

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JUL 27 1984

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received date entered AUG | 6 1984

KY. HERITAGE National Register of Historic Ptaces **Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

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1. Nam	ne				
historic Mayf	field Downtown Co	ommercial D	istrict		
and/or common	N/A				
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	' Doughly hounds	ed by North	Water Eth	and Oth Street	not for publication
	nought, south	ed by NOI EN		and 9th Streets	<u> </u>
	yfield		_ vicinity of	congressional distr	
state Kentud		code	county	Graves	code
	sification				
Category _X_ district building(s) structure site object	OwnershipX_publicX_privateboth Public Acquisition _n/ain process _n/abeing considere	wo AccessX_ yes	occupied rk in progress	Present Use agricultureX commercial educational entertainmen _X government industrial military	museum park private residence t X religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prop	ertv			
name Multip	ple Owners				
street & number	N/A				
city, town N//			vicinity of		ite N/A
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal De	scription	on	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Graves Coun	ty Courthou	se	
street & number	Public Square				
city, town	Mayfield			sta	te Kentucky
 	resentatio	n in Ex	cisting	Surveys	
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· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	of Historic Site		nas tnis pro	pperty been determine	
date Octobe	er - December, 1	983		federal X	state county loc
depository for su	urvey records Kent	ucky Herita	ge Council		
city, town	aducah			sta	ate Kentucky

7. Description

Condition Check one Lunaltered	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mayfield Downtown Commercial District in Graves County, Kentucky, covers a nine block area comprised of Victorian and Classical Revival commercial, religious, governmental, and industrial buildings. Mayfield is the largest city in Graves County and the second largest city in the Jackson Purchase region. Downtown Mayfield was laid out in 1824 in a grid system with a county courthouse occupying the central square block of the downtown and commercial buildings facing the courthouse on all four sides. Most of the buildings around the courthouse square date from 1880 to 1910. Victorian commercial buildings also line the various side streets. Individual buildings contributing to the district are two churches, a hotel, a post office, a fraternal building containing a theatre, a block-long factory building, and an Art Deco gas station.

The most significant landmark in Mayfield and the surrounding county is the Graves County Courthouse. The building, with its commanding clock tower and surrounding public square, makes up the heart of downtown Mayfield. The courthouse is a massive brick two-story building dominated by an octagonal clock tower. The rectangular windows of the building are topped by painted stone lintels and Italianate window hoods. A one-story front portico serves as an entranceway to the courthouse. The most notable interior feature is an intricate iron stairway leading up to a second story courtroom. Much of the interior walls have been covered by modern panelling. In 1930, a rear jail addition was added to the building.

The four sides of the square are lined with Victorian commercial buildings. Most of these buildings are two to three stories tall and have such details as brick corbelling, arched winodws, stone window lintels, and cast iron attic grates. Unfortunately, the first floor facades of most of the buildings have been severely modernized.

The north side of the Mayfield square holds the most architectural significance of the four sides. The buildings on this side of the square have a remarkable visual continuity because of the common use of buff-colored brick on theri facades. The buildings range in height from one to four stories.

The most significant structure on this side of the square is the four-story Lochridge and Ridgway Building at 123 E. Broadway. The most distinctive feature of this building is a sheet-metal cornice reading STOVES, FURNITURE, PLOWS. This combination of cornice and advertising sign is a rare surviving example in the Jackson Purchase of a once common building feature. The Lochridge and Ridgway Building is also graced by large arched windows on the third and fourth floors and a painted advertisement sign on the east and west elevations.

The east side of downtown Mayfield's square is comprised of a row of two-story brick buildings constructed in a gradually descending order to follow the contour of a hill. These buildings exhibit such simple details as brick corbelled cornices, cast-iron attic vents, arched second-story windows, and stone window lintels.

A row of two and three-story buildings make up the south side of the square. Most of these buildings share a common feature of rectangular windows topped by stone lintels. The Carter Brothers Building has a distinctive sheet-metal cornice reading Carter Brothers 1896. All of the buildings on this side of the square also have intricate iron attic ventilation grates.

Several of the buildings on the west side of the square have been severely altered. Third stories have been removed from such buildings as 109-111 South 7th and 115 South 7th. Two buildings on this side of the square were destroyed by fire in the 1970s, leaving the only gap on the square. The empty lots have been converted into a downtown park by a local

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1799 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art _X commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen X industry	landscape architect law literature military music	COMMISSIONITATION COMMISSIONITATION Theater transportation
· :		invention		other (specify)
Specific dates	1875-1934	Builder/Architect Va	rious	

NEABIN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The downtown area of Mayfield, Kentucky has been the governmental, social, and commercial center for Graves County since the creation of the county in 1821. Downtown Mayfield has remained an active commercial district that continues to serve as an economic center for the surrounding agricultural area. The downtown district has a centrally located, Victorian courthouse with commercial buildings facing the courthouse on all four sides. Included in the surrounding buildings are a downtown hotel, two churches, a fraternal building containing the first movie theatre in Mayfield and a factory building associated with one of Mayfield's most important industries.

An act of the Kentucky State Legislature in 1821 fixed the boundaries of Graves County and designated Mayfield as the county seat. On March 27, 1824, the original plat of the town was recorded and signed by the first Board of Trustees. The original survey, completed by Mayfield's first settler John Anderson, showed thirty-five blocks, with seventy-two lots and a public square. Nine streets crossed each other at right angles, five running east and west, and four north and south.

The growth of the town was slow until its importance as a retail business center became established in the 1830s and 1840s. By 1845 Mayfield had a population of several hundred and was know as the second most important city in the Jackson Purchase, after Paducah. The growth of the town as a tobacco market contributed to its development. The completion of the Memphis, New Orleans, and Northern Railroad in 1854 through Mayfield also encouraged commercial growth.

By 1885 Downtown Mayfield contained ten dry goods stores, thirteen grocery stores, four drug stores, three candy stores, three hardware stores, one bookstore, two newspapers, two agricultureal warehouses, two jewelry stores, one saddle and leather store, and several general merchandise stores. The town also contained one large tobacco warehouse, three hotels, six livery stables, two large flour mills, one marble dealer, two furniture stores, and several blacksmiths and wagon makers' shops.

The first bank in Mayfield opened in 1859 and operated until 1864. The First National Bank of Mayfield was established in May, 1875, with a capital of \$100,000. This bank stands today in an Art Deco structure at the corner of Seventh and Broadway. The Bank of Mayfield was established in 1883 with a capital of \$100,000.

Four courthouse buildings have stood on the public square in Mayfield. The first was a log structure. This was replaced in 1834 by a two-story brick structure constructed for \$5,400. The courthouse was burned in 1864 by Confederate soldiers. The following year, a courthouse building fund was created through a special property tax of 15 cents for each \$100 worth of property. The courthouse that was completed and formally received by a building committee in November, 1866, was described as a "2-story brick structure, containing a commodious court room, jury room, three county offices, and is a substantial and imposing temple of justice". This structure later burned and the fourth, and present, Graves County Courthouse was erected in December, 1888 at a cost of \$40,000. This cost included an iron fence placed around the public square. During construction of this courthouse, the court was held in the old opera house at Sixth and South Street. The Graves County Courthouse remains one of the oldest and

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Battle, J.H., Perrin, W.H. and Kniffen, G.C. - <u>Histories and Biographies of Ballard, Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, McCracken and Marshall Counties, Kentucky; Louisville, Chicago:</u>
F.A. Battery Publishing Co. 1885. Davis, D. Trabue - <u>Story of Mayfield Through a Century</u>
1823-1923. Paducah: Billings Printing Company 1923.

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10. Geographica	ii Data		
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name/title Richard Holland, P organization Paducah-McCracken street & number 126 South Seco	County Growth, Inc	c. date Decemb	ber 28, 1983 (502) 443-9284
city or town Paducah		state Kent	tucky
12. State Histor	c Preserva	tion Office	r Certification
The evaluated significance of this property national As the designated State Historic Preserved.	stateX_location Officer for the N	ational Historic Preservat	
665), I hereby nominate this property f according to the criteria and procedure State Historic Preservation Officer sign	es set forth by the Natio	nal Park Service.	at it has been evaluated
title State Hestar Preserve		Morgan	ate July 31, 1984
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property Allower Sycu		nal Register	ster : 8-16-54
Keeper of the National Register		rana arrat at arr	

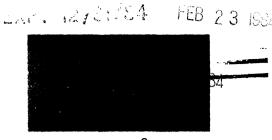
MPS Form 10-900-a (7-81)

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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Mayfield Downtown Commercial District

Continuation sheet Graves County, Kentucky Item number



age 2

beautification board. The building at 109-111 South 7th does have one of the few visible cast-iron storefronts on the square. Also surviving is a neon street sign advertisement for Lindsey's Jewelers. The time on the painted clock face is perpetually set for 8:20.

7.

There are also several architecturally significant individual buildings in the Downtown Mayfield District. The Hall Hotel has been a visual and historic landmark at the corner of Broadway and 7th Streets since its construction in 1930. This five-story, Classical Revival building is noted for the graceful arched bays on the first floor street elevations. These bays allow light and entranceways into the hotel's lobby, restaurant, and commercial areas. The interior of the hotel retains such original features as a darkly stained main entranceway, marble floors, tile bathroom fixtures, and Art Deco light fixtures.

Another Mayfield landmark constructed in 1930 is the American Legion Building. This huge brick building has granite pilasters and facing reading AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING on the facade. The interior of the building is divided into several areas, with meeting rooms on the bottom level. The second level is comprised of a basketball court and an audience gallery. The top level is devoted to Mayfield's first movie theatre.

The American Legion Building was the first example of steel frame construction in Mayfield. During construction, a massive steel beam was put into place and the balcony laid to rest on it. During the 1960s, the theatre was converted into a bowling alley, with the main level seating and the stage being removed and bowling lanes installed. There is currently an effort by local citizens to restore the theatre for a community auditorium.

The Downtown Mayfield District includes two significant church buildings. The gothic First Baptist Church with its stone tower dominates the corner of 6th Street and South Street. This church has a pair of arched entranceways and a matching arched window with graceful stone tracery. A stone education annex is connected to the main church building. The main building of the First Methodist Church boasts a massive front portico supported by six Ionic columns. This church also has an outstanding collection of stained glass windows.

The Merit Clothing Company once occupied a block long brick complex between South Street and Water Street. This three-story industrial building exhibits few architectural details besides an arched entranceway, large windows, and flat brick pilasters that break up wall space.

There is also one remnant of the early automobile age in Mayfield. This is a red and white glazed tile, Art Deco gas station at the corner of 8th Street and Water Street.

The surrounding side streets in downtown Mayfield are lined with contributing Victorian buildings, plus such modern intrusions as parking lots and a contemporary bank building. These intrusions tend to be on the edge of the district and do not detract from its overall integrity.

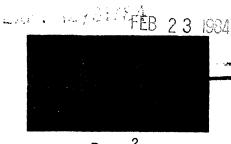


United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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Mayfield Downtown Commercial District

Continuation sheet Graves County, Kentucky Item number 8.



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most architecturally impressive courthouses in Western Kentucky. The courthouse with its lofty clock tower serves as a symbol for Mayfield and Graves County.

The five-story Hall Hotel was constructed in 1930 at the corner of Seventh and Broadway on the site of an earlier Hall Hotel. This hotel was built to cater to travelling salesmen and business men passing through Mayfield. For forty years, the Hall Hotel, with its dining room and meeting rooms, was the social center of Mayfield. Many fo the leading families in Mayfield also lived in the hotel.

Another downtown landmark, the American Legion Building, was also constructed in 1930. This building contained the first movie theatre in Mayfield. A 1920s book on future growth for Mayfield stated that it was "the intention of American Legionaires to erect on South Seventh Street, a community auditorium, club room and rest room for ladies. When completed, it will be an ornament to the city and a fitting memorial and testimonial to the boys who were 'over there' before the signing of the armistice". The estimated cost of the American Legion building was \$30,000 to \$40,000. The building continues today to be headquarters for the Mayfield American Legion, but the theatre section of the building was converted into a bowling alley in the 1960s.

The block-long Merit Manufacturing Company Building at Fifth and South Street was the site for over seventy years of one of Mayfield's most important industries. The original Merit Pant Company was organized on October 1, 1899 and began business in an upper story room. In 1900 the company was incorporated and the two-story brick factory on Fifth Street built. A stone plaque above the entranceway to the factory recognizes D.R. Merritt as president and Z.T. Long as vice-president of the company. The company manufactured such products as "American Gentlemen Trousers", "Pony Boy Suits", and "Merit Hi-School Suits". Merit pants were known all over the nation. In 1923 it was estimated that 7,500 merchants sold Merit pants and one million men wore them. The Merit Company continued to operate until the late 1970s.

Two church structures on Eighth Street are part of the Downtown Mayfield district. The First United Methodist Church building was constructed in 1919-20 at a cost of \$100,000. The church building was described as being "the most beautiful and stately building in the city, being built from the most modern architectural designs". Organized in 1844, First Baptist Church was the second religious organization formed in Mayfield. The present church buildings was constructed in 1900-01 at a cost of \$40,000.

Various commercial buildings on the Mayfield public square possess great significance. The Lochridge and Ridgway firm at 123 E. Broadway began business over fifty years ago as dealers in plows, furniture, and kitchen equipment. The firm now deals mainly in furniture. Newberrys at 100 South 6th was for many years Mayfield's most important general merchandise store. The Exchange Bank at the corner of Seventh and Broadway is another Mayfield institution.



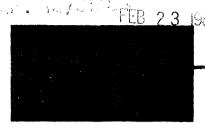
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the northeast corner of 6th and Water Streets, it proceeds in an eastern direction 3 blocks to the northwest corner of 9th and Water Streets, it proceeds in a northern direction two blocks to the southwest corner of 9th and Broadway, it proceeds in a western direction to the southwest corner of 8th and Broadway, it proceeds in a northern direction to the southwest corner of 8th and North Streets, it proceeds in a western direction three blocks to the beginning point at the southeast corner of 5th and North Streets.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Survey Number	Address	Owner	Owner's Address
_	Address N. 7th & Broadway 124 N. 7th 118 N. 7th 103 S. 7th 109-111 S. 7th 113 S. 7th 117 S. 7th 127 S. 7th 121 S. 7th 101 E. Broadway 107-111 E. Broadway 113 E. Broadway 123 E. Broadway 124 E. Broadway 129 E. Broadway 129 E. Broadway 120 E. Broadway 121 E. Broadway 121 E. Broadway 122 E. Broadway 123 E. Broadway 124 E. Broadway 125 E. Broadway 126 E. Broadway 127 E. Broadway 128 E. Broadway 129 E. Broadway 129 E. Broadway 120 E. Broadway 121 E. Broadway 122 E. Broadway 123 E. Broadway 124 E. Broadway 125 E. Gth St. 110 S. 6th St. 112-114 S. 6th St. 112-114 S. 6th St. 112 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 121 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 121 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 121 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 121 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 121 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 121 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 121 S. 6th St. 122 S. 6th St. 123 S. 6th St. 124 S. 6th St. 125 S. 6th St. 126 S. 6th St. 127 S. 6th St. 128 S. 6th St. 129 S. 6th St. 120 S. 6th St. 1	Usher & Gardner Estate Howard Happy Company First National Bank Exchange Bank Mrs. C.A. Byrn Estate Hal Gibson Worley, Stinson, Polk George M. Wyatt American Legion Post #26 First National Bank First National Bank First National Bank Hal Gibson Hal Gibson Jack Vincent Lochridge & Ridgeway Dorothy & Margaret Stevens Masonic Lodge C.D. Cosby James McKelvey Roy A. Heath L. Edwin Dick Hal Gibson Charles Richardson Hal Gibson Louis Lookofsky Holt & Guthrie Farland Robbins Farland Robbins Farland Robbins Exchange Bank J.O. Morris Exchange Bank Usher & Gardner Usher & Gardner Usher & Gardner Usher & Gardner H.J. Wright, Jr. Charles O. Davis 113-115 J.S. McKelvey	c/o 1st National Bank, Mayfield, KY 118 N. 7th St., Mayfield, KY 101 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 103 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY c/o C.A. Byrn, 711 Pryor, Mayfield, KY N. 5th St., Mayfield, KY 231 N. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 127 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 101 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 102 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 103 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 104 B. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 105 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 106 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 107 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 108 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 109 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 109 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 100 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 101 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 102 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 103 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 104 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 105 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 106 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 107 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 108 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 109 S. 6th Street, Mayfield, KY 100 S. 6th Street, Mayfield, KY 101 E. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 102 S. 6th Street, Mayfield, KY 103 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 104 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 105 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 106 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 107 W. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 108 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 109 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 109 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 100 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 101 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 102 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 103 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 104 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 105 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 107 W. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 108 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 109 S. 7th Street,
G-V-M-48 G-V-M-49 G-V-M-50 G-V-M-51 G-V-M-52 G-V-M-53	114-118 W. Broadway 119 W. Broadway 120 W. Broadway 127 W. Broadway 213 W. Broadway 209 W. Broadway	117 Hal Gibson Charles O. Davis Helen Shaw Mrs. W.W. Robertson Stone Family Scott Nall Mayfield Cleanup Services	N. 5th Street, Mayfield, KY 505 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 326 S. 7th Street, Mayfield, KY 225 N. 2nd Street, Mayfield, KY 127 W. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 220 W. Walnut St., Mayfield, KY 209 W. Broadway, Mayfield, KY
G-V-M-54	215 W. Broadway	Scott Nall	220 W. Walnut St., Mayfield, KY

Mayfield Downtown Commercial District Graves County, Kentucky

Survey Number	Address	Owner	Owner's Address
G-V-M-56 G-V-M-57 G-V-M-59 G-V-M-60 G-V-M-61 G-V-M-63 G-V-M-63 G-V-M-65 G-V-M-65 G-V-M-66	221 W. Broadway 110 S. 8th Street 120 S. 8th Street 214 S. 8th Street S. 5th & E. South St. 100 W. South Street 108 W. South Street 113 W. South Street 100 E. South Street 102-104 E. South St. 106-110 E. South St. 112-114 E. South St. 116 E. South St. 120 E. South St.	U.S. Post Office Mrs. W.W. Robertson First Baptist Church 1st United Methodist Church Merit Corporation L. Edwin Dick Joe Morgan Harry Wright, Jr. Cecil Anderson Cecil Anderson Cecil Anderson University of S. California University of S. California Phil Myers	

All Mayfield, Kentucky zip code 42066



Mayfield Downtown Commerical District Graves County, Kentucky

Intrusions

1. Liberty Savings Bank

2. Sunoco Station

3. Chevron Station

4. Gray's Buick

5. Family shoe store/Lindsey's

6. First Baptist Church Annex

7. Exchange Bank Drive-In Branch

8. Mayfield Insurance Co.

117 N. 7th

SE corner of Broadway and 8th St.

NW Corner of Broadway and 8th St.

111 N. 6th

105-107 S. 7th

SE corner of South St. and S. 8th St.

NE corner of E. Water St. and S. 7th St.

111 W. Broadway

Contributing but Non-historic

1. Dunn's Furniture

100 S. 6th



