

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Taylorsville Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Primarily the 200 & 300 blocks of Main and Garrard Sts. NA not for publication

city, town Taylorsville NA vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Spencer code 215 zip code 40071

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- X private
X public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
X district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council

Date

2-25-92

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- X entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain):

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 4/2/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling
 GOVERNMENT/county courthouse
 RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling
 DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
 GOVERNMENT/county courthouse

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH C. REVIVAL/Classical Revival
 EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
 LATE VICTORIAN/Other: 2-story T-plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/limestone
 walls WOOD/weatherboard
 BRICK
 roof ASPHALT
 other BRICK
 WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

6. continued

COMMERCE/financial institution
 DOMESTIC/hotel
 GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

RELIGION/religious facility

7. continued

Architectural Classifications:

EARLY REPUBLIC/Other: 2-story dogtrot
 LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Other: T-O-C Commercial Style
 LATE 19th and 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Collegiate Gothic
 LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman
 LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Other: English Cottage

Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE
 walls: WOOD/log
 METAL/aluminum
 roof: METAL
 other: STONE
 CONCRETE

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1818 - 1938

Significant Dates

1824, 1898,
1899, 1913,
1818

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

General Construction Company of Louisville
Holsclaw, Enoch
McClain, William

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Nine acres

UTM References

A

1	6	6	4	5	3	2	0	4	2	1	0	4	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	6	6	4	5	3	7	0	4	2	1	0	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

Taylorsville, Ky. Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The district boundary is clearly delineated on the accompanying sketch map. With one exception it follows the rear property lines of the properties included in the district. At the Enoch Holsclaw House on Garrard Street (#1) the western fifty feet of the property where a 1980s house is located have been excluded.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheets 7 - 14 and 7 - 15.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks date November 15, 1991
organization _____ telephone 502 456-2397
street & number 1288 Bassett Avenue state Ky. zip code 40204
city or town Louisville

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Taylorsville Historic District encompasses 37 properties located along three streets at the center of historic Taylorsville. Of these 34 contain principal buildings, a few with associated outbuildings. Two of the remaining three properties contribute to the district's sense of time and place as sites. Included in the district are the contiguous, intact, historic resources of the community which comprise residential, commercial, governmental, and religious properties that document the development of Taylorsville from its early days through the 1930s. The district centers on the historic Spencer County Courthouse, located on the northwest corner of the public square at Main Street and Main Cross Street. Of the 34 principal buildings in the district, 27, or 79%, are contributing buildings. Of the 13 outbuildings, which consist of sheds, small barns, and garages, 7, or 54%, are contributing structures. The overall historic character of the district is strong despite the few modern intrusions that interrupt the density of historic buildings in several places. The district still has much the same appearance it did at the end of its period of significance in the 1920s and 1930s. The district encompasses nine acres.

Taylorsville, Kentucky, population 774 in the preliminary 1990 census, is the county seat for Spencer County. It is the only community of any size in the county, the other population centers being small clusters of houses with no commercial facilities. Spencer County, one of the state's smallest counties, is located in the Outer Bluegrass area of Kentucky, bounded by Jefferson, Oldham, Anderson, Nelson, and Bullitt Counties. The county, both historically and presently, is agricultural in character. Presently four houses in Spencer County, but none in Taylorsville, are listed in the National Register.

Taylorsville, situated at the center of the county, 31 miles southeast of Louisville, is laid out on bottom land at the juncture of the Salt River and Brashears Creek, a major tributary of the Salt River. The Salt River, once navigable beyond Taylorsville, is the major stream in an important Kentucky River system that empties into the Ohio River at West Point on the Hardin/Jefferson County line.

The town is surrounded by water on three sides: the Salt River forms the southern boundary and Brashears Creek loops around

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

from the north forming the west and north town perimeters. On the east, the boundary roughly follows the bottom of a nearly 200-foot ridge that rises sharply up to overlook the town. A large naturally formed mound located near the center of town is the only variation from the flat bottom land that makes up the rest of Taylorsville. Since 1948, a high earthen flood wall has run along the rivers' edge on the town's south, west, and north perimeter. Until its installation, Taylorsville's riverside location resulted in a number of floods that devastated the community periodically throughout its history.

Taylorsville is laid out in a grid pattern with a courthouse square carved out at what was designed to be the principal crossroads at Main Street and Main Cross Street near the center of town. Unlike many Kentucky county seats where the courthouse sits at the center of a landscaped square surrounded by streets, the Taylorsville courthouse has historically occupied a lot on the corner of a "square" which is actually a void occupied by parking lots on the other three corners.

At the heart of present Taylorsville is the sixty-acre area laid out about 1799 as the original town. It consists of 147 lots arranged on 16 blocks of varying sizes. Garrard Street, nearest to the Salt River, and Main Street to its north are the two longest streets, running approximately east to west. Alleys run behind the lots on both sides of Main Street. Shorter streets that run approximately north to south - Point, Washington, Main Cross and Jefferson streets - cross Main and Garrard at fairly regular intervals.

The town's boundary has not changed radically from the time it was first platted about 1799. Court records indicate that the early boundary was still considered official in 1856. (Acts of the General Assembly, 1856, 198-204.) The map of Taylorsville in the 1882 Atlas of Nelson and Spencer County, Kentucky indicates a considerable expansion to the north to the banks of Brashears Creek and to the east to the bottom of the ridge. The eastward expansion was no doubt to annex the new railroad which was opened through Taylorsville in 1880, running northwest - southeast through town along the path of present Railroad Street. The 1882 boundary remained unaltered until the early 1980s when the opening of a new road to Louisville (State Highway 155 along Railroad Street, following the route of the railroad tracks removed in the 1950s), prompted the town to extend the city limits in a northerly

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

direction across Brashears Creek. The present boundary encompasses land on both sides of Highway 155 where Spencer County High School, a nursing home, several fast food restaurants, and a boat storage facility are now located.

With the exception of the large properties owned and occupied by the schools, and one large area of farm land along Brashears Creek in the west corner of town, the land is divided into city lots, many of which are still the 74 and 1/4' by 150 to 170' lots laid out in the original plat. Some outside the area included in the original town are a half-acre or more. Others, where the original lots have been subdivided, are much smaller.

The area included within the district was all part of the original platted area. It consists of approximately a third of that platted land (including all or portions of 4 blocks and 24 of the original lots along Main Street and Garrard Street). It represents the earliest and the most densely developed part of town and includes a number of the important extant early buildings as well as many later historic buildings constructed to replace earlier ones destroyed by fire or demolished to make way for larger more up-to-date buildings. The Public Square (#23), a historic open space at the center of town, is also located within the district.

The community's historic and present commercial center is located in the district on both sides of Main Street between Main Cross Street and Washington Street to the west of the courthouse. The only historic commercial building with integrity to the east of Main Street and the Public Square has also been included. The great majority of the commercial buildings are clustered together with party walls. Also in the district, along Main Street and Garrard Street to the south and west of the commercial buildings, is a residential areas of single family dwellings. These houses are interspersed on Main Street with two historic churches. The houses and churches are situated on small city lots modestly landscaped with grass and a few shade trees. The area included in the district is situated entirely on flat bottom land. Concrete sidewalks front the buildings on both sides of Main Street. There are no sidewalks on Garrard Street.

In the district are 11 historic houses; 14 historic commercial buildings including a hotel, two banks and 11 store buildings; two churches; and the courthouse and jail. These

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 4

buildings date from about 1818 to 1938. The large majority date from the 1890s to about 1915, but almost every decade in this just-over 100 year period is represented by at least one or two buildings. Six are ante-bellum structures.

Extant buildings range from one to two stories in height. With the exception of one log house and one brick house and a hotel, residences are wood-framed, originally with weatherboard siding. Some now have been re-sided with aluminum or vinyl. Commercial buildings, churches, and the courthouse are brick. The 1922 jail is constructed of poured concrete.

Residential forms represented include the dog-trot, the hall-and-parlor house, the central passage house, the side passage house, the two-story T-plan, and the bungalow. The great majority of the houses are vernacular structures with detailing drawn from the folk traditions of the Early Republic, the mid-19th century and the late-19th century. One early 20th century house shows Bungalow/Craftsman influences; a second is one of Taylorsville's few examples of the English Cottage style. Commercial buildings are almost all one- and two-story Turn-of-the-Century structures with wood or cast-iron storefronts and modest brick and/or cast-iron cornice and window detailing. The 1838 brick hotel is a Federal style building. The c. 1844 Taylorsville Methodist Church has Gothic Revival features, as does the 1914 First Baptist Church. The courthouse is strongly influenced by the Classical Revival style.

Government Buildings and Churches

Facing Main Street at the east corner of the district and the center of town is the 1914 Spencer County Courthouse (#35), a large two-story brick building in the Classical Revival style which dominates Taylorsville. It sits close to the corner on a high concrete foundation and with a front facade highlighted by a bold two-story pedimented portico. A small landscaped area with a dying shade tree and a graveled area is located in front of it. Since 1976 the courthouse has been linked to the adjacent historic commercial building, The Peoples' Bank (#34), by a large west side addition. Directly behind the courthouse on the same lot, but separated from it by a driveway, is the Spencer County Jail (#36), a small rectangular poured-concrete building constructed in 1922. This building is presently used as a craft shop. Both the courthouse and the jail are extremely intact buildings with most of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 5

their exterior and interior features still in place. At the very rear of the courthouse lot, to the north of the jail and attached to it by a recent addition, is a two-story concrete-block building built about 1925 as the city's and county's first fire station (#37). For many years until the present city hall was completed in the 1980s, it also served as Taylorsville City Hall. The front facade of this building, which faces Main Cross Street, has been completely remodeled with new door and window openings and new metal siding. It has been designated a non-contributing building.

Two churches are located in the district. The oldest is the Taylorsville Methodist Church (#10), located on the south side of Main Street near the west end of the district. Built about 1842, it is a brick nave-plan structure with a projecting front entrance/bell tower and pointed-arched windows on the front facade. An education building and parsonage were attached to its rear in 1952. In 1913-1914, the floor, windows, walls, and roof were raised to alleviate damage caused by frequent flooding. Two properties to the east is the First Baptist Church, a Collegiate Gothic brick structure completed in 1915 to replace an earlier 1857 church on the site. It has a corner crenelated tower and large pointed-arched windows on the front facade. A two-story education building was attached to its rear about 1925.

Commercial Buildings

Concentrated along both sides of Main Street between Washington Street and Main Cross Street in the district are the great majority of Taylorsville's historic commercial buildings. These all have party walls and sit flush with the concrete sidewalks. On the north side of the street they are located between the historic George Kurtz House (#29) and Spencer House hotel (#30) at the west end of the block and the Spencer County Courthouse (#35) at the east end. One of the two non-historic commercial building in the district - a two-story concrete block and tile movie theater (#31) built in the 1950s to replace an earlier brick commercial building that burned - is located at the center of the block on this side of the street. On the south side of Main Street, the commercial buildings run uninterrupted from the corner of Washington Street nearly to Main Cross Street. At the east end of the block, set back from the street behind a parking lot that forms part of the courthouse square, are two non-historic one-story 1950s or 1960s commercial buildings that have been

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 6

excluded from the district. The district ends east of Main Cross Street with the Greenwell Building (#24), a highly intact building which is one of the few historic commercial buildings to be built to the east of the Public Square.

The block of Main Street between Washington and Main Cross appears to have been the center of Taylorsville's commerce since its early days. The commercial buildings in the district are all one- and two-story brick buildings built between 1897 and about 1916. Fires that devastated this area of Taylorsville in 1898, 1899, and 1913 explain the absence of any earlier commercial structures.

These buildings all fall within a building type developed for Taylorsville - late 19th century and early 20th century commercial buildings - which includes both one- and two-story wood-framed and brick buildings. The majority in the district have party walls; only one is free-standing. Without exception they have long narrow plans with the narrow end facing the street. All but one are brick buildings detailed with cast iron and/or brick and, in one case, stone. The two-story examples typically have storerooms on their first floors and offices, meeting rooms, or living space on the second. Nearly all display the characteristics of Turn-of-the-Century Commercial styling influenced by national stylistic trends: a first floor storefront with large plate glass windows and transoms, decorative attic vents, and a bold cast-iron or brick cornice hiding a flat or gently pitched roof. Those with a second floor have a relatively plain facade punctuated by large double-hung sash windows frequently detailed with cast-iron caps. As in many communities, the bank buildings, of which there are two intact examples in the district (# 19 and # 34) are the most elaborately detailed.

One of the two remaining historic wood-framed commercial buildings remaining in Taylorsville is also in the district. The Harris Plumbing and Tin Shop (#7), a free-standing structure built about 1915 on Washington Street, is a two-story rectangular building originally finished with corrugated metal siding. The front facade has been completely remodeled, making the building non-contributing to the district.

Residential Buildings

Fronting on Garrard Street, along the south boundary of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 7

district, are four houses, remaining from a larger number that originally lined the street. These houses are strongly tied to the remainder of the district from the rear where the properties back onto other historic properties on Main Street, separated only by the historic alley that runs between them. Two, the Enoch Holsclaw House (#1), near the west end of the district, and the Richard Basye House (#3), at the corner of Washington Street, are antebellum houses that provide important documentation of early house construction materials, technologies, and styles as well as information about house siting in Taylorsville. Both are located very close to the street near the very front of their lots.

The Basye House, the oldest remaining building in Taylorsville, dating from about 1818, is a two-story five-bay log house with a dog trot plan, a gable roof, and exterior end chimneys, one stone and one brick. It has been sheathed with weatherboards since at least the second half of the 19th century. The Holsclaw House, a wood-framed house believed to have been built about 1830, consists of a one-story hall-and-parlor section laterally attached to a two-story addition. Both these houses have remarkably intact interiors. The Basye House is also very intact on the exterior; the Holsclaw House has been re-sided and had an original front door filled in, but it still retains a strong sense of its original form and appearance.

Also on Garrard Street are the Patrick McShane House (# 2), a one-and-one-half story side-passage house with Victorian detailing built about 1890, and a two-story three-bay central-passage house on the northeast corner of Garrard and Washington probably built about 1900 (#4).

On Main Street the district begins at the corner of Point Street and includes all the properties on the south side of the street and four properties on the north side of the street between Point and Washington Streets. This area of Taylorsville was one of the earliest to develop with a number of old houses as well as the two church lots that are still there today on the south side of the street. Presently Main Street, from the west end of the district to the beginning of the commercial area, is lined with eight houses dating from 1838 to about 1938 and representing many decades between the 1830s and the 1930s. In many cases the newer houses along the street such as the Barker Sisters' House (#11) of about 1900, the Isaac and Mary Jewell House (#26) built in 1915, the William McClain House (#25) of about 1920, and the Thomas Humphrey

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 8

House (#13) of about 1938 have replaced earlier houses on these same lots.

At the southeast corner of Main and Point Streets, firmly anchoring the district, is the William Polk House (#8), a two-story brick house built about 1835 with suggestions of Federal detailing. The original five-bay central-passage gable-roofed house had a two-bay east wing added at a slightly later date. The house sits flush with the sidewalk that fronts it in a manner typical of Taylorsville's oldest residences. Further to the east on the north side of the street, the Lee-Miller House (#27) is an 1840s three-bay central-passage house that was moved back on its lot about 1906. Its paired central chimneys distinguish it from most of the other central passage plan houses in Taylorsville.

One of the most important buildings in the district is the Spencer House (#30), a fine two-story Federal-style hotel built about 1838. Located close to the street on the north side of Main Street between Washington and Main Cross Streets at the edge of the commercial block, it provides a gradual transition between the houses to its west and the commercial buildings to its east. The seven-bay gable-roofed building has a central-passage plan, interior end chimneys, and windows with lintels highlighted by bull's-eye corner blocks.

Two houses on Main Street are examples of the two-story wood-framed T-plan houses that were built with great frequency in Taylorsville between about 1870 and 1915. These are both set 15 to 20 feet back from the street in the manner associated with post-Civil War house siting. At the northeast corner of Main and Washington Streets on the edge of the commercial area is the George Kurtz House (#29), built about 1875 and probably the earliest of these T-plan houses in town. The Kurtz House is somewhat different from the later examples: it probably never had a front porch; the projecting wing projects out only to the front; and it has a front bay window. On the south side of Main Street to the east of the Taylorsville Methodist Church is the Barker Sisters' House (#11), a more typical T-plan house with a half-width front porch in the angle of the front L. The Barker Sisters' House still retains its original porch and detailing which consists of an open spindlework frieze and turned posts. The Annie Stone House (#9), a third two-story T-plan house dating from about 1905 was located in the district immediately to the west of the church until October, 1991 when it was demolished. This property is now a vacant grassed lot.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

Across the street from the Barker House is the Isaac and Mary Jewell House (#26), built about 1915. This two-story wood-framed house with its central gable roof surrounded by projecting and parallel gables and corner wrap-around porch is a variation on the T-plan houses. The house is one of the finer early 20th century houses in Taylorsville with a dentil cornice and front windows with leaded-glass transoms.

Adjacent to it on the west is the William McClain House, a one-and-one half story Bungalow/Craftsman house built by William McClain, a builder, about 1920 to replace an earlier brick house on the same site. Although now sided with aluminum, the house retains a bold full-width front porch typical of this style with historic concrete-block plinths that support truncated columns. A number of similar houses were built in Taylorsville between about 1915 and 1925, but this is the only one in the district.

The final historic house to be built on the street is the Thomas Humphrey House (#13), a modest one-and-one-half story brick-veneered house built about 1938 in the English Cottage style. Since the early 1980s it has been attached to a one-story brick doctors' office built on the adjacent lot in 1960. The doctors' office (#14) and the First Baptist Church Parsonage (#28), a two-story brick and frame ranch house built directly across Main Street in 1965, are the only non-contributing buildings in this section of the district. A seriously altered historic house and three houses dating from the late 1940s and 1950s along the north side of Main Street in this block have not been included in the district.

Outbuildings

Very few of the outbuildings that used to cluster at the rear of Taylorsville's houses, both in and out of the district, still exist. Of those that do, none appear to date from the Settlement or Ante-bellum periods. The 1886 and 1895 Sanborn maps show most of the houses with clusters of between two and four small wood-framed outbuildings as well as with a larger one- or two-story carriage house/barn. Most of the structures are not identified on the Sanborn maps, but they do single out a few brick and stone ice houses, one brick smokehouse (behind the Spencer House, #30) and a laundry and corn crib. These are all gone. Other outbuildings that might have been more commonly associated with these in-town houses are meat houses, chicken houses, coal and wood sheds, and outhouses. A very few of these still exist in the district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 10Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

Only one property in the district has a group of remaining historic outbuildings. At the Patrick McShane House (#2) on Garrard Street are four early structures, some possibly dating from the 1890s when the house was built. A free-standing gable-roofed shed with board-and-batten siding is located near the east edge of the property at the side of the house. Running along the alley behind the house, in a position typical of many of the early outbuildings, are a one-story carriage house and two small sheds, all with board-and-batten siding. These have all been counted as contributing buildings because there are so few properties in Taylorsville that still retain a collection of historic outbuildings. Other houses have a remaining shed of unidentified function or a small barn in the rear yard, almost always with gable or shed roofs and vertical board, board-and-batten or, less frequently, weatherboard siding.

The largest group of remaining historic outbuildings in Taylorsville are small wood-framed garages built beginning in the late 1910s to house residents' automobiles, but very few of these are located in the district. The 1916 Sanborn map indicates two such structures. By 1929 there were between 15 and 20. Today nearly that number remain although it is difficult in some cases to determine if they are the original structures or 1940s and 1950s replacements. The majority are one-car structures with gable roofs, end doors, and vertical board, weatherboard, or shiplap siding. Several more elaborate two-car examples also exist. Within the district only two rather atypical examples remain. A crude shed-roofed structure with vertical board siding is associated with the Richard Basye House (#3) but attached to the rear of the Harris Plumbing and Tin Shop (#7). A larger-than-usual gable-roofed garage (#5) with shed space incorporated into it and a variety of exterior sidings including corrugated metal and shiplap and vertical board siding is located on a site that was earlier associated with the house at 100 Washington Street (#4).

Just over half the outbuildings in the district are contributing buildings. Most of the non-contributing buildings are not sufficiently large or intrusive as to seriously detract from the integrity of the district. They include a two-story concrete-block storage building on the site of earlier storage sheds behind the W.T. Froman Drug Store (#20), a small brick veneered building on the alley behind the Spencer House (#30), and a large and intrusive two-car garage behind the William Polk House (#8). A few other non-historic sheds are scattered throughout the district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Registration Requirements

The Taylorsville Historic District is being considered for nomination under National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. The district has been identified as an area that conveys a strong sense of its historic environment and, through its historic buildings and sites, reveals much information about the development of the town from its earliest days to 1938 when the last historic building in the district was constructed. It has been determined that integrity of location, setting, and design are the most important aspects of integrity necessary to convey the historic significance of this district.

The integrity of the district's 37 components as determined by the criteria outlined below is fairly high. Of these 37 sites, 29 or 78% are considered contributing properties. Of the non-contributing properties, 3 are historic buildings that have totally altered front facades which no longer reflect integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association and 4 are buildings that were constructed after the period of significance. The one non-contributing site is a vacant lot where the Annie Stone House (#9) stood until it was demolished in October, 1991 while this nomination was being prepared.

All the historic houses in the district have integrity of location and setting. With one and possibly two exceptions, they are sited where they were originally built and still retain enough of their historic setting to provide an accurate picture of the setting's historic character. One house, the Lee-Miller House (#27), an ante-bellum house, was moved back on its site in 1906 about 15 feet, but this move can be seen as historically significant because it demonstrates a pattern of house siting in Taylorsville that has been identified in the Statement of Significance. A second house at 100 Washington Street (#4) may have received the same treatment about 1900, but here it is more difficult to determine if the early one-story house was moved back and topped with a second story or whether a new house was built.

The primary historic buildings in the district include 11 residential buildings, 14 commercial buildings and 5 governmental and religious buildings. Registration requirements for the residential and commercial buildings are discussed separately because differing criteria are needed to evaluate these two

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 12Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Kentucky

property types. There are so few governmental and religious buildings that these are addressed individually.

Common alterations to historic houses generally fall into four categories: alterations to original wooden siding through the application of aluminum, vinyl, or other non-historic materials; alterations to original window and/or door openings; porch alterations consisting of the replacement of original porch elements, the filling in of all or a portion of the porch, or the replacement or removal of the original porch; and additions to the house. In Taylorsville, for houses significant in terms of Criterion A, it has been determined that changes can generally exist in two or possibly even three of the four categories outlined above without compromising the integrity of the building. A few exceptions exist. The application of siding to a brick or stone house renders it non-contributing. In most cases the removal of a historic porch that was an important element in the design of the house would also make a house non-contributing. A large addition to the front or side of the house that impacted its overall form and design would also render a house non-contributing.

All the historic houses in the district are designated contributing buildings. Most of the residences in the district are fairly intact with no or only one change. Only two houses have changes in two or three of the categories discussed above. Of the nine historic wood-framed houses in the district, five retain their original siding. Only three have replacement vinyl or aluminum siding. Significant porch changes have occurred at only one house, the Lee-Miller House (#27) where a historic porch has been removed. The Enoch Holsclaw House (#1) has had one of its principal front entrances removed, the William Polk House (#8) has had its windows reduced in size and replaced, and the Lee-Miller House (#27) had its front entrance altered. A number of house have had additions, but in all but two cases these are at the rear and do not affect the overall design of the structures. The Enoch Holsclaw House (#1) and the William Polk House (#8) have major two-bay lateral additions, but these date from the 1840s or 1850s and add to the historic significance of the buildings.

The Enoch Holsclaw House (#1) with its wide aluminum siding, its one missing front entrance, and its concreted-over foundation is one of two somewhat problematic houses in the district. Despite these changes it still provides a strong presence in the district. Its overall form, its siting, some of its original exterior

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 13

detailing including brick end chimneys, windows and some doors, and a great deal of interior detailing are still intact. As one of the earliest remaining houses in Taylorsville it documents the pattern of siting houses close to the street identified in ante-bellum Taylorsville, and with its lateral addition it illustrates one way that early residences in the town were enlarged.

The Lee-Miller House (#27) is a second residence with some radical changes. As mentioned above this three-bay, central passage ante-bellum house was moved back on its site about 1906. At this time a three-quarter width porch was added to the front facade. In the 1970s the porch was removed and the front entrance was altered with the addition of flanking pilasters and a simple pediment. Despite these non-historic changes, the house with its original fenestration, unusual paired interior chimneys, and early central passage plan still retains a good deal of integrity of design, workmanship and materials.

The integrity of the commercial buildings is similar to what one finds in many towns: the first floor storefronts have been altered in most cases; the second floors and cornice areas are rather intact. Within the district, only the Bank of Taylorsville (#19), The Jablow Building (#18), the James L. Cox Building (#33), and the Greenwell Building (#24) retain most elements of their original storefronts. The People's Bank (#34) also has a particularly intact front facade. With the exception of The Bank of Taylorsville which has an original mantel and a portion of its original tiled floor and the almost completely intact Greenwell Building with its chamfered posts and pressed-metal ceiling, the first-floor interiors of these buildings retain little of their original fabric. At the beginning of this project a few such as The Montgomery Building (#17) and the W. T. Froman Drug Store (#20) still had remarkably intact second floors. These are both in the process of being remodeled, but they still retain many original features. Other second-floor interiors not seen by the surveyor may also be very intact.

Because updating and remodeling historic storefronts is such a common practice among owners of commercial buildings, it is necessary to be more flexible in evaluating commercial than residential buildings if we are to acknowledge within the National Register process this important commercial component of the historic built environment. In a town like Taylorsville where most of the first-floor storefronts have been altered but where the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 14Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

second floors are still very intact and the location and the setting of the buildings as a group conveys a strong sense of the town's historic commercial environment, it has been determined that in most cases these first-floor changes can be tolerated.

With the exception of the Harris Plumbing and Tin Shop discussed above and the second Bank of Taylorsville building (#22), all the historic commercial buildings in the district have been designated contributing buildings. Although the storefronts of many of the two-story buildings have had major changes, including the bricking-in of the storefront area or the shifting of the original entrances, the high degree of integrity of the second floors gives a strong sense of the buildings' original appearance. One of the two one-story buildings, the James L. Cox Building (#32), although altered by the encasing of the original cast-iron columns in the storefronts in aluminum and the filling in of the transoms, still retains its original attic vents and cast-iron cornice and a strong sense of the articulation of the original storefronts. Entrances and windows are in their original locations and, in the case of one of the three units, the original recessed entrance, showcase area, and interior wooden floor are in place.

Of the five governmental and religious buildings in the district, the Spencer County Courthouse (#35), the Spencer County Jail (#36), and First Baptist Church (#12) are extremely intact buildings on both the exterior and interior with very few alterations. The Taylorsville Methodist Church (#10) was substantially changed in the early 20th century when the floor and windows were raised to remedy damage caused by frequent flooding, but this was a historic change which occurred during the period of significance for the district. The only significant non-historic exterior changes included the filling-in of the bell tower with vinyl siding and the addition of an education wing and parsonage to the rear of the building. These do not seriously compromise the setting, design, materials and workmanship that distinguish the building. The Spencer County Fire Station (#37), as discussed above, has received an entirely new front facade and is non-contributing.

Boundary Justification

Excluded from the district are other areas of historic Taylorsville where small pockets of historic buildings and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 15

individual buildings have been isolated from the district by non-historic construction. The historic development along Main Cross Street north of Main Street was considered for inclusion in the district but determined ineligible. Although the area contains a number of historic and contributing buildings including the Taylorsville Public Library, All Saints Church, and some historic houses, the large percentage of non-historic and other non-contributing buildings along the street makes it a poor representation of the historic character of the town.

Two other collections of historic buildings have also been considered for National Register listing but considered ineligible. Along Reasor Street and Maple Avenue, in an area developed beginning in 1899 as "Reasor's Addition," is a collection of small modest houses dating from about 1900 through the 1940s. A large number of these houses have been seriously altered by the addition of new siding, major changes to front porches, and lateral additions that alter the form of the house. They no longer constitute an intact historic district. At the east end of Main Street, east of Railroad Street, is another collection of twelve historic houses. Although many of these houses retain a significant number of their historic identifying features, it was determined that they were too disparate a group, with no theme to unite them, to justify a district. Ten historic buildings in Taylorsville have been determined to be individually eligible for the National Register and will be nominated as part of the current project.

The district encompasses the contiguous intact historic properties along Main Street and Garrard Street that help to document the district's area of significance - community planning and development. The district boundaries are determined by concentrations of non-historic properties that surround the district on all sides. To the east are non-historic and non-contributing commercial buildings. To the south is the 1948 flood wall. To the west a few remaining historic houses are interspersed with several non-historic governmental buildings including a post office and Spencer County School office and a number of late 1940s infill houses. To the north along Washington Street and Main Cross Street a number of historic houses at the north ends of the streets are separated from the district by a 1950s church and single family houses and apartments all dating from the late 1940s through the 1980s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 16

INVENTORY

Garrard Street

1. (C) SP-T-25 Enoch Holsclaw House, 205 Garrard Street c. 1830.

One of three ante-bellum houses in the district. Significant as one of the earliest extant buildings in Taylorsville, for its particularly intact interior which retains considerable original and fairly elaborate detailing, and for its associations with Enoch Holsclaw, its owner for nearly sixty years, a carpenter who probably built the house. A one-and-one-half-story hall-and-parlor house with a two-story lateral addition probably dating from the late 1830s or 1840s. Hall-and-parlor portion has a full cellar, an infrequent feature in Taylorsville houses. Exterior end brick chimneys. Rear ell of undetermined date. House has been altered on the exterior by the removal of one front entrance in the hall-and-parlor portion, by re-siding with aluminum, and by the stuccoing over of the stone foundation and chimney bases. A small brick house built on the west side of the property in the 1980s has been excluded from the district.

1. Workshop. Gable roof with weatherboard siding. 1960s. (N/C)
2. Chicken house. Gable roof with weatherboard siding. 1960s. (N/C)

2. (C) SP-T-24 Patrick McShane House, 209 Garrard Street. c. 1890.

An unusual example in Taylorsville of a late 19th century house with a side passage plan. One of the few houses in the district that retains a significant number of historic outbuildings. A one-and-one-story wood-framed house with a front-facing gable roof. House sits on a high stone foundation and has a central front bay window and its original Victorian front door. Rear additions. Vinyl siding. Extensive landscaping consisting of flowering trees and shrubs. Patrick McShane was local merchant.

1. Shed. Gable-roofed with board-and-batten siding. 1890s. (C)
2. Carriage house. One-story gable-roofed structure with board-and-batten siding. 1890s. (C)
3. Attached shed. Shed roofed with vertical board siding. early 20th century. (C)
4. Attached shed. Shed-roofed with vertical board siding. early 20th century. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 17

3. (C) SP-T-23 Richard Basye House, southwest corner of Garrard and Washington Streets. c. 1818.

Very significant as the oldest extant building in Taylorsville, as an early tavern, and as a very intact example of a two-story dog-trot house. One of only two remaining log houses in Taylorsville and the only one in the district. A five-bay gable-roofed house with one massive exterior end stone chimney and one brick end chimney on a stone base. Sits on a high limestone block foundation, has a full cellar, and is sheathed with early weatherboards that have covered over the dog trot. Many early interior features remain including mantels, a boxed stair, batten doors, and beaded wall and ceiling boards. Wood-framed rear ell has had many exterior and interior alterations.

1. Carriage house/garage. Shed-roofed with vertical board siding. Attached to building on adjacent property. c. 1914 (C)

2. Attached sheds. Older shed-roofed portion with novelty siding (1910s) is attached to shed-roofed structure with vertical board siding and high poured concrete foundation (c. 1939) (C)

Washington Street

4. (C) SP-T-65 100 Washington Street. c. 1910 - 1916.

A late example of a two-story three-bay central passage house. Weatherboard siding; poured concrete foundation. House may have replaced an earlier one-story house on this lot between 1910 and 1916 or may have incorporated the old house, moved back on its lot, into the present structure. Shed-roofed three-quarter width front porch. 1930s rear addition. Large maple trees edge property along Garrard and Washington Streets.

5. (C Site) Lot on the southeast corner of Washington Street and alley.

This property was part of the property at 100 Washington Street through the 1920s and probably much longer. It contains a historic garage/shed associated with the house.

1. Garage/shed. Gable roofed with various sidings: shiplap siding on south, vertical boards on east, corrugated metal on north and west. 1930s? (C)

6. (N/C) 106 Washington Street. Spencer County EMS. c. 1980.

One-story gable-roofed building that sits on concrete slab. Metal-clad with large garage bay on south end and office area at north end.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 18

7. (N/C) SP-T-64 Harris's Plumbing and Tin Shop, southwest corner of Washington and alley. c. 1915.

An extensively altered two-story wood-framed commercial building. The gable-roofed building retains its original front parapet gable and two walls of its original corrugated-metal siding, but has been re-sided on the front facade and south side with new wood paneling and wide particle-board weatherboards. Front facade has been totally rearranged with garage door entrance and picture window. Second floor windows are replacements set, in some places, in new openings. Sits on concrete slab.

Main Street

8. (C) SP-T-28 William Polk House, southwest corner of Main and Point Streets. c. 1835.

Significant as one of Taylorsville's most substantial remaining ante-bellum brick houses and as an early tavern. Its architectural significance has been somewhat compromised by window alterations that reduced the size of the original openings and replaced the sash. This two-story house was originally a five-bay gable-roofed structure with exterior end chimneys. A one-story rear ell may be partially original. Probably by the 1850s a two-bay wing which extended back five bays to the rear was added to the east end. Front facade has Flemish bonding and low stone foundation. Main front entrance has six-light transom over door. Present owner claims to have removed all original wood detailing from the house. House still retains a commanding presence and a strong sense of its original form.

1. Stone shed with modern paneled superstructure and attached non-historic paneled shed. Gable roofed. Although stone walls of lower portion have historic appearance, this outbuilding does not appear on any Sanborn maps of Taylorsville and must post-date 1929.

(N/C)

2. Garage. Two-car, gable-roofed concrete-block building. 1980s? (N/C)

9. (N/C Site) SP-T-29 Annie Stone House, second lot east of Point Street on south side of Main Street. c. 1905.

In October, 1991, as work on this nomination was underway, the two-story T-plan house on this site was demolished. The property is now a vacant lot. The Stone House was one of three examples in the district of the two-story T-plan house, an important residential house type in Taylorsville. Two excellent and more

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 19

intact examples, (#11 and #29), remain.

10. (C) SP-T-30 Taylorsville Methodist Church, third lot east of Point Street on south side of Main Street. c. 1842.

One of three important early church buildings in Taylorsville. A brick nave-plan church with a projecting central front entrance/bell tower. Brick is laid in common bond. Front entrance has paired doors with a large semi-circular fanlight and an oculus above. Large front windows have pointed-arched surrounds. Side windows have pointed-arched glass set in rectangular surrounds. In 1913-1914, following flooding damage, the floor of the church, the windows, the walls and the roof were raised, and the interior was completely redone. The pointed-arched windows on the front may date from this remodeling. In 1953 a two-story concrete-block education building and parsonage were attached to the rear. The round-arched openings of the bell tower were filled in with vinyl siding in the 1970s or 1980s.

11. (C) SP-T-31 Barker Sisters' House, south side of Main Street midway between Point and Washington Streets. c. 1900.

A very intact and representative example of the two-story T-plan houses that were built in Taylorsville between 1870 and 1915. This wood-framed house with weatherboard siding is simply detailed with two corbelled brick chimneys, attic vents, and a shed-roofed porch with its original turned posts and spindlework frieze. A one-story rear ell is original to the house.

12. (C) SP-T-62 First Baptist Church, third lot west of Washington Street on south side of Main Street. 1915.

An excellent small-town example of an early 20th century Collegiate Gothic church. One of three historic churches in the district. A brick church with a front parapet gable, a square corner tower with a crenelated top, and a recessed central front entrance. Pointed-arched windows flank and top the front entrance and paired pointed-arched windows set in shallow corbelled recesses alternate with brick buttresses along the sides. The building sits on a high poured concrete foundation that has been scored to look like stone block. At the rear is a two-story brick education building dating from 1925 with a high foundation and a slightly pitched shed roof. The interior of the sanctuary has a sloping floor and a beamed ceiling with bold brackets. Two small chapels at the north end of the church are separated from the main sanctuary by historic folding doors. A quarter-turn stair leads from the west chapel to a small choir room (earlier the baptistery)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 20

which has a balcony overlooking the sanctuary. The interior was remodeled in 1969. At that time the baptistery was relocated to the present pedimented alcove at the front of the church which had earlier held the organ pipes, and the choir and pulpit areas below were expanded. The west side of the church lot is a black topped parking area which earlier was the site of a two-story five-bay central passage plan house. The church demolished the building about 1965.

13. (C) SP-T-134 Thomas Humphrey House, second lot west of Washington Street on south side of Main Street. c. 1938.

The only example in the district of the handful of houses in Taylorsville built in the late 1930s at the end of the Depression. One of a very few houses in Taylorsville with simple English Cottage styling. A one-and-one-half-story brick-veneered house with a poured-concrete foundation, a gable roof, a projecting front entrance vestibule with a steeply-pitched roof, and a prominent stone-trimmed chimney that rises up the front facade. A historic garage is located beneath a central rear wing. Since the early 1980s the house has been attached to the adjacent 1960 office building (#14) by a gambrel-roofed connector. Built either on speculation or as rental housing.

14. (N/C) Drs. Skaggs' Office, 216 Main Street. 1960.

A non-historic one-story brick-veneered doctor's office with a gable-on-hip roof and a rectangular plan. In the early 1980s it was attached to the adjacent Thomas Humphrey House (#13).

15. (C) SP-T-32 W.P. Beard Building, 302 Main Street. c. 1899.

The west half of the largest and most elaborately detailed of the Turn-of-the-Century Commercial style buildings constructed in Taylorsville. A two-story brick building with an intact second-floor exterior composed of five large windows detailed with metal caps and side quoins of a contrasting glazed brick, attic vents with decorative grilles, and a pressed-metal cornice underscored by a band of decorative brick work. Except for one cast-iron column that separates the two halves of the building, the original storefront has been completely obscured with modern board-and-batten siding. The recessed main entrance and the entrance to the second floor are probably in their original locations, and the windows are approximately the correct size. Wooden posts dividing interior are only historic first-floor detailing. Second floor is said to have had office and residential space. A milliner and an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 21

undertaker were located in this half of the building for some years.

16. (C) SP-T-33 W. P. Beard Building, 306 Main Street. c. 1899.
The east half of the largest and most elaborately detailed of the Turn-of-the-Century Commercial style buildings constructed in Taylorsville. Second-floor front facade is identical to #15. First-floor storefront has been extensively altered. Location of main entrance has been changed, windows have been reduced in size, and much of storefront has been veneered in brick. Aside from an early wooden floor and wooden posts that subdivide the first-floor interior, little historic detailing remains on the first floor. Second floor probably functioned as offices and/or historic residential space. First floor housed a grocery store for most years of its existence. The strong visual impact of the highly detailed and intact second floor keeps this building from being designated non-contributing.

17. (C) SP-T-34 Montgomery Building, 308 Main Street. 1899.
A representative example of Taylorsville's Turn-of-the-Century Commercial style buildings. A two-story three-bay brick building laid in running bond on the front facade. Second floor has large sash windows with metal window caps and corner blocks similar to many others on block. Circular attic vents, a frieze of fancy brick, and a pressed metal cornice cap the building. The first floor storefront has been totally altered, but the present owner is in the process of restoring it to its original appearance. Original cast-iron columns have been revealed and the window and transom areas are being replaced. An original entrance to the second floor is located in the east bay. First floor contains one large space with no original detailing. Second floor is laid out with a long corridor from front to back off which five rooms open. The owner has made a number of changes to what was a totally intact space, but many original details still remain such as transoms that light the interior rooms and reeded molding with bull's-eye blocks around doors and windows. Home of a harness shop and later, for many years, a pool hall. At one point a photographer was located on the second floor.

18. (C) SP-T-35 Jablow Building, 310 Main Street. c. 1900.
A representative example of Taylorsville's Turn-of-the-Century commercial buildings that is particularly significant as one of only four commercial buildings in the district that retains much of its original storefront. A two-story four-bay brick building laid

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 22

in running bond on the front facade. First floor has brick piers separating central double doors from large plate glass windows with transoms (painted over). Second floor is modestly detailed with large sash windows with segmental-arched lintels, a slightly recessed brick panel above the windows, and a plain metal cornice. Interior has been totally remodeled and no original fabric is visible. Home of a dry goods store for many years, with living space upstairs for the owners.

19. (C) SP-T-36 Bank of Taylorsville, 312 Main Street. 1899.

A particularly significant commercial building because of its highly intact front facade and interior and its function as the early home of one of Taylorsville's two banks. A one-story five-bay brick building with extensive brick detailing. Doors and windows with arched transoms are set between brick piers in segmental arched openings. Above the arcade-like entrance level are attic vents created by spaced bricks, a panel with a herringbone design, and a corbelled brick cornice. Concrete block rear addition. Interior historically had two units. West unit which housed the bank retains the bank vault, a tile floor, and a Victorian mantel. Bank of Taylorsville, established in 1882, was located here from 1899 to 1923.

20. (C) SP-T-37 W.T. Froman Building, 314 Main Street. 1899.

A representative example of Taylorsville's Turn-of-the-Century Commercial style buildings. Significant as the long-time location of the W.T. Froman Drug Co. (still located there today), a doctor's office and the local telephone company. A two-story three-bay brick building laid in running bond. Second floor has large sash windows trimmed with metal caps and corner blocks similar to those on many other buildings on the street. Circular attic vents, a frieze of contrasting brick, and a pressed metal cornice cap the building. First-floor storefront has been considerably altered with metal siding. Only the east-bay entrance to the second floor remains intact. Interior of first floor has been totally remodeled. Second floor, laid out with a long corridor and rooms leading off it, retains much of its original finish. Doctor's office and telephone company were located here. Concrete-block addition at rear of west side is on adjoining property.

1. Storage building. Two-story concrete-block structure with loading ramp on west side. 1950s? (N/C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 23

21. (C) SP-T-38 Charles Hough & Co. Building, 316 Main Street.
c. 1895.

A representative example of Taylorville's Turn-of-the-Century commercial buildings and the only one to survive the 1898 fire that destroyed nearly all the building on the south side of Main Street. Significant as the home of Charles Hough and Company, a dry goods company that was one of Taylorville's most successful businesses until about 1940. A two-story three-bay brick building laid in running bond. Second floor has three sets of paired windows with metal caps and corner blocks similar to those on most other buildings on south side of Main Street. Pressed metal cornice is topped by a sign plate reading "Charles Hough & Co." First floor storefront was totally altered in 1960 when Peoples' Bank (#22) bought building and remodeled both storefronts as one. Both first floors now have narrow slit windows and are clad with marble veneer, and a common metal awning that extend across both buildings. The strong visual impact of the historic and intact second floor as it merges with the other historic facades along the street renders this a contributing building.

22. (N/C) SP-T-68 Bank of Taylorville (2), 318 Main Street.
c. 1900.

A historic building that has been rendered non-contributing by its total remodeling about 1960. Originally a store building, it was purchased by the Bank of Taylorville in 1923 and converted to their offices. Bank failed in 1929, but Peoples' Bank took over building in 1936. About 1960 Peoples' Bank totally altered building incorporating adjacent building (#21) into design. Window openings on second floor have been reduced to small squares and new brick veneer covers original brick. First floor is sheathed with marble as at (#21). Large one-story flat-roofed rear addition dates from 1980s.

23. (C Site) Public Square, southwest, southeast, and northeast corners of intersection of Main Street and Main Cross Streets. c. 1824.

The Public Square consists of three separate parcels of land today owned by the City of Taylorville, but laid out in 1824 when Taylorville was designated the county seat of newly created Spencer County. These are historic open spaces that have always served as areas for citizens to congregate and park their vehicles, be they horse-drawn carriages or automobiles. Today these three corners still serve as parking lots. The fourth corner has been occupied by the Spencer County Courthouse since the 1880s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 24

24. (C) (SP-T-39) Greenwell Building, south side of Main Street adjacent to Public Square. c. 1914.

A representative example of Taylorsville's early 20th century commercial buildings. It is particularly significant for the existence of its original storefront and interior detailing. It is the most intact of all Taylorsville's commercial buildings. For many years housed Felix Greenwell's grocery store on the first floor. Second floor housed movie theater in 1916. During Depression the W.P.A. operated an office in the building. A two-story five-bay brick building that was originally free-standing. Brick laid in running bond on front and west facades. Concrete foundation is faced with concrete stucco. Main entrance is located in cut-off northwest front corner behind a massive iron column that supports overhead second-floor corner. Exterior entrance to second floor is located towards rear of west side. Storefront, intact except for replacement front doors, consists of large display windows with two-light transoms above, separated by cast-iron columns with palmette design in capitals. Second-floor front has large sash windows with stone lintels and sills and simple metal cornice that wraps around front and west side of building. East and west side walls have a many windows. Interior retains chamfered posts, pressed metal ceiling, plastered walls. Two one-story additions are located at rear: shed-roofed metal structure on high poured-concrete foundation at southeast corner; modern metal shed on southwest corner. Small non-historic commercial building on next lot is attached to east side.

25. (C) SP-T-60 William McClain House, 209 Main Street. c. 1920.

The only example in the district of a group of Bungalow/Craftsman houses that were built in Taylorsville between 1915 and 1930. Built and lived in by William McClain, one of Taylorsville's early 20th century builders. A one-and-one-half-story house with a high concrete-block foundation and a gable roof with large front and rear gable-roofed dormers. A full-width, gable-roofed front porch has concrete-block plinths that support truncated columns and posts. A rear porch has been filled in. Aluminum siding.

1. Shed. Shed-roofed with vertical board siding covered with asphalt. Historic, but too small to be counted.

26. (C) SP-T-7 Isaac and Mary Jewell House, 211 Main Street. c. 1915.

Significant as one of Taylorsville's most elaborated detailed early 20th century residences and as one of the few examples in Taylorsville of a two-story T-plan variation with an asymmetrical

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 25

plan, projecting gables, and a wrap-around porch. Wood-framed house with weatherboard siding. Complex gable roof with cross and parallel gables, boxed eaves, cornice returns and, dentil cornice. High limestone foundation. Leaded-glass transoms in first- and second-floor front windows. Clipped corner on first floor protected by wrap-around porch. Original two-story rear porch.

27. (C) SP-T-61 Lee-Miller House, 213 Main Street. 1840s, moved c. 1906.

Significant as one of the few remaining central passage plan houses in Taylorsville and as an interesting example of a house that was moved back on its lot and updated to adapt to changing styles. A two-story single-pile weatherboarded house with a gable roof and brick foundation (now covered with stucco). Two interior chimneys rise from either side of central hall. Front facade has been somewhat reworked with new pedimented front-door surround and small iron balcony above. Old six-over-six windows in rear ell suggest it is 19th-century, although it was reduced from two-stories to one when house moved c. 1906. Dining room addition c. 1920. Interior has early bull's-eye molding in front section and Greek Revival mantel in east room. West mantel and main stairs date to c. 1906.

28. (N/C) First Baptist Parsonage, 215 Main Street. 1965.

Two-story three-bay Neocolonial with brick-veneered first floor, slightly projecting vinyl-clad second floor, and small pedimented portico protecting front door. Garage wing on east end.

29. (C) SP-T-12 George Kurtz House, 301 Main Street. 1870-1880.

Possibly the earliest, and, originally, one of the finest of the group of two-story T-plan houses built in Taylorsville between about 1870 and 1915. Gable-roofed with weatherboard finish. Polygonal front bay on projecting front wing. Some window caps still have a delicate jigsaw edging. Handsome front entrance has original Victorian door with round-arched panels flanked by pilasters and sidelights and capped by small transom. House probably never had a front porch. Inside, central hall has fine cherry stair and four-paneled doors with shouldered surrounds. Small one-story rear ell may be original. Rear portion of original lot is graveled parking area no longer associated with the property. House is in very dilapidated condition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 26

30. (C) SP-T-13 The Spencer House, 303 Main Street. c. 1838.

One of Taylorsville's most important remaining historic buildings. Significant as the town's most important hostelry, which operated for close to 100 years, and as a fine Federal style building, one of the few ante-bellum buildings in the community which exhibited some high-style design features. A two-story double-pile seven-bay brick structure with a gable roof and a large two-story rear ell. Brick on front is laid in Flemish bond. Has low limestone block foundation and interior end chimneys. Front facade is symmetrically composed with alternating windows and doors on first floor and seven windows on second. Windows have early nine-over-six sash, wooden lintels terminating in bull's-eye blocks, and early exterior shutters. Central door has small three-pane overlight; outer doors have twelve-pane transoms. Seven bay rear ell has jack-arched window opening and enclosed two-story porch. Interior has much early detailing including original stair in central hall, paneled wainscoting in hall and two west parlors, fine Federal mantel in southwest front room, and bulls-eye molding. East rooms (now one large space) and rooms in rear ell have been considerably remodeled. House sits very close to street. Drive from street makes loop along east side of building with small landscaped island at center.

1. Clubhouse. Small one-story brick-veneered building with sliding glass doors. 1970s. (N/C)

31. (N/C) Movie Theater, 305 Main Street. 1950s.

Two-story concrete block building with recessed central entrance. Built to replace a historic commercial building that burned.

32. (C) SP-T-69 James L. Cox Building (2), 307-311 Main Street. c. 1917.

One of Taylorsville's most modest historic commercial buildings. A one-story brick structure with three storefronts. Simple round attic vents and a plain metal cornice are the only front facade detailing. 1960s remodeling sheathed cast-iron columns of storefronts with aluminum and covered transoms with vertical boards. Display windows and entrances are still in original locations. Rear facade retains most of original jack-arched window and door openings. Central store retains original interior stair and railing that leads up several steps to original wooden floor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 27

33. (C) SP-T-14 James L. Cox Building (1), 313-317 Main Street, c. 1915.

A representative example of Taylorsville's early 20th century commercial buildings which retains much fabric from its two original storefronts. Two-story brick building laid in running bond on front facade. Four-bay building has two storefronts separated by central door leading to second-floor residential space. Storefronts are framed in wood. Small display windows sit atop vertical tongue-and-groove board panels and are capped by large transoms. Large second-floor sash windows are capped by plain metal cornice. West side of second floor extends back only one room.

34. (C) SP-T-15 The People's Bank Building, 319 Main Street. 1903.

Historically and architecturally one of Taylorsville's most significant commercial buildings. First home of the People's Bank, established in 1903. One of the most elaborately detailed commercial buildings in town and one of few to use elements of a nationally popular style - the Classical Revival. Two-story buff-brick building laid in running bond and sitting on stone and concrete-block foundation. Main southeast corner entrance and Palladian-like first-floor window on front facade are trimmed with arched stone voussoirs. Stone corner quoins and string courses and elaborate metal cornice with oversized dentils complete detailing. In 1974 building, which until then had stood at end of row of commercial buildings, was incorporated by side and rear addition into adjacent Spencer County Courthouse.

35. (C) SP-T-16 Spencer County Courthouse, Main Street at corner of Main Cross Street. 1914.

Architecturally and historically one of Taylorsville's most significant historic buildings. A monumental Classical Revival style courthouse. Two-story brick building with bold two-story front pedimented portico with Ionic columns. The approximately rectangular building with corner bays sits on high poured concrete foundation scored to look like stone. Windows are 12-over-1 sash with large concrete lintels. Second-floor side windows and double front doors are capped with 12-light transoms. Interior is relatively intact with original wall and floor finishes in halls, some original half-glazed doors, original vaults, and a second-floor courtroom with a historic balustrade and paneled partition. Courtroom balcony has been sealed off. General Construction Company of Louisville was builder. In 1974 large two-story addition expanded building to west and north attaching it to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 7 Page 28

adjacent People's Bank Building (#33).

36. (C) SP-T-70 Spencer County Jail, behind Spencer County Courthouse.

An excellent intact example of a small county jail which retains its early cell blocks and built-in furnishings. A one-story poured-concrete building with a rectangular plan and a gable roof. Central front entrance has two metal doors, and two small flanking windows have metal grilles.

1. Shed. Concrete block with gable roof. 1950s? Too small to be counted in outbuilding count.

Main Cross Street

37. (N/C) SP-T-135 Spencer County Firehouse, 301 Main Cross Street. c. 1925.

A historic building that has been rendered non-contributing by extensive alterations. The two-story concrete block building has a parapet front and stepped-down roof line on sides. The front facade has been totally altered with new metal siding, and replacement doors and windows on both floors. A one-story shed-roofed three-bay rear ell abuts the rear of the jail. This non-historic addition houses city vehicles. Building is located on rear of Spencer County Courthouse lot.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 29Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Taylorsville Historic District consists of an important group of historic properties at the center of Taylorsville that includes commercial, residential, religious, and governmental buildings dating from about 1818 to 1938. These buildings, together with the matrix of streets, alleys, and lots on which they are located, provide an excellent picture of the development of Taylorsville from 1818, the date of the earliest extant house, to 1938, when the last historic building in the district was constructed. The district meets National Criterion A by reflecting the effects of a number of key events in the town's history including its 1824 designation as the county seat of newly formed Spencer County and the destruction and rebuilding of its commercial area and courthouse after several devastating fires in 1898, 1899, and 1913. In addition, it reflects more gradual trends such as changing patterns in siting and housing types and styles and the development of the community into a commercial and supply center for the surrounding agricultural county. In terms of Criterion A it is significant in the area of community planning and development for the excellent way the streets, lots, and buildings in the district provide evidence of how Taylorsville grew from a tiny early 19th century settlement to an antebellum government and commercial center and into a small early 20th century county seat.

The district was evaluated within four historic contexts: Government in Taylorsville, 1824 - 1941; Commerce in Taylorsville, 1800 - 1941; Religion on Taylorsville, 1800 - 1941; and Domestic Architecture in Taylorsville 1800 - 1941. These contexts were developed as part of a survey project of the community completed in 1991. They are included in the "Taylorsville, Spencer County Survey Summary Report" on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council office in Frankfort, Kentucky. Many of the buildings in the district are those singled out in these contexts as the key resources associated with them and, in the case of the commercial and residential buildings, as important examples of the building types developed for those contexts.

The Planning and Development of Taylorsville: 1799 - 1941 is the best framework for discussing the significance of the diverse but key group of residential, commercial, governmental, and religious resources in the district and the streets, alleys, public square, and lots on which they are located. These buildings and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 30Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

their setting are extremely significant in Taylorsville and Spencer County for providing excellent documentation of how the county's only real town was laid out and developed. They also provide a valuable comparison to the county seats which developed in other counties of the Outer Bluegrass cultural landscape. Taylorsville is at the same time similar to these and unique. It is smaller in area and population than all the other county seats in the area. The geographic location of the town, hemmed in on three sides by water and on the fourth by a high ridge, is rather unusual and has led to some development problems that are distinctly Taylorsville's. The placement of the courthouse in relation to the square and the lack of a landscaped square surrounded by businesses make Taylorsville quite different from many of the nearby county seats such as Bardstown, Shelbyville, and La Grange. On the other hand, its grid-iron plan with a public square and courthouse located near a central point, its concentration of historic commercial buildings in one area near the courthouse, and the types of buildings found in the town are common to many of these towns. Its period of significance dates from 1818, when the town's earliest extant house was constructed and the first changes to the area's physical environment were affected, to 1938, the year that marks the end of its historic development.

The Planning and Development of Taylorsville: 1799 - 1941.

Taylorsville was established in 1799 on sixty acres of land owned by Richard Taylor, a Virginia native who had located to the Nelson County area by 1792 and with his brother-in-law Richard Basye began buying large tracts of land in the Taylorsville vicinity. In 1798 he purchased the 175-acre site at the juncture of the Salt River and Brashears Creek that includes much of today's Taylorsville. A mill is said to have been located on Taylor's land and to have been operated subsequently by Taylor and Basye, but there is no indication the land was otherwise settled. In July, 1799, on the motion of Taylor, the Shelby County Court, in whose jurisdiction the land was then included, created a town on 60 acres of Taylor's land. Trustees were appointed, and the town was named Taylorsville in recognition of Richard Taylor's role in the transaction.

Real estate speculation appears to have been the motive for establishing the town. Taylor and the Shelby County Court clearly recognized the strategic importance of this location at the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 31Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

junction of the Salt River, navigable by flat boat and keel boat to this point from the Ohio River, and Brashears Creek, a principal tributary which was itself navigable some miles upstream. Rivers were a critical form of transportation at this time in central Kentucky, providing access for area farmers to markets as far away as New Orleans. By the late 1790s Army Corps of Engineer Records indicate that two state inspection stations had been established on Taylor's land at the rivers' juncture. (Johnson, Leland. "Definition of Navigable Waters of the United States: Report: Salt River, Kentucky," Army Corps of Engineers, 1973.)

A town plat (Figure 1) was drawn up in 1799 or soon after but was not recorded until 1814 (Shelby County Deed Book M-1, page 399). The layout was extremely significant in terms of the town's future development for it provided the framework for its physical growth. The platted area forms the core of the town today.

Taylorsville was laid out with a rough grid-iron plan on the flat bottom land on the north bank of the Salt River. The 60-acres within the platted area were divided into 16 blocks and 147 lots of varying sizes, the majority measuring 74 and 1/4 by 150 or 170 feet. Alleys ran behind both sides of Main Street, the principal street which formed an approximate east-west axis through the center of the town. Garrard Street and Hardin Street, a short street at the east end of town, paralleled Main closer to the river. Shorter streets that ran south to the Salt River - Point, Washington, Cross, and Jefferson - crossed Main and Garrard at fairly regular intervals. In the 1814 plat, Main Street appears to be wider than the other streets in town. By 1837, however, when the town was again platted, all the streets were stated to be a uniform 66 feet wide. Regardless of this distinction, Main Street was, as its name implies, envisioned to become the principal street. Although the name "Cross Street" implies a focus at its intersection with Main Street there is nothing in the width of the streets or in the size or arrangement of the lots at this point to suggest that a business center or other town focus was originally envisioned for this intersection.

Very little development appears to have taken place following the creation of the town. The first lots were not sold until 1810. Richard Taylor, no doubt discouraged by the seeming failure of his venture, sold his land and left the area in 1811 just as a small settlement was beginning to develop. A post office was established in 1817. By 1824 when Spencer County was created from portions of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 32

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

neighboring Nelson, Shelby and Bullitt Counties 65 lots had been purchased, 56 of them between 1818 and 1824. Probably few of these had been developed, but clearly a commitment to the area had been made. The Richard Basye House (#3), a large two-story log dog-trot building built about 1818, is the oldest extant building in Taylorsville and an important building in the district. Located on Garrard Street facing the Salt River and known to have functioned as a tavern early in its history, it documents this very early settlement period and the importance played by the rivers in the town's early history.

Development in Taylorsville really accelerated when, in January, 1824, the town was designated as the first meeting place of the newly created Spencer County Court and when later that year it was permanently selected as county seat. The business of county government was an immediate draw that allowed the town quickly to become the supply and service center for the surrounding county. This focus, established so early on, has characterized Taylorsville throughout its history and is clearly reflected in the district by the presence of the historic courthouse, the county jail, and a number of historic commercial buildings.

In December, 1824 the Act designating Taylorsville as the county seat called for "the public buildings to be erected upon the public square now laid off in said town." The second plat of Taylorsville (Figure 2) recorded in 1837 clearly shows this square located at the intersection of Main Street and what by then had come to be called Main Cross Street. What is not so clear is just how much of the land on the four corners of the square was owned by the county. The first permanent courthouse was located in a house on Lot 56, on the south side of Main Street opposite the present courthouse, which was rented and later purchased and finished as a courthouse. In 1828 records indicate that a new courthouse was to be built on the public square, but, despite considerable investigation, exactly where it was constructed has never been determined. Possibly it could have been located at the center of the square. One reference suggests that it may have stood on Lot 57 on the southeast corner of the square. The present Courthouse site was not acquired by the county until just before 1870 when a third courthouse was built there to replace the 1828 building destroyed by fire in 1865.

The courthouse square, which was clearly superimposed on the town's original plan when it was designated county seat, is a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 33Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

"Philadelphia Square" form of courthouse square. (Edward T. Price, p. 125, 130-133.) As at early Philadelphia and at many other county seats across America, this type of town square is formed of rectangular corners cut out of the four blocks adjoining an important crossroads near the center of town. What is unusual about Taylorsville and sets it apart from other Kentucky towns with the same or similar plans (Bardstown and Elizabethtown and La Grange, for example) is that the courthouse is not located at the center of a landscaped square, but instead is rather less prominently sited on one corner of "the square" which is actually a void presently occupied by parking lots on the other three corners. This void is a historic open space in Taylorsville that earlier served as a stopping point for horses and carriages, a gathering point for crowds, and, early on, the location of a scales and later a well with a pump. This important public space has been included in the district, and it retains its historic function as a place to park vehicles.

In the ante-bellum years following its designation as county seat, a pattern of development was established in Taylorsville which is still evident today. The lots along Garrard Street and Main Street, particularly from the courthouse square to the west end of town at Brashears Creek began to be developed. Early on, a commercial area appears to have started growing in the block immediately to the west of the courthouse between Washington and Main Cross Streets. A brick store building owned by Leander Murphy is known to have been located here from an early date. In 1838 the Spencer House (#30), a hotel that served as an important Taylorsville enterprise for more than a hundred years, was built on the north side of the street in this block. At first, the commercial buildings shared the area with residential buildings. As late as 1886, the first Sanborn map of Taylorsville still shows about five or six "dwellings" in this area. The pattern of concentrated commercial development solidified as time went on however, and by 1900 only the George Kurtz House (#29), at the west edge of the commercial district, remained. The original lots were quickly subdivided into three or four long narrow segments that were occupied at first by free-standing buildings and later by the present rows of party-walled commercial structures. Although atypical in the location of its courthouse in one corner of the public square, Taylorsville provides an excellent example of the typical development pattern identified by Price in which a town's commercial district clusters closely near the courthouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 34Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

As the population of Taylorsville grew, religious congregations began to form. Between 1828 and 1834, the Baptists, Catholics, Methodists and Presbyterians all established congregations in town in buildings scattered throughout the platted area of the town and, in one instance, outside it. These buildings were all situated in areas that were evolving into residential sections. Remarkably, three of Taylorsville's original church buildings are still extant, and one of these, Taylorsville Methodist Church (#10), located in the district, still houses an active congregation. A second historic church, First Baptist Church (#12) built in 1915 on the site of an earlier 1850s sanctuary, is also located in the district. The survival of these early buildings can probably be explained by the slow growth of the community which precluded the need for larger sanctuaries and by the lack of adequate funds to build new ones.

In the 1830s, residential development began to accelerate as people moved to the newly prominent town to start businesses. These new townfolk provided newly needed professional and trade services, and gathered close to the new churches and schools. By 1830 there were 39 households in Taylorsville, and by 1840 that number had risen to 67. Knowing that each of these households occupied a separate dwelling, we get for the first time some idea of the number of residential buildings in the community. Residential development sprung up throughout the original platted area, but was most densely concentrated at the west end of town along Garrard and Main streets. This initial pattern of community development probably reflects the town's early reliance on the rivers.

Several important early houses (located outside the district) were situated on large properties consisting of 5 to, in one case, 12 original lots, but in almost every other case dwellings were located on single or, at most, double lots. One important characteristic of these early ante-bellum houses in Taylorsville is their almost universal siting at the very front of their lots close to the street. This seems to have been a pattern in many Kentucky towns including neighboring Bardstown and Shelbyville. Few of these ante-bellum houses remain (12 in the community and 4 in the district). The ones that do survive document that early house builders employed a wide range of building materials and methods of construction. Among these are log (#3), wood-framed (#1 and #27) and brick (#8). They varied in plan from hall-and-parlor (#1) to dog-trot (#3), and central passage (#8 and #27), and in size from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTaylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.Section number 8 Page 35

one- to two-story dwellings.

As in most Southern towns, the Civil War brought a virtual halt to development. Unlike many Kentucky communities that saw major commercial and industrial development and large jumps in population in the years following the war, Taylorsville continued to grow at a snail's pace. The population grew from 398 in 1840 to only 537 in 1880. By 1890 it had risen to 619, but it then dropped again slightly to 615 in 1900. Devastating floods, which are known to have occurred about 1870 and in 1909 and probably many other times, were no doubt a strong deterrent to development. Also the stagnating county population, which had dropped in both 1860 and 1890 and had only reached 7,406 by 1900, precluded the need for many more goods and services.

Nonetheless many changes occurred in the years between the Civil War and World War I, many of which are clearly reflected in the Taylorsville Historic District. The courthouse location was moved to its present site on the northwest corner of the public square in 1870 when a new building was constructed to replace the earlier one burned by Confederate guerrillas during the Civil War. The commercial area continued to expand and solidify in the block west of the courthouse. By 1886, the first Sanborn map of Taylorsville indicates the presence of approximately 15 commercial store units along Main Street. The community's first bank, The Bank of Taylorsville, was established in 1882. One of its early buildings (#19) is located in the district.

The period between about 1870 and 1900 brought significant changes to the map of Taylorsville and to the look of the town. For the first time the community began to develop beyond the original platted area. The original city limits were definitely still in place in 1856 and appear to have remained in place through the 1870s. The first indication that the city limits had been extended comes from the 1882 map of the town from The Atlas of Nelson and Spencer County, Kentucky. (Figure 3) Probably to annex the land along the new railroad, completed through Taylorsville in 1880, the town's boundary had been expanded north to the banks of Brashears Creek and east to the bottom of the ridge at the east of town. With the exception of a small piece of land north of Brashears Creek along Highway 155 that was added to Taylorsville in the early 1980s, the boundary remains the same today.

In what seems to have become a new pattern of development, new

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 36Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

residences were also built in the older parts of town, particularly along Main Street, on lots that had never been developed and on others that had been previously occupied. Between about 1895 and 1938 at least 10 houses on Main Street are known to have replaced earlier houses on the same site. Four of these houses are located in the district. This "infill" construction can be attributed to two factors. First, Taylorsville's physical location, surrounded on three sides by water and on the fourth by a high ridge, allowed little opportunity for expansion. Second, many of Taylorsville's early buildings, which we can assume by this time had been repeatedly devastated by floods, were probably in poor condition and ripe for demolition and replacement. This pattern, although probably not unique to Taylorsville, is quite different from that seen in other towns where, more typically, new residential development occurred almost exclusively on the outskirts of town.

In several ways the new houses built during this period in the newly developing areas and the older neighborhoods document major changes from those built during the ante-bellum period. One clear distinction between the ante-bellum and post-bellum houses comes in their siting. Beginning with the houses built in the 1870s all the houses are set back on their lots about 15 feet, presumably with landscaped front yards. The residences along Garrard Street and Main Street in the district provide excellent documentation of this reality. The Enoch Holsclaw House (#1) of about 1830, the c. 1818 Richard Basye House (#3), and the 1838 William Polk House (#8) hug the street while all the post-bellum houses are set back at least 15 feet. The Lee-Miller House (#27), an 1840s house that was moved back on its lot and updated about 1906, also provides interesting documentation of this changing pattern in house siting.

This dramatic change in house siting was no doubt due to a number of factors. After the Civil War the nationally evolving trend in landscape design based on Andrew Jackson Downing's principals of a landscaped house setting was finally becoming more acceptable in the South. By the 1880s grass and trees were requirements for the front yard of a prosperous homeowner in nearly every part of America. Also by this time the "landscape of work" which dominated both rural and urban domestic properties in the settlement years in Kentucky was being reduced in size as more and more products became commercially available allowing for the sacrifice of some space for purely aesthetic purposes.

The form and appearance of the new houses also changes in many

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 37Taylorsville Historic District,
Spencer County, Ky.

instances from those of the ante-bellum years. Beginning in the early 1870s with the George Kurtz House (#29) in the district, the two-story T-plan house became the house form of preference for Taylorsville's more affluent citizens. Between the 1870s and 1915 at least 21 of these houses were built. Two intact examples (#11 and 29) are located in the district. These houses, with one portion of their front facade pushed forward, their front porches, and various forms of Victorian detailing such as bay windows, window caps, decorative shingle work are very different from the simple straightforward houses of the ante-bellum period in Taylorsville.

The years 1898, 1899, and 1913 were critical years in Taylorsville's development for these were the years of four fires that dramatically changed the appearance of Taylorsville's courthouse and commercial area and established that area of the town and the district much as it looks today. (Watson, "Taylorsville Has Battled Several Major Fires," p. B9.) These fires forced Taylorsville residents to complete a development process that had been inching along unpressured by either population growth or commercial activity, the consolidation of business and commerce in the block of Main Street nearest the courthouse. In December, 1898 a fire started on the south side of Main Street between Washington and Main Cross, destroying all but one of the existing buildings. Only the Charles Hough and Co. Building (#21), built in 1895, and some older buildings at the east end of the block that have since been demolished remained standing. The present row of Turn-of-the-Century Commercial style buildings were all built in 1899 or 1900 to replace them. Among these were many of the cornerstones of Taylorsville's commerce including the already mentioned Bank of Taylorsville (#19); the W. T. Froman Drug Company Building (#20), home of a drug company that still operates today, and for many years the location of the town's telephone exchange; The W. P. Beard Building (#15 and 16) which housed among other businesses an undertaker, a milliner, and a grocery for many years; and the Jablow Building (#18) home of an extensive dry goods store. Only two months later, in February, 1899, a fire on the north side of Main Street in this same block destroyed a large livery stable and portions of a commercial building.

In September, 1913 there were two more back-to-back fires. The first started in a blacksmith shop on Main Cross Street and spread and destroyed a hotel, a grocery store, and several residences all located near the southeast corner of Main Cross and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 38Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Main. The Greenwell Building (#24) was built about 1914 to replace the grocery store. The next day, a fire started on the north side of Main Street between Washington and Main Cross and spread east to the Courthouse damaging most buildings so seriously they had to be demolished. Only the 1903 People's Bank (#34) was saved and rebuilt. The present Classical Revival style Spencer County Courthouse (#35) was built in 1914, and the two other historic commercial buildings on this side of Main Street (#32 and 33) were built about 1915 and 1917.

Taylorsville is one of the communities around the country that never rebounded after World War I. This aspect of Taylorsville's development is amply documented in the district by the lack of new construction between 1918 and 1941. According to Sanborn maps, its population grew to about 800 by 1909 and then held at that number through 1929, although Spencer County's population in the same period plummeted from a high of 7,785 in 1929 to 6,606 in 1930. Spencer County's 1940 population was the fifth smallest in the state.

From 1918 until the beginning of the Depression in 1929 a new jail, a new fire house, and a new school for black children were the only governmental or institutional buildings constructed in town. The 1922 jail (#36) and the c. 1925 fire house (#37), a building rendered non-contributing by extensive alterations, are both located in the district. Commercial development had virtually stopped by 1920, with the exception of a handful of new automobile related businesses including a dealership, an automobile repair shop, and a filling station, all of which have been demolished or drastically altered. Residential development continued at a snail's pace. In a continuation of the previous pattern of infill housing in the old parts of town, a few new houses were scattered along Main and Garrard Streets. One house along Main Street, the William McClain House (#25), built about 1920, represents this development.

As in most communities throughout Kentucky and the United States, the Depression brought great hardship and an almost complete halt to development. The Bank of Taylorsville failed in 1929, shortly after the Wall Street Crash. The Peoples' Bank, which still serves Taylorsville today, managed to survive. Taylorsville suffered additional setbacks during this time. In 1935 a major typhoid epidemic occurred; in 1937 what was probably the most devastating flood in the town's history left unprecedented

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 39Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

destruction and financial loss. Nonetheless, a Public Health Department was organized shortly after the typhoid epidemic, and the town completed a system of sewer and water connections. It benefitted from various New Deal programs. Road improvement projects, which included the paving of some of the streets in the district, were completed with WPA funds. The WPA had a local office in the Greenwell Building (#24). In the late 1930s at least six houses were built in Taylorsville, indicating a slow pick up in the local economy. One of these houses, the Thomas Humphrey House (#13), built about 1938, is located in the district. Its location on the site of an antebellum house documents the continuation of the earlier pattern of "infill housing" along Main Street. It is the last historic building to be built in the district and effectively ends the period of significance for the district.

In 1948, an earthen flood wall was built around the community on three sides, drastically reducing the threat of periodic flooding and considerably changing the appearance of the town. Taylorsville is now completely cut off from the two bodies of water which, more than anything, influenced its development. This flood wall, combined with the 1983 damming of the Salt River to make Taylorsville Lake, has virtually eliminated the flooding problem. Despite this major improvement, Taylorsville has experienced little growth since the 1940s. The railroad was shut down in 1952. The town's 1988 population of 880 was almost the same as that of 1920. The preliminary census figures for 1990 indicated that it has dropped to 774. With the exception of a large complex of school buildings that grew up around the 1938 high school, a new 1985 high school on the outskirts of town, a 1950s development in an area called O'Dell Court, a 1980s development in Crume Court, and a scattering of recent residential, commercial, and professional buildings, little has changed physically in the town and in the district since the 1940s.

The district appears much as it did in the 1920s and 1930s with the intrusion of only a few recent buildings such as the doctors' office (#14), the EMS building (#6), and one house (#28). A few other historic buildings such as Harris's Plumbing and Tin Shop (#7), the second Bank of Taylorsville building (#22), and the fire station (#37) have been seriously altered and rendered non-contributing. Most of the commercial spaces along Main Street are still occupied. The existence of this nomination attests to the fact that the citizens of Taylorsville are becoming aware of the town's potential as a commercial and service center for slowly

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 40

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

growing Spencer County and for the visitors to nearby Taylorsville Lake. The ongoing rehabilitation of the Montgomery Building (#17), the attractive repainting of one half of the Beard Building (#16), and the planned rehabilitation of the W.T. Froman Building (#20) are signs that the value of these historic buildings is being recognized.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 41Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Taylorville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number 9 Page 42

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 43Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

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Carr, Mr. and Mrs. John B, Water Street, Taylorsville, Kentucky.

Downs, Richard, Taylorsville, Kentucky.

Gaddie, Edward. Maple Avenue, Taylorsville, Kentucky.

Helton, George. Garrard Street, Taylorsville, Kentucky.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 44

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

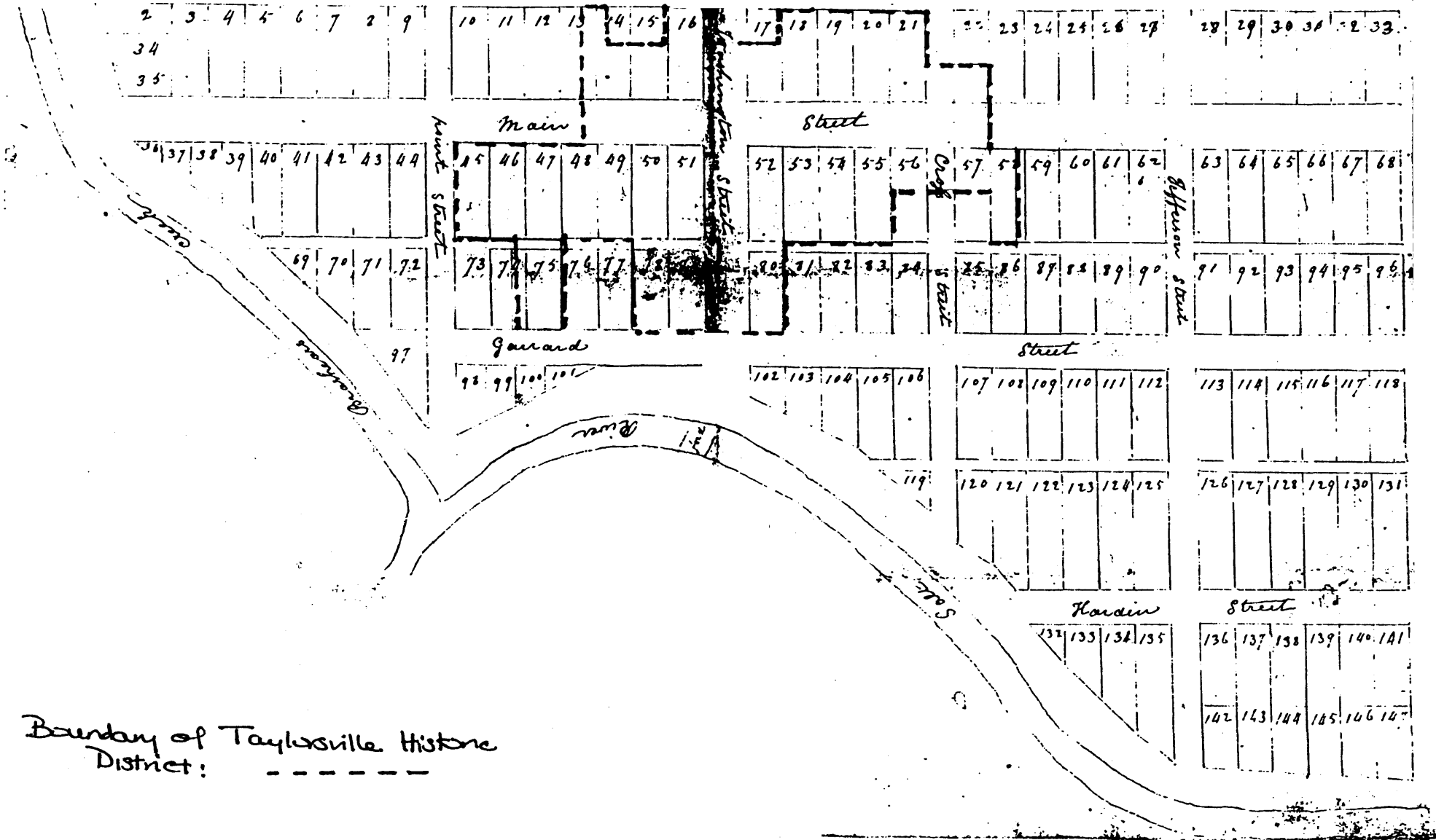
Mock, Guy, Jr., Bardstown, Kentucky.

Slucher, William. Reasor Street, Taylorsville, Kentucky.

Snider, Thomas, Sr. Main Cross Street, Taylorsville, Kentucky.

Spears, Charles, Main Street, Taylorsville, Kentucky.

Watson, Tom. Route 2, Taylorsville, Kentucky.



at of
Knoxville

Plat of Taylorville

Platted by a scale of 20 poles to the Inch.
(Spencer Co. Deed Book D, p. 450, 1837)

1		Block								Alley				Public																	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34																															
35																															
777		777								Square				Street																	
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



[Faint, illegible handwritten text and markings at the bottom of the page, possibly including names and dates.]

TAYLORSVILLE

Taylorsville Precinct SPENCER CO.

Scale 300 feet to an Inch

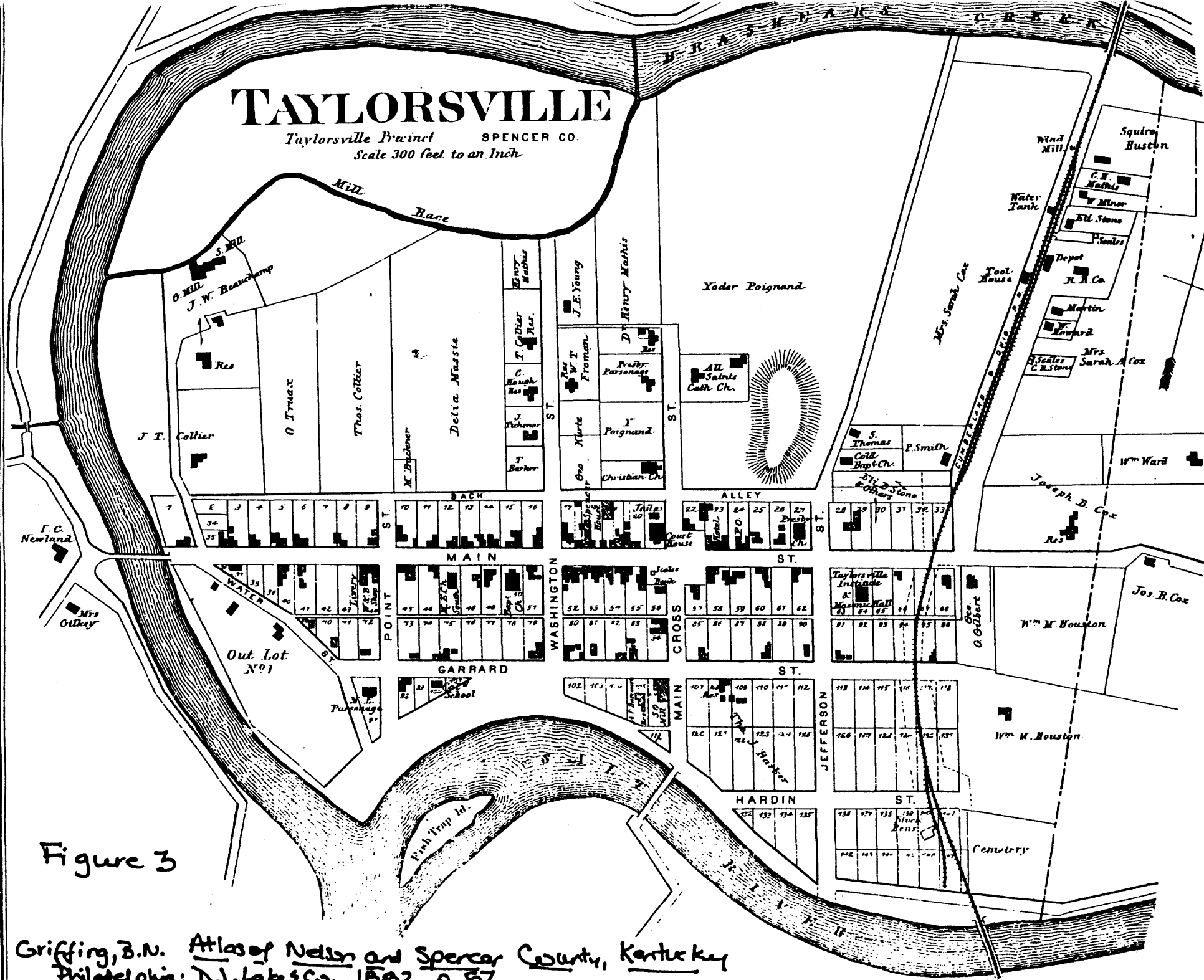


Figure 3


Griffing, B.N. Atlas of Nelson and Spencer County, Kentucky
Philadelphia: D.J. Labadie & Co., 1882, p. 87.

TAYLORSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

SKETCH MAP AND VBD

SOURCE: Spencer County
Property Identification Map T-2

Scale: 0  210'

North: 

NR property no.: ③

Survey no.: SPT 1

Non-contributing property: 

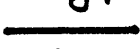

Boundary: 

Photo No. and Direction of View: ② 



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 45

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Taylorsville Historic District
Taylorsville, Spencer County, Kentucky
Photographer: Carolyn Brooks
Date: March and June, 1991

Negatives are on file with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort

(The above information is the same for all 15⁴ photographs submitted with the nomination. Below the photographs are listed in the order of their photograph numbers. Building names and/or street addresses and National Register inventory numbers are indicated, and each view is described.)

1. North side of Garrard Street at west edge of district, Enoch Holsclaw House (#1) in foreground; photographer facing north.
2. North side of Garrard Street at intersection with Washington Street, Richard Basye House (#3) in foreground; photographer facing west.
3. South side of Main Street at intersection with Point Street, William Polk House (#8) in foreground; photographer facing southeast.
4. South side of Main Street between Washington Street and Point Street, Taylorsville Methodist Church (#10) at center, Annie Stone House (#9) at right was demolished in October, 1991; photographer facing south.
5. North side of Main Street at west edge of district, William McClain House (#25) at center, Isaac and Mary Jewell House (#26) at right; photographer facing north.
6. South side of Main Street west of Washington Street, Drs. Skaggs' Office (#14) at left, First Baptist Church (#12) at center; photographer facing southwest.
7. George Kurtz House (#29), 301 Main Street; photographer facing northwest.
8. North side of Main Street east of Washington Street, The Spencer House (#30) in foreground; photographer facing north.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Taylorsville Historic District
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number Photos Page 46

9. South side of Main Street between Washington Street and Main Cross Street, W.P. Beard Building (#15 and 16) at right; photographer facing east.
10. James L. Cox Building (#33), 313 - 317 Main Street; photographer facing northwest.
11. Rear facades of 309 - 317 Main Street (#32 and 33); photographer facing east.
12. North side of Main Street west of Main Cross Street, Spencer County Courthouse (#35) at right; photographer facing west.
13. Spencer County Jail (#36), behind Spencer County Courthouse; photographer facing northwest.
14. Spencer County Fire Department (#37), 301 Main Cross Street; photographer facing south.
15. The Greenwell Building, south side of Main Street east of Main Cross Street; photographer facing east.