

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 5 1985  
date entered AUG - 1 1985See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Owingsville Commercial District and Courthouse Square, Expanded

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 122 East Main Street

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Owingsville \_\_\_ vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Bath code

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	NA being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Betty Butcher Bailey

street &amp; number P.O. Box 291

city, town Salt Lick \_\_\_ vicinity of state Ky. 40371

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bath County Court House

street &amp; number Main Street

city, town Owingsville, state Ky. 40360

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes ☒ nodate 1985 \_\_\_ federal ☒ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building is adjacent to and facing the east and south sides of the Owingsville Commercial District and Court House Square. The original building was a two story log structure 20' x 20' facing Johnson or what is now Henry Street. The original front door is near the center of the broad side of the building.<sup>1</sup> A six foot hand carved mantel and the original stairway in the log section remain in excellent condition. Three interior red brick chimneys and four fire places need repair. The middle chimney was originally built as an exterior chimney. The front chimney bricks are corbelled. Prior to 1880 additional rooms and porches were added to the south and east sides which gave the building the appearance of fronting on Main Street.<sup>2</sup> A later addition around 1900 connected the house with a shed or summer kitchen, added four rooms, and enclosed two side porches.<sup>3</sup>

The rectangular house approximately 80' x 30' is of wood construction with a gabled roof, and decorative Italianate brackets along the cornice of the gable on all but the west side of the building. The front porch has a more decorated cornice with dentil molding, different style brackets and six round wooden columns. The porch ceiling is of pressed tin and the foundation is of a concrete nature while the rest of the house has stone. The porch railing has surface mounted decorative wood pieces cut to form scales. The present front door leading from the porch has scroll work on a wooden panel beneath the glass and is framed by side lites and a glass transom.

The interior retains the original appearance except the logs have been plastered over. Most of the windows are one over one, double hung windows. The upstairs windows to the right of the original front door appear to have been the original windows and are two over two double hung windows. Windows in the attached shed are also two over two with vertical muttons. The east side of the house has a large bay window in the room where the dentist office was located.

The building has a stone basement under the original section of the house. The south side of the house, which is three bays wide sets back about three feet from the sidewalk but the west side of the house facing Water Street is flush with the sidewalk. The long narrow building is very similar in shape and size to ones in the historic district to the west, although is older than most of them since, many were destroyed by the three major fires in the business district in the late 1800's. A nondescript rough shed 20' x 24' is located behind the house facing Henry Street.

1. See photo 1
2. See photo 2
3. See photo 3

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** C. 1815, 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Recent research has revealed that the Johnson-O'Connor Building located at 122 East Main Street in Owingsville has historically played a vital and integral role in the commercial life of Owingsville. Due to its appearance as a domestic building, this site was omitted from the boundary of the National Register Nomination for the Owingsville Commercial District & Courthouse Square which was listed on November 20, 1978. Due to the varied but continuous use of this building for commercial purposes during the 19th century, it should be included in the adjacent district.

The growth and development of Owingsville's business core both architecturally and commercially are reflected in this unit. The original structure built prior to 1826 is among the oldest homes in Owingsville, and was built at a time when "the early homes were mostly of wood built out of hewed logs and painted with lime".<sup>1</sup> The property was sold by the Sheriff in 1826 to settle an account against the estate of Colonel Thomas Deye Owings, founder of Owingsville.<sup>2</sup> The original structure faced Henry Street, but later additions changed the front of the house to face Main Street. The house has been used predominantly as both a residence and an office or store by its occupants, a practice which was not uncommon in the earlier days of Owingsville.<sup>3</sup> James M Johnson, having served as "an apprentice to learn the trade and mysteries of hatting" occupied the house (1831-1855) and presumably sold his hats there.<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Mary J. Connor resided in the house from 1858 to 1905 and in 1878 started her own millenary business there.<sup>5</sup> Her husband, Colonel George W. Connor served with distinction as Captain of a company in the Confederate Army from 1861-1865. In 1869, Colonel Connor was elected to the State Senate as a Democrat from the Bath- Bourbon- Clark- Montgomery District, serving four years.<sup>6</sup> In 1905 the Connors's son, Dr. George W. Connor, a dentist, acquired the house and moved his office there until 1938. Rev. R. L. Bailey, a prominent minister lived in the house from 1938 until it was sold to Bryan Butcher in 1951. Mr. Butcher used the house as a residence and a base for extensive business operations including the buying of fur, gingseng, roots and herbs, black walnuts, and selling of antiques and country hams (1951-1982).<sup>7</sup> This house has been very much a part of the business and commercial activity of Owingsville. Two other residences are presently included within the district, the residence of Thomas Shrout (site 4) and the Owings House (site 2).

<sup>1</sup>V. B. Young, Outline History of Bath County, p.14.

<sup>2</sup>Bath County Clerk's Office, Deed Book F, p. 59.

<sup>3</sup>Bath County Reporter, February 28, 1878.

<sup>4</sup>Bath County Clerk's Office, Deed Book D, p.112; F,p,59;H,p.342.

<sup>5</sup>Bath County Clerk's Office, Deed Book V, p. 13; Book 33, p.104.

<sup>6</sup>J. A. Richards, History of Bath County, p519-521.

<sup>7</sup>Bath County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 98,p.36.

<sup>8</sup>Bath County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 111, p.521.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

An Atlas of Bath and Fleming Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake  
Bath County Memories 1811-1974.

(continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .15

Quadrangle name Owingsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated area is a 35' X 120' lot located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and Henry Streets. The district was not expanded further to the north or east because adjacent properties have been used for residential purposes throughout their history.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Betty B. Bailey, owner

organization

date March 30, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 291

telephone 683-5301

city or town Salt Lick,

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*David L. Meyer*

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date 6/25/85

For NPS use only

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

*Helene Bryan*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 8-1-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Owingsville Commercial District & Courthouse Square, Expanded  
Continuation sheet Bath County, Kentucky Item number 8

Page 2

The expanded unit was originally included in the layout of Owingsville business district as shown by Map 1 and is designated as Lot No. 6.

Mrs. Mildred Wonn remembers purchasing a hat in the building in around 1924 and that there was a dentist office also in the building at that time.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)**

Page 2

Collins, Lewis and Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky, Vol. 11. Berea: Kentucke Imprints, 1974 (originally published 1874), p.46.

Connelley, William E. & Coulter, E.M., History of Kentucky, Vol. 11. Chicago & New York: American Historical Society, 1922, p. 745.

Garr, Elisabeth. History of Kentucky Courthouses. National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Kentucky, 1966.

Haynes, Paul. "The North Carolina Courthouse Square." Carolina Dwelling. Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 1978, pp. 172-184.

Kilpatrick, Lewis H. "Historic Owingsville." The Kentucky Magazine (1916-1918), pp.316-323.

Richards, J. A., History of Bath County. By the Author, 1961, pp. 56, 89.

Torma, Carolyn. "Typology of Kentucky Towns." Unpublished paper, Kentucky Heritage Commission, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1978.

Young, V. B., An Outline History of Bath County. Published by Mrs. Kathleen B. McNabb, 1946, p. 12.

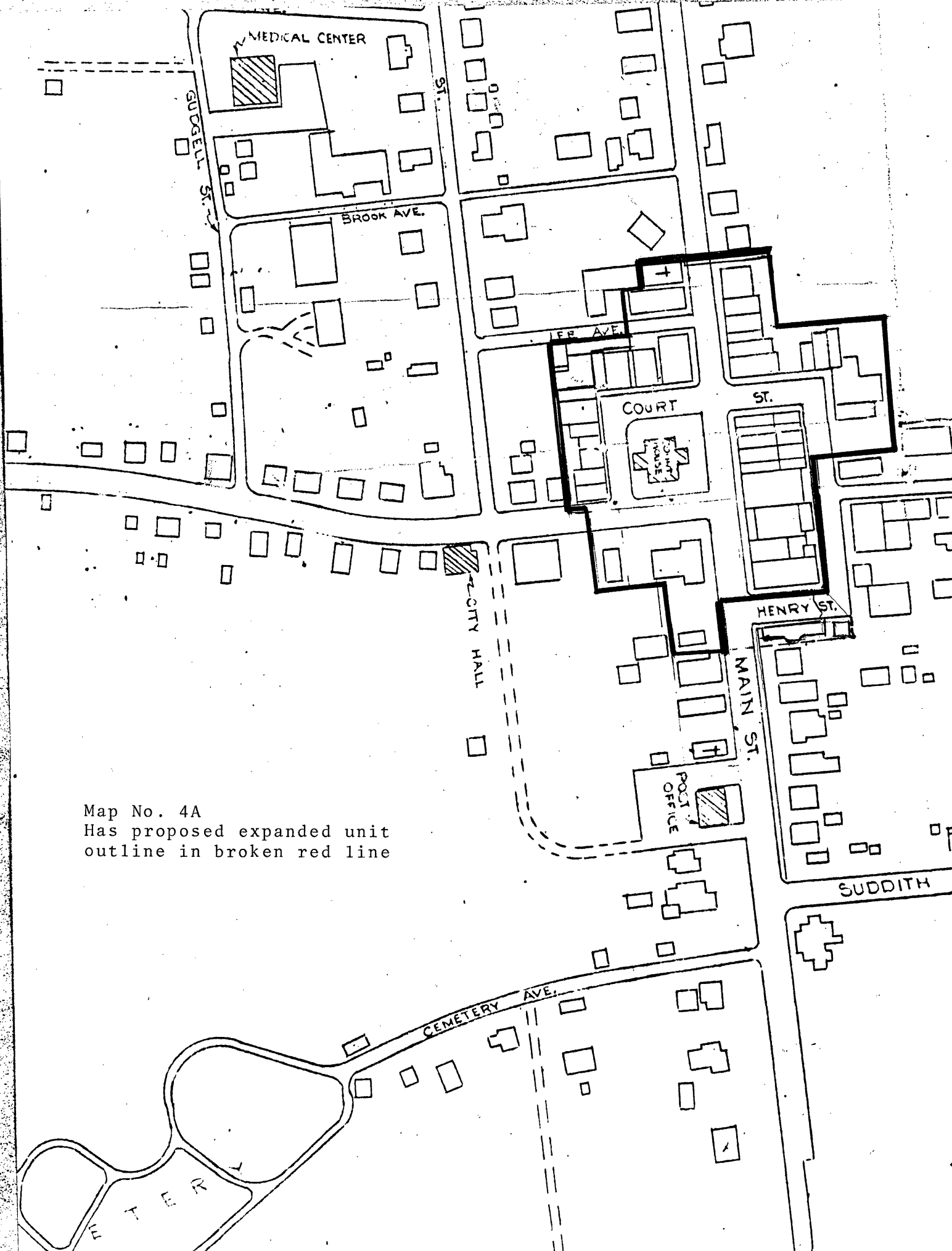
Material submitted by Mr. Richard Brother, Frankfort; Mrs. Mildred Wonn, Owingsville, 1977.

Additional sources used by Betty Butcher Bailey:

Newspaper, Bath County Reporter published Owingsville Kentucky in Feb. 21, 1878.

**Documents:**

Bath County Clerk's Office Deed Book D  
Bath County Clerk's Office Deed Book F  
Bath County Clerk's Office Deed Book G  
Bath County Clerk's Office Deed Book V  
Bath County Clerk's Office Deed Book 98  
Bath County Clerk's Office Deed Book 111



Map No. 4A  
Has proposed expanded unit  
outline in broken red line

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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and/or common

## 2. Location

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\_\_\_ not for publication

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state Kentucky code county Bath code

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<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
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		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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name Betty Butcher Bailey

street &amp; number P.O. Box 291

city, town Salt Lick \_\_\_ vicinity of state Ky. 40371

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bath County Court House

street &amp; number Main Street

city, town Owingsville, state Ky. 40360

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes ☒ nodate 1985 \_\_\_ federal ☒ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

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☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

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☒ altered

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☒ original site  
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1. See photo 1
2. See photo 2
3. See photo 3

## 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
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** C. 1815, 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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(continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .15

Quadrangle name Owingsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated area is a 35' X 120' lot located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and Henry Streets. The district was not expanded further to the north or east because adjacent properties have been used for residential purposes throughout their history.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Betty B. Bailey, owner

organization

date March 30, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 291

telephone 683-5301

city or town Salt Lick,

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*David L. Meyer*

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date 6/25/85

For NPS use only

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

*Helene Bryan*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 8-1-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

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received

date entered

Owingsville Commercial District & Courthouse Square, Expanded  
Continuation sheet Bath County, Kentucky Item number 8

Page 2

The expanded unit was originally included in the layout of Owingsville business district as shown by Map 1 and is designated as Lot No. 6.

Mrs. Mildred Wonn remembers purchasing a hat in the building in around 1924 and that there was a dentist office also in the building at that time.

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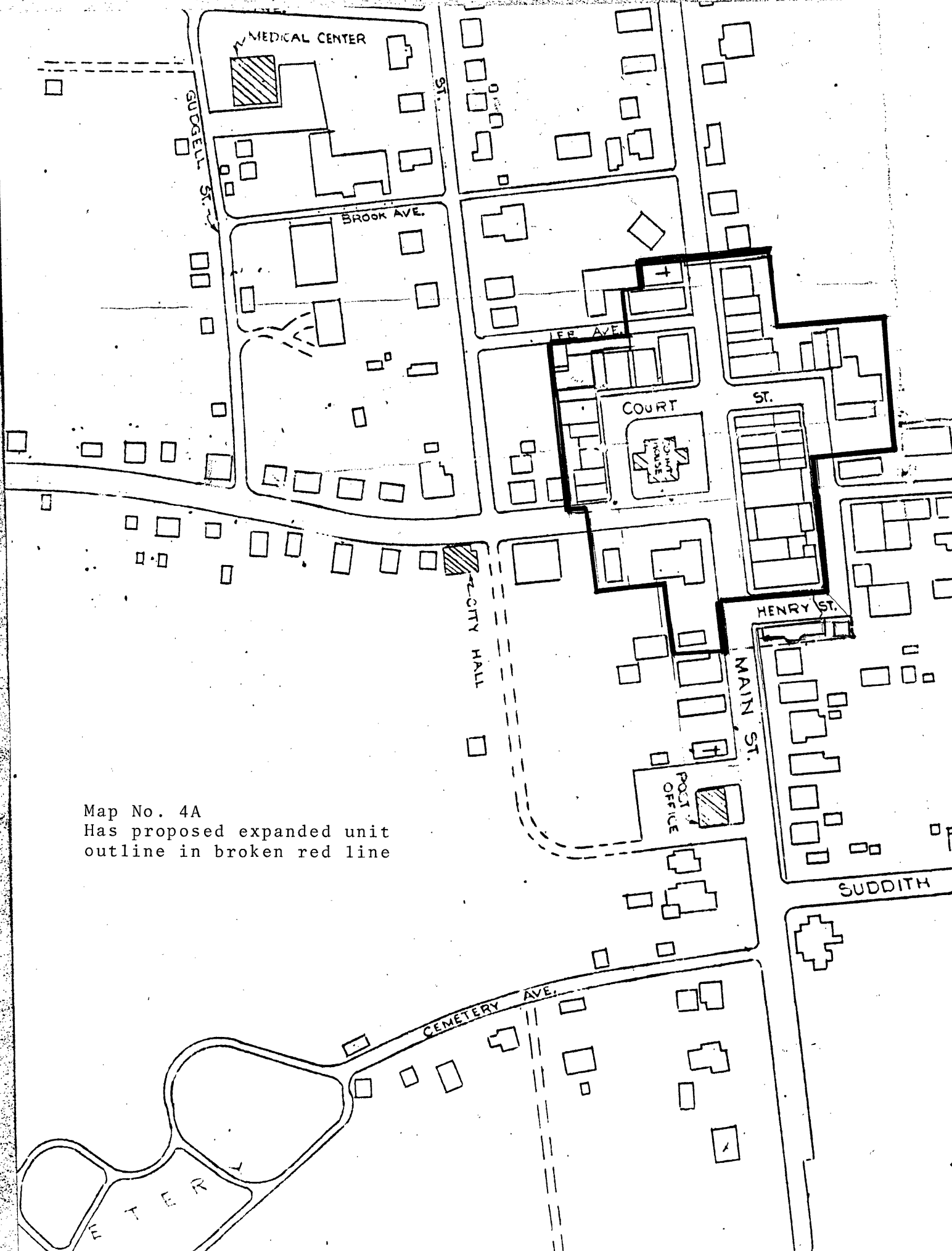
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Additional sources used by Betty Butcher Bailey:

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**Documents:**

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Bath County Clerk's Office Deed Book 111



Map No. 4A  
Has proposed expanded unit  
outline in broken red line