

SECTION 2: HISTORIC DESIGNATION

There are two different types of historic designation in Bowling Green and Warren County: listing in the National Register of Historic Places and Local Historic Designation. While National Register listing is a tremendous honor and carries some financial opportunities as well, "under federal law, owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose, provided that there is no Federal involvement." (Quote from the National Register of Historic Places.)

Local historic designation is a preservation tool chosen by property owners to protect historic buildings and their settings with public review. Historic designation ordinances are local laws that are adopted by communities using powers granted by the state. In Bowling Green and Warren County there are two levels of protection: Local Historic Districts and Local Historic Sites or Conservation Districts.

The two levels of designation are different in the level of protection they provide and the type of action that requires a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). Property owners must apply for a COA for the following types of actions:

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS & SITES

- Alternation of any exterior part of a structure which would alter the historic character,
- New Construction
- Demolition
- Relocation

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- New Construction
- Demolition
- Relocation

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS IN BOWLING GREEN AND WARREN COUNTY

Bowling Green and Warren County have several districts that are listed in the National Register and multiple properties with individual listing.

Bowling Green National Register Districts: Downtown Commercial, Upper East Main Street, College Hill, St. Joseph's, Magnolia Street, Shake Rag

Warren County National Register Districts: Smiths Grove and Oakland-Freeport

Thematic National Register Districts: Western Kentucky University-Brinton B. Davis Buildings

Multiple Resources: Historic Resources Along US 31W in Warren County, 1920-1965 and Warren County Multiple Resource Area

Historic Designation

Individual properties are numerous. For a complete and up-to-date list of properties in the National Register of Historic Places and more information about the National Register, visit www.cr.nps.gov/NR/.

LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION IN BOWLING GREEN AND WARREN COUNTY

Also see maps in appendix

DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT:

This district consists of a concentrated group of 19th and early 20th century commercial, governmental, and religious structures. It comprises the original center of Bowling Green; the original courthouse square; the principal buildings of the city, county, and federal governments; and a portion of the Downtown Commercial National Register District. The majority of buildings are of the “two-part commercial block” type. The two-part commercial block is usually two to four stories characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones that reflect the different interior uses. For instance, retail on the main floor and offices or residential on the upper floors.

CHESTNUT DODD LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT:

The 700 block of Chestnut began developing c. 1895 with the majority of new buildings, additions and subdivision of lots taking place between 1901 and 1908. Its period of significance is from 1895 to 1920. During this period, it represented owner-occupied housing of the white middle-class with at least two early merchants. In the 1930s and 40s it served mostly as rental property. Current use is commercial and residential (multi-family rental). Lon Dodd, for whom the district is named owned three lots: 729, 725, and 719 Chestnut, along with rights to the fences and stones, in 1895 and likely built his home at 729 Chestnut soon after. Dodd, born in the Goshen vicinity of Warren County, lived in Bowling Green for 25 years and owned a grocery store at 10th and State Streets. Originally, he was a member of the firm of Dodd & Duncan on Main Street but sold out to open the store at 10th and State. Dodd was a featured Bowling Green citizen in *The Times-Journal and Warren County Courier, Twentieth anniversary Edition* in 1902. Dodd also served as a city council member, was a member of the Masonic order, and a member of State Street Methodist church. He is buried at Fairview cemetery.

COLLEGE HILL LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT:

The spine of this residential district is State Street, a principal north-south arterial that connects the Downtown Commercial Historic District with the campus of Western Kentucky University. The district also includes portions of College and Chestnut Streets parallel with State Street. The area is a highly concentrated group of 19th and early 20th century residences and churches with architectural and historic significance. Styles, forms, and construction methods are freely mixed throughout the district with the majority of the structures having been built between 1840 and 1930.

UPPER EAST MAIN STREET LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT:

This district is a highly concentrated group of late 19th and early 20th century residences constructed between 1870 and 1930 and located between the historic core of Bowling Green and Reservoir Hill. Both individually and as a district, the structures are eclectic. The major architectural styles in the district include Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Victorian Colonial, early 20th century Utilitarian, Craftsman, Georgian Revival and Bungalow. Two houses in the district were designed by the local architect, Creedmore Fleenor, who designed many structures in Bowling Green. The district is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes one individually listed house.

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES WITH LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION: 422 15th Avenue, 1405 State Street, 1056 Elm Street, 641 10th Avenue E, 537 10th Avenue E, 522 Morris Alley, 3838 & 3870 Belle Rive Circle, 1303 College Street.