

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 23 1989

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 Central Avenue Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location Along Mt. Mercy Drive, Central Avenue,

street & number and Peace Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Pewee Valley

N/A vicinity

state Kentucky

code KY

county Oldham

code 185

zip code 40056

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>21</u>	<u>12</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>24</u>	<u>12</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Ky.

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  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.  See continuation sheet.

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

Date 6-14-89

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:

- 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:)

Allova Byrne

8/7/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwellingCommerce/Trade - department storeCommerce/Trade - financial institutionReligion - religious structureGovernment - post office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Single dwellingCommerce/Trade - office buildingSocial - clubhouseReligion - religious structureRecreation & Culture - theater**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial RevivalNeoclassicalItalianateMission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone - limestonewalls Wood - weatherboardBrickroof Asphaltother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**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)

Suburban Development

Architecture

Literature

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1851 - 1935

1857 - 1935

1895 - 1931

Significant Dates

1851, 1901

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Johnston, Annie Fellows

Architect/Builder

Osborne, Charles Marcus

\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See bibliography for Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Kentucky Multiple Property Listing.

**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:**

Kentucky Heritage Council,  
Frankfort, Kentucky

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Approximately 40 acres

**UTM References**

A 

16	6	31	9	70	42	4	1	56	0
Zone	Easting		Northing						

C 

16	6	31	4	90	42	4	1	00	0
Zone	Easting		Northing						

B 

16	6	32	2	00	42	40	9	50	
Zone	Easting		Northing						

D 

16	6	31	2	50	42	41	3	00	
Zone	Easting		Northing						

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The 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 100 Peace Lane (#15), only 12 acres of the 20-acre property are included.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 20, 1989

street & number 1288 Bassett Avenue telephone 502 456-2397

city or town Louisville state Ky. zip code 40204

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Central Avenue Historic District

---

Description

The Central Avenue Historic District consists of a group of seventeen residential, commercial and religious buildings with their associated outbuildings located along three streets at the center of Pewee Valley. These buildings range in age from c. 1857 to 1923, representing the range of building types present during Pewee Valley's suburban development. They include excellent examples of the two property types, residential buildings and commercial buildings identified in association with the historic context, "Suburban Development Pewee Valley, 1851 -1935." The heart of the district is the 100 block of Central Avenue which runs in a straight line between Mt. Mercy Drive (formerly Railroad Avenue), where the commercial buildings are located fronting the railroad tracks, and Peace Lane where several of the houses at the west edge of the district are located. The land in the district is relatively flat with a slight rise toward its west end and a more substantial rise outside the district on the north side. The predominant character of the district is residential with the houses and the one church complex located along Central Avenue and Peace Lane. Four buildings that functioned originally as stores, a bank, and a post office are located on Mt. Mercy Drive and Central Avenue at their intersection. The district has a high degree of integrity with sixteen of the seventeen principal buildings considered contributing buildings. In addition there are five historic and contributing outbuildings, two historic structures, and eleven non-contributing outbuildings.

The district is tied together by Central Avenue, which forms a narrow corridor from one end to the other. The street is still flanked by the well-trodden paths and by a number of the large shade trees that historically lined both sides. Historic gateposts that still mark the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 Central Avenue Historic District

driveways and front walks of many of the properties along the street are a reminder of the wooden fences that at one time fronted nearly all the properties in Pewee Valley. Examples of a characteristically Pewee Valley board fence are still in place in front of The Beeches (#14) and Twigmore (#17).

The boundaries of the district are determined by collections of non-historic buildings that have been inserted into the town's loosely knit historic framework serving to isolate the district from other historic buildings. A large non-historic school building and non-historic commercial buildings flank the contributing commercial buildings along Mt. Mercy Drive. Across the railroad tracks on the far side of LaGrange Road are additional new commercial structures. Recently developed subdivisions are located to the rear of some of the properties on the south side of Central Avenue and at the west edge of the district beyond Peace Lane. Properties on the north side of Central Avenue are bordered at the rear by a row of non-historic residences.

The Central Avenue Historic District developed haphazardly to its present appearance between the 1850s and the 1920s. This development reflects Pewee Valley's gradual suburban growth that began in 1851 with the arrival of the railroad. Central Avenue was already in place by 1868 when it appears on the Bergmann map of Jefferson County. Its layout seems to follow the northern boundary of a large piece of property owned by early settler, Henry S. Smith, which was sold off to some of the area's earliest suburban residents as soon as the railroad was in place. Peace Lane started out in the 1850s or 1860s as a right-of-way to a large estate at its southern end. Some sort of road existed along the west side of the railroad tracks from an early date although Mt. Mercy, formerly Railroad Avenue, may not have assumed its present course until the 1880s.

The buildings and properties in the district document this unplanned development. Lots vary in size from small parcels occupied by the commercial buildings and small cottages to five, ten, and twenty acre properties. Lot shapes, building set backs and orientations are equally inconsistent. The commercial buildings sit right at the street's edge fronted only by

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Central Avenue Historic District

a narrow sidewalk along Mt. Mercy. The four small houses on the north side of Central sit close to the street, but The Beeches (#14), Bernersyde (#7), Woodside (#6), and Twigmore (#17) all face the street from a distance of about four hundred feet. 100 Peace Lane (#15), the Genevieve and Alfred Chesheir House (#16), and the Presbyterian Church (#12) are sited at various angles to the street.

The buildings in the district are equally disparate in terms of date, scale, function, building materials and style. As a group, however, they present a strong feeling of an evolving historic district and well illustrate the unplanned manner in which Pewee Valley grew. The houses range from small one- and one-and-one-half story cottages at 105, 109, 111, and 121 Central Avenue (#8, 9, 10, and 13) and 100 Peace Lane (#15) to the two-story twenty-two room Bernersyde (#7) and the large two-and-one-half story Beeches (#12). Eight houses are wood-framed with weatherboard or replacement siding; one each is masonry brick, brick-veneered, stone, and stuccoed. In style they range from Victorian Vernacular cottages to sophisticated Italianate, Colonial Revival, and English Revival houses. The two historic buildings in the Presbyterian Church complex are fine Gothic Revival structures, one built of stone and the other of wood. The one and two-story commercial buildings are concrete block and brick. The little post office is wood-framed and sheathed in weatherboard.

The earliest buildings in the district, Woodside (#5, photo 4) and Sunnyside-Edgewood (#18, photo 6) are two of Pewee Valley's earliest antebellum suburban residences and the only two that retain anything near their original appearance. Edgewood/Sunnyside has been moved on its lot and its historic property subdivided for building. Woodside, although on a five-acre lot reduced from its original twelve, still has the feel of an early country estate. This large two-story single-pile house has suggestions of Gothic Revival styling. It sits far back from the road on an informally landscaped property with a winding drive that loops in front of the house and a random planting of large shade trees, flowering trees and shrubs, and rough lawn.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Central Avenue Historic District

Edgewood-Sunnyside, built c. 1858-1861, sat on a twenty-five acre property that originally adjoined Woodside. Today its one-acre lot faces Edgewood Way, a road winding through the new subdivision, and backs up to Twigmore, the 1923 house whose site was once a part of the Edgewood property. Although its original setting has been destroyed, Edgewood still stands on its original property with its original structure and appearance very intact. It is an imposing two-story L-shaped Italianate house built of masonry brick.

The c. 1860/1867/1954 Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church complex (#12, photo 12) is located on a small piece of property on the north side of Central Avenue. The 1867 Gothic Revival nave-plan stone church and the c. 1860 Gothic Revival weatherboarded manse/parish house are attached to a 1954 education building. For many years, the church and the manse were the only buildings on the north side of Central Avenue. All this land, which include the block between Central, Mt. Mercy, and now-abandoned Oaklea Avenue, was the property of Charles Cotton, a founding member of the Presbyterian Church to which he deeded its land. Not until 1889 was his land purchased for development. At that time Horace F. Smith and the Pewee Valley Hotel Company built the Villa Ridge Inn on the rise behind the district and subdivided some of the land along Central for new buildings.

The small plot of land for the Gables (#13) was purchased in 1894 and the sophisticated and eclectic gambrel-roofed cottage was built shortly after. The three small houses toward the east end of the district were built between 1895 and 1913. 105 and 109 Central Avenue (#8 and #9, photo 13) are Victorian Vernacular cottages with T and L plans and typical Victorian wood detailing. 109 Central Avenue has been so seriously altered by the insensitive application of wood siding and by the reduction in size and replacemnt of its original windows, it has been designated as non-contributing. 111 Central Avenue (#10), constructed about 1913, is a very basic Bungalow/Craftsman style house with a modified square plan, a shallow pitched gable roof and a half-width recessed front porch.

The Beeches, a ten-acre property at the west end of Central Avenue, and Bernersyde, located on the south side



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Central Avenue Historic District

on a piece of property once associated with Woodside, are two large wood-framed houses with Colonial Revival styling. They are among a small group of large and well-designed houses built in Pewee Valley in the first years of the twentieth century. The Beeches (#14, photo 11), built in 1902, is Pewee Valley's finest Colonial Revival building which looks to have been designed by an architect of some note. Bernersyde (#7, photo 5), built in 1907 around an existing house, is more eclectic in character, but still reflects a strong Colonial Revival flavor.

The three latest houses in the district are all sophisticated examples of Twentieth Century Revival styling. The c. 1920 J. J. Foley House (#1, photo 1) is a two-story stuccoed residence with a clay-tile hipped roof and classical detailing which together are suggestive of the Mission style. The 1923 Genevieve and Alfred Chescheir House (#16, photo 9) at 120 Peace Lane is a two-story brick-veneered Neoclassical style residence with a bold two-story pedimented portico. The house sits on a four-acre lot that was once part of the adjoining Van Horne-Ross estate, now a subdivision. Twigmore (#17, photo 7), also built in 1923, is a most unusual English Revival style stone house that sits on a two-and-one-half acre wooded lot at the corner of Central Avenue and Peace Lane. Modeled after an English Cotswold cottage, this finely crafted house was designed by Charles Marcus Osborne of the Boston architectural firm Cram and Ferguson.

The commercial buildings range in date from c. 1880 to about 1915. Woodruff-Foley Brothers General Store (#3, photo 2), a two-story brick structure which stands prominently at the corner of Mt. Mercy Drive and Central Avenue, is the oldest, dating in part from c. 1880. It is a modest vernacular Victorian commercial structure that was extensively enlarged at the rear and southside about 1915 in a manner consistent with the original design. The Pewee Valley State Bank (#2, photo 2), dating from 1910, is a small Neoclassical style building with rock-faced concrete block walls, a hipped roof, and a prominent pedimented portico. W. N. Jurey's Store (#4, photo 2), built on the opposite corner from the Woodruff-Foley store in 1912, is an eclectic two-story

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Central Avenue Historic District

---

concrete block building that replaced a large wood-framed Queen Anne style store building dating from 1889. The building has a very simple early Twentieth Century Commercial style finish capped by a Victorian Commercial parapet/sign plate. The tiny wood-framed weatherboarded post office (#5, photo 3), located on Central Avenue behind the Woodruff-Foley Store, may have been built as early as 1890.

Outbuildings associated with a number of the residential buildings in the district are located behind the main houses. Of these, five are historic buildings and eleven are non-contributing garages, cottages, and metal barns built or substantially altered since the 1930s. Woodside (#6) has two historic outbuildings, a nineteenth century carriage house and a garage/shed probably dating from the 1920s. 100 Peace Lane (#15) has two outbuildings and two historic structures some of which date to the 1850s or 1860s and the no-longer-extant main house on the site. These include a board-and-batten-sided carriage house, a partially below ground spring house that has lost its roof, and an unusual stone retaining wall with a recessed arched area that appears to mark and protect a spring. The elaborately detailed Victorian Vernacular cottage dating from about 1880 which today is the principal building on the property is itself actually an outbuilding, having served originally as a guesthouse for the much larger residence. Associated with it is a c. 1880 outhouse detailed with board-and-batten siding and bargeboard trim. A historic c. 1920 free-standing garage is associated with the J. J. Foley House.

With the exception of Edgewood Manor, the presently developing subdivision fashioned from the Sunnyside-Edgewood property at the center of the district, the Central Avenue Historic District provides a very strong sense of a historic environment. It includes a cohesive grouping of historic buildings that together with their intact settings and their remaining historic outbuildings present an excellent picture of Pewee Valley as it was in the 1920s. The buildings in the district represent an unusually high degree of integrity. All are historic buildings. Non-historic additions and alterations are almost all limited to unobtrusive rear additions. Only

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7 Central Avenue Historic District

One, 109 Central Avenue (#9), has been designated non-contributing due to the insensitive application of aluminum siding in conjunction with the replacement of the original windows with new much smaller ones. One other house in the district, The Gables (#13) has replacement siding, but here it has been sensitively applied very much in keeping with the original character of the house. The two store buildings have had some changes made to their storefronts, but are otherwise fairly intact. Plans are presently underway to renovate the Woodruff-Foley Store (#3) and return it as much as possible to its original appearance. The condition of the buildings and properties in the district is varied, ranging from the seriously deteriorated post office building and the poorly maintained house and yard at 109 Central Avenue to a number of houses and grounds in excellent condition. The majority are well cared for.

## INVENTORY

- 01-329  
C
1. James Foley House. 212 Mt. Mercy Drive. 1870s/remodeled 1920s. A two-story stuccoed residence with eclectic styling that includes both Classical and Mission detailing. This modified T-plan house was radically remodeled in the 1920s from a simple late Victorian frame farmhouse. Its cross-hipped roof is covered with red tile. A projecting central front entrance wing is flanked by identical flat-roofed porches supported by stuccoed posts and capped by tiny acroteria. The classically detailed front entrance is set into a slightly recessed arched niche and has a classical surround capped by a larger acroterion. Immediately above the niche and below a central second-floor window is a bracketed hip-roofed hood topped with a balustrade that both protects the entrance and gives the appearance of a window balcony. Windows are six-over-six double hung sash; the foundation is limestone block with beaded joints. A historic back porch is located at the rear of the southwest side adjacent to a one-story concrete block addition. The house sits on a small landscaped lot. Historic stone posts mark the north entrance of a drive that loops around the house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8 Central Avenue Historic District

The house was probably built by H. M. Woodruff in the late 1870s. It was purchased by James Foley about 1900 and drastically remodeled in the 1920s. Three Foley brothers and their two sisters lived in the house for many years before it was deeded to St. Aloysius Church in 1944. Presently it is vacant.

C Garage. Gable roofed; stucco finish. 1920s

OL-328

C

2. Pewee Valley State Bank. 218 Mt. Mercy Drive. 1910. A small one-story Neoclassical style bank building which is very significant as one of Pewee Valley's few historic commercial structures. This hip-roofed, rectangular-plan building is constructed of rock-faced concrete block. A prominent pedimented portico supported by pairs of Tuscan columns dominates the front facade and protects the central entrance with its double glass doors surmounted by a large transom. Windows are one-over-one double hung sash with smooth concrete sills and, on the front facade, transoms.

Articles of incorporation for the bank were filed in July, 1910 and the bank began business September 1, 1910. In 1948 the bank became a branch of the Bank of Oldham County but remained in the original building until 1963 when the building was sold to the Pewee Valley Woman's Club, its present owner. James J. Foley who lived on one side of the bank and operated Foley Brothers Store on the other side, was a bank director and its president for many years.

OL-327

C

3. Woodruff-Foley Brothers General Store. 220 Mt. Mercy Drive. c. 1880/addition c. 1915. Pewee Valley's finest and oldest extant historic commercial building. This two-story masonry brick building is a Victorian Commercial style structure built in two or possibly three stages. The original portion at the corner of Central Avenue and Mt. Mercy Drive is a rectangular building with a three-bay front facade, a hipped roof, a clipped corner, and many tall corbeled chimneys. The c. 1915 addition is an L-shaped structure that wraps around the southwest side and the rear of the structure matching the original design and continuing the pattern of tall chimneys. Windows throughout are four-over-four double hung sash with concrete lintels and sills. The storefront retains a portion of its c. 1915 finish including cast-concrete posts and large plate-glass windows with a leaded-glass transom that gives the appearance of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9 Central Avenue Historic District

small glass blocks. Door canopies from the c. 1915 modification remain in place at the corner and at one of two side entrances. New aluminum front entrance doors, a low stone retaining wall that wraps around the front and what was the original corner entrance, and a crude flat-roofed front portico are non-historic additions.

The earliest portion of the building was constructed about 1880 by H. M. Woodruff as a general store. Woodruff was one of the town's early merchants and a leading member of the town council. The Foley brothers, who operated a meat market in the rear of the store for some years, purchased the building in 1903, opened Foley Brothers General Store, and built the addition about 1915. The building operated as a store into the 1960s. Today its principal occupant is a veterinary center.

OL-326  
C

4. W. N. Jurey's General Store. 300 Mt. Mercy Drive. 1912. A two-story, concrete-block store building significant as one of Pewee Valley's few commercial structures. The simple, rectangular-plan building has a gable roof with a stepped parapet front. Capping the parapet is a central semi-circular projection containing a Masonic emblem and the date "1912." The historic concrete block has a smooth finish and beveled edges on the front facade and a rock-faced finish on the sides and rear. The principal front entrance has double doors flanked by partially covered display windows. A second front entrance leading to the second floor has smaller plate-glass windows to either side. Small, high, first-floor windows on the southwest side probably have replacement glass. Large second-floor windows are permanently covered by louvered wooden inserts.

This building was constructed in 1912 by W. N. Jurey to replace his earlier Queen Anne style store destroyed by fire earlier that year. It remained a store, operated by various owners, until about 1960. For many years the local Masonic Lodge hall and the telephone exchange were located on the second floor. Presently it is the home of the Little Colonel Players, a local theater group that has owned the building since 1969.

OL-353  
C

5. Old Post Office. 106 Central Avenue. c. 1890. A small vernacular wood-frame building significant as the first

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 10 Central Avenue Historic District

structure in Pewee Valley constructed to house the post office. The one-story weatherboarded building has a T-shaped plan. Fronting on Central Avenue is a rectangular hip-roofed section with two front doors and a small central window on its long facade. To the rear is an historic gable-roofed ell that appears in an early photograph and may be part of the original structure. Beyond this is a small non-historic shed-roofed addition. At some point before the 1940s, the entrance was shifted from the southeast end of the front section to the present Central Avenue facade and the roofline was changed from gabled to hipped.

The post office was located in this building for most of the years between its construction date in about 1890 and the 1950s.

Immediately to the east of the post office property and located between the post office and the Woodruff-Foley Store property is a small bare plot of land presently owned by Oldham County.

OL-355  
C

6. Woodside. 110 Central Avenue. c. 1857. The earliest extant building in the district and one that is an important example of Gothic Revival-influenced styling in Pewee Valley. This two-story weatherboarded residence has a single-pile plan with a small two-story rear addition that extends into a long one-story ell. Its steeply pitched gable roof has three prominent gable-roofed wall dormers on its front side. The oversized central dormer that rises above the roof's ridgeline is detailed with stickwork and decorative shingles. The flanking smaller dormers are detailed with round wheel-like windows. To either side of the central dormer tall paneled brick chimneys rise from the ridgeline; a third is centered along the one-story rear addition. A full-width, flat-roofed front porch has chamfered posts and a solid frieze detailed with dentils. The porch bays out at the center to correspond with the front entrance detailed with a paneled door flanked by large sidelights and capped by a dentiled cornice. Windows are six-over-six double hung sash; the foundation is limestone block. The house sits well back on a five-acre lot informally landscaped with grass, foundation shrubs, and shade trees. The driveway loops around in front of the house as well as extending to a rear parking area. Stone

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11 Central Avenue Historic District

fence posts mark the driveway and the front corners of the property.

The house was built about 1857 for Thomas and Nanette Smith and remained in their hands until 1866. Thomas Smith (1789-1866) was a prominent businessman retired from the newspaper business in Lexington. After changing hands a number of times, the house was bought by Alice Craig Gatchel and Edwin Francis Gatchel in 1907 and stayed in their family until 1944. Alice Craig who grew up at neighboring Edgewood was the adopted granddaughter of Annie Craig; her husband Frank Gatchel was a partner in his family's Louisville photography business, as well as a member and, frequently, chairman of Pewee Valley's town board.

C Carriage house. A one-and-one-half story gable-roofed structure with a front cross gable, and a central chimney. Its shiplap siding is probably a replacement. 1860s.

C Garage/shed. A long, low gable-roofed structure with board-and-batten siding and a raised-seam metal roof. 1920s.

OL-356

C

7. Bernersyde. 114 Central Avenue. 1907. A very large, twenty-two room eclectic house significant for its Colonial Revival influences and its sheer size. This two-story weatherboarded house was totally remodeled in 1907 from a much smaller house built between 1880 and 1900. The approximately L-plan house has a double hipped roof and very tall interior end chimneys. A very large porch with Tuscan columns and a solid frieze wraps around the front and southeast side of the house, bowing out in the center front at the main entrance. Here double doors are capped by a large transom/overlight. A central eyebrow dormer, second-floor corner extensions, one polygonal and one round, and a central second-floor bay flanked by oval "cameo" windows are prominent details. Windows are one-over-one double hung sash with the exception of those in the central bay that have Colonial Revival-style tracery in their upper sash. The foundation is limestone block. Significant changes to the house include the removal of small conical turrets over the corner extensions, the removal of a window from the eyebrow dormer, and the probable replacement of original shingle siding with the present weatherboards. The house sits well back on a large lot informally landscaped with grass, large shade trees, flowering trees and shrubs, and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12 Central Avenue Historic District

foundation shrubs. A curving drive loops around in front of the house and leads back to a garage.

The site of Bernersyde was originally part of the Woodside tract. In 1907 Reverend Peyton Hoge (1858-1940) and his wife purchased the property, and it is thought that they drastically expanded and remodeled the smaller house then on the site to accommodate themselves, their six children, and their frequent entertaining. Reverend Hoge was a prominent Presbyterian clergyman who had previously served as minister of Warren Memorial Presbyterian Church in Louisville and as a member of the Board of Directors and the chairman of the Building Committee for the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Kentucky. He was pastor and pastor-emeritus of Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church from 1907 to 1929. The house was sold out of the family in 1943.

NC Garage. Three car, gable-roofed and weatherboarded. 1960s.

NC Shop. One-story, gable-roofed with weatherboard siding and a chimney. Used by a former owner as a radio shop. 1940s.

OL-354  
C 8. 105 Central Avenue. c. 1895. A Victorian vernacular cottage significant as one of the few examples of this house type in Pewee Valley. This one-story L-plan house has a gable roof and weatherboard siding. Its projecting front wing has clipped corners; a polygonal bay is located on the southeast side. Detailing consists of diamond shingles in the gable ends, sawnwork brackets at the roofline above the clipped corners; and a Victorian half-glass door capped by a pedimented hood supported by scroll brackets. The front porch has been removed; the rear porch has been enclosed. Windows are one-over-one double hung sash. The foundation is stone piers infilled with concrete block. A simple wood fence fronts the small lot. A separately owned right-of-way between this property and 109 Central Avenue leads to an undeveloped lot behind the Central Avenue properties. A portion of this right-of-way, now serving as a driveway shared by 105 and 109 Central Avenue is included with this entry.

NC Garage. Concrete block in extremely deteriorated condition. 1950s.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13 Central Avenue Historic District

- OL-578  
NC 9. 109 Central Avenue. c. 1902. A seriously altered Victorian Vernacular cottage. This one-story T-plan house has a gable roof, a projecting front wing, and a shed-roofed front porch detailed with turned posts and a spindlework frieze. Its foundation is limestone block; two chimneys have been covered with stucco. Vinyl siding has been crudely applied and windows are replacements of reduced size.
- NC Cottage. A very deteriorated gable-roofed structure with horizontal board siding. 1950s?
- OL-579  
C 10. 111 Central Avenue. c. 1913. A modest one-story Bungalow/Craftsman style house significant as an example of the small houses built in Pewee Valley during the early 1900s. The square-plan house has a shallow-pitched gable roof with a cross gable over a slightly projecting front wing. The recessed half-width front porch has Tuscan columns. Windows are one-over-one double hung sash; the foundation is concrete block. A shed-roofed addition is located at the rear. Despite the application of aluminum siding, the house retains its historic character and contributes to the district. It sits on a small lot with little landscaping.
- NC Garage. Gable roofed with aluminum siding. 1950s.
- C  
(Site) 11. 115 Central Avenue. A landscaped portion of this property has been included in order to provide visual continuity in the district and to include two sets of historic gateposts and a portion of the grounds that were associated with the Villa Ridge Inn - Kentucky Confederate Home. This important building in the community was destroyed by fire in 1920. A non-historic house on the property sits well back out of view from Central Avenue and is not included. The house is built around the remains of the Confederate Home laundry but does not provide sufficient archaeological or architectural information to be designated contributing.
- OL-357  
OL-358  
C 12. Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church. 119 Central Avenue. c. 1860/1867/1954. An extremely significant Gothic Revival church complex consisting of an 1867 stone church, a c. 1860 chapel-manse-parish house, and a 1954 stone and brick education building that are tied together by a glassed-in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 14 Central Avenue Historic District

---

connector. The small coursed-limestone church has a simple nave plan with its main entrance at the southeast end. Its gable roof is finished with slate tile patterned in different colors. Exterior detailing consists of tall lancet windows, alternating with stepped stone buttresses along the front and sides. The main facade is finished with a parapet gable and a projecting central entrance bay that extends up above the roofline to form a small bell tower. The interior has a low wainscot, plaster walls, and a ceiling supported by three trusses detailed with simple Gothic tracery. A small stained-glass roundel is located above the entrance doors, and the front windows have leaded panes; all others have frosted glass. The church is a fine example of Gothic Revival styling adapted to a small rural church.

Immediately to the northwest of the church and oriented at right angles to it is the Gothic Revival wood-framed parish house. Now connected to the church and the education building by a glassed passageway, the originally freestanding building has a T-plan, a cross-gable roof and weatherboard siding. The long leg of the "T" which extends toward Central Avenue has lancet windows and a polygonal bay at the street end. Gable-roofed dormers are located in the one-and-one-half story rear portion of the building above small porches (one open and one closed in) that nestle in the angles of the T. The porches are detailed with sawnwork trim, and the gable ends have bargeboards and roof-top finials.

To the north and rear of the historic buildings and connected to them is the one-and-one-half story rectangular-plan education building built in 1954. It is faced with limestone block on the front facade and brick on its sides and rear. The small lot is landscaped with large shade trees. Historic stone gate posts at Central Avenue mark an old pathway to the front entrance, non-historic stone posts flank the entrance to a parking lot.

Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church was organized in 1866; the stone church was completed in 1867. In 1870, the church property was deeded to the congregation by Charles B. Cotton, a founding church member on whose property the church was located. The wood-framed parish house, said by some to have been built as a schoolhouse, was used as a church in 1866-1867 while the stone building was being

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15 Central Avenue Historic District

constructed. Later, it served at various times as a manse and parish house.

OL-359  
C

13. The Gables. 121 Central Avenue. c. 1895. A one-and-one-half story cottage with eclectic styling, significant for its early use of a Dutch Colonial Revival gambrel roofline and for its associations with the author, Annie Fellows Johnston. The approximately square-plan, gambrel-roofed house has three prominent gable-roofed dormers across its front facade. Exterior chimneys of coursed limestone are located on the northwest side and the rear. A half-width recessed front porch has thin columns and a gable-roofed extension to the southeast which is probably an addition. The double front entrance doors are surmounted by a fanlight of rose-tinted glass in which the Latin phrase "Parva sed apta," "small but sufficient" is inscribed. The eclectic detailing is most apparent in the variety of windows. These include diamond-paned casement windows associated with English Revival style, a large Queen Anne style oriel window on the front, and a Colonial Revival style Palladian window on the southeast side. A one-story shed-roofed addition across the rear has replaced an open porch and a detached kitchen. The house has been sided in vinyl and vinyl fishscale shingles in the dormers are replacements of the wooden originals, but the house very definitely retains its historic character. Significant interior detailing in the parlor includes an inglenook with built-in wooden benches to either side of a stone fireplace and a beamed ceiling with diagonal boards arranged in a herringbone pattern. The house sits quite close to the road on a small lot landscaped with foundation shrubs, large pine trees, and a historic metal gate.

The Gables is believed to have been built about 1895 by Maria Dillingham Bakewell, a sister-in-law of the noted naturalist, John James Audubon. In 1913 it was purchased by the author Annie Fellows Johnston (1863-1931) who used it for house guests and/or as a rental property. According to local tradition, Johnston wrote Two Little Knights of Kentucky in the house while staying there with relatives in the late 1890s.

NC Barn. Gable-roofed with two shed-roofed wings, vertical board. 1970s.

NC Greenhouse. Gable-roofed. 1970s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 16 Central Avenue Historic DistrictOL-360  
C

14. The Beeches. 125 Central Avenue. 1902. A large two-and-one-half story weatherboarded house which is extremely significant as a fine example of Colonial Revival styling in Pewee Valley and Oldham County and for its associations with author, Annie Fellows Johnston. The Beeches has a modified rectangular plan with a large two-and-one-half story rear ell. Its gable roof is pierced on the front facade by two hip-roofed dormers with battered shingled sides. Gable ends are treated with shingles, recessed windows, and flared eaves. The house has four tall corbeled chimneys, two which rise from the main roofline and two which are located on the rear ell. The symmetrical yet complex front facade has a full-width, shed-roofed front porch highlighted by a central pediment. Its Tuscan columns rest on stone piers; a railing between the piers is a recent addition. The front door with its oversized sidelights is located in a shallow bay. On the second floor a slightly projecting central bay is detailed with corner pilasters and paired central windows flanked by Colonial Revival style cameo windows. Clipped corners have small square windows and are capped with eave brackets. Windows are two-over-two double hung sash with those on the second floor having Colonial Revival style geometric tracery in their upper sash. On the southeast end a second floor rectangular bay is supported by a first floor stone balcony. A recent one-story addition is nestled in the east rear corner. The interior has a large central hall with a fine classically-detailed staircase and a fireplace. Parquet floors and classical mantels are found in all the main first floor rooms.

The house is set well back from the road on extensive grounds informally landscaped with shade trees and flowering trees and shrubs. A lightly wooded area is located to the northwest of the house. Historic stone gate posts mark the driveway which loops around to the southeast side of the house and a fine example of a traditional Pewee Valley wooden fence fronts the property.

The Beeches was built in 1902 for Mary Craig Lawton, the widow of Major General Henry W. Lawton, a military hero killed in action in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Mrs. Lawton brought her children home to Pewee Valley to be near her family, who lived across Central

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 17 Central Avenue Historic District

Avenue at Edgewood. In 1912 the house was sold to Annie Fellows Johnston who lived there until her death in 1931. Johnston's step-daughter, Mary Gardner Johnston, inherited the house and lived there until her death in 1966.

NC Garage. Shed roofed with horizontal board siding. 1960s.

NC Shed. Gable roofed with weatherboard siding. 1950s.

NC Barn. Gable roofed with metal siding. 1970s.

OL-363 15. 100 Peace Lane. c. 1880. A one-story Victorian Vernacular cottage significant as Pewee Valley's most intact and most elaborate example of this house type. The original portion of this cottage is a rectangular-plan, two-room structure with weatherboard siding, a gable-on-hip roof, and a full-width front porch. The roof is detailed with wooden cresting, a central brick chimney, and, on three sides, dormer-like shed-roofed vents with scallop-edged louvers. The engaged hip-roofed porch across the front has turned posts and a spindlework frieze. Spandrels with a sunburst design are located beneath a central pediment finished with diamond-cut shingles. A low chippendale-style railing may be original. Protected by the porch are two central entrances flanked by very tall two-over-four double hung sash windows. Slightly shorter four-over-four windows light the sides. To the rear of the original structure is a c. 1900 addition with a bay window on its northeast side. Beyond this a non-historic rear addition completes the small structure. On the interior the walls and ceilings of the two original fourteen-foot-high rooms are finished with beaded tongue-and-groove boards. Each room has a fireplace with an Eastlake-styled mantel. Doors have beaded panels and are surmounted by large square transoms.

The cottage, associated with a much larger house that burned about 1900, sits on a large twenty-acre tract. Approximately twelve acres containing the house, the two extant outbuildings, and the remains of several others have been included in the district. Landscaping immediately surrounding the house consists of a driveway that loops in front of it, large shade, pine, and flowering trees, and a ground cover of ivy. The property includes both open fields and wooded land.

The large house on this property was probably built in 1856 or 1857 by William Keely (1816-1876). Keely, who in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 18 Central Avenue Historic District

1849 designed Louisville's Cathedral of the Assumption, is described in the mid-nineteenth century as one of the leading Catholic architects in the United States. Following his death in 1876 the property was sold to Kate Caldwell, wife of Isaac Caldwell (1824-1885), a Louisville lawyer. Mary C. Peace, daughter of the Caldwells, inherited the property at her father's death. She and her family lived there until the house burned about 1900, and they retained ownership of the property until 1917. The cottage is mentioned in an inventory done at the time of Caldwell's death in 1885. It is believed to have been built by the Caldwells as a guest house. According to local tradition, it was used to accommodate the young men from Louisville who attended family parties.

C Carriage house/barn. One-and-one-half story; gable roofed with one-story shed-roofed addition; board-and-batten siding. 1860s.

C Outhouse (now tool house). Board-and-batten siding with bargeboards. c. 1880.

C Springhouse/ice house. Deteriorated. Brick walls and floor of this partially below ground structure remain. The roof rotted away and has been removed. 1860s.

C Stone retaining wall. A limestone wall built against a hill with a finely crafted central arch-shaped niche that protects a spring. 1860s.

OL-580  
C 16. Genevieve and Alfred Chescheir House. 120 Peace Lane. 1923. A two-story Neoclassical style brick residence significant as the only example of the Neoclassical style in Pewee Valley and as one of the very few large houses built in Pewee Valley during the 1920s. The rectangular-plan, five-bay house has a gable roof with an exterior end chimney. Its brick veneer is laid in running bond. The front facade is dominated by a central two-story pedimented portico with Ionic columns. The main entrance has double paneled doors flanked by sidelights and surmounted by an oversized elliptical fanlight. First floor glazing on the front and sides consists of French doors capped by solid wood, round-arched fanlights. Second floor windows are six-over-one double hung sash. An original patio is located on the southeast side, to the northwest is a 1950s addition

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 19 Central Avenue Historic District

---

containing a bath, additional bedroom, screened porch, and garage. Two front dormers were removed when the roof was replaced. The house sits on a large lot informally landscaped with grass, foundation plantings, large pines, cedars, and shade trees.

It was built in 1923 for Alfred and Genevieve Ross Chescheir. The land, given to Genevieve by her mother, Gertrude A. Ross, was a portion of the adjoining family estate.

OL-362  
C

17. Twigmore. 121 Peace Lane. 1923. A very significant English Revival style stone house designed by Charles Marcus Osborne of the nationally known Boston architectural firm, Cram and Ferguson. Twigmore is the only documented architect-designed house in Pewee Valley. Its unique picturesque styling is modeled after English Cotswold cottages that the owner admired. The two-story gable-roofed house is built of locally quarried limestone. Its modified single-pile plan is asymmetrical, reflecting its interior arrangement of a large living room and a small dining room to either side of an entry-stair hall. The house is finely detailed with exterior end chimneys with irregular shoulders, diamond-paned casement windows grouped in pairs, threes and fours, specially crafted moldings and vertical board doors, a slate roof, and lead downspouts for the gutters.

Twigmore sits far back from the road on a lightly wooded lot landscaped with a heavy ivy ground cover and a wandering path that leads from a fine cast-iron gate on Central Avenue to the front entrance. A Pewee Valley style wooden fence runs along the Central Avenue front of the property. Immediately to the rear of the house are a stone patio and a formal garden walk lined with clipped shrubbery. A row of large osage orange trees runs along the property's rear line. A loop driveway at the side of the house enters the property from Peace Lane.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 20 Central Avenue Historic District

The house was built for Lillian Fletcher Brackett who came to Pewee Valley as a young woman to live with her relatives, the Edward Matthews. The noted photographer, Kate Matthews, was her aunt. Fletcher worked with her cousin, Charles Marcus Osborne, an architect for Cram and Ferguson in Boston, to design the house. After her sister's death, Miss Fletcher married her former brother-in-law, noted motion picture producer, Charles Brackett. Although she lived in Hollywood with her husband for many years, she retained the Pewee Valley house and, after his death in 1969, returned there to live. Local stone mason Charlie Miller built the house, and Alfonse Singer did the millwork and carpentry.

NC Garage. Gable-roofed; stucco with stone quoins. A slightly enlarged copy of the 1920s original. 1980s.

OL-361  
C 18. Sunnyside - Edgewood. 114 Edgewood Way. c.1858. A two-story masonry brick house important as a fine example of the Italianate style in Pewee Valley and Oldham County, as one of the earliest extant houses connected with Pewee Valley's suburban development, and as one of three nineteenth century brick houses in the community. The three-bay L-plan house has a shallow-pitched hipped roof on the front rectangular section and shallow gabled roofs on the rear ell and a later one-and-one-half story extension of the ell. Two large, low, symmetrically-placed chimneys rise from the main roof; each rear ell has an additional historic chimney. The common bond brick was painted white at some point in the past. The three-bay front facade has a nearly full-width flat-roofed front porch detailed with posts grouped in twos and threes, delicate sawnwork spandrels, and a simple stick railing. A delicate bargeboard hangs from the roofline, and a cast-iron balcony railing rises above it. The central entrance has a very tall paneled door with narrow etched-glass sidelights that is framed by a shouldered door surround. Windows are tall, narrow, six-over-six double-hung



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 21 Central Avenue Historic District

---

sash which are paired and flanked by historic louvered shutters. Large brackets under the roof's wide overhang are grouped in pairs and located at frequent intervals around the house. A one-story polygonal bay on the west side has the same bargeboard trim as the front porch and a smaller version of its cast-iron balcony railing. A rear porch repeats the bargeboard trim. The interior of the house has cast-iron mantels with their original marblizing in nearly every room. Hardwood floors were added in the 1930s. The somewhat unusual floor plan consists of a central hall flanked by a large parlor and small library. The main staircase is located behind the library at a right angle to the hall. A dining room and large rear stairhall are located in the ell.

In 1988 the house was shifted a short distance from its original site on the same property. With the exception of a new brick-faced, concrete block foundation, the move resulted in almost no structural changes to the house. Even the chimneys and the original stone steps leading to the front and one of the back entrances were moved with it. With the exception of changes made to the kitchen, the house has not been altered since the move. Its present one-acre grassed lot has no landscaping.

Sunnyside-Edgewood was built, probably in 1858 and definitely by 1861, for Walter N. Haldeman (1821-1902), a major force in Louisville politics and journalism from the 1840s until his death. In 1868 Haldeman established the Louisville Courier-Journal. Haldeman, a vocal Southern sympathizer during the Civil War, was forced to flee south. Sunnyside was confiscated by Union troops. Sold at auction in 1864, it became the home of the Alexander Craig family who lived there into the 1920s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Central Avenue Historic DistrictStatement of Significance

The Central Avenue Historic District contains historic residential, commercial, and religious properties that together provide an excellent picture of Pewee Valley's suburban development from the 1851 arrival of the railroad through the 1920s. The district helps to document Pewee Valley's important and unusual role in Oldham County and Jefferson County history as an upper-class railroad-oriented suburban community. The district is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Listing entitled "The Historic Resources of Pewee Valley." The district meets National Register Criteria A, B, C, and Criterion Consideration B. Its eligibility under Criterion A relates to its importance as a good example of an early railroad-served suburban development. This area of significance was selected for the district based on the historic context "Suburban Development in Pewee Valley, 1851-1935" developed for the Pewee Valley MPL. Both property types identified for this context, Residential buildings and Commercial buildings are well represented in the district. It meets National Register Criterion B for its association with Annie Fellows Johnston (1863-1931), a nationally-noted author of children's books who is connected with two houses in the district. Its eligibility under Criterion C is supported in terms of architecture by its significance as spelled out for both property types in the MPL. The district provides a few good examples of the typical residential and commercial building associated with Oldham County during the 1880s through the 1920s. More importantly, it documents the fine relatively high style Gothic Revival, Italianate, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, and English Revival style residences built in Pewee Valley between 1851 and the 1930s. Because of the outstanding architectural significance of Sunnyside-Edgewood, the c. 1858 Italianate house moved on its lot within the district, it is believed that the district is also eligible under Criterion Consideration B.

## SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

Central Avenue, more than any other area in Pewee Valley, documents Pewee Valley's growth as a suburban

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Central Avenue Historic District

---

community. Excellent examples of residential and commercial buildings that span almost the entire period of railroad-related development from 1851 to 1935 are included in the district. Woodside (#6), the c. 1857 estate built by Thomas and Nanette Smith, is the earliest remaining intact example of the group of country houses built in Pewee Valley before the Civil War. This substantial house, situated far from the road on an informally landscaped five-acre lot with a winding drive that loops in front of the house, typifies country estates that developed in Pewee Valley in direct response to the location there of the railroad. Thomas Smith, a wealthy ex-newspaper man from Lexington was a member of the original group of influential people who settled in Pewee Valley and established its early character.

The busy post-Civil War building period in the town is documented in the district by the Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church (#12) and the Woodruff-Foley Store (#3). The church was established in 1866 and included many who figure prominently in the town's history among its founding members. The stone construction and Gothic Revival design of the fine 1867 church attest to the wealth and prosperity of its members. Its presence among the residential properties in the district illustrates what an integral role Pewee Valley's churches played in its development as a residential suburb.

The c. 1880 Woodruff-Foley store is the first of a small group of commercial buildings that grew up around the railroad depot at Central Avenue and LaGrange Road. This store building, the W. N. Jurey store (#4), built in 1912, the 1910 Pewee Valley State Bank (#2) and the old post office (#5), all located in the district, document the small but essential role played by commerce in the town's suburban history. Pewee Valley, closely tied to Louisville by the railroad and, after 1901, by the interurban, relied on the city for all but its most immediate daily needs. The few historic enterprises in town, many represented by the buildings in the district, were general stores, blacksmith shops, and later, a garage and bank. Their location at the heart of the community near the now-demolished railroad station and adjacent to fine residences along Central Avenue illustrates the integral role they played in the community's history.

The later residential buildings in the district, dating from the 1890s to the 1920s, provide examples of the country

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Central Avenue Historic District

estates that continued to appear in Pewee Valley during the early twentieth century and also the smaller plainer houses that grew up alongside them for the families of the local merchants, tradesmen, and railroad workers. The two intact small cottages at 105 and 111 Central Avenue (#8 and #11) are examples of the latter group. The J. J. Foley House (#1), although displaying more sophisticated design than most occupied by Pewee Valley's workers, was built by the prosperous owner of the Woodruff-Foley store.

The Beeches (#14), Bernersyde (#7), the Genevieve and Alfred Chesheir House (#16), and Twigmore (#17) are important examples of the fairly well-styled houses on large informally landscaped properties that continued to be built in the community in the early twentieth century, continuing Pewee Valley's slow development after the 1901 arrival of the interurban. The original owners of three of these houses illustrate the many connections between families and friends that have always played a role in the town's development. The Beeches was built by Mrs. Charles Lawton, the widow of a war hero, so she could be close to her family who lived across Central Avenue at Sunnyside-Edgewood. The Chesheir House was built on land given to Genevieve Ross Chesheir by her mother, Gertrude Ross who lived next door at the Van Horne-Ross House. Lillian Fletcher Brackett, first owner of Twigmore, was a niece of the photographer, Kate Matthews.

The random development of the properties in the district on lots that range from less than half an acre to over twenty represents a type of incremental unplanned development typical of many historic areas that grew up over a long period of time without an original plat to guide that development. The present properties in the Central Avenue district, like many in Pewee Valley, are the product of individual land transactions in which a few very large original parcels were, over the years, divided up among family members, reduced in size by the gradual sale of small portions of the original, or totally subdivided for development.

The Central Avenue Historic District is the most intact historic area of Pewee Valley. It is the only district in Pewee Valley to contain representative examples of building types that illustrate the role that residential, commercial and religious properties played in the development of the community as a railroad suburb.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Central Avenue Historic Distri

## LITERATURE

In terms of literature, the district is significant for its associations with Annie Fellows Johnston (1863-1931), a nationally noted author of books for children. Johnston, who was born in Evansville, Indiana, began writing for children's magazines in early adulthood. Following the death of her husband in 1892 she wrote her first full-length book. About 1894 or 1895, she came to Pewee Valley and was inspired by the people she met there and the picturesque setting she found there to write the first of her famous Little Colonel books. Enthusiastic response to the first book, The Little Colonel, led to the eventual completion of fifteen titles in the series. Characters in the books were modeled on her Pewee Valley friends and the setting of many of the books was Pewee Valley, thinly veiled as "Lloydsboro Valley." The books were widely distributed here and abroad and were popular with three generations of children. In 1935 the stories were adapted for a highly successful Shirley Temple movie, "The Little Colonel."

Johnston lived and traveled extensively in the south and southwest during most of the years she worked on the Little Colonel stories. In 1912, after the death of two of her three stepchildren, she returned permanently to Pewee Valley and purchased both The Beeches (#14), where she lived until her death, and The Gables (#13) where she had stayed when first in Pewee Valley in the 1890s. These two houses provide the most important remaining association with Annie Fellows Johnston. According to local tradition, Johnston wrote The Two Little Knights of Kentucky while staying at The Gables. At the Beeches, where she lived until her death in 1931, she wrote her final autobiographical book, The Land of the Little Colonel.

## ARCHITECTURE

The Central Avenue Historic District is architecturally significant for its fine collection of residential buildings that provides excellent examples in Pewee Valley and Oldham County of some of the important styles that emerged

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Central Avenue Historic District

nationally from the 1850s to the 1920s. In addition, they documented the types of buildings associated with Pewee Valley's country estates. The Gothic Revival is represented by the Presbyterian manse/parish house (#12) with its lancet windows and sharply pitched gable roof trimmed with bargeboards and finials. The church itself, with its lancet windows, stepped buttresses, arched front entrance, and interior trusses, is also a fine example of the style adapted for a small religious building. Woodside, the earliest extant country estate in Pewee Valley, is also designed with Gothic Revival references in its three steeply pitched gable-roofed front wall dormers.

A number of important Early Twentieth Century Revival style houses are located in the district. The Gables (#13), built c. 1895, is a picturesque and well-articulated cottage that relates to a number of revival styles. Its gambrel roof is an early reference to the Dutch Colonial Revival style. Its oriel, Palladian, and diamond paned casement windows relate respectively to the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles. The Beeches (#14), dating from 1902, is a fine relatively high style example of a Colonial Revival house. Although to date its architect has not been identified, it, no doubt, was designed by a qualified professional. Its symmetrical massing and its overall styling that includes a pedimented porch, and a central projecting bay detailed with cameo windows and pilasters are unusually sophisticated for a small Kentucky town. 1907 Bernersyde (#7), although more eclectic in character than the Beeches, is also a good example of Colonial Revival styling. The 1923 Neoclassical Revival Chesheir House (#16) with its brick-veneered finish and monumental two-story pedimented portico is another well-designed Revival style house. Twigmore (#17), designed by Charles Marcus Osborne of Cram and Ferguson in Boston, is one of the most unusual houses in Oldham County. Built in 1923, it is an English Revival style house whose design source is the stone cottages of the English Cotswold Hills. It is the only residence in Pewee Valley associated with an architect and one of the few in the Louisville area associated with such a prestigious nationally-noted firm.

Sunnyside-Edgewood (#18), Pewee Valley's finest high style Italianate style house and one of only three masonry brick residences in town, is included in the district despite

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6 Central Avenue Historic District

---

the fact that it has been moved. The house built c. 1858-1861 is one of the four or five most architecturally significant houses in Pewee Valley. It and Woodside are the only intact residences that document the styles and types of houses built in Pewee Valley after the railroad arrived and before the Civil War. It is a fine Italianate house with a symmetrically laid out front facade with a shallow-pitched hipped roof, bold roofline brackets and a nearly full-width front porch, topped by an original cast-iron balustrade. Its interior is remarkably intact, retaining nearly all its original plaster, its fine molding and its cast-iron mantels with their original marbleizing. Except for its new brick-faced concrete foundation, it survived the move completely intact. Even original chimneys and stone entrance steps are still in place.

Because it is located on a portion of its original property and because that property is still contiguous with another property in the district, it was determined to include it in the Central Avenue district rather than listing it individually. This large imposing house is still a strong presence in the Central Avenue vicinity.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2 Central Avenue Historic District

---

Boundary Justification

The district encompasses the contiguous intact historic properties along Central Avenue, Mt. Mercy Drive, and Peace Lane. The district boundaries are determined by concentrations of non-historic properties that surround the district on all sides. A 1950s school, two modern subdivisions, and small groups of non-historic houses surround the district on the southwest, the northeast, and the southwest. On the southeast, the railroad and non-historic commercial properties along La Grange Road determine the district's boundary.

In order to document the historically varying lot sizes in the Central Avenue Historic District and the importance of the landscaped grounds associated with the larger properties, the entire acreage associated with each house is included within the boundaries in nearly all cases. Because the main house at 100 Peace Lane is no longer standing, only the twelve acres containing the guest house and the other outbuildings is included with the district.



Central Avenue Historic District  
Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Kentucky

SKETCH MAP

Source: Oldham Co. Tax Maps

North: ↖

Scale: 0' ————— 200'

Contributing Buildings: □

Non-contributing Buildings: ⊠

Vacant Lots: ∇

National Register Inventory Number: 2.

Photo Number and  
Direction of View: ○



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1 Central Avenue Historic District

---

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Central Avenue Historic District
2. Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Kentucky
3. Photographer: Carolyn Brooks
4. Date: March, 1989
5. Negatives on file with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky

(The above information is the same for all 13 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. James Foley House, 212 Mt. Mercy Drive (#1); photographer facing northwest.
2. Corner of Mt. Mercy Drive and Central Avenue. Pewee Valley State Bank (#2), left; Woodruff-Foley Store (#3), center: W.N. Jure's General Store (#4), right; photographer facing north.
3. Old post office, 106 Central Avenue (#5); photographer facing west.
4. Woodside, 110 Central Avenue (#6); photographer facing southwest.
5. Bernersyde, 114 Central Avenue (#7); photographer facing west.
6. Sunnyside-Edgewood, 114 Edgewood Way (#18); photographer facing northwest.
7. Twigmore, 121 Peace Lane (#17); photographer facing southwest.
8. 100 Peace Lane (#15); photographer facing northwest.
9. Genevieve and Alfred Chesheir House, 120 Peace Lane (#16); photographer facing west.
10. Central Avenue near intersection with Peace Lane; photographer facing southeast.
11. The Beeches, 125 Central Avenue (#14); photographer facing northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 2 Central Avenue Historic District

---

Photographs - continued

12. Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church, 119 Central Avenue (#12);  
photographer facing north.
13. Northeast side of Central Avenue, 105 Central Avenue (#8) on right;  
photographer facing northwest.