

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only

received SEP 27 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic Wesley, Roberts, Houses

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 113-115 North Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Cynthiana _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Kentucky code 021 county Harrison code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jerry Casey

street & number 113 North Main Street

city, town Cynthiana _____ vicinity of _____ state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harrison County Courthouse

street & number South Main Street

city, town Cynthiana _____ state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Fall 1981 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort _____ state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wesley Roberts Houses, situated at the northern end of Main Street, represent the best examples of vernacular townhouse architecture constructed in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century in the then young town of Cynthiana.

Both are two-story, double-pile brick buildings with two-story frame ells and exhibiting three-bay facades with side entrances. Flemish bond brick work enhances the facades of both houses with the remainder done in common bond brick work with rows of headers every five or eleven rows. Gabled roofs with dual stack interior gable-ended chimneys with one 6/6 pane gable window on No. 113 and one 1/2 pane gable window on No. 115.

No. 115 features an ornate "frontispiece" consisting of a triangular dentilled pediment with a five-pane fanlight window completed by shouldered architecture doortrim. 6/6 pane straight-headed windows with limestone lintels and sills pierce the first floor, while 4/4 rectangular windows accented by limestone lintels and sills puncture the second floor facade. The facade is further accentuated by a three-brick row table course and two-story frame pilasters. The townhouse is completed by a modillioned boxed cornice, and an asbestos shingle roof with a shed dormer of three 2/2/2 pane windows.

No. 113 exhibits a plainer entranceway, set off by a limestone lintel. 6/6 pane straight-headed windows with limestone lintels and sills pierce the first floor, while four 6/6 pane windows with wooden pegged frames and jackarches delineate the second floor facade as opposed to the three-bay upper floor facade of No. 115. A three brick row table course also enhances the facade of this building. A boxed cornice with returns and a tin roof complete the townhouse.

Both houses have the same interior floor plans with open two-run stairways. No. 115 exhibits more ornate interior embellishments such as an elliptical pedimented arched opening and fluted door and window trim, while No. 113 has plain door and window trim.

The townhouses are in a very good state of repair, and are structurally unaltered.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1815–1825 **Builder/Architect** —

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wesley Roberts Houses, built ca. 1815–1825, are significant for their historical associations with the development of Cynthiana, located in the north central section of the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. The dwellings are architecturally important as the best examples of vernacular townhouses common to this area, and are significant for the excellence of their construction and detailing.

Wesley Roberts was one of the early settlers of the community, and several deeds show that he acquired considerable property in Cynthiana. From various deeds, it can be surmised that the two buildings were constructed in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century.

The houses are situated at the northern end of Main Street, known as the Cynthiana-Falmouth Pike, which is the major northerly road in the county.

In 1882, No. 115 was acquired by Dr. Henry McDowell, a practicing physician in Cynthiana since 1858. The first floor of the building served as his office, while the upper level was living quarters for his family. Dr. McDowell was active in community affairs, and served as President of the Board of Trustees for the Cynthiana City School. In 1885, he was a member of the school board.

Architecturally, the houses are similar to townhouses constructed in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century in Lexington, thirty-three miles to the south; Georgetown, twenty-one miles to the southwest; Millersburg, twelve miles to the east; and Paris, fifteen miles to the south. All are located in the central bluegrass region of Kentucky, blessed with some of the most fertile land in the state, and the first settlement areas in the Commonwealth.

The present owner is currently sympathetically restoring the townhouses. One of the buildings will be his family's home, while the other will be used for apartments.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beers, D.G., Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Harrison, Fayette, Jessamine & Woodford Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D.G. Beers & Co., 1877.

Collins, Lewis. Historical Sketches of Kentucky. Maysville, Ky. Lewis Collins, 1847.
Harrison County Deed Book II.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Cynthiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	7	3	6	0	3	0	4	2	5	2	4	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The buildings are situated with no set back on No. Main St. with a street frontage of 77 ft., and extend westward for 145 ft. A Standard Oil Service Station is located on the north side of the houses, and a ca. 1950, two-story brick house on the south side.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Gus Johnson, Architectural Historian

organization Harrison County Heritage Commission date May 1982

street & number Box 366 telephone (606) 234-3641

city or town Cynthiana state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Joann Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Sept. 17, 1982

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

James H. Boyd
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/10/82

Attest: Patrick Andrews
Chief of Registration

date 11/8/82

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

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Continuation sheet Wesley Roberts House
Cynthiana, Kentucky Item number 9 Page 2

Lipscomb, Alexander B. The Commercial History of the Southern States. Louisville:
Press of John P. Norton and Company, 1903.

Perrin, William H. History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky.
Chicago: O. L. Baskin and Company, 1887.