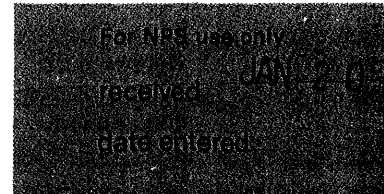


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



## 1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Falmouth Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number The incorporation limits of Falmouth (1982) not for publication

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Kentucky code 021 county Pendleton code 191

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership--see individual survey forms & continuation sheet

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

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

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pendleton County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square, Main & Shelby

city, town Falmouth state Kentucky 41040

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date August-September 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

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The names and mailing addresses of all owners of numbered sites within the nomination (both individual buildings and buildings within the Central Falmouth Historic District) are listed on individual survey forms, included as accompanying documentation. There are three additional properties which fall within the district but are non-contributing elements--names and addresses for owners of these properties are as follows:

Site A: 107 E. Shelby St.---owned by Licking Valley Oil  
c/o Bob Bay  
Butler, Kentucky

Site B: 128 Shelby Street---owned by Mayor Max Goldberg  
Past Time Theater  
136 W. Shelby Street  
Falmouth, Kentucky 41040

Site C: 208 Chapel Street---owned by C. Donald Wells  
Rt. 4  
Falmouth, Kentucky 41040

## 7. Description see also continuation sheets

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

#### Survey Methodology

A survey of the historic resources of Falmouth was conducted during the months of August and September, 1982. The Kentucky Heritage Council awarded a matching grant to the city of Falmouth, which in turn provided volunteer services and office space to meet the match requirements. The survey was administered by the Northern Kentucky Area Development District, and was conducted by Lori A. Feldman, architectural historian.

All of the historic resources within the city limits of Falmouth were examined, and those which met necessary historical and architectural criteria were included in the survey. Criteria for inclusion was based upon local historical significance and architectural significance as reflective of the town's development. In many cases, only the best examples of a particularly common period or style of building were documented in the survey. Each site was photographed, mapped, and described on a Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form. One hundred and four buildings were included in the Falmouth survey. Of those one hundred and four, fifty-six buildings are being nominated to the National Register--thirty-nine within the Central Falmouth Historic District and seventeen individual buildings.

#### Physical Description of Falmouth

Falmouth is located at the confluence of the Licking and the South Licking Rivers, in the center of Pendleton County. Pendleton County is situated in northern Kentucky, and is bordered by Kenton and Campbell Counties to the north, Bracken County to the east, Harrison County to the south, and Grant County to the west (see maps 1 and 2). Falmouth may be reached by US Highway 27, and lies approximately 35 miles south of Greater Cincinnati, Ohio and about 55 miles northeast of Lexington, Kentucky--the closest metropolitan areas. Falmouth is the urban center of Pendleton County; Butler and Boston are the only other towns of significant size. Falmouth consists of a central business district and several residential neighborhoods. The surrounding area, beyond the city limits, is largely rural and is used primarily for agriculture.

#### General Historical Description

Pendleton County was founded as the 28th Kentucky county in 1798 by Virginians, and was named in honor of Edmund Pendleton, the Virginia congressman.<sup>1</sup> Falmouth, the county seat, was also settled by Virginians. The town was established by an act of the Kentucky legislature in 1793 (five years before the county itself), and is one of Kentucky's oldest communities.<sup>2</sup> Most of the original land was owned by John Waller, Alvin Montjoy, and John Cook, who donated portions of their property to establish the town and who named it after Falmouth, Virginia (see map 3).<sup>3</sup>

Settlers were attracted to Falmouth's fertile soil, the location on the river, and the proximity to large trading centers such as Cincinnati. Farmers grew corn, wheat, vegetables, and other staple crops, and raised cattle, hogs, and sheep.<sup>4</sup> Falmouth became the trading center for Pendleton County farmers, as well as the site of various small industries. John Waller had a sawmill on the Licking River as early as 1794,<sup>5</sup> and Augustus Robbins had a gristmill at the foot of Chapel Street.<sup>6</sup>

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As the county seat, Falmouth was the government center of Pendleton County. The first Courthouse was built in 1798, on land donated by John Waller.<sup>7</sup> The present Courthouse (1848) stands on the same site (see site 1). The first county jail was built c. 1800, and remained in use until the present jail was constructed c. 1850 (see site 33).

Falmouth was also the religious center of the county. The oldest congregation was the Baptist Church, organized in 1792.<sup>8</sup> By 1874, Falmouth had six churches--Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, Christian, and Lutheran.<sup>9</sup>

The earliest school in Falmouth was the Pendleton County Academy, built in 1814.<sup>10</sup> A new school of the same name was constructed in 1845, and served as the seat of local higher education until 1895.<sup>11</sup> Neither of these buildings are extant.

As late as 1846, Falmouth was the only town in Pendleton County, with a population of 250.<sup>12</sup> The major occupation was still agriculture--with Pendleton County a leading producer of grain, honey, and dairy products and with Falmouth the center of trade.<sup>13</sup> The Licking River was an important means of transportation, on which goods were floated to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.<sup>14</sup> There were three roads leading into Falmouth--the Cynthiana Road, the Woodson Road, and the Wagoner's Ferry Road.<sup>15</sup> The latter led to Foster's Landing on the Ohio, an important shipping and travel point.<sup>16</sup>

Interest in the railroad began in 1843. A charter was passed by the Legislature in 1849, and construction on the railroad was begun.<sup>17</sup> It was completed in 1854 and ran from Covington to Lexington, passing through Falmouth.<sup>17</sup> The railroad had a tremendous impact on Falmouth, and helped to attract a number of new industries to the town. A meat packing industry was started and prospered until the late 1800's, sending its products as far as New Orleans.<sup>18</sup> The Falmouth Woolen Mills (no longer standing) were built in 1866 and produced blankets and other fine woolen goods.<sup>19</sup> Another major industry was the distillery, portions of which are still standing. Previous to 1860, tobacco was grown only in small amounts. After that time, it became the major crop, and a tobacco market was established on Montjoy Street.<sup>20</sup>

By 1870, the population of Falmouth had risen to 614; by 1876 it numbered over 1000.<sup>21</sup> In order to accommodate the increase in population, Falmouth experienced a growth in services and local commerce. Doctors, lawyers, smiths, tailors, and undertakers located in Falmouth. A number of merchants established businesses in town--hardware, dry goods, clothing, groceries. Several taverns, inns, and hotels were built in Falmouth during this period of growth. By 1900, Falmouth had a thriving commercial district and several industries and was an established urban community.

After this time, many of the industries in Falmouth faltered, and there has been little industrial growth since the early part of the 20th century. In 1960, the population was 2568; in 1980 it had dropped to 2482.<sup>22</sup> At present, tobacco farming is still a major source of income for the town, and there are only two large industries--the Dr. Scholl Shoe Company (est. 1969), and the Fuller Manufacture and Supply (est. 1952).<sup>23</sup> Many residents of Falmouth work in Cincinnati and other nearby metropolitan areas. As a result, there has been a minimum of new construction, both commercial and residential, in Falmouth since the 1930's.

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Description of Architectural Component

Falmouth's architectural component parallels its historical development (see map 4). The oldest part of town (as shown in an 1813 plat map) stretched from the river to Fourth Street, and from near the present city limit on the east to Park Street on the west. This was the government and religious center, the site of early industrial and commercial development, and the location of the first residential neighborhoods.

There are a few extant examples from the early settlement period (1793-1850) within the early boundaries of the city. These are mostly residential, vernacular style, with some Federal influence. Many of the buildings have been altered and do not retain their original integrity, but the Kennett Tavern (site 5), the Montjoy House (site 39), and the Oldham Plantation (site 56) are indicative of this early period.

During the period 1850-1900, a number of commercial buildings were added to the central business district on Shelby Street. These are mostly eclectic, with details reflective of the many popular Victorian styles. With the coming of the railroad, many small vernacular houses were built in the western portion of the city (near the railroad tracks), and some larger, more stylish residences were constructed near the business district. This period of growth also saw the establishment of the early black neighborhood, known as Happy Hollow, on lower Montjoy Street. Most of these small vernacular houses are intact. The mill district, begun during the second half of the 19th century, was located on Water Street but little architectural integrity can be found in the remaining mill buildings.

The 1884 Atlas map of Falmouth indicates growth to the south and the west of the earlier boundaries (see map 4). Most of this expansion involved new residential neighborhoods. Late 19th century "suburbs" were established along West Shelby Street and South Maple Street, where many fine homes were built in the popular eclectic mood of the late Victorian era. Most of these houses have been altered with modern siding and the removal of 19th century detail and decorative elements, but a few examples remain with their integrity intact. The Robbins Avenue-Broad Street neighborhood began its expansion in the late 19th century and continued into the early 20th century. Most of the residences in this area of Falmouth are vernacular, with some eclectic detail. Many suffered tornado damage in 1968, and lost architectural details such as porches and stained glass.

There was a period of growth in Falmouth between 1900 and 1930, and several examples of buildings dating to that time are interspersed among the older examples. The central business district includes a number of early 20th century commercial buildings, and there are many residences dating from this period in Falmouth.

The remaining area within the Falmouth city limits consists of subdivisions which date from the early 20th century to the present (see map 4). Most of the buildings in these neighborhoods are vernacular (in the older areas) or planned subdivision styles (in the more recent suburbs).

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The Central Falmouth Historic District

The Central Falmouth Historic District is located in the center of the oldest portion of town, and includes the Courthouse Square, the central business district on Shelby and Main Streets, and several early neighborhoods (see maps 5 and 6). The majority of the buildings in the district date from the last half of the 19th century, including the Courthouse, the County Jail, four churches, most of the commercial buildings, three inns/hotels, and many residences. Most of these late 19th century examples can be called eclectic, drawing upon many of the prominent architectural details of the Victorian style. Several are examples of local vernacular styles, and a few are good examples of pure Victorian form--notably the Bradford House (site 24) and the Masonic Building (site 30).

Although the district achieved its current sense of cohesiveness during the second half of the 19th century, it also includes a number of examples dating from the early settlement period (1793-1850), and from the early 20th century. All of these buildings, regardless of date, work well together--materials are generally red brick or frame with weatherboard; scale is basically limited to one, one and one half, and two stories; and the popular style is vernacular/eclectic.

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries were chosen to enclose the most cohesive section of the original city center (see map 6). Boundaries were drawn to include the Courthouse/County Jail complex; the west side of Main Street from the Courthouse to the Roller Rink; both sides of Shelby Street, from the Kennett Tavern and the blacksmith shop to the Christian Church and the Bradford House; and both sides of Chapel Street from Shelby Street to the Church of the Nazarene and St. Francis Xavier (see photos 1 through 12).

Areas outside of the chosen district are lacking in the sense of cohesiveness shown within the district, and the boundaries delineate this distinction: the area north of the Courthouse Square and east of Chapel Street has many modern intrusions (parking lots, late 20th century residences and commercial structures), and the east side of North Main Street has all new buildings, including the City Hall. The remaining areas surrounding the district include many late 20th century buildings. Although these areas have many buildings dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, the majority of them have been radically altered and no longer retain their original architectural integrity.

A description of the district boundary may be found in item 10. There are seven non-contributing elements included in the district. These are:

- 107 E. Shelby Street (site A)--modern intrusion
- 128 Shelby Street, Past Time Theatre (site B)--modern intrusion
- 208 Chapel Street (site C)--modern intrusion
- 113-115 Shelby Street, Pool Room/Card Shop (site 14)--altered, lacks integrity
- 222 Shelby Street, Ammerman's Variety (site 27)--altered, lacks integrity
- 216 Shelby Street, First National Bank (site 28)--altered, lacks integrity
- 202 Chapel Street (site 35)--altered, lacks integrity

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All of the remaining buildings in the district are contributing elements. Most have been altered to some degree over the years, but all retain their original architectural integrity. Individual survey forms for all numbered sites within the Central Falmouth Historic District are included as accompanying documentation. Unless otherwise specified on the survey form, all property nominations refer only to the described building.

Individual Nominations

Seventeen individual buildings are included in the nomination. These are commercial and residential buildings located outside of the Central Falmouth Historic District, and were chosen either for their particular significance or as the best example of a style, type, or period of building. Individual survey forms for each of these sites are included as accompanying documentation. Unless otherwise specified on the survey form, all property nominations refer only to the described building.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Lewis Collins, History of Kentucky (Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1874), II, p. 675.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Pendleton County Deed Book A, p. 79.

<sup>4</sup>"Brief History of the County of Pendleton and its County Seat, Falmouth" (in the Pendleton County Public Library).

<sup>5</sup>Collins, II, p. 676.

<sup>6</sup>H.C. Clark, M.D., letter of 1928.

<sup>7</sup>Elizabeth Garr, History of Kentucky Courthouses (National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Kentucky, 1966), p. 130.

<sup>8</sup>"Centennial Year 1873-1973 of the Falmouth Christian Church," p. 18.

<sup>9</sup>Collins, II, p. 675.

<sup>10</sup>Kenneth Marquette, "Pendleton History: Schools, Doctors, Lawyers, and Early Post Offices" (in the Pendleton County Public Library).

<sup>11</sup>"...Falmouth Christian Church," p. 19.

<sup>12</sup>Collins, II, p. 675.

<sup>13</sup>"Brief History of the County of Pendleton..."

<sup>14</sup>"...Falmouth Christian Church," p. 17.

<sup>15</sup>Clark letter.

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<sup>16</sup>Kenneth Marquette, "Short History of Western Pendleton County and Other Related Subjects" (in the Pendleton County Public Library).

<sup>17</sup>Falmouth Rotary Club, "Early History of Pendleton County and Falmouth," 1967 (in the Pendleton County Public Library).

<sup>18</sup>"Brief History of the County of Pendleton..."

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Falmouth Rotary Club, "Early History..."

<sup>21</sup>"...Falmouth Christian Church," p. 20.

<sup>22</sup>1980 Census of Population.

<sup>23</sup>Kentucky Department of Commerce, "A Comprehensive Report on Falmouth and Butler, Kentucky" (Frankfort: 1981), p. 3.



## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic resources of Falmouth included in the Multiple Resources nomination represent the largest and most cohesive collection of 19th century architecture to be found in Pendleton County. The nominated buildings are an architectural expression of Falmouth's history and development, and a reflection of the city's position as the government, religious, and commercial center of the county.

Resources from all phases of Falmouth history are represented. The majority of the nominated buildings are contained in the Central Falmouth Historic District, located in the center of the oldest part of town and including the government complex, four major churches, the business district, and several fine residences. In addition to those thirty-nine buildings found within the district, seventeen individual nominations are being made. These seventeen properties serve to exemplify the best and most representative architecture in Falmouth, in terms of both architectural and historical significance (see map 6).

### Settlement and Early History, 1793-1850

Falmouth's early history began in 1793, when the town was founded by John Waller, Alvin Montjoy, and others. Population during the early years numbered 100, and early accounts refer to unpaved streets, sparse buildings, small home industries (tanning, smithing, etc.), farming, and river trade. A surprising number of buildings from this early period are extant in Falmouth, although most have been radically altered and no longer retain their original integrity. Three buildings within the nominated district date from this time and reflect Falmouth's early history.

The Kennett Tavern (site 5, photo 13) was built c. 1810 in the Federal style, and is the oldest commercial building in the city. The Alvin Montjoy House (site 39, photo 14) pre-dates 1800 and was the home of one of the city's founders. It is one of the few log structures remaining in Falmouth, and has been restored to an early appearance. The Lee-Wilson House on Main Street (site 9) was built c. 1827. Originally a one-story vernacular brick dwelling, this house has undergone many changes over the years, reflecting its long history.

In addition to these three buildings, the Oldham Plantation (site 56, photos 15, 16, and 17) is an excellent example from Falmouth's early period. The plantation is located on the northeast edge of the city, across the Licking River. The house was built c. 1825, in the Federal style, of Flemish bond brick with tooled joints and fine detailing inside and out. Once the center of a thriving plantation (primarily corn, for the local gristmills), the house now stands vacant in the midst of tobacco fields.

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Falmouth as a Government Center

Pendleton County was founded in 1798, and Falmouth was named as the county seat. The first courthouse, of stone, was built at that time on the site of the present courthouse. The front portion of the current courthouse (site 1, photos 18 and 19) was built in 1848, of Flemish bond brick, with a richly detailed central pavilion design. It was remodeled in 1884, when the rear portion, the clerks' offices, and the bell tower were added. Although several bond issues have been proposed to tear down the courthouse in order to build a modern one, these have been defeated--the Pendleton County Courthouse is important to the people in the county, and embodies Falmouth's position as the county seat. Another building within the Pendleton County government complex is the jail (site 33, photo 20), c. 1850. Still in use as the county jail, the building's details include a pilastered and arcaded brick front facade.

Falmouth as a Religious Center

Falmouth, as the urban center of the county, was also the religious center. By the late 19th century, Falmouth had six major churches in town. Four of the church buildings from this period are located within the Central Falmouth Historic District. The oldest is the Methodist Church (site 25, photo 21), originally called Mary's Chapel and built in 1854. The original vernacular church has had a number of additions and alterations over the years, but retains its integrity, particularly on the interior. The Church of the Nazarene (site 36, photo 22) dates to 1871, when this small vernacular church served the Lutheran congregation. The Christian Church (site 22, photo 23) was built in 1873, in the Gothic Revival style, with its central bell tower facing Shelby Street. St. Francis Xavier, the Catholic Church (site 37, photos 24 and 25) is Romanesque Revival, built between 1877 and 1880. It too has undergone many changes over the years, but retains its original character. All of Falmouth's churches are still in use by descendants of the same families that built them in the 19th century.

Commercial Development, 1850-1900

In 1846, Falmouth's population numbered 250, and the city was still basically a market place and trade center for the surrounding agricultural production. By 1870, the population had jumped to 614, and six years later it was over 1000. The rise in population can be attributed to the coming of the railroad in 1854. Since transportation was no longer limited to river travel and wagon roads, a number of new industries arose in Falmouth, attracting workers. In response to the increased population, the city experienced a growth in local commerce and services between 1850 and 1900. A number of merchants opened businesses in town--hardware, groceries, dry goods, etc. Most of these new businesses located on Shelby Street, in the town's commercial center.

A number of commercial buildings dating to that period of growth still stand and are in use for commercial purposes today. A good example is the Carton Block (site 29, photo 26), located on the northwest corner of Shelby and Chapel. This eclectic example, with Victorian details such as the paneled frieze, was built between 1850 and 1860 and has had a variety of commercial uses over the years.

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Another example is the Applegate/Arnold Store (site 26, photo 27), built by the Applegate family c. 1890 as a hardware store. Also eclectic, the building has a richly decorated and detailed entablature. The Masonic Building (site 30, photo 28), c. 1873, is the best example of the Italianate commercial style to be found in Falmouth. Built as the Masonic Hall, it housed small businesses and professional offices on its lower floors.

A number of smaller commercial buildings, most in the vernacular style, also date to this period. These include examples such as the present Western Auto Store, c. 1850 (site 12), and the present Fancy Floral Shop, c. 1875 (site 31, photo 29). An example located outside of the Central Falmouth Historic District is the Watson Store (site 45, photos 30 and 31), built near the railroad in 1873.

Many doctors, lawyers, and tradesmen also located in Falmouth during the late 19th century growth period. Several had offices in large buildings such as the Masonic Hall, but some located in their own buildings within the business district. Dr. Barbour opened practice from his home/office on Shelby Street (site 15), c. 1860. This small eclectic example had office space in the front and the family residence to the rear. Henry Shonert had his blacksmith shop (site 6) near Shelby and Main, c. 1870.

Increased population, commerce, and the railroad led to a need for taverns, inns, and hotels. Several were built between 1850 and 1900, most notably the Pendleton House (site 46, photos 32 and 33), built c. 1857 to serve railroad passengers. The Phoenix Hotel (site 7, photo 34), at the corner of Shelby and Main, was built c. 1885 and was considered one of the finest hotels in town. Both examples have late 19th century eclectic detailing. Two smaller hotels were built on Courthouse Square, facing Main Street. These were the Bishop Hotel (site 3), c. 1888, and the Reddy Inn (site 2), c. 1875.

Other nominated buildings that reflect Falmouth's commercial development, 1850-1900, include the following:

Pendleton Bank (site 28), c. 1880  
Martz's Grocery (site 27), c. 1875  
113-115 Shelby Street (site 14), c. 1860  
Assembly Building (site 4), c. 1890  
LLL Building (site 11), c. 1850  
Citizens' Telephone Exchange (site 32), c. 1885  
McCarty Tavern (site 44), c. 1855

Commercial Development, 1900-1930

Falmouth experienced another period of growth during the early 20th century, reflected in the construction of many new commercial buildings. Several of these were located in the Shelby Street-Main Street business area, interspersed among the older buildings. The earliest example is the Martha Clark Building (site 20), built c. 1900 as a store. Originally frame and weatherboard, it was clad with metal sheeting c. 1920. The Old Citizens' Bank building, c. 1902 (site 17), is a small brick building distinguished by its pilastered and arcaded front facade.

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The style of many of the later buildings consists of a single story, with a front facade of red brick laid in a decorative bond, perhaps with yellow brick or stone insets or patterns incorporated as a design. Examples include:

Roller Rink (site 8), c. 1920  
Old Western Auto (site 10), c. 1925  
Western Auto Annex (site 13), c. 1920  
Falmouth Kroger Store (site 16), c. 1930

A major addition to the business district was the Falmouth Post Office (site 19). Built in 1931, it was the first permanent Federal government building constructed in Falmouth. It occupies the southwest corner of Shelby and Chapel, and is one of two Classical Revival buildings in town. Another unusual offering from this later period of commercial growth is the second Citizens' Bank, c. 1923 (site 18). It has a two-story three-bay stone facade--the only use of stone facing to be found among the Shelby Street commercial buildings.

The early 20th century commercial additions to the Central Falmouth Historic District do not detract from its sense of continuity. Considerations of scale, materials, and attention to simple details are factors which help to incorporate these buildings into the older streetscape. Only the Post Office and the second Citizens' Bank (now Falmouth Deposit) are unusual, although they do not radically disrupt the district.

Residential Development, 1850-1930

Parallel to its two periods of commercial growth, Falmouth experienced a period of residential expansion during the years 1850-1930. Many of the new houses were built during the last part of the 19th century--small vernacular houses for railroad and other workers, high style and eclectic Victorian houses for industrialists, merchants and professionals.

Some of the new houses were built near the business area of Shelby Street, in the oldest part of town, and are included in the Central Falmouth Historic District. Two residences on Chapel Street are good examples of larger frame vernacular houses--the Mary Hauser House, c. 1870 (site 34), and the Joshua Ritter House, c. 1875 (site 35). The Thomas Oldham House on Shelby, c. 1875 (site 21), is an example of a brick vernacular house.

Also within the Central Falmouth Historic District are two elegant Victorian residences dating from the 1890's, both built by Falmouth industrialists. The Galloway House (site 38, photo 35) on Chapel Street is a Victorian Gothic built by the family associated with the distillery and grain mill complex. The Bradford House (site 24, photos 36 and 37) on Shelby is Falmouth's best Queen Anne residence, said to have been modeled on examples of the finest homes in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. This residence is particularly distinctive because it retains most of its original character and conveys a sense of its 1890 appearance, when it was built for one of Falmouth's most colorful citizens, Henry Bullock.

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Included in the oldest portion of town, but not within the Central Falmouth Historic District, is the 19th century black neighborhood, Happy Hollow. This block of Montjoy, between Second and Water, was owned by Charity Southgate, the ancestor of much of Falmouth's black population. Charity's House (site 42, photo 38, right) was built c. 1850. Most of the other houses on the block were built for her children and grandchildren. The best examples are the Southgate House, c. 1860 (site 43, photo 38, left), and the Elzey Hughes House, c. 1870 (site 41, photo 39).

As Falmouth grew, several new neighborhoods were built. Expansion began along major streets, notably Shelby (east and west) and Maple (north and south). North Maple Street is the site of many 19th century houses. Most of these have been altered and their integrity has been obscured, but the Sheehan House, c. 1870 (site 40, photos 40 and 41), retains its original character. It is a small frame dwelling, with many Victorian details such as the porch with spindle trim.

Many large Victorian homes were built along South Maple, a major 19th century expansion point. Again, most of these have been altered with aluminum siding and other modern details. Two examples of late 19th century residences situated in this neighborhood are the William Applegate House, c. 1882 (site 51, photos 42 and 43), a small brick vernacular; and the Leslie Applegate House, c. 1888 (site 52, photo 44), Falmouth's best example of the Shingle style.

The West Shelby Street expansion occurred during the same period as that of South Maple Street, and the same type of residences were built there. Three examples of homes on West Shelby Street that retain their integrity include the Seaman Sisters' House, c. 1885 (site 47, photos 45 and 46), a brick Victorian Gothic; the Chipman House, c. 1890 (site 49, photo 47), a frame Queen Anne; and the Kellum House, c. 1885 (site 48, photo 48), Falmouth's only example of an Italianate residence.

Expansion along East Shelby Street took the form of small vernacular structures, largely frame, such as the Frederick Reed House, c. 1865 (site 55, photo 49), one of the oldest homes in the neighborhood.

Other distinctive residential examples to be found in Falmouth include the Bishop House, c. 1880 (site 53, photos 50 and 51), an unusual frame vernacular with Victorian porch detailing; the Jameson House, c. 1868 (site 50, photos 52 and 53), the only Gothic Revival house in the city; and the McBride House, c. 1907 (site 54, photos 54 and 55), a "catalog" house, interior and exterior. The Bradford Carriage House (site 23) is an example of an extant 19th century residential outbuilding.

During the early part of the 20th century, much of the surrounding farmland was sold as subdivisions (see map 4). These new residential areas consist mostly of planned housing types and small bungalow style homes. There has been little residential expansion in Falmouth since the 1930's, with the exception of repairs to homes damaged during the 1968 tornado.

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Conclusion

Present day Falmouth is still the government center, religious center, and commercial center of Pendleton County. Most of the historic resources included in the nomination are currently in use, many for the same purposes as originally intended. Because Falmouth's architecture directly reflects the development of the community, it provides a distinctive sense of continuity and stands as a significant record of the history of a small northern Kentucky city.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References see also Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 9 Acres

Quadrangle name FALMOUTH

Quadrangle scale 1: 24 000

UMT References

A 

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7	3	2	2	6	0
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4	2	8	4	3	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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7	3	2	3	4	0
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4	2	8	4	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	6
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7	3	2	2	4	0
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4	2	8	4	0	5	0
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D 

1	6
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7	3	2	0	4	0
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4	2	8	4	2	2	0
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E 

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7	3	2	0	7	0
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4	2	8	4	2	8	0
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F 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundaries for the entire Multiple Resources Area are the incorporation limits of Falmouth (see map 4). Boundaries of the Central Falmouth Historic District are described in item 7 (see also map 7). Boundary references for individual buildings refer to Dept. of Revenue property maps on file at the Pendleton County Courthouse.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lori A. Feldman, Architectural Historian

organization Northern Kentucky Area Development District date October 1982

street & number 7505 Sussex Drive telephone 606/283-1885

city or town Florence state Kentucky 41042

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Curran Opel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 17, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Laura M. McClanahan date 3/4/83

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 3/3/83

for Chief of Registration



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Falmouth Multiple Resource Area  
State Kentucky

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Applegate, Leslie T., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

Determined Eligible

2. Applegate, W. M., House

OWNER OBJECTION

for Keeper

Linda McClelland 3/4/83

Attest

Eligible Patrick Andrews 3/4/83

3. Bishop House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

4. Central Falmouth Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Linda McClelland 3/4/83

Attest

Patrick Andrews 3/3/83

5. Charity's House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

6. Chipman House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 3/4/83

Attest

7. House at 206 Park Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

8. Hughes, Elzey, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

9. Jameson, George W., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

10. Kellum House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Falmouth Multiple Resource Area  
State Kentucky

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. McBride House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

12. Oldham Plantation

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

13. Pendleton House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

✓ 14. Reed, Frederick, House

Entered in the  
National Register

at least  
for Keeper

accept Patrick Andrews 3/4/83

for Keeper  
Attest

Linda McClelland 3/4/83

15. Seaman Sisters' House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

16. Sheehan House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

17. Southgate House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

18. Watson Store

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

3/4/83 Delores Byers

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest