Harvey's Hill Historic District

Description

Location: 400-500 blocks of N. Main Street, Somerset, Kentucky

Owner: Multiple

Classification: District

The Harvey's Hill Historic District is located along the 400 and 500 blocks of North Main Street in Somerset, Kentucky. The district is located on a hill two blocks from the downtown commercial area. The homes are located on large lots and are oriented towards Main Street. Boundaries of the district are defined by residential and commercial buildings on all sides. The majority of structures in the district are residential properties although several homes also contain small businesses or apartments.

The district is composed of thirty homes, twenty-six of which contribute to the character of the district. Within the boundaries are also two wooded vacant lots. The district is composed of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Bungalow style homes constructed in the early 20th century. Few intrusions exist in the district and it has retained its original feeling of time and place. The district is the largest concentration of historic residential architecture in Somerset.

Acreage: approx. 19 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: The Harvey's Hill Historic District encompasses property designated as lots 2 through 14 on block 4, lots 20 through 31 on block 5, lots 3 through 5 on block 12 and lots 1, 8, 9 and 10 on block 14 as shown on Somerset tax maps. The district includes all of the buildings facing Main Street in the 400 and 500 blocks. Intrusions on the southern and northern boundaries help define the district.

UTM References: A. 16/712480/4108360 B. 16/712551/4108405 C. 16/712600/4107970 D. 16/712658/4108002
Harvey's Hill Historic District - Individual Property Descriptions

Properties Contributing to the Character of the District:

1. 401 N. Main Street: ca. 1920, one-and-one-half-story Bungalow with a brick porch and frame exterior covered with aluminum siding. The house has a central extended dormer window, exposed eave rafters and an extended bay window on the south facade. The doorway has multi-light sidelights and the windows are one-over-one sash.

2. 403 N. Main Street: Built ca. 1900, this two-story home was constructed in the Colonial Revival style. It has a clapboard exterior and four-over-four sash windows with shutters. On the first floor is a one-story elliptical porch with rectangular columns and engaged Doric pilasters. At the rear (east) facade is a one-story ell addition.

3. 405 N. Main Street: This large two-story frame house was constructed ca. 1900. Original features include one-over-one sash windows, a decorative leaded glass window on the first floor, and a gable dormer vent window. Recent alterations to the structure include an added aluminum veneer to the exterior and a new front porch and metal columns. A one-story addition has also been added on the south facade.

4. 407 N. Main Street: ca. 1925, one-story brick house in the vernacular English cottage design. It has an extended porch with brick piers on the main facade. The windows are six-over-six sash and the main entrance has a multi-light paneled door. Vertical framing adds a decorative feature in the gable field.

5. 501 N. Main Street: This house's interesting design was adapted from Chicago architect Charles Radford's mail order design book. Constructed ca. 1905 this house combines features of the Classic Revival and Queen Anne styles. It is a one-and-one-half story frame house with a square tower, conical roof and finial. The extended one story porch has carved turnposts and brackets under the eaves. The sidelights and transom of the entrance feature diamond paneled lights. Windows are one-over-one sash and a decorative Palladian window is in the gable field. Beneath the eaves are fan brackets and pendants and the roof still displays the original pressed metal shingles.

6. 503 N. Main Street: ca. 1915, two-story brick Colonial Revival style house. This house has eight-over-eight sash windows with brick soldier coursing over the window heads. The main feature of the facade is the Adamesque doorway with a large leaded glass fanlight transom and sidelights. On the south elevation is a one-story frame porch with Doric columns.

7. 505 N. Main Street: Built in the Georgian Revival style, this two-story brick
structure was constructed ca. 1920. Its features include a hipped roof, rectangular plan and one-story frame porch on the south facade. The windows are eight-over-eight sash with concrete lintels and sills. The main entrance displays a fanlight and the porch has Ionic columns. Beneath the eaves is decorative molding and modillion blocks.

8. Vacant lot.

9. 507 N. Main Street: This one-and-one-half-story vernacular design structure was built in 1911 and has a brick veneer and hipped roof. The house was built by Edgar Murrell who served as president of the Farmer's National Bank from 1906 to 1929. The first story displays a large frame porch supported by paired Tuscan columns and the entrance has a leaded glass transom. On the half story are large gable dormers on each elevation with one-over-one sash windows and eave returns.

10. 511 N. Main Street: This home was built in 1921 and is a one-and-one-half-story brick Bungalow with a one-story porch. The porch rests on brick piers and displays exposed rafters beneath the eaves. Windows on the house are either one-over-one or nine-over-one sash with soldier coursing and concrete corner blocks. On the half story is a shed roof dormer with four nine-over-one sash windows. The south facade features a rectangular bay window.

11. 515 N. Main Street: ca. 1890, two-story frame Queen Anne style house with a gable roof. The main feature is the projecting central bay with eight-over-eight sash windows. Other windows on the facade are four-over-four sash. The door on the main facade has a decorative pent roof and the major roofline of the structure retains the original pressed metal shingles.

12. 519 N. Main Street: Constructed ca. 1920, this one-story cottage design is built of frame with a stucco exterior. It features a gable roof, recessed porch and one-over-one sash windows. The main entrance displays a multi-light paneled door.

13. 521 N. Main Street: One-story frame house constructed ca. 1900. The house has been covered with aluminum siding and a porch was added ca. 1940. The original one-over-one sash windows remain and the gable field has a decorative vent window.

15. 525 N. Main Street: The Hines House was built in 1929 in the Bungalow style and features an exterior wall surface of rubble and mortar. This texture is unusual in Somerset and a rear addition built in 1968 was constructed using similar materials. The house displays an extended porch with battered piers, large eave brackets and exposed rafters. The house has multi-light sash windows and sidelights by the main entrance.
16. 527 N. Main Street: Constructed in 1890, the house was built by Judge James Denton and has been used as a residence, tourist home and apartments. This two-story ell shaped frame house has features of the Colonial Revival style. The prominent one-story porch has square columns with dentils under the eaves. Windows are both one-over-one and two-over-two sash with flat wooden heads. At the eaves of the house is bargeboard and drop pendants.

17. 526 N. Main Street: Constructed ca. 1900, this two-story frame house was built in the Colonial Revival style. The large porch displays Doric columns. The exterior frame has been covered with aluminum siding. In the gable fields of the upper facade are fish scale shingling and bargeboard. On the main facade is a diamond shaped decorative window.

18. 524 N. Main Street: This house was originally built by Somerset Attorney James Cook in 1897. This one-story frame house still displays the original frame siding, hipped roof dormer window and porch with rectangular columns. The windows have been altered with the addition of nine-over-nine sash.

20. 520 N. Main Street: The William-Rogers house was built ca. 1900 and is a large two-story frame Queen Anne style with classical details. The one-story porch displays Doric columns. A two-story extended bay is also present on the main facade. The house has one-over-one sash windows.

21. 518 N. Main Street: This one-story frame Princess Anne cottage was built ca. 1900 and features a bay window on the east facade. The frame exterior has been covered with aluminum siding. The house has one-over-one sash windows and a decorative leaded glass transom on the main facade. The one story porch has square porch posts.

23. 514 N. Main Street: This two-story frame Colonial Revival residence was constructed in 1900 by John Sherman Cooper. His son, U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper Jr. was born in this house in 1901. It has a clapboard exterior with an extended bay projection on the south facade with a conical roof. The porch is supported by brick and frame piers. The doors displays transoms and the windows are one-over-one sash. The roof features its original pressed metal shingles.

24. 512 N. Main Street: The Harvey House is one of the earliest homes related to the Harvey's Hill district. Built in 1900 by Dr. William Harvey, the house is a good example of the Queen Anne style. It is a two-story brick home with a one-story wraparound frame porch with Ionic columns and terra cotta capitals. An extended pediment on the porch is over the main entrance. On the south facade is a corner tower with a conical roof. Windows are one-over-one sash with several displaying leaded glass decoration. All windows have rusticated...
limestone sills and flaired jack arching. In the gable field on the east facade is a decorative vent window with a keystone. The house's original slate roof also remains intact.

25. 510 N. Main Street: The Cooper House was built by John Sherman Cooper Sr. in 1909 in the Colonial Revival style. Cooper was a leading citizen of Somerset serving as Judge and Banker in the early 1900s. His son, John Sherman Cooper Jr. was one of Kentucky's leading statesman of the 20th century. This two-story brick residence rests on a cut limestone foundation. A large one-story porch is on the main facade with brick piers and exposed eave rafters. The brick on the exterior has decorative soldier and sailor coursing. The windows are six-over-one sash and the main entrance features paneled sidelights.

26. 508 N. Main Street: Constructed in 1907, this early Bungalow is a one-and-one-half-story brick residence. On the main facade is a one-story porch with brick piers. The main entrance has leaded glass sidelights and transom. Windows are one-over-one sash on the first floor and multi-light sash on the half story. The first floor windows also feature jack arching. Both the south and east facades have extended bay windows and decorative stained glass. The interior of the house displays the original oak woodwork and sliding oak doors.

27. Vacant lot.

28. 504 N. Main Street: This ca. 1905 residence features an large central tower with a pyramidal roof. The one-and-one-half-story brick structure features one-over-one sash windows with rounded arches and brick relief molding. On the main facade is a one-story porch with stone piers, half of which has been enclosed.

29. 502 N. Main Street: Built ca. 1880, this two-story frame and stucco house has a hipped roof and extended one-story porch. The porch, added ca. 1930, features brick piers and an enclosed section with multi-light casement windows. Windows on the house are one-over-one sash with some added sixteen-over-one sash. Both floors have central doorways with sidelights and transom. A porch on the second floor was removed in the ca. 1930 remodeling. The eave of the house displays wave molding and the hipped roof has a metal standing seam surface.

30. 406 N. Main Street: This two-story frame house has a clapboard exterior and Colonial Revival detailing. On the main facade is a one story porch with Doric columns. The central bay is extended and is topped with a pediment with fish scale shingles and bargeboard on the eaves. Windows are one-over-one sash with flat wooden lintels. The gable also features foliated and star inset decoration.

32. 402 N. Main Street: The Girdler House was constructed ca. 1890 and displays both Colonial Revival and exuberant Queen Anne design. The house
features an extended porch with elaborately carved turnposts and brackets. The gable fields all feature fish scale shingles and the eave has decorative bargeboard. Windows are one-over-one sash with large wooden lintels. The hipped roof still retains the original pressed metal shingles.

Properties Non-Contributing to the Character of the District.


19. 522 N. Main Street: Non-contributing two-story frame house built ca. 1940. The exterior is covered with tile shingles and the porch features wrought iron porch posts.

22. 516 N. Main Street: Non-contributing structure built ca. 1960. The house is of brick construction with a gable roof and Ionic columns on the porch.

31. 404 N. Main Street: Non-contributing two-story brick residence constructed ca. 1940 in the Colonial Revival style with a pedimented porch supported by Doric capitals.
Harvey's Hill Historic District

Statement of Significance

The Harvey's Hill Historic District contains the largest grouping of historic residential architecture in Somerset. Of the thirty homes within the district boundaries all but four are contributive properties. The majority of homes were constructed between 1900 and 1920 in the Queen Anne, Bungalow and Colonial Revival styles. The homes sit on large wooded lots and there are no major intrusions in the district.

The Harvey's Hill area is named for Dr. William Harvey who bought much of this land in 1864. The land was originally part of the large holdings of William Fox who was one of the most notable Somerset citizens of the early 19th century. The Harvey family constructed the large Queen Anne style house at 512 N. main Street in 1900 and subdivided the land around the house in 1903. Further subdivision of the estate occurred in 1906 and construction of many of the houses in the southern half of the district took place during these years. Three acres to the north of the Harvey estate was also subdivided at the turn of the century into building lots.

The period between 1900 and 1920 was a time of rapid growth and commercial activity in Somerset. This expansion resulted in a rising middle and upper class of businessmen, attorneys and other professionals. The Harvey's Hill area became the preferred residential area of this rising upper class and most of the homes in the district were built during these years. Subdivision of lots and construction occurred primarily between 1900 and 1915 and homes were built in the late Queen Anne, Bungalow and Colonial Revival styles. Some of the homes were designed by local architects and builders while others such as the home at 501 N. Main Street are from period pattern books.

The earliest residents of the Harvey's Hill area represented some of the leading citizens of the community. The Harvey family was prominent in the community for many years and their name is still associated with this area of Main Street. One of the most notable families associated with district is the Cooper family. John Sherman Cooper constructed the house at 514 N. Main Street in 1900 and in the house his son, John Sherman Cooper Jr., was born in 1901. The elder Cooper was a county judge and a leading citizen of Somerset. John Sherman Cooper Jr. became one of Kentucky's most prominent politicians serving as U.S. Senator and Ambassador to the United Nations. Many descendants of the Cooper family still reside in homes on Harvey's Hill.

The Harvey's Hill area continues to be regarded as one of Somerset's most prestigious neighborhoods and its original architectural character has not been altered. The majority of homes pre-date 1930 and retain their original design. The district is the largest concentration of historic architecture in the city and retains its integrity of setting and location.