

P110036281

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>
COUNTY: <b>Mason</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>NOV 8 1974</b>

HB E 259160  
2/17 24250060

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**West Fourth Street District**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**24, 29, 31, 32, 33 West Fourth Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Maysville**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**07**

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Mason** CODE: **161**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

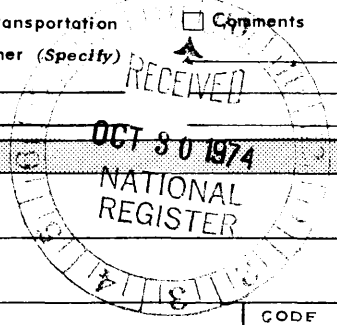
OWNER'S NAME:  
**Multiple Private (see continuation sheet)**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Maysville**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**021**



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Mason County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Third Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Maysville**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**021**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1974**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Kentucky Heritage Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Frankfort**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**021**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The five buildings in this district belong to a local variant of the Greek Revival, combining the crow-step parapet with standard simplified Grecian features. There is virtually no ornamentation on the exterior of any of these houses, except the discreet concentric circles at the ends of the lintels of 33 West Fourth Street. Most of the street fronts have handsome but simple cornices; 31 West Fourth has the only entrance with any pretensions, an austere framework of Doric pilasters and entablature around the recessed entry. The Ficklin House and the Bierbower House have almost square doorways; moldings are set within the wall-plane and there are both sidelights and two-light transoms. The Ficklin House features an elegant wrought-iron railing on its first-story balcony; the double galleries of the Bierbower are much plainer. The unique feature of all these houses is the stepped gables that give them a considerable amount of character, particularly as they seem to conform to the steep slope on which the buildings are set.

The houses have in common brick construction, generally with stone foundations. Except for their parapets, the end walls tend to be plain. Windows are large and regularly spaced.

The Ficklin House is a two-story brick house on a raised basement facing toward the river that allows for the steep slope of the site. The main block is five bays wide with a simple Greek Revival doorway (narrow sidelights and transom divided by slender square piers) recessed, like the windows, within the surface of the wall. A wide but plain entablature and an attractive, somewhat Grecian wrought-iron railed balcony with access from the elongated windows of the main floor, run the length of the front of the building, terminating abruptly at the ends. The balcony can be reached from ground level by a long flight of stone steps and creates a shelter for the half-sized basement windows below. The regularly aligned windows and long horizontals form a balanced composition against the steep hillside.

The side walls of the front block, visually unrelated to the river facade, are topped by centered chimneys and descending parapets which hide the end gables and seem to emphasize the hilly site.

An enclosed frame porch, probably originally an open gallery, is attached to the rear of the upper story; it was enclosed in the early 1900s. A separate structure which abuts the front block,

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **circa 1840-1849**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In 1815 Maysville's importance as a commercial center was increasing. It was where immigrants coming from Pittsburgh down the Ohio River often entered Kentucky and where exports left and imports entered the northern part of the State. German immigrants settled all along the Ohio River. They left evidences of their influence in the architecture of the city of Maysville. Parapets and stepped gables characteristic of river towns but unusual elsewhere in Kentucky are evident all over the city.

One of the most concentrated areas of this type of architecture is on a hillside overlooking Maysville and the Ohio River. The Ficklin House was built circa 1840 as was the Bierbower House. The five houses located on West Fourth Street were constructed between 1840 and 1850. 33 and 31 West Fourth Street are row houses; according to a deed 33 West Fourth Street was standing in 1847. 29 West Fourth Street, constructed in 1849, is probably the latest house in the district.

(1) Ficklin House. Ferry licenses were granted to J. K. Ficklin in 1818 and 1823. Both ferries were discontinued in 1826. Joseph Ficklin was an attorney in 1835 when he represented George Bierly in a legal matter. The Ficklin family, owners of a dry goods store (Ficklin & Cox) in the 1860s and 1870s, lived in this house. It may be assumed that this part of the Ficklin family built the house.

The carriage house behind the Ficklin House is a remnant of the era when the carriage was the most frequently used mode of transportation. The structure was also used as a pickling house. Local legend has it that the buildings in this area were used as a fort, and Union troops were quartered there during the Civil War.

(2) Bierbower House. The Bierbowers were carriage makers.  
(continued)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Clift, Glenn. History of Maysville & Mason County. Lexington, Ky.: Transylvania Printing Co., 1936.  
An Illustrated Atlas of Mason County, Kentucky, Philadelphia, Pa.: Lake Griffing & Stevenson, 1876.  
 Collins, Lewis. Historical Sketches of Kentucky. Maysville, Ky.: Lewis Collins, 1847.  
 Mason County Deed Books, Mason County Courthouse, Maysville, Kentucky.

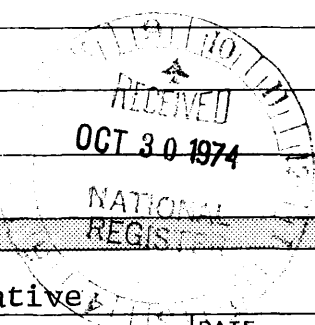
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 38 ' 48 "	83 ° 46 ' 03 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than ten acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Mrs. Frank Wise, Mason County Representative**

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **Sept., 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Route # 2** **K.B.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Maysville** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Claude W. Melton

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 10-26-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/9/74

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-6-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Mason	
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	NOV 7 1974

(Number all entries)

West Fourth Street District

4. Owners of Property (Continued)

Page One

29 West Fourth Street - Elmer Rigg, Washington, Kentucky

31 West Fourth Street - Dr. Grierson, Edgemont Road, Maysville, Ky

33 West Fourth Street - Mrs. George Kinsler, 2225 Ronda Road,  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Bierbower - Ed and Christine Maker, Fourth Street, Maysville, Ky.

Ficklin House - Hayswood Hospital Trustees, Fourth Street,  
Maysville, Kentucky



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(Continuation Sheet)

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West Fourth Street District

7. Description (continued)

Page Two

thus constituting an ell, is of brick and stone. Its construction is said to antedate 1825.

The fact that a large single house (Ficklin House), a double house (Bierbower), two asymmetrical "town houses" (31 & 33 West Fourth) and a more modest cottage (29 West Fourth) are included makes this small area a compendium of variations on this type of functional but dignified vernacular.

The buildings are all in good condition, with only slight alterations to the rear, such as the enclosed gallery of the Ficklin House.

Between the Ficklin House and the Bierbower House is located a much newer structure which is used as a nurses' dormitory for the local hospital. Although out of keeping with houses listed, it does not seriously interfere with their period character.

The district, set back on the hillside, has a proximity to the commercial center of Maysville.

On the southeast end the district is bordered by a hospital complex and on the northeast the district is bordered by a Victorian house and a smaller bungalow. These houses do not exhibit the parapets characteristic of other structures in the area. On the west the street leading to the commercial area to the north is the boundary of the district.



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West Fourth Street District

8. Significance (continued)

Page Two

They were also strong supporters of the Union during the Civil War. In 1860 F. H. Bierbower helped to sponsor a newspaper advertisement supporting the Union cause. J. C. Bierbower obtained the rank of captain in the Union Army.

In 1854 an explosion ripped through 800 kegs of powder at a powder magazine on the east side of Maysville on the Maysville and Lexington Turnpike Road. Several houses on Fourth Street near the scene of the explosion were damaged. The J. Bierbower House was in ruins. The total damage in the city ranged between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

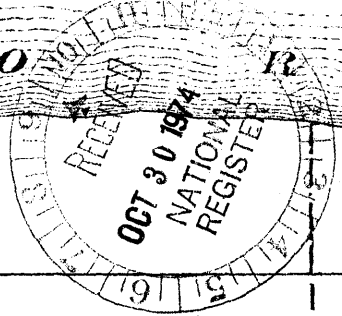
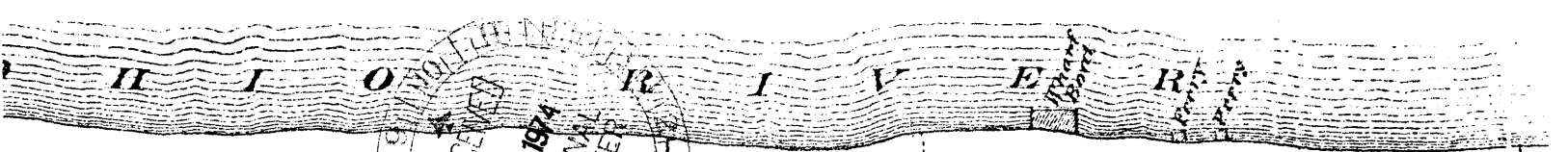
(3) 29 West Fourth Street. This house was built by Charles M. Dodson. In 1862 R. H. Newell owned the house. He was a dealer in wines and liquors.

(4) 31 West Fourth Street was once owned by Ezekiel Dimitt, a carpenter and builder. An E. Dimitt was director of the Maysville Building Savings Association in 1872. M. C. Hutchins, an attorney, owned the house in 1885.

(5) 33 West Fourth Street. This house was standing in 1847. It has been owned by Edward Cox, John F. Mitchell, and Robert Andrews. The last, who owned the house in 1865, was one of the incorporators of the Maysville Street Railroad and Transfer Company in 1868.

The architecture of this district is one of great significance. The stepped gables and descending parapets were fostered by the great influx of immigrants that arrived in Maysville in the 1800s. Societies such as the "Washington Emigrant Society" provided written materials to eastern cities promoting the county of Mason to these immigrants. Many of the immigrants found their way to Maysville and Mason County and added their new ideas and styles to the area.

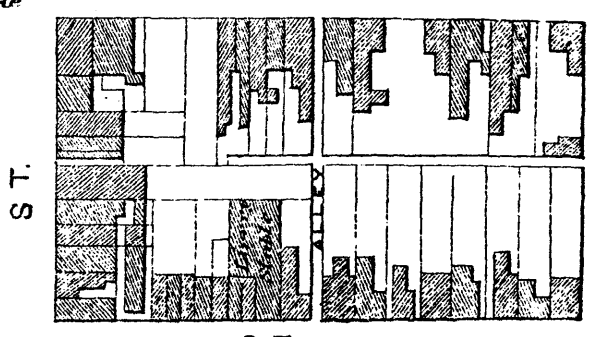
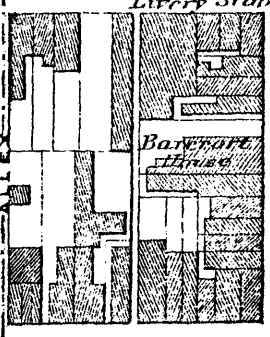
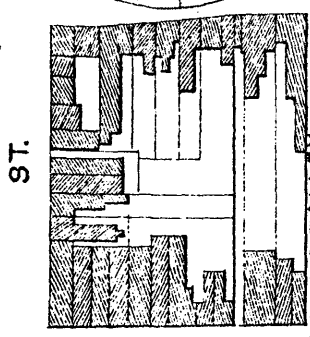
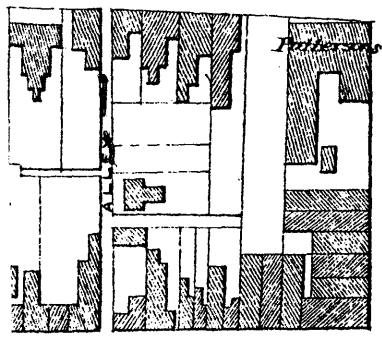




UPPER GRADE

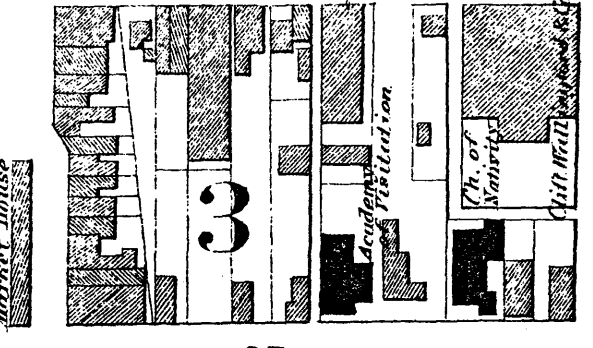
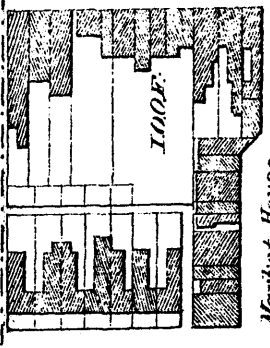
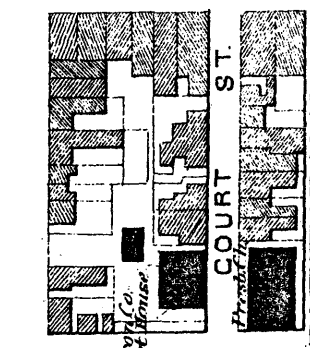
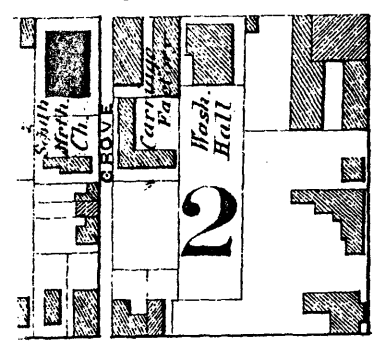
FRONT

ST.



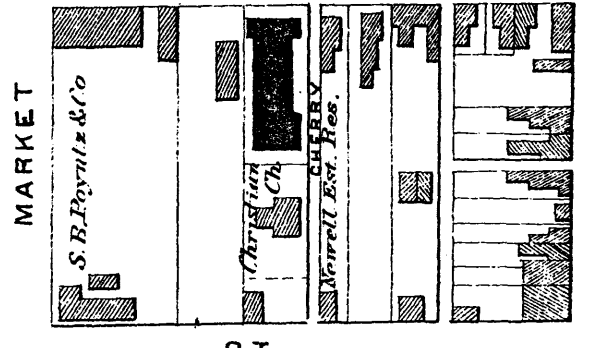
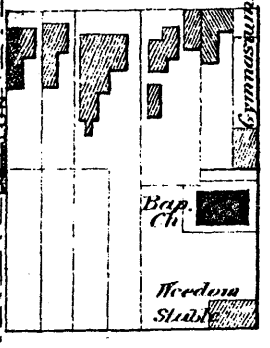
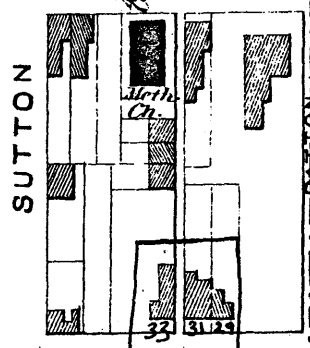
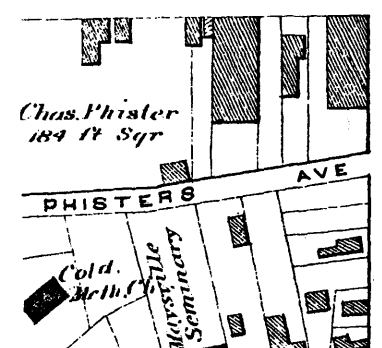
SECOND

ST.



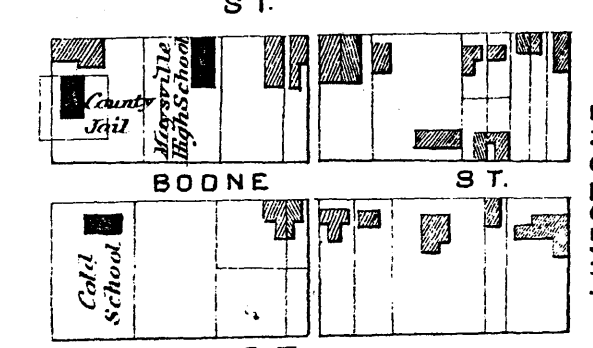
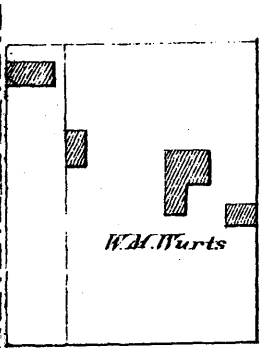
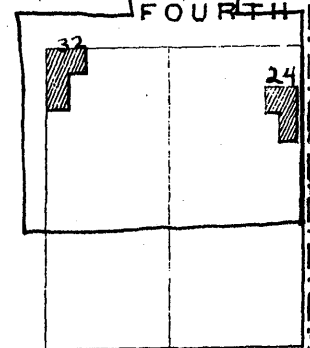
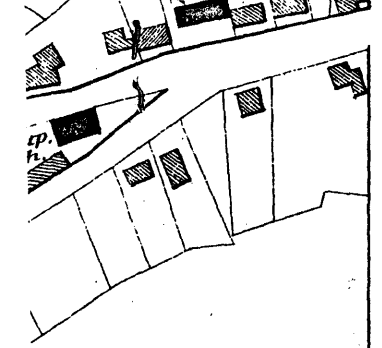
THIRD

ST.



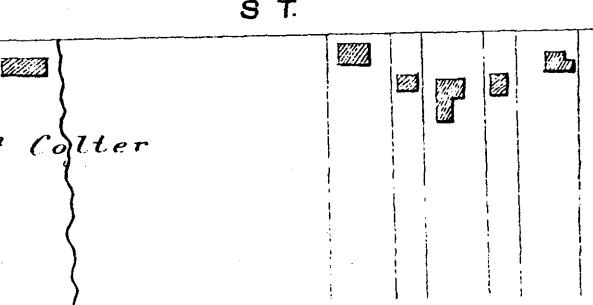
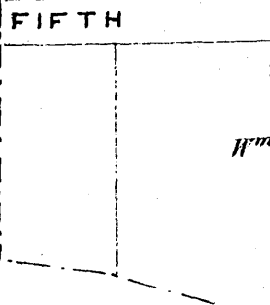
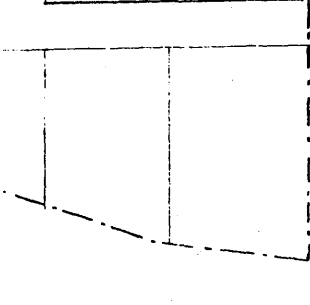
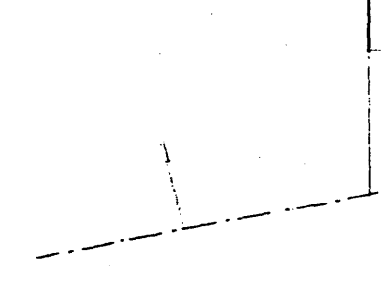
FOURTH

ST.



FIFTH

ST.



ST

LIMESTONE