

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682063

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 14 1978
DATE ENTERED JUN 19 1980

**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

Old Statehouse Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bounded by Broadway, Blanton, St. Clair, Ann, & High Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

(See Continuation Sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

St. Clair Street

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Old Statehouse ~~Historic District~~ consists of a rather compact grid of narrow streets and alleys located between the steep cliff of Fort Hill on the north, Broadway with its railroad track on the south, the Capitol Plaza on the west, and the State Office Building and a railroad yard on the east. Only the Old Capitol or Public Square with its park-like landscaping protrudes half a block east ~~west~~ of St. Clair Street at the southwest corner of the proposed district (see enclosed map). Residences and other buildings that line the streets in a dense though irregular manner are in general set close to the thoroughfares, with a minimal recess or none at all. A mixture of scales and materials exist, but there is an overall homogeneity present, particularly in contrast to the massive and ever-present natural and man-made features that define the boundaries.

Architecturally, the area is diversified, although most of the significant construction dates from the 19th century. The sequence begins with the Old Governors' Mansion (listed on the National Register March 11, 1971), built shortly before 1800 and considered one of the convincingly Georgian brick houses in the state, with its beltcourse and shaped water table (see photo 2). The attractive entrance and cornice and much of the interior are reconstructions--attempts to return to the original following a Victorianization that occurred in the mid-19th century. However, the basic layout, fine brickwork, and related outbuildings have survived and the walled garden to the south conveys a sense of the mansion's original setting.

The Federal period is represented by the Achilles Sneed House a block away on the corner of Ann and Clinton Streets. It was much altered and enlarged in the mid- and late-19th century, but retains its brick main block and evidence of the original fanlit entrance (see photo 3). The impressive double house at 406-408 High Street (see photo 4), in spite of the Victorian cornice and hood-molds, has an unforfeited Federal feeling, with its massive chimneys linked by a flat parapet on the party wall and splayed jack arches. Some of the other more modest residences have a Federal flavor also, even though they may date from the mid-19th century.

The Greek Revival is epitomized by the Old State Capitol, (1827-30), a hexastyle structure built of local stone (listed on the National Register March 11, 1971). This building was designed by Kentucky's own Gideon Shryock, and has been recently restored in exemplary fashion for the Kentucky Historical Society. Its tempietto-like cupola is the chief landmark of the district, as of all downtown Frankfort (see photos 1 and 5).

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES: 1796-present BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Varied

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Statehouse Historic District represents an old, stable, and diversified middle-class neighborhood whose residents have serviced the government and the city throughout its existence. The western boundary of the neighborhood was defined with the construction of the first capitol building in 1793, and the eastern, with the governor's residence also in 1793. The inhabitants have been in service occupations ever since, running schools and businesses, and providing trade skills. Their occupations have ranged from restaurant owner to local politician and druggist to printer, and their backgrounds have included German, English, and Afro-American. This diversity is evident not only within the makeup of the population, but in the physical characteristics of the neighborhood as well. On every street is a mixture of residences, commercial buildings and service buildings, such as churches and warehouses. Visually, one is confronted with a variety of shapes, heights, spaces, and surfaces. Even architecturally there is a cross-section of styles, ranging from Georgian to 20th century bungalow. The community, however, is bound together economically and socially. It has existed as a counterpoint to the more famous "Corner in Celebrities" (Listed on the National Register March 11, 1977). While the "Corner" represents the illustrious upper-class, and well-educated professionals of the town and state, the Old Statehouse Historic District represents its modest and middle-class equivalent. Architectural features of the "Corner" are repeated, just a shade less elaborately, in the district. The contributions of this neighborhood's residents has remained what it always has been but of basically local importance.

The most striking characteristic of the Old Statehouse Historic District is the individuality of its components. There is no uniformity among the styles of residences or commercial facades. There are no contractor blocks and no sweeping spreads of lawn and boulevard. Instead, individual owners built their homes and businesses to their own specifications, placing the building as desired upon the lot. New structures filled in the odd areas that were once gardens, stables or alleys. Consequently, backyards are very irregular and some buildings are placed

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Atlas of Franklin County, Kentucky. Philadelphia : D.J. Lake Co., 1882 (Reprinted in 1971-72 by the Frankfort Blueprint Company).

The City of Frankfort, Franklin County, Kentucky. Louisville: Hart & Mapother, 1854.

Collins, Richard H. History of Kentucky. 2 vols. Louisville: Richard H. Collins, 1877. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 27 acres

**UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,8,5,8,9,0	4,2,3,0,2,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	6,8,6,3,4,0	4,2,2,9,7,6,0

B	1,6	6,8,5,2,2,0	4,2,2,9,7,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	1,6	6,8,6,3,5,0	4,2,3,0,2,6,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southeastern boundary of the district begins at the northwest corner of the intersection of High and Broadway Streets and extends in a northwesterly direction along the north side of Broadway approximately one thousand, one hundred and fifty feet (1,150 ft.) to a point where Broadway formerly intersected Madison Street. (Madison Street still exists on the south side of Broadway but has been filled in completely on the north side.) The boundary of the district

(continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider/Architectural Historian

Martha Hubbard/ Walter Langsam, William Broberg, Carolyn Torma, Calvin P. Jones **DK**

ORGANIZATION

Resident, 124 Clinton Street/Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER

/104 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

DATE

August 1977

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna C. Hopkins
TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8-8-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 6/19/80
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *Kristin O'Connell*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/18/80

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Several residences in the district have a Greek Revival character--although being townhouses, none is overtly Grecian. The S. I. M. Major House at Ann and Mero (see photo 6) has plain lintels and a doorway framed by simplified pilasters and an entablature similar to others in the area (see photo 7).

The Gothic Revival is well represented by an extremely fine example, the John Rodman House on Ann Street (see photo 8). Although it has lost its elaborate Tudor Revival porch across the front, the house has retained five acutely angled gables dripping with icicle-like pendant bargeboards, as well as wooden Tudor "labels" around the double windows and door. There are more modest variants of the Tudor mode: the rare board-and-batten cottages across Ann Street (one of which has been resurfaced, but retains its labels), and the Gill House on Mero with its single decorated gable. Others have Tudoresque porches with low pointed arches and cutout wooden cusps, such as the Sanford Goin House (see photo 9) on the corner of Lewis and Clinton Streets.

The mid-19th century Italianate style left its mark throughout the district in both new construction, such as the Sigmund Luscher House (see photo 10), and on remodelled buildings, such as the Sneed House (see photo 3). The 1868 Luscher House has rather plain hood molds--round-arched on the upper story, segmental on the lower--but boasts the most exquisite filigree work in the area: delicate Rococo tendrils and fruit patterns.

Other outstanding examples of 19th century cast-iron filigree porches of the "New Orleans" type (though probably cast in Louisville or New Albany, Indiana) exist on the earlier Taylor-Lutkemeier House on the east side of Capitol Square (see photo 11), on two sides of the Italianate Cannon-Dreyer House (although one porch has been replaced with a plain wooden version) at Ann and Clinton (see photo 12), and at one time on the Old Governors' Mansion.

Several later houses, such as the 1891 Meagher House on St. Clair (see photo 13) have fancy porches with turned work that provides a pale equivalent of cast-iron.

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The Miles Milling Company (now Roberts Printing Company) has a heavy cast-iron cornice with a centered gable (see photo 14). This element is an extreme example of the late-19th century over-scaling of once classical detail, with its rows of knobs, panelled frieze, and stylized fan. Cast-iron was also used for hood molds over windows and doors and for cornices on residences and for several commercial structures on Broadway. The structure at the corner of Lewis and Broadway (see photo 15) has a handsome shopfront of this material with supports in an advanced New Grecian style, as well as a fine Italianate cornice.

The architectural climax of the proposed district in the years following the Civil War was to have been the New Capitol, of which only the East Wing, or fire-proof offices, was built (now usually referred to as the Old Capitol Annex (see photos 1 and 16). According to views made at the time, the New Capitol was to have been a typical post-Civil War version of the capitol in Washington, D. C. As designed by the Louisville architectural firm of Bradshaw and Vodges, the Annex is characterized by a lavish wall treatment of elongated Victorian windows, each with its own pediment or frame, quoins and rustication--all of fine stone from the Russellville quarries.

Aside from the Old Capitol and Annex, the most impressive structural features within the district are the vast stone vaults of the former Luscher Brewery that has recently been transformed into a restaurant (see photo 17). These are burrowed into the hillside under the former City Workhouse, and although not impressive from the exterior, prove to have considerable interest inside.

The High Victorian Gothic is represented by St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church on the corner of Clinton and Buffalo Alley (see photo 18). Erected in 1894, its construction is of hard red brick with stone trim and foundation, and yellow brick outlining the sharply pointed windows. There is a corbelled brick Lombard arcade defining the main front gable over a large bare brick area above the great south window with its three circles over the arches. A similar arcade frames the pointed window in the upper stage of the corner tower; the flat top of the tower

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does not seem to be original, as it ends rather abruptly with a change of brickwork near the top and interrupted machicolation on the side. The front also features small, rounded triangular openings.

The addition to the Sneed House (see left side of photo 19) is the only other overtly Richardsonian element in the district, with its round-arched entrance trimmed with bands of stone curling at the corners. Other structures do have round-arched porches or entrances, though. The most notable is the surprisingly charming City Workhouse (now the City Jail) which is constructed of heavy local stone. Its recessed, rounded doorway is enlivened by a decorative opening in the gable above (see map 2; F-8-22-1).

There are several large frame houses in the Queen Anne style dating from the turn of the century. Among them is the 1891 Meagher House at the corner of St. Clair and Blanton (see photo 13) that has typical varied surfacing--clapboard, shingle, panelling--a side bay and oriel that ends in a turret-roof, a heraldic colored glass panel in the parlor window, and a spindlework porch. A cottage several doors to the south (see photo 20) has an octagonal, turreted dormer, and a brick first story with shingled gables.

The other ecclesiastical building in the district is the First Baptist Church on the corner of Clinton and High Streets (see photo 21). According to a drawing of 1905, the design at an earlier phase was, like St. John's, High Victorian Gothic. As completed in 1908, however, the church is a most imaginative version of the Richardsonian Romanesque manner combined with a few elements from St. John's, such as the band of machicolation under the cornice of the tower. Like many late 19th century churches in the Richardsonian vein, this building appears to be sunk partially into the ground, as if the main story had been squeezed out between the high stone foundation and the weight of the low, heavy roof. The wide gables flanking the soaring tower come almost down to its base where there are deeply recessed, round-arched entrances with concentric brick arches. The main stage of the tower with an attached tourelle has two round-arched lancets on each side--connected by a thin brick band and a plaque below. Above the tower's emphatic cornice is an octagonal lantern and spire with a cornice, apparently supported only by delicate Romanesque columns.

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There are, finally, a few early 20th century bungalows in the district, and on St. Clair Street are also a matched pair of cottages with shingled sides and heavy dormers looming over porches. On the alleys are some attractive gardens, old brick walks, and fences of varying age and material that contribute to the overall character of the district.

Within the Old Statehouse Historic District are 102 structures or buildings. Of this total, 77 contribute to the area's historical and architectural fabric. The number of intrusions, defined by being less than 50 years of age or being altered to the extent that little of the original integrity remains, number 17. In addition to the intrusions, there are six parking lots and one playground. Clinton, Mero, Ann, Lewis, and St. Clair Streets contain an almost equal number of buildings or structures that are contributing factors. Intrusions, however, are in no concentrated form, and appear only at great random.

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Within the Old Statehouse Historic District are 95 structures. Of this total, 83 contribute to the area's architectural and historic fabric; seven are post-1930 buildings which do not actively detract from the streetscape. There are twelve intrusions, the majority of which are government-related buildings whose scale and massing are incompatible with the older structures in the district. In addition to intrusive structures, there are eight parking lots and one vacant lot. Clinton, Mero, Ann, Lewis, and St. Clair streets contain the greatest concentrations of contributing structures.

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flush against the street (124 Clinton, 528 Lewis, 415-417 Lewis), while others sit behind broad lawns (506, 512, 522 Ann).

This random individuality extends into the lives of the neighborhood's occupants. Along any street, was and still is, an assortment of professions, interests, and backgrounds.

From the period of 1786 to the Civil War, there remain several structures. Most can be considered within the Federal style, and some built later in the century reflect the growing influence of the Greek Revival style. The district at this time gained two additional features which gave it distinct visual boundaries. The Broadway Street railroad tracks were laid and a row of commercial structures were built along the street. The eastern boundary was clearly defined in 1799 when the penitentiary was built along the east side of the street. The prison gradually expanded along two blocks, sealing off the neighborhood. Many residents of the district, like the Rodman family, worked for the penitentiary.

The earliest documented structure in the district is the governor's residence (see National Register form, listed March 11, 1971; 400 block High). One of the few convincingly Georgian brick houses in the State, this once occupied half the block, with its stables, gardens and outbuildings (see photos 2 and 22).

The Federal period of the early 19th century is represented by the Achilles Sneed House (124 West Clinton) a block away (photo 3). Much altered during the last century, it retains its brick main block and evidence of the original fanlit entrance. Sneed served as the Second Clerk of the Court of Appeals in 1805, as a member of the Board of Directors of the First Bank of Kentucky in 1807, and as a trustee for the town of Frankfort around 1820, when this house was built.¹ The house was later² occupied by Sylvester Welch, who worked on the early docks on the Kentucky River, and still later by poet Robert Burns Wilson (see photos 23 and 24).³

The Greek Revival is epitomized by the Old State Capital (see National Register form listed on March 11, 1971). The first major design of the famous early Kentucky architect Gideon Shyrock, is the first full-scale temple form statehouse completed in the United States since Jefferson's Virginia capitol of 1785-89.⁴

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At least three houses in the district retain something of their Greek Revival character. Each has plain lintels and doorway framed by simple pilasters and entablature. The first of these houses is the S.I.M. Major House (519 Ann) (see photos 6, 25, 26). The house was built between 1835-40, prior to Major's purchase of The Kentucky Yeoman newspaper.⁵ Major turned The Yeoman into a reputable and influential publication, guiding it through the turmoil of the Civil War, until his death in 1886. The second is the Runyon House (518 Ann), built around 1844 (photo 7). Mrs. Mary Troyne Runyon ran the Greenwood Seminary in the building which was adjacent to the house.⁶ Open to both young gentlemen and ladies, only the latter boarded with the family. Thirdly is the John Haley House (410-412 Ann) built around 1860. First occupied by contractor John Haley, the house was later a home for Secretary of State (1863), the Honorable E. C. Van Winkle, and still later, dry goods merchants, Thomas and Joseph Rodman lived here before it was converted into the offices of the Bush Contracting Co.⁷

Prior to the Civil War, several other notable structures were built. The simple and attractive shop and apartments building (528 Lewis) appears to have retained its present condition since 1854.⁸ Further south on Lewis (415-417) is the Reverend Richard Gillespie House. First occupied by this Methodist minister, the house passed to the Jerome Weitzels, who managed the Capitol Hotel.

The decade of 1860-70 brought the Gothic Revival style into the district. The highpoint of this style in the neighborhood is the John Rodman House (512 Ann).¹⁰ Although the elaborate Tudor Revival porch across the front has been removed, the house still retains fine details, such as the five acute-angle gables enriched with icicle-like pendant bargeboards, and wooden Tudor "labels" around the double windows and doors (photo 8). The house most clearly echoes the "Corner in Celebrities" district and the better known Bibb-Burney House.

More modest variants of the style are the rare board-and-batten cottages on Ann Street (507 is the only one not sided over) and the single decorated gable of a one-story cottage on Mero (216). The latter, built around 1872, was the home of the carpenter Daniel Lynch and his son Richard, a stone cutter, whose work can be seen around Frankfort.

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The Gothic Revival taste for elaborate decoration can be seen in some exquisite examples of cast iron filigree porches. Although associated with New Orleans in most viewers' minds, the porches were probably manufactured in Louisville, Kentucky or New Albany, Indiana. Frequently these were added to older buildings, such as the Taylor House (419 Lewis), later owned by the Lutkemeiers, who were druggists and German immigrants of the 1860s.¹¹ Porches were also added to homes contemporary to the 1860s, such as the Captain John Cannon House (418-20 Ann). Cannon's domestic taste was encouraged by his business; he was owner of the magnificent "Robert E. Lee" Mississippi steamboat.

Cast iron was used more extensively during the next two decades (1870s, 1880s). It appears as hoodmolds over windows and doors and as cornices on several Broadway commercial buildings and on the Cannon House (418-420 Ann). The Cannon House is an example of exceptionally elaborate work, with lavish swags of fruit suspended from broken miniature pediments. A commercial building built in 1882 (208-210 Broadway) provides a fine example of an entire cast iron facade. Originally a restaurant and saloon, it later became the well-known Broadway Hotel. The style here is New Grecian with a fine Italianate cornice.

The post Civil War era brought an influx of businesses and other service structures. In 1866 Sigmund Luscher, a Swiss immigrant, carved caves into the cliffs at the foot of Ann Street.¹² He used them to store the beer made in the brewery he constructed around them. Lucher's house (615 Ann) used the popular cast iron in the cornice and the fine molded modillions. One of the finest houses in the district, the plain hoodmolds, which are rounded arches on the upper story and segmental ones on the lower, contrast with the exquisite filigree. The brewery is rather similar in design, although the upper story has been altered. On the first story, round-arched openings have stone keystones and impost blocks, as well as stone quoins. The caves themselves are structurally impressive and have been adapted for use as a restaurant.

Several blocks south on Ann (407), the office of the Miles Milling Company was built in 1875.¹³ This building is an extreme example of the late 19th century over-scaling of once-classical detail, with its rows of knobs, panelled frieze and stylized fan. In 1914 the building achieved local importance when it was purchased by Edward J. Roberts. It was here most of the Franklin County and City of Frankfort histories have been published.

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Among the non-residential structures of the 19th century which have been razed, but which once played a vital part in the community, are: the City Jail (on the site of St. Johns AME Church¹⁴), the Meriweather Hotel (300 block Broadway¹⁵), the gas works and plant board (Mero Street), and a coach factory and flour mill (Ann Street). This district has also lost some of the homes of its most famous residents, such as one lived in by the famous painter, Paul Sawyer (112 E. Broadway¹⁶) and another owned by Judge James Polsgrove (414 Ann).¹⁷

The climax for the post-war era was to have been the New Capitol, which eventually became merely the Annex¹⁸ (see National Register form). As the century progressed, other styles became evident in the area. The Mandlerh House of 1882 (514 Ann) reveals a strong Italianate influence in the final reduction of ornament to incised lines within the surface of the hoodmolds. This family ran one of the city's groceries.

The High Victorian Gothic eventually peaked in 1893, when St. Johns African Methodist Episcopal Church (208 Clinton) was built.¹⁹ One of the two black churches in the Old State Historic District, it was founded in 1839 and continues to serve the community. Its Gothic arches are emphasized with yellow brick trim and corbelled brick around the entrance.

The other black church (100 W. Clinton), the First Baptist, was formed in 1833 when John Ward and Ziah Black led a movement out of the white Baptist Church.²⁰ In 1838 Reverend Henderson Williams became the first pastor and this structure was evidently erected circa 1906 or shortly thereafter after an interesting court case in 1903-1904 in which the City of Frankfort refused permission for a new building on the grounds that a negro church was a "nuisance."²¹ Although originally designed in the High Gothic style, the church was eventually built in the Richardsonian mode. The building appears to have sunk partially into the ground, as if the main story had been squeezed out between the huge foundations and the weight of the heavy, low roof. The most striking feature is the great south gable, banded by beautiful cut stone with Byzantine foliage at the joints. The rose window is framed by a generously decorated flat panel of stone set against the fine red brick surface. Openings are grouped to draw the eye, and precisely cut projecting stone bands create sharp, strong shadows.

The only other overtly Richardsonian element in the district is the Sneed House addition. The side entrance is a round arch trimmed with bands of stone curling at

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the corners. Although not precisely Richardsonian, the arches of the City Workhouse (no longer used as a jail, 637 Ann) echo the Sneed House.)²²

The Queen Anne style appears in the 1890s in the Meagher House (521 St. Clair), whose turned work on the porch is a pale equivalent of the cast iron porches. The Meaghers were shoe store owners and their house has basically turn-of-the-century features, such as the varied surface treatment, of clapboard, shingle, and panelling, and irregular shapes, including the corner oriel ending in a turret roof and the spindle-work porch.

The house now occupied by the prominent restaurant owners, the Muccis, was built in 1902 and is a very plain clapboard box (506 Ann).²³ In reaction to the highly decorated 19th century styles, it follows the strong horizontal lines of the Prairie School.

Most of the 19th century construction has been commercial or service buildings, such as the Department of Highways building (419-421 Ann Street) and the Salvation Army building (202 Mero).²⁴ Some commercial structures on Broadway have been given new facades in order to update them. However, a few residences were built, such as the Billie Rosson House (504 Ann). Rosson was mayor at the time of construction in 1920 and chose the bungalow style enlivened with its broad front gable and delicately bracketed wide eaves.²⁵

The boundaries of the district have become more distinct in the past 30 years. The neighborhood lies in the shadow of the monumental State Official Building on the east, which replaced the penitentiary in the late 1930s, and the Capital Plaza to the west, which was built in the 1960s and is comprised of a 23-story office building, sports arena, arcade, plaza, YMCA, federal building and parking lots. Within the Old Statehouse Historic District, however the established patterns of 170 years remain the dominant feature.

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The Old Statehouse Historic District comprises an impressive concentration of buildings spanning the full range of nineteenth and early twentieth century styles which contributes a unique element to the urban environment of downtown Frankfort, Kentucky. Architecturally and historically, the area is as important to the development of Frankfort in the nineteenth century as the more noted Corner in Celebrities Historic District (listed in the National Register 11 March 1971). The variety of styles within the district is equally as rich and diverse as that found in the Corner in Celebrities; however, not until recently has the area attracted the widespread attention the illustrious "Corner" claims. This benign neglect may be due in part to the historically middle-class composition of the district and the fact that its houses lack the associations with nationally known historic figures. Nevertheless, the district retains a distinct neighborhood atmosphere and its residents have expressed concern for the continued maintenance and preservation of its unique qualities.

The district is bounded on the west by a sprawling 1960s urban renewal project. Designed by Edward Durrell Stone, the complex contains the federal government building, the YMCA, a shopping mall, a sports and convention center, and the state government office building. To the north of the district is the natural barrier of Fort Hill, to the east is the old state office building, and on the south across the railroad track is the Frankfort Historic Commercial District (listed in the National Register 10 May 1979). This area reflects the growth of Frankfort's business sector in the late nineteenth century. The Old Statehouse district is also clearly distinct, both geographically and architecturally, from the South Frankfort residential neighborhood which consists of turn-of-the-century frame dwellings.

Two of the more visually striking buildings in the district are St. John's A.M.E. Church and the First Baptist Church. Not only are the structures fine examples of late nineteenth century ecclesiastical architecture, both are significant in the black history of Frankfort. St. John's was established in 1839 and has remained in this neighborhood. The first church was located on Lewis Street; the building and lot were donated by a Frankfort woman to her two servants, Benjamin Dunmore and Benjamin Hunley. The present Victorian Gothic structure, erected in 1893 at the northeast corner of Lewis and Clinton Streets, is in the vicinity of the original church building. Black members of the First Baptist church split from the white Baptist congregation in 1833 and met in various homes until a church structure was erected in 1844. The present Richardsonian Romanesque edifice on the northwest corner of Clinton and High Streets was constructed in 1904 after the congregation won a legal battle and gained permission to build on the site, despite objections from white neighbors who opposed the existence of a black church in the neighborhood.

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FOOTNOTES

1

Ermina Jett Darnell, Forks of Elkhorn Church (Louisville: The Standard Printing Co., 1946), p. 265; William C. Sneed, M.D., A Report on the History and Mode of Management of the Kentucky Penitentiary, from its Origin, in 1798, to March 1, 1860. (Frankfort: Printed at the Yeoman Office, Jno. B. Major, State Printer, 1860), p. 28; L. F. Johnson, The History of Franklin County, Kentucky (Frankfort: Roberts Printing Co., 1912), p. 45 and p. 65; Ermina Jett Darnell, Filling the Chinks. (Frankfort: Roberts Printing Co., 1966), p. 27; Richard H. Collins, History of Kentucky. (Louisville: Richard H. Collins, 1877), Vol. II, p. 200.

2

W. H. Perrin, et al., Kentucky. A History of the State., 5th ed. (Louisville: F. A. Battey and Co., 1887), p. 799; Solomon W. Roberts, "Reminiscences of the First Railroad Over the Alleghany Mountain," The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. II, No. 4 (1878), pp. 370-393; Kentucky Senate Journal (1836/37) (Frankfort: Printed by Brown & Hodges, for Jacob H. Holeman, Public Printer, 1836-1837), p. 460; "Obituary of Sylvester Welch," The Frankfort (Ky.) Commonwealth, Dec. 21, 1852.

3

Willard Rouse Jillson, Literary Haunts and Personalities of Old Frankfort, 1791-1941 (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1941), pp. 65-68.

4

Refford Newcomb, "Gideon Shyrook - Pioneer Greek Revivalist of the Middlewest," Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 26, No. 78 (September, 1928, pp. 220-235.

5

Willard Rouse Jillson, The Newspapers and Periodicals of Frankfort, Kentucky, 1795-1945. (Frankfort: The Kentucky State Historical Society, 1945), pp. 16-17; also see Willard Rouse Jillson, Literary Haunts and Personalities of Old Frankfort, 1791-1941 (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1941), pp. 40-41.

6

Ermina Jett Darnell, Filling the Chinks, pp. 84-85.

7

Johnson, The History of Franklin County, p. 123 and p. 168; Franklin County Deed Book 8, p. 264; Franklin County Deed Book 12, p. 168.

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Mettie Glenn, "City was 'Infant' In Early 1800's ", State Journal (July 13, 1969) pp. 13-14.

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⁹George A. Lewis, "Lewis Street Short But Very Historic: Residences of Noted Men on Thoroughfare." (Frankfort: The State Journal, Sunday, November 6, 1927).

¹⁰Franklin County Deed Book 23, p. 168; Johnson, The History of Franklin County, p. 147; Franklin County Deed Book 10, p. 382; H. Levin, ed. "John Rodman," The Lawyers and Lawmakers of Kentucky. (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1897), pp. 120-122.

¹¹Lewis, op. cit.

¹²Franklin County Deed Book 20, p. 445; Franklin County Deed Book 22, p. 339; Franklin County Deed Book 23, p. 447; Franklin County Deed Book 24, p. 69; Franklin County Deed Book 26, p. 294.

¹³The Headlight. (Frankfort, March, 1898).

¹⁴Bayless E. Hardin, "The Capitols of Kentucky," The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vo. 43, No. 144 (July, 1945), p. 187.

¹⁵Willard Rouse Jillson, Early Frankfort and Franklin County, Kentucky, 1750-1850. (Louisville: The Standard Printing Co.), 1936, p. 100.

¹⁶Willard Rouse Jillson, Paul Sawyer: American Artist (1865-1917: A Brief Biographical Sketch) (Lexington, Kentucky: The Keystone Printery, Inc., 1961), p. 5 and p. 16.

¹⁷Johnson, History of Franklin County, pp. 220, 225, 233-234, and 278. Also see E. Polk Johnson, History of Kentucky and Kentuckians (Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Co.), Vol. II (1912), pp. 697-698.

¹⁸Hardin, op. cit., p. 190

¹⁹Dr. E.E Underwood, A Brief History of the Colored Churches of Frankfort, Ky. (Frankfort?: Bugle Publishing Company, 1906), pp. 24-26.

²⁰Willard Rouse Jillson, Early Frankfort and Franklin County, Kentucky: A Chronology of Historical Sketches Covering the Century, 1750-1850 (Louisville: The

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²¹Ermina Jett Darnell, Filling the Chinks: History of Franklin County, Kentucky. (Frankfort: Roberts Printing Company, 1966), pp. 158-159; also see Underwood, loc. cit.; and Jillson, loc. cit.

²²Kenneth Goins, "Whiterock Hotel - Some Recollections," State Journal (July 25, 1976).

²³Franklin County Deed Book 39, p. 170; Franklin County Deed Book 64, p. 439.

²⁴Ermina Jett Darnell, Filling the Chinks: History of Franklin County, Kentucky (Frankfort: Roberts Printing Company, 1966), pp. 146-149.

²⁵Information received by Mrs. William O. Hubbard as the results of interviews with Mrs. Anthony Papa.

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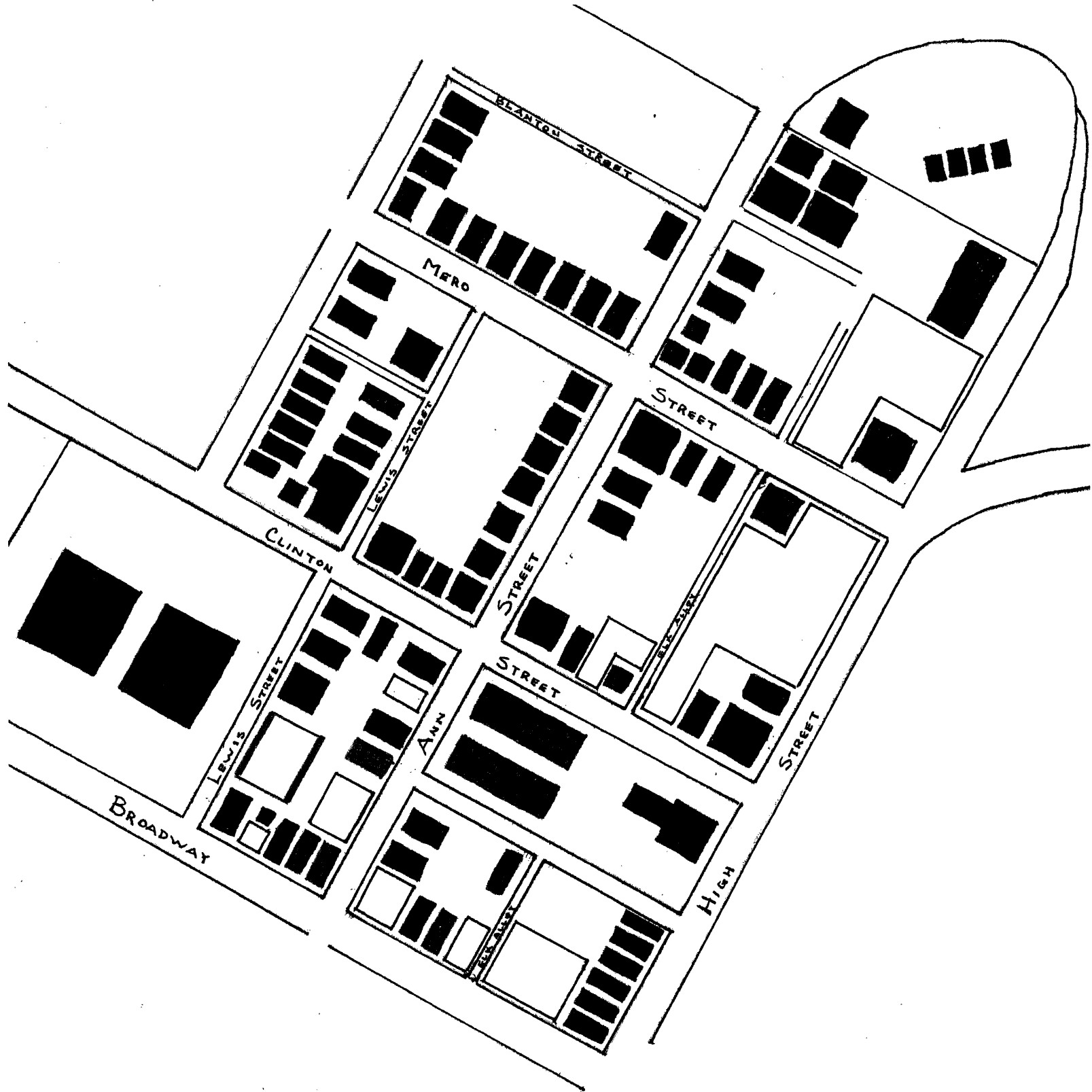
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then extends in a northeasterly direction approximately four hundred feet (400 ft.) to a point where Madison Street formerly intersected Clinton Street. From thence the boundary extends in a southeasterly direction along the southern side of Clinton Street for a distance of approximately two hundred feet (200 ft.) to a point where Clinton intersects Saint Clair Street. From thence the boundary of the district extends in a northeasterly direction along the east side of Saint Clair Street approximately seven hundred feet (700 ft.) to a point where Saint Clair intersects Blanton Street. From thence the boundary of the district extends in a southeasterly direction of approximately four hundred fifty feet (450 ft.) along the south side of Blanton to the intersection of Blanton and Ann Streets. At this point the boundary extends elliptically to include the existing properties of the old City Jail and the old Workhouse which continue to be owned by the City of Frankfort. This elliptical section of the district extends for a distance of approximately eight hundred feet (800 ft.) until it reaches the northeast end of High Street. The final boundary of the district then extends in a southwesterly direction along the west side of High Street for approximately one thousand, three hundred and fifty feet (1,350 ft.) to the intersection of High and Broadway Streets, i. e., to the beginning point of the geographical limits of the district.



**OLD STATEHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY
 SKETCH MAP
 BLDGS. NOT TO SCALE**

- CONTRIBUTING
- POST-1930
- INTRUSIONS
- PARKING LOTS
- VACANT LOT