

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 14 1986  
date entered MAR 28 1986

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

## 1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA)

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Owensboro City Limits \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

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

state Kentucky code 021 county Daviess code

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheets)

street & number

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

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Daviess County Courthouse

street & number West Second Street

city, town Owensboro state Kentucky

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1977 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

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 Owensboro Multiple Resource Area Nomination contains fourteen individual properties and three districts of historical and architectural significance. The individual properties include residential, commercial, religious, and governmental buildings important to the growth and development of the city. The historic districts included in the nomination reflect the development of Owensboro between 1860 and 1920 and contain two residential districts and a commercial district. These properties, combined with those presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, represent the historically and architecturally significant structures existing within Owensboro, Kentucky.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH 1776-1870

The earliest settlers of this area first came to Hartford, on the Rough River, and Vienna (now Calhoun), on the Falls of the Green River. Each place was rudely fortified against Indian attacks and crowded with men, women, and children who had gathered in the stockades for safety. As the danger from Indians became less of a scare than yellow fever, or the "black vomit" as it was commonly called, the settlers began moving farther and farther away from the fort in search of easily hunted game. It was only natural that they should follow the well-beaten buffalo trail that took them to the Ohio River.

Bill Smothers was the first permanent settler in what is now Owensboro. He was a squatter and noted Indian hater, but tough enough to stay where earlier white men had been frightened away. His cabin, located at what is now First and Frederica, was described as being of round logs and having two doors, one looking out over the Ohio River and the other opening into his garden. There was a shed room in the back where he stored his provisions--deer and bear skins, and buffalo robes--and it also provided shelter for passing settlers.

Veterans of the Revolutionary War with their land grants and second sons from the plantation families of Virginia were the first settlers after Smothers. They were followed by immigrants from Europe seeking solitude from the wars of their homelands.

Owensboro was originally called Yellow Banks because it was located at a point where yellow mud from a creek discolored the high bank of the river. This creek or ravine, provided a

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I. INDIVIDUAL

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Monarch-Payne House, P. O. Box 539          | Bernice L. Morris<br>P. O. Box 539<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                  |
| 2. Le Vega Clements House, 1530 E. 4th St.     | Lucinda Clements Estate<br>% John W. Stevenson<br>111 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |
| 3. Carnegie Free Public Library, 901 Frederica | City of Owensboro<br>City Hall<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                      |
| 4. Gillim House, 521 Frederica (Campbell Club) | Steve Logan, Mgr.<br>521 Frederica<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                  |
| 5. Odd Fellows Lodge, 200-04 W. 3rd            | Jim Browning<br>200-04 W. 3rd<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                       |
| 6. Briedenbach Bldg., 208 W. 3rd               | Wells Lovett, Charles Lamar<br>208 W. 3rd<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                           |
| 7. George Mischel & Son, 412-14 E. 2nd         | The Snyder Corp.<br>412 E. 2nd<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                      |
| 8. Stirman's Folly, 519 Locust                 | Haley McGinnis Funeral Home<br>% Mike Everly<br>519 Locust<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301          |
| 9. Federal Bldg., 5th & Frederica              | U. S. Post Office<br>% Ken King<br>5th & Frederica<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                  |
| 10. Callas Sweet Shop, 420 Frederica           | Mrs. Mike Callas<br>516 Ewing Ct.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                   |
| 11. Yewell House, 630 Clay St.                 | George & Pamela Collignon<br>Rt. #3 Keller Rd.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                      |

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12. Ames Bldg., 401 W. 3rd

David Mead  
213 N. Main St.  
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

13. Temple Adath Israel, 429 Daviess St.

Lee Goldstein, Pres.  
429 Daviess St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

14. Camden Riley House, 112 E. 4th St.

Lucy Taylor  
112 E. 4th St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

II. J. Z. MOORE DISTRICT

1. 1200-02 St. Ann

Jack & Jean Wells  
4221 Morgan Ct.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

2. 1201 St. Ann

James A. & Margaret Bonner  
1201 St. Ann  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

3. 1205 St. Ann

Eulema Goodall  
1205 St. Ann  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

4. 1206 St. Ann

Nanco, Inc.  
% Neal & Neal  
613 Frederica  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

5. 1207 St. Ann

Lettie Gabbert  
1207 St. Ann  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

6. 1210 St. Ann

Judy Caraway  
1210 St. Ann  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

7. 1214 St. Ann

Medica-Dental, Servc.  
1221 Frederica  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

8. 1215 St. Ann

Chester A. & Emma Deacon  
1215 St. Ann  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

9. 1219 St. Ann

Gilbert Mills  
1219 St. Ann  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 10. 1220 St. Ann                 | Donald R. & Shirley Kennedy<br>1220 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301            |
| 11. 1228 St. Ann                 | Leonard R. & V. Matheny<br>1228 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                |
| 12. Cottrell House, 1229 St. Ann | Roger C. & Patricia Henning<br>1229 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301            |
| 13. 1230 St. Ann                 | Paul C. & Maggielein Quisenberry<br>3513 Hawthorne Dr.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |
| 14. 1231-33 St. Ann              | Myrle E. Partridge<br>1231 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                     |
| 15. 1301 St. Ann                 | Harold & Susan Guilfoil<br>1301 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                |
| 16. 1304 St. Ann                 | J. C. & Maxine Head<br>1008 Standish Pl.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301               |
| 17. 1307 St. Ann                 | Flora Lee Birkhead<br>1307 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                     |
| 18. 1311 St. Ann                 | Martha Head<br>1311 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                            |
| 19. 1315 St. Ann                 | Carl & Shirley Hurter<br>1331 Maple Ave.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301               |
| 20. 1201 Allen Street            | Charles H. & Reba Flaim<br>1201 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301              |
| 21. 1202 Allen Street            | Darrell & F. V. Chambers, Jr.<br>5425 Newbolt Rd.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301      |

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|---|---|
| 22. 1204 Allen St.                        | EGR Rentals<br>Box 224<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                            |
| 23. E. E. Owsley House, 1205 Allen Street | John & Vicki Combs<br>1205 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301              |
| 24. 1206 Allen Street                     | Lillie Johnson<br>1206 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                  |
| 25. 1210 Allen Street                     | Roger & Carol Anderson<br>2027 Fernwood Dr.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301       |
| 26. 1214 Allen St.                        | Alvin & Eileen Richard<br>1407 Kent Place<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301         |
| 27. Dayton Stimson House, 1215 Allen St.  | Robert D. & Dorothy Howell<br>1215 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301      |
| 28. 1217 Allen Street                     | Jackie Murphy & R. Millay<br>3037 Legion Park Dr.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |
| 29. 1218 Allen Street                     | Beatrice B. Brown<br>1218 Allen Street<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301            |
| 30. 1219 Allen Street                     | Larry J. & Marilyn Younger<br>1219 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301      |
| 31. 1224 Allen Street                     | Mrs. Margaret C. McCray<br>1224 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301         |
| 32. 1229 Allen Street                     | Evelyn L. Fowler<br>1229 Allen Street<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301             |
| 33. 1230 Allen Street                     | Lila Jean Partridge<br>1231 Allen Street<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301          |

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|---|---|
| 34. 1231 Allen Street                       | Tony Clark<br>% CEH Investments<br>908 Parkway<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301      |
| 35. 1301 Allen Street                       | Phillip & Diana Huff<br>1301 Allen Street<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301           |
| 36. 1302 Allen Street                       | Gene Clemens<br>1302 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                      |
| 37. 1305 Allen Street                       | Aiken Lord<br>804 Locust<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                            |
| 38. 1309 Allen Street                       | Aiken Lord<br>804 Locust<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                            |
| 39. 1310 Allen Street                       | Thomas D. & Mary Sanford<br>1310 Allen Street<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301       |
| 40. Nick T. Arnold House, 1311 Allen Street | Lettie & Craig Lowe<br>2265 Twenty Grand Ave.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301       |
| 41. 1312 Allen Street                       | Pearl Lee Buford<br>1329 Allen St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                  |
| 42. 1322 Allen Street                       | Lawrence & Mary Murphy<br>Rt. #5 Bittle Rd.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301         |
| 43. 1323 Allen Street                       | Alvin Rickard & Eileen Rickard<br>1407 Kent Place<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301   |
| 44. 1328 Allen Street                       | John W., James E. & Leland Jones<br>P. O. Box 1450<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301  |
| 45. 1316 St. Ann Street                     | Marvin & Avis Lanham<br>900 Christopher Greenup Dr.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 46. 1324 St. Ann                     | Ruby Patton Estate<br>1324 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                              |
| 47. 1325 St. Ann St.                 | Carl & Shirley Gurter<br>1331 Maple Ave.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                        |
| 48. 1326 St. Ann                     | Morris & Royce Dawson<br>120 E. 14th St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                        |
| 49. 1329 St. Ann                     | Lawrence & Mary Murphy<br>Rt. #5 Bittle Rd.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                     |
| 50. John M. Pate House, 1330 St. Ann | D. Wayne & Barbara Sandifer<br>1330 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                     |
| 51. 1202 Daviess                     | Marie & Mary Shaw<br>1202 Daviess<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                               |
| 52. Renfrow House, 1204 Daviess      | John Sr. & Janis Brizendine<br>1208 Daviess<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                     |
| 53. 1208 Daviess                     | Dwayne Embry & A. C.<br>% Cardinal Federal<br>700 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |

**III. PHILLIPS COURT DISTRICT**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. 200 Phillips Ct. | Robert E. & Robert E. Jr. Hicks<br>1621 Griffith Ave.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |
| 2. 201 Phillips Ct. | Mrs. Onie F. McEuen<br>201 Phillips Ct.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301               |
| 3. 203 Phillips Ct. | Mrs. Florence Owen<br>203 Phillips Ct.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                |
| 4. 202 Phillips Ct. | Charles H. Anderson<br>202 Phillips Ct.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301               |

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5. 205 Phillips Ct.  
Ron Shepherd  
205 Phillips Ct.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
6. Charles Broeker House, 206 Phillips Ct.  
Glen Richards  
Suite LL  
Executive Blvd.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
7. 207 Phillips Ct.  
Zane Carlisle  
207 Phillips Ct.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
8. 210 Phillips Ct.  
Roy & Mildred Hicks  
210 Phillips Ct.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
9. 1524 Frederica St.  
William & Martha McDonald  
1524 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
10. Wathen House, 1531 Frederica St.  
Mrs. Spalding S. Wathen  
1531 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
11. Bishop's Residence, 1535 Frederica St.  
Catholic Diocese  
1535 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
12. Triplett House, 1540 Frederica St.  
David M. Ross  
P. O. Box 2316  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
13. Massie House, 1542 Frederica St.  
Dr. Tom Maddox  
Carter Creek Rd.  
Greenville, Ky. 42345
14. 1548 Frederica St.  
Horrace & Janet Catinna  
1548 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
15. 1601 Frederica St.  
Albert Theiss  
1601 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301
16. 1605 Frederica St.  
Cecil Street  
1605 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

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- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 17. 1609 Frederica St.               | Sukki & Kuiza Kim<br>3506 Aristide Dr.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                      |
| 18. 1611 Frederica St.               | Rev. George Phillips & Mary Jo<br>1615 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301        |
| 19. 1612 Frederica St.               | Mrs. Clara Tune<br>% Central Bank & Trust<br>114 W. 3rd St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |
| 20. 1615 Phillips Ct.                | Rev. George Phillips<br>1615 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                  |
| 21. 1616 Frederica St.               | Albert & Martha Aromatorio<br>1616 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301            |
| 22. Morning Side, 1617 Frederica St. | A. H. & Betty Hortsman<br>1617 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                |
| 23. 1619 Frederica St.               | David Orahood & Joyce<br>819 E. 9th St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                     |
| 24. 1620 Frederica St.               | Mrs. Clara Tune<br>% Central Bank & Trust Co.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301               |
| 25. 1705 Frederica St.               | Liken Medical Properties<br>1700 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301              |
| 26. 1715 Frederica St.               | Robert Watson & Joseph Iracane<br>1715 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301        |
| 27. 1721 Frederica St.               | Darrel Wahl<br>1721 Frederica<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                               |
| 28. 1729 Frederica St.               | Billie Hamilton<br>2808 S. Griffith<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                         |

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IV. DOCTOR'S ROW

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. 335 Frederica                             | Clarence Raines<br>333 Frederica St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301  |
| 2. Dr. William B. Tyler's Bldg., 209 W. 4th  | Thacker, Thacker, & Bickel<br>209 W. 4th St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                    |
| 3. Thacker Building, 207 W. 4th St.          | Thacker, Thacker & Bickel<br>207 W. 4th St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301                                     |
| 4. Dr. Robert Morrison Bldg., 205 W. 4th St. | Dr. W. D. Morrison<br>1505 Dean Ave.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301  |
| 5. 324 St. Ann Street                        | Charlie Wible<br>324 St. Ann<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301  |
| 6. 203-210 W. 4th                            | Ellis Hagerman,<br>% Dr. Vaughn Sanders &<br>Dr. Charles Heck<br>210 W. 4th St.<br>Owensboro, Ky. 42301 |

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safe harbor from storms and the darkness of night for early river travelers. It created a need for stores in the small settlement which was named Rossborough for the town's sole hotel proprietor, then renamed in 1817 in memory of Kentucky Colonel Abraham Owen who died at the Battle of Tippecanoe. As the countryside became more populated, the small settlement near Smother's cabin grew. The first known store was tended by Daniel Mosely in 1808 and was typical of the region, being a log hut with a square hole for a window and a chimney made of sticks and clay. According to a book by Robert Triplett written after a visit to Owensboro in 1817, a Mrs. Adams ran an early tavern, which had only a chimney of sticks and clay. Triplett built Haphazard (DA 157) after he came to Owensboro in 1817 to live.

In 1815, Daviess County was established by an act of the Kentucky Legislature and court was held in Thomas Mosley's tavern until 1819 when the first log courthouse was built. A brick courthouse was constructed later, probably around 1819, when the first brickyard was established on Allen Street.

According to Triplett's written account of Owensboro, there were no frame houses before 1820 but around that time a saw-mill was constructed which provided materials of a finer quality. While there are many early brick buildings left standing in rural areas, few pre-civil war buildings remain in the city, probably because of foundation problems created by the dam soil near the riverfront. Fires were very prevalent until the establishment of the fire department in 1866.

Distilling was the first industry of the community beginning in 1805 with Walter McFarland's still and grew until the county was the second largest bourbon-producing county in the state in 1875. The Medley family (DAOB 38) has been connected with local distilling for seven generations. Other important distilling families were the Monarchs (DAOB 09) and the Wathens (DAOB 37). At one time or another, there were 58 distilleries in operation and many survived prohibition by producing alcohol and medicinal spirits.

Grains and tobacco were the main crops of early Owensboro. Not much of the land was fenced and the carrying capacity of pastures was low, so livestock for market was primarily hogs and other grain-fed animals. Tobacco was a primary producer of cash income from farming. The first recorded bargeload of tobacco was moved down the Green River to the Ohio and on to

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New Orleans in 1787. The success of this trip led to the development of river warehouses and by the time of the Civil War there were fifteen tobacco stemmeries employing over 600 hands. Prosperous tobacco families included the Monarchs and attorney Camden Riley (DAOB 72).

The steamboat era, which made its Yellow Banks debut in 1811 attracted early industry to Owensboro and was largely responsible for establishing the industrial-agricultural economy. Wholesale business developed along the river between Lewis and Triplett Streets to receive products which were needed by everyone in the county. In 1884, Owensboro had become a cosmopolitan town where one could buy oysters, fresh oranges, and imported lace and champagne.

Owensboro was a bustling, prosperous river town that was emotionally attached to the South in its advocacy of the slave labor system, in many of its ancestral roots, and its dislike of Abraham Lincoln. At the same time it was commercially linked with the North from where it secured luxuries and trade.

There were 3,515 slaves in Daviess County in 1860; most local slave owners had one to three slaves, many had up to 20, but owning 5 to 10 was much more common. Josiah Henson fled in 1830 from the Amos Riley farm east of Owensboro to freedom in Canada. When Harriet Beecher Stow wrote her novel, UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, she used Henson as the model for Uncle Tom.

During the Civil War, the county saw constant troop movements and occupations and was from time to time harassed by Confederate guerillas. The most tense time was when Black troops were in control and were quartered in the new completed courthouse. It was burned in January 1865 by guerilla leader Capt. William Davidson, who was enraged that Black troops had been quartered there. The war really arrived on September, 1862, when 850 Confederate guerillas converged on the town, demanding surrender of the Union troops stationed there. Driven south of town, they engaged in the Battle of Panther Creek, which was a Union victory and officially listed as a "skirmish on Owensborough, KY."

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THE POST WAR PERIOD 1870-1900

With the war over, Owensboro quickly resumed a "business as usual" attitude with new shops and businesses opening and was not greatly affected by the turmoil of the post-Civil War national economy. The Ohio River was the county's transportation system and played an important role in Owensboro's role as the 10th largest city in the state. Businessmen worked hard after the Civil War to bring the railroad to Owensboro and by 1890 the city had commercial service as well as some 14 passenger trains each day. Another boost to the city's services came with the construction of a trolley system in 1887.

Manufacturing played an increasingly important part in the economy by 1880, with 72 manufacturing plants listed in the census of that year. Tobacco stemming was the most important industrial process with 18 stemmeries in operation and distilleries were second with an annual volume of whiskey valued at \$669,325. In 1883, the Owensboro Wagon Company was founded with a production of 300 wagons per year. By 1892, the company was producing 6,000 of the finest farm wagons annually, which were sold throughout the country. Other operations included 9 brick and tile companies, 9 sawmills, 8 cooperage plants, 8 flour and grist mills, 5 saddlery and harness shops, and 4 sheet iron and tinware plants, employing 590 people.

Agriculture was still king in Daviess County with tobacco production at 9-1/2 million pounds, followed by corn, oats, rye, wheat, barley, buckwheat, and cotton. Farmers were still important producers of poultry and eggs, honey and sorghum, firewood, wool and potatoes.

Downtown Owensboro bustled as new buildings, with increasingly elaborate facades, crowded one another along "Main Street". One story and two story frame buildings were replaced with two and three story brick structures that were frequently ornamented with metal facades manufactured by the George L. Mesker firm of Evansville, Indiana. The courthouse square was framed by hotels and opera houses, as well as lawyer's offices which were in a cluster known as Court Row. The three blocks of Main Street (now 2nd) from Frederica to Lewis Streets were mostly replaced during the 1880's with finer buildings. The two blocks of Main Street beyond Lewis were occupied by wholesale groceries and beyond those were factories, mills, and

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warehouses. Many of the doctors and dentists were located one block south of the courthouse on 4th Street between Frederica and St. Ann Streets, known as Doctors' Row.

Early residences were first clustered near the river but as the business area grew, new homes began to be built a few blocks away. The very rich - including distillers and manufacturers - built their fine homes out Frederica Street and on 3rd and 4th Streets between St. Ann and Lewis Streets, although Distiller's Row was commonly thought of as East 4th Street. The upper middle class businessmen and bankers built new homes in imitation of the wealthy in the new developed J. Z. Moore Addition. The German immigrants built near the church they had worked so hard to build, St. Joseph's, and their neighborhood had homes that ranged from elegant to simple. The Irish working class settled west of Owensboro near the Daviess County Club Distillery, built in 1880 on Dublin Lane and sold to Field Packing Company during prohibition. The most famous district was the "red light" district of Mulberry Street from 2nd to the river, since renamed Cedar to make it more respectable.

Churches were active in early Daviess County with the Methodist meeting as early as 1810. The rural areas tended to be more populated by Catholics, who established their first parish in 1824. A small Jewish community of eighteen families founded the Temple Adath Isreal in 1858 and their temple was constructed in 1870 (DAOB 61).

OWENSBORO IN THE 20TH CENTURY

The fast growth of Owensboro beginning in the late 1880's, continued after the turn of the century as the city became more refined. Board sidewalks offered relief for pedestrians and in 1905 the streets were graveled. In 1907, with the appearance of automobiles, there was a demand for paved streets and some county roads were "corduroyed" to make them more passable. A gas plant furnished illuminating gas and permitted the installation of street lights at important intersections.

Secret societies, which were formed in the 1800's, grew in membership until they could support permanent lodges, such as the Masonic Building, and the Odd Fellows' Lodge (DAOB 86).

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The first school had been formed after a steamship carrying a teacher sank near Cloverport and Mrs. Susan Tarleton drifted to Owensboro hanging onto a piece of wreckage. "Aunt Sukey's School" was the first but others were formed specifically for Catholics, Germans, young ladies, and freed slaves. Another important institution to emerge was the Carnegie Public Library (DAOB 41), which opened to the public in 1911. With the opening of public schools, the German School Board conveyed their property and accumulated funds to the city which was used to build the first hospital, now the largest in the State of Kentucky.

Prohibition not only wiped out Owensboro's major industry -distilling - but it eliminated a market for Owensboro's farm products - corn and firewood. As if to compensate for this loss, another industry began to grow. The Kentucky Electric Lamp Company, one of the few businesses not decimated by the Depression, expanded their radio tube manufacturing business over the years until it ultimately employed over 6,000 people. Another industry expanding during the Depression years was the oil and gas business. This industry began in 1865 when the first oil lease was negotiated in Daviess County. Production didn't begin until 1922 and peaked in 1940 when the area produced over a million barrels of oil.

The Works Progress Administration furnished labor for public improvements including a bridge over the Ohio, constructed in the 1930's.

The coming of the tractor era, meant dramatic changes for farmers. As tractors got bigger and more expensive, small farmers sold out to the large "agribusinesses".

Factories and manufacturing plants were established which gave Owensboro a good balance of jobs. The most important employer soon became Texas Gas Resources corporation, developed in the 1950's and acquired by CSX in 1983. Owensboro now has nearly 20,000 people employed in service functions, including retailing, education, medicine, law, finance, and other professional activities.

Contemporary Owensboro is becoming a tourist spot with the construction of the Executive Inn, and the 1/2 million visitors each year enjoy community attractions such as the symphony, the two museums, and homecooked barbecue.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1860-1930

Builder/Architect See Individual & District Forms

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Owensboro Multiple Resource Area Nomination contains properties nominated under Criterion A for their association with significant events in Owensboro. The development of Owensboro as a processing and manufacturing center for tobacco products, whiskey distilling, and carriage making resulted in the construction of industrial plants and the houses of entrepreneurs associated with these industries. As a regional economic center, Owensboro also became a major provider of medical services. Buildings related to Owensboro's early emergence as a health care center are thus included in this Multiple Resource Area Nomination.

Like other Kentucky cities located on the Ohio River, Owensboro was more accessible to immigrant settlers during the 19th century than those communities which did not border the river. As a result, the community attracted a significant settlement of Germans and German Jews. This nomination contains a religious structure associated with the Owensboro's 19th century Jewish community. (Buildings associated with the German Settlement such as St. Joseph's Church have been listed previously.)

In addition to properties nominated for their association with significant 19th and early 20th century events, this Multiple Resource Area Nomination contains districts and individual nominations significant under Criterion C. Outstanding local examples of Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Beaux Arts architecture are included as are buildings whose significance is based on the quality of their use of stone and terra cotta as building materials.

Two large historic districts within the Multiple Resource Area are the best local concentrations of turn of the century architecture. The Phillips Court District contains a range of well-executed vernacular versions of national styles from the period 1870 to 1930. In contrast, the J. Z. Moore District provides a very clear illustration of a middle class neighborhood from the early twentieth century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Owensboro East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References SEE INDIVIDUAL FORMS & MAPS

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Individual and District Summary Forms

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 Glenda Thacker, Executive Director

organization Downtown Owensboro, Inc. date August 9, 1985

street & number 224 Allen Street telephone 502/683-2060

city or town Owensboro state Kentucky 42301

## 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 David C. Morgan

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date 2-4-86

For NPS use only

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

My Schlager

date 3/28/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: See Continuation Sheet for other signatures

Chief of Registration

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Owensboro, Kentucky, is the county seat of Daviess County and is located on the southern border of the Ohio River and the northern border of Kentucky. It is 111 miles west of Louisville. The county population is 85,949 and the city population is 54,450, with 30,000 households. The city covers an area of nine square miles of the 462 square miles of the county. The city's nucleus has stayed on the riverfront where it was first settled in 1798, and development fanned out from that area.

Daviess County was settled in the late 1790s and the early residents were small farmers generally of under 200 acres who depended on corn and tobacco for their cash crop. Because of difficulty transporting corn to market, it made sense to convert it to corn whiskey and in 1805 distilling became the first industry and remained important to the local community until the time of prohibition. Tobacco was the secondary crop until prohibition when it became the mainstay of the farming economy.

The Ohio River was responsible for the original establishment of Owensboro and for its growth as a trade center. It still remains a strong retail center for western Kentucky. Owensboro was designated the county seat in 1815 when the area was separated from Ohio County and its early growth can be attributed to this. Main Street developed with architecture that was primarily Italianate style iron fronts manufactured in nearby Evansville or a combination of brick and metal. Rapid growth occurred in the area after the Civil War with the completion of good rail service. Owensboro became a manufacturing center with the establishment of the Owensboro Buggy Company which shipped buggies and farm wagons all over the United States. The simple utilitarian brick buildings which housed these early businesses have been converted to other uses to meet the needs of a growing community.

There were under 200 people in Owensboro in 1833, 3,400 in 1870, and 11,600 in 1883 which indicates the rapid growth during those last thirteen years. The distillers were among the wealthiest and built mansions which reflected this wealth in a variety of styles but primarily on Distillers' Row. Manufacturers, large tobacco farmers, and merchants built their homes on Frederica or on Third and Fourth Streets. The city

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was always a medical center for the community since the time when Doctor's Row was developed until present days when it reigns as a regional medical center with the largest hospital in the state.

A comprehensive survey of the architecture of Daviess County was conducted during the summer of 1977 by Kentucky Heritage Council staff in accordance with National Park Service survey guidelines. Local preservationists provided a list of all the county's older buildings, arranged by precincts. Each building was examined by the survey team and those which possessed sufficient historical and architectural significance were surveyed. The process involved photographic documentation of each structure, architectural descriptions, and historical documentation. This information was recorded on Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Forms and each property was given a specific number in the Kentucky inventory. Since then, vital information on each building has been fed into the property data computer on Owensboro-Daviess County Planning Office and each site has been charted on a county map located at the office of Downtown Owensboro, Inc. All inventory sheets have been copied and one copy is filed with Downtown Owensboro, Inc., and another copy is available to the public in the Kentucky Room of the county library.

In the years since 1977, over a dozen individual structures have been placed in the National Register of Historic Places and approximately 48 buildings were included in the Main Street Commercial District listed in 1982.

This Multiple Resource Nomination consists of fourteen individual buildings and three historic districts in the City of Owensboro which were identified in a resurvey and evaluation process carried out by Kentucky Heritage Council staff in 1984. It does not include sites in Daviess County outside the city limits.

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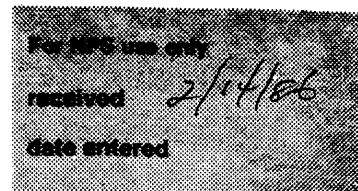
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Multiple Resources      Item number      9      Page      1

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

16-13-3  
2 14-11-3  
R 0-0-0  
Name Owensboro Multiple Resource Area  
State Daviess County, KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Doctors' Row Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Date/Signature

A. Schlager 3/28/86

2. Moore, J.Z. Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

3. Phillip's Court District

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

4. Ames Building

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

5. Breidenbach Building

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

6. Callas Sweet Shop

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

7. Carnegie Free Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Beth Groves 8/6/86

8. Clements, LaVega, House

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

9. Gillim House

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

10. Mischel, George, and Sons Building

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

A. Schlager 3/28/86

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Owensboro Multiple Resource Area  
State Daviess County, KENTUCKY

## Nomination/Type of Review

## Date/Signature

11. Monarch-Payne House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Schlagel 3/28/86

12. Odd Fellows Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Schlagel 3/28/86

13. Riley, Camden, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Schlagel 3/28/86

14. Temple Adath Israel

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Schlagel 3/28/86

15. Stirman's Folly

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

R

16. Yewell House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Schlagel 3/28/86

17. Federal Building and US Post  
Office--OwensboroEntered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

for Helene Byrd 4/13/89

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest