

Montgomery Avenue Historic District

Description

The Montgomery Avenue Historic District is a small but important collection of late 19th and early 20th century architecture in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Within the district are seven residences built between 1885 and 1925 all of which are contributing. Montgomery Avenue is located in the eastern section of Elizabethtown adjacent to the Seaboard Line Railway tracks. The street dead ends in front of 624 Montgomery Avenue. The topography is relatively level along the block with many large shade trees along the street and in front of the residences. All of the residences are set back from the street and are located on wide lots.

1. 602 Montgomery Ave. - Coffey House: One-story frame house built in a "T" plan. Constructed in 1889 by Sam Coffey the residence features a ca. 1910 porch with Doric columns, four-over-four sash windows and an arched attic window in the gable field of the main facade. The windows are large floor to ceiling design. Over the entrance is a large single light transom. (C)

At the rear of the house is a ca. 1950 frame garage. (NC)

2. 606 Montgomery Ave. - Farleigh House: This one-story frame Bungalow design was constructed ca. 1923 by C.C. Farleigh. Built in a rectangular design, the house has a pyramidal roof with exterior brick chimneys. On the main facade is a prominent gable front porch with tapered posts on brick piers. Beneath the eaves are large knee brace brackets. Windows are one-over-one sash. The main entrance has a multi-light door and sidelights. (C)

3. 608 Montgomery Ave. - Two-story frame Queen Anne style house built ca. 1900. This house was built in an ell plan with fluted Doric porch posts on the one-story porch. It retains an original single light and wood door on the main facade. The house has a gable and hipped roof with interior brick chimneys, one-over-one sash windows and added asbestos siding. (C)

4. 610 Montgomery Ave. - John Sprigg House: One-story frame house built in 1882 in the Italianate style by attorney John Sprigg. This "T" plan design has a weatherboard exterior, gable roof and prominent bay window on the main facade. The original porch has been removed and replaced with a low iron railing. Windows are four-over-four sash with simple frame surrounds. The main entrance has a recessed doorway and vestibule. (C)

At the rear of the house is a ca. 1960 garage. (NC)

5. 614 Montgomery Ave. - Katherine Montgomery House: Built ca. 1880, this Italianate style residence retains its original exterior detailing. Built in a "T" plan this one-story frame residence has its original porch with milled posts and brackets. Beneath the gable roof is an eave with paired brackets. Windows are four-over-four sash with original shutters. In the gable field on the main facade is an arched louvered vent window. The house has interior brick chimneys. The house was constructed as a home for the mother of James and Alexander Montgomery. (C)

6. 616 Montgomery Ave. - Alexander Montgomery House: One and one-half-story brick residence constructed in 1872 by Alexander Montgomery. The house was built in a "T" plan with a one-story brick rear wing. It has Italianate detailing

in its arched windows and paired eave brackets. Windows are four-over-four sash and the original entrance has four light sidelights, transom and frame cornice. In the gable field on the main facade is an arched four light vent window. The original porch has been removed and new stairs added. The house has both interior and exterior brick chimneys and paired eave brackets and modillion blocks at the roofline. (C)

7. 624 Montgomery Ave. - James Montgomery House: Two-story brick residence constructed in 1872 by James Montgomery. Originally built in the Italianate style, the building was altered somewhat ca. 1930 with Colonial Revival details. The house was built in a rectangular plan with an attached one-story hipped roof wing. On the main (southeast) facade is an added one-story brick addition which encloses the original entrance. This addition has a rounded arch door, small sidelights and a roof balustrade. On the southwest facade is an added one-story frame porte-cochere. Windows are both two-over-two and four-over-four sash with arched window heads. The hipped roof has a wide eave and Italianate brackets. The house has interior brick chimneys and a ca. 1920 sleeping porch added over the west porte-cochere. (C)

At the rear of the house is a ca. 1950 frame garage. (NC)

Significance

The Montgomery Avenue Historic District is a notable collection of late 19th and early 20th century residential architecture. The district is significant under criterion C for its architectural character and under criterion B through its associations with the prominent Montgomery family of Elizabethtown.

It represents one of the best concentrations of 19th century residential architecture in the city and all residences are contributing. The district also contains three non-contributing outbuildings. Most structures were built in the Italianate style of brick and frame with Queen Anne and Bungalow designs also represented. The street is located adjacent to the Seaboard Line Railroad tracks and it is a quiet, dead end street with many large trees.

The land along the street was purchased and developed by the Montgomery family in the late 19th century. Three of the existing homes, 624 Montgomery, 616 Montgomery and 614 Montgomery were by the Montgomery family. The first home on the street was constructed at 616 Montgomery in 1872 by Alexander Montgomery. Alexander Brooks Montgomery was a prominent attorney and politician of the county. In 1870 he was elected county judge and was later elected to the state senate. In 1886 he won the election for U.S. Congress and was served four terms in the House. In addition to his political importance Montgomery was the first president of the Bank of Elizabethtown and he was also influential in creating the town's first electric lighting system. Montgomery was one of the best known citizens of Hardin County when he died in 1910.

Alexander Montgomery's brother, James Montgomery, was also prominent in Hardin County affairs and he built the large brick home at 624 Montgomery Avenue in 1872. James Montgomery served with Morgan's Cavalry during the Civil War and upon his return to Elizabethtown became a County Attorney. He was later a County Judge and served as the local attorney for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. He was also prominent in local business for many years before his death in 1920.

In addition to their own residences, the two brothers constructed the home at 614 Montgomery as a home for their mother in the latter days of her life. The remainder of the block was subdivided and sold by the Montgomery brothers in the late 19th century. At 610 Montgomery a one-story frame house was built by local attorney and sheriff John Sprigg in 1882. All other homes were built on lots by ca. 1923. On the east side of the street the lots were not sold and developed until the mid-20th century. Montgomery Avenue remains one of the more significant streets in Elizabethtown due to its small but fine grouping of late 19th century architecture and association with the Montgomery family.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary for the Montgomery Avenue Historic District is shown as the dotted line on accompanying Hardin County tax map 220-4. The boundary is drawn to include Block 8, lots 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. This boundary is drawn to include the historic residences on the north side of the street and to exclude modern residential areas to the east, south, north and west. Within the boundaries of the district are seven contributing buildings and three non-contributing buildings.

All residences are contributing.
Montgomery Avenue Historic District
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
Scale: 1" = 200'

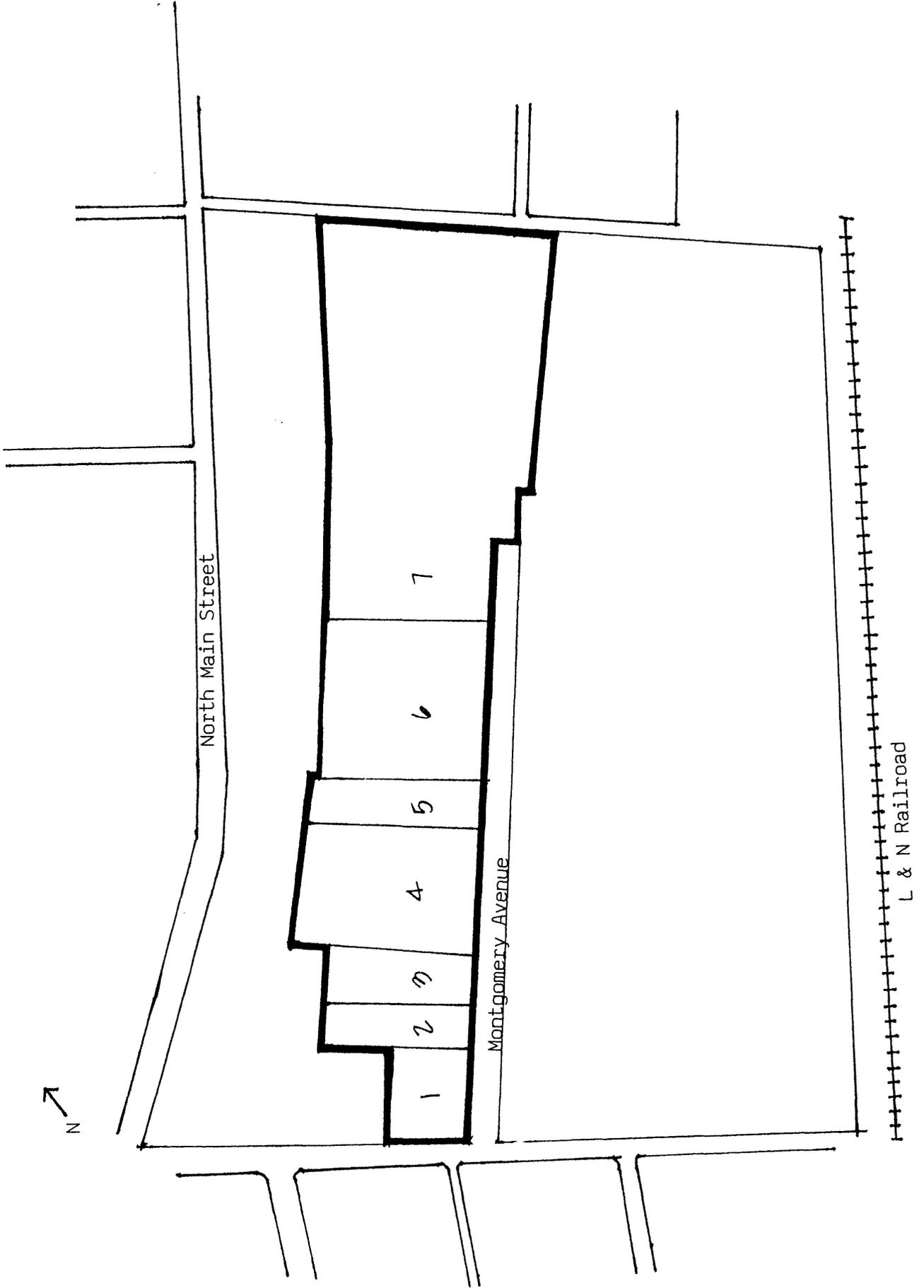


Photo Key
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