

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oakland-Freeport Historic District

other names/site number Oakland and Freeport Communities

2. Location

street & number Vine, Young, Lee, Mills, Rasdall, Church, Main, Oakland, Kelly, Burnett, Oakland-Smiths Grove, Cooke, Grimes and Mansfield Streets NA not for publication

city or town Oakland vicinity
N/A

state Kentucky code KY county Warren code 227 zip code 42159

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title David L. Morgan/SHPO Date _____
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
42	12	buildings
9	7	sites
		structures
	2	objects
51	21	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling
- RELIGION/ Religious Facility
- EDUCATION/ School
- COMMERCIAL/ Business
- TRANSPORTATION/ Rail-Related
- AGRICULTURE/ Processing/ Mill

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling
- RELIGION/ Religious Facility
- COMMERCIAL/ Business
- GOVERNMENT/ Town Hall, post office
- SOCIAL/ Fraternal

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & early 20th century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone and stone pile

Walls Wood/Weatherboard, brick

Roof Asphalt, standing seam metal

Other Metal, stain glass windows

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning & Development
 Ethnic Heritage/ Black
 Exploration/ Settlement
 Transportation

Period of Significance

1859-1950

Significant Dates

1859, 1865

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Kentucky Heritage Council/
Historic Preservation Board

Oakland-Freeport Historic District
Name of Property

Warren County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 67.14 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet 10-35

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Zeigler, Historic Preservation Planner
organization Historic Preservation Board date February, 2004
street & number 1141 State Street telephone 270-842-1953
city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42101

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Oakland-Freeport Communities
street & number N/A telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
Kentucky

Description

The proposed Oakland-Freeport Historic District is an area of 67 acres that includes the following resources: 43 contributing buildings (plus one NR-listed in 1979), 12 non-contributing buildings, 9 contributing sites, 7 non-contributing sites and 2 non-contributing objects. Mobile homes were counted as non-contributing objects while the land they sit on was counted as contributing or non-contributing sites based on whether or not they were empty lots at the end of the period of significance. The proposed district is situated within Oakland Kentucky, a rural village of 260 people (1990 U.S. Bureau of the Census), characterized by mostly single-family, low-density, residential development. It is located in northeastern Warren County, approximately twelve miles northeast of the county seat of Bowling Green. Within the city's boundaries are six hundred and forty-five acres of agricultural land, one small warehouse, one elementary school, four churches, ninety-three housing units, and eighteen vacant parcels or open space with no defined use. According to the 1990 Census data, nearly one-third of the single family units were built pre-World War II and another one-third were built in the 1970s with most of the remaining units being built in more recent years. Oakland is a sixth class city, incorporated in 1977 as a Commission form of government, with a Mayor and four Commissioners-at-large. Oakland is a half interchange of Interstate 65 with U.S. 68-KY 80 but there has been no major commercial development at this interchange.

Oakland lies in the Pennyroyal region of Kentucky. Fertile lands on a limestone plain associated with the region's karst landscape characterize the area. This environment is most clearly defined by the sinkhole topography with shallow topsoil allowing limestone protrusions at the surface (Gibson 200). The first settlers, upon their arrival in the Oakland area, encountered a landscape of open fields of grass interspersed with wild strawberries and scattered brush.

Oral history credits the name "Oakland" to a large stand of oak trees that appeared prominently on the grassy plains. These large grassy areas, relatively free of trees, were referred to as the "barrens." According to Jennie B. Coal, author of the unpublished manuscript "The Oakland County," the town of Oakland was named by William Radford of Barren County, who also built the first store at what he called Oakland Station.

The village's growth corresponded with the growth of the railroad era in American history. As a consequence, the style of architecture does not represent any single period, but instead represents a cross-section of popular folk architecture typical of many small railroad-oriented communities. From the boomtown facades of the commercial buildings to the Federal and Victorian homes to the simple but substantial farmhouses, Oakland represents a panorama of folk architecture style in a generally confined geographic area.

The railroad, as an economic stimulus, affected the site plan of the growing community and served as the town's "main street." The earliest commercial structures face the tracks and a parallel frontage road, while other central streets run at right angles to the tracks and frontage road. The industrial and commercial buildings lie immediately off the tracks on both sides. On the south side are mainly brick, false front structures and the former location of the Model Roller Milling Company building. The only commercial

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Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
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building remaining on the north side is a residence that also served as the phone depot. The stone foundation of drugstore and mercantile exchange also remain.

The residential areas begin on both sides of the tracks, just beyond the commercial district. The houses on the south side are situated densely with short setbacks from the street. There is a fairly equal mix of one-story, one-and-one-half story, and two-story dwellings. The earliest homes on the south side are dated to the 1850s and are in a Greek Revival style. The most prominent styles in this area are Folk Victorian and Gothic Revival, constructed from the 1880s to the early 1900s. They have many decorative details such as fishscaling in the gable eaves, Eastlake vergeboards and doors, and cutaway bay entrances on the main facades. The Oakland Baptist Church (WA-O-27), built in 1907, is a brick, side-steeple church with decorative brick belt courses. Representing a dramatic change in architectural styles after the turn-of-the-century are a few ca. 1915 bungalows and the brick Oakland Elementary School (WA-O-28), built in 1926 in a bungalow style with broadly overhanging bracketed eaves. Also on the south side of the railroad tracks is an 1854-1888 cemetery that represents the early white town builders.

The north side of the tracks includes the African-American community of Freeport. This side has three short streets of dense housing but is mainly agricultural. The contributing dwellings are, with one notable exception, one-story frame houses of simple plans such as saddlebag or central-hall. The only ornamentation on these structures is the occasional use of milled columns or Eastlake doors. The exception is the Mansfield House (WA-O-20) that is a frame, two-story, Greek Revival dwelling built ca. 1857. The Mansfield House is listed in *Architecture of Warren County, 1790-1940* as a significant structure of Oakland.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
KentuckyOAKLAND-FREEPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT
INVENTORY

- 01 Contributing Building WA-O-28**
Church Street, Oakland Elementary School, PVA#: 072A-01 - 084
This is a two-story frame brick veneer educational building built in 1926. The foundation is concrete, the siding brick, the low hipped roof is asphalt shingle. The recessed main entrance has an elaborate stone surround and 1990s-vinyl door. The windows are enclosed with small vinyl windows surrounded with vinyl.
- 02 Non-contributing Building N/A**
408 Church Street, Oakland Baptist Church, PVA#: 072B-01
The Oakland Baptist Church is a one-story, frame, brick veneered, central-steeple, Greek Revival church constructed in 1983 and 1999. The main entrance is two double doors with multi-light transoms. There is EFFIS in the gable field and the windows are multi-light snap-mullion fixed and double hung sashes. The 1983 portion was constructed as an annex to the original church constructed in 1907. The 1999 church now serves as the congregation's main sanctuary.
- 03 Contributing Building WA-O-27**
408 Church Street, Oakland Baptist Church, PVA#: 072B-01 - 080
The Oakland Baptist Church is a one story, side-steeple Greek Revival church constructed in 1907. The foundation is cut stone, the siding brick, and the front-gable roof is standing seam metal.
- 04 Non-contributing Building WA-O-50**
406 Church Street, Isenburg Place, PVA#: 072B-01 -078
This is a one-story frame perma-stone veneer ranch style dwelling built ca. 1960.

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05 Contributing Building WA-O-49

402 Church Street, Treadway House, PVA#: 072B-01-076

This is a one-story Gothic Revival style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is brick, the siding weatherboard, the hipped roof is standing seam metal and the interior chimney is brick. The gables of the wall dormers retain the original fish scale shingles. The full-width hipped roof porch has wood Doric columns and concrete floor. The main entrance is a one-light and wood panel door. Windows are the original one-over-one double-hung wood sashes. There is a rear wing addition.

Dr. Allen, the original owner, used the first room as the reception room for his doctor's office.

06 Contributing Building WA-O-54

302 Church Street, Jones House, PA#: 072B-01 -073

This is a one-story Gothic Revival style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is cut stone, the siding vinyl, the side gable roof is standing seam metal, and the two interior chimneys are brick. The protruding main entrance is a cut-away wall dormer with a gable roof with fish scale shingles in the gable field, an elaborate vergeboard, and the original one-light and wood panel door. The windows are the original one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

Dr. Jones was the first resident of this dwelling. The house originally had a large veranda.

07 Contributing Building WA-O-48

206 Church Street, Johnson House, PVA#: 072B-01 -071

This is a one-story frame saddlebag plan dwelling built ca. 1856. The foundation is coursed rubble stone, the siding vinyl, the side gable roof is asphalt shingle, and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width flat roof porch has 1990s vinyl posts and wood floor. The main entrance is a 1990s wood panel door. One of the two entrances has been covered with siding. The windows are 1990s six-over-six double-hung vinyl sash with vinyl shutters.

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- 08 Contributing Building WA-O-52**
204 Church Street, The Greathouse Place, PVA#: 072B-01 -068
This is a one-story frame brick veneer ranch dwelling built ca. 1941.
- 09 Contributing Building WA-O-18**
202 Church Street, W.P. Mansfield, Jr. House, PVA#: 072B-01 -066
This is a one-story frame hall-parlor plan dwelling built ca. 1900. The foundation is concrete block, the siding aluminum, the side gabled roof is metal and the chimneys are removed. The full-width shed roof porch has square wood posts and wood plank floor. The main entrance is a 1990s wood panel door.
- 10 Contributing Building WA-O-17**
104 Church Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -063
This is a one-story frame gabled-ell plan dwelling built in 1906. The foundation is poured concrete, the siding weatherboard, the gabled roof is asphalt shingle and the chimney has been removed. The partial-width flat roof porch has 1950s wrought iron posts, dental molding beneath the eave, and poured concrete floor. The main entrance retains the original one-light and wood panel door. The windows are the original one-over-one double-hung wood sash. There is a rear wing addition.
- 11 Non-contributing Building N/A**
102 Church Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -062
This is a one-story frame ranch-style dwelling built in 1966. The foundation is concrete, the siding is yellow brick, the front-gable roof is asphalt shingle and the exterior chimney is yellow brick.
- 12 Contributing Site**
Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-022

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13 Contributing Building WA-O-02

103 Church Street, Smith House, PVA#: 072B-01 -064

This is a one-story frame, gabled-ell Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is concrete, the siding vinyl, the side-gabled roof of asphalt shingle and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width porch has milled columns, a spindled frieze, and wood plank floor. The main entrance retains the original one-light and wood panel door. The windows have 1990s six-over-six double-hung vinyl sash. A garage is attached by a covered walkway.

14 Contributing Building WA-O-47

210 Church Street, Shobe House, PVA#: 072B-01-067

This is a one-story, frame Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is post/piers, the siding weatherboard, the hipped roof is asphalt shingle and the two interior chimneys are brick. The full-width porch has square posts and a brick floor. The main entrance is the original one-light and wood panel door with sidelights. The windows are the original four-over-four double-hung wood sashes. There is a rear wing ca. 1900 addition and a 1991 side porch and gazebo addition.

E.A. Shobe built the house. Dr. Smith occupied the house in the early 1900s and had his office located in the back portion.

15 Non-contributing Building WA-O-05

203 Church Street, Alexanders House, PVA#: 072B-01 -069

This is a one-story frame brick veneer ranch style dwelling built ca. 1972.

16 Contributing Building WA-O-06

205 Church Street, Watts House, PVA#: 072B-01 -070

This is a one-and-one half story, central-passage plan, and Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1914. The foundation is cut stone, the siding vinyl, the complex roof asphalt shingle and the interior roof is brick. The wrap around porch has 1990s vinyl-fluted columns. The entrances are 1990s wood panel. The windows are the original one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

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Kentucky**17 Contributing Building WA-O-07****207 Church Street, Hopper House, PVA#: 072B-01 -072**

This is a two-story, central-passage plan, Gothic Revival style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is post/piers, the siding vinyl, the gable roof is asphalt shingle, and the chimney has been removed. The protruding main entrance is a two-story cut-away wall dormer with vinyl in the gable field, decorative vergeboard, and a 1990s wood panel door with transom. The windows are 1985 two-over-two double-hung vinyl. There are several 1985 additions to the side and rear. The dwelling originally had a front porch.

18 Non-contributing Building WA-O-08**401 Church Street, Frank Grimes House, PVA#: 072B-01 -075**

This is a one-story, central passage plan dwelling built in 1957. The foundation is concrete block, the siding vinyl, and the hipped roof is asphalt shingle. The partial-width porch has wrought iron posts. The main entrance is a three-light wood panel door. The windows include the original picture window with sidelights and two-over-two double-hung wood sash. The roofline extends to a carport with wrought-iron posts.

19 Contributing Building WA-O-26**403-405 Church Street, Oakland Christian Church, PVA#: 072B-01 -077**

This is a side-steeple plan Gothic revival style church built ca. 1924. The foundation is concrete block, the siding brick, and the gable roof is asphalt shingle. The recessed main entrance retains the original double one-light and wood panel doors. The windows are stained glass.

The Oakland Christian Church formed on April 4, 1835 in the Falling Spring Schoolhouse on the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike under the name Pleasant Hill Christian Church. In 1870, the congregation moved to Oakland Station. In 1924, they moved to the current location.

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Kentucky**20 Contributing Building WA-O-09****407 Church Street, Mansfield House, PVA#: 072B-01 -079**

This is a one-story frame bungalow style dwelling built ca. 1921. The foundation is poured concrete, the siding vinyl, the hipped roof is asphalt shingle and the side and interior chimneys are brick. The partial-width porch has square columns and enclosed railing. The main entrance is a one-light wood panel door. The windows are replaced one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

The dwelling was originally owned by Mr. W.P. Mansfield.

21 Contributing Building WA-O-10**409 Church Street, Rector House, PVA#: 072B-01 -081**

This is a one-and-one half story frame bungalow style dwelling built ca. 1920. The foundation is concrete block, the siding vinyl, the side gable roof is asphalt shingle and the exterior chimney is brick. The partial-width porch has square columns and a 1990s enclosed railing. The main entrance is a wood panel door. The windows are the original three-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

22 Non-contributing Building WA-O-04**206 Grimes Lane, Gibson House, PVA#: 072B-01 -051**

This is a one-story frame side-passage plan dwelling built ca. 1881 that has received style-altering modifications. The foundation is concrete block, the siding is vinyl, the gable roof is asphalt shingle, and the interior chimney is brick. The windows are six-over-six double-hung wood sashes.

23 Non-contributing Building WA-O-03**103 Oakland, Watt House, PVA#: 072B-01 -052**

This is a frame brick veneer ranch style dwelling built in 1977.

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Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
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24 Contributing Building WA-O-53

105 Gaines Lane, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -053

This is a one-story frame Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is stone posts, the siding is vinyl, the gable roof is standing seam metal and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width porch wraps one corner with wood posts and concrete floor. The main entrance retains its original one-light wood panel door. The windows are the original one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

25 Contributing Building WA-O-55

103 Grimes Lane, PVA#: 072B-01 -054

This is a one-and-one-half story frame T-plan bungalow style dwelling built in 1922. The foundation is poured concrete, the siding vinyl, the side gable roof is asphalt shingle and the interior chimney is brick. The full-width porch has an enclosed railing and brick pedestals with tapered wood posts. The main entrance and windows were replaced in the 1990s with vinyl doors and windows. There is a 1960s rear wing addition.

The Booker family may have been the original owners.

26 Contributing Building WA-O-23

108 East Main Street, Masonic Lodge, PVA#: 072B-01 -055

This is a one-story frame false front commercial building built in 1906. The foundation is stone, the siding brick and the gable roof is metal. The main entrance was enclosed in the 1990s with vinyl siding and smaller vinyl door. The windows are covered. There is a side concrete block addition with brick siding and a shed roof.

This building served as Oakland's only bank and now serves as the Masonic Lodge.

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Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
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27 Contributing Building WA-O-51

106 East Main Street, Family Worship Center, PVA#: 072B-01-056

This is a one-story frame commercial building built ca. 1907. The foundation is concrete block, the siding brick, and the shed roof is tin. The partial-width porch has 1980s round metal posts. The main entrance has 1980s wood-panel doors. The windows are 1980s one-light fixed.

This building original served as Oakland's market and general store and now serves as a place of worship.

28 Contributing Building WA-O-01

101 Main Street, Old General Store, PVA#: 072B-01-058

This is a one-story frame commercial building built ca. 1900. The foundation is poured concrete, the siding is brick and vinyl, and the saltbox roof is asphalt shingle. The windows and doors were replaced in the 1980s.

The building originally served as a general store but has since been used as apartments, a community center, and a city hall.

29 Contributing Building WA-O-14

201 Kelly Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01-037

This is a two-story, frame, central-hall plan dwelling built ca. 1896. The foundation is posts and piers, the siding brick veneer, the side gable roof is asphalt shingle, and the interior chimney is brick. The windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

The dwelling originally served as a bunkhouse for farmers and railroad workers.

30 Non-contributing Building N/A

204 Kelly Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01-039

This is a one-story ranch style dwelling constructed ca. 1972. The foundation is concrete, the siding brick, the side-gable roof is asphalt shingle.

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Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
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31 Contributing Building WA-O-46

208 Kelley Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -040

This is a one-story frame T-plan Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1880. The foundation is stone, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof metal and the interior chimneys are brick. The full-width shed roof porch has an asphalt shingle and square brick pedestals with tapered porch posts. The main entrance is a 1920s three-light and wood panel door. The windows are 1960s two-over-two double-hung wood sash.

32 Contributing Building WA-O-15

203 Oakland-Smiths Grove Road, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -042A

This is a one-story frame side passage plan dwelling built ca. 1900. The foundation is stone, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is corrugated metal, and the chimney is removed. The full-width shed roof porch has square posts. The main entrance is a 1940s one-light wood panel door. The windows are the original six-over-six double-hung wood sashes.

The building served as housing for local railroad employees.

33 Contributing Building WA-O-21

101 Burnett Street, Taylor House, PVA#: 072B-01 -043

This is a one-story frame, piano-box plan Italianate style dwelling built ca. 1882. The foundation is stone, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is standing seam metal and the two interior chimneys are brick. The partial-width porch has square posts and wood plank floor. The windows have the original two-over-one double-hung wood sashes with segmental pediments. The original gabled-ell plan was changed to a piano-box plan in 1954 with the addition of a matching gable. There is a 1954 rear wing addition.

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Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
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34 Contributing Building WA-O-22

204 Smiths Grove-Oakland Road, Burnett House, PVA#: 072B-01 -046

This is a one-and-one-half story T-plan Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1894. The foundation is unknown, the siding vinyl, the side-gable roof is asphalt shingles, and the chimney is removed. The full-width porch has square posts with open railing and ornate trim work. The main entrance retains the original one-light wood panel door. The transom has been covered. The windows have the original one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

Dr. E.S. Jones built the house in 1894. The first floor was residential and the second floor served as his office. The house was placed on the National Register in 1979.

35 Non-contributing Building WA-O-16

201 Grimes Lane, PVA#: 072B-01 -049 (201 Oakland)

This is a gabled concrete block storage building built ca. 1970.

36 Contributing Building WA-O-11

210 Oakland Street, R. Grimes House, PVA#: 072B-01 -045

This is a one-story frame gabled-ell plan built ca. 1886. The foundation is stone, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is asphalt shingle, and the interior chimney is brick. The front porch was enclosed in the 1960s. The main entrance retains the original one-light and wood panel door. The windows are the original three-over-one double-hung wood sashes and one-over-one double-hung wood sash.

Mr. R. Grimes built this house for his mother, Mrs. Reiff, after her husband's death.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13Oakland-Freeport Historic District, Warren County,
Kentucky**37 Contributing Building WA-O-12****205 Grimes Lane, Grimes House, PVA#: 072B-01 -050**

This is a two-story frame side-entrance plan Greek Revival style dwelling built ca. 1855. The foundation is stone, the siding weatherboard, the side gabled roof is standing seam metal and asphalt shingle, and the interior chimney is brick. The full-width flat roof porch has square posts. The main entrance retains the original one-light and wood panel door with transom. The windows are the original six-over-six double-hung wood sashes. In front of the dwelling is a 1920s concrete wall. There are two frame outbuildings. One is a ca. 1920 three-bay shed roof structure covered with vertical board and the other is a ca. 1920 gabled roof, one-pen cottage. The structure is abandoned with broken windows.

This house was home to Frank & Sue Grimes who were among the town's earliest settlers and sustenance farmers. Frank Grimes became one of the town's best blacksmiths.

38 Non-contributing Building & Object N/A**307 Kelly Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -030**

This structure is a 1970s mobile home.

39 Contributing Building WA-O-33**102 Rasdall Street, Oakland Phone Depot, PVA#: 072B-01 -028**

This is a one-story frame central-hall plan commercial building and dwelling built ca. 1880. The foundation is stone, the siding vinyl, the gable roof is asphalt shingle and the chimney has been removed. The partial-width shed roof porch has 1950s wrought iron posts. The main entrance and windows were replaced in the 1990s.

The building served as a phone depot and residence until the 1940s.

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40 Contributing Building WA-O-34

106 Rasdall Street, Evans House, PVA#: 072B-01 -027

This is a one-story frame, gabled-ell plan Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is post/piers, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is standing seam metal, and the interior chimneys are brick. The partial width flat roof porch has square posts and knee-brace brackets. The main entrance retains the original one-light and wood panel door. The windows are the original four-over-four double-hung wood sashes. There is a rear wing addition.

The house was built for the Evans family.

41 Contributing Building WA-O-35

108 Rasdall Street, Jordan House, PVA#: 072B-01 -025

This is a one-story saddlebag plan dwelling built in 1909. The foundation is post/piers, the siding vinyl, the gabled roof is corrugated metal, and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width shed roof porch has milled columns. The main entrance is a 1930s three-light and wood panel door. The windows are the original vertical two-over-two double-hung wood sashes.

The dwelling was built for Mr. Jordan, a businessman in Oakland in the early 1900s.

42 Contributing Building WA-O-36

122 Mills Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -026

This is a frame shotgun plan built ca. 1886 and then altered ca. 1950 to a hall-parlor plan. The foundation is post and pier, the siding masonite, the gable roof is metal and the interior chimney is stuccoed brick. The partial-width, shed roof porch has standing seam roof and milled posts. The main entrance retains the original one-light and wood panel door. The windows are the original four-over-four double-hung wood sashes.

43 Contributing Site & Non-contributing Object N/A

122 Mills Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -026

This structure is a mobile home.

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Kentucky**44 Contributing Building WA-O-37****102 Cooke Street, H. Patterson House, PVA#: 072B-01-018**

This is a one-story frame, hall-parlor plan dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is posts and piers, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is metal and the interior chimney is brick. The side windows are salvaged double-hung wood sashes and multi-paned fixed. The main entrance is a three-light and wood slab door. An addition was added to the front of the house, reorienting the main entrance from Cooke Street to Vine Street.

The house was built for a teacher who taught at Oakland Academy, an African American school no longer extant.

45 Non-contributing Building WA-O-38**Cooke Street, Dixon House, PVA#: 072B-01 -019**

This is a one-story frame ranch style dwelling built ca. 1965.

46 Contributing Building WA-O-39**108 Cooke Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -021**

This is a one-story frame saddlebag plan dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is post/piers, the siding asbestos and masonite board-and-batten, the side gable roof is standing seam metal and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width porch has a flat roof and milled columns. The main entrances are a 1960s wood slab door and a 1920s two-light and wood panel door. The windows are the original four-over-four double-hung wood sashes.

47 Contributing Building WA-O-40**114 Cooke Street, Patterson House, PVA#: 072B-01 -023**

This is a frame two-pen plan dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is post/piers, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is metal, and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width flat roof porch has milled columns. The two main entrances are one-light and wood panel doors. The windows are the original one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

Mr. Patterson, a local builder, constructed and lived in this house.

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48 Contributing Building WA-O-41

103 Lee Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -016

This is a frame saddlebag plan dwelling built ca. 1896. The foundation is post/piers, the siding tarpaper, the gable roof is metal, and the interior chimney is stuccoed brick. The partial-width flat roof porch has milled columns. The two main entrances are one-light and wood panel doors. The windows are the original six-over-six double-hung wood sashes.

The house was built for a teacher who taught at Oakland Academy, an African American school no longer extant.

49 Contributing Building WA-O-31

402 Vine Street, House, (rear of brick ranch at 402 Vine Street) , PVA#: 072B-01 -010

This is a one-story frame Cumberland plan dwelling built ca. 1860. The foundation is post/piers, the siding vertical board and weatherboard, and the gable roof is metal. The windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sashes. There are two side wing additions.

This house is one of four which William Poindexter Mansfield built for his slaves. (He had approximately 20 at the time of construction.) At one time, four different slave families were living in this house.

50 Non-contributing Building WA-O-30

402 Vine Street, Dixon House, PVA#: 072B-01 -010

This is a one-story, frame brick veneer ranch style dwelling built ca. 1971.

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51 Contributing Building WA-O-32

401 Vine Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -015

This is a one-story frame hall-parlor plan dwelling built ca. 1883. The foundation is stone post/piers, the siding weatherboard, the side gable roof is asphalt shingle and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width flat roof porch has wood posts. The main entrance is a 1990s wood panel door. The windows are the original six-over-six double-hung wood sashes.

The house was built for a teacher who taught at Oakland Academy, an African American school no longer extant.

52 Contributing Building WA-O-42

103 Young Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -011

This is a one-story frame hall-parlor plan built ca. 1876. The foundation is post/piers, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is asphalt shingle and the chimney has been removed. The partial-width shed roof porch has square posts. The entrance and windows were replaced, changing the original sizes.

The house was built for a teacher who taught at Oakland Academy, an African American school no longer extant.

53 Contributing Building WA-O-43

105 Young Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -013

This is a one-story hall-parlor plan dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is posts/piers, the siding weatherboard, the gable roof is asphalt shingle and the interior chimney is brick.

The house was built for a teacher who taught at Oakland Academy, an African American school no longer extant.

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54 Contributing Building WA-O-44

107 Young Street, Oakland Mt. Zion Baptist Church, PVA#: 072B-01 -014

This is a one-story frame central-steeple church built ca. 1870. The foundation is posts/piers, the siding brick, and the gable roof is asphalt shingle. The congregation remodeled the church in 1963 and added the current brick veneer. A rear wing was added in 1972.

The church also served as a school. The congregation has moved services to a new church across the street but still utilizes the original building.

55 Contributing Building WA-O-20

502 Vine Street, W.P. Mansfield, Sr. House, PVA#: 072B-01 -009

This is a two-story frame I-plan Greek Revival style dwelling built ca. 1857. The foundation is stone posts, the siding vinyl, the gabled roof is asphalt shingle and the two exterior chimneys are brick. The partial-width flat roof porch has square Doric columns with decorative braces and knee brace brackets. The main entrance is a 1980s wood panel door with sidelights and transom. A rear wing was added in 1991.

56 Contributing Site WA-O-13

Mansfield Drive, Cemetery, PVA#: 072B-01 -074

This cemetery was used from 1854 to 1888 and is surrounded by a wrought-iron fence. It is located in the center of 114 acres of an agricultural field. The monuments range from unadorned tablets to ornate turn-of-the century mass manufactured monuments.

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Kentucky**57 Contributing Building WA-0-24****102 East Main Street, US Post Office, PVA#: 072B-01 -057**

This is a one-story, false-front commercial building built in 1916. The foundation is stone, the siding polychromatic brick, and the flat roof tin. The full-width porch has 1980s round metal posts and a concrete floor. The main entrance has a 1980s one-light metal door. The windows are the original one-over-one double-hung wood sashes.

This building continues to serve as Oakland's Post Office.

58 Contributing Building WA-O-29**302 Kelly Street, House, PVA#: 072B-01 -031**

This is a one-story frame T-plan Victorian style dwelling built ca. 1886. The foundation is poured concrete, the siding vinyl, the gable roof is standing seam and the interior chimney is brick. The partial-width shed roof porch has 1990s square posts, and concrete floor. The main entrance protrudes and has a replaced one-light wood panel door. The windows are 1960s double-hung wood sash.

59 Contributing Site**Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-034****60 Non-
& contributing
61 Site****Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-035****62 Contributing Site****Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-038****63 Non-
contributing
Site****Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-043****64 Non-
contributing
Site****Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-047**

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 65 Non-contributing Site | Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-048 |
| 66 Contributing Site | Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-059 |
| 67 Contributing Site | Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-060 |
| 68 Non-contributing Site | Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-029 |
| 69 Non-contributing Site | Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-017 |
| 70 Contributing Site | Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-020 |
| 71 Contributing Site | Empty Lot, PVA#: 072B-01-012 |

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Statement of Significance

The proposed Oakland-Freeport Historic District meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the context of “Railroad Towns in Warren County, 1850-1950” and “African American Community Development in Warren County, 1865-1950.” The district reflects the results of two pivotal events in south-central Kentucky’s history. First, the Oakland community was born with the establishment of a railroad station in 1859 and its growth corresponded with the development of the railroad era in American history. The construction of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad served as the focus for Oakland’s agrarian commerce and transportation system. Second, the events at the end of the Civil War in 1865 emancipated the African-American slaves, many of whom coalesced near the newly established agrarian railroad towns. The African-American settlement of Freeport was one such ethnic community that became part of Oakland. The district’s period of significance, therefore, dates from 1859-1950.

Oakland is important for showing how the railroad radically changed small settlements from rural villages to economically successful cities. The design of the town’s commercial and residential areas and their relationship to each other and the railroad tell a typical story of the railroad’s impact on Warren County villages from shortly before the Civil War and well into the 20th century. The physical distribution of resources in Oakland are significant reminders of this phase of American town development and are intact enough to illustrate the area’s financial boom. With the decline of the railroad, a corresponding decline in Oakland’s economy and built environment occurred, furthering the association between the town and railroad transportation.

Freeport is important for showing one choice among many made by African Americans of Warren County to organize themselves into a stable social system soon after emancipation. The design of the town’s schools, churches, and residences, and their placement in relation to each other, and their relation of Freeport to the town of Oakland, tell a strong story about racial relationships that underwent tremendous change after 1865. The physical distribution of resources in Freeport are significant and intact enough to illustrate how people sought to preserve social stability in the midst of revolutionary change in the status of blacks in relation to whites.

In order to evaluate the significance of the proposed district and compare it to like communities elsewhere in Warren County, it is necessary to identify the elements that are instrumental in African-American settlement after the Civil War and the development of railroad towns. The elements that influenced the development of African-American settlement were education and religion and the elements that influenced railroad towns were business, agriculture and commerce. The following is a history of Oakland and Freeport, including short histories of comparative railroad towns and African-American settlements in Warren County, Kentucky, with a focus on the key elements that typify these places.

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HISTORY OF OAKLAND-FREEPORT

Settlement

The year Kentucky became a state, 1792, land-hungry families from the eastern seaboard poured into the region to activate land grants for their military service. Created in 1797 from a portion of Logan County, Warren County was named for Boston's Dr. Joseph Warren, a hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill (Rennick 217). Many of these settlers, taking advantage of the rich soils, established modest farms, some of which employed slave labor. Oakland's earliest settlers, the Grimes Family, who located in the area in 1790, were subsistence farmers.¹ Almost immediately, early residents began growing tobacco as a cash crop.

While farmers settled the Oakland area in the first half of the 19th century, the town was truly born with the arrival of the railroad. Upon completion in 1859, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (L&N Railroad) was a catalyst in Warren county for economic prosperity. According to Kentucky Historian Thomas D. Clark, "the building of the L&N was the most significant internal improvement undertaken in Kentucky... it connected the Commonwealth with the expanding South and immediately became economically profitable" (Kleber, 579).

The L&N Railroad not only provided an opportunity for market expansion, but also encouraged the development of towns served by this rail-transportation network. In Warren County, examples of these communities include Woodburn, Rich Pond, Smiths Grove, Memphis Junction, as well as Bowling Green. The population along the rail corridor increased dramatically through the efforts of developers exploiting this transportation system. The 1850 U.S. Census indicates the total population of Warren County, Kentucky as 15,123. By 1880, the population had nearly doubled, to 30,158 (U.S. Bureau of the Census). The influx of population created a new market for goods and services within the immediate area. According to *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, "the L&N provided essential passenger, freight, and mail transportation services to more than half the counties in the state" (Castner 578).

As a result, the increased economic activity stimulated the growth of areas such as Oakland. With the onset of Oakland as a service center, a sense of community was established. The newly developed center drew residents from the surrounding hinterland. One sign of Oakland's emergence as a town came in the form of a post office. In 1860, the Oakland Post Office was established with William Radford as postmaster.

¹ Several Grimes homes still exist. The Frank Grimes home ca. 1855 is located at 205 Grimes Lane. Mr. R. Grimes had the house at 210 Oakland Street built for his mother ca. 1886 after the death of her husband. According to PVA records the Grimes family owned the house until 1951.

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The urban form of Oakland was constructed such that it did not have a main street, but a main rail around which other streets became oriented, similar to other Warren County towns along the L&N. In essence, the railroad became the main street. In this way the L&N influenced Oakland's physical development. The town's commercial district developed along both sides of the railroad, rather than on one side only. By 1875, there was a telegraph office, drug store, post office, two-room office, Dave Burnswick's General Store, a passenger platform, and a grocery. In addition, there were several agricultural-based structures, including two storage barns, a mill, and a stockyard (Tucker 1-4).

The L&N Railroad promoted Oakland's development not only as a community, but also as a center for agriculture. The thin yet fertile topsoil of the region was conducive to highly productive yields. Before 1859, subsistence agriculture dominated the area, but after adequate transportation was established, commercial agriculture prevailed. According to The Kentucky Encyclopedia, "it [the railroad] moved products of Kentucky's farms to regional, national, and export markets" (Castner 578).

From 1870 through the 1890s, Oakland developed as one of the prosperous railroad towns in Warren County, and became a major shipping point for strawberries, tobacco, grain, and livestock until about 1950. By 1876, a flourmill, school, hotel, two general stores, and a drug store were established.

From 1915 to 1950, Oakland enjoyed its greatest prosperity as the major strawberry producing area and shipping point in Kentucky. Two varieties of strawberries were produced—the Aroma and the Blakemore. During the industry's heyday, people from as far away as Edmonson County used Oakland as a shipping and marketing point. Upon presentation of the crop in Oakland, individuals would bargain for a reasonable price with market representatives from northern states.

The community's prosperity led to a building boom in Oakland. As frame commercial buildings burned down or were razed, they were replaced with brick structures south of the railroad tracks. During its peak, Oakland boasted four groceries, a bank, barbershop, post office, drug store, mercantile store, repair shop for agricultural equipment, mill, black smith shop, and mortuary. In comparison, nearby Smith's Grove had two drugstores, a harness shop, a brickyard, two general stores, and a saloon (Baird, 18). The Rolling Mill, that had been located to the west of the central business district and south of the railroad line, is a prime example of how the L&N railroad contributed to the development of the town. Model Milling Company built the structure in 1902 using the labor of workers who commuted from Cincinnati and lived on the train during construction. The Mill, originally a flourmill, changed to a seed mill in 1927. The Mill shut down in the late 1980s, the machinery was moved to a similar plant in Auburn, Kentucky, and the building was demolished in 2003.

The fact that the town had several doctors also reflects its prosperity in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The homes of Dr. William Allen (WA-O-49, ca. 1886), Dr. Smith (WA-O-2, ca. 1886), and Dr. E.S. Jones (WA-O-

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54, 1894) are still extant. In comparison, nearby Smith's Grove had five "practicing physicians" in the 1890s (Baird, 18.) Also in this residential area south of the tracks are a church, school, and cemetery. The cemetery (WA-O-13) is a small plot enclosed with a wrought-iron fence. The dates of the tombstones range from 1854 to 1888 and include the names of Shobe and Mansfield, early town builders. In 1870 the Pleasant Hill Christian Church moved to this area. The current congregation, Oakland Christian Church, worships in a building (WA-O-26) built in 1924 on the same site. The Oakland Elementary School (WA-O-28) was built in 1926.

Reconstruction & Freeport

African-Americans during reconstruction settled in railroad communities and on land given to them by former masters. The settlement patterns of the tenant farmer and sharecropper occasionally became nucleated to facilitate the sharing of resources and labor. Since African-Americans were skilled in agricultural-based labor, most found employment as sharecroppers and tenant framers. Smith and Raitz state, "Many estate owners responded to the opportunity to secure a reliable labor pool by setting aside a small tract of land at the back of their property for resettlement of freed Negroes" (227). This settlement pattern was convenient for the landowner because it provided easy accessibility for the labor force. Due to the circumstances facing the freed slaves after the Civil War, many of these nucleated settlements were informally called "Freetown." African-Americans were also likely to settle in Warren County railroad towns, where tenant farming was only one among several job opportunities.

These former slaves in Oakland, as elsewhere, farmed their own plots of land. They raised corn, tobacco, oats, strawberries, and barley, and kept livestock. Their farms enabled them to purchase more livestock and farming supplies. According to folk history, "Soon after the Negroes were set free, several of the ex-slaves of the community bought land near Oakland, north of the railroad and built homes on it. The earliest settlers were Obe Carpenter, Ben Shobe, and Daniel Gossom. They called the village Freeport" (40). The name was associated with strong feelings of emancipation as well as its location in proximity to the railroad. While never officially named or incorporated, the ethnic community of Freeport still exists as a community within the Oakland City limits.

The African-American population of Warren County increased after 1860, which led to a series of African-American communities of which Freeport was one. The U.S. Bureau of the Census indicates the African-American population of Warren County in 1860 was 5,364 (96% slaves) or 31% of the county's total population. During the next thirty years the African-American population increased, reaching a total of 7,926 (26% of the county total) in 1890. After 1890, the African-American population gradually declined in number and as a percent of the total county population. The last decade of the twentieth century saw an increase in African-American population to 7,934, just 9% of the county total. The increase of African-American population in Warren County during the three decades following Emancipation created a prime environment for

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African-American cultural and social development. At the center of the community's development were religious and educational institutions.

The nucleated settlement of African-Americans in the Oakland area was established on the north side of the L&N Railroad and developed in two phases, according to oral histories. The first phase includes a small area immediately north of the railroad tracks. They likely settled these small plots because the railroad section houses of this area had been abandoned by the railroad. Some may have settled plots given to them by former masters. In nearby Stoney Point, ex-slaves were given small plots of land, the average less than thirty-five acres and the smallest, less than an acre (Cooke, 341). As stated by Smith and Raitz in their description of Negro hamlets in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region, "slave houses were grouped compactly in rows along short roads, forming a square or, more frequently, a rectangle of buildings. The slave houses, barns, sheds, blacksmith shop, and other buildings were typical of much of the Cotton South and formed the nucleated plantation settlement," (230). This arrangement of structures is apparent in historic sketches of Freeport. In 1952, James Tucker indicated this pattern in his sketched map of ca. 1875 Freeport/Oakland. According to the map, there was a mill, two barns, multiple residences, and a blacksmith's shop in a rectangular pattern.

The center for African-American community life was the church and school, which together served the purposes of religion, education, and social outlets. The African-American Oakland Academy, known locally as the "The Academy," was a one-room schoolhouse for grades one through eight and served the community until 1937. It was replaced with a two-room school on Freeport Road, which later became a restaurant known as Freeport Playhouse. The old school playground was converted into a softball field and outside lights were installed to allow night games. The restaurant burned in 1975 (Sweeten, 22). As residents bought property further north of the railroad in the 1880s, the original Freeport settlement, according to oral histories, received new houses, mainly frame saddlebags and simple two-pens, for teacher housing. According to the 1877 Beers map the school was located in the same vicinity as the teacher dwellings were. Those include Wa-O-43, 105 Young Street; Wa-O-42, 103 Young Street; Wa-O-32, 501 Vine Street; Wa-O-41, 103 Lee Street; Wa-O-37, 102 Cooke Street.

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church (WA-O-44) was established about the same time as the school (1870). Another frame church was constructed in 1886 and later veneered with brick. The congregation originally used the millpond at the nearby flour mill for baptisms until a baptismal pool was constructed inside the church in the early 1970s. The congregation now worships in a larger sanctuary that was constructed in 1995 adjacent to the 1886 building. The church, in addition to its religious role, assumed responsibility for education in the African-American community. According to the Church's history, "a group of black religious and civic minded leaders of the Oakland community became organized for the purpose...of providing a decent building for worshipping God and a place for educating the children" (Church History 1). An example of the religious-centered sense of community is illustrated by the generosity of the entire community. During the Depression Era, "Freeport neighbors freely shared their possessions and labor with one another, in keeping with their religious beliefs

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regarding charity” (Dowell 45). Like many African-American cohesive communities, Freeport exemplifies this broad pattern of development through community involvement and social interaction.

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COMPARATIVE RAILROAD TOWNS

The completed L&N Railroad made six stops within Warren County: Oakland, Rich Pond, Smiths Grove, Woodburn, and Bowling Green. It connected with the Memphis L&N line at Memphis Junction. Of these six, Bowling Green was already thriving as the county seat. Although the railroad made a tremendous impact on Bowling Green, it did not develop solely as a railroad town. The settlements of Oakland, Smiths Grove, and Woodburn, however, grew from a few small farms to full-fledged communities because of the railroad.

Smiths Grove

Smiths Grove is located in south-central Kentucky, ten miles northeast of Bowling Green, at the intersection of Kentucky Highway 101 and US Interstate 65. Smiths Grove, with a population of 784 (1990 Census) is a fifth class city and it is the second largest municipality in Warren County. The city is characterized by mostly single-family low-density residential development with a small commercial center.

Smiths Grove grew from a settlement to a community with the construction of the old Nashville to Louisville Pike, in 1842. The post office was established just two years later in 1844 on Smokey Row and a school, Poplar Level Academy, was founded in 1848. As with Oakland, the L&N Railroad, constructed between 1851 and 1859, is the reason the scattered farming community grew into a town, as evidenced by the dramatic growth in businesses and schools. The first store, U. Rasdall and Sons, opened in 1859. The Smiths Grove College was established in 1875 by W.W. Beck and was built where the present North Warren Elementary School is located. In May 1880, the Deposit Bank of Smiths Grove commenced business and the Farmers Bank of Smiths Grove opened its doors in 1889. In 1901, the Smiths Grove College was sold to the Methodists and was renamed the Smiths Grove Training School for Vanderbilt University. The L & N depot at Smiths Grove was opened in 1903, and served the community for more than 50 years. In 1913, the community had three schools: Warren Baptist Academy, the Smiths Grove Institute and the old Public School. The community's business directory in 1915 consisted of an undertaker, two barbers, a jeweler, three general merchants, one restaurant, two banks, a blacksmith, a hardware store, a grocery and furniture store, a hotel, a tinner, a hospital, and a local newspaper.

The town's commercial district developed along both sides of the railroad with its main streets intersecting the tracks at right angles. The more dense residential areas lie to both sides of the commercial areas and eventually become more rural as they radiate away from the railroad.

Woodburn

Woodburn is located on the L&N line, in the southwestern part of Warren County, about twelve miles southwest of Bowling Green, near the Nashville Road and Drakes Creek.

Like Oakland and Smiths Grove, Woodburn began as a small rural area prior to Warren County's formation in 1797 but did not truly boom until the completion of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad in 1859. Woodburn became one of two shipping points in southern Warren County for such products as tobacco, wheat, corn and

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hogs. The town developed around the railroad track with commercial buildings, the railroad depot, and eventually the community's stockyards. An 1877 map shows the concentration of commercial buildings around the square, located next to the tracks. The 1876 Gardner & Gaines Directory indicated that Woodburn had a population of about 1,000 and two hotels, two blacksmiths, a shoemaker, five mercantile stores, a saddle maker, an undertaker, two carriage and plow makers, three doctors, and two saloons. A bank set up operation here in 1894. In addition, Cedar Bluff Female College and Star Female College were located at Woodburn.

The chief agricultural products of the area included: corn, wheat, tobacco, pork, raw milk, mules, and cattle. For a brief period strawberries were an important local product. Strawberries allowed farmers to produce an additional cash crop, as the season for the small fruit preceded the planting of tobacco. Woodburn boasted one of Warren County's independent strawberry associations, established in the early 1900s. Woodburn also boasted two African-American churches: First Baptist Church established in 1866 and St. Paul's AME which is located just outside Woodburn on Highway 240.

The town's commercial district lined both sides of the railroad with its main streets intersecting the tracks at right angles. The town's first commercial structures are no longer standing due to a major fire in 1902. The more dense residential areas lie to both sides of the commercial areas and eventually become more rural as they radiate away from the railroad.

COMPARATIVE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Jonesville (1881-1966)

Jonesville was an African-American community that developed around 1880 within the city limits of Bowling Green and is now a part of Western Kentucky University's campus. The community was bordered by the railroad track on the west, and the current Dogwood Drive on the north, and Downing University Center on the south.

Nothing is known of Jonesville's earliest years. Like other African-American communities, the church and school were the center of community life. Salters Chapel AME, the first recorded church, was constructed between 1909 and 1910. The church and community banded together to construct an elementary school behind the church. High School aged children walked the six-mile roundtrip to Bowling Green's black high school located on Second and State Street.

In the 1930s and 1940s many of the residents of Jonesville were employed by reasonably good employers and some were self-employed. Some of the self-employed residents included a building contractor, grocery storeowner, cab company operator, and a beauty shop operator. The most prosperous period of Jonesville was

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1935-1955, when the town consisted of nearly 400 people. The demise of Jonesville is considered as 1966 when the Mt. Zion Baptist Church was sold—the last property to be sold as part of a redevelopment plan (Maxine Ray).

Shake Rag (1867-1954)

Shake Rag was also a Bowling Green African-American community located on the northern end of town, four blocks north of Fountain Square. It encompassed the area between the Barren River and East 5th Avenue and College and Chestnut Streets.

Schools and churches were the geographic and social anchor of the community. The first church, constructed in the late 1860s, was the African Baptist Church, a daughter congregation of the First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. After several burnings and name changes the current church, State Street Baptist Church, was constructed in 1900. The Church provided social services through the Child Health Conference for Colored Children during the 1930s and 1940s. This structure is on the National Register of Historic Places. It continues to be the most influential church in the black community. State Street School, constructed in 1885, was the first African-American public school. In the 1920s and 1940s it expanded to include a gymnasium and cafeteria. In addition, the Presbyterian Church sponsored a private high school, Bowling Green Academy, which prevented residents from having to attend private schools in Nashville, Tennessee, or Louisville, Kentucky. In addition to churches and schools, the community had a social outlet in Lee Square. The site has been home to community centers and playgrounds. Currently, it is the location of the George Washington Carver Center.

Warren County's African-American neighborhoods, like Shake Rag, also operated with an "extended family" system, with people taking direct responsibility for the each other and the stability of the community as a whole. The Covington-Moses House was where children purchased their lunches before the cafeteria was built and served as a boarding house for black travelers not allowed to stay in many of Bowling Green's hotels. The first "colored" branch of the Bowling Green-Warren County Library opened in a private home. The existence of State Street School, the Bowling Green Academy, the public library branch and active Sunday Schools of the neighborhood's churches are evidence that those in the neighborhood placed a high value on education.

The residential neighborhood consists largely of bungalows. Because the bungalows employed the latest technology, healthful living and convenience, they signified middle class status to residents and visitors. The area also reflected the emergence of a professional class. James Covington built a fourteen-bedroom house in 1906. Dr. O.D. Porter, a graduate of Fisk University Medical School, purchased a large two-story brick home in 1900. In the late 1920s, Dr. Zacharias K. Jones, a prominent black physician, bought the most prestigious house in the neighborhood, the historic Underwood-Jones House (Shake Rage National Register Nomination).

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Stoney Point

Stoney Point was a rural black community located a few miles northeast of Smiths Grove in Warren County, Kentucky.

Stoney Point was the first African-American community of freed slaves in Warren County. It began when a local abolitionist freed his slaves and provided them with land, livestock, cooking utensils and a year's supply of provisions. The community grew after the Civil War, when former-slaves bought plots next to the early residents of Stoney Point. They purchased the land with their earnings from their service as Union soldiers or as tenant farmers and field hands. Most residents continued to work for white farmers while also working their own land. Women accepted domestic work doing laundry, cooking, house cleaning, and childcare. In addition, some residents walked to nearby towns, Rocky Hill and Smith Grove, for additional work opportunities.

The center of community life was the church and school. In 1866, residents established the first church, The Stoney Point Missionary Baptist Church. The Church building was used as a school until a frame structure was built in 1908. The community had two businesses owned by the same man. Henry Cook operated a barber shop and restaurant between 1910 and 1918. In 1960, historian J.W. Cooke, writing for the *Filson Club History Quarterly*, noted that many of the historic structures of Stoney Point had been abandoned and were in ruins.

Loving

The Loving Community is located along Loving, Sunnyside-Gotts, and Glasgow (US 68/SR80) roads in northern Warren County and about five miles southwest of Freeport. The community developed after the Civil War; however, nothing is known about its early settlement during reconstruction years. In the 1920s and 30s, residents of Loving worked their own farms, as well as the farms of nearby white property owners. A few individuals worked seasonally for the L&N as section hands, laying track and maintaining railroad beds.

The first church in the community was most likely established during the reconstruction period. Originally named "Union Church," it is now known as "The Loving Union CME Church." The Church is among the oldest affiliated with the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) denomination, which was formally organized in December 1870. As in other African-American communities, a school was constructed on the grounds of the church, date unknown. The school offered first through eighth grades. There was no high school education for the children until the school in Freeport was constructed in 1937 (Lena Sweeten). More than half of the buildings in Loving have been replaced, mostly with 1950-1974 ranch-style dwellings. Out of 54 buildings surveyed in 2001 only 12 are older than fifty years.

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Integrity Analysis

The district continues to reveal information that we view as the source of their significance: the development of early Warren County railroad towns and black settlements during the reconstruction era. The most important integrity factors needed to convey this significance are location, setting, design, association, and feeling. Of the fifty-two buildings in the district, more than seventy-seven percent are contributing, and of the contributing sites, more than half the structures were built before 1900.

Integrity of **location** and **setting** help define the identity of this district. The City of Oakland developed because of the L&N railroad. The proposed district retains its original location along the L&N Railroad with the commercial buildings oriented facing the railroad and the residential areas flowing beyond this commercial core to the north and to the south. None of the structures have been moved. There has been no inappropriate new construction, such as a commercial construction in one of the original residential neighborhoods or a residential building being placed in the traditionally commercial area. The area surrounding the proposed district remains agricultural. Despite the fact that some original buildings have been lost, the general layout of the proposed district remains the same and still illustrates the typical growth and development patterns of Warren County railroad towns in the 1860s.

The integrity of **design** is high. Most of the buildings have maintained their original scale, massing, patterns of fenestration and proportion. Even when non-historic exterior materials have been applied, the majority of structure's original details such as window surrounds, decorative vergeboards and fish scale shingles have been retained, keeping the overall integrity of design intact. An integrity of design exists even if the structures have been covered with siding after the Period of Significance, been added to, and/or have had replacement windows and porches. The most important aspect of the design of houses in Oakland and Freeport are their location and physical relationship to one another, and their most basic massing, which enables them to be recognized as a product of the Period of Significance. Thus, a home in Freeport or Oakland will have integrity of design when it materially helps us understand the social relationships that the house served through its owner's choice in location, massing, and its relation to other houses and institutional buildings in the community. Much superficial building change can occur, yet we can still recognize the building's identity within the community and the value of that identity to the community's overall quest to thrive.

The proposed district retains its integrity of **association** and **feeling**, evident in the dramatic juxtaposition of Freeport and Oakland. The African-American residential community of Freeport on one side of the railroad and the white community of Oakland on the opposite side of the railroad originally looked very different. Freeport was largely a collection of small, simple frame houses while Oakland was made up of houses aspiring to styles such as Italianate and Greek Revival. This dramatic division of character is still evident today. There have been few of the usual upgrades to the Freeport houses that one generally expects, such as the addition of bungalow or

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Victorian style porches or large additions that engulf the original house. In Freeport, the church and school remain the center of community life. Many of the African-American descendants of Freeport still attend the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. While a black school no longer exists, the church is a neighborhood symbol and creates a sense of “place” and “family” for many African-Americans who now live in Bowling Green and the newer suburban Oakland neighborhoods.

Like any living community, Freeport and Oakland have experienced change; however, both retain the key elements that allow the two communities to speak to their history as an early African-American settlement and railroad town.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed Oakland-Freeport Historic District extends 1000 feet along and on both sides of the present Louisville and Nashville Railway track (now CSX Railway); 1500 feet north of the railroad track along Vine Street to encompass the Freeport neighborhood; and south of the railroad, 1800 feet to include the Oakland Elementary School. The area proposed for listing is a contiguous group of properties formed from the following property parcel numbers used by the Warren County Property Valuation Assessor's (PVA's) office:

072A-01 -084	072B-01- 034	072B-01 -062
072B-01	072B-01- 035	072B-01 -063
072B-01 -009	072B-01 -037	072B-01 -064
072B-01 -010	072B-01- 038	072B-01 -066
072B-01 -011	072B-01 -039	072B-01- 067
072B-01- 012	072B-01 -040	072B-01 -068
072B-01 -013	072B-01 -042A	072B-01 -069
072B-01 -014	072B-01 -043	072B-01 -070
072B-01 -015	072B-01 -045	072B-01 -071
072B-01 -016	072B-01 -046	072B-01 -072
072B-01- 017	072B-01- 047	072B-01 -073
072B-01- 018	072B-01- 048	072B-01 -074
072B-01 -019	072B-01 -049	072B-01 -075
072B-01- 020	072B-01 -050	072B-01- 076
072B-01 -021	072B-01 -051	072B-01 -077
072B-01- 022	072B-01 -052	072B-01 -078
072B-01 -023	072B-01 -053	072B-01 -079
072B-01 -025	072B-01 -054	072B-01 -080
072B-01 -026	072B-01 -055	072B-01 -081
072B-01 -027	072B-01 -056	
072B-01 -028	072B-01 -057	
072B-01- 029	072B-01 -058	
072B-01 -030	072B-01- 059	
072B-01 -031	072B-01- 060	

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Oakland-Freeport Historic District has been selected to define the area today that has the highest integrity and the greatest concentration of commercial and residential settlement prior to 1950. The

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proposed district's resources best reveal the two primary bases for its significance, association with railroad towns and with black communities in Warren County, Kentucky.

UTM Coordinates:

All points in Zone 16

	Easting	Northing	Quad Map
1:	566 840	4100 000	Smiths Grove
2:	567 030	4099 740	Smiths Grove
3:	566 940	4099 280	Smiths Grove
4:	566 770	4098 910	Smiths Grove
5:	566 800	4098 490	Smiths Grove
6:	566 270	4098 500	Bristow
7:	566 100	4099 160	Bristow
8:	566 200	4099 440	Bristow
9:	566 500	4099 860	Bristow
10:	566 630	4099 970	Bristow