in 1901 and 1902 comprise the south side of the West Main Street commercial core (see Photo #6). Most of the buildings are three and six bays wide and display galvanized iron projecting bracketed cornices, cast iron storefronts and a variety of window treatments. No. 214 is a two-story brick building with a cast iron storefront, and projecting bracketed cornice of galvanized steel (see Photo #7). The facade is punctured by rectangular windows enhanced by galvanized steel window heads. No. 220 is a two-story, three-bay building of brick construction (see Photo #8). The facade is enhanced by a cast iron store front and projecting bracketed cornice of galvanized steel. Three straight-headed windows accentuated by limestone segmental arches and sills pierce the second floor.

The most impressive building on the south side of the commercial block is the Breckinridge Bank of Cloverport (see Photo #9). Constructed in 1925, the bank building, exhibits elements of the Romanesque style, and is the most architecturally significant building in the commercial core. The seven-bay facade is enhanced by windows with semi-circular arches, and the bays are delineated by paired pilasters with limestone caps and holds. There is one non-contributing building in the block, a single-story concrete block structure constructed in 1958, and situated on the east side of the old Yates Drug Store building.

West of the commercial core is the most architecturally significant residential area in the town. Situated on the south side of West Main Street with a clear view of the Ohio River are substantial two-story dwellings mainly of frame construction and two brick houses (see Photos 10, 11, & 12). Constructed from 1838 to 1902, the large dwellings with wonderful views of the Ohio River evoke a surreal feeling to the area. Divergent architectural styles from Greek Revival to Victorian as well as eclectic dwellings and vernacular architecture such as ornate T-plan housetypes and American Foursquare are represented in the West Main Street residential area. The Pate House situated at the east end of the area is a good example of the Greek Revival (see Photo #13). Built ca. 1838-1840, the two-story brick dwelling exhibits common bond brickwork, straight-headed windows accented by limestone lintels and sills and period entranceway with transom illustrates the elements of the Greek Revival style. Throughout the years the Pate House has been a private residence, a tavern, and a boarding house. During the Civil War, the house was used as a recruiting center for the Confederate Army.

No. 414 illustrates the eclectic building styles of the 1880's (see photo #14). The substantial two-story dwelling is an ornate version of the T-plan houseplan and incorporates elements of various architectural styles. Influences of the Greek Revival style are evident in the gables which are enhanced with moldings to suggest the pediment of a Greek temple, while the bay window placement and windows adorned by ornate cornices reflect elements of the Italiante style. No. 402 represents a variation of the Victorian style (see Photo #15). The asymmetrical massing of the dwelling and pyramidal roof incorporate elements of the style.

To the east of the commercial block, separated by Clover Creek from the western section of the town, is the East Main Street residential area comprised of one and two-story dwellings primarily of frame construction built from 1860 to 1901 (see photos 16, 17, 18,

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and 19). A single-span, cast-iron suspension bridge constructed in 1922 by the Pan-American Bridge Company of Newcastle, Indiana, spans Clover Creek linking the two sections (see Photo #20). It was here in the east end that the first settlements were established in the area and originally was named Joesville in honor of Joseph Huston, an early settler and merchant, who established a homestead and warehouse near the mouth of Clover Creek.

The dwellings are good representatives of vernacular architecture such as American Foursquare, Bungalow, and T-plan as well as formal styles of Italianate and Victorian. Situated on the north side of East Main Street is the Raitt House, a fine example of the Italianate style (see Photo #21). The two-story brick dwelling exhibits a common bond facade pierced by straight-headed windows accented by two-course rowlock arches and limestone sills, and accentuated by a projecting central pavillion embellished with a one-story, one-bay cast iron porch. No. 210, located on the south side of East Main Street is a good adaptation of the Victorian style (see Photo #22). The assymetrical massing and exterior embellishments emphasize the elements of the style. The Cloverport Presbyterian Church, situated on the north side of East Main Street, offers a good illustration of the Romanesque style (see Photos 23 & 24). Non-contributing buildings include the Ashland and Sunoco gas stations on the south side of East Main and the Wesleyan Church, a recently constructed structure on the north side.

One and two-story frame dwellings built from 1840 to 1900 are situated on Huston Street which runs parallel to Main Street. A variety of styles such as Greek Revival and Italianate as well as vernacular architecture are apparent in this area (see photos 25 and 26). Situated on the north side of Huston Street is a unique two-story frame dwelling classified as "river architecture" (see photo #27). The massing of the structure resembles a steamboat. Narrow rectangular windows pierce the facade, while two-story verandas enhanced by gingerbread trim give an esoteric quality to the building (see Photo 28). An excellent example of the Greek Revival style is located on the south side of Huston Street (see Photo 29). The two-story, side passage, frame structure exhibits straight-headed windows, and a denticulated & bracketed cornice with returns. Also on the south side of Huston Street is a two-story frame T-plan dwelling, a good illustration of vernacular architecture (see Photo 30). The facade is pierced by straight-headed windows enhanced by architrave trim, and exhibits exterior embellishments as fishscale shingling, tile roof, and a one-story porch accented by intricate gingerbread trim. At the west end of the street is a two-story Greek Revival dwelling of sandstone construction (see Photo #31). Another unique dwelling is found at the east end of Huston Street (see Photo #32). The two-story frame I-house is listed in the Guinness Book of Records because of its unusual exterior chimney complete with embellishments (see Photo #33).

St. Rose Catholic Church, a one and one-half story Gothic Revival structure of brick construction built in 1894, is situated on the east side of Chestnut at the intersection with Huston Street (see Photo #34). The structure is the third Catholic Church constructed in Cloverport. To the north of the church is the parsonage, a two-story frame T-plan also built in 1894. Behind the church, and located on the north side of Huston Street, is the St. Rose Catholic School, a single-story brick building constructed in 1916, and a two-story brick structure which served as living quarters for the nuns who taught at the school.

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Maple Street in the east end of Cloverport is comprised of one and two-story vernacular frame dwellings (see Photos 35, 36, & 37). The oldest house in Cloverport, a one and one-half story, single-pen log structure which has been weatherboarded, is situated on the west side of the street on the bank of Clover Creek.

One and two-story frame dwellings are situated on Locust Street also in the east end (see Photo # 2). The houses illustrate vernacular architecture such as American Foursquare and T-plan. (See Photo #38)

Completing the district are two significant houses on Elm Street. The Methodist Parsonage, a ca.1901 two-story brick structure situated on the east side of Elm Street, is the best representation of the Victorian style in Cloverport (see Photo 39). Also on the east side of the street, is an impressive Greek Revival dwelling (see Photo # 2). The single-pile, two-story sandstone structure with side passage is certainly the most significant Greek Revival building in Cloverport. Straight-headed windows accented by limestone lintels and sills puncture the sandstone facade embellished with an ornate bracketed and denticulated cornice. A later one-story Victorian style porch enhanced by gingerbread trim adds a pleasant element to the building (see Photo 40).

Included in the Historic Resources of Cloverport are three important individual dwellings located on the outskirts of the town. The houses are very significant to the architectural and historical overview of Cloverport. Situated on a rise overlooking the Cloverport-Hardinsburg Road (U.S. 60), the Fisher Homestead is one of the two best examples of the Federal style in the Cloverport area (see Photos 41 and 42). Constructed ca.1801, the one and one-half story brick structure exhibits a five-bay facade executed in common bond brickwork. The single-pile, center passage dwelling with interior gable-end chimneys has an impressive entrance enhanced by a twelve-pane fanlight with intricate reeding and highlighted by a semi-circular arch (see Photo 43). Nine-pane-over-nine windows accented by jack arch lintels pierce the facade. A unique architectural feature of the dwelling is a double window placement with sidelights, accentuated by a beautiful peacock fanlight found on the ell (see Photo 44).

The Conrad House, situated on a rise overlooking the Cloverport-Hawesville Road (U.S 60) on the western edge of the town, is a significant representation of the Federal style (see Photo 45). The one and one-half story brick dwelling features a single-pile, center passage plan. Constructed ca. 1820-1825, the five-bay facade is accented by Flemish bond brickwork and three pedimented dormer windows. All facade bays have jack arches.

Overlooking the Ohio River, the Skillman House, situated on the Tile Plant Road, is the outstanding Italianate dwelling in the Cloverport area (see Photos 46, 47, 48, & 49). The substantial side-passage, two-story brick structure, executed in common bond, was constructed after the Civil War. The three-bay facade is enhanced by a period entranceway, while facade windows are accented by limestone hood molds on the ground level and limestone label molds on the upper level (see Photo 50).

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The boundaries have been determined so as to encompass all of Cloverport's nineteenth century and early twentieth century commercial, residential and religious buildings which comprise a historic entity and an architectural unity.

The historic sites survey of Cloverport in Breckinridge County was conducted during the winter of 1983 by William G. Johnson, senior historian. The survey is part of a ten-year project of the Kentucky Heritage Commission to survey the state's historical and archaeological resources on a county-by-county basis. In addition, the Cloverport survey was initiated in preparation of possible environmental impact to the town resulting from the Breckinridge Coal Liquefaction Project.

National Register criteria were applied to all structures surveyed in Cloverport. Those sites meeting National Register criteria are included in this nomination and those not meeting the necessary criteria are omitted from the nomination. The survey process involved examining every standing structure in the town. To supplement the visual survey of Cloverport, published histories of the area were consulted, historical research was conducted in local and state depositories, and local historians and owners of properties were interviewed to identify properties possessing local significance. City and U.S.G.S. maps were used for Cloverport and the three individual sites. Individual structures that met minimum standards of architectural or historical significance were described, documented, mapped, photographed, site plans drawn and given a site identification number consisting of the Smithsonian designation for Breckinridge County, BC, and a number. All of this information was recorded on Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form.

Following the completion of the field survey, interviews, and historical research, each site was evaluated and placed in one of three categories: National Register (those sites meeting National Register criteria individually), Kentucky Survey and Inventory. The Historic Resources of Cloverport nomination includes all sites which individually qualified for the National Register as well as sites which contributed to a cohesive Cloverport Historic District.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1801 - 1930

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Resources of Cloverport are significant for their historical association with the cultural development of Breckinridge County, as well as the development of the town as the major commercial and cultural center, and river port in the county.

Established in 1799 as the thirty-ninth county in Kentucky, Breckinridge County was originally settled by people from the Monogahela Valley of Pennsylvania. Joseph Huston was one of the first settlers in the Cloverport area and established a homestead on the east bank of the mouth of Clover Creek. In 1801, Huston petitioned the Breckinridge County Court to establish a town on the east bank of the creek. The town was named Joesville (Joeville) in honor of Joseph Huston. The first wharf in the area was built in Joesville, which served as a trading center for the county. In 1800, by an act of the Kentucky Legislature, inspection stations for flour, hemp, and tobacco were established at the mouth of Clover Creek. Four years later inspection stations for beef and pork were established at the mouth of Clover Creek by the General Assembly.

From 1800 to 1830 Joesville was the commercial and shipping center in the county. Settlements were being made on the west side of Clover Creek, and within a few years the west end had become the major shipping center in the county. In 1825 the Kentucky General Assembly enacted legislation for the selection of trustees for Cloverport, so named because of the lush growth of clover on the banks of the creek.

In 1816 Abraham Lincoln's family crossed the Ohio River at Cloverport enroute to Spencer County, Indiana, in search of better farmland. From 1825-30 the young Lincoln was a ferryman on the Anderson River skiff near Troy, Indiana.

The advent of riverboats and river transportation was the major stimulus for the growth of Cloverport and the town's development as the major commercial center and river port in the county. By 1850 there were two wharves, several warehouses, and several mercantile establishments in Cloverport. The growing prosperity of the town was evident in the buildings constructed during this time. The Pate House, a significant Greek Revival brick dwelling built ca. 1838-40 on West Main Street, reflected the new prosperity in Cloverport.

In the 1830s abundant supplies of cannel coal were discovered near Cloverport and mining operations were begun at this time. The American Cannel Coal Company was incorporated by the Kentucky Legislature in 1838. The mining of cannel coal provided another economic stimulus for the growth of the town. A "short line" railroad was constructed to transport the coal to the Cloverport shipping wharves. Within a few years, it was discovered that coal oil could be produced from the cannel coal. In 1851 the world's first coal-to-oil "refinery" was constructed near Cloverport. The first retort was built by the Breckinridge Cannel Coal Company, incorporated in 1854 by the Kentucky Legislature. In 1857 the retort burned and the company was reorganized and taken over by a government agency, which built a new retort at Cloverport which produced 6,000 gallons of coal oil per week. Some of the oil was shipped to Great Britain to light the palace of Queen Victoria.

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Cloverport continued to prosper after the Civil War because of the importance of river transportation and the cannel coal operations. Cannel coal from Cloverport was exhibited at the 1896 Columbian Centennial, and was judged the best cannel coal in the world.

The construction of the railroad in the late 1880s was the major impact for Cloverport in the post Civil War period. Constructed by the Louisville, St. Louis and Texas Railroad, the new mode of transportation was a significant stimulus to the continued prosperity of the town. The addition of rail transportation with the established river transportation were significant for the economic growth of the town. This is evident in the dwellings constructed during this period and the commercial core of the town.

In 1896 the railroad was reorganized as the Louisville, Henderson, and St. Louis Railroad, and by the turn of the century substantial railroad shops were constructed at the western end of the town. The location of the railroad shops in Cloverport contributed significantly to the economic impact of rail transportation in the town. This prosperity was evident by the substantial dwellings constructed on West Main Street. The commercial core of Cloverport, comprised of impressive two and three story brick buildings with Italianate elements, also reflected the new prosperity brought about by the railroad.

Concurrent to the economic stimulus of rail transportation, were the establishment of three brick factories in Cloverport. The Patton Brick Works, the first brick industry located in Cloverport, was established by Alfred Morgan in 1889. In 1891 the Cloverport Brick and Paving Works and the Acme Brick Company were organized, and began production of brick products. The Acme Brick Company soon became the largest of the three brick companies, and in 1906 was reorganized as the Murray Tile and Roofing Company. Murray Tile Company prospered through the years, and in 1959 merged with American Olean Corporation. Despite the economic recession of the past decade, American Olean has prospered, and is the only remaining industry in the Cloverport area.

In addition to the economic stimulus of rail transportation, the brick industries, river transportation, and the dwindling cannel coal industry, natural gas supplies were discovered in Cloverport. In 1884 the Cloverport Gas Company sank its first successful well on the west bank of Clover Creek. An abundant natural gas supply had been discovered, and the citizens of Cloverport soon made extravagant use of the new energy source. By 1889 the first well was exhausted, but new natural gas supplies were discovered in the Clover Creek Valley by the Mineral Gas Company.

The extravagant and haphazard use of natural gas soon precipitated a disaster which almost destroyed the town. In March 1901 a leaky gas pipe exploded igniting a disastrous fire which devastated Cloverport. Five and one-half city blocks including the commercial core were destroyed by the fire. Seventy-three dwellings and commercial buildings, three tobacco warehouses, and a flour mill, and a hotel were lost in the calamity.

Rebuilding was begun immediately and within a year a majority of the buildings in the commercial block of West Main Street had been constructed including an opera house. The new commercial buildings were one and two-story structures of brick construction. In keeping with the vernacular styles of the day, fifteen of the commercial buildings were embellished with cast iron store fronts, manufactured by the George L. Mesker and

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Company of Evansville, Indiana. The Masonic Building, a two-story brick structure at the eastern end of the commercial block, exhibiting a cast iron store front (see Photo #4) & No. 214, a two-story building of brick construction situated on the south side of West Main Street, featuring a cast iron store front, a projecting bracketed cornice of galvanized steel and bays enhanced by galvanized steel window header (see Photo #7), illustrated the popularity of factory-produced architectural elements in vogue at the time.

Dwellings lost in the fire on both sides of the commercial core were replaced by houses of vernacular styles such as American Foursquare, Bungalow, and T-plan. American Foursquare and T-plan house types were the most popular styles rebuilt after the fire. The majority of the new dwellings were of frame construction.

The first three decades of the twentieth century were the most prosperous in Cloverport's history. The location of the railroad shops in Cloverport brought about the new era of prosperity. By the 1920's the population of Cloverport had grown to 3900.

The economic boom of the early twentieth century came to an abrupt end in 1929 when the Louisville, Henderson and St. Louis Railroad was acquired by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The devastating blow to Cloverport's economy resulted when the L & N closed the railroad shops. The loss of the railroad shops, the main source of employment in the town resulted in a loss of population as citizens left Cloverport to find employment elsewhere.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 77

Quadrangle name Cloverport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References for Cloverport Historic District. UTM References for the 3 individual sites outside of the district are listed on the individual KY Historic Resources Inventory Forms.

A 

1	6	5	3	1	8	1	6	0	4	1	8	7	4	1	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			Zone			Easting			Northing			

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing			Zone			Easting			Northing			

B 

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

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing			Zone			Easting			Northing			

C 

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

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing			Zone			Easting			Northing			

D 

1	6	5	3	1	9	0	0	0	4	1	8	7	2	2	0	
Zone	Easting			Northing			Zone			Easting			Northing			

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing			Zone			Easting			Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Gus Johnson, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date February 1983

street & number 9th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 564-7005

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky 40601

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Mary Corman Spel*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-21-83

For NPS use only

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

*See Continuation sheet for listing* date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

date entered

Historic Resources of Cloverport

Continuation sheet Breckinridge County, KY.

Item number

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Acts of the Kentucky General Assembly Pertaining to Breckinridge County & Cloverport.  
1799-Act 182; 1800-Act 280; 1804-Act 252; 1822-Act 507; 1831-Act 448; 1834-Act  
420; 1835-Act 733; 1837-Act 206; 1838-Act 827; 1844-Act 173; 1851-Act 418; 1854-  
Act 149; 1836-Act 312; 1860-Acts 192, 496, and 636; 1861-Act 113; 1865-Act 1344;  
1867-Act 1335; 1868-Act 1153; 1876-Act 212; 1884-Acts 175 and 234; 1888-Act 942;  
1890-Acts 3 and 1135.

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and his family through Hardin and Breckinridge Counties, Kentucky to Indiana in  
1816." Breckinridge News. Cloverport, 1938.

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

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

Historic Resources of Cloverport

Continuation sheet Breckinridge Co., Kentucky Item number 10

Page 2

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The Cloverport Historic District comprises twenty-four city blocks and covers an area of approximately seventy-seven acres. The district is bounded by West Main Street and the rear property lines of buildings on East and West Main Street on the north; Lynn Street on the east; the rear property lines of buildings on East and West Huston Street and Third Street on the south; and by Chestnut Street and the rear property lines of buildings on Chestnut Street on the west.

Beginning at a point on the north side of west Main Street proceed 1300 feet in a north-eastward direction along West Main Street; thence 200 feet in a northward direction; thence 2200 feet in a northeastward direction along the rear property lines of buildings on East and West Main Street; thence 200 feet in a southeast direction along the east side of Lynn Street; thence 200 feet in a northeastward direction along the north side of the 300 block of East Main Street; thence 620 feet in a southeastward direction along the rear property lines of buildings on Lynn Street; thence 2700 feet in a westward direction along the rear property lines of buildings on Huston Street; thence 400 feet in a southward direction along the rear property lines of buildings on Center Street; thence 1100 feet in a westward direction along the rear property lines of buildings on Third Street; thence 610 feet in a northward direction along the west side of Chestnut Street; thence 200 feet in a westward direction; thence 360 feet in a northward direction along the rear property lines of buildings on Chestnut Street; thence 225 feet in an eastward direction; thence 160 feet in a northward direction to the point of origin.

The boundaries have been determined so as to encompass all of Cloverport's nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial, religious, and residential buildings which comprise a historic entity and an architectural unity.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Cloverport Multiple Resource Area  
State Kentucky

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |                                 |                                     |               |                              |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 117 | 1. Cloverport Historic District | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/21/83</u> |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
| 118 | 2. Skillman House               | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/21/83</u> |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
| 119 | 3. Oglesby-Conrad House         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/21/83</u> |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
| 120 | 4. Fisher Homestead             | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/21/83</u> |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
|     | 5.                              |                                     | Keeper        | _____                        |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
|     | 6.                              |                                     | Keeper        | _____                        |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
|     | 7.                              |                                     | Keeper        | _____                        |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
|     | 8.                              |                                     | Keeper        | _____                        |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
|     | 9.                              |                                     | Keeper        | _____                        |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |
|     | 10.                             |                                     | Keeper        | _____                        |
|     |                                 |                                     | Attest        | _____                        |