

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Clark Hardware Co. Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
367-69 W. Short St. and 142 N. Broadway

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Lexington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF 6

STATE
Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY
Fayette

CODE
067

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Brown Sledd & McCann

STREET & NUMBER
300 W. Short St.

CITY, TOWN
Lexington

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
W. Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Lexington

STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Kentucky Historic Resources Surveys

DATE
April, 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN
Frankfort

STATE
Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

A very tall three-story brick building, the former Clark Hardware store has a prominent site opposite the restored Lexington Opera House at the western edge of the downtown area (photo 1). The building is distinguished by its higher third story, which seems never to have been finished inside, having always served for storage. Its round-arched third story windows have rather plain purpose-made brick hoodmolds on upside-down ogee corbels (photo 2). The second story windows, which were similar but had segmental arches, have been altered. They were reduced to standard residential size during the second quarter of the 20th century, and multiplied: 10 irregularly spaced windows replaced the original five aligned with those above on the W side (see Chinn photographs A-2 and B-14). The wide Short St. shopfront, with its chamfered-edged panelled double doors and large expanses of glass, is original (photo 3). There are also two display windows framed by Italianate bracketed pilasters and lintels on the W side. The main cornice is simple but well-proportioned and effective from a distance. The elongated brackets are widely spaced and there are stacked-brick dentils over bare panels between the brackets (photo 4). The section facing Broadway (142 N. Broadway) at the north end of the main building has a plain brick facade with standard windows; it was probably added after 1920 to provide access to the second floor, which had been converted for office or residential use (photo 5). The whole first floor is a single large space. The plain pressed-metal ceiling has a Greek key or meander pattern under the cross-beams at the rear (photo 6). The second story is divided into pleasant living rooms whose windows have 6/1 sash. The third story has innumerable shelves on two levels, with the remains of two workshops in the front, but the walls, floor, and roof have not been finished or covered. The windows are the original 2/2 sash. The exterior walls have been painted over some time ago.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1860-70

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark Hardware Building is an exceptionally handsome example of the Italianate Commercial style. This tall three-story brick building has a prominent site at the western edge of the downtown Lexington commercial area, near the recently restored Lexington Opera House, and at the approximate intersection of the Western Suburb and Northside Historic Residential Districts. The first floor and third floor are virtually intact, although at some time in the second quarter of the 20th century the second floor was converted into residential or office space and the fenestration completely altered. Nevertheless, the grand proportions, the cornice, and the tall round-arched windows of the (unused) third story are impressive on the conspicuous corner site.

Probably erected shortly after the Civil War, the building housed a series of well-known grocery stores from the 1870s until the turn of the century, then dry goods and furniture stores, before being occupied by the Clark Hardware Co. for over 40 years (1923-67). During this span there were (as there still are) several other rival businesses at this intersection, familiar to all Lexingtonians. This landmark is slated for adaptive use and possible restoration by a distinguished local law firm.

In the first half of the 19th century this important corner lot passed through a number of hands. A portion of the original Town Lot E, it was deeded in 1790 to Thomas Kennedy, assignee of David Mitchell, deceased. "This lot was afterwards sold by Kennedy to Nathaniel Wilson and Dr. Frederick Ridgely, and then to others" (Leavy, "Memoirs," p. 368). The title has been traced back to Dr. Thomas B. Pinkard, who sold it in 1855 to Mary E. and William Self. The earlier building is shown on the 1855 map of Lexington as part of a row of two-story houses along Short Street opposite the large and famous Broadway Hotel building on the NW corner of Broadway and Short. Magdalena Sheeley (or Shely) acquired the property in 1868 and sold to George A. Sheeley in 1860 for \$2,600, a figure comparable to that of 1835. Sheeley sold it in 1884 for \$11,625, reflecting no doubt the increase in value of the improvements. The 1871 Bird's Eye View of Lexington shows the present structure from the northwest, apparently including even the three display windows on the Broadway side. Joe C. Clark, a prosperous wholesale grocer who lived in the famous January-Gibson House on W. Second St. in the 1890s, bought the property in 1884; it passed to Clifford F. Clark in 1907; to R.T. Anderson in 1915; to John W. Clark (probably no relation of the previous Clarks) in 1920; since his death, the property has been held in trust by the First National Bank and Trust Co. until its recent acquisition by Brown Sledd & McCann.

Probably the first occupant of the building was the Bryant, Hardesty & Co. grocery store, listed there in the 1873-74 directory (no occupant has been found in the earlier directories, which were not organized by location). Henry Hardesty, the grocer who alternated between farming and business throughout his career, had also been in the soap and candle business prior to 1865. According to Perrin (p. 623),

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

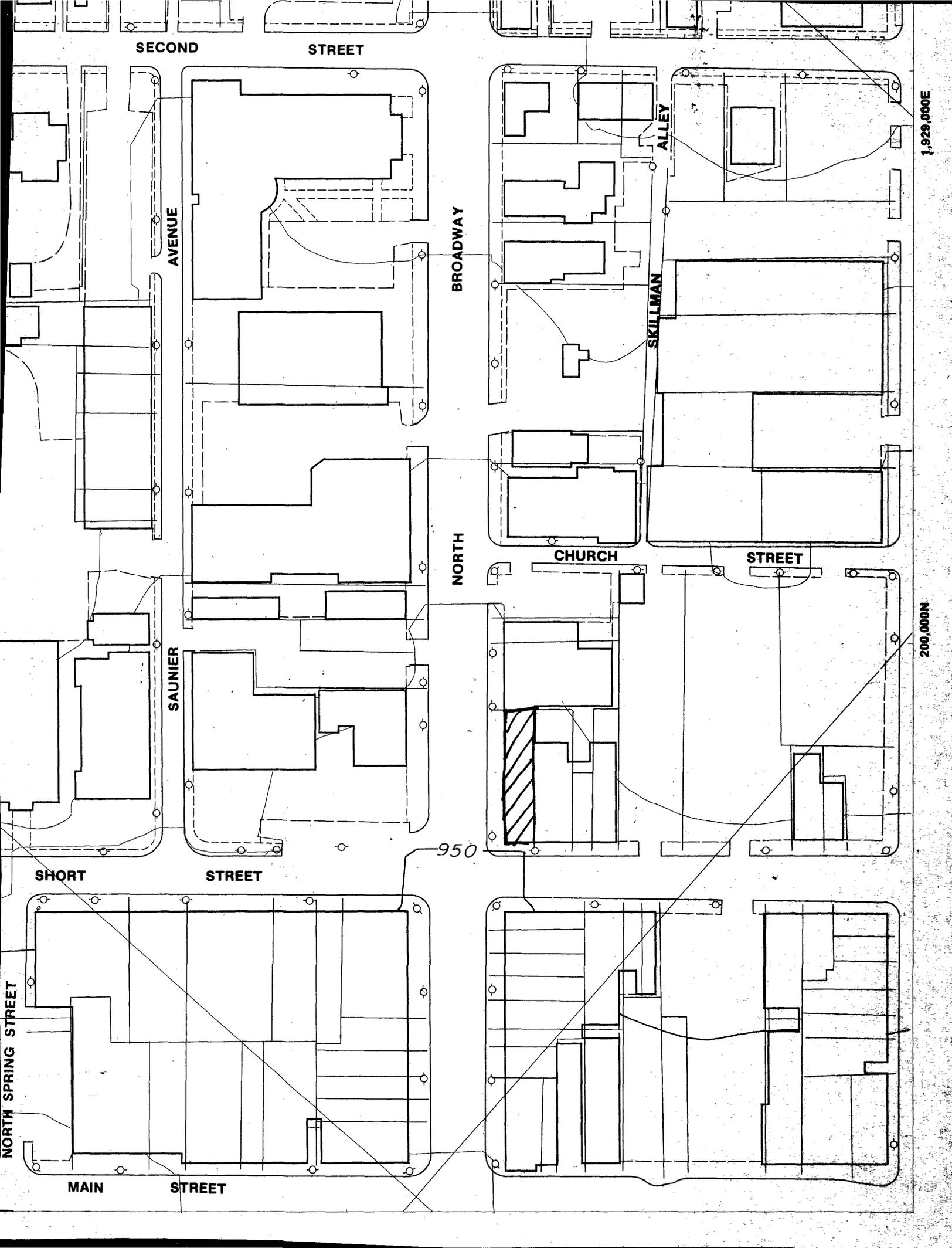
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 22 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 16 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

after a three-year return to his farm, "In 1877, he purchased his son John's interest in a grocery in Lexington, and the same year took in partnership his son-in-law W.D. Bryant, the firm being now known as Bryant & Hardesty," the same name under which they had been listed in the 1873-74 directory at the corner of Short and Broadway. Hardesty had married a daughter of John A. Shely, thus it seems likely there was a family connection with the then-owners of the buildings, Magdalena and Georga A. Sheeley (usually spelled Shely). The 1875-76 directory lists Foushee, Cassell & Co., grocers; Hughes & Cassell, 1877-84; James R. Hughes alone, 1887-98; Frank Maer, dry goods, about 1902; the Home Furniture Co., about 1906-21; and the Clark Hardware Co., with which the building has long been identified by Lexingtonians, from about 1923 (shortly after the proprietor, John or Jack W. Clark, acquired the property) until 1967. After about a year's vacancy, the present printing firm moved in. It is expected that the structure will be occupied and restored or renovated in the near future by a prominent Lexington law firm as their offices. This building is the cornerstone of a block which includes the old Masonic Lodge, an early residence and several other turn-of-the-century hardware store buildings.



SECOND STREET

AVENUE

BROADWAY

ALLEY

SKILLMAN

NORTH

CHURCH

STREET

SAUNIER

950

SHORT

STREET

NORTH SPRING STREET

MAIN

STREET

1,929,000E

200,000N

Clark Hardware Co. Building

Lexington
367-69 W. Short St. & 142 N. Broadway
Fayette
Kentucky

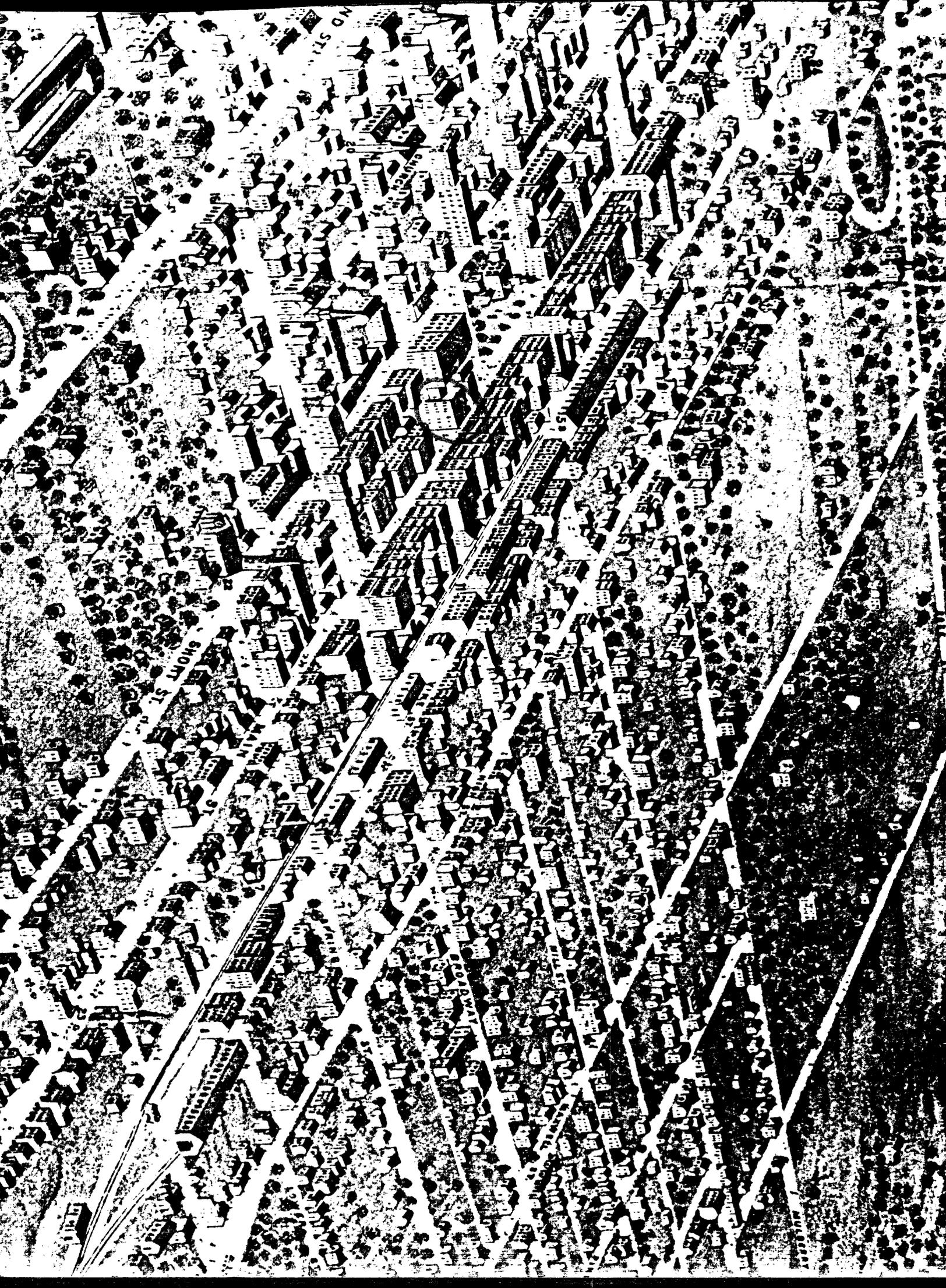
Downtown Area Topographic Map
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
Division of Planning

Scale - 1" = 100'

Map 2

MAY 22 1979

JUL 16 1979



Clark Hardware Co. Building

Lexington
267-69 W. Short St.
Fayette
Kentucky

Birds Eye View of the City of Lexington

Scale - Unknown

Date - 1871

Map 3

MAY 22 1979

JUL 16 1979