

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name DeQueen Commercial Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by W. DeQueen Ave., N. Second St., W. Stilwell Ave., and, N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

NA
NA

not for publication

city or town DeQueen

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Sevier code 133 zip code 71832

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Cochie Matthews 12/7/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**DeQueen Commercial Historic District**  
 Name of Property

**Sevier, Arkansas**  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
20	14	buildings
	3	sites
		structures
		objects
20	17	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
- COMMERCE/ TRADE: financial institution, business, specialty store, department store, restaurant, warehouse
- RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater, music facility, auditorium
- GOVERNMENT: county courthouse, firehouse, post office, government office
- INDUSTRY/ PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION: communications facility
- HEALTHCARE: medical business/ office
- LANDSCAPE: plaza

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
- COMMERCE/ TRADE: office building, professional, specialty store, department store, restaurant, warehouse
- GOVERNMENT: courthouse, government office
- EDUCATION: library
- INDUSTRY/ PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION: communications facility
- HEALTHCARE: medical business/ office
- LANDSCAPE: plaza, street furniture/ object
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- VACANT/ NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

DeQueen Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas  
County and State

Movements: Commercial Style

walls: BRICK, STONE, METAL, STUCCO

Modern Movement: Art Deco

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Classical

roof: ASPHALT, OTHER: tar, rolled membrane

Revival, Georgian Revival

other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The proposed DeQueen Commercial Historic District surrounds the Sevier County Courthouse and lies near the original train depot. The city of DeQueen, Arkansas, is along the 798 miles of Kansas City Southern Railroad and about 432 miles south of Kansas City. It lies near the southern edge of the Ouachita Mountains between Mena and Texarkana. The district boundaries include thirty-five buildings. Contributing buildings in the district range in date from 1900 to 1931 and retain many of their historic features. The historic integrity of this community is 55% intact and contributing to its status as a historic district. The identity of this area is defined through its proximity to the courthouse and its remaining historic structures. Historically, the buildings in this district were commerce, healthcare, recreation and culture, and government-related. There was and continues to be one newspaper company and very few upstairs apartments over stores and offices.

#### **Overview**

The district is composed of portions of West DeQueen Avenue, West Stilwell Avenue, North 2<sup>nd</sup>, North 3<sup>rd</sup>, and North 4<sup>th</sup> Streets and wraps around the Sevier County Courthouse. It emerged and continues as a cohesive whole, comprised of primarily commercial and government buildings with similar scale, setback, fenestration pattern, and building materials. The majority of the building facades are built of brick or stucco over brick. The district appears in distinct contrast to other low-scale individual and strip centers which characterize other commercial sectors of town.

The oldest existing buildings were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial style and had arched window openings and arched ornament, parapet walls, and extremely ornamental brick friezes. Two of these structures, the First National Bank (# 29) and the DeQueen Bee (#12), have been remodeled and no longer display these characteristics. A noteworthy building which was built in this style and retains these original characteristics is the Bank of DeQueen (#28). The Bank of DeQueen is a three-story red brick building known to be the first building in DeQueen built with bricks from the DeQueen Brick Company. It displays a rounded arch at the corner entrance and decorative brick corbelling on the friezes of the front, corner, and north facades. The first and second floor windows are arched and most have keystones.

However, most of the buildings within the district were built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial style. Some of the most decorative buildings built in this fashion are the Big Store Commissary (#35) and Morgan Pharmacy (#5). The Big Store Commissary is most recognizable for its brick banded arches in the parapet wall of the front façade. The periphery of each arch is also corbelled with a recessed tympanum embellished with a simple cross design. Morgan Pharmacy also has a brick cornice which is topped with a three-dimensional apothecary mortar and pestle emblem made from brick. Its cornice is embellished with three inset brick diamond-shaped panels. Nevertheless, the most common early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings are characterized by a height of one-story or two-stories, have parapet walls and less ornamental but still decorative brick friezes. Their front facades generally have a flat appearance. Some bricklayers interrupted the plainness of the façade by inserting brick panels above the storefronts, frequently they will surround vents or stucco panels. Many have their original cast-iron pilasters flanking the front entrance. The most common design of the pilaster has a stylized antefix pattern inside a pointed leaf on its capital with embossed wording reading "Twin City, Texarkana" on its base. Good examples of buildings in this simpler style are Greenwald's (#30) and 209 West DeQueen Avenue (#23).

DeQueen Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas  
County and State

The building at 322 West DeQueen Avenue (#37) has a characteristically 1920s era front façade. It is notable for its terra cotta brick banding on the cornice of a flat fronted facade. During the late teens and early 1920s some new buildings were constructed and several existing structures were remodeled to give their facades an updated look.

Two newer 20s era buildings have a touch of art deco styling. The Thomas Building (#14) was built in 1920 and characterizes this building era. The front corners of the building and one pilaster on the east side have white terra cotta bricks laid in a geometric patterned band. Most of the building's distinctiveness comes from these accented bricks and molded glass blocks around one of the front entrance doors. The east elevation also has glass block windows, popular elements to the art deco style. The building at 210 and 212 West Stilwell Avenue (#13) was also built at this time. This structure is one-story high with cast art deco-style fluted pilasters flanking its entrances. The DeQueen Bee (#12), although originally built in 1901 was remodeled in the art deco fashion. It now has a white stucco exterior with a black horizontal band separating the first and second floor. The front door is protected with a flat semi-circular awning and some of the front windows have been replaced with glass block. The First National Bank (#28) was also renovated to showcase art deco styling. It now displays a stucco exterior inset with stylized floral deco panels over its doors and windows and stylized fluting around two of its doorways.

Two of the district's most significant buildings were built in the early 1930s, the Sevier County Courthouse (#8) and the DeQueen Fire Station (#18). The current blond brick courthouse replaced an early wooden one built on the same spot. The existing courthouse was built in a Classical Revival style with Georgian accents and beholds the massiveness of a New Deal era structure. The fire station once held the mayor's office, post office, water department, and fire department and has the most decorative brick patterning of any building in the district. The front is characterized by two large arched bays with blond and red brick patterning surrounding them and the cornice.

The mid-30s through 1970s saw little downtown growth. The popularity of the automobile, along with the development of US 71, redirected city growth to the highway. Nevertheless, two more buildings were built in the district in the mid-1970s, Ray's Car Wash (#19) and Bill's Dollar Store (#17).

More recently there has been an upturn in downtown interest. The 1980s saw a boom in the downtown economy and nearby residential neighborhood when an influx of Mexican immigrants relocated to the area. In 1994 a new library (#1) was built on the lot of what was once a filling station and car service center. Currently, one new metal building (#22) is under construction on DeQueen Avenue and several buildings are under renovation. New businesses including restaurants and offices are moving into the area and there appears to be an interest in the rehabilitation of the downtown area. Much of the historic fabric of the community is still intact and its overall feel retains its historical integrity.

### Inventory:

- 1) Sevier County Library. 137 North Second St. (d. 1994) Non-contributing Member. One-story commercial building typical of late 20<sup>th</sup> century contemporary architecture. Flat brick front and exposed sides with vinyl siding on one side and back. Arched transoms on two sides above the entrance doors. Parking lot separates it from the street on the front and an alley on one side.
- 2) 102 North Third St. Non-contributing Member. Vacant Lot.
- 3) 104 North Third St. Non-contributing Member. Vacant Lot.
- 4) 106 North Third St. Non-contributing Member. Vacant Lot.
- 5) Morgan Pharmacy. 108 North Third St. (d. 1908) Contributing Member. One-story commercial brick building with parapet roof. Decorative brick cornice is topped with three-dimensional apothecary mortar and pestle emblem made from brick with ¼ round arches at sides. The cornice itself is topped with decorative brick creating a dentil border at top. The flat front of the cornice is decorated with three inset diamonds made from brick. Two with round vents inside and the middle one with a square with a cast rosette in its center. The building still has its cast-iron pilasters on the storefront. The pilasters are labeled "Twin City, Texarkana". The storefront still retains its original cast-iron threshold.
- 6) The Racket Store. 112 North Third St. (c. 1900) Contributing Member. One-story commercial brick building with parapet roof. Front façade has been replaced with unornamented brick and new glass storefront. Back has been added onto with concrete block extension. The building originally housed women's clothing and hardware stores.

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas

County and State

- 7) 114 North Third St. (c. 1900) Non-contributing Member. Two-story stucco and brick commercial building with a parapet roof. The front has been remodeled in a style reminiscent of art deco. A permanent stucco awning protects the storefront, it steps up on the sides and is lower in the center at the entrance. The front façade has been covered in stucco. The upstairs windows on the front façade are covered in what appears to be corrugated plastic. The back façade's windows have been blocked up with concrete blocks. The original structure housed billiards and a bowling alley.
- 8) Sevier County Courthouse. 115 North Third St. (d. 1930, additions d. 1974 & d. 1975) Contributing Member. Three-story blond brick building. Original structure built in 1930 of a mixture of Classical Revival and Georgian styles. The false portico on the east elevation is bordered with a cast-concrete casing decorated with rosette appliqué. The square windows, and cast-concrete dentil molding around the cornice are reminiscent of the Classical Revival style so popular at the time of its construction. The brick ribbing at the corners and ground floor of the building, and gentle vault above the doorway evoke Georgian architecture influenced by Greek classic design. The overall look of the building reflects the monumental block-type architecture popular during the New Deal era-the last phase of the neo-classic revival. A back addition was completed (west side) in 1974 and a side addition (north side) in 1975. Both are of blond brick with flat roofs and display brick ribbing to match the ground floor of the original structure.
- 9) Hayes Hardware. 116 North Third St. (c. 1900) Non-contributing Member. One-story commercial brick building with a parapet roof. The front façade has been covered in a layer of stucco and the storefront has been replaced. A fabric awning has been added. The back is exposed brick with the window openings boarded up.
- 10) Thompson & Huskins Drug Store. 120 North Third St. (c. 1900) Non-contributing Member. Two-story-commercial building with a parapet roof. The front façade is covered in board and batten wood siding and a large mansard awning. The front storefront has been replaced. The brick on the back of the building is original. The rear window openings are arched and house either aluminum replacement windows, are bricked in, or are boarded up.
- 11) Garrison & Stuart's Abstract Company. 122 North Third St. (c. 1900) Non-contributing Member. The front façade of this building has a concrete veneer slipcover. The entrance has been completely remodeled and the original storefront removed. A flat metal awning has been added across the front. The roof of the building has been altered and raised with an angled corrugated-metal addition. The back of the building is mostly covered by other buildings. A small portion of it shows and appears to be covered in stucco.
- 12) DeQueen Bee Co. 404 North Fourth St. (d. 1901) Contributing Member. Two-story stuccoed commercial building with a parapet roof. All windows have arched openings and most windows are metal casement with transoms. Two windows on the front façade are glass block. The front of the building has a painted band below the second story's windows. In the center of the band is a deteriorated painted sign which has a bumble bee with a crown painted on it. It reads "The DeQueen Bee, Daily and Weekly Newspapers". In the center, at the top of the front façade is a Masonic symbol, the square and compass with the letter "G" inside it. The south east corner of the building has a faded neon sign with the Masonic square and compass symbol, the freemason's blazing star, and a circular symbol (possibly the Masonic point within a circle symbol). The front entrance has a semi-circular concrete and metal awning above it reminiscent of the art deco style. The side entrance door is protected by a metal shed awning. The back of the building has a permanent ladder affixed for access to the second story. Two of the front façade's window sills are still visible but the windows have been stuccoed over. The building originally held an opera house on the second floor. An informant explained that a second story was added and the building was extended in 1903.
- 13) 210 & 212 W. Stilwell Ave. (c. 1920) Contributing Member. One-story brick commercial building with parapet roof. Decorative brick cornice. Decorative cast art deco style fluted panels around front entrance. Back and side elevations are covered in stucco.
- 14) The Thomas Building. 301 & 303 West Stilwell Ave. (c. 1920) Contributing Member. Two-story red brick building with a flat parapet roof. The top of the building displays a decorative brick frieze. The front corners of the building and one pilaster on the east side have white terra cotta bricks in a geometric pattern. One of the storefronts has molded decorative glass blocks flanking the entrance door. On the east elevation, three tall thin windows of glass block enclose what may have once been an opening to the front porch. Under the front awning on an angled wall

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Sevier, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

is a metal box reading "envelopes" and a metal slot which reads "put payments here". There is a mural on the interior (which is also the exterior east wall of 305 W. Stilwell Ave). The painting advertises a service station and extends from the interior and through to the exterior wall under the porch. A second mural is behind it which advertises Coca-Cola.

- 15) 305 West Stilwell Ave. (c. 1918, remodeled 2011) Non-contributing Member. One-story stucco and brick building with glass angled storefront. Brick back with arched window openings.
- 16) 309 West Stilwell Ave. (c. 1918) Non-contributing Member. One-story brick commercial building with wood boards covering transoms over storefront. Stucco area for sign on cornice. Exposed brick above at frieze. South wall is exposed brick with arched brick openings which have been blocked in with concrete block or retro-fitted with smaller windows. The east side of building displays brick and stucco. A stone foundation wall extends up to approximately three feet at its highest projection, on the south and east walls.
- 17) Bill's Dollar Store. 311 West Stilwell Ave. (c. 1976) Non-contributing Member. One-story brick and stone building with a two-story metal addition. Front façade is fieldstone with large hipped wood shake shingle awning.
- 18) DeQueen Fire station. 315 West Stilwell Ave. (d. 1931) Contributing Member. One-story red brick building with blond brick accents. The front is characterized by two large arches with dome-shaped fabric awnings and is outlined with decorative patterned brick work. The west side has a very colorful mural depicting native Americans. The building originally held the mayor's office, the fire department, and city hall.
- 19) Ray's Car Wash. 335 West Stilwell Ave. (d. 1976) Non-Contributing Member. One-story brick car wash with covered vacuum station. Visually-heavy metal soffit and flat roofs define the overall look of these buildings.
- 20) Heaslet Brothers Grocery. 203 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1905, remodeled 2011) Contributing Member. Two-and-a-half-story red brick commercial building with parapet roof. Decorative brick banding at frieze. Also has round brick vents on east side. Front and corner of building have been covered in stucco and storefront windows have been replaced. Upper floor windows are covered with standing seam metal but the building still retains overall historical presence.
- 21) Harris Drug Store. 205 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1905) Non-contributing Member. One-story commercial brick building. Stucco front and stucco and brick back. Back has arched window openings and a raised addition of corrugated-metal with lattice below.
- 22) 207 West DeQueen Ave. (d. 2011) Non-contributing Member. One-story commercial building now under construction. Made of metal-frame and standing seam metal. Exterior veneer has not been applied at time of survey.
- 23) 209 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1905, remodeled 2011) Contributing Member. One-story commercial brick building. Cast-iron pilasters flank front entrance on storefront. Cornice has inset brick rectangular panels. Above brick panels and below storefront windows the façade is covered in T-111 siding. The back and east side of the structure is made of terra cotta bricks.
- 24) Palace Grocery. 211 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1905, remodeled 2011) Contributing Member. One-and-a-half-story brick commercial building with parapet roof. Storefront includes cast-iron pilasters. Decorative brick cornice with brick dentil pattern on frieze. Inset wood panels between storefront windows and transoms. Above transom windows and below dentil border (before building was painted but while survey was being conducted) one could read a faint remnant of a painted sign that read "GROCERIES". West side of building is stucco and back is terra cotta brick.
- 25) DeQueen Pool Hall. 215 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900) Contributing Member. One-story commercial brick building. Decorative brick cornice with inset rectangular panel. Transoms have been covered and ceramic tile covers part of storefront. A second storefront has been removed but evidence of it still exists through the remaining cast-iron threshold.

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Sevier, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

- 26) 217 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900) Non-contributing Member. One-and-a-half-story commercial building. Front displays a concrete veneer slipcover and back is fieldstone with two rows of windows. Evidence of its use as a bank still exists in the night deposit box in the front façade.
- 27) 219 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900) Contributing Member. Two-story red brick commercial building with parapet roof. Decorative brick banding at cornice. Second story has arched brick window openings. First floor transoms are covered. Cast-iron pilasters flank the front entrance. Cast-iron threshold still exists beneath storefront windows. Ghost of painted sign on cornice appears to read "DeQueen Bee".
- 28) Bank of DeQueen. 221 West DeQueen Ave. (d. 1900) Contributing Member. Three-story commercial red brick building with parapet, built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial style with rounded arch corner entrance with a keystone. Decorative brick corbelling on front, corner, and north facades. Second and first floor windows are arched, north, west, and corner façade windows have keystones. Second floor windows on north and west facades have fabric awnings.
- 29) First National Bank of DeQueen. 300 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900, remodeled c. 1910 & c. 1955) Non-contributing Member. Two story stucco building with a parapet roof. The southeast corner of the structure is squared off giving the building three street elevations. Historic photographs show the building as brick and designed with high arches popular in late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings. An informant explains that stucco was added to update the façade in the 1950s. Front and east side entrances are adorned with an art deco style surround. Each window on the front and east sides have an ornamental engraved plaque above them with an art deco design of leaves and waves. All of the first floor windows have been replaced. The south and east side windows have been replaced with smaller windows and the openings retrofitted with standing seam metal siding to fill the additional space in the openings. The front door has a flat metal awning above it and a stucco surround. Within the surround are modified deco style fluting on either side of the door. Above the door and awning is a glass block transom. Above the transom and in the stucco surround, the words "First National Bank" are flanked by two engraved rosettes. The second floor windows are boarded up with T-111 siding and two small windows on the east side are filled with standing seam metal siding. The roof on the back of the building has been raised and the difference between the stucco wall and the new roof is sided with standing seam metal siding.
- 30) Greenwald's. 304 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900) Contributing Member. One-story brick commercial building. Decorative brick cornice with arched vents that match 306 W. DeQueen Ave. Cast-iron pilasters in storefront. Appears to still have original storefront and front entrance doors.
- 31) Burson the Buggy Man. 306 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900) Contributing Member. One-story brick commercial building with parapet roof. Decorative brick cornice with arched vents that match 304 W. DeQueen Ave. Glass blocks around front entrance with fabric awnings over storefront windows and front door.
- 32) Gehri's Barber Shop. 308 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900) Contributing Member. One-story commercial brick building with parapet roof. Cast-iron pilasters and two cast-concrete steps with names of original businesses "Post Office" and "Towson & McKeon Real Estate" still at entrances. The transoms and cornice are covered with ornamental pressed tin. Rear windows and door have been replaced.
- 33) 310 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1920) Contributing Member. One story brick commercial building with parapet roof. Decorative brick frieze with chevron design and banding on cornice. Four covered vents in frieze and covered transom windows over storefront. The original glass storefront has been replaced. The frame of curved fabric awning hangs above the storefront with no fabric. The original brick on the back has been covered in stucco. Two additions are on the back, one in concrete block and another in standing seam metal.
- 34) City Drug. 312 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1900) Non-contributing Member. One story commercial brick building with a replacement hipped roof. The front façade of the building has been changed to a plain brick front. Historic photographs show that the front originally displayed a third arch (continuing the façade design of 314 West DeQueen Ave). The storefront has remnants of a ceramic tile façade around the storefront opening. The storefront is protected by a flat corrugated-metal awning. A concrete block addition projects out from the back of the building and has raised stucco walls and roof. The stucco gives the concrete block addition the appearance of a stucco band around its top. The block addition has high sliding metal windows and two doors. One of the doors is boarded shut.

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Sevier, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

- 35) Big Store Commissary 314 West DeQueen Ave. National Register listed 12-3-1980. (d. 1900) Contributing Member. One-story, two bay, commercial brick building with a parapet roof. This building has a decorative brick frieze with two brick banded arches, each one over the front doors of their respective storefronts. The periphery of each arch is corbelled with a recessed tympanum embellished with a simple cross design. This structure still has its original wooden storefronts and double front doors, with cast-iron pilasters and cast-iron thresholds on its wooden porch. The pilasters are stamped with "Twin City, Texarkana". The frieze also has six inset brick rectangles, four of which hold round vents. The transoms are still intact but the glass has been painted. Below the vents but above the remnants of a metal-framed awning is a painted band reading "Young Expressions, Estbl. 1909". This structure was originally built as "The Big Store Commissary" owned and operated by Dierks Lumber Company.
- 36) 318 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1906) Contributing Member. Two-story commercial brick building with parapet roof. Building displays original storefront with decorative cast-iron pilasters and clerestory openings (although they are boarded up). Second story window openings are arched. The top of the building's frieze is decorated with corbelled bricks which create a dentil molding. The first story of the back of the building is concrete blocks and the upper floor is covered in a standing seam metal siding.
- 37) 322 A & B West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1920) Contributing Member. Two-story commercial brick building with two bays and a parapet roof. Decorative clay and terra cotta brick banding on the frieze and at the top. The second floor window openings are arched and the front façade has decorative cast-iron pilasters and its original wood storefront protected by a fabric awning. The back of the building has arched window openings. Although the building has two brick backs, they both have arched brick window openings. The east side's back extends farther than the back of the west side and has a one-story brick extension. The west side has a corrugated-metal addition.
- 38) 324 West DeQueen Ave. (c. 1920) Contributing Member. Two-story brick commercial building with a parapet roof. Windows have arched openings and the building has a decorative brick cornice. Some windows are boarded up and some have been replaced.

**Breakdown by period:**

In most cases structures were dated using Sanborn fire insurance maps (1904, 1908, 1914, and 1924). This list begins with 1900 because there are no existing buildings in the district left from the period before the fire in October of 1899. A detailed building inventory is in Part 8.

Breakdown by period:

1900-1904	8 buildings	21%
1905-1915	5 buildings	13%
1916-1920	5 building	13%
1921-1961	2 buildings	5%
Non-contributing	14 buildings, 3 Sites	45%
Listed	1 building	3%

**Non-contributing Buildings:**

The district has 14 non-contributing buildings and 3 vacant lots for an overall non-contributing rate of 45%. Four buildings, Bill's Dollar Store (c. 1976), Ray's Car Wash (d. 1976), the Sevier County Library (d. 1994), and the building at 207 W. DeQueen Ave. (d. 2011) were built after the 1961 National Register cut off. Ten other non-contributing buildings are remodeled historic structures with the same setbacks and scale to the contributing buildings in this district, but they have been altered so severely that they no longer retain their original character. Two of these structures have been fitted with concrete slipcovers. Three have remodeled their brick exteriors in stucco to change the entire design of the building to art deco. Others have replaced their fronts with unornamented brick or covered their facades with stucco, simplifying and completely changing the look of their original designs. Then, there are three vacant lots in the district at 102, 104, and 106 North Third Street.

Traditionally the DeQueen Commercial Historic District acted as the business capital of the city of DeQueen. It is unique from other low-scale and broadly spread local commercial developments whose designs have been influenced by ease of

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas

County and State

use for the automobile. This district has characteristic elements such as buildings primarily constructed of brick with parapet walls. The buildings within this district have similar styles, scale, and set back, and it is a pedestrian oriented work community. Although the district has a non-contributing rate of 45%, the majority of the non-contributing buildings have similar scale, set back, and materials to the contributing stock. The district is still able to retain the overall feel of a historic community and pedestrian oriented commercial center.

DeQueen Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas  
County and State

**Narrative Description**

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

1900-1961

**Significant Dates**

NA

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

DeQueen Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas  
County and State

**Period of Significance (justification)**  
1900-1961

The downtown architecture of DeQueen, as known today, began to be built in 1900 after the fire of 1899. The fire of 1899 destroyed most of the original downtown, with only a handful of structures left on West Stilwell Ave. (which have since been demolished). As recently as this year, new construction is continuing in the area. However, to be listed on the National Register a building must be older than fifty years, resulting in the period's cutoff date of 1961.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)**

The DeQueen Commercial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A as the original commercial center supporting the town of DeQueen. The period of significance begins in 1900, after the fire in the fall of 1899 which destroyed all but a handful of structures in this area (none of which currently exist), and ends in 1961.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)**

**Historical Background:**

There are three aspects that largely contributed to the development and early growth of the town of DeQueen: 1) the construction of the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad through its interior, 2) the vast amount of timber surrounding it, and the subsequent lumber industry that followed, and 3) its acquisition of the title of county seat.

Early writings explain that the original town of DeQueen grew outward from the town square and included few residential structures. The first buildings were all wooden. In 1899 a fire devastated the commercial center of the community and most of the buildings in this area were destroyed. The city immediately rebuilt at the mayor's urging, in brick and stone. By early 1900, the first local brick manufacturer was producing bricks.

The earliest Sanborn map from 1904 depicts the district's footprint to be laid out similarly to the way it is today, with mostly the same commercial plots surrounding the original frame courthouse. The later maps of 1908, 1914, 1923, and 1940 continue to show few changes in the city's layout. Many of the earliest existing buildings in this district were built shortly after the fire and date from circa 1900.

The town of DeQueen was built to accommodate the railroad. The Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad (later known as the Kansas City Southern Railroad) built its way through what are currently the DeQueen city limits in 1896. The president of the railroad, Arthur Stilwell, founded and named the town (along with several others on the line) in honor of a well liked business colleague and investor, Jan DeGoeijen. DeQueen is the Stilwell-invented American acronym for the difficult to pronounce Dutch name, DeGoeijen.

Along with the railroad, Stilwell was also the president of Arkansas Townsite Company, a Missouri based corporation that owned land around the railroad. He sent surveyors to plot out the streets, blocks, and lots and opened the land up for bidding in April of 1897. The majority of the bidders were from a town site close in proximity named Hurrah City wanting to relocate in order to be near railroad amenities. The railroad was important to this community because it provided transportation for its residents and a way to ship crops from this rural and agricultural community to the rest of the country.

The day of bidding, a large crowd gathered and lots were quickly bought; they were priced around \$25 and up. Thirty thousand dollars worth of lots were sold the first day. Construction for buildings began almost immediately. By July of 1897 a town of frame structures had sprung up. The location was popular, it was centrally located, on the railroad, and had excellent water from springs and new wells.

DeQueen Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas  
County and State

The town of DeQueen was formally founded on June 3, 1897, when forty-two residents signed a petition asking a county judge to incorporate it. Before the plotting of the land, few families lived within what later became the town's limits. At that time the area which now comprises the commercial historic district was covered in fine virgin timber and owned by the Williamson brothers.

On October 1, 1899, a fire caused by a restaurant's defective flue, destroyed the majority of the community. As the fire stretched, it engulfed most of the town's wood structures. Several buildings stored dynamite and as the fire reached them, the explosions from the dynamite caused the earth to shake and the flames to shoot higher causing even more destruction. In three hours, both sides of DeQueen Avenue, the block east of the public square, and most of Second Street was in ashes. The only buildings left were on the south side of the square (Stilwell Avenue). Only six or seven buildings survived. In all, fifty-four businesses burned. Only sixteen had insurance. Nevertheless, the citizen's persevered, some merchants bought the remaining buildings on Stilwell Ave. and others put up temporary buildings. Some rebuilt in frame but the majority used brick. The town was urged by the mayor to rebuild in brick and stone.

Because brick was difficult to procure in this part of Arkansas, the DeQueen Bee (the local newspaper) suggested that if anyone knew how to make brick, he should start a brickyard. In late October of 1899, The DeQueen Brick Company set up in the southwestern part of town. Some of the first contracts for DeQueen brick were for the Citizen's Savings Bank (later the DeQueen Bank) at the corner of Third and DeQueen Avenue, for G.L. Burson (Burson the Buggy Man) on DeQueen Avenue, and for the Williamson Brothers for two large two-story buildings at the corner of Stilwell and Third Street. On November 27, 1899, the first brick ever laid in DeQueen was put in the DeQueen Bank (then known as the Citizen's Bank).

In January of 1900 the Dierks Lumber and Coal Company bought the lumber interests of Williamson Brothers. Later that year they developed the short line DeQueen and Eastern Railroad, chartered in 1900. It was used to transport timber to the mills and some passenger service. (The line was later moved east to Howard County.) The lumber company later moved their planers to a shed near the junction of the DeQueen and Eastern and the Kansas City Southern Railroads. In 1901 they built a mill, planers, and a large mill pond in the northeast section of Rose Hill. The mill caught fire and was destroyed in 1909. They rebuilt but later abandoned this location; however, they kept their offices in DeQueen. The company operated a company store on DeQueen Avenue (the Big Store Commissary).

Later in 1905, DeQueen became the county seat of Sevier County after a heated rivalry with the town of Lockesburg. Lockesburg had held the title and been promised appropriations to build a new courthouse by the quorum court. With the railroads complete through the county, and having recovered from the fire, the townspeople of DeQueen set their sights on gaining the courthouse. Local merchants pledged \$10,000 to build a new courthouse without appropriations from the court, if the people of Sevier county would vote for the removal of the courthouse from Lockesburg. In a special election, DeQueen won the vote but not without rebuttal from Lockesburg. Lockesburg had enough votes in quorum court to block the county's contribution to DeQueen's \$10,000 for the purpose of building the new courthouse. However, DeQueen persisted and was able to build a courthouse with a fence around it, grade the site, and pay the commissioners who built it with the \$10,000 it had raised. The original courthouse was two-stories tall and constructed of red brick with large rooms. The building was up and running by mid-January of 1906.

On August 8, 1909, the city suffered another fire which began on DeQueen Avenue and Second Street. It burned six frame buildings but heroic firefighting subdued the flames and saved the rest of the block. Concrete walks in front of the buildings were badly damaged from the heat.

The Arkansas Townsite Company and the city kept up DeQueen. They continually graded streets and took on a project to replace short-lasting plank walks with gravel walks from 1901-1908. By the beginning of 1908 there were fifty-five blocks of concrete walks within the city. (They would finally begin the practice of paving the streets in 1930.) Also in 1908 the city decided to install a system of waterworks using wells for supply. In 1909 the system was completed and by 1912 a sewer system had been added to accommodate the business district. Also in 1909 the Kansas City Southern built a roundhouse and shop at DeQueen. They offered passenger service until November 1969.

In the early 1900s two utility companies had come to DeQueen. The telephone exchange was built in 1900. Electricity became available to business houses shortly afterward when a lumber mill put in a small generator to furnish power. In

DeQueen Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas  
County and State

1908 the DeQueen Ice, Light, and Bottling Company was organized. It provided electricity for street lights, turning motors, pumping water, and making ice.

By 1927 two grand juries deemed the twenty-four year old courthouse unsafe when the upper floor of the building was in use. The old battle between DeQueen and Lockesburg once again flared up. However, an election ensured DeQueen would not lose the county seat. In June of 1930 construction began on the new courthouse building. It was dedicated in September of 1934.

A new building for the mayor and chief of police, which also housed the fire station and city water department, was built on Stilwell Avenue in 1931. The fire department consisted of twelve volunteer firemen and a chief, one fire truck, equipment, and an extra hose truck.

There was not much growth in the community from the late 1930s until the 1980s. The popularity of the automobile and the construction of US 71 in 1926, which did not link to downtown, stymied downtown growth. Citizens and visitors chose automobile travel over the railroad and downtown facilities began to lose their popularity. During the 1950s, new businesses began along the highway resulting in homes and existing businesses being lead away from the downtown community. Less business traffic and the decline of the use of the railroad left the downtown in economic decline during the 1960s and 1970s.

The 1920s saw the first sign of the poultry industry in the area with the opening of large-scale hatcheries. By the mid-twentieth century major poultry corporations and their processing plants appeared. During the 1980s a huge influx of Mexican immigrant workers arrived to work in the processing plants. They opened businesses in the underused downtown and bought or rented homes in the adjacent residential area. By the 2010 census DeQueen had become a majority Hispanic community with a Hispanic racial makeup of 53.5%.

A mayor of the community, elected in 1998, appropriated grant funds for downtown street improvements including the renewal of sidewalks and streets and the addition of park benches, trash cans, and lamp posts. In 2011, several businesses are sympathetically rehabilitating buildings and a variety of businesses are moving into the area. The downtown is once again being touted as the city's commercial center.

As the twentieth century dawned in Sevier County and such other towns as Gillham, Horatio, and Lockesburg developed, they never achieved the significance that DeQueen did in the county's commercial history. Instead of serving all of the county's residents, as DeQueen did, they served local residents in their respective areas. DeQueen, on the other hand, would have had the greatest variety of stores, and would have been important to all of the county's residents as they came to DeQueen to conduct official business. It would have been easy and more convenient for the county's residents to plan a day to DeQueen to take care of business at the courthouse and purchase supplies in the same trip.

Although in recent years there is more commercial activity along US 71 and US 70 to the east of the courthouse square, it has only developed within the past couple of decades. Prior to that, the courthouse square was still the commercial center of DeQueen. However, even so, the courthouse square in DeQueen retains commercial establishments today along with various offices, and still plays an important role in the governmental and commercial history of the town and county.

The DeQueen Commercial Historic District is also significant for its connection to the development of Sevier County's government in the early 1900s. Since 1905 DeQueen has been the county's only seat of government. The town's location on the railroad line made the designation of DeQueen as the county seat a logical one. As a result, the town has remained the governmental center of Sevier County throughout the twentieth century.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

NA

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas

County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law (P.L.) 94-171) Summary File—De Queen city/prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011. accessed at [www.cubitplanning.com](http://www.cubitplanning.com). accessed on September 19, 2011.

McCommas, Betty. *The History of Sevier County and Her People (1803-1936)*. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1980. pp. 121-131.

McKelvy, Billy Ray. De Queen (Sevier County): County Seat. The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture. accessed at [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net). Accessed on September 22, 2011.

"The Rail Builders: The story of Mr. DeQueen Known by history as Jan DeGoeijen", *The Looking Glass: Reflecting the History and Humor of Western Arkansas*. (Spring 1995): 9-22.

Sanborn Maps, DeQueen, 1904, 1908, 1914, 1923.

Sheldon, Pat. Interview with author. August 20, 2011. Sevier County Historical Society volunteer, DeQueen.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Historic Photos at Sevier County Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SV0121-SV0149

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** approx. 9 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 376211 3767072 3 \_\_\_\_\_

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Sevier, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
	2				4		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)  
Boundary is shown on the attached district map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
Boundaries were chosen because this is the most intact area of the original commercial district.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Antoinette Johnson of Johnson Consulting, edited by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

organization AHPP date Sept 2011

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
  - **Continuation Sheets**
- Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: DeQueen Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: DeQueen

County: Sevier

State: AR

DeQueen Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas

County and State

Photographer: Antoinette Johnson

Date Photographed: Sept- Oct 2011

Location of Original Files: SHPO

Number of Photographs: 20

Photo #1

Building numbers 8, 34-38, camera facing northeast

Photo #2

Building numbers 8, 17-19, camera facing southeast

Photo #3

Building numbers 8, 5-11, 13, camera facing northeast

Photo #4

Building numbers 1, 13, 20, camera facing northeast

Photo #5

Building numbers 1, 13, camera facing northeast

Photo #6

Building numbers 14-18, camera facing southwest

Photo #7

Building numbers 14-19, camera facing southeast

Photo #8

Building numbers 5-11, 28, camera facing southeast

Photo #9

Building numbers 5-11, 13, 20, camera facing northeast

Photo #10

Building numbers 8, 29-35, camera facing northwest

Photo #11

Building numbers 8, 14-17, camera facing southwest

Photo #12

Building numbers 1, 20-23, camera facing northwest

Photo #13

Building numbers 1, 20, camera facing southwest

Photo #14

Building numbers 12, 29-38, camera facing northeast

Photo #15

Building numbers 29-38, camera facing northeast

Photo #16

DeQueen Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Sevier, Arkansas  
County and State

Building numbers 12, 29-38, camera facing northwest

Photo #17

Building number 8, camera facing southwest

Photo #18

Building numbers 20-28, camera facing southeast

Photo #19

Building numbers 20-28, camera facing southwest

Photo #20

Building numbers 25-28, camera facing southwest

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

DeQUEEN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
DeQUEEN, SEVIER CO.























