

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 22 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 16 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC First Christian Church

AND/OR COMMON Lampton Baptist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 850 South Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN	Louisville	VICINITY OF	--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
			3 & 4
STATE	Kentucky	CODE	COUNTY
		021	Jefferson
			CODE
			111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Lampton Baptist Church

STREET & NUMBER 850 South Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN	Louisville	VICINITY OF	Kentucky	STATE	40202
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5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Court House

STREET & NUMBER Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN	Louisville	Kentucky	40202	STATE
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6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Metropolitan Preservation Plan

DATE HUD, 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Christian Church at the northwest corner of Fourth and Breckinridge Streets is located several blocks north of the Old Louisville Residential district (National Register, February, 1975). The area between what is today Old Louisville and the central business district was originally the earlier developed residential area south of the main part of the city.

Though much commercial development and parking lots have gone in this area, Fourth Street still retains several of its more outstanding landmarks in a two blocks area. In the block of First Christian Church is the First Unitarian Church (National Register April 21, 1976), Calvary Episcopal Church (January 18, 1978), Tompkins Buchanan House (April 27, 1977), and Presentation Academy (December 22, 1978).

The First Christian Church is an elegant limestone structure and the finest church in the Beaux-Arts style in Louisville. The main section of the church is a two-story stone building summounted by a dome with an octagonal drum. The most prominent feature of the facade is the classical portico with six fluted Corinthian columns supporting a simple entablature. The entablature is decorated with wreath motifs over the columns. The pediment is decorated with dentils and modillions and a roundel. The portico is reached by a flight of stone steps. Three doorways pierce the wall behind the portico. The entry ways each have double doors of wood and glass with transoms. A classical surround of egg and dart mold frames the doorways. The central entry is capped by a crown consisting of a blind arch embellished with three torch motifs and scrolls.

The side doors have smaller crowning elements consisting of shield and scroll motifs. Above the three entries are arched windows with medallions set in stone surrounds. Fluted engaged piers flank the central section of the facade behind the end columns of the portico. (Photo 1)

A bay flanks either side of the portico. The limestone walls are pierced on the first floor by a single window. The window is framed with two fluted pilasters and an extended stone sill. The windows are capped by the same style crown as the central entry way. An inscription is above either window. The architrave is embellished by a panel with a simple circular motif. This section is capped by a stone balustrade, which corresponds in height to the architrave of the portico. Behind the balustrade rises an octagonal drum of unequal sides. The long sides of the octagon correspond with the facade planes of the building. The shorter sides of the drum are above the corners of the main portion of the structure and are pierced with quatrefoil windows. The windows are richly capped with a cartouche and garlands. A dome in black rises above the drum.

The sides of the main structure consist of three bays articulated by pilasters. The end bays contain one window each on the first floor. This window has a classical surround and is capped by a shell motif. The center window is identical to the windows in the end bays of the main facade. Shallow side transepts are articulated by pilasters with Corinthian capitals. Double pilasters anchor the corners of the transept. The transept has three bays. Each bay contains one window per floor.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES **1910-1911** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **McDonald & Dodd**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Christian Church, designed by the prominent Louisville architectural firm of McDonald and Dodd, is the largest and finest Beaux-Arts church in Louisville.

The First Christian Church received its charter in 1846 and is the oldest congregation of the Disciples of Christ in Kentucky. The congregation broke away from the Baptist Disciples of Christ in 1833. The First Christian congregation had a beautiful stone church with a classical temple front that was begun in the 1860's and finished after the Civil War at Fourth and Walnut Streets. (Photo 7) Land values from commercial expansion skyrocketed in the area at the turn of the century. After several offers, the congregation finally accepted \$350,000 from Starks Realty Company for the site. Starks demolished the church and constructed the Starks Building designed by D.H. Bunham and Company.

The congregation commissioned Kenneth McDonald and William J. Dodd to design a church for the new site at Fourth and Breckinridge. The style of the structure was influenced by several factors. The returned popularity of the classical styles allowed the architects to consciously repeat some of the major stylistic elements of the early church such as the classical portico and raised entry. Oral tradition relates that the six fluted Corinthian columns of the Fourth and Walnut Street church were used in the new church, though this has not been established through documentation. The fondness for the earlier church was further exhibited by the placement in the banquet hall of stained glass window, which depicted the earlier structure.

The design of the church was also influenced by Beaux-Arts structures such as McKim, Mead and White's Library for Columbia University and the Bank of Montreal. Both structures have classical porticos and are surmounted by domes resting on octagonal drums. (Photo 8 & 9)

The firm of McDonald and Dodd practiced in Louisville from 1905-1913. Kenneth McDonald began his practice with his brother Harry in the late 1870's. Their firm of the McDonald Brothers had an extensive regional practice. The Kentucky National Bank (Vaughn Building) and Calvary Church (National Register Jan. 18, 1978) are among their most distinguished designs in Louisville. Kenneth practiced with John F. Sheblessy for a few years before becoming Dodd's partner. William J. Dodd came to Louisville from Chicago in 1884, where he received his early training in the office of S.S. Beeman. He practiced for several years with Mason

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Do you remember way back when. "The Courier Journal, 7 January 1922.

Drane Hervert, Jr. A Study of the History of the First Christian Church.
Lexington: The College of Bible, 1959.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.12 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville West Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 608540 4233220
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

VBD. City of Louisville Block 29D Lot 69, 70. The boundary extends from a point at the north west corner of Fourth Street; thence 245 feet west on Breckenridge to an alley; thence 200 feet north; thence 245 feet east to Fourth Street; thence 200 feet south on

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES Fourth St. to begining

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marty Poynter Hedgepeth Director of Research

ORGANIZATION

Historic Landmarks and Preservation District Com.

DATE

March 21, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

502/587/3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville, Kentucky 40202

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Robert W. Nelson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 5-15-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles A. ...*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-16-79

ATTEST: *Ann H. ...*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7/11/79

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First Christian

CONTINUATION SHEET Church

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The first floor windows are rectangular and are capped by a pediment. These contain stained glass in geometric motifs. The upper windows are arched and all are the same style as the windows over the main doorways. These also contain figurative stained glass (see interior description). The pilasters of the transept support an architrave and pediment which are identical to the portico.

The south side of the structure also contains an entry way. This consists of three stone arches which surround three pair of double wood and glass doors. An arched glass transom caps the doorway. Above the doors are three arched windows of the same style as the windows over the main entry.

A Sunday school and office addition was made in the 1950's at the rear of the north side of the sanctuary. This addition is in stone and of a very tasteful treatment which doesn't distract from the original section of the church.

The interior of the church is as outstanding in its design as the exterior. The narthex extends the length of the portico. The area has a shallow vaulted ceiling and the room is embellished with a variety of classical moldings. Off either side of the narthex are stairhalls. Three double doors of mahogany with stained glass panels and transoms lead into the main auditorium. (Photo 3)

The main auditorium is one of the largest sanctuaries in Louisville. The gallery extends over the area where one enters, and the great expanse of space and the beautiful dome decorations are not experienced until one steps a few feet into the nave.

The sanctuary interior is a rich combination of pastels, translucent stained glass and deep mahogany hues. The dome is an inner shell structure. It is decorated with classical moldings in plaster which radiate from the oculus in sixteen sections. Eight stained glass windows in pastel hues are contained in the ceiling of the dome. The oculus also contains a large stained glass window of delicate geometric and floral decoration. (Photo 4)

The walls of the church are pierced by four massive arches which rise for the full two stories of the structure. Three of the arches contain galleries. The arches are decorated by a row of rosettes and bead molding. A cartouche acts as a keystone. The inside of the arch is also embellished by rosettes. In the north transept walls are three stained glass windows with the Old Testament figures of Elijah, Moses and David. The south windows contain figures of the New Testament, Peter, Christ and Luke. The windows of the rear gallery have a continued pastoral scene which could be symbolic of Eden or paradise. The windows of the first floor of the north and south galleries contain geometric stained glass. The front archway contains the organ pipes.

In the four corners of the sanctuary on the second floor are niches with semidomes.

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CONTINUATION SHEET First Christian Church ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The arches of these areas are articulated from the gallery arches by an ornate engaged column, which rests on a square pedestal and curves into an acanthus leaf decoration. It is capped by a capital of acanthus leaves. The column resembles a Renaissance candlestand. The arches of the niche are decorated by torch and scroll motifs. The torch motif also caps the engaged column.

The only alteration made to the interior was to the choir section. A platform was extended to accommodate the large choir and the wood railing was replaced by an iron one in the mid 1970's by Jasper Ward, a Louisville architect. The original pulpit which contained a depiction of Bacchus, the god of wine, was removed and stored. A local sculptor, Barney Bright, created a soaring eagle to serve as the pulpit. Behind the choir, under the organ pipes is a large baptismal font. (Photo 6)

The church has a semi-circular arrangement of pews derived from the Akron plan. The structure still retains its original mahogany pews. (Photo 5)

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CONTINUATION SHEET First Christian Church ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Maury. The firm of Maury and Dodd was responsible for the design of St. Paul's Church and the Louisville Trust Building (National Register April 18, 1977). Dodd practiced with engineer Arthur Cobb in the firm of Dodd and Cobb. They designed Louisville's most outstanding residence in the Beaux-Arts style, the Ferguson Mansion 1901-1903 (Old Louisville) and the now threatened Atherton Building.

The firm of McDonald and Dodd produced some of Louisville finest buildings. Their other notable works in the city include the old YMCA (National Register December 16, 1977); the Weissinger Gaulbert Apartments (National Register, December 12, 1977); the Western Branch Library (National Register, December 6, 1976); Adath Israel (National Register, Feb. 1975); Tyler Hotel; and the Stewart's Dry Goods Building.

The congregation of the First Christian Church decreased in size and partitions were placed in the main auditorium. In the mid 1970's the congregation decided to move to a suburban location. The Lampton Baptist congregation was being displaced from their church by the expansion of the University of Louisville Medical School, and purchased the First Christian Church. The Lampton congregation has completed major restoration of the structure and has been honored for that work on both the local and state level.

The First Christian Church is one of the most handsome and elegant structures in Louisville. The restraint used by the architects, McDonald and Dodd, with the Beaux-Arts stylistic elements has created a structure of dignity and monumentality.

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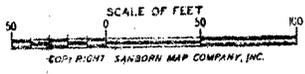
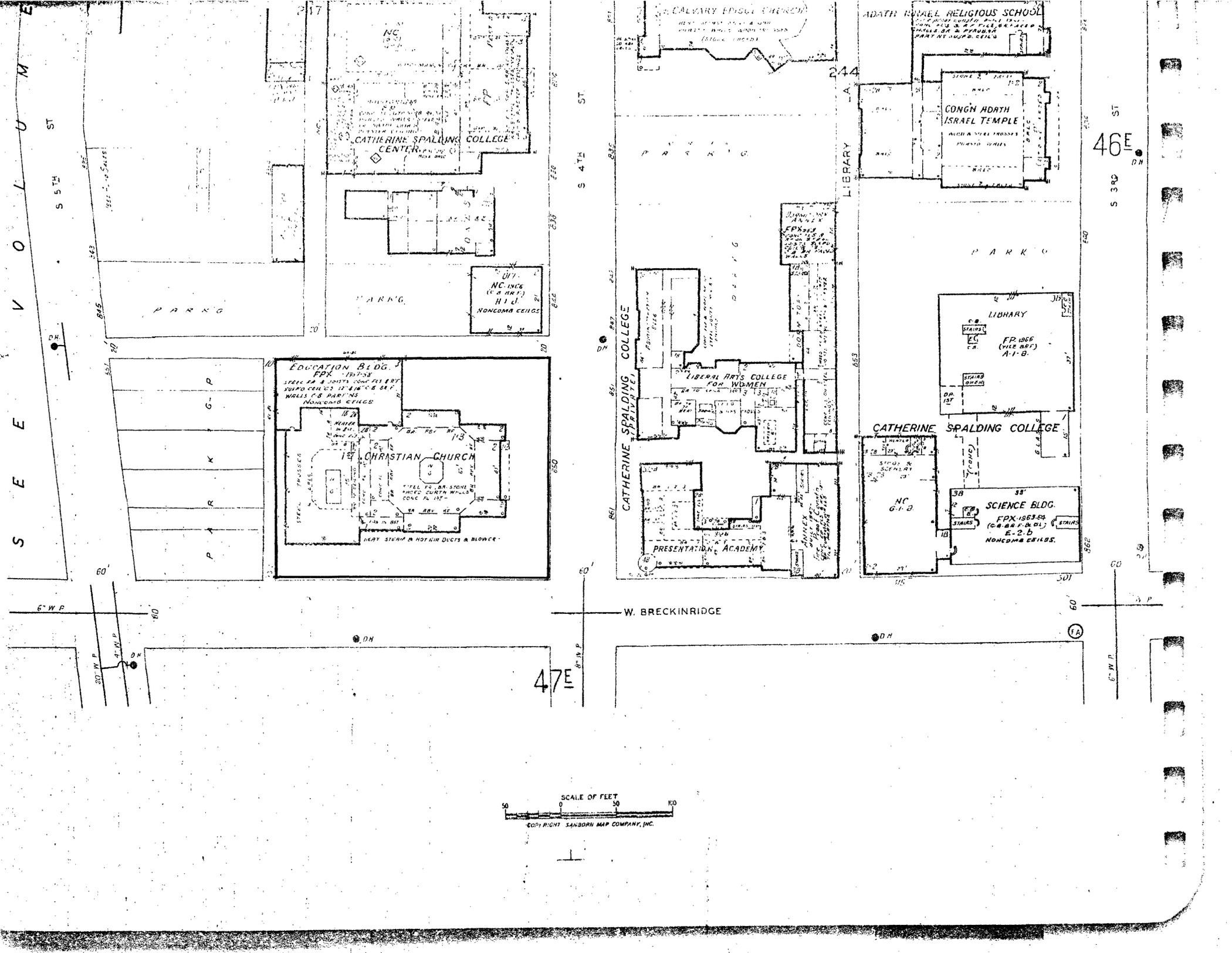
CONTINUATION SHEET First Christian Church ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Granger, Alfred Hoyt. Charles Follen Mckim. New York: Benjamm Bloom, 1972.

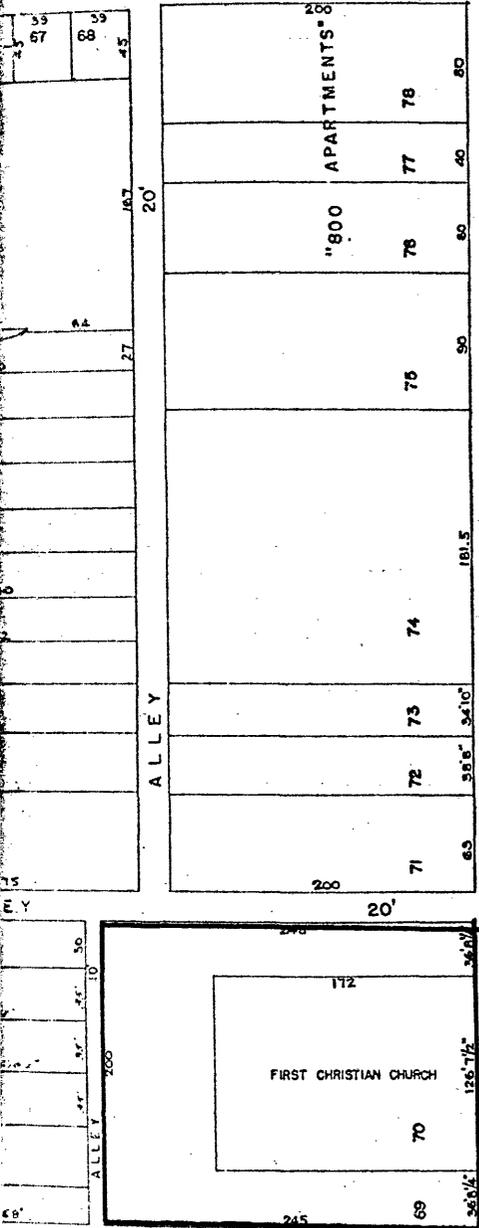
Lampton Baptist Church. Dedication Booklet at Lampton Baptist Church, n.p., p.d.

Langsom, Watler, ed. Preservation: Louisville Metropolitan Architectural and Historic Preservation Plan. Louisville: Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, May 1973.

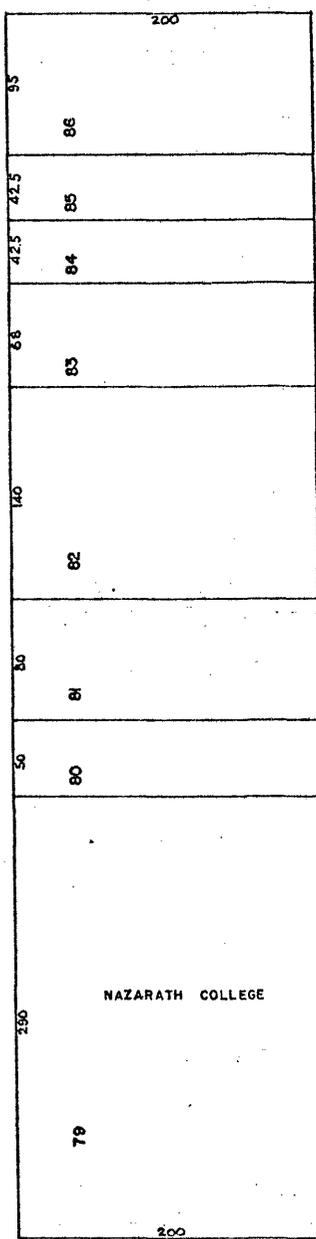
"Western Branch Library." National Register Nomination Form entered December 6, 1975.



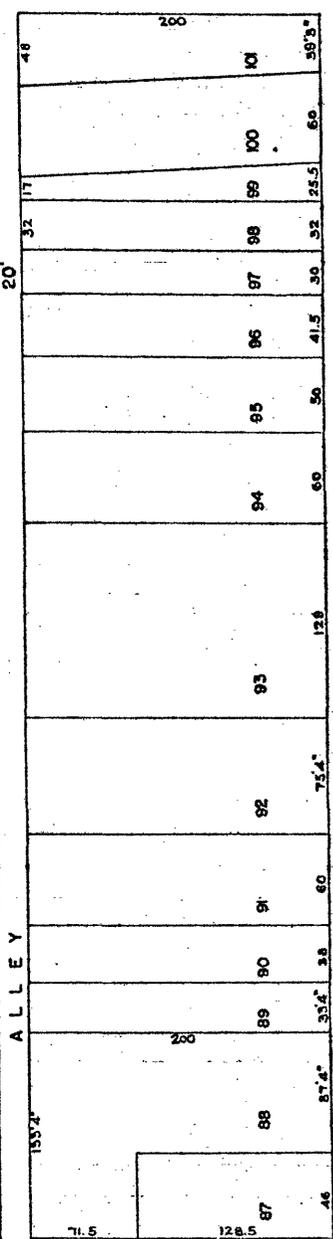
First Christian Church
850 S. Fourth Street
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.
Map 2. Sandborn Real Estate
Map, 1972. **MAY 22, 1979**



ST. 60' 4 TH.



ST. 60'



ST. 60' 3 RD.

First Christian Church **JUL 6 1979**
850 S. Fourth Street
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.
Map 3. Jefferson County
Real Estate Map **MAY 22 1979**