

MULTIPLE NOMINATION HISTORIC DISTRICT SUMMARY FORM

MRA/THEMATIC NOMINATION TITLE: Historic Resources of Shelby County, Kentucky

HISTORIC DISTRICT NAME: Waddy Historic District

OWNER OF PROPERTY: see property list attached

(On Continuation Sheets list all properties by address which are included within the district and provide the names and addresses of their owners.)

DESCRIPTION:

Condition: X excellent, X good, X fair; Check one: X unaltered, X altered; Check one: X original site, moved

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

(Use Continuation Sheets) See Continuation Sheets

SIGNIFICANCE

Period: 1800-1899, 1900-; Areas of Significance: archeology-historic, art, commerce, communications, exploration/settlement, industry, invention, etc.

Specific dates: 1887-1936; Builder/Architect: Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

(Use Continuation Sheets) See Continuation Sheets

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: 7.3; Quadrangle name: Waddy; Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

UTM grid coordinates for Zone, Easting, and Northing (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)

Verbal boundary description and justification

(Use Continuation Sheets) See Continuation Sheets

DISTRICT MAPS ATTACHED:

- 1. District Boundary Map Showing Contributing & Noncontributing Properties.
2. District Map Showing Location & Direction of Numbered Photographs.

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Description:

The Waddy Historic District is an area of the unincorporated town of Waddy, Kentucky in the east-central portion of Shelby County. The surrounding area is distinctly rural with long established farms located on the roads outside the limits of the community. The District boundaries include the properties on the east and west sides of Main Street from the Southern Railroad tracks on the north (photo 14; 16,36) to the Waddy Baptist Church on the south (photo 14-20). Along either side of Main Street are frame houses of one, one-and-one-half, and two stories, the majority built between 1890 and 1910. Photos 13;2,5 and 14; 17,18,31,35) indicate the types of residences, their even set backs from the street edge, landscaping and modest size and design.

Few of the houses present a high style of domestic architecture. The most common form is the one story T-plan, the village counterpart to the highly popular two-story T-plan found on numerous county farms that date to the era of Waddy. The residence at block 8, lot 8 (photo 14;18) is one of the most elaborate forms with a multi-gabled roof, decorative porch frieze, a colored glass window, imbricated gable ends, with decorative aprons and window hoods. More numerous are houses like that immediately north (photo 15-5), a single or story-and-a-half T-plan with clapboard walls and a front porch with simple posts.

Horse and buggy was the major form of local transportation when Waddy was established and many properties still have the original buggy barns behind the houses. Driveways are a 20th century introduction to the community, which originally had grass paths to the small barns. Several of these buildings (photos 15;3,4) have been turned into small garages or sheds, while others are large enough to house small tractors and cars.

The commercial area of the district is centered at the intersection of Main and McCormack Streets. At this intersection and adjacent to it are buildings such as Shouse's grocery and a now abandoned auto garage (photos 1 and 2); the 1909 City Bank of Waddy (photo 3); and the original Mason's Lodge building that housed Shelby Lodge #662 and a bank, now the Shelby County Trust Bank (photo 4). Other wooden commercial buildings include the two narrow, false-fronted structures (photo 5) at block 3, lot 5. The smaller, to the north (right in the photograph) was the original telephone exchange for the community, begun about 1908. The larger contained a store. Both are presently residences. Behind these is a small, single cell brick building (photo 6) that contained the first dial exchange equipment for the town. A building with an interesting history is located directly south of the railroad tracks, on the west side of Main on a hill, the highest

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point in town. The building originally contained a private club and was known simply by that name (photo 7). In later years, the building came under private ownership as a residence. (personal interviews with Mrs. Lydia Martin Garrett and Mrs. Christine Neblett, Waddy.)

There are a total of forty seven buildings in the Waddy Historic District. Thirty four are residences, churches, commercial buildings or similar use buildings and thirteen are out buildings such as small barns, sheds and garages. Of the habitable buildings, thirty (30) of the thirty four are counted as contributing. The four non-contributing buildings (see Historic District map) are a residence built within the past 25 years, a modern post office, a modern church, and an abandoned auto garage in very poor condition. The remaining buildings contribute to the overall integrity of the Waddy Historic District and generally maintain very good overall integrity of materials, craftsmanship, design, location, feeling, setting and association.

### Statement of Significance

The Waddy Historic District is significant on a local level under criteria A within the themes of transportation and settlement for the period 1887-1937. The town of Waddy, Kentucky, was founded in 1887, and is the only town in Shelby County whose beginning resulted directly from the establishment of a railroad through the immediate area. Towns in the western United States that were platted by railroad companies are exceedingly numerous, however, in Kentucky, they are less frequently found. Instead, already established communities attracted railroads to their village, or as in the case of Old and New Christiansburg, successful retailers relocated a short distance away to reap the benefits of being located on the railroad.

Prior to the railroad, the eastern portion of Shelby County contained some small villages; Bagdad, Hardinsburg /Graefenburg, Peytona, Harrisonville and Mount Eden, that served as trading centers for the area's primarily self sufficient farms. Country churches and schools formed the centers of social life for the widespread areas. 1

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1 "Waddy", The Sentinel News, Bicentennial Edition, January, 1974.

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The land on which Waddy now stands belonged to John Walker Martin, Major W.L. Waddy and the McCormack family who granted the railroad right of way through their properties for the building of the line. In 1887, Waddy was incorporated, its name taken from the Major who was credited with bringing the Southern into the area. The year after being established, Waddy contained Spaulding's blacksmith shop, L.L. Moore's flour mill, the Deposit Bank, Waddy and Sandusky's livery, and the depot where four passenger trains stopped daily and the community established unofficial headquarters. Although a disastrous fire in 1894 destroyed many of Waddy's fledgling commercial businesses, a rebuilding campaign resulted in the erection of the brick Citizens Bank of Waddy (listed on the National Register) and several other businesses and homes. By 1902, Waddy called itself the "second largest town in Shelby County" with a population of 300. 2

Most of Waddy's early residents lived and worked in town; for the railroad, in retail stores, groceries, at the local creamery, livery, hotel, telephone exchange or bank. At its peak, the town contained several residential buildings aligning Main Street and the McCormack Road including the hotel, operated by Mrs. Vaughn (block 8, lot 11); the parsonages of the Christian and Baptist Churches; the "Clubhouse" (Block 3, lot 1,), and the homes of Drs. Johnson and Annamond and later, Drs. Jessee and Yenowine. Most of these buildings were constructed before or near the turn-of-the-century of wood. The intersection marked the commercial hub with a millinery (block 3, lot 7), mercantile, the hotel, livery, jail, drugstore, blacksmith and the public well. 3

As a stop on the Southern itinerary, Waddy served as a major shipping point for area dairy products. The creamery (outside of the District boundaries) was run by George Barringer for Ewing Dairy in Louisville. With four daily passenger and numerous freight trains, the surrounding rural population often traveled to Waddy to order and pick up goods and depart for distant points. In 1900, the Waddy post office oversaw a Rural Free Delivery of 75 boxes over a 21 mile area. A telephone service had 40 subscribers and local fraternal organizations included the Maccabees and Masons. In 1916, the Central Normal College, a teacher training school was chartered with the first class graduating in 1922. Over the years, Waddy supported Baptist and Christian churches, a school for first through twelfth grades, a canning factory and tobacco warehouse.

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- 2 "Waddy, the Second Largest Town in Shelby County", Shelby Sentinel, Special Edition, November, 1902.
  - 3 "Waddy", Shelby Sentinel, 125th Anniversary Special Edition, December, 1965, sec. 6, p.2.

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## Statement of Significance, continued

Today, the Southern trains no longer stop and the depot has been removed. The majority of Waddy's residents commute to work in larger commercial areas like Frankfort, Shelbyville and Louisville. One church has burned and was replaced by a brick structure. The school (outside of the District) burned and the auditorium, once the largest in the county, is in disrepair. However, south of the railroad tracks, Waddy's Main Street maintains the appearance of a rural town, established at the turn-of-the century. Because of its fairly isolated location, south of the major transportation corridors, U.S. 60 and Interstate 64, Waddy has remained relatively unchanged from its original appearance and is a significant individual resource, unique in Shelby County as a good example of a late 19th-early 20th century railroad community located in an overwhelmingly rural area. As a whole, the district maintains excellent integrity of design, materials, craftsmanship, location, setting, feeling and association.

## Geographical Data

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Waddy Historic District are indicated on the attached map. The boundaries include 47 buildings and structures along the east and west sides of Main Street, the principal road in the town. The Southern Railroad tracks form the north boundary and the southern boundary is formed by the south lines of lots B1.8, 1t.5 and B1.4 1t. 10. The district includes the parcels of land that align the road and are listed on the attached property ownership and address list. The boundaries are justifiable as containing the density of historic resources that through their individual integrity and relationship to the neighborhood, convey the historic character of this late nineteenth century railroad associated town.

Waddy Historic District  
Ownership list (keyed to map)

- 7-1 J.W Carriss  
Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 7-2 Lydia Martin Garrett  
Rt. 2 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 7-3 James B. & Halina Z. Seeberger  
Rt. 1 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 7-4 Shelby County Trust Bank  
Rt. 2 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 7-6 Lois Thompson Kastner  
109 Linden Avenue Frankfort, Ky. 40601
- 7-7 Waddy Christian Church  
Waddy, Ky 40076
- 8-11 Forrest & Catherine Robinson  
Rt. 1 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 8-10 J.W. and Louise Mackey  
Waddy, Kentucky 40076
- 8-9 Dorothy Garrett  
Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 8-8 O.S. Gordon  
Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 8-7 Floyd Sherman c/o Curt Ferguson  
Rt. 9 Russell Cove  
Lenington, Ky. 40505
- 8-6 Waddy Baptist Church  
8-5 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 4-10 Rufus Burk  
Rt. 1 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 4-9 Ralph & Brenda Burkhead  
Rt. 1 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 4-8 Mitchell McFarland  
Rt.1 Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 4-7 Vivian Stodgill  
Waddy, Ky. 40076
- 4-6 Eugenia Hedden  
P.O. Box 49 Waddy, Ky. 40076

4-5 Mrs. Christine Neblett  
Rt. 1 Waddy, Ky. 40076

4-4 Waddy Christian Church  
Waddy, Ky. 40076

4-3 Felix & Gloria Bartman  
601 Blaisdale  
Richmond, Texas 77469

4-2 Christine Jamison  
Waddy, Ky. 40076

4-1 Shouse's Grocery  
Waddy, Ky. 40076

3-7 Meredith Real Estate  
Frankfort, Ky.

3-6 Robert W. & Betty Jean Reese  
Rt. 1 Waddy, Ky. 40076

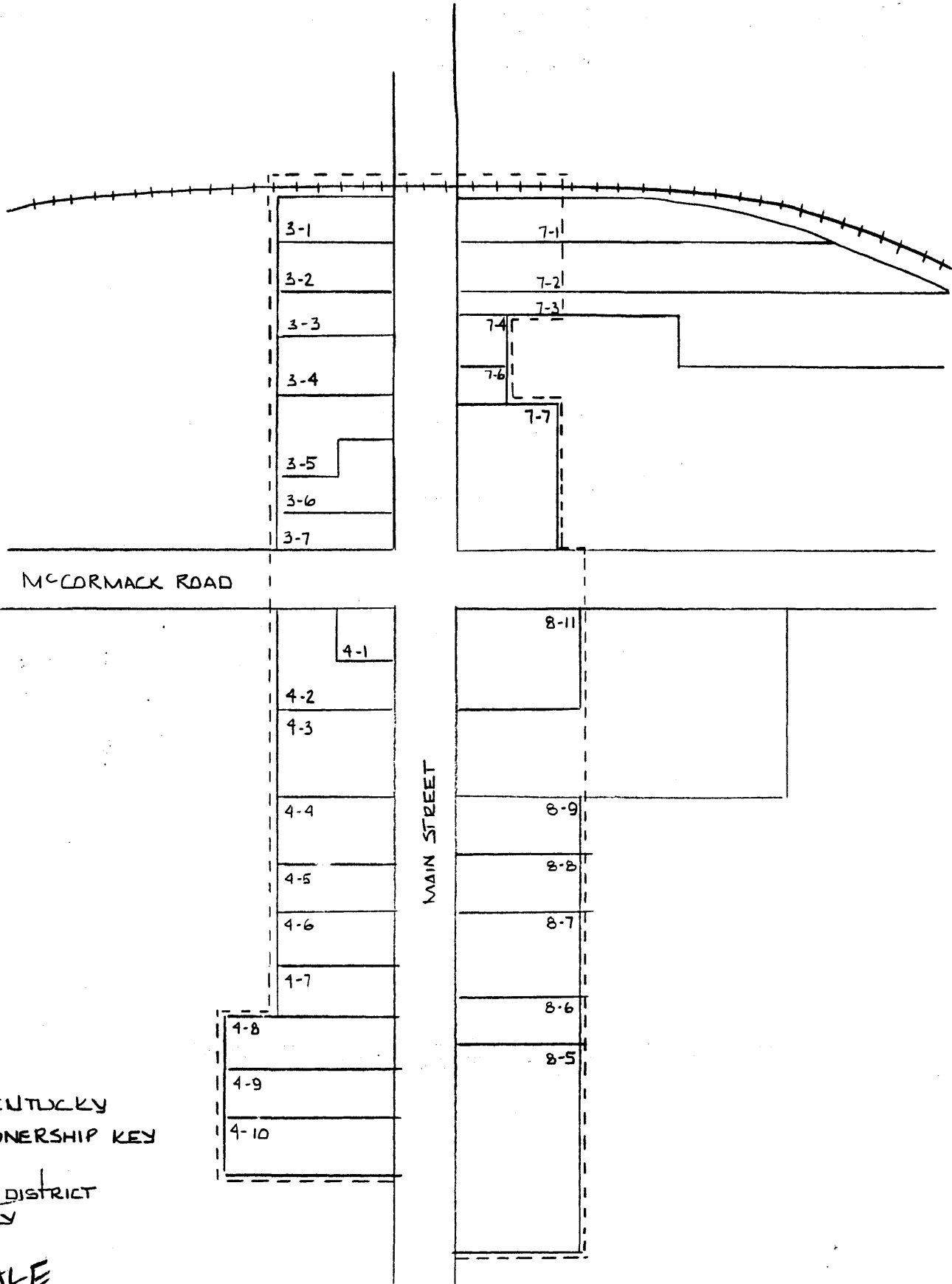
3-5 William L. & Mary Ann Perry  
Rt. 1 Bagdad, Ky.

3-4 Nancy M. Rodgers & Martha J. Montague  
Rt. 2 Waddy, Ky. 40076

3-3 Thelma C. Baker  
Rt. 1 Box 132  
Shelbyville, Ky. 40065

3-2 Janie Crafton  
Rt. 2 Waddy 40076

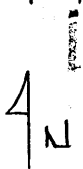
3-1 Louise McCormack  
Rt. 2 Box 52  
Waddy, Ky. 40076



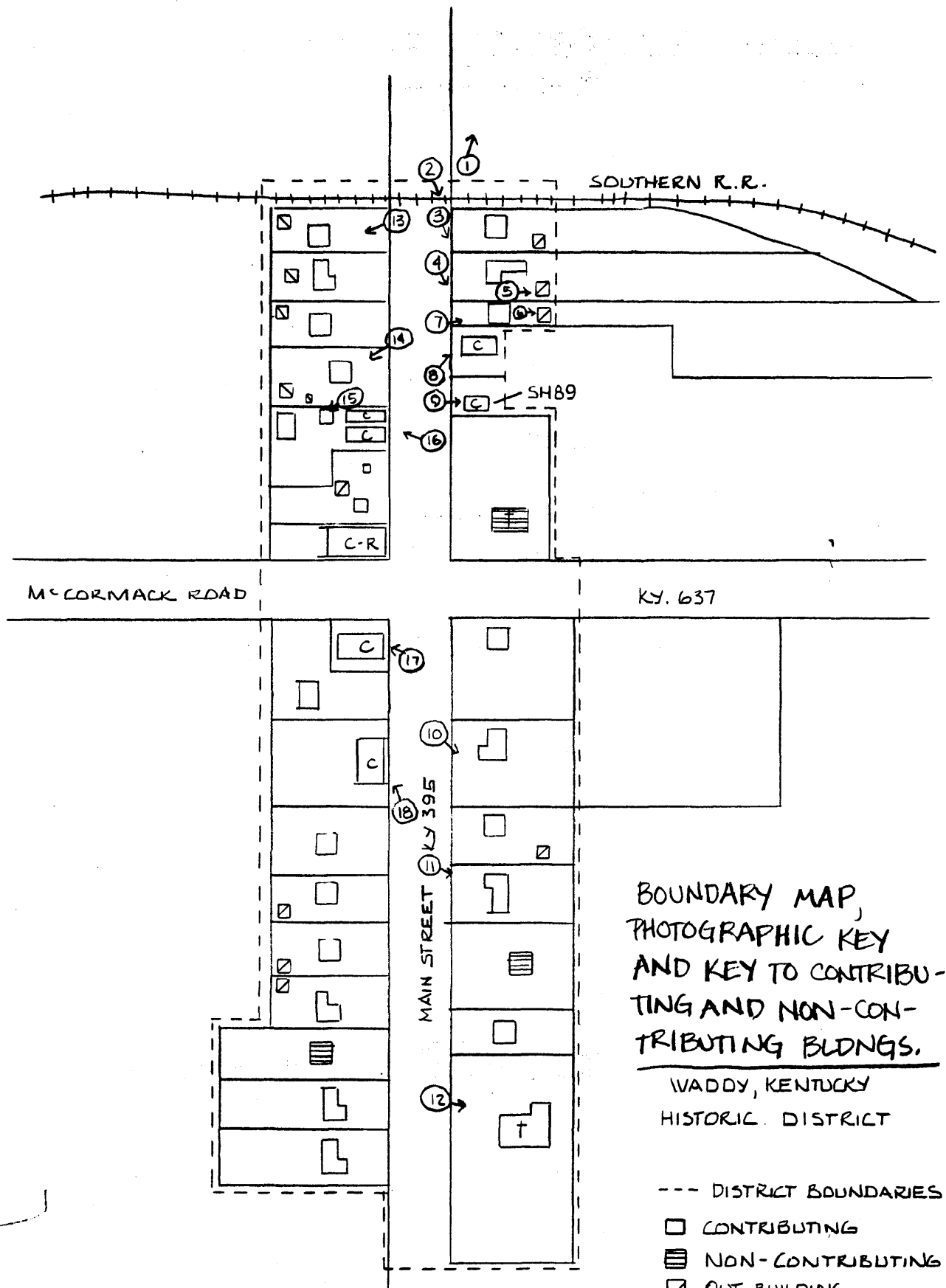
WADDY, KENTUCKY  
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP KEY

--- HISTORIC DISTRICT  
BOUNDARY

NOT TO SCALE







**BOUNDARY MAP,  
PHOTOGRAPHIC KEY  
AND KEY TO CONTRIBU-  
TING AND NON-CON-  
TRIBUTING BLDNGS.**

WADDY, KENTUCKY  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

- DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
- CONTRIBUTING
- ▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING
- ▧ OUT-BUILDING
- ⓐ COMMERCIAL (ORIGINAL USE)
- ⊙➔ PHOTOGRAPHS
- NOT TO SCALE