

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 4 1980  
DATE ENTERED FEB 27 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 Odd Fellows Temple  
AND/OR COMMON  
Skullers Jewelry, Inc.

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 115-19 W. Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF  
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Fayette CODE 067  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th

**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 checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input 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 Skullers Realty, Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER 115-19 W. Main St.  
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF 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 Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky  
DATE August, 1979  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN 104 Bridge Street, Frankfort STATE Kentucky

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Odd Fellows Temple is located on West Main Street between North Upper and North Limestone Streets in Lexington, Kentucky. Built in 1869-70, the building was designed by Lexington architect, Cincinnatus Shryock. This Italianate building is located in the middle of the downtown commercial area and has been only moderately altered since its erection as the most impressive lodge hall building in town (photo 1).

This very tall three-story, five-bay brick building is scored with an Ohio free-stone front (photo 2). The apparent Mansard-roof fourth floor contains only vaulting and roof supports for a large three-story former meeting hall. The first floor has two shopfronts flanking a central entrance to upper floors. Shopfronts had attenuated castiron Corinthian columns, remaining at center entrance (photo 3). The second story has segmental-arched windows with 1/1-pane sash. The third story has taller round-arched openings that contain a roundel at the top with tracery indicating a round arch below (the frames are wider around the roundels)(photo 4); arches have keystones, more prominent on third story; the rather low Mansard roof with polygonal slates has segmental-arched dormers with upturned outer edges. The facade is articulated by extremely narrow pilaster strips rising from the horizontal course above the first story to the bracketted cornice; curiously the brackets (or modillions) are spaced sparsely over the windows, but not over the pilaster strips. There are quoin bands of striated stone at the outer edges, under larger paired consoles supporting acroteria.

The first story stores have pressed-metal ceilings of some interest, and Skuller's Jewelry in the eastern half retains handsome turn-of-the-century casses and other fittings, as well as a mosaic tile entry floor with their name inscribed. The second story has been converted into an immense apartment, now vacant, with handsomely panelled walls in the long front rooms. The taller front part of the third story is a very large single room with a ceiling vaulted on corbels between the roundels of the windows; similar round-arched windows are also along the east and west sides, and the roundels alone continue on the fourth (north) wall over the lower third story rear wing, which contains the stairlanding and other lobbies (photo 5). The dimensions of the total building are 41 by 97 feet; the third story lodge room is 58 feet deep by 38½ feet wide.

Included in this nomination is the Skuller's Clock (photo 6) which is approximately ten feet from the front of the jewelry store (115 W. Main St.). It is a round two-faced clock on a tall, slender fluted iron column. The column is set on a shaped pedestal base with the builder's inscription on the east side (Brown Street Clock Co., Monessen, Pa.) The clock has recently been repaired. The Main Street sidewalk on which it is located has been resurfaced in brick to create a mall-like sidewalk.

# 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 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This impressive Italianate structure, with a rare (for Lexington) French Second Empire Mansard roof disguising the vaulted ceiling of its third-story lodge hall, was designed by Lexington architect Cincinnatus Shryock (younger brother of the famous Greek Revival architect Gideon Shryock) for the Odd Fellows and built in 1869-70. Its size and exuberance--which still make it a major downtown commercial block--express the optimistic outlook of the post-Civil War "Gilded Age," as well as the prosperity, swelling numbers, and influence of the order in Lexington at that time. It is also an outstanding example of the mixed use characteristic of such lodge buildings, with stores on the ground level flanking the handsome castiron Corinthian columns of the entrance to the upper floors, which had offices on the second story and the specially equipped lodge rooms on the much taller top story; the hall itself is a superb space. The tenants have tended to remain here for considerable periods, probably because of the advantageous location near the courthouse square, and the major banks and hotels, including the former Phoenix across the street.

The Odd Fellows Temple Association bought the property in 1868 from Howell L. Lovell. They sold the property in 1902 to Richard P. Stoll (1851-1903), distiller, banker, horseman, politician, and civic leader. After his death the Richard R. Stoll Co. sold it in 1906 to the Municipal Realty Co.; F.P. Drake owned it from 1917 until his death in 1936; his estate sold it in 1961 to the present owner.

The International Order of Odd Fellows, established in Lexington in the mid-1840s, had first built a combined meeting hall and opera house, with one-story business facilities at the southeast corner of Main and Broadway; it burned in 1886 and was replaced by the much altered, soon-to-be-demolished structure. It is not clear why they felt the need to erect another large building after the Civil War, but apparently the membership of the various fraternal orders swelled after wars in the nineteenth century and perhaps additional lodges had been established. According to Ranck, "No better indication of the rapid progress" of the I.O.O.F. could be seen than in "the Grand Hall on Main Street, between Upper and Limestone, now used by all the lodges in the city. This handsome and commodious edifice was dedicated with impressive ceremonies before a large concourse.... There is probably no city in the United States where Odd Fellowship is in a more flourishing condition than in Lexington."

An advertisement for bids in the Kentucky Gazette (3/13/1869) was signed by Cincinnatus Shryock, architect. He had designed the earlier Odd Fellows hall at Broadway in an early version of his characteristic High Victorian Gothic Revival style. The 1870 Odd Fellows temple, whose exterior is in a typical post-Civil War Italianate manner with French Second Empire Mansard roof, has an essentially Gothic lodge room on the third story, with a flat ceiling descending in vaults resting on corbels between the windows; this treatment, as well as the basic proportions of the space, closely resembles that of the former Centenary Methodist Church (now First Community) at the northeast corner of Broadway and Church Streets, designed by Cincinnatus Shryock at about the same time,



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Odd Fellows Temple  
Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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and also bears some resemblance to his ecclesiastical masterpiece, the Gothic First Presbyterian Church at 171 N. Mill St. of a year or two later. The younger brother of noted Kentucky Greek Revival architect Gideon Shryock (who spent most of his later career in Louisville), Cincinnatus (1802-88) was also a native of Lexington who remained here throughout his long and productive life as both architect and builder (he was associated with Wm. F. Farley, one of the contractors of the Odd Fellows Temple, as "carpenters and builders" in the 1873-74 directory).

Work on the building began May 15, 1869, according to an article in the Gazette (12/11/1869) when the work was nearing completion. The first story was to be used as stores, as it is today; the second story had been leased to three law firms. The building was dedicated on February 3, 1870, when the Gazette described it as "one of the handsomest buildings in the state. The Odd Fellows retain the whole of the third floor...which has been subdivided so as to suit their purposes, clearing one large hall which has been fitted up most sumptuously and with exquisite taste"--a typical Gilded Age paradox!

The 1875-76 directory lists John McMurtry, a rival architect/builder, in this building. The Singer Sewing Machine Co. is listed from at least 1883 until almost the turn of the century; they advertised in the Transcript (8/25/85), when S.S. Roszell was manager. At the same time, W.G. Emison, wholesale liquors, was located in the 119 W. Main store. He was followed in 1887 by Gordon's Shoe Store; after 1900 T.B. Hay's Hardware Co. lasted until World War I; after the war, Honaker the Florist was located here until about 1933; he was succeeded by the Keller Oram Co., descendants of one of the oldest florists in Lexington. The Village Green Restaurant about 1950 was followed by Cottrell's Bakery and Restaurant from about 1952 until Modelli's Bakery replaced them about 1977. The sewing machine concession at 115 West Main was appropriately followed by a tailor after 1900, and by E.C. Kidd, "Queensware," about 1910; among a series of tenants since then, outstanding is Skuller's Jewelry, which has been at #115 for almost 50 years. The owners have shown a continuing (and sometime challenging) commitment to remaining downtown.

The clock is a landmark of the downtown streetscape, retaining its usefulness and popularity on a narrow portion of the new improved Main Street brick-surfaced sidewalk.

According to Mrs. Robert Cohen, her father Harry Skuller, owner of the jewelry store in front of which the clock stands, erected the clock about 1910 to supply accurate (Greenwich Observatory) time for passengers on the then-new busline, as well as passersby on the street, who had previously used a clock in the store's window.

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Kerr, Judge Charles., ed. History of Kentucky. Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1922. 5 Volumes.

Lexington City Directories

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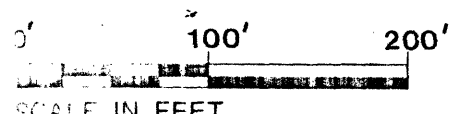
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Sanborn Insurance Maps



199,000N

1,9



- PROPERTY LINE
- PAVEMENT EDGE
- PRIVATE OR SECONDARY ROAD

- 950- CONTOUR
- x 947 SPOT ELEVATION
-

Odd Fellows Temple  
Lexington  
Fayette County  
Kentucky

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
Department of Parks, Housing and Community Development  
Topographic Map  
1976

Scale 1"=100'

Map 2

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