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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Liberty Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number roughly along Main and North Main Streets N/A not for publication
city, town Liberty N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county DeKalb code TN 041 zip code 37095

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>71</u>	<u>41</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>4</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>76</u>	<u>41</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Herbert L. Bryan 5/22/87
Signature of certifying official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Herbert L. Bryan Entered in the National Register 6/25/87
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwellingAGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural out-COMMERCE/TRADE: Department store buildingsAGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwellingAGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural out-
buildingsAGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek RevivalQueen AnneGothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestonewalls WOOD: weatherboardroof ASPHALTother WOOD, BRICK

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Liberty Historic District is located in the small community of Liberty (pop. est. 365) in rural western Dekalb County in Middle Tennessee. The northern town entrance is the old Sparta-Lebanon Turnpike which runs south off modern Highway 70, crosses Smith Fork Creek and goes up hill into town where it is known as North Main Street. North Main Street is three blocks long and lined with one and two story nineteenth and early twentieth century residences. At the Mill and Main Street intersection is located the old commercial heart of the town. This part of the town stands on a peninsula created by the meandering Smith Fork Creek whose bottomlands serve as small parcels of rich farmland for the town residents. The creek forms a natural boundary for the east and part of the southern portion of the district. However, at the southern end of Mill Street, a number of structures were excluded from the boundaries because they did not meet the fifty-year age criterion. Going west on Main Street, outside the small commercial area, Liberty is comprised of nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular residences and the large Liberty School property which contains two early twentieth century school buildings, two gyms, an intrusive modern community building, and tennis courts. The western boundary of the district is quite clearly delineated by the Salem Church. To the west of the church, the character of the residences change and the majority do not meet the National Register age criterion. The case is the same in the northern part of the district where there are a number of modern residences which do not contribute to the character of the district.

The Liberty Historic District is comprised of residences and commercial buildings, one large cemetery, the old Sparta-Lebanon Turnpike, and the bridge spanning Smith Fork Creek. The district also contains cultivated fields and rich bottomlands sloping down to Smith Fork Creek. Other significant features are the rock walls on the side streets off North Main Street, wrought iron fences, and numerous small barns, farm sheds, and garages. Taken together, the components of the Liberty Historic District successfully portray the historic appearance of a small Middle Tennessee town.

The commercial section of Liberty is located at the intersection of Main and North Main Streets where a few turn-of-the-century commercial buildings are located along with an imposing 1918 two story Classical Revival brick bank. (#59) Main and North Main Streets stretch out from the

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Liberty Historic District

commercial core and are lined with residences. Comprising the majority of buildings in the district, these residences are primarily of frame construction, one to two stories in height, and date from around 1820 to the 1930s. While most are vernacular in design, several reflect stylistic features prevalent at the time of their construction such as arched windows, pedimented porticos, sidelights and transoms, decorative woodwork in the gables, and decorative trim on porches. An example of this is seen in the Greek Revival style residence on Main Street. (#37) On North Main Street is a one story, weatherboarded Greek Revival residence embellished with sawn wood bargeboards and frieze trim. (#61) The Gothic Revival style is represented by another residence on Main Street. (#48) This c. 1850 house is ornamented by sawn wood bargeboard and windows with Y-tracery. An octagonal tower, bays, wood shingles, and a turned wood porch delineate a Queen Anne style residence also located on Main Street. (#53) In addition to the Liberty State Bank building, commercial styles include a Queen Anne hotel (#63) and a small Greek Revival store. (#50)

Scattered throughout the district are three historic church buildings. Both the c. 1907 Liberty Methodist Church (#7) on Church Street and the c. 1880 Methodist Church (#23) on Lovers Lane are one story vernacular buildings with gable roofs, multi-pane windows, and louvered steeples. The Salem Baptist Church (#24), located on Main Street at the edge of the district, is an imposing Classical Revival brick building highlighted by a dome and arched windows with tracery.

Behind the church on Lovers Lane is a small frame building once used as a school (#23), while on Main Street are found two early twentieth century buildings associated with the history of education in Liberty. Erected in around 1918, the two story Liberty High School building has 9/9 double-hung sash windows and was constructed of locally quarried stone. (#39) Over the years it served as both a high school and elementary school. In 1931, a new elementary school was built. (#40) Also built of stone, it is one story with a raised basement and parapet roof.

The district also contains a bridge spanning Smith Fork Creek on the old turnpike. (#71) The bridge is a two-span Warren pony truss bridge which rests on a stone substructure remaining from an 1837 covered bridge at this site. (The bridge was previously determined eligible for the National Register on a consensus level with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the State Historic Preservation Office participating. The bridge was felt to be eligible as a representative example of the Warren pony truss in the Upper Cumberland Development District.) Also significant is the 1837 stone substructure, a remnant of the old Sparta to Lebanon Turnpike.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Liberty Historic District

Seventy-one buildings, four structures, and one site are considered contributing resources in the district. Contributing buildings include thirty-four residences, three churches, five historic commercial buildings, three education buildings, and twenty-six outbuildings (including the frame school). The bridge and three cisterns are contributing structures, while the cemetery is a contributing site. Non-contributing resources include twenty residences, six commercial or civic buildings, and fifteen outbuildings. Most non-contributing resources are less than fifty years old. Although there are a few intrusions in the Liberty Historic District, the district, with its commercial and residential buildings, fields, narrow roads, rock walls, iron fences, and outbuildings, retains its basic integrity and conveys the feeling of a small early twentieth century town with its one-hundred plus years of growth and change.

Contributing resources (C) are significant to the historic and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use, and texture of the district. Non-contributing resources (NC) have little or no architectural significance or do not fall within the period of significance of the district. The architectural survey of the district was completed by Claudette Stager and Elizabeth A. Straw of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

CEDAR STREET

1. Ben Adamson House. c. 1900. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, gable roof, stone foundation, L-shaped plan, 2 shed roof dormers, 1/1 double-hung sash windows, porch with Tuscan columns and wood floor. (C) 3 sheds on property.

Outbuilding. c. 1900. Board and batten, corrugated metal gable roof, 1 story. (C)

2. Crook House. c. 1950. Vernacular. Wide wood siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, multi-pane windows. (NC) Shed on property.

3. c. 1960. Vernacular. Brick veneer, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, rectangular plan. (NC)

Garage. c. 1920. Asbestos siding, pressed tin gable roof, new garage door. Altered. (NC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Liberty Historic District

CHURCH STREET

4. Modern trailer. (NC)
5. John Rich House. c. 1905. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, pressed tin foundation, rectangular plan with rear addition, shed roof dormer, knee braces, 1/1 double-hung sash windows, Tuscan columns. (C)
6. Troy Herman House. c. 1950s. Vernacular. Asbestos shingles, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, concrete foundation, rectangular plan. (NC) Shed on property.

Barn. c. 1950s. Wood, corrugated metal gable roof. (NC)
7. Liberty Methodist Church. c. 1907. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with rear addition, 6/6 double-hung sash windows with cornice lintels, wide frieze, pedimented gable entry, pilaster corner boards, Palladian-like windows on facade; steeple with louvered shutters, tin shingle roof, and finial. (C)
8. c. 1965. Vernacular. Brick, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, rectangular plan, entry on gable end. (NC)
9. c. 1890. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, asphalt gable roof, foundation material not visible, rectangular plan with 1 story rear addition, double-hung sash windows, cornice returns, gable roof wall dormer, 1 story shed roof porch. (C)

COLLEGE STREET

10. c. 1985. Vernacular. Aluminum siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, brick foundation, rectangular plan. (NC)
11. c. 1985. Vernacular. Aluminum siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, concrete foundation, rectangular plan. (NC)
12. c. 1985. Vernacular. Aluminum siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, concrete foundation, rectangular plan. (NC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Liberty Historic District

LOCKER STREET

13. c. 1975. Vernacular. Brick, 1 story, asphalt hip roof, rectangular plan, 12/12 double-hung sash windows. (NC)

Barn. c. 1920. Vertical board, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, rectangular plan with shed roof addition. (C)

LOCUST STREET

14. c. 1965. Vernacular. Brick, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, rectangular plan. (NC)

15. DeKalb Telephone Co-op. c. 1970. Vernacular. Brick, 1 story, flat roof, square plan. (NC)

Outbuilding. c. 1970. Brick, 1 story. (NC)

16. Blanche Hale House. c. 1880. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with 1 story rear addition, 2 story porch with turned posts and sawn wood balustrade (on second story), modern windows with cornice lintels, single leaf glass and wood panel door on each story with transom. (C)

17. Lawson House. c. 1910. Bungalow. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, pressed tin foundation, rectangular plan, brick chimney, 3/1 vertical pane double-hung sash windows, gable roof portico with battered wood columns on stone piers and concrete slab floor, knee braces, bargeboard, canopy over side entry, glass and wood panel door. (C)

LODGE STREET

18. Modern Trailer. (NC)

19. Lodge-Black House. c. 1890. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, corrugated metal gable roof, stone pier foundation, rectangular plan, single leaf wood panel door, wide frieze, exposed rafter ends, windows boarded over. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Liberty Historic District

LOVERS LANE

20. c. 1910. Vernacular. Asbestos siding, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with additions, brick chimney, 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Altered. (NC) Shed on property.
- Barn. c. 1910. Wood, rectangular plan. Poor condition. (NC)
21. c. 1910. Vernacular. 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with carport additions, 3/1 vertical pane windows, concrete slab porch floor. Altered. (NC)
22. Abe Robinson House. c. 1875. Vernacular with Gothic Revival and Greek Revival influence. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, irregular plan with addition, concrete block foundation on rear addition, pointed arch 4/4 double-hung sash windows with cornice lintels, gable roof wall dormer, exterior brick chimney, single leaf wood panel door with sidelights and transom, frieze with sawn wood trim, attached carport, half-porch with battered wood columns on concrete piers and concrete slab floor. (C) Small shed on property.
- Outbuilding. c. 1920. Asbestos siding, 1 story, gable roof, 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Altered. (NC)
- Outbuilding. c. 1900. Weatherboard, 1 story, gable roof. (C)
23. Methodist Church. c. 1880. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation with raised mortar, rectangular plan with apse projection, recessed entry with double-leaf wood panel door at side and wainscoting, steeple with louvered opening and finial, front is a later addition (early 20th century), 2/2 double-hung sash windows. (C) Low stone wall on property.
- School. c. 1880. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, gable roof, single leaf door. Deteriorated condition but retains integrity. (C)
- Privy. c. 1920. Wood, 1 story. Deteriorated. (NC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Libert Historic District

MAIN STREET

24. Salem Baptist Church. 1927. Classical Revival. Brick, 1 story, gable roof with parapet, stone foundation, irregular plan, dome, 6/6 round arch traceried windows with stone keystone and sills, raised and pedimented entry, 6-panel double leaf door with segmental arch, molded entablature. (C)
- Salem Baptist Church Cemetery. Established c. 1809. Stone wall with caps and umbos on 2 sides, decorative wrought iron fence. (C)
25. Lamberson House. c. 1865. Bungalow. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, asphalt bellcast gable roof, foundation material not visible, rectangular plan with addition, hip roof dormers, stone chimney, 1/1 aluminum sash windows, single leaf glass and wood panel door; wraparound porch with square columns, boxed capital and bases, and concrete slab floor. Altered to Bungalow style c. 1910. (C)
26. Jim Bradley House. c. 1910. Vernacular with Craftsman, Classical Revival, and Bungalow influence. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, asphalt hip roof, stone foundation, irregular plan, corbeled brick chimney, hip roof dormers, oriel windows, 15/1 double-hung sash windows, porte cochere, single leaf door with sidelights and fanlight, porch with stone column bases and concrete slab floor. (C) Small shed on property.
27. 1986. Vernacular. Brick, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, rectangular plan, 6/6 double-hung sash windows flanked by shutters, gable roof porch. (NC)
28. Malt Bratten House. c. 1892. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, standing seam tin hip roof, foundation material not visible, square plan with small concrete block addition, hip roof dormers, 4/1 and 3/1 vertical pane double-hung sash windows, single leaf glass and wood panel door with sidelights, wide frieze; wraparound porch with square columns, brick foundation, and concrete slab floor; water table. Moved here from school property in 1910. (C) Small shed on property.
29. Allie Grooms House. c. 1880. Vernacular with Gothic Revival influence. Aluminum siding, 1 story, asphalt cross gable roof, foundation material not visible, cruciform plan with shed roof addition, round arch 4/4 double-hung sash windows, 2 brick chimneys,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Liberty Historic District

cornice returns, single leaf door with sidelights and transom, shed roof porch with concrete slab foundation, 3 gables with cornice returns on side of house, glass and wood panel door. (C)

Garage. c. 1915. Altered. (NC)

30. c. 1975. Vernacular. Brick, 1 story, asphalt hip roof, rectangular plan. (NC)

31. Baptist Parsonage. c. 1890. Vernacular. Aluminum siding, 1 1/2 stories, asphalt gable roof, foundation material not visible, rectangular plan with addition, cornice returns, 2 brick chimneys, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, boxed bay window, wood panel door with sidelights and 5-light transom, hip roof porch with round columns and concrete slab floor. Now used as private residence. (C)

32. Mollie Turney House. c. 1889. Vernacular. Aluminum siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, foundation material not visible, rectangular plan with rear addition, frieze, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, 2 wood panel doors on facade, hip roof porch with square columns on stone bases and concrete slab floor. (C)

33. Tom Pugh House. c. 1885. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with small side addition, recessed entry, single leaf door with transom, 1/1 double-hung sash windows; shed roof porch with turned wood columns, brackets, concrete slab floor, and stone foundation. (C) Wrought iron fence on property.

Privy. c. 1915. Wood, one story. (C)

34. J. Q. Evans House. c. 1904. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with small side addition, brick chimney, 2 gable roof dormers, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, single leaf glass and wood panel door with 3-light transom, 3/4 porch with square columns and concrete slab porch, frieze, bargeboard. (C) Picket fence around backyard.

Barn. c. 1910. Vertical board. (C)

Outbuilding. c. 1900. Weatherboard, metal roof. (C)

Outbuilding. c. 1900. Weatherboard, metal roof. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Liberty Historic District

Privy. c. 1915. Wood, 1 story, metal roof. (C)

Cistern. c. 1890. Metal on stone foundation. (C)

Garage. Modern. (NC)

35. Charlie Mullinax House. c. 1890. Bungalow. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, asphalt gable roof, stone and concrete block foundation, rectangular plan, exposed purlins, shed roof dormer, 1/1 double-hung sash windows, glass and wood panel door, porch with battered columns on concrete block piers and concrete slab floor, wood belt course between gable end and first story. (C) Small shed on property.
36. c. 1880. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with side addition, brick chimney, 9/9 double-hung sash windows, boxed cornice, recessed entry formed by later enclosure of front porch. Severely altered. Moved from school property in 1939. (NC) Small shed on property.
37. E. D. Givan House. c. 1825. Greek Revival. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with side and rear extensions, extensions have standing seam tin roofs and 4/4 double-hung sash windows, pilaster cornerboards, center brick chimney, 6/6 double-hung sash windows with cornice lintels, boxed molded cornice, distyle in antis entry, double leaf door with sidelights and 11-light transom, cornice returns. (C) 3 small sheds on property.
- Barn. c. 1900. Wood, 1 story, standing seam tin roof, rectangular plan. (C)
- Outbuilding. c. 1900. Weatherboard, 1 story, metal roof. (C)
- Barn. c. 1900. Wood, metal roof. (C)
38. Liberty Community Center. c. 1970. Brick 1 story, asphalt gable roof, rectangular plan. (NC) Tennis courts adjacent to building.
- Gazebo. c. 1980. Wood. (NC)
39. Liberty High School. c. 1918. Vernacular. Stone siding and foundation, 2 stories on raised basement, flat roof with parapet and loopholes, rectangular plan, 9/9 double-hung sash windows with stone

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Liberty Historic District

sills (5 windows together and paired), recessed entry, double leaf door, 6-light transoms, stone water table and belt course, locally quarried stone. (C)

40. Liberty Elementary School. 1931. Vernacular. Stone with raised joints, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, concrete foundation, H-plan, pedimented entry, double leaf door with sidelights and multi-pane transom, 9/9 double-hung sash windows, some windows are tripled, offset brick chimney. (C)
41. Gym. c. 1955. Vernacular. Brick and concrete block, 1 story, flat roof, rectangular plan with 1 story addition and 1 story glassed entry, multipane windows. (NC)
42. Gym. c. 1934. Vernacular. Stone siding and foundation with raised joints, 1 story, large monitor roof with pressed tin covering window area, rectangular plan with 1 story Quonset hut-like and shed roof additions of concrete block and stone, 2 single leaf wood panel doors. (C)
43. Liberty Fire Department. c. 1970. Vernacular. Brick, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, concrete foundation, rectangular plan. (NC)
44. Albert Bass House. c. 1925. Vernacular. Stone siding and foundation, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, rectangular plan with concrete block rear addition and garage addition, portico entry, single leaf glass and wood panel door with sidelights, gable roof dormer; gable end is aluminum siding, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, boxed bay window on side. (C) Small shed on property.
- Storage shed. Modern, 1 story pole building. (NC)
45. John Bass House. c. 1910. Vernacular. Board and batten, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan, pedimented porch with concrete slab foundation, glass and wood panel door with sidelights, knee braces and bargeboard, wood belt course between gable end and first story, 3/1 vertical pane double-hung sash windows, gable roof dormer with exposed purlins. (C) 2 sheds on property.
46. Irene Bratten House. c. 1930. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with recessed corner porch, porch has concrete slab floor and square columns, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, pedimented canopy over single leaf glass

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

Liberty Historic District

- and wood panel door, knee braces, corbeled brick chimney. (C) Small shed and wrought iron fence on property.
47. Joe Bass House. c. 1921. Vernacular. Wood siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, irregular plan, exposed purlins, 3/1 vertical pane double-hung sash windows, corbeled brick chimney, glass and wood panel door, gable roof porch with square columns on stone piers. (C)
48. Land Bass House. c. 1850. Gothic Revival. Aluminum siding, 1 1/2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with rear addition, Y-tracery Gothic window, sawn wood bargeboard, recessed entry, single leaf door with boarded over sidelights and 5-light transom, 1 6/6 double-hung sash window with cornice lintel extant, modern windows, 2 brick chimneys, cornice returns. (C)
49. C. 1960. Vernacular. Aluminum siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, foundation material not visible, rectangular plan with addition, 6/6 double-hung sash windows. (NC) 2 small sheds on property.
50. Turner and Son Grocery. c. 1865. Commercial Greek Revival. Weatherboard elevations, board and batten facade, standing seam tin gable roof, stone pier foundation, rectangular plan with rear extension (ice house), double leaf wood panel door with entablature, pedimented gable end, pilaster cornerboards, concrete slab porch floor on stone foundation, windows boarded over. (C)
51. c. 1940. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with side and rear additions, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, brick chimney, single leaf wood panel door with fanlight, carport/garage attached to house. Severely altered. (NC)
52. Will Fite House. c. 1912. Bungalow. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan, water table and belt course, knee braces, bargeboard, exposed purlins, 4/1 double-hung sash windows, gable roof dormer, brick chimney, porch with square columns on brick piers and concrete slab floor. Now used by Walker Funeral Home, Inc. (C)
53. Dr. Jackson House. c. 1885. Queen Anne cottage. Weatherboard, 1 story, standing seam tin jerkin head roof, stone foundation, irregular plan; octagonal tower with pressed tin shingles, finial,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

Liberty Historic District

and bargeboard; single leaf door with transom and dentil trim; porch with turned posts, brackets, and exposed purlins; wide frieze, side porches; 2 boxed bays with decorative wood surrounds, 3/1 vertical pane double-hung sash windows, imbricated wood shingles, and diagonal paneling. (C)

54. United States Post Office. c. 1950. Commercial Vernacular. Brick veneer facade over concrete block, 1 story, flat roof with coping. (NC)
55. Percy Whaley House. c. 1893. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt hip and gable roof, stone foundation, cruciform plan with rear additions, 1/1 double-hung sash windows, wide frieze, cornerboards, glass and wood panel door, porch with Doric columns and concrete slab floor. (C)
56. Pistole and Pursell Grocery. c. 1944. Commercial Vernacular. Concrete block siding and foundation, flat roof with parapet, rectangular plan, recessed entry, double leaf wood and glass doors, wood frame storefront windows with concrete sill, wood panel door with transom leads to second story. Once used as Alexander General Store. (NC)
57. c. 1890. Commercial Vernacular. Brick foundation and siding, 1 story, flat roof with parapet, rectangular plan, corbeled brick panels, recessed entry, 9-light storefront window with molded wood panels, double leaf glass and wood panel door, cast iron columns, part of roof missing, poor condition, but retains integrity. Once used by Bank of Liberty. (C)

NORTH MAIN STREET

58. McMillen House. c. 1905. Bungalow. Weatherboard, 1 1/2 stories, asphalt gable roof, concrete block foundation, rectangular plan with 1 story rear addition, shed roof dormer, Tuscan porch columns, glass and wood panel door, 1/1 double-hung sash windows, brick chimneys, knee braces, bargeboard, belt course. (C) Wrought iron fence on property.
- Garage. Modern. Concrete block, 1 story. (NC)
59. Liberty State Bank. 1918. Classical Revival. Brick siding and foundation, 2 stories, flat roof with parapet, rectangular plan with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

Liberty Historic District

2 story rear addition and 1 story glass side entrance addition, original entry had portico (now a window). (C)

60. c. 1920. Vernacular. Aluminum siding, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, concrete block foundation. Severely altered. (NC) Small shed on property.
61. Will T. Hale House. c. 1850. Greek Revival with Gothic Revival ornamentation. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, concrete foundation, L-shaped plan with rear addition, brick chimneys on stone foundations, 6/6 double-hung sash windows flanked by wood shutters, pilasters, double leaf wood panel door with sidelights and 6-light transom, portico entry with wood floor and square columns, wide frieze, dentil trim on windows, elaborate sawn wood bargeboard; portico on side of house with single leaf door, sidelight, and 8-light transom. (C) Small concrete shed on property.

Garage/store. c. 1935. Concrete block and aluminum siding, 2 stories, rectangular plan, modern garage door. Altered. (NC)

Outbuilding. c. 1900. Board and batten, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, shed roof addition, wood panel door. (C)

62. Liberty Herald Building. c. 1885. Commercial Vernacular. Brick and wood siding, 2 stories, standing seam tin hip and gable roof, brick foundation, rectangular plan, 4/4 double hung sash windows with pedimented lintels, brick jack arch lintels on first story, glass and wood panel door, entry also on side, shed roof porch. (C)
63. Hotel. c. 1890. Queen Anne. Weatherboard, 2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof and flat porch roof, foundation material not visible, L-shaped plan with 1 story rear extension; 2 story porch with turned columns and balustrade (on second story only), concrete slab floor, wide frieze; 2 story bay with dentil trim, wainscoting on first story, 1/1 and 4/1 double-hung floor length windows; 4 entries: single leaf wood panel door with transom and Eastlake pilasters on first story; corner entry with 2 single leaf wood panel doors, sidelights and 4-light transom, 1 original wood screen door on first story; corner entry on second story similar to first story; single leaf wood panel door with transom in front gable end; 4 brick chimneys. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Liberty Historic District

Barn. c. 1900. Vertical board, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, rectangular plan. (C)

Barn. c. 1910. Vertical board, 2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof. (C)

Outbuilding. c. 1900. Vertical board, 1 story, shed roof. (C)

64. Doris Mathis House. c. 1875. Vernacular with Greek Revival and Queen Anne details. Weatherboard, 2 stories, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan, brick chimney; 2 story bay with paired windows, diagonal paneling, and ornamental wood trim in gable end, recessed entry with double-leaf wood panel doors, sidelights, transom, and dentil trim; turned porch post on concrete slab floor, second story porch now enclosed, 1 story pilaster cornerboards, side entry. (C) Two small sheds on property.

Store. c. 1940. Concrete block, 2 stories, 3/1 vertical pane double-hung sash windows. Altered. (NC)

65. Organ House. c. 1890. Greek Revival. Weatherboard, 2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, L-shaped plan (1 story on side) with side addition, 4/4 double-hung sash windows with cornice lintels on molded surrounds, wide frieze, 2 story Italianate porch with rectangular columns, sawn wood balustrade, brackets, and wood floor; single leaf wood panel doors with sidelights and transom on both stories, decorative wood trim on gable frieze, brick chimney. (C)

Outbuilding. c. 1890. Weatherboard, 1 story, gable roof. (C)

66. Dr. Bratten House. c. 1900. Vernacular. Weatherboard, 1 story, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, irregular plan with rear additions, single leaf wood panel door with sawn trim and transom, 1 turned wood porch column, decorative purlins, 1/1 double-hung sash windows, brick chimney. (C)

67. William A. Vick House. c. 1903. Vernacular with Queen Anne and Craftsman influence. Flush board siding originally scored to resemble brick, 2 stories, asphalt hip and gable roof, cut stone foundation, irregular plan with rear addition, 2 brick chimneys, round arch windows, imbricated wood shingles, decorative sawn wood

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15

Liberty Historic District

trim, Eastlake pilasters and transom around front door, turned wood porch post, decorative wood trim in gable ends, new stone porch foundation. (C) Low cut stone wall on property.

Garage. c. 1925. Stone, 1 story, asphalt gambrel roof, rectangular plan, wood doors. (C)

Outbuilding. c. 1910. Weatherboard, 1 story, gable roof, stone foundation. (C)

Outbuilding. c. 1900. Flush board, 1 story, gable roof. (C)

Barn. c. 1910. Vertical board, 2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof. (C)

Barn. c. 1910. Wood, standing seam tin gable roof, side addition with shed roof. (C)

Cistern. c. 1900. Stone, round shape. (C)

68. Elza Givan House. c. 1935. Vernacular. Asbestos siding, 1 1/2 and 2 stories, asphalt gable roof, concrete block foundation, irregular plan with many additions, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, dormers, knee braces and canopy over door. Severely altered by additions. (NC)
69. Frazier House. c. 1915. Bungalow. Aluminum siding, 1 1/2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with addition, large projecting gables with aluminum enclosed, knee braces, brick chimney, sidelights, recessed porch with round columns on second story, wrap around porch with battered wood columns on brick piers. (C) Low stone wall on property.
- Outbuilding. c. 1910. Weatherboard, 1 story, gable roof. (C)
- Barn. c. 1910. Metal and wood, poor condition. (NC)
- Garage. c. 1930. Stone, standing seam tin roof, low 1 story. (C)
70. J. E. Hale House. c. 1820. Greek Revival. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with addition, addition has standing seam tin gable roof and board and batten

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16

Liberty Historic District

siding, cornice returns, round arch 4/4 double-hung sash windows with cornice lintels, interior brick chimney, wide frieze, recessed entry with 2 single leaf wood doors at sides, sidelights and transom. (C)
Wrought iron fence and 2 sheds on property.

Fruit cellar. c. 1910. Wood, 1 story. (C)

Barn. c. 1910. Weatherboard, 1 story, gable roof. (C)

71. Liberty Bridge. 1908. Two-span Warren pony truss, stone sub-structure from c. 1837 bridge and one-span from 1917 bridge. (C)

MILL STREET

72. Overall-Gothard House. c. 1875. Greek Revival. Wide weather-board, 2 stories, standing seam tin gable roof, stone foundation, rectangular plan with 1 story addition, 2 brick and stone chimneys, 6/6 double-hung sash windows with cornice lintels and louvered shutters, two story porch with square molded wood columns and concrete slab floor, transom and wood fanlight. (C) Two sheds on property.

Modern garage. (NC)

Cistern. c. 1875. Stone, 1 story. (C)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c. 1820-1937

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Liberty Historic District in western DeKalb County, Tennessee is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C. Under criterion A, the district is significant for its association with the Sparta-Lebanon Turnpike and for its role as a trade center for the surrounding farms in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is eligible under criterion C because it contains a fine collection of vernacular architecture dating between the 1820s and the 1930s. When Liberty's small scale vernacular architecture is combined with its narrow tree-lined streets, rock walls and stone fences, outbuildings, and surrounding farmland, the feeling of a nineteenth to early twentieth century community is readily conveyed.

Smith Fork Creek was the focus of the original settlement of the town. Adam Dale, a Revolutionary War soldier from Maryland, arrived here in 1797. After building a small cabin on the north side of the creek, he added a grist mill that later became the focus of the Dale Mill (Liberty) settlement. Several more mills were built in the region over the next twenty years. After Dale contacted family and friends in Maryland, forty families arrived in 1804 and by 1807 the town was surveyed and divided into more than fifty half-acre lots.

A post office was established in 1808, the first school was opened in 1809, and, by 1812, a tanyard and sawmill were in operation. Around this time the town became known as Liberty. Early in the development of the community, citizens organized two churches. Salem Baptist Church, the oldest congregation in DeKalb County, originated circa 1809 in a log building (non-extant). Some of the adjoining cemetery is on land donated by a James Lamberson in 1809. (#24) In 1817 the Liberty Methodist Church was begun.

One of the earliest residences in the town is the J. E. Hale House. Constructed circa 1820, the two room log building is now sheathed with weatherboards. (#70) (The present owners are descendants of the Hale and Adam Dale families.) Another building present at the time of earliest

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 85 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

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

B

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

D

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

See continuation sheet

Liberty 322 SW
Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Slater; Sally Baskin
organization Tennessee Dept. of Transportation; N/A date February 1987
street number 505 Deaderick; 488 Glen Echo Drive telephone (615) 741-5363
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Liberty Historic District

settlement is the c. 1825 E. D. Givan House situated near the center of the district. (#37)

Liberty's scenic views and rustic charm caught the eye of French artist Charles Alexandre Le Sueur as he travelled through the area in 1832. Le Sueur sketched at least three different views of Liberty and took them home with him to France. (The Tennessee State Museum obtained the prints and copies have been placed in the Liberty History Room.)

The town, DeKalb County's oldest, grew rapidly and became a trade center for the surrounding farmlands. Its location on the Sparta to Lebanon Turnpike, created by an 1809 Act, also greatly facilitated Liberty's growth and prosperity. In 1831, Liberty received its corporate charter. Services for the town's two hundred occupants at that time included three stores, two taverns, two carriage makers, two tailor shops, a tanyard, shoe shop, saddle shop, carpenter's shop, and two doctor's offices.

The Duncan Tavern was an important building in Liberty during its early settlement. Located on the north end of the valley in the 1830s, it was noted for having received Andrew Jackson as a guest several times on his stagecoach trips from the Hermitage to Washington, D. C. During this time, many of the area residents ran their own mills, but came into town to purchase dry goods.

Originally a part of Smith County, Liberty became part of the newly established DeKalb County in 1837. By 1840 a covered bridge had been erected over the Smith Fork Creek. Covered bridges had been built at both Liberty and nearby Dowelltown, along with four tollgates. Liberty flourished as a trade center for the surrounding rural area until the onset of the Civil War when troops were stationed in Liberty and intense fighting occurred in and around the community. Much of this action was probably witnessed by Will T. Hale, author of the first history of DeKalb County, from his childhood home still standing in Liberty near the center of town. (#61)

After the Civil War, Liberty's population grew to 492, trade increased, and the community again prospered. The Liberty Methodist Church built a new building in 1874. In 1886, W. A. Vick of Liberty, published one of DeKalb County's first newspapers, The Liberty Herald. Now used as a residence, the two story brick and frame Liberty Herald Building is situated in the old commercial part of town. (#62) In addition to his newspaper business, Mr. Vick owned a large warehouse in Liberty and sold buggies and other related hardware and gear. Vick's 1903 House, an impressive two story vernacular residence, is included in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3Liberty Historic District

district.(#67) Another frame Methodist Church was constructed by the black community in 1880.(#23) A one-room school house is also situated on the church property. Small frame residences continued to be built during this time. Since farming was an important aspect of the town, numerous farm outbuildings were usually constructed with the residences.

To its early commercial enterprises and services, Liberty added attorneys and a hotel, and it is known that there were at least four mills in operation in the late 1880s. The c. 1890 Queen Anne Hotel (#63) on North Main Street served a variety of people including stagecoach travellers and salesmen wanting to display wares. By the turn of the century, a blacksmith shop, a photography studio, a general store, a tannery, a drug store, a bank, a hardware store, and three doctors joined the growing list of businesses.

A new frame Methodist Church was built in 1907 after the old church burned.(#7) The next year, a two span Warren pony truss bridge was erected, utilizing the circa 1837 stone substructure of the first bridge at that site.(#71) Good roads and bridges were important in order that the area residents would have a means to market their farm products and attract consumers to town.

The Duncan Tavern was torn down in 1915 and the present Frazer House was constructed.(#69) Local artisans helped construct a new school building in 1918. The two story building used limestone quarried from the surrounding hills.(#39) In the 1920s the proliferation of the automobile irrevokably altered Liberty by facilitating transportation from Liberty to the shopping centers of the surrounding towns. Liberty's position as a local trading center waned and the Depression and a major fire in the commercial area in the 1930s expedited this decline. An additional blow was struck against the village when, in the early 1950s, Highway 70 bypassed the business section of town.

Liberty received monies through the Model Cities Program for community improvements. These improvements included the construction of sidewalks and the renovation of the 1918 High School which was closed in 1965 due to a state-wide school consolidation program. In 1969, one-span of the Liberty bridge was destroyed by an overloaded truck. A 62-foot replacement span from a 1917 Warren pony truss bridge was then moved and added to the 1908 bridge.

The 1980s was a decade in which the small town became intensely aware of its history. A historic home tour was held, a local history museum is in the making, and a publication entitled A Brief History of Liberty,

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Liberty Historic District

Tennessee - Settlement, Trade Center, Rural Community, 1800-1980 was made possible by a grant from the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities.

Liberty Historic District portrays life in a town of transitions which has managed to preserve historic examples of major time periods. From DeKalb County's earliest settlement to nineteenth century trade center to the present day rural community, it has maintained much of its nineteenth and early twentieth century charm. The district encompasses all historic buildings associated with the community, including the bottomlands used for farming, bordered by the Smith Fork Creek. Although a small number of the buildings are of relatively modern construction or have been altered, the district contains one of the most intact collections of late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular architecture in DeKalb County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Liberty Historic District

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2

Liberty Historic District

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Liberty Historic District is situated within the corporate limits of the town of Liberty. Most resources are located along Main and North Main Streets. District boundaries generally follow property lines, roads, and the creek. The northern boundary includes a historic bridge, roads, and property lines, while the eastern boundary is the creek. The southern boundary also follows the creek and property lines. Property lines and a non-contributing building delineate the western edge of the district. See tax map with boundaries drawn.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The district is a cohesive collection of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century resources that form the small, rural town of Liberty. Boundaries are drawn to exclude altered buildings and modern buildings. Boundaries are drawn to include not only residences and commercial buildings, but related farm land and outbuildings which are representative of the emergence of the town into a market center. Also included is a historic bridge, representative of the initial development of Liberty. Overall, the district retains a high degree of architectural and historical integrity.