# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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.

4 Name of Branasty			
1. Name of Property		. •	
	<u>in Street Historic Dis</u>	trict	
other names/site number NA		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
2. Location		<u> </u>	
	ation Sheet		not for publication
city, town Wilmore	acton bneet		x vicinity
state Kentucky code	KY county Jessa	mine code	113 <b>zip code</b> 40390
3. Classification		· . <del> </del>	
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Res	sources within Property
X private	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
X public-local	X district	24	4 buildings
public-State	site		2 sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
<del></del>	object		objects
	<del>- ·</del>	24	6Total
Name of related multiple property listing	ng:	Number of con	tributing resources previously
NA			itional Register
4. State/Federal Agency Certific	A1 o		
	d L. Morgan, Executive ervation Officer cil/State Historic Presents Loos not meet the National	Director/State Hi	
5. National Park Service Certification	ation		
I, hereby, certify that this property is:			
See continuation sheet.     determined eligible for the National Register.     See continuation sheet.     determined eligible for the National Register.     determined not eligible for the National Register.	Qutourllx	A lee_	8/5/94
removed from the National Registe other, (explain:)	r		
	/ Signatur	re of the Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE: specialty stores	COMMERCE: specialty stores
DOMESTIC: single dwellings, hotel	DOMESTIC: single dwellings
RELIGION: religious facility	RELIGION: religious facility
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility	GOVERNMENT: city hall/police station
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
IAME 10MI AND EADLY 20MI CENMINY AMEDICAN	foundation <u>stone</u>
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN	walls stone, brick, concrete, wood
MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style	
	roof <u>asphalt shingles</u>
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance Certifying official has considered the significance of this proper	ty in relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria XA B C	□D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□D □E □F □G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Community Planning and Development	1870-1940	NA
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder	
State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria consid	lerations, and areas and periods of s	ignificance noted above.

	See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	See continuation sneet
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other Specify repository:
Record #	Kentucky Heritage Council
	mendany meritage souncit
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property	
UTM References	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	D
	- L.
	X See continuation sheet
7.1.10	
Verbal Boundary Description	
	[V] =
	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
<b>,</b>	
	V See continuation sheet
	X See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Helen C. Powell	
organization H. Powell & Company, Inc.	date <u>March 30, 1994</u>
street & number 509 East Maxwell Street	telephone (606)233-9416
city or town <u>Lexington</u>	state <u>Kentucky</u> zip code <u>40502</u>

9. Major Bibliographical References

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street Historic District Wilmore-Jessamine County, Kentucky

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#### East Main Street Historic District: Property Owners

Unless a second address is given after the owner's name, the mailing address of the owner is the same as the property in the district in Wilmore, Ky. 40390.

- 1. 209-211 E. Main St. Wilmore United Methodist Church
- 2. 213 E. Main St.
  Farmers Bank
  PO Box 340
  Nicholasville, Ky. 40340
- 3. 301 E. Main St. Virgil Eversole Eversole Building Harlan, Ky. 40831
- 4. 303 E. Main St. James C. Lyman
- 5. 305 E. Main St.
  John Fitch
  504 Wilder Reynolds
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 6. 307-309 E. Main St.
  Anne Arvin
  108 W. Maple St.
  Nicholasville, Ky. 40356
- 7. 313-315 E. Main St.
  Anne Arvin
  108 W. Maple St.
  Nicholasville, Ky. 40356
- 8. 317-319 E. Main St. Sims Drugstore
- 9. 323-325 E. Main St. Donald Reynolds

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- 10. 327 E. Main St. Donald Reynolds
- 11. 329 E. Main St.
  Joe C. Hardman
  109 Wood St.
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 12. 333-335 E. Main St. City of Wilmore
- 13. 334 E. Main St.
  James P. Fox
  111 Wood St.
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 14. 330 E. Main St.
  John Gillespie
  202 E. Main St.
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 15. 328 E. Main St.
  Robin Reed
  c/o Pauline Reed
  647 River Village
  Tarpon Springs, Fla. 34689
- 16. 324-326 E. Main St.
  Richard Wells
  303 Jessamine Station Rd.
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 17. 322 E. Main St.
  Ralph Lewis
  209 E. Main St.
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 18. 316 E. Main St.
  David Holbert
  2325 Hume Rd.
  Delaware, Ohio 43015

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- 19. 312 E. Main St. Frank Blackford 2250 Lexington Rd. Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 20. 310 E. Main St.
  Gary Bailey
  105 S. Lexington St.
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 21. 308 E. Main St.
  Herman Brandenburg
  403 Bellevue
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 22. 306 E. Main St.
  Herman Brandenburg
  403 Bellevue
  Wilmore, Ky. 40390
- 23. 304 E. Main St.
  Herman Brandenburg
  403 Bellevue

Wilmore, Ky. 40390

- 24. 300 E. Main St. H.E. Crum
- 25. 206 E. Main St. Era Peniston
- 26. 204 E. Main-St.
  Gayle Lawrence
  2014 20th Ln
  P Beach Garden, Fla. 33410
- 27. 202 E. Main St. John Gillespie
- 28. 200 1/2 E. Main St. Faye Hogue

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East Main Street Historic District Wilmore-Jessamine County, Kentucky

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29. 200 E. Main St. Phyllis Corbett

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

				East N	Main	Street	Historic	District
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### Section 7: Description of the East Main Street Historic District

The East Main Street Historic District is in the town of Wilmore (population of 4215 in 1990) which is located in the southern part of Jessamine County in central Kentucky. Wilmore is approximately 4 miles south of the Jessamine County seat at Nicholasville and 4 miles north of the Kentucky River at High

Bridge.

The district is composed of 30 buildings and sites with both commercial and residential buildings built between 1890 and 1940. In Wilmore as in Sadieville in Scott County and other turn-of-the century, non-county seat, rural crossroad communities whose growth was spurred by a railroad, both commercial and residential buildings are found on the main street of the town. Of the properties in the East Main Street District, 24 contribute to the character of the district. There are 6 non-contributing elements. Two of the non-contributing properties are modern buildings and two are buildings which have been altered with modern renovations to such a degree that they have lost integrity. The remaining two non-contributing sites are parking lots which were once building sites.

The East Main Street Historic District is roughly rectangular in shape and contains parts of four city blocks or nine acres on the north and south sides of East Main Street between Walnut on the west and the Southern Railroad on the east.

The individual structures within the district are described in detail in the District Inventory. The paragraphs which follow summarize the general characteristics of the district.

#### General Characteristics of the District

The district is characterized by a mixture of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century commercial and residential structures built as Wilmore grew from a flag stop on the Cincinnati and Chattanooga Railroad in 1882 to become an

incorporated town in 1918.

The sixteen commercial buildings in the district were built post-1912, after a fire destroyed or damaged most of Wilmore's late nineteenth century frame store buildings along Main Street. Twelve of the store buildings are two stories and the remainder are one story. The building now occupied by City Hall (#12) is limestone, but the other commercial buildings are common bond brick on limestone foundations. The City Hall building (#12), which was built by Glass Milling Company circa 1919 for an office and warehouse, is five bays on both the south and east facades,

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with doubled, arched windows. The limestone is referred to locally as Kentucky River marble came from one of the five quarries in operation in the vicinity of Wilmore in the early twentieth century.

Stucco has been applied over the brick on the Wilmore Deposit Bank building (#17) and either modern metal panels or aluminum siding have been used to cover the brick facades of three other buildings (#6, #14, #15). All of the commercial buildings originally had flat or shed roofs. On two of the buildings (#8 and #20), the flat roofs have been modified to gable roofs to provide more space for upper story apartments.

As is the case of Sadieville in Scott County and other turnof-the century, non-county seat, rural crossroad communities
whose growth was spurred by a railroad, Wilmore's commercial
buildings have minimal ornamentation. In Wilmore, architectural
ornamentation is limited to brick corbelling, stone lintels,
metal posts and/or cornices. Single bands of a deeply toothed
pattern of brick corbelling can be seen just below the parapets
of the main facades of seven of the eighteen commercial buildings
(#8, #9, #10, #11, #19, and #23). Flat stone lintels are visible
over the second story windows of six buildings (#8, #16, #17,
#19, #20, #23). Metal posts frame the main doorways of six
buildings (#8, #16, #17, #19, #20, #23).

Five of the first floor facades of commercial buildings (#7, #13, #16, #18) have been modified through the addition of modern plate glass windows, but the original display window openings, clerestory windows, metal posts, and entries are visible on eight buildings (#7, #13, #15, #16, #18, #19, and #23).

Most of the upper story windows are rectangular. Only one building, which housed Wilmore Mercantile (#13), has arched windows. The size and/or shape of the second story windows have been modified on five buildings (#6, #8, #9, #13, #17) and shutters added to the windows of one building (#6).

Awnings covered with metal, cloth, or wood shingles shade the first floors of all but three of the commercial buildings on the north side of East Main. Only two of the buildings on the south side have awnings. The Wilmore Mercantile building (#13) and another building (#18) have one-story, flat-roofed porches supported by metal posts (#14 and #18).

Most of the eight dwellings within the East Main Street
Historic District date from the late nineteenth and early
twentieth centuries. Several devastating fires in Wilmore's early
history and redevelopment have reduced the number of surviving
dwellings in the community from the late nineteenth century. Most

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of the structures which remain from the period have little or no ornamentation and exhibit the effects of modern remodeling with additions, changes to the porch, and replacement of the original exterior fabric. Several houses which do retain ornamentation typical of the period are described below.

The Sallee Hotel (#5) built in the 1880's is a two-story, three-bay, weatherboarded T-Plan which was used by overnight guests to the community. The Garvey-Turkington House (#26), built circa 1896 is four-bay, one-story, weatherboarded dwelling with a wrap around porch highlighted by a pediment which indicates the entry. The Robards-Penniston House (#25) built circa 1893, has a central passage, hip roof, wrap around porch, and polygonal bay.

The Wilder House (#4) built in 1913 is a two-story, three-bay, hip-roofed dwelling with a square plan and gabled extensions. It has gable returns, hip-roofed dormer, and a wrap around porch. The Askins House (Js-W-24) at 200 1/2 East Main was completed circa 1938. It is a one and one-half story, five bay dwelling with a steeply pitched roof and wall gables. Like City Hall (#12), the Askins House is made of locally quarried Kentucky River Marble.

#### Integrity Considerations

Changes to commercial buildings in the district since 1940 were inventoried in four categories: alteration of exterior fabric; alteration of building form through additions; alteration of window/door size or location; or changes to the roof. An analysis of the inventory showed that 72 % of the primary buildings in the district had changes in one or more of the categories listed above.

The most common changes were alterations to windows and included the following: reductions of the window sizes on the upper floor as the result of the installation of modern windows; installation of modern display windows on the first floor; or complete blockage of a window. Of the buildings in the district, 50% display the alterations described above to at least one window which is visible from the street.

Alterations to the building form are defined as the addition of a room or rooms visible from the street to the pre-1940 form of a building. Only two of the buildings in the district exhibit changes to the building form.

Registration requirements have been developed for this nomination for buildings eligible under Criterion A. Principal buildings in the district which meet the age criteria but have

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changes in three or more of the categories described above were determined non-contributing. Only two buildings (#6 and #20) have alterations in three or more categories. Both buildings have been identified as non-contributing due to their loss of integrity as the result of multiple modern renovations.

#### Architectural Inventory

Note: All National Register numbers refer to district map.

#### Source Summary: East Main Street Historic District

Key

NR#	National Register site number on district map				
C NC	Contributing building Non-contributing building (Note: The main building on the property is listed first followed by the number of the contributing or non-contributing outbuildings.)				
KHC	Site number assigned to building by the Kentucky Heritage Council for survey purposes				
Address	Street address of the property				
Map	Historic map on which the building first appears S-1929: shown on 1929 Sanborn Insurance Map S-: Sanborn Map				
Sources	Other sources of information used to date or determine the original owners of the property				
	Deeds: Deeds were traced to the original owner of the property				

NR#	<u>C/NC</u>	KHC Survey #	Address	Sources
1.	C/0	Js-W-29	209-211 E. Main	s-1929
2.	NC/0	Bank (Modern)	213 E. Main	

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NR#	C/NC	KHC Survey #	Address	Sources
3.	NC/0	Post Office (Modern)	301 E. Main	
4.	C/0	Js-W-9	303 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
5.	C/0	Js-W-8	305 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
6.	NC/0	Js-W-7 (Multiple modern alterat	307-309 E. Main	s-1929
7.	C/0	Js-W-6	313-315 E. Main	s-1929
8.	C/0	Js-W-5	317-319 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
9.	C/0	Js-W-4	323 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
10.	C/0 ·	Js-W-3	327 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
11.	C/0	Js-W-2	329 E. Main	s-1929
12.	C/0	Js-W-1	333 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
13.	C/0	Js-W-10	334 E. Main	S-1929
14.	C/0	Js-W-11	330 E. Main	Deeds S-1929
15.	C/0	Js-W-12	328 E. Main	S-1929
16.	C/0	Js-W-13	324-326 E. Main	s-1929
17.	C/0	Js-W-14	322 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
18.	C/0	Js-₩-15	316 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds

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NR#	<u>C/NC</u>	KHC Survey #	Address	Sources
19.	C/0	Js-W-16	312 E. Main	s-1929
20.	NC/0	Js-W-17 (Multiple modern alterat:	310 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
21.	NC/0	parking lot	308 E. Main	
22.	NC/0	parking lot	306 E. Main	
23.	C/0	Js-W-18	304 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
24.	C/0	Js-W-19	300 E. Main	
25.	C/0	Js-W-20	206 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
26.	C/1-C	Js-W-21 Js-W-22	204 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds
27.	C/0	Js-W-23	202 E. Main .	s-1929
28.	C/0	Js-W-24	200 1/2 E. Main	Deeds
29.	C/0	Js-W-25	200 E. Main	S-1929 Deeds

#### Inventory: East Main Street Historic District

#### North side of East Main Street (west to east)

#### 1. 209-211 E. Main Street.

The ME Church South is a two and one-half story, five-bay, brick Neo-Classical style church building.

The Wilmore Methodist Church was organized in 1885. John D. Scott first offered the congregation a site which they turned down due to the noise from the railroad. Scott then offered the lot on East Main St. where the ME Church South now stands.

The first church building was a wood frame structure measuring 40 x 56 feet. The present brick structure was completed in 1913. Additions were completed in 1964. The 1913

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sanctuary was renovated in 1972 (Seamands, 1973: 25).

#### 2. 213 E. Main Street.

Farmers Bank occupies a modern building on the site of a former dwelling.

#### 3. 301 E. Main Street.

A modern post office building occupies the former site of the Wilmore Hotel.

#### 4. 303 E. Main Street.

A.L. Wilder bought the lot from J. Thomas Rhorer in 1913 and the house was built shortly thereafter. During the course of his business career in Wilmore, Wilder sold furniture, hardware, and groceries. Wilder died in 1932, but his wife continued to live here until 1949.

The Wilder House is a two-story, weatherboarded, square plan residence with gabled extensions. A one-story porch wraps around the first floor and a small second story porch sits atop it on the main facade. Pedimented roofs are used on the dormer to mark the entry to the house. The hip-roofed residence has gable returns and tall brick chimneys.

#### 5. 305 E. Main Street.

This two-story, three-bay, weatherboarded, Italianate style, T-plan residence was known in the early twentieth century as the Sallee Hotel. Windows are 2/2. Sawn wood brackets ornament the gable and porch cornices.

#### 6. 307-309 E. Main Street.

The 1929 Sanborn Map shows a bank and drug store in this building.

The original windows in the upper story of this two-story, four-bay, weatherboarded building have been replaced with modern ones and shutters added. On the west side of the first floor, the clerestory windows are still visible in the first floor storefront, but modern plate glass windows have replaced the original ones. The east side of the first story has modern plate glass windows.

#### 7. 313-315 E. Main Street.

The one-story, six-bay, brick veneered building housed Wentzels Hardware on one side and a drug store on the other. This flat-roofed building with a stone foundation has cast iron posts

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framing the central entries to both store fronts. The spacing and size of the original window openings have been preserved.

#### 8. <u>317-319 E. Main Street</u>.

J.B. Harris bought this lot from E.E. Brown, a builder, in 1911. The 1929 Sanborn Map shows the Post Office and a drug store in this building.

The two-story, three-bay, brick veneer building with a stone foundation still houses the drug store for which the building was originally built. The flat roof has been modified to a gable roof. A modern cedar-shingled overhang shades the entire front facade. Stone lintels are visible over the three second story window openings which have been filled in to accommodate modern windows. A band of toothed brick corbelling is visible beneath the parapet. Modern plate glass has replaced the original windows on the first floor.

#### 9. 323 E. Main Street.

Originally a barber shop, this one story, two-bay, brick veneer building has a stone foundation and flat roof. A woodshingled overhang shades the front facade. A small modern window has been cut in the middle of the upper half of the main facade disrupting the band of toothed brick corbelling.

#### 10. 327 E. Main Street.

The Sanborn Maps show this building being used at different times for a print shop and a grocery store. The one-story, seven-bay, brick veneer building has a flat roof and stone foundation. A cloth awning shades the modern plate glass windows. It has a single row of toothed brick corbelling beneath the parapet.

#### 11. 329 E. Main Street.

Built as the O.C. Garvey funeral home and later used for picture framing, this two-story, two-bay, brick building has a stone foundation. Metal awnings have been added to the two windows in the second story. A band of toothed brick corbelling is located below the parapet. A cloth awning covers the modern plate glass windows on the first floor.

#### 12. 333 E. Main Street/ Wilmore City Hall.

With C.C. Glass as president, and J.D. Guerrant as secretary, the Glass Milling Company acquired this lot adjacent to the Cincinnati Southern Railroad in 1919. The mill operations were established southeast of the railroad in 1914 and the office

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#### 17. 322 E. Main Street.

In 1900, Robert J. Curd sold the lot on which this building stands to the Wilmore Deposit Bank. In the deed, there was a stipulation that a livery stable was not to be erected on the property. The Wilmore Deposit Bank was liquidated in 1937.

The Wilmore Deposit Bank is a two and one-half story, three-bay, building with stucco covering the brick. The windows have clerestories as well as stone lintels and sills. The central doorway has sidelights and a transom.

#### 18. 316 E. Main Street.

Circa 1900, R.J. Curd sold this lot to Thomas S. Barr who sold the property in 1907 to J.F. Askins.

This two and one-half story, four-bay, brick building has a one-story, flat-roofed porch supported by metal columns. The first floor retains its central entry and display windows with clerestories.

#### 19. 312 E. Main Street.

The Twyman barbershop was located in this one story, three-bay, brick building. Below the parapet is a single row of toothed brick corbelling. The windows have stone lintels and retain their original form.

#### 20. 310 E. Main Street.

This two-story, two-bay, brick commercial building has been modified with the addition of a gable roof to provide more room for apartments on the second floor. The two windows in the second story have stone lintels and sills.

The first floor has been altered with an infill of vinyl siding and the addition of modern windows and door.

#### 21. 308 E. Main Street.

A parking lot occupies the former site of a garage and car repair shop.

#### 22. 306 E. Main Street.

A parking lot occupies the former site of a store building.

#### 23. <u>304 E. Main Street</u>. (1914-1918)

Originally this two-story, three-bay, brick veneer building housed the hardware and paint division of the Jones-Savage Lumber Company. The lumber company with president A.P. Jones as president, began acquiring land in this vicinity between 1914 and

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1918. The 1929 Sanborn Map shows lumber sheds and warehouses for building materials south of this building along South Maple. All of the other buildings associated with the lumber company were removed after the business went bankrupt in 1934. A livery stable owned by E.L. Tipton occupied the site prior the acquisition of the land by the lumber company.

The flat-roofed building has a stone foundation. Wire-cut brick has been added to the front facade.

#### 24. 300 E. Main Street.

The one-story, three-bay, Colonial Revival style residence is made of Tyrone limestone. A stone addition on the southwest side functions as a beauty parlor.

#### 25. 206 E. Main Street.

Lewis W. Robards and his wife Kate, founder of Bellevue College bought the lot from Edward Scott in 1889 and built the house prior to 1893. In 1896, the Robards sold the house to Price N. and Sally Scott Peniston. Sally Scott Peniston lived in the house until her death in 1917. When the house was sold to her son Price N. Peniston, Jr. From 1914 through 1918, Price N. Penniston, Jr. and Asa Jewell operated a sale barn on Main Street near the railroad from which they sold horses to the federal government.

The Peniston House is a one and one-half story, three-bay, central passage, weatherboarded residence with a hip roof and stone foundation. On the northwest corner, there is a polygonal bay with a pyramidal roof. On the northeast corner is a pediment ornamented with a half-moon window.

#### 26. 204 E. Main Street.

O.C. Garvey bought this lot from H.A. Humphrey in 1895. O.C. Garvey had diversified business enterprises in which he served as a funeral director, druggist and cemetery owner. Upon Garvey's death circa 1936, his daughter Emily Garvey Turkington and her husband Dr. W.W. Turkington bought the residence from her father's estate. Dr. Turkington taught at Asbury Seminary and subsequently became a dean and mayor of Wilmore.

The one-story, four-bay, weatherboarded, gable-roofed T-plan residence has a stone foundation. A pediment accents the porch roofline. A stone addition has been placed on the west side.

## 27. <u>202 E. Main Street</u>. The two-story, three-bay, weatherboarded, square plan

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residence has a hip roof with gabled extensions. It also has a central dormer and one-story porch.

#### 28. 200 1/2 E. Main Street.

John Askins built this house on a lot he bought circa 1934-1938 from his sister Ernie Askins. John Askins was a grocer and operated a restaurant in a building adjacent to his house.

Askins House is a one and one-half story, locally-quarried limestone residence with the sharply-pointed wall gables reminiscent of the Tudor Revival style. The doorway is marked by a rounded arch.

#### 29. 200 E. Main Street

David A. Whitman built the house circa 1892 to 1897. Dr. McLean, a physician and businessman, bought the property in 1907. McLean was a partner of O.C. Garvey in the pharmacy business. Frank Askins bought the house in 1919 and occupied it until 1942. During one period of time, the house became an inn and restaurant known as the "Ask-Inn".

The McLean-Askins House is a two-story, three-bay, weatherboarded T-plan.

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#### Section 8: Significance of the East Main Street Historic District

The East Main Street Historic District in Wilmore, Kentucky is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with a series of events which created its present form. The district contributes to our understanding of the historic forces within the context of "The Development of Railroad Towns in Kentucky, 1870 to 1940". The East Main Street District retains a high degree of integrity relative to the aspects of setting, materials, and association.

#### The Development of Railroad Towns in Kentucky, 1870-1940

In the late nineteenth century, the major forces for railroad construction in Kentucky were the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad and Cincinnati Southern Railroad. Chartered by the Kentucky Legislature in 1850, the L&N Railroad was completed to the Kentucky-Tennessee line by 1859 and had twenty-four stations along the way. The Cincinnati Southern Railroad was authorized by Ohio law in 1869 to build a railroad through central Kentucky to Chattanooga. The Tennessee legislature approved the project in 1870, but bitter battles in the Kentucky legislature in 1870-71 kept Kentucky from approving the railroad line until February 1872.

Of the stations on the L&N Railroad line, five were located in existing county seats including Shepherdsville (Bullitt County), Elizabethtown (Hardin County), Bowling Green (Warren County), Munfordville (Hart County), and Franklin (Simpson County). Eight of the railroad stations were placed in communities which were already established, but were not county seats. For the remaining communities including Lebanon Junction, Bardstown Junction, Glendale, Sonora, Upton, Rowletts, Horse Cave, Smiths Grove, Oakland, Rich Pond, and Woodburn, the railroad provided the initial impetus for development.

Construction of the Cincinnati Southern through central Kentucky began in December 1873. Rough terrain south of Danville slowed progress and the entire route to Chattanooga did not open until early 1880. The Cincinnati Southern main line passed through 29 stations including seven county seats, five stage coach stops, and five crossroads communities. The remainder of the stations, including Sadieville and Wilmore, were new towns.

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The forms of the towns which developed in response to railroad access, such as Wilmore, were different from other Kentucky town forms. To understand how the mid- to latenineteenth century towns which developed in response to the railroad were configured, and what their characteristics were, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Wilmore (1919, 1929) were compared to two other rural railroad towns: Sadieville (1895, 1901, 1908, 1929) in Scott County chartered in 1876 on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad and Lebanon Junction (1933) in Bullitt County chartered in 1859 on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

The new railroad towns began as Wilmore did, a flag stop at a point where the railroad crossed an existing well-travelled rural turnpike. In Wilmore, it was the Glass Mill Pike, a road which linked southern Jessamine County to Glass Mill which was located on Jessamine Creek approximately one mile east of the present town of Wilmore. In Sadieville, it was the Big Eagle Pike, a turnpike which followed the course of Big Eagle Creek in the northeast part of Scott County. In central Kentucky, farmers were early supporters of railroads because the terrible condition of the turnpikes after the Civil War made it difficult to transport their products to markets. The flag stops were utilized by farmers as shipping points for local produce, grain, and livestock.

As the flag stops developed into towns and lots for commercial and residential use were platted, the main street was laid out either parallel to the railroad tracks as in Sadieville or perpendicular to the tracks as in Wilmore and Lebanon Junction. The center of commercial activity for the town was indicated by two-story brick or frame buildings which were concentrated in a area usually one block deep on either side of the side of the tracks. The depots and commercial development were usually on the same side of the tracks. In none of the communities examined do the commercial districts appear on both sides of the railroad tracks.

The development of the flag stops into communities coincided with the emergence of general stores, a commercial entity which became more prevalent after the Civil War. With the division of large land holdings into smaller farms, commodities were needed in smaller quantities by individual farm families. Middlemen employed by the wholesale concerns located in the larger cities

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East Main Street Historic District Wilmore-Jessamine County, Kentucky

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like Louisville travelled by trains to the towns in the rural areas. Each station and town represented an opportunity to establish an outlet for manufactured goods. In the railroad towns, the general stores were usually located near the railroad passenger and freight stations to be accessible to customers, shipping facilities, salesmen, and train travellers. The general store carried clothes, shoes, thread, tools, and food products. In Sadieville, Lebanon Junction, and Wilmore, the commercial buildings closest to the tracks were general stores.

The paragraphs which follow describe the physical characteristics of the railroad towns of Sadieville, Lebanon Junction, and Wilmore relative to the layout of commercial districts, residential development, and changes over time. In these towns the physical relationship of the commercial, residential, and industrial buildings to the railroad tracks and to each other communicates information about the history and function of these communities which is not usually covered in written histories.

In Sadieville, the 1895 map indicates a population of 500 and shows Main Street oriented north-south with commercial buildings on the east side of the street and the railroad parallel to it on the west. West of the tracks were industrial structures, but no additional commercial buildings. In the commercial district, there are three, two-story brick buildings housing general merchandise stores and three other frame buildings which contain a drugstore, hardware store, general store, and a post office. In Sadieville, the commercial buildings are free-standing and do not share common walls. Frame dwellings were located between the commercial buildings in 1895.

Consistent with Sadieville's use as an agricultural shipping point, there are three frame tobacco warehouses. One is south of the commercial area and adjacent to the railroad tracks and two others are located within a three block of radius of the tracks. In 1895, the Sadieville Milling Co. was shown on the south end of the commercial area adjacent to the railroad. On the 1901 map of Sadieville, which still indicates a population of 500, additional frame dwellings have been added on the north end of main street and a sawmill/ planing mill has been built on Big Eagle Pike east of the railroad. By the turn of the century, all of the residential structures are mostly T-plans of frame construction. Most of the new residential construction occurred on the

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East Main Street Historic District Wilmore-Jessamine County, Kentucky

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extension of Main Street and along the crossroad, Eagle Creek Pike. By 1908, the population of Sadieville reached 600 and the new buildings include the Neale Hotel adjacent to the railroad tracks, a creamery, two banks, fire engine house, a carriage shop and livery stable. In 1908, the dwellings in the commercial district have been replaced by commercial buildings. By 1929, Sadieville's population had decreased to 400, and the Sadieville Municipal Light Plant built.

In the 1933 map of Lebanon Junction, the one- and twostory, brick commercial buildings are on both sides of the west end of Main Street which is perpendicular to the north-south orientation of the railroad tracks. The commercial buildings are not free standing as the ones were in late-nineteenth century Sadieville, but are concentrated in blocks with common walls, a configuration similar to the one found in Wilmore. Adjacent to the tracks are warehouses and industrial enterprises related to the railroad including a lumber yard, grist mill, stock yards, ice and light company. There are residences on both the east and west ends of Main Street on both sides of the track, but the commercial buildings are only on the west side. All of the residential structures are of frame construction.

When the Cincinnati Southern Railroad secured right-of-way through Jessamine County in 1876, John D. Scott had extensive land holdings in the vicinity of what is now Wilmore. Scott lived in a house called "Belaire" which was located near the present site of Glide Crawford Hall on the campus of Asbury College. The railroad built its depot in 1882 to serve as a shipping point for the area and christened it Scott's Station. Despite Scott's attempts to persuade the railroad to fence its right-of-way, the company refused and several of Scott's prized jennets were killed by work trains. When Scott sued the railroad for damages, the company officials retaliated by changing the depot's name to Wilmore in honor of J.R. Wilmore, another owner of large tracts of land in the vicinity.

As was true for the other communities along the route, the Cincinnati Southern Railroad was Wilmore's link to the outside world. Adjacent to the tracks were stock yards and warehouses to accommodate the local farmers who shipped produce, grain, and livestock including horses, hogs, lambs, and cattle to Cincinnati or as far away as Nova Scotia. Glass Milling Company moved its operations from Jessamine Creek to the vicinity of the railroad

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East Main Street Historic District Wilmore-Jessamine County, Kentucky

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circa 1907 to have better access for the distribution of its products. Powered by steam since 1887, the mill did not have to remain in the vicinity of the stream and wanted to save on the hauling costs from the former site one mile east of Wilmore to railroad. A spur was built from the railroad to the mill so that products could be directly loaded into cars (Jessamine Journal, June 7, 1907, p. 2).

Newspaper accounts in the 1880's reported that merchants such as R.J. Scott and W.C. Prather, and R.A. Dodd (the local express agent) had traveled to Cincinnati to buy Christmas goods for stores. Businessmen such as R.J. Curd travelled via the train to Florida on business trips for Glass Milling. Ministers, professors, evangelists, and Asbury students are often mentioned in transit via the railroad. Railroad brought visitors to Wilmore for revivals and to the Holiness Camp Grounds. To accommodate the travellers, the Sallee Hotel was built on Main Street, west of the concentration of commercial buildings. In the deed research, however, there were references to an earlier hotel which stood between the railroad and the present city hall building.

By 1896, Wilmore had two doctors, H.S. Crockett and H.L. McLean and one druggist O.C. Garvey. Edward S. Scott, son of John D. Scott, still continued to run the general merchandise store he had started in 1878 with J.A. Fisher. Another general merchandise store was run by the Curd brothers. The R.L. Joplin Company sold clothing and general merchandise from the Mercantile Building located on the south side of main west of the railroad tracks. Nunnelly and T.S. Barr had a business which dealt in furniture, hardware, saddlery, and farming implements. They were also undertakers. Other businesses included a hotel, broom factory, cigar factory, three blacksmith shops, two livery stables, two milliners, two architects, two butcher shops, brick manufacturer, a green grocery, and another small store offering groceries and queensware.

In 1911, a fire in the business district destroyed most of the commercial buildings. After incorporation in 1918, the city bought a lot from the presbyterian church to build a structure which housed city hall, firehouse, and jail.

In Wilmore, as in Sadieville and Lebanon Junction, most of the dwellings are of frame construction except for the brick dwellings built on Kenyon Avenue. Unlike Sadieville, Wilmore did

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East	Main	Street	Historic	District
Wilme	ore-Je	essamine	County,	Kentucky

			Wilmore-Jessamine	County, Kentuck	СУ
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not experience a decline in population in the late 1920s and continued to grow from a population of 1500 in 1919 to 1800 in 1929, possibly due to the presence of Asbury College established in 1890 and Asbury Theological Seminary established in 1923. Evidence of this growth can be seen in the prevalence of bungalows and four square dwellings in the North Lexington Avenue District.

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Section 10: Geographical Data

Acreage: 9

Wilmore USGS quadrant

UTM References

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	705800	4192680
В	16	706020	4192480
С	16	705940	4192400
D	16	705720	4192620

Boundary Description

See attached district map which is based on the 1929 Sanborn Insurance Map and has a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet.

**Boundary Justification** 

In appearance the East Main Street Historic District as a whole differs from its surroundings by virtue of its late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial character.

The boundary for the East Main Street Historic District excludes the post-1940 residential areas of Wilmore to the north, east, and south and the modern buildings and parking lots of Asbury College to the west.

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		SUPPL	EMENTARY I	ISTING RECO	RD	
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	Main Street	Histori	c Distric	<u>t</u>		
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<u>N/A</u> Multi	ole Name					
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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Main Street Historic District Wilmore-Jessamine County, Kentucky

Section number Photos Page 1

PHOTO #: 1

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: NORTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH

AT SITES #8-12

PHOTO #: 2

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: NORTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST

AT SITES #8-12

PHOTO #: 3

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: NORTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING

NORTHWEST AT SITES #7-4

PHOTO #: 4

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: SOUTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING SOUTH

AT SITES #16 AND 17

**PHOTO #: 5** 

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: SOUTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING

SOUTHWEST AT SITES #18-20

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East Main Street Historic District Wilmore-Jessamine County, Kentucky

Section number Photos Page 2

PHOTO #: 6

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: NORTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING

NORTHWEST AT SITES #4 AND 5

PHOTO #: 7

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: SOUTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING

SOUTHWEST AT SITES #26 AND 25

PHOTO #: 8

GROUP NOMINATION: EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

WILMORE, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: SOUTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, LOOKING

SOUTHWEST AT SITES #26 AND 27