

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

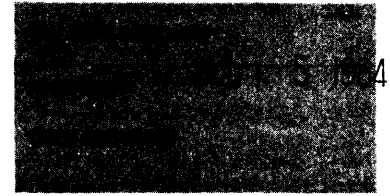
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pulaski County Multiple Resource

Continuation sheet Area, Kentucky

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North Main Historic District

Description

Location: Along North Main Street and the Public Square in Somerset, Kentucky

Owner: Multiple

Classification: District

The North Main Historic District is composed of five buildings along North Main Street and the public square in downtown Somerset. All of the buildings in the district are oriented facing Main Street or the public square. This area is in the center of downtown Somerset and the boundary of the district is defined by modern or altered buildings on the west, south and east, and by the Perkins House (NR) on the north. Four of the buildings are used for commercial purposes while the fifth serves as the county library.

Two of the buildings in the district, the Masonic Lodge and the Public Library, are the most architecturally significant structures in the downtown area. An additional row of three early 20th century commercial buildings opposite the Masonic Lodge are also included in the district. Although the district is small it represents a cohesive grouping of historic architecture significant in the evolution of the downtown area. The character of the buildings has been retained and they have not been significantly altered. All properties in the district are contributive.

Acreage: approx. .9 acre

Verbal Boundary Description: The North Main Historic District is designated as lots 1, 2 and 3 of block 31, lots 1 and 2 of block 32 and lot 9 of block 24 as shown on Somerset tax maps. The boundaries are defined by modern buildings and an existing National Register property (Perkins House) on the north.

UTM References: A. 16/712705/4107620 B. 16/712712/4107582 C. 16/712795/4107685 D. 16/712788/4107600

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North Main Historic District - Individual Property Descriptions

1. 110 N. Main Street: Presently vacant, this two-story brick building was constructed ca. 1910. The storefront has been altered through the introduction of structural glass blocks and a fixed metal canopy. An offset doorway leads to the second floor. On the upper facade are interconnecting one-over-one rectangular sash windows. The central window is a single light flanked by narrow single light windows. At the roofline is a sheet metal cornice with a floriated frieze design, egg and dart molding and prominent end caps. The interior of the first floor has been remodeled.

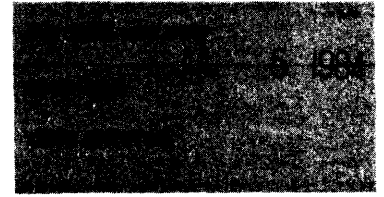
2. 112 N. Main Street, Somerset Upholstery: Constructed ca. 1900, this two-story brick commercial building has an altered storefront with new wooden panels, display windows and an added metal canopy. The storefront transom is intact and contains decorative Luxfer glass. On the second story are two pairs of tri-part Chicago school windows. Above the windows is a sheet metal cornice with a prominent row of dentils. The facade has been scored and stuccoed to resemble stone. The interior of both floors have not been significantly remodeled and the original pressed tin ceiling is extant on the first floor.

3. 114 N. Main Street, Somerset Variety Shop: This two-story brick structure was constructed ca. 1905. The storefront is substantially intact with the original tile floor in the recessed entrance, display windows and Luxfer glass in the transom. New brick bulkheads below the display windows were added in recent years. The second floor has a paired group of two one-over-one sash windows with connecting arching and an offset one-over-one sash window. The original sheet metal cornice at the roofline has been removed. On the Columbia Street facade are rounded arch two-over-two sash windows and a corbelled brick cornice. The interior of the first floor retains a pressed metal ceiling.

4. 34-35 Public Square, Masonic Building: The Masonic Building constructed 1892-1893, is one of the most important commercial structures in Somerset. Local Lodge Number 111 was formed in 1865 and became an active organization in the city. The masons used part of the upper floors for offices and meeting rooms while the ground story was used by retail establishments. The building is a three story Victorian Romanesque structure which extends the length of one block. Part of the original storefront has been altered with one section having an added metal front and mansard roof. Other parts of the storefront are intact with rounded arches over the display windows and transoms. The arches display radiating voussoirs of rusticated stone. In the corner bay transom is decorative Luxfer glass. On the second floor are both one-over-one and two-over-two sash some of which also display transoms with stone arching. Third floor windows are arched four-over-four sash. On the Public Square facade is an open Romanesque arcade filled in with structural glass and above this is a blind arcade of corbelled brick. A corner tower was originally a prominent feature of the

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building but it was removed during the 1940s. The interior of the upper floors is subdivided into individual offices and meeting halls. Original woodwork has been retained during past restoration into modern offices.

5. N. Main Street, Public Library: Pulaski County's Public Library was originally the city's post office which was constructed in 1912 and designed by government architect James Knox Taylor. When the post office moved in 1972 the building was remodeled into use as the county library. Designed in the Neo-Classic style this building is the best example of its type in the county. The building is seven bays wide, two stories in height and of frame and stone construction. It features a raised porch with unfluted Doric columns and Doric pilasters. Windows are paired four-over-four sash with architrave molding. The main entrance has double doors and a transom bar and transom displaying iron grillwork. Above the windows is a fret band with wave molding. The cornice is very detailed with guttae, metopes, modillion blocks, dentils and a raised parapet. The interior is somewhat remodeled but the lobby retains the original egg and dart molding and dentils at the ceiling.

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North Main Historic District

Statement of Significance

The North Main Historic District is a grouping of five significant late 19th and early 20th century architecture along North Main Street in Somerset, Kentucky. The district is centered at the intersection of Main Street and the Public Square. Within the district are two of Somerset's most notable buildings, the Masonic Lodge and the Public Library. Also within the district are three early 20th century buildings which contribute to the district in their size, scale and details. There are no intrusions in the district.

Somerset's public square and adjacent streets contained few notable structures before the Civil War. Expansion and construction on the square did not occur until after the arrival of the Cincinnati and Southern Railroad in 1877. The railroad had a major impact on Somerset which quickly grew in population and prosperity. This prosperity resulted in many new commercial buildings being constructed on the square in the following decades.

A local masonic lodge had been in existence in Somerset since 1865 and by the early 1890s their growing membership demanded the erection of a new lodge building. The site they selected was at the corner of Main and the public square and work began on the building in 1892 and it was finished in the following year. The building was constructed in the Victorian Romanesque style with large arched windows of brick and stone. Also present on the building was a corner tower but this was removed in the 1940s. On the upper floors were offices and the meeting halls for the lodge while the ground floor was rented out to various businesses. The building continues to be a major landmark of the square and it has not been greatly altered.

The turn of the century also witnessed the construction of commercial buildings off the public square onto adjacent streets. The three contiguous buildings in the district along North Main Street represent this period of construction. These two-story masonry structures feature sheet metal cornices, decorative luster glass and pressed metal ceilings. These buildings continue to be used for commercial purposes and retain their original appearance.

Perhaps the finest building to illustrate Somerset's 20th century growth is the Public Library constructed in 1912 on North Main Street. The building was originally built by the federal government as Somerset's Post Office. It was designed in the Neo-Classic style with stone Doric columns and pilasters. The building also displays decorative elements of the Greek orders such as fret bands, dentils and modillion blocks. The building was used as the Somerset post office until 1972 when it was redesigned as the county library. The library and masonic lodge represent the most significant historic structures in the downtown area and in addition with adjacent commercial buildings, constitute an important concentration of architectural styles.

- A. Beecher Smith House
- B. Waddle-Frathier House
- C. Smith House
- D. City Hall
- E. Morrow House
- F. Crawford House
- G. Withers House
- H. Dill Scott House
- I. Richardson House

Historic Districts

- J. Harvey's Hill
- K. W. Columbia
- L. North Main
- M. South Courthouse Square

