

JUL 5 1984

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received [initials]  
date entered: AUG 14 1984

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

1. Name

historic PULASKI COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

and/or common

2. Location *5 dist + 26*

street & number SEE INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORMS not for publication

city, town vicinity of congressional district

state KENTUCKY code county PULASKI code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE

street & number PUBLIC SQUARE

city, town SOMERSET state KENTUCKY

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES IN KENTUCKY has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

city, town FRANKFORT state KENTUCKY

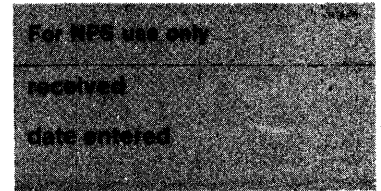
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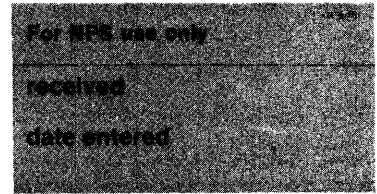


Individual Nominations - Pulaski County

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner and Address</u>
1. James-Owens House	Mrs. Charlie Wright Route 4, Box 454 Somerset, KY 42501
2. James House	Mr. Leonard Sears 711 N. Highway 39 Somerset, KY 42501
3. Evans House	Mrs. Archie McKinney Route 4 Somerset, KY 42501
4. William Newell House	Mr. Jeffrey Colson 504 College Street Somerset, KY 42501
5. Beatty-Newell House	Mr. Charles Newell Bronston, KY 42518
6. Bronston Post Office	Mr. Charles Newell Bronston, KY 42518
7. Saunders House	Mrs. Jennie N. Hail South Highway 27, Route 1642 Somerset, KY 42501
8. Pisgah Presbyterian Church	Mr. Jack Stigall Board of Trustees Route 2, Box 375 Somerset, KY 42501
9. Payne Mill	K. Mullins Route 1, Eubank, KY 42567
10. Payne House	Hugh Simpson 107 N. Main Street Somerset, KY 42501
11. Buck House	Verdie Bloomer Route 1 Eubank, KY 42501

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 12. Dabney Post Office                          | Mrs. Maggie Pryce<br>Route 3, Box 190<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 13. Burnside Lodge 634                          | W.S. Tuggle, Secretary<br>Highway 80<br>Somerset, KY 42501  |
| 14. Methodist Episcopal Church<br>and Parsonage | Methodist Episcopal Church<br>Burnside, KY                  |
| 15. Boland House                                | Mr. James Dickenson<br>Lakeshore Drive<br>Burnside, KY      |

Individual Nominations - Somerset, Kentucky

- | <u>Property</u>          | <u>Owner and Address</u>  |
|--------------------------|---|
| 16. Robinson Mill        | H.H. Robinson<br>Route 27<br>Somerset, KY 42501                             |
| 17. City Hall            | City of Somerset<br>City Hall<br>E. Mt. Vernon Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 18. Beecher-Smith House  | Mrs. Andy Mounce<br>405 College Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                |
| 19. Waddle-Prather House | J.F. Prather Jr.<br>311 College Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                |
| 20. Crawford House       | Miss Nell Crawford<br>121 Maple Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                |
| 21. Withers House        | Mrs. Hobart Withers<br>116 Maple Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501               |

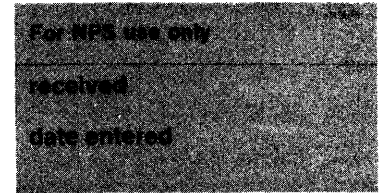
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- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 22. Hotel Beecher    | Mr. Glen Neikirk<br>102 W. Columbia<br>Somerset, KY 42501       |
| 23. Richardson House | D. Bruce Orwin<br>206 N. Vine Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501      |
| 24. Morrow House     | Mr. D. S. McCartt<br>208 East Oak Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501  |
| 25. Smith House      | Mr. Thomas Smith<br>200 N. College Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 26. Dill Scott House | Mrs. Edna P. Scott<br>200 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501  |

Pulaski County Historic Districts

Burnside Historic District

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. French House     | Mr. John Fitzgerald<br>508 Lakeshore Drive<br>Burnside, KY     |
| 2. Horton House     | Mrs. Mary Horton<br>510 Lakeshore Drive<br>Burnside, KY        |
| 3. Kiser House      | Mr. Ken Kiser<br>512 Lakeshore Drive<br>Burnside, KY           |
| 4. Jumonville House | Mrs. Carolyn Jumonville<br>514 Lakeshore Drive<br>Burnside, KY |

Harvey's Hill Historic District - Somerset

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. 401 N. Main Street | Mr. Larry Nichols<br>126 S. Central<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
|-----------------------|---|

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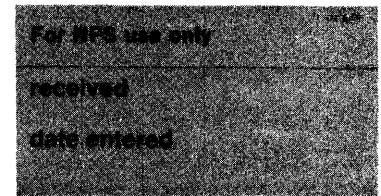
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- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 2. 403 N. Main Street  | Mr. Raymond Hardwick<br>403 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501              |
| 3. 405 N. Main Street  | Mr. Kenneth Brewster<br>405 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501              |
| 4. 407 N. Main Street  | Mr. Ed Combs<br>407 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                      |
| 5. 501 N. Main Street  | Mr. Richard Cooper<br>501 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                |
| 6. 503 N. Main Street  | Mrs. Margaret Converse<br>503 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501            |
| 7. 505 N. Main Street  | Mrs. Elizabeth Williams<br>505 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501           |
| 8. 507 N. Main Street  | Mrs. Virginia and Dorothy Murrell<br>507 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 9. 511 N. Main Street  | Mr. Jon Neikirk<br>511 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                   |
| 10. Vacant lot         | Mr. George Joplin III<br>515 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501             |
| 11. 515 N. Main Street | Mr. George Joplin III<br>515 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501             |
| 12. 519 N. Main Street | Mr. Joe Hines<br>519 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                     |
| 13. 521 N. Main Street | Mr. Elvin Appleby<br>521 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                 |

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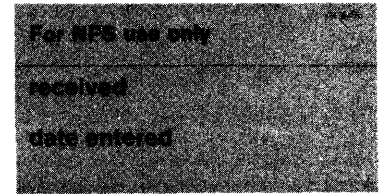
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- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 14. 523 N. Main Street | Mrs. Eva Rice<br>523 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                     |
| 15. 525 N. Main Street | Mr. Lawrence Hail<br>525 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                 |
| 16. 527 N. Main Street | Mrs. Marie Beasley<br>527 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                |
| 17. 526 N. Main Street | Mr. Charles Estes<br>526 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                 |
| 18. 524 N. Main Street | Mr. Edwin Hines<br>524 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                   |
| 19. 522 N. Main Street | Mrs. Morris Skidmore<br>522 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501              |
| 20. 520 N. Main Street | Mrs. May Rogers<br>520 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                   |
| 21. 518 N. Main Street | Mrs. Helen Burgin<br>518 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                 |
| 22. 516 N. Main Street | Mr. Ira Yeary<br>516 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501                     |
| 23. 514 N. Main Street | Mrs. Virginia and Dorothy Murrell<br>507 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 24. 512 N. Main Street | Mrs. Barthenia Joplin<br>512 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501             |
| 25. 510 N. Main Street | Mr. John G. Prather<br>510 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501               |

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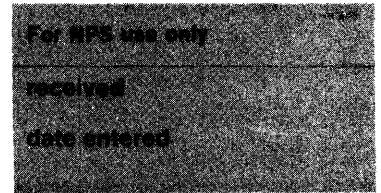
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- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 26. 508 N. Main Street | Mr. John Shearer<br>508 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501   |
| 27. Vacant lot         | Mrs. Willie Gregory<br>P.O. Box 456<br>Somerset, KY 42501      |
| 28. 504 N. Main Street | Mrs. Willie Gregory<br>P.O. Box 456<br>Somerset, KY 42501      |
| 29. 502 N. Main Street | Mrs. Marie Beasley<br>527 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 30. 406 N. Main Street | Mr. Darrell Bandy<br>406 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501  |
| 31. 404 N. Main Street | Mr. Clyde Hansford<br>404 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 32. 402 N. Main Street | Miss Maude Girdler<br>402 N. Main Street<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |

West Columbia District

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. 201 W. Columbia | Mr. Joe Travis<br>201 W. Columbia<br>Somerset, KY 42501        |
| 2. 203 W. Columbia | Mr. John Mandt<br>Woodson Bend<br>Bronston, KY 42518           |
| 3. 205 W. Columbia | Mr. Robert Blakenship<br>205 W. Columbia<br>Somerset, KY 42501 |
| 4. 207 W. Columbia | Mrs. Hazel Wilson<br>207 W. Columbia<br>Somerset, KY 42501     |

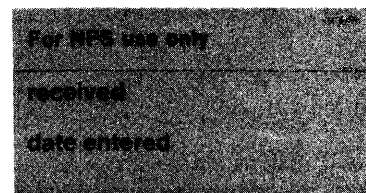
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5. 301 W. Columbia Mrs. Charles Weaver  
301 W. Columbia  
Somerset, KY 42501

6. 303 W. Columbia Mr. Don Cooper  
303 W. Columbia  
Somerset, KY 42501

Courthouse Square Historic District

1. 59 Public Square(Goldenberg's) Goldenberg Furniture c/o S. Fischer  
Box 699  
Somerset, KY 42501

2. 103 W. Mt. Vernon Goldenberg Furniture c/o S. Fischer  
Box 699  
Somerset, KY 42501

3. 58 Public Square Mrs. Marie Sams  
145 Woodland Avenue  
Somerset, KY 42501

4. 101 S. Main Street Mr. Glen Neikirk  
Clifty Road  
Somerset, KY 42501

5. 55-56 Public Square First and Farmers Bank of Somerset  
55-56 Public Square  
Somerset, KY 42501

6. 53-54 Public Square Mrs. Nell Crawford  
121 N. Maple Street  
Somerset, KY 42501

7. 101 S. Zachary Way Mr. Bill Cummins  
111 Lain Street  
Somerset, KY 42501

103-105 S. Zachary Way Mr. Ben Johnson  
207 Robin Drive  
Somerset, KY 42501

8. 107 S. Zachary Way Mrs. Helen Hughes  
410 N. College Street  
Somerset, KY 42501



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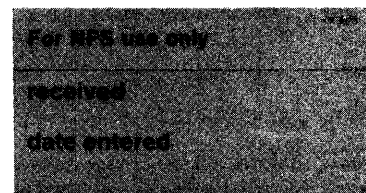
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9. 109-113 S. Zachary Way  
Hussing Heirs  
c/o Sharpe and Hail Realty Co.  
513 Ogden Street  
Somerset, KY 42501

10. 125 S. Maple Street  
Judge John Garner  
519 N. College Street  
Somerset, KY 42501

North Main Historic District

1. 110 N. Main Street  
Bodie Hiers  
Kenneth Bodie  
101 Richardson Drive  
Somerset, KY 42501

2. 112 N. Main Street  
Mrs. Nell Crawford  
121 N. Maple Street  
Somerset, KY 42501

3. 114 N. Main Street  
Mr. Edgar Crabtree  
P.O. Box 89  
Rte. 1 Science Hill, KY 42553

4. 34-35 Public Square  
Masonic Lodge  
c/o Virthall Baugh  
34-35 Public Square  
Somerset, Ky 42501

5. N. Main Street(Public Library)  
Pulaski County Library  
Jean Prather-Chairman  
107 N. Main Street  
Somerset, KY 42501

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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

Pulaski County is the third largest county in the State of Kentucky. Situated at the far eastern edge of the Eastern Pennyryle region of central Kentucky, the county is primarily rural with a total population of 47,700. The county is composed of rolling hills. Half of its lands devoted to farming while the remainder is commercial or public forest lands. Bands of fertile farmland are located in the west and central areas of the county while the eastern section is composed of rugged hills and forests. Three major rivers, the Rockcastle and two forks of the Cumberland help define the eastern and southern county boundaries.

Historically Pulaski County has been characterized by small farms and an emphasis on mineral and timber production. Some of the farming belts around the Cumberland River and its tributaries are rich, but the majority of the land does not support large-scale farming. Most farmers of the county work at second jobs to supplement their income. Coal and lumber production are also important sources of income.

Within Pulaski County the one primary community is the county seat of Somerset (population 10,500). In addition to Somerset there are five secondary communities with a population of over three hundred: Bronston (population 350); Burnside (population 586); Ferguson (population 507); Science Hill (population 470); and Tateville (population 725). There are also small communities scattered throughout the county at road junctions and along the railroad line.

Pulaski County was formed out of Lincoln County in 1799 and was sparsely populated throughout the early 19th century. Settlers moved in from trails off the Wilderness Road or via the Cumberland River. Most early settlement occurred along the river and its tributaries in the county. Of these waterways the area along Buck Creek and Pitman Creek offered the best farming land and was the most densely settled part of the county in the early 19th century. Fishing Creek in the western section of the county was also a fertile section and became a secondary settlement center. The Cumberland River also was the center of early settlement in the county. Early roads paralleled the river and settlements occurred at the confluence of streams and at crossings.

Somerset was formed the same year as the county but was not platted and lots sold until 1801. The plan for Somerset had the major roads intersecting at the courthouse with lots laid out on a grid pattern. This plan was altered over the years but it basically follows the courthouse square pattern familiar in Kentucky. In the early years of the city all buildings in Somerset were clustered within three blocks of the town square. The population in Somerset and Pulaski County continued to grow slowly until after the Civil War.

Beginning in 1877 Somerset experienced rapid growth due to the completion of

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the Cincinnati and Southern Railroad which linked the community to the Mid-West and South. Much of the present residential and commercial area dates from the decades immediately following the coming of the railroad. Somerset became a major southeastern Kentucky commercial and shopping area, and by 1900 the population climbed to 3,300.

The completion of the railroad also had an impact on settlement patterns in the county. In addition to the boom in construction and population in Somerset, communities such as Eubank, Science Hill, Ferguson and Tateville all developed as a result of the railroad. The city of Burnside also owed its development to the railroad, although improvements to navigation on the Cumberland also played a major role. Burnside became the head of navigation on the river and it became a center for the region's lumber industry.

Of these communities only Burnside grew to be more than just a railroad town. Situated at the head of navigation on the Cumberland River, Burnside rivaled Somerset as a trade center in the late 19th century. Steamboats made regular stops at the community and shipped goods downriver to Nashville and other river communities. By 1900 the population stood at 2,000 and several major factories produced lumber goods. The prosperity of Burnside suffered as the railroads superseded river traffic. By the early 20th century the community was on the decline. Most of the old town area was destroyed in 1951 for the impoundment of the Cumberland River and the creation of Lake Cumberland.

After 1900 Pulaski County experienced a second growth cycle with an increase in population and commercial activity. The county's population in 1910 rose to 35,936. This rise was due in part to the establishment of machine shops in Somerset and Ferguson by the C & S railroad to service their steam locomotives. By the late 1920s steam locomotives were being replaced and workers left the area. The population dipped during these years to slowly rise back to 39,863 in 1940. In past decades the population of the county has grown steadily to its present high of 47,700.

During the mid-20th century a broader economic base took shape in the county. There was an increase in coal production in the southern and eastern sections of the county which attracted residents from the eastern coal fields. Tobacco and corn gained prominence as improved farming techniques took hold, and the creation of Lake Cumberland also attracted tourism to the county. Despite this economic expansion, Pulaski County's per capita income in 1980 was lower than the national average.

Today Pulaski County continues to be primarily rural with Somerset its major population and commercial center. Somerset's older residential and commercial neighborhoods have been retained while the city has expanded in all directions with new development. Much of Burnside was moved or destroyed in 1951 for the impoundment of Lake Cumberland and the number of historic homes in the community has been greatly reduced. The remainder of Pulaski County is characterized by rural communities many of which are centered along road junctions and the railroad line. The county is accessed by U.S. Highway 27 and by the Cumberland Parkway.

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A comprehensive survey of Pulaski County was conducted during the fall of 1977 and was carried out by staff members of the Kentucky Heritage Council in accordance with survey guidelines. Each area of the county was traveled and buildings which possessed sufficient historical and architectural significance were surveyed. The survey process involved photographic documentation of the structure, architectural description, historical documentation where possible and precise mapping. This information was recorded on a Kentucky Historic Resources Form and given a specific number in the Kentucky state inventory.

Following the fieldwork, additional historical research was conducted on individual sites and communities in the county. This research included the analysis of both primary and secondary sources as well as interviews with property owners and county historians. From this research a total of 203 properties were surveyed in Pulaski County. Of this number 73 were located in the county seat of Somerset. On May 10, 1979 owners of these properties were awarded Kentucky Landmark Certifications at a ceremony in Somerset in recognition of their property's significance.

In the years after the survey four individual properties and one district in Somerset were determined to possess sufficient significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places: the Fox House listed in 1977; the Perkins House listed in 1978; the Somerset High School listed in 1978; the Crawford House listed in 1980; and the Somerset Commercial Downtown District listed in 1982. These nominations were written by both members of the Kentucky Heritage Council and county historians.

Recognizing that there were other properties eligible for the National Register, the county historical society, Pulaski Heritage Inc., sought a matching grant to fund a multiple resource nomination for the county. This grant was awarded in 1983 and in the spring of 1983 a multiple resource nomination was undertaken for eligible properties and districts in Somerset and Pulaski County.

To select the properties eligible for inclusion, the inventory files from the 1977 survey were examined and potential districts were studied. Members of the Kentucky Heritage Council participated in the review of the survey information and made recommendations. The largest number of eligible properties in the county were identified in Somerset. These include ten individual properties and four historic districts. Two of the districts, Harvey's Hill and West Columbia, are primarily residential areas. The remaining districts, North Main and the South Courthouse Square district, are composed of commercial buildings. A total of fifty-one properties are located in the Somerset districts. In addition to properties in Somerset, a total of fifteen individual properties in the county were identified as meeting the criteria for the Register. A small district in Burnside was also identified as eligible.

Despite some individually significant properties most rural communities in the county did not possess a cohesive grouping of buildings eligible as a district.

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Only Burnside possessed an area eligible as a district—and that a very small one. The Somerset districts are more easily identified and contain significant groupings of late 19th and early 20th century architecture.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Pulaski County Multiple Resource nomination contains twenty-six individual properties and five historic districts of historical and architectural significance. The individual properties include residential, governmental, religious and commercial buildings notable in the development of the county. The historic districts included in the nomination reflect the growth of Somerset and Burnside from 1870 to 1930 and include both commercial and residential structures. These properties, combined with those presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, represent the historically and architecturally significant structures existing within Pulaski County.

### Pulaski County Development 1790-1870

Pulaski County was the 27th county to be formed in the State of Kentucky. It was created from territory taken from Lincoln and Green Counties and was named for Polish Revolutionary War General, Count Casimir Pulaski. Settlement in Pulaski County began about 1790 as immigrants moved into the area from Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. The majority of settlers moved west into the county through Cumberland Gap and along the Wilderness Road. Other settlers came to the area following the course of the Cumberland River which was navigable into the county. Although settlement of the county occurred at an early date there was never the rapid boom in population that transformed other areas of the State. When Pulaski County was formed in 1799 it had a population of approximately 3,000 which made it one of the most sparsely settled areas along the frontier. From 1800 to 1820 the population doubled from 3,161 to 7,597, but was still low in comparison to nearby counties. The limited areas of tillable land discouraged dense settlement especially in comparison with the attractiveness of the nearby Bluegrass Region.

Pulaski County is characterized by rugged hills and forests in the eastern section with bands of fertile farmland running throughout the central and western sections. The best land in the county runs along or between the major streams and rivers and these areas were among the first to be settled. Land along Buck Creek, Pitman Creek, Fishing Creek and areas of the Cumberland River were the most prized farming lands in the county. These areas were able to support Pulaski County's most prosperous farms, and family members clustered together on large tracts of land.

The first communities in the county were generally organized around a family group and located along the waterways and major roads. The first of these small

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communities was probably Newell's Ferry which was located on the Cumberland River near the present site of Bronston. The Newell family was associated with several farms along the south side of the river, and they operated a ferry and gristmills near the confluence of the river and Pitman's Creek. In 1802 an inspection house for corn, wheat and other products was erected on the Newell family land. An early log home of the Beatty-Newell family (PU-90) remains from this period and is still in possession of Newell family descendants.

A second major area of settlement was in the land between Fishing Creek and the Cumberland River. The Waitsborough community was important as the head of navigation on the river in the early 19th century. A coal shipping operation and other trading activities arose in this area. The large log home constructed by the Saunders family (PU-101) and the Pisgah Presbyterian Church (PU-103) are sites associated with this early development.

Perhaps the most important early area of settlement was along Buck Creek near present day Shopville which was settled by the James family. These were the largest landowners in the county and they constructed the most notable residences of the early 19th century. John James and his family erected substantial brick and stone homes which were the center of large slaveholding plantations. The family moved to the Buck Creek area in the 1790s and by 1799 were operating a grist mill along Flat Lick and helping to organize the county's first congregation, the Flat Lick Baptist Church. The first James family house is now in ruins but three family homes still remain (PU-60), (PU-62), (PU-66).

Throughout the remainder of the county, settlement was characterized by small farms scattered along waterways and major roads. Most settlers took up small tracts of land for modest self sufficient farming and constructed log residences and outbuildings. Many of these log residences have survived, although most are no longer occupied and are in poor condition. The best example of this type of early log structure remaining in the county is the Buck House (PU-30) which is a double-pen log residence covered with weatherboard. This house is typical of the early farmsteads with small log and frame outbuildings located adjacent to the main house. Most farms followed this pattern in the early 19th century.

After the initial period of settlement, Pulaski County continued to grow slowly in relation to other parts of Kentucky. By 1840 the county's population was 9,620 but in the following decades the population doubled. Some members of early prominent families such as the Newells and James moved westward leaving their lands to be bought by newer residents. A large portion of the land in the county was still unclaimed during these years and this new influx of settlers resulted in hundreds of claims and surveys. Thousands of acres were awarded by the courts to petitioners.

This new influx of settlers before the Civil War resulted in a county pattern

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characterized by a network of roads serving small farms. Crops raised by these farms included corn, wheat, rye and tobacco as well as livestock production of cattle and hogs. The small farmsteads were not conducive for large scale production, and ownership of slaves was correspondingly small compared to the neighboring Bluegrass region. It was during these years that many of the small crossroads communities evolved to serve the needs of neighboring farms. These communities often contained a church, general store and other small commercial establishments. Examples of these communities are Waitsborough which incorporated in 1844, Mt. Gilead incorporated 1852, and Grundy incorporated in 1858.

The limited farmland in the county caused residents to seek income through other sources. Small lumber companies began cutting and shipping timber downriver to Nashville. Coal production also began with mines located along the Cumberland providing coal for shipment downriver. By the 1850s the Cumberland River region was one of the main coal producing areas in the state. Saw and gristmills were also located on the many waterways of the county. By the mid-19th century many of the county's farmers had other sources of income to supplement their farm earnings.

Early Settlement - Somerset

The county seat of Somerset was formed in 1799 but a plat and sale of lots did not occur until 1801. The selection of the site of Somerset was determined primarily by its central location and proximity to a large spring called Sinking Creek. The first court sessions were held in private homes before the erection of a courthouse in 1805. One of the first county officials was William Fox who served as county clerk. Fox was also a prominent merchant, land owner and booster of the community. His home is the only early 19th century structure which has survived in the city. Fox was one of several commissioners appointed to plan the town which was laid out following the Lancaster grid plan. This was a central courthouse square plan with four major roads intersecting the four sides of the square. By 1802 an improved road was built to Somerset from Danville, and regular stagecoach service connected the community to other Kentucky towns.

In the early years all commercial and residential buildings were constructed within three blocks of the town square. Somerset's population rose to 200 by 1830 and it boasted several shops, taverns, a courthouse and jail. During the next thirty years the population gradually increased to 662 in 1860. These years witnessed the building of several churches and an increased number of residential and commercial buildings. A new courthouse was constructed in 1840 and the community grew as a trading center for the region. The most notable residence built during these years was the Perkins House constructed in 1851 on Main Street and is one of the few remaining buildings from the ante-bellum period.



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The Civil War

During the Civil War Pulaski County sent soldiers to both the Union and Confederate armies. The Cumberland River made the county an important supply and staging area for a number of Federal campaigns aimed at east Tennessee. Two notable engagements occurred in the county during the war. The most important was the Battle of Mill Springs fought on January 19, 1862 near Fishing Creek. A Confederate army commanded by General Felix Zollicoffer crossed the Cumberland River to attack a Union army led by General George Thomas. In the battle Zollicoffer was killed and the Confederate army defeated and pushed back across the river. This battle resulted in the collapse of the eastern defense line of the South in the spring of 1862. A second engagement was the skirmish at Dutton's Hill in March of 1863 between Union and Confederate cavalry forces. Again the Confederate forces were defeated and retreated across the Cumberland River. Both sites are marked by monuments and there is a National Cemetery at the Mill Springs battlefield.

The Post War Period 1870-1900

After the Civil War, Pulaski County's population grew from 17,201 to 25,731 in 1890. In 1870 Somerset boasted a courthouse, a jail, six churches, a school, seven stores, six lawyers and five doctors. With the arrival of the railroad in 1877, Somerset and Pulaski County entered a new era of growth and prosperity. During the Civil War attempts had been made to bring the railroad to Somerset but it was not until 1877 that the Cincinnati and Southern Railroad was completed through the county. The coming of the railroad caused the county to shift into a new pattern of development. New communities such as Eubank and Science Hill grew along the railroad and served as local shipping and commercial areas for neighboring farms and businesses.

In Somerset the railroad caused the community to expand southward along the railroad tracks. The rail line was laid west of the downtown area and a separate industrial district was created to the south and west of the original town. New neighborhoods arose adjacent to the rail line to house the influx of railroad and industrial employees. Commercial activities in the community expanded rapidly after the coming of the railroad and much of the downtown square reflects the building boom of this period. The majority of properties on the Public Square, Main Street and Mt. Vernon Street were constructed between 1880 and 1905. Most are of masonry construction, of two to three stories in height and display Commercial Italianate detailing such as cast iron storefronts, metal cornices and arched windows. Several cohesive groupings of these commercial buildings make up the North Main, South Public Square and E. Mt. Vernon historic districts.

Many of the commercial buildings constructed in the downtown area had their

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origins during the late 19th century building boom. The Somerset Banking Company was formed in 1885 and the Farmers National Bank was created in 1901 both of which were located on the Public Square. In 1882, merchant Robert Gibson built the Gibson Building facing the square and the large masonic building was also constructed during these years. This wave of construction resulted in the incorporation of Somerset in 1888 and the election of its first mayor.

In addition to commercial growth during the late 19th century there was also substantial residential expansion near the downtown area. Much of the new growth was centered along the railroads to the south of the city but the homes of the rising middle and upper class families were centered around the downtown area, especially on North College, Maple and Main Streets. During the 1880s and 1890s large Queen Anne and Eastlake style homes were built on lots a few blocks from the square. Examples of these homes can be seen in the Withers House (PUS-25) and Crawford House (PUS-24) on North Maple Street, the Smith House (PUS-19) on North College and the Dill Scott House on North Main Street (PUS-33). The grouping of homes along West Columbia Street were constructed at this time and are a small but important collection of Victorian residential architecture.

The growth in industry and trade resulting from the railroad occurred in many communities throughout the county. Perhaps the most important of these was Burnside which began to rival Somerset in the late 19th century. Burnside was originally known as Point Isabel and was located at the confluence of the two forks of the Cumberland River. During the Civil War, Union General Ambrose Burnside used the community as a base of operations and the name was changed in his honor. Burnside developed not only because of the railroad, but also because navigational improvements made the community the northernmost port on the Cumberland River.

In 1877 three lumber companies were established to provide lumber for the building of the railroad and Burnside soon became a center of timber production. By 1889 Kentucky cargo shipped on the river through Burnside amounted into the millions of dollars. Among the wood products manufactured in Burnside were decorative veneer for the Pullman Car Company, A.B. Massey Boats, and French's Cedar Faucets. By 1894 Burnside had a population of 500 and a substantial residential area arose on the hill overlooking the commercial area. Many new homes were constructed in the community during these years and those such as the Boland House (PU-98) and French House represent the wealth existing among the merchant class. These years also saw the construction of several churches in the city and a masonic lodge building (PU-93). In 1900 Burnside had a population of close to 2,000 but already the community had begun to decline as a result of reduced steamboat traffic on the river.

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Pulaski County in the 20th Century

At the turn of the century Pulaski County and Somerset witnessed increased commercial and residential activity. Many rural communities were incorporated and expanded with new homes and shops. Buildings such as the Bronston store (PU-89) and the Dabney Post Office (PU-44) became the nucleus of rural centers which served the needs of the surrounding farms. Mills which served county farmers were found in most communities such as in Eubank (PU-2). As the railroad traffic increased so did the population of many of the towns and villages which arose along its path in the county.

Somerset also expanded during the early 20th century. Commercial buildings continued to be erected on the Public Square and along adjacent streets. The prosperity of the community continued to be reflected in residential growth to the north and east of the downtown area. The Harvey's Hill area along North Main Street became the city's fashionable area for the upper class. Many fine homes built in the Classic Revival styles were constructed between 1900 and 1915. Other notable residences were built along Maple, Vine and College Streets such as the Prather House (PUS-22) and Beecher Smith House (PUS-23). The early 1900s also saw the construction of the Somerset High School and Carnegie Library (NR) which was to serve the city for many years.

A period of growth occurred after 1905 with the creation of the town of Ferguson south of Somerset. Ferguson was created by the C & S Railroad as a repair center for their steam locomotives. New hotels, banks and commercial buildings were constructed along the Jacksboro Road which connected Somerset and Ferguson. Coal production also increased during these years and miners from east Kentucky moved to the county in search of work. As workers moved into the area the county's population reached a new peak at 35,936 in 1910. The population of the county then declined steadily over the next few decades as the repair shops were phased out and manufacturing in Somerset and Burnside declined.

Several noted figures in Kentucky politics emerged from Somerset in the early 20th century. Edwin Morrow was a native of Somerset and after serving as Attorney General for east Kentucky he was elected governor of the state in 1917. Morrow's Somerset home (PUS-72) is located on Oak Street and it has been well maintained in past years. Perhaps the most notable of Somerset's citizens were John Sherman Cooper and his son John Sherman Cooper Jr. The elder Cooper built several homes on Harvey's Hill and served as county judge at the turn of the century. His son, John Sherman Cooper Jr. was one of the state's most prominent politicians, serving several terms in the U.S. Senate. Members of the Cooper family continue to reside in the Harvey's Hill area.

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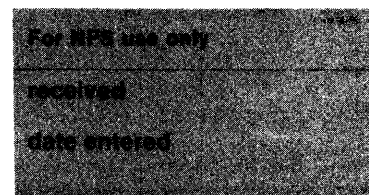
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By 1930 Pulaski County's population had leveled off and little growth was to occur in coming years. Most rural sections lost population as a result of migration to larger communities. Somerset's growth was also limited and few changes occurred in the downtown residential and commercial neighborhoods during these years. Expansion to the west of the city and new construction did occur due to improvements in the area highways and increased automobile usage. A major north-south highway in east Kentucky was U.S. 27 which ran from Lexington to Chattanooga. This highway traversed Pulaski County and ran by the western edge of Somerset. Improvements began on the highway in 1914 and by 1930 it was one of the best improved roads in the state. To meet increased tourism local financier Beecher Smith constructed the Beecher Hotel (PUS-45) which remains as one of Somerset's most notable buildings. Other businesses opened to cater to the automobile trade such as the American Recap building (PUS-18) constructed in the Art Deco style.

Since 1940, the character of downtown Somerset has not been significantly altered. The major changes to the square and adjacent streets were the erection of a new courthouse in 1975 and the addition of two modern bank buildings on the square. The majority of properties while altered on the storefront level, still retain their original architectural features on the upper facades, displaying the city's Victorian heritage. Most new commercial activity has taken place on along Highway 27 to the west of the city and the older neighborhoods around the downtown area are generally intact. Restoration has occurred in past years to both residential and commercial properties including the Beecher Hotel and buildings along E. Mt. Vernon Street.

In past decades Pulaski County has continued to display its economic diversity of small farms, light industry and mineral production. Tourism has steadily increased due to the attractions of nearby Cumberland Falls and the Daniel Boone National Forest. In 1951 the Cumberland River was impounded to create Cumberland Lake. This resulted in both increased tourism and the construction of many new homes along its shores. Today the population of Pulaski County stands at approximately 40,000 of which 10,000 reside in Somerset. From its early period of settlement to recent times Pulaski County has displayed a rich and varied history.



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Pulaski County Multiple Resource Area  
State KENTUCKY

accept error — Dubie  
Date/Signature 8/14/84

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Burnside Historic District **Substantive Review**

Keeper Wm Dubie - 8/14-84  
Attest 8/14/84 P. Reed

2. Harvey's Hill Historic District  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8-14-84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

3. North Main Street  
Historic District Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8-14-84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

4. South Courthouse Square  
Historic District Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8-14-84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

5. West Columbia Street District  
XXXXXXXXXX Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8-14-84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

\* 6. Beatty-Newell House  
**Substantive Review**

for Keeper William B. Bushong 8-16  
Attest 8/14/84 P. Reed

7. Boland House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8-14-84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

\* 8. Bronston Post Office  
**Substantive Review**

for Keeper William B. Bushong 8/16  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

9. Buck-Mercer House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8-14-84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

10. Burnside Lodge  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8-14-84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

\* Vague VDD's - no dimensions, no maps.  
See letter on page 10 for more.

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Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |                                 |                                  |            |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|
| * 11. Burnside Methodist Church | Substantive Review               | for Keeper | <u>William B. Bushong</u> 8/16/84          |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| 12. City Hall                   | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 8/14/84               |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| 13. Crawford House              | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 8/14/84               |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| 14. Dabney Post Office          | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 8/14/84               |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| * 15. Evans House               | Substantive Review               | for Keeper | <u>William B. Bushong</u> 8/16/84          |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| 16. Hotel Beecher               | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 8/14/84               |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| * 17. James-Hansford House      | Substantive Review               | for Keeper | <u>William B. Bushong</u> 8/16/84          |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| * 18. James-Owens House         | Substantive Review               | for Keeper | <u>William B. Bushong</u> 8/16/84          |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| * 19. Newell, William, House    |                                  | Keeper     | Return PWA 11/17/84<br>Returned CD 8/14/84 |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |
| 20. Morrow House                | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 8/14/84               |
|                                 |                                  | Attest     | _____                                      |



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State KENTUCKY

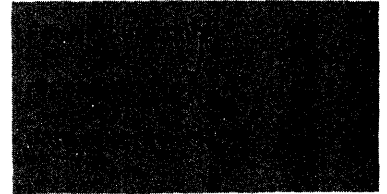
Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |                                  |                                     |                      |   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| * 21. Payne House                | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>William B. Buskey</u> 8/16/85                        |
| 22. Payne Mill                   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 8/14/84                            |
| * 23. Pisgah Presbyterian Church |                                     | Keeper<br>Attest     | 2d return - PWA - 11/27/84<br><u>RETURN - CD - 8/14</u> |
| 24. Richardson House             | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 8/14/84                            |
| 25. Robinson Mill                | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 8/14/84                            |
| * 26. Saunders House             |                                     | Keeper<br>Attest     | 2d return - PWA - 11/27/84<br><u>RETURN - CD 8/14</u>   |
| 27. Scott, Dill, House           | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 8/14/84                            |
| 28. Smith, Beecher, House        | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 8/14/84                            |
| 29. Smith House                  | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 8/14/84                            |
| 30. Waddle-Prather House         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper<br>Attest | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 8/14/84                            |

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State KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Withers House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Bryan* 8/14/84

Attest

32.

Keeper

Attest

33.

Keeper

Attest

34.

Keeper

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39.

Keeper

Attest

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Keeper

Attest