United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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. Nam	e					
historic	North Ma	in Stre	et Histo	ric Distr	ict	
and/or common		Same				
2. Loca	ation					
street & number					reet , Sycamore Stre and Water Street <i>S</i>	
city, town	Bolivar		vi	cinity of	congressional district	Sixth
state	Tennessee	code	047	county	Hardeman	code 069
3. Clas	sification	n				
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private _X_ both Public Acquisitio in process being conside	on	Accessible X yes: re	upied n progress l e	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainmentX government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
name street & number	Multiple ow	vnershi _l	p			
city, town			vi	cinity of	state	
5. Loca	ition of L	ega	Des	criptic	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Harder	nan Coun	ty Courth	ouse	
street & number		Court	Square	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
city, town		Boliva	ar		state	Tennessee 38008
6. Repr	esentati	on ir	n Exis	sting	Surveys	
title Historica	al and Archited	tural S	Survey	has this pro	perty been determined el	egible? X_ yes no
	vember 1976				federal _X_ sta	te county loca
depository for su	rvey records Tenr	iessee l	Historica	al Commiss	sion, 472l Trousdal	e Drive
city, town		ville				Tennessee 37220

7. Description

Condition excellentdeterioratedX goodruinsfairunexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one X original site moved date	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bolivar is the county seat of Hardeman County, which is located in southwestern Tennessee. The North Main Street Historic District is located north of the court square and includes thirty-seven buildings, all but one of which are residences; twenty-five buildings contribute to the significance of the district, and there are twelve other buildings.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

- 1. Baker House, "Mansion House" (517 North Main Street): ca. 1849, Greek Revival, 2 stories, frame, weatherboarded, bracketed cornice, later portico with paired columns with volutes, polygonal gazebo with latticed sides.
- 2. Kahn House (515 North Main Street): ca. 1867, Victorian cottage, 1½ stories, frame, weatherboarded, decorative bargeboard, 20th century portico, designed by Fletcher Sloan.
- 3. Buchanan House "Mallory Manor" (505 North Main Street): 1867, 1 story frame, weather-boarded, porch with columns and arched brackets.
- 4. Thompson House "The Manse" (501 North Main Street): ca. 1860, Carpenter Gothic, 1½ story, frame, weatherboarded, center gable, designed by Fletcher Sloan.
- 5. Wilson-Bradley House (427 North Main Street): ca. 1890, vernacular, 1 story, frame, clapboarded, stained glass windows, shingled gable, front porch with columns and pierced railing.
- 6. Vincent House (419 North Main Street): ca. 1860, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front porch with columns.
- 7. Mitchell House (411 North Main Street): ca. 1925, bungaloid, 1½ story, frame, weatherboarded.
- 12. Doyle-Wheeler House (412 North Washington Street): ca. 1900, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front porch with slender, turned posts.
- 13. Fentress-Vincent House "The Gardens" (West Sycamore Street): 1871, Carpenter Gothic, 1½ story, frame, weatherboarded, modern front porch, center gable, clustered chimney stacks, decorative bargeboard, designed by Fletcher Sloan.
- 14. Pierce House (314 North Washington Street): ca. 1900, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, modern front porch, aluminum siding, much altered.
- 16. Cross House (308 North Washington Street): ca. 1915, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, hipped roof, front porch with turned posts.
- 17. Pierce House (304 North Washington Street): ca. 1900, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front porch, external gable chimneys.
- 18. Rogers House (315 North Main Street): ca. 1890, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, shingled gable, front porch with turned posts.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications		re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates		Builder/Architect	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hardeman County was created from a portion of neighboring Hardin County by the Tennessee General Assembly on October 16, 1823. Named for Thomas Jones Hardeman, an early settler in the area, the new county was organized in November 1823. Hatchie Town, located one mile north of Bolivar on the Hatchie River, was selected as the temporary county seat by the county court. Four commissioners appointed by the state legislature to choose a permanent county town selected Bolivar. Ezekiel Polk and William Ramsey donated fifty acres on April 22, 1824, for the new town, which was named for Simon Bolivar, the Venezuelan independence leader. The county court appointed a committee to sell town lots and erect public buildings. Bolivar was incorporated in 1827.

The North Main Street Historic District has twenty-four significant residences and one contributing public building. Fourteen of these buildings were erected before 1900, and four of these predate the Civil War; of the remaining eleven, six were built between 1900 and 1910 and the other five during the 1915-1925 decade.

The district is architecturally significant as an expression of the evolution of town cottages from the 1840s to the 1930s in a small West Tennessee county seat. The district includes one of nearly every type favored in that period; as such it is a catalog of forms originally found throughout that region but which survive today in widely scattered sites.

The district illustrates the predominance of wood for siding and the general small size of town cottages in West Tennessee; only two houses are two stories in height, and only one is brick. These were the houses of the craftsmen and tradesmen found in every county seat, and the small size and general lack of pretension reflect the economic status of the builders. (The elaborate portico on the "Mansion House" (No.1) is a later addition)

Each house is located on an individual lot surrounded by a small lawn which is sometimes defined by an iron fence. Most of the houses are set back from the street allowing for shaded front yards. This pattern is typical of residential areas in small towns in West Tennessee, in contrast with the row-houses or narrow town houses of many urban areas in the north.

Although the district contains only twenty-four buildings, it includes examples of almost every style used in cottages in West Tennessee. The ante-bellum period is illustrated by a small Greek Revival cottage (Vincent House, No.6) and a more stylish Gothic Revival cottage ("The Manse" No.4). This period was one of general affluence in West Tennessee and this prosperity is illustrated by the larger, two story "Mansion House" (No.1) and "Magnolia Manor" (No. 28). The post-war period is illustrated by a cottage

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state			code	county			-	code	
name/title R organization T		alton, Dir istorical	ector of l	Field Serv	rices date	Novemb			
street & numbe	r 4721 Tro	usdale Dri	ve		telep	hone (615)	741-	2371	
city or town	Nashvill	e		·	state	Tenne	ssee	37219	
12. St	ate Hi	storic	Prese	rvatio	n O	fficer (Cer	tifica	tion
The evaluated	significance o	f this property							
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annigah adt aA	ominate this	property for in	clusion in the et forth by the //	National Re	gister and		has be	en evaluate	
665), I hereby naccording to the	reservation O	fficer signatu	re Nu	tut I il	ayen				

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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- Mr. Austin Alexander Baker, Jr. 517 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 2. Mrs. Aubrey M. Kahn 515 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 3. Mrs. Evelyn Tate Buchanan 505 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 4. Mr. Samuel W. Thompson 501 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 5. Mrs. B. Harris Bradley 133 Mecklinburg Drive Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 6. Miss Gladys Vincent 1758 Lawrence Place Memphis, Tennessee 38112
- 7. Mrs. John K. Mitchell 411 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 8. Mr. Bill Sykes 306 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 9. Mr. Roger Sellers 114 West Sycamore Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 10. Mr. and Mrs. Thad Williams Jack Corsar 118 West Sycamore Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008

- 11. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rogers 120 West Sycamore Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 12. Mrs. Alvin Wheeler 412 North Washington Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 13. Miss Patsy Vincent c/o Mrs. M. O. Vincent 612 Wright Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 14. Ms. Magella Pierce 314 North Washington Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 16. Ms. Mary Cross 308 North Washington Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 17. Mr. Palmer Pierce 304 North Washington Street Bolviar, Tennessee 38008
- 18. Mr. Kenneth Rogers 315 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 19. Mr. Kenneth Rogers 315 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 20. Mrs. Curtis Vaughan 305 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008

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- 21. Mr. Joe Wheeler
 East Harris Street
 Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 22. Mrs. Hall Brooks 304 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 23. Mrs. Hall Brooks 304 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 24. County Executive
 Hardeman County Courthouse
 Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
 also
 Mayor
 City Hall
 Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 25. Mrs. David Durrett 113 East Jefferson Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 26. Mrs. B. Harris Bradley 402 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 27. Mr. Ben T. Williams, Jr. 400 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 28. Mr. S. Frank Avent 418 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 29. Mrs. Ruby Wiggins 428 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008

- 30. Mr. Victor Moss 456 Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 31. Mr. Ralph Wiggs
 Middleton, Tennessee 38052
 and
 Mrs. Wiggs
 c/o Bolivar Police Department
 West Jackson Street
 Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 32. Mr. William King Weems 502 Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 33. Mr. Thomas Stallings 508 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 34. Mrs. Alan M. Prewitt 516 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 35. Mr. Gale Harrell 524 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 36. Miss Etta Dorris 532 North Main Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008
- 37. Ms. Hattie Pearl Scott 414 North Washington Street Bolivar, Tennessee 38008

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- 21. Wheeler House (307 North Main Street): ca. 1895, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front porch with turned posts and tuned balusters.
- 22. Lockman-Brooks House (306 North Main Street): ca. 1890, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front door with side lights, front porch with slender posts, internal gable chimneys.
- 24. Bolivar-Hardeman County Library (North Main Street): ca. 1920, Colonia Revival, 1 story, brick, formerly Hardeman County Library, front portico with pediment and square pillars.
- 25. Durrett House "Greenberry Bright" (113 East Jefferson Street): 1867, vernacular, 2 stories, frame, weatherboarded, internal gable chimneys, later 1 story front porch, incorporates log portion dating from ca. 1835.
- 26. Ragon-Bradley House (402 North Main Street): 1915, bungaloid, 1½ stories, frame, weatherboarded, shingled siding over front porch, center dormer.
- 28. Avent House "Magnolia Manor" (418 North Main Street): 1849, Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick, parapeted chimneys, front door with rectangular head and side lights, front porch with square pillars, 1 story brick dependency, ca. 1849, internal gable chimneys, modern front porch.
- 29. Wiggins House "Miller Cottage" (428 North Main Street): ca. 1890, vernacular 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front porch with slender columns.
- 31. Cox-Wiggs House (424 North Main Street): ca. 1890, Queen Anne, 1½ story, frame, weatherboarded, polygonial tower, front porch.
- 32. Weems House (502 North Main Street): ca. 1910, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front porch with turned posts and balusters.
- 33. Stallings House (508 North Main Street): ca. 1900, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded, front door with side lights, front porch with turned posts.
- 34. Prewitt House (516 North Main Street): ca. 1920, vernacular, 1½ stories, frame, weatherboarded, bungalow, center dormer, front porch with paired columns.
- 36. Dorris House (532 North Main Street): ca. 1900, vernacular, 2 stories, frame, weatherboarded, 1 story front porch.

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Nonconforming instrusions detracting from the integrity of the district.

- 8. Grantham House (306 North Main Street): 1938, bungaloid, 1 story brick.
- 9. Sellers House (114 West Sycamore Street): ca. 1950, Cape Cod type, 1 story, frame.
- 10. Williams House (118 West Sycamore Street): ca. 1950, Cape Cod type, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded.
- 11. Rogers House (120 West Sycamore Street): ca. 1970, house trailer.
- 15. Sammons House (312 North Washington Street): ca. 1950, vernacular, 1 story frame, weatherboarded.
- 19. Rogers House (111 West Sycamore Street): ca. 1950, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded.
- 20. Vaughan House (305 North Main Street): ca. 1935, vernacular, 1 story, frame brick veneer, front chimney.
- 23. Brooks House (304 North Main Street): ca. 1940, vernacular, 1½ stories, frame, brick veneer.
- 27. Williams House (400 North Main Street): ca. 1900, vernacular, 2 stories, frame, drastically remodeled.
- 30. Moss House (456 North Main Street): ca. 1950, vernacular, 1 story, frame, brick veneered, front chimney.
- 35. Kahn House (524 North Main Street): ca. 1940, vernacular, 1 story, frame, brick veneered.
- 37. Scott House (414 North Washington Street): ca. 1960, vernacular, 1 story, frame, weatherboarded.

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GE 2

with a front porch <u>in antis</u> "Mallory Manor" (No.3), a form popularly known in West Tennessee as a "piano box" house from its resemblance to a square grand piano. The general decline in economic conditions of the late nineteenth century is illustrated by several small cottages with traces of gingerbread trim, such as the Rogers House (No.18). Finally, the ubiquitous bungalow continues the cottage pattern into the twentieth century (Mitchell House, No. 7).

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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The Goodspeed Histories of Fayette and Hardeman Counties of Tennessee. Columbia, Tennessee: Woodward & Stinson Printing Co., 1973 (originally published in 1889).

Information provided by James T. Stevens, Jr., and Mrs. Faye Tennyson Davidson, Hardeman County historians, both of Bolivar.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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drawn to include the contributing properties along and adjacent to North Main Street and to exclude intrusive buildings; the area joins more modern residential and commercial areas.