

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # 31
Madison County

1. Name of Resource: Shearer Store

2. Original Owner: Jim and Bob Shearer

3. Other Names: Tribble Grocery

4. Prehistoric Site Building Object
Historic Site Structure Other

5. Location: North Side of KY 1936 at Union City

6. Owner's Name: Patsy Newton and Willie Dale Johnson [P]

7. Owner's Address: Union City, Kentucky

8. Evaluation: [N]

9. Recognition & Date:
 Nat.Landmark Local Landmark
 Nat.Register HABS/HAER
 Highway Marker KY Inventory 1979
 KY Landmark Certificate

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:
 District Name: []
 Mult.Resource Area: Madison County []
 Thematic Name: []

12. Historical Theme:
 Primary: Architecture [030]
 Secondary: []
 Other: []

13. Statement of Significance:

See attached.

14. History:
 The store was built by Jim and Bob Shearer prior to the Civil War. They sold it to Joe Oldham when they left to fight in the war. It was used as a village general store and post office. Other store keepers have included George Ginner, W.D. Oldham, W.C. Griggs, J. Noland, and J.R. Tribble.

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person:

Interview with owner.
 Earlier survey form.

16. Date:
 Original Building c. 1840-1850 [7]
 Addition []

17. Style:
 Greek Revival [31]
 Modern Vernacular [7v]

18. Architect/Builder: Unknown

19. No. of Stories: [1.5]

20. Original Floor Plan: NA []

21. Single Pile Double Pile N.A.

22. Roof Form & Material: Original
Gable/Tin Raised Seam Not Original

23. Structural Material:
Brick [B]

24. Exterior Material: Brick/Double Stretcher Flemish Bond [B]

25. Foundation Material: Stone [S]

26. Major Alterations: None
 Moved/Rebuilt Other
 Additions

27. Special Features: Rounded Arch Window in Gable

28. Outbuildings: None []

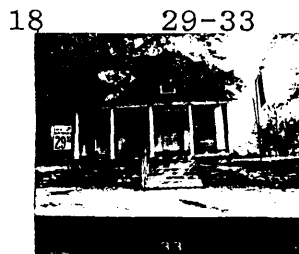
29. Original Function: Store [02A]

30. Present Use: Store []

31. Condition: Good [G]

32. Endangered: Yes
 No

33. Attach Photos:
 Roll: Photo Nos: No. of Slides:



34. Prepared by: S. Willis and H. Powell

35. Organization: Madison County His. Society

36. Date: 1985

37. New Survey Resurvey

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38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Zone Easting Northing 39. G.I.S. Mod. []
Quadrant: Union City 16 746760 4186870 40. Coordi.Accuracy []

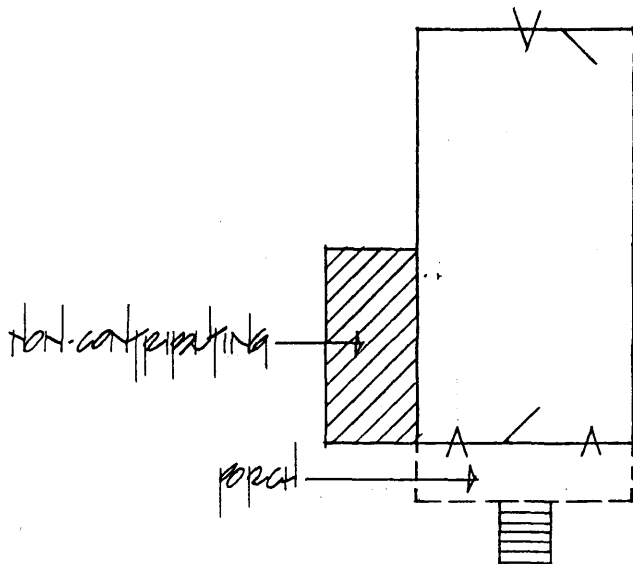
41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. ----- D. -----
B. ----- E. -----
C. ----- F. -----

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary:

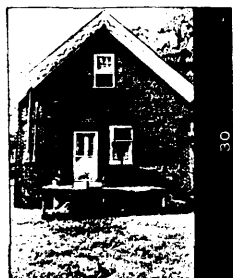
44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):

See Attached.



45. Description and House Plan:

The store front facade is in gable end of building and is built of double stretcher flemish bond brick. Facade is separated into three bays by 4 Ionic pilasters creating a central door with three light transom flanked on each side by a window (2/2). Up in gable end is a round arched window with brick drip moldings. The roof is gable shaped with raised seam tin roofing material. The eaves overhang and are accentuated by Gothic barge boards. The interior of the front facade retains the original modillions and dentils in the molding. The mid 20th century front porch has a shed roof and concrete base. The side facades are five course running bond.



KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Shearer Store Site # Ma 31
Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF MADISON
COUNTY, KENTUCKY

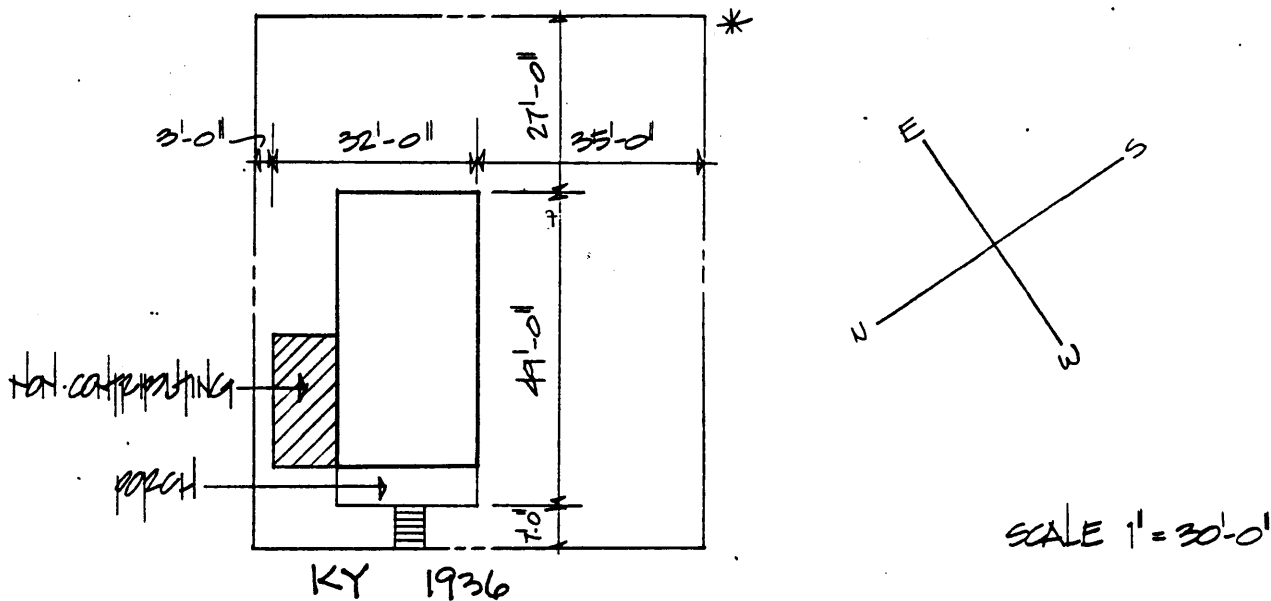
U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. _____ D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description _____ Acreage .13

From the southeast corner of the building, south 35 feet and east 27 feet to a point of beginning; then west 83 feet to a point; then north 70 feet to a point; then east 83 feet to a point; then south 70 feet to the point of beginning.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

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Shearer Store, Madison County (KY) MRA

Ma-31

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shearer Store is significant under National Register Criterion C for the design qualities relating to commercial architecture as expressed in the local (county-wide) context of Rural Architecture in Madison County, 1820-1860. This context was not developed fully in the MRA cover form, although the property and the county's commercial architecture is discussed on pages 7.11-7.12. A fuller discussion of the context appears below.

Of the 239 properties surveyed outside of Madison County's two urban areas, Richmond and Berea, eleven properties were identified as commercial buildings. Wood frame and wood clapboard occurs nearly twice as often as brick construction (seven wood vs. four brick). Other formal characteristics--entry-to-ridge orientation, number of stories, fenestration size, fenestration pattern, also were recorded and considered in defining patterns among Madison County's commercial architecture.

A possible continuum of commercial architecture may be proposed, with the earliest recorded structures (post-1840) being wood-covered and exhibiting a residential appearance, and later structures clad in brick and more consciously commercial in design. Such distinctions are the result of intuitive analysis, not based upon clearly defined types.

This model of the county's rural commercial architectural development envisions at least two phases, an earlier which looks more residential, and the later commencing near the turn of the twentieth century where the distinction between commercial structures and residential architecture is more pronounced. This model does not exclude structures used for commerce prior to the earliest recorded example (1840). Commerce was conducted prior to 1840, but no buildings serving that function in rural Madison County were identified. It is probable that structures used for commerce in these earliest years may today be indistinguishable from homes. Perhaps several such properties were recorded during the county-wide survey, but not identified as such since the historical association with commerce has been lost. If this is the case, then the importance of commercial architecture is to document that commerce and domestic activities were more integrated spatially in the rural county's early history, but more separate as time passed.

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Shearer Store Madison County (KY) MRA
Ma-31

The Shearer Store is probably the oldest property in the rural Madison County in which the association between building and commerce exists. Only one other site, unnamed and inventoried as Ma-51, appears to date from around the Civil War. In comparison, that latter site has been incorporated into a complex of commercial structures, which will require further investigation of its integrity of materials, design, and setting, before final evaluation.

The Shearer Store borrows many features from the local residential architectural vocabulary: bargeboards and a steeply pitched roof from the Gothic tradition; gable-side entry, Ionic pilasters, and a wide cornice from the Greek Revivals; and its doorway proportions and symmetrical facade from Bluegrass homes during the federal period. Signs of its commercial function are its large windows flanking the front door and the shed roofed side addition--elements not expected on residential buildings of this time and place. It retains sufficient historical material, setting, and association to convey its significance as a good example of an early rural county business place.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary was chosen to preserve the Shearer Store's setback from the road and to provide a minimal setting for the building, both in keeping with its architectural significance.

The boundary contains one contributing building.