other, (explain:)

**National Register of Historic Places** Registration Form This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented enter "N/A" for ingle applicable () For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items. NATIONAL 1. Name of Property & EDUCE. NATIONAL PARA historic name New Liberty Historic District other names/site number N/A 2. Location street & number North and south sides of KY 227 roughly between KY 978 ont for publication N/A and KY 36 New Liberty ☐ vicinity N/A city or town \_\_\_ code KY county Owen code 187 zip code 40355 Kentucky 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, f hereby certify that this 🗓 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 🖾 meets 🗀 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide to locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director, Kentucky Heritage Council gnature of certifying official/Title Kentueky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property 🗌 meets 🗋 does not meet the National Register criteria. (🗍 See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: M 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.

New	Liberty	Historic	District
Nama	of Property		

Owen	Co	., Kentucky
		The same of the sa
County	and	Sinte

5. Classification								
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include pre	sources within Propert viously listed resources in the	y e count.)				
🛽 private	☐ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing					
☑ public-local	(⅓ district	64	19	buildings				
□ public-State     □ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure	5	0	sites				
	☐ object	0	0	structures				
		0	00	objects				
		69	19	Total				
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register						
N/A		N/A		· •				
6. Function or Use								
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)						
DOMESTIC/single dwell	ing	DOMESTIC/sing	DOMESTIC/single dwelling					
DOMESTIC/secondary st	ructure	DOMESTIC/seco	DOMESTIC/secondary structure					
COMMERCE/TRADE/finance	ial institution	COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution						
COMMERCE/TRADE/depart	ment store	COMMERCE/TRADE/department store						
FUNERARY/mortuary		GOVERNMENT/post office						
RELIGION/church relat	ed residence	VACANT/NOT IN	VACANT/NOT IN USE					
RELIGION/religious fa	cility	RELIGION/church related residence						
TRANSPORTATION/road_r	celated	RELIGION/religious facility						
7. Description								
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)						
Colonial: Georgian		foundation BRICK						
Early Republic: Adame	esques	walls <u>BRICK</u>						
Mid-19th Century: Gre	ek Revival, Gothic	WEATH	ERBOARD					
Revival		roof <u>METAL</u>						
	· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	other STONE						
		to the second se						

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See attached.

Frankfort, KY 40601

Record #

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.) name \_\_\_\_\_ street & number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_telephone \_\_\_\_\_ city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seg.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### **New Liberty Historic District**

Owen County, Kentucky

The integrity of the district's 52 properties, as determined by the criteria outlined below, is extremely high. Forty, or 77 percent of the fifty-two properties, are considered contributing. Of the twelve non-contributing properties, three properties contain buildings that have been altered to the extent the original building is no longer visible, six properties have buildings that have recently been constructed and three properties have trailers that were moved onto the property.

All of the contributing historic resources in the district have **integrity of location**. Their **integrity of setting** provides an accurate picture of the historic character of the town with commercial buildings situated close to the main transportation corridor, KY 227, while the majority of residential and religious buildings sit a few feet back from the sidewalk and have curb side or on-site parking. Wrought iron fences, a few large shade trees, and low foliage dot the grassy landscape.

Integrity of design in this district is fairly high. A majority of the buildings have maintained their scale, massing and materials. Integrity of design will exist for a building when it has retained the original scale, massing, materials, patterns of fenestration and proportion. Additions that use similar materials, are in scale with the structure, and are compatible in design and character with the original building form, also allow a building to retain its contributing status.

Integrity of materials in the district is extremely high because the majority of building exteriors have retained their original building materials and character defining features that reflect the period of significance. The appearance of the New Liberty Historic District today conveys the feeling of what it was like to live in the earliest established town in Owen County, Kentucky, that was inhabited by farmers, merchants, and their families. New Liberty also retains a high degree of integrity because of its association with the historical events that took place that enticed people to continue to reside here.

All 49 principal historic buildings, 34 secondary buildings, and five sites in the district have been reviewed using the criteria outlined below for evaluating the impact of alternatives on the integrity of design, feeling and association.

## **Alterations**

Common alterations to historic buildings generally fall into four categories: alterations to the exterior fabric, including original weatherboard siding covered with vinyl or aluminum siding or other non-historic materials; alterations to original window and/or door

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### **New Liberty Historic District**

Owen County, Kentucky

openings including the installation of new windows in existing openings, infilling existing openings, or making new openings in the exterior walls; porch alterations involving the replacement of original elements, such as columns, or enclosing an open porch; and additions to the building, in keeping with its scale and materials similar to the principal building.

In New Liberty, for buildings meeting the terms of Criterion A, it has been determined that changes can generally exist in two or possibly three of the four categories outlined above without compromising the overall **integrity of design** for the building. Many combinations exist, based on the four typical alterations listed above.

The following factors were taken into consideration in evaluating the impact of alterations: the nature and extent of the alteration; when the alteration took place; and whether the alteration can be easily removed, reversed, or even should be considered a significant part of the history of the building. Alterations reflecting popular building trends, building code requirements, the number of buildings that have similar alterations, and the impact of the alteration on the overall character of the historic district was evaluated.

Between the 1950s and 1970s in the United States, vinyl and aluminum siding was promoted to cover weatherboard siding because it was believed to reduce the amount of owner maintenance since it did not require painting. Also, historic wood sash windows were often replaced with energy efficient aluminum windows. Examples of individual buildings displaying changes within the four categories are discussed below.

Of the 38 contributing principal buildings in the district, four, or 11 %, have little or no alteration; 15, or 39 %, have one alteration; 12, or 32 %, have two alterations; and seven or 18 %, have three alterations.

Number of changes	# of buildings	% of total buildings
Little or no alteration	4	11
One alteration	15	39
Two alterations	12	32
Three alterations	7	18
Total	38	100

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### **New Liberty Historic District**

Owen County, Kentucky

The following examples display each of the four categories.

## Buildings with little or no alterations

Two buildings retaining the highest degree of integrity in the district are the Garvey-Moody Residence (ON-6) # 43 and the New Liberty Post Office (ONNL-30) # 46. None of the exterior character defining features of the Garvey-Moody Residence have been altered. This two-and-a-half-story brick residence has maintained the same building configuration, central passage, double-pile plan type since it was constructed in 1880. The entry porch is highlighted by a second floor balcony with a gabled dormer projecting from the side gabled roof above. A corner turret and a palladian stained glass window are two distinct features that remain intact and exemplify this well maintained Queen Anne residence.

The New Liberty Post Office is an example of a commercial building that has retained all of its character defining features since it was constructed in 1875. Large storefront windows flank the central double door entry. Wood posts support the shed canopy that shelters pedestrians from the elements. A front gabled roof, hidden behind the stepped parapet wall, is typically found on similar early commercial buildings. Constructed of hollow clay tile, it has resisted destruction by fire that has swept through this town three times, making this one of the best examples of early commercial architecture in New Liberty. Both of these buildings have retained a high level of integrity of design and materials and convey the feeling of what it was like to live in a late-nineteenth century town.

### **Buildings with one alteration**

Examples of buildings with one alteration in the district are the Sharon Kline Residence (ONNL-24) # 40 and the Owen News Building (ONNL-31) # 47. The Sharon Kline Residence is an example of an 1865, two-story brick, central passage double pile residence that has retained all of its character defining features including paired turned wood columns supporting a projecting pedimented entry. Fish scale wood shingles, painted brick color, appear at the second floor level and in the gabled ends. A brick and wood-frame one-story rear addition, added in later years, is a typical alteration in this district and it exemplifies the needs of a growing family. These additions are in scale with the original structure and the fenestration rhythm that is maintained along the side façade blends in with the overall design.

The Owen News Building, built in 1875, is a two-story brick T-plan. The projecting two-story brick front gabled end retains wood posts supporting the one-story canopy overhang while

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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New Liberty Historic District	Owen County, Kentucky
List of Resources	

Code	Address	Sto	ories			Mater	ials				Alte	er.	Date	Ev	al.
		1	1.5	2	2.5	WD	BR	BV	СВ	CT/ ST	Y	N		С	NC
1	615 KY 227 N	X				X					X		1900	X	
2	565 KY227 N	X				X					X		1935	X	
3	KY 227 N			X		X					X		1920	X	
4	725 KY 227 N	X		1			1	X	X			X	1978		X
5	485 KY 227 N		Х			X		X			X		1932	X	
6	KY 227 N			X		X	1		1	<del>                                     </del>	X		1856	X	
7	445 KY 227 N	†		X			X	1	1		X		1890	X	
8	415 KY 227 N			X		X		1			X		1906	X	
9	KY 227 N	X				X						X	1950+	1	X
10	435 KY 227 N	1		X			X				X		1906	X	
11	KY 227 N	1	Х	1		Х		X			X		1925	X	
12	KY 227 N	X					X				X	1	1921	X	
13	365 KY 227 N			X			X				X		1863	X	
14	KY 227 N	X		1				X			1	X	1974		X
15	KY 227 N	X							X		1	X	1962		X
16	327 KY 227 N	X		1					X		X		1950s		X
17	KY 227 N	Х		1					X			X	1950	X	
18	305 KY 227 N			X			X				X		1886	X	
19	285 KY 227 N		Χ			Х						Х	1947	Х	
20	Dutch Row Rd		VA		CA	NT		L	0	T		Х	1800s	X	
21	Dutch Row Rd		VA		CA	NT		L	0	T		X	1800s	X	
22	Dutch Row Rd		Χ			Log					X		1825	X	
23	Dutch Row Rd	2	TR		Al	LE	RS					Х	1980s		Χ
24	Dutch Row Rd	Х				Х					X		1945	X	
25	Dutch Row Rd		X				Х				Х		1886	X	
26	KY 227 N		CE		ME	TE	RY					Х	1896	X	
27	KY 227 N	X						X			Х		1891,		X
			1			1			-		-		1960s		1

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**New Liberty Historic District** 

Owen County, Kentucky

### 8. Statement of Significance

The New Liberty Historic District meets National Register Criterion A and is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development because it reveals the history of town development in Owen County. New Liberty is significant because the town displays trends that were vitally important in the physical development of Owen County towns including its early settlement location between two branches of the Kentucky River, the establishment of a post office, the town surveyed and a plan developed, commercial, residential, religious, and educational facilities constructed, and the town's continued growth despite natural disasters.

A number of key events affected New Liberty's history including the settlement of Adamstown in 1800, the first church in the county organized in 1801, the town laid out in a grid pattern in 1815, the post office established in 1816, the formation of Owen County in 1819, the town renamed New Liberty and incorporated in 1827, the first bank chartered in 1861, the first newspaper in Owen County published in 1868, and a series of natural disasters that shaped the town's physical appearance. These key events will be discussed as part of the historic context "The Planning and Development of New Liberty: 1815 - 1950".

This district was evaluated with four sub-themes: Transportation, Commerce, Religion and Domestic Architecture. These sub-themes were developed as part of a survey project of the community completed in 2000 and are included in the "New Liberty Historic Structures Survey and National Register Nomination Survey Summary Report" on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council Office in Frankfort, Kentucky. Many of the buildings in the district have been singled out as key resources associated with each historic context and, in the case of commercial, religious and residential buildings, as important examples of the building types developed for those contexts within the proposed district.

The New Liberty Historic District encompasses a ten block area of commercial, religious and residential buildings dating between 1825 and 1950. These buildings, together with the matrix of streets, alleys, and lots along which they are located, provide an exceptional picture of the development of New Liberty from 1815, the date the town was laid out, to 1950, when the last historic building in the district was constructed. In terms of Criterion A, New Liberty is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development of Owen County towns for the excellent way the town reflects all of the key elements including the site of the county's earliest settlement in a church that remains open to the public, the establishment of a post office that continues to operate, as well as the location of a cohesive group of historic resources on their original lots according to the early town plan, and the development of a dirt road into a state highway.

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## **New Liberty Historic District**

## Owen County, Kentucky

New Liberty's buildings and sites in this setting are extremely significant in the history of Community Planning and Development of Owen County towns. They provide excellent documentation and a valuable comparison to several other towns that developed during the same time period in Owen County: Lusby's Mill; Monterey; Owenton; and Wheatley. Common elements for the development of towns in Owen County include: their location on a river, stream or buffalo trail; the establishment of a post office, trading post or mill; a town survey and plan; the construction of commercial, religious and educational facilities surrounded by a residential community; and the town's continued growth.

The following elements were used to compare New Liberty with other Owen County towns that developed during the same time period: the development of a town plan in relationship to a major transportation route; the existence of a post office, school and/or church; a cohesive group of commercial and residential buildings that remain intact; and the continued viability of the town despite adverse conditions such as fires, floods, and tornados. Therefore, the following framework, Community Planning and Development of Owen County Towns, will discuss and evaluate the history of four Owen County towns in relationship with New Liberty in order to establish it's significance.

## Community Planning and Development of Owen County Towns

In order to establish the significance of New Liberty with respect to Community Planning and Development of Owen County towns it is vitally important to discuss the early development of Owen County and how towns developed beginning with the location of early settlements, the establishment of a post office, trading post, or mill, a town survey and plan, the juxtaposition of commercial and residential buildings, churches and schools in relationship to transportation routes, and the town's continued growth and development in spite of natural disasters.

While most of these elements are evident in the development of Owen County's communities, they offer excellent documentation of how New Liberty was laid out and developed. They also provide a valuable comparison to four other towns, Lusby's Mill, Monterey, Owenton, the county seat, and Wheatley and which developed during the same time period as New Liberty.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**New Liberty Historic District** 

Owen County, Kentucky

## **Owen County**

Owen County, the sixty-third county in order of formation, is located near the Indiana state line in the northern part of the Bluegrass Region in Kentucky. It was formed from sections of Franklin, Gallatin, Pendleton, and Scott counties on February 6, 1819 according to the Acts of the Kentucky General Assembly, Section 1, Chapter 387, Page 702, and was approved on April 1, 1819 (Houchens, 1976: 16). It is bordered by Caroll, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, and Henry counties. Covering 354 square miles, it was named in honor of Colonel Abraham Owen (1769-1811), who surveyed and mapped the region that became known as Owen County. He was also an Indian fighter and Kentucky legislator who was killed at the Battle of Tippecanoe (Bryant, 1992: 700).

Prior to the founding of Owen County, Native Americans inhabited this land. Evidence of their existence was found after the Revolutionary War by early pioneers who made their homes on land grants along the streams that flowed through the county. After Owen County was formed in 1819, 52 communities were established (Houchens, 1976: 346-347) and by 1874, eighteen of those communities had a post office (Houchens, 1976: 80). Over one hundred years later, in 1976, eleven of those communities were non-existent (Houchens, 1976: 346-347) and presently only three communities have a post office: Perry Park, Owenton and New Liberty.

## Lusby's Mill

In comparison with New Liberty, the hamlet of Lusby's Mill, is nestled in the horseshoe bend of Eagle Creek on KY 330 just nine miles northeast of Owenton. This area was settled by four white pioneers around 1795, including Samuel Cobb, a Revolutionary War veteran from South Carolina. Known as Cobb's Mill by 1842, this village was later called Lusby's Mill for the new mill owner. The post office, established in 1852, closed in 1904. The town was incorporated in 1869. (Rennick, 1987: 180-181).

During this early development period, the town consisted of homes surrounding three churches and a school. In 1850, Mose Stewart established the first general store and within the next few years several general stores and a drug store opened for business. The C.T. Gaines Store, which currently remains intact in Lusby's Mill, began in 1890 by Ab Acree. Dr. A.W. Smith opened his practice here in 1870 followed by Dr. W.K. Jones, Dr. Porter Prather and Dr. Marvin Ransdall (Lusby's Mill). The "Gunboat House" built near Eagle Creek preceded the Lusby's Mill school that was built in the hill (Houchens, 1976: 267).

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### **New Liberty Historic District**

### Owen County, Kentucky

By 1883, there were approximately twenty homes, a distillery, a dry goods store, a hotel, as well as a church and Masonic Hall evenly distributed on both sides of the main road that crossed Eagle Creek (Lusby's Mill 1883 Atlas Map). This corridor was a toll road until the county purchased the road in 1897. The covered bridge that crossed Eagle Creek, constructed between 1870 and 1872, was destroyed by fire in 1927. For a short time, a footbridge served as a public crossing until an iron bridge was built later that year. The present concrete bridge was built in 1939 by the State Highway Department four years after they built KY 330 which was completed in 1947 (Lusby's Mill).

As of 2000, only two commercial buildings, one church, ten residences, and two barns remain in this quiet rural community situated on a hilltop of rolling agricultural fields. Most of the buildings that line KY 330 in Lusby's Mill are one-story wood-frame residences with front gabled metal roofs displaying a fairly high level of craftsmanship. T-plan, saddlebag and hall-and-parlor plans types are prevalent. Supported by stone foundations, the majority of residences are covered with weatherboard or aluminum siding. Although two commercial buildings, Hunter's Grocery Store, formerly C.T Crains, and Duncan's Grocery are now closed, Lusby's Mill Baptist Church remains active and continues to serve the surrounding community.

### **Monterey**

The second town, Monterey, was first called Williamsburg for two brothers, James and Alexander Williams, who came here with their family from Maryland prior to 1799. James established the Williamsburg Trading Post (ONM-25) sometime between 1805 and 1810 while Alexander farmed land on Pond Creek. After James passed away, prior to 1835, Alexander continued to operate the trading post (Murphy interview). This one-and-a-half-story log structure remains situated on the edge of the Monterey Historic District and faces U.S. Route 127 which bisects the town.

Monterey's post office was established by Turner Branham in 1817 and was named Mouth of Cedar Creek for its original location. By 1825, the town became known as Cedar Creek and in 1847 the town was renamed Monterey to commemorate the Mexican War Battle of Monterey (Rennick, 1987: 201). According to the Acts of the Kentucky General Assembly, Monterey was established in 1847 and George C. Branham was authorized to layout the town on his land situated on Cedar Creek. Branham directed a surveyor to survey the town and a grid pattern, consisting of forty lots within four quadrants, was recorded by Joel Herndon in

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### **New Liberty Historic District**

## Owen County, Kentucky

Owen County Deed Book J, pages 196 & 197 in 1847. Town limits were expanded and incorporated by legislative acts in 1874 and again in 1881. In 1880, the population was 235. By 1883, the town included approximately fourteen blocks and was densely populated with three warehouses, two hotels, two jails, two churches and a school interspersed between homes (An Atlas, 1883), a post office, grist mills, blacksmith shops, drug stores, saloons, a barber shop, a furniture maker and coffin maker, two dry good stores, and the first building in Owen County to have an elevator in 1873 (Murphy, 1976: 51-52).

Religion and education played an important role in the development of Monterey. The Union Church, built between 1869 and 1871 (Murphy, 1976: 24), which served all denominations was replaced with the Monterey Christian Church that was built in 1953 on the same site. The Monterey Baptist Church, which began as a mission in 1867, built a church in 1901 on High Street. The first school in Monterey was built in 1880 on land adjacent to and leased from the Union Church. It was replaced in 1901 by another school that was eventually consumed by fire in 1938. The Monterey Grade School, located outside the historic district, was built in 1939 and closed in 1970 when school consolidation occurred.

Two primary transportation routes through Monterey helped promote its growth and further its development. From the early-1800s, the Kentucky River provided access to this town at the river landing. The Buffalo Trail, which formed one of the earliest footpaths through Owen County, was eventually developed into a major transportation route, State Route 127. Bisecting Monterey, this transportation corridor offers easy access and continued movement of traffic, goods, and supplies to Kentucky's State Capitol, Frankfort, and Owenton, the county seat.

Monterey was not only a river town that was associated with providing goods to other towns in the county, it also served as a tobacco marketing center between 1880 and 1920. Covering more land area, and retaining a greater number of cohesive group of historic resources dating between 1847 and 1947, Monterey has continued to grow and prosper despite being inundated by fires in 1885, 1926, 1938 and 1952, and floods in 1883, 1913, 1937, and 1989, and the closing of the post office in 1969 (Derringer interview).

Presently, downtown Monterey contains a city hall, bank, and several shops surrounded by a residential neighborhood and two churches. These surviving structures are evidence of a thriving community that has remained somewhat intact since the late-1800s.

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## **New Liberty Historic District**

## Owen County, Kentucky

In 1925, the Farmers Mercantile built a two-story building for a general store. A buggy shop, Selbert Crutcher's blacksmith shop, and a grocery store with hardware, were some of the early commercial buildings in Wheatley. In later years, when automobiles replaced the horse and buggy, a blacksmith shop was converted to Kincaid's Garage. In 1938, the Farmers Deposit bank closed (Wheatley) due to loss of business from pressure exerted by the Great Depression.

Prior to 1951, when the Wheatley School was consolidated with New Liberty, there were three schools that served the village. One school building has been converted to a community center where social functions are currently held.

As of 2000, there are approximately twenty residences, several barns and outbuildings situated on one side of KY 227 in Wheatley. Presently, the community center, the Dallasburg Baptist Church, and F & AM Dallas Lodge are considered the hub of the community (Wheatley).

#### **Analysis**

Lusby's Mill, Monterey, Owenton, Wheatley and New Liberty were all settled around the turn-of-the-nineteenth century during a thirty year period, between 1795 and 1825. Monterey was located on a Buffalo Trail and the other towns developed along dirt roads that became major transportation corridors through the county. Lusby's Mill, Monterey, and New Liberty had an extra advantage over the other three towns because they were also adjacent to a creek. Town plans were established prior to 1883 for all five towns as seen in the 1883 Atlas. Lusby's Mill and Wheatley's plan type was linear while Owenton, Monterey and New Liberty branched out into a grid pattern.

Most early communities developed around a trading post, post office or mill. Of the five towns, Cobbs Mill, later Lusby's Mill, was built on Eagle Creek, Monterey had a Trading Post, while Owenton and New Liberty had a post office. Religious and educational facilities were also vital to community development. Three of the five communities had more than one sanctuary with Wheatley and Owenton establishing churches from the first church in the county, New Liberty Baptist Church. Although every town had at least one school, no schools remain visible today except for a portion of New Liberty's female academy foundation.

Each of the five towns has retained a high level of integrity of feeling and association with respect to their historic resources. Monterey, Owenton and New Liberty have increased in terms of number of buildings as well as size as compared to their early-1883 town plan, while

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## **New Liberty Historic District**

Owen County, Kentucky

Lusby's Mill and Wheatley have diminished slightly in terms of building numbers.

Regarding natural disasters, two of the five towns, Monterey and New Liberty, have been inundated with fires, floods and/or tornados. Despite the exorbitant amount of damage and loss each town has suffered, they have managed to rebuild and currently maintain a cohesive group of historic resources.

In conclusion, while all five towns display similarities in growth and development, New Liberty is an excellent example of Community Planning and Development of Owen County Towns for the following reasons. Prior to 1800, an early settlement was established between two creeks and was the site of the first church. A bank and newspaper were also the first in the county. The town plan, developed in 1815 in a grid pattern, allowed buildings to be constructed on individual lots and blocks. Although the schools have vanished, three churches, a bank and a post office continue to serve the public.

New Liberty's continued growth and development is primarily due to its location in Owen County since it straddles both sides of U.S. Route 227. This major transportation corridor offers direct access to Owenton and Frankfort, and KY 36 provides access to Sanders railroad depot three miles north in Carroll County. Once called Liberty Station, it was a major shipping point for farmers and stockmen around New Liberty (Rennick, 1987: 262). This connection influenced the growth and development of New Liberty, since a transfer service was established between the two towns providing greater accessibility to outside markets.

Presently New Liberty conveys the feeling of a turn-of-the-century town since this cohesive group of historic resources remain intact including three churches, two cemeteries, a bank, a general store, a post office and two service stations amidst a residential neighborhood. These buildings and sites serve as a reminder of how early towns developed and continued to grow and prosper in spite of the destruction of three fires and a tornado, school consolidation, and urban flight to larger more industrialized cities.

## The Planning and Development of New Liberty 1815-1950:

English and Scotch-Irish descendants from Virginia and Maryland settled in the area now known as New Liberty ("Historical", 1971) prior to 1800. The first Baptist Church in Owen County was organized and named Baptist Church of the Twins in 1801 for its location between the two branches of the Kentucky River known as the Big Twin and Little Twin Creeks (Rennick, 1987: 212). The present facility, constructed of brick in 1855 and stuccoed

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### **New Liberty Historic District**

Owen County, Kentucky

dropped to 285 ("Owen County", 1969). Over one hundred years later, New Liberty's population increased to 299, in 1975 (Houchens, 1976: 368), which emphasizes the fact that the town has continued to grow and prosper.

According to the 1883 Atlas Map of New Liberty, the western city limits ran parallel to the west side of State Route 36 and covered three lots deep on the north and south sides of State Route 227 or Main Street and continued in a southeasterly direction two lots deep on both sides of State Route 227, or Main Cross Street, ending one lot north of the intersection of State Route 978, before the B. Rogers Toll House (See Figure 2). Within this forty-three-block area, the highest density of buildings are situated within the first two linear blocks of Main and Main Cross Streets with the Baptist and Christian churches on the outskirts. Several businesses located within New Liberty at the time were: James Gayle, proprietor of a Hotel and Livery Stable; J.E. Nichols' butcher shop; Dr. J.W. Connell, physician and surgeon; and the New Liberty High School with H.V. Bell as principal and teacher (An Atlas, 1883).

At the turn-of-the-century, streets were macadamized and lined with trees in 1901. By 1925, State Route 227 was constructed and dedicated (Roland, 1956: 6). Fifty years later, there were three churches, two lodges, one general store, one bank, a post office, two filling stations, one laundry, one T.V. sales and service, one beauty salon, one barber shop, one volunteer fire department, numerous residences, and a population of 279 (Houchens, 1976: 368).

Although fires have ravaged this town in 1864 (Bryant, 1992: 700), 1904 (Houchens, 1976: 104) and 1908 (Houchens, 1976: 102), and a tornado ripped through the town in 1943, New Liberty has managed to rebuild and has continued to prosper.

As of 2000, New Liberty consists of three churches, two cemeteries, a general store, and a bank, interspersed between residences forming a cohesive group of buildings that represent the period of significance from 1815 to 1950 and convey the feeling of what it was like to live in a turn-of-the-century town.

## **United States Department of the Interior**

**National Park Service** 

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## **New Liberty Historic District**

Owen County, Kentucky

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Deeds, Tax Cards, County and City maps

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## **New Liberty Historic District**

Owen County, Kentucky

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## Interviews:

David Lyons
Lucille Moody
Ken Palisin
Verna Catherine Payne
Bob Traylor

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**New Liberty Historic District** 

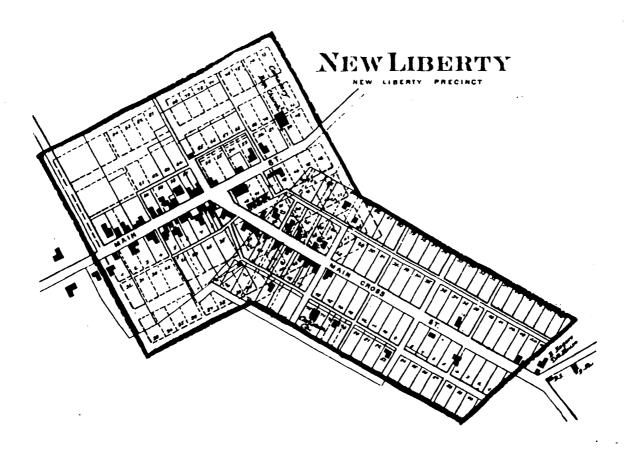
Owen County, Kentucky

## 10. Verbal Boundary Description

New Liberty's historic district boundaries are as follows: roughly bounded on the north by one lot north of KY 227 N. to one lot west of KY 36 and four lots on the south side of KY 227 N. west of KY 36, to the end of the paved road (KY 227 or Two Mile Road) to the east, and on the south by one lot on the east side and two lots on the west side of KY 227 N. including the New Liberty Second Baptist Church Cemetery on the east and the New Liberty Second Baptist Church on the west. The district includes the following lots on Property Identification Map 33A: 10, 10A, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 24A, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 32A, 32B, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45,46, 47, 47A, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61; and the following lots on Map 33: 3, 4, 5, 6A, 8; and the following lots on Map 24: 13A.

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries for the New Liberty historic district were chosen to designate the most contiguous group of residential and commercial buildings within the corporate city limits of New Liberty, including adjacent properties along the fringe that display the highest degree of integrity representing the period of significance from 1815 to 1950. Lots situated along the eastern edge of the district were not included because several homes have deteriorated and are in ruins while other lots contain trailers or homes built within the last fifty years. The remaining outlying land surrounding the district is divided into large parcels for farming and are not within the present New Liberty City limits.



0 200 400 600 Approx. scale



Figure 2, 1883 Map of New Liberty, Kentucky An Atlas of Owen County, Kentucky D.J. Lake & Co. 1883

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## **New Liberty Historic District**

## **Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs

- 3. Donna G. Logsdon
- 4. 3/00
- 5. Kentucky Heritage Council 300 Washington Street Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

## Photograph # 1

 North, (front) façade of ONNL-1 # 1 Lou Ellis Residence

## Photograph # 2

 North (front) façade of ONNL-2 # 3 Sonja Reeder Residence

## Photograph # 3

 North (front) façade of ONNL-4 # 6
 Stan & Sue Rich Residence

## Photograph # 4

6. North (front) façade of ONNL-5 # 7Brenda Breisacher Residence

## Photograph # 5

6. North (front) façade of ONNL-6 # 8B.N. Trusty Residence

## Owen County, Kentucky

## Photograph # 6

6. North (front) façade of ONNL-7 # 10B.N. Trusty General Store

## Photograph # 7

6. North (front) façade of ONNL-8 # 11 New Liberty Christian Church Parsonage

## Photograph #8

6. North (front) facade of ONNL-9 # 12 New Liberty Christian Church

## Photograph # 9

6. East (front) facade of ONNL -10 # 13 Margaret McKinney Residence

### Photograph # 10

 East (front) façade of ONNL-12 # 19 Henry Gayle Residence

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## **New Liberty Historic District**

## Owen County, Kentucky

## **Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs

- 3. Donna G. Logsdon
- 4. 3/00
- 5. Kentucky Heritage Council 300 Washington Street Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

## Photograph #30

 South (front) façade of ONNL-31 # 47
 Owen News Building

## Photograph #31

6. South (front) façade of ONNL-32 # 48
Citizens Bank

## Photograph #32

 South (front) façade of ONNL-33 # 49
 Mike Howard Residence

## Photograph # 33

 South (front) façade of ONNL-34 # 50
 Lula Howard Residence

## Photograph # 34

6. South (front) façade of ONNL-35 # 51
John Curtis Residence

Photograph # 35

 South (front) façade of ONNL-36 # 52 George Tahktjian Residence