

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lexington Dry Goods Company Building
other names/site number Ades-Lexington Dry Goods Building

2. Location

street & number 249-51 East Main Street not for publication
city, town Lexington vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Fayette code 067 zip code 40507

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
David H. Meyer 2-1-88
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Kentucky
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 5/31/88
 See continuation sheet. _____
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. _____
 determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
 removed from the National Register. _____
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Chicago

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asbestos

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lexington Dry Goods Company Building is an imposing red brick, four-story structure located on East Main Street within the central business district of Lexington, Kentucky. Two blocks west of this building and on the north side of East Main Street is the eastern edge of the Downtown Commercial National Register District. One block west, but on the south side of East Main Street, is the Lexington-Fayette County Government Building Block National Register District.

The Lexington Dry Goods Company Building was completed circa 1907, and is shown on the 1907 Sanborn Insurance Map as "From Plans." The architects were the Lexington firm, Rowe and Giannini. The unpainted red brick building, which was designed with large windows characteristic of the "Chicago School," has on the original west section two wide, double bays flanking the wide single bay of the entrance. The east third of the building, added circa 1920, has a single triple-wide bay.

The entire building rests on a slightly raised basement with stone facing above the sidewalk (photo #1). On the first floor, all openings are topped by prismatic Luxfer type glass transoms. The first floor sashes are one-over-one; those above are two-over-two capped with a double-paned transom (photo #2). The double and triple windows of the second and third floors are framed together vertically. Spandrels between the second and third floor windows of the original construction are non-masonry, while the single-wide spandrel at the same position on the addition is brick. Ornamentation is restrained, consisting at the lower main facade of a modillion cornice and pressed metal frieze of garlands above the main entrance and an unbroken masonry band in a simplified running dog motif across the entire facade at the base of the second story windows (photos #3 & #4).

The 1920 addition featuring multi-paned metal windows on the rear facade extends beyond the rear elevation of the original building. A contemporary shed-roofed loading platform, now somewhat deteriorated, extends from the addition (photos #5 & #6).

The interior of the building is intact with very few alterations over the years. On the first floor in both the original section and the addition, the pressed metal ceiling remains and is in good condition (photo #7). Later dropped lighting and a sprinkler system have done little damage to this architectural feature. In the 1907 section, eight cast-iron columns run the length of the building (photo #8). Wrapped around the base of each column are steam radiators (photo #9). A wooden staircase, with turned spindles and square-in-section newel posts, ascends to each floor. The staircase from the first to second floors runs from the middle of the building while the second to fourth floor staircases are located in the front part of the building (photos #10 & #11). At the rear of the interior is the elevator shaft, housing two apparently original elevators (photo

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance

1907 - 1938
1907 - 1938

Significant Dates

1907, 1920
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Rowe, Herman L.
Giannini, Arthur

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Lexington Dry Goods Company Building has significance both due to being the only early twentieth-century building remaining in Lexington which exhibits an influence of the "Chicago School" of design and for its use as the headquarters of a regionally important wholesale dry goods company. This building has had only two occupants to date, the Lexington Dry Goods Company and the Ades-Lexington Dry Goods Company. Both companies led the field in the wholesale dry goods business for over sixty years in Lexington. They not only serviced the Lexington and Central Kentucky market, but also most of Eastern Kentucky as well as part of Virginia. These businesses did much to "fortify Lexington as a wholesale market. . ."

During the latter half of the nineteenth century and up into the 1920s, the Commercial Style (often referred to as the "Chicago School") of architecture evolved in America. The office and mercantile buildings of this style displayed such features as flat fronts and roofs, large windows with little ornamentation and a cornice of moderate projection as the commonest upper termination of the facade. The popularity of this style spread rapidly and was reflected in the design of the Lexington Dry Goods Company Building which is the only remaining building in Lexington from that period reflecting these architectural features. The architects were Herman L. Rowe, dean of Lexington's late nineteenth-century architects, and Arthur Giannini, Rowe's younger partner during his last years. Rowe's twentieth-century work is characteristically in a restrained Neo-classical vein, while that associated with Giannini has a slight "Chicago School" flavor. This wholesale dry goods building is among the finest and subtlest, while clearly also functional, of their works. There is no other commercial building of this period, or earlier in Lexington, which is so much in its original condition and original fabric. In 1920, the present eastern one-third of the building was added to the original structure. This addition was executed in the same style and with great sympathy to the original structure. Although the architects for this addition have not been positively identified, evidence points to the respected Lexington firm of that period, Frankel and Curtis.

In the first quarter of the twentieth century, Lexington became an important center for the shipping of goods into the regions of Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia, recently opened up by the large-scale expansion of the coal industry. One of the major leaders in this local commercial development was the Lexington Dry Goods Company. The company was organized by Clinton L. Thompson, President, and his uncle S. B. Royster, Secretary-Treasurer. It opened for business

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Chinn, Asa. A collection of photographs (ca. 1920).
- Kerr, Judge Charles, ed. History of Kentucky (5 vols.) Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, 1922.
- Lexington City Directories.
- Lexington-Fayette County Deed and Will Books.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps.
- Lexington Herald Leader (April 15, 1917).
- _____. (April 2, 1920).
- _____. (August 12, 1985).
- Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property _____ .29 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
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7	1	9	9	2	0
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4	2	1	3	4	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

As shown on Map 2, the boundary begins at a point (A) (which is 215 feet northwest of the southwest corner of DeWeese Street and Morton Alley) and follows the property line of the nominated building, proceeding southwest 166 feet to a point (B), thence northwest along a line 75 feet to a point (C) thence northeast along a line 166 feet to a point (D) thence southeast along a line 75 feet to the point of origin (A), thereby incorporating the nominated building.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Lexington Dry Goods Company Building. The property within the boundary has retained its integrity; property outside the boundary is not associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard S. DeCamp, Executive Director
organization Lexington/Fayette Co. Historic Commission date December, 1987
street & number 253 Market Street telephone 606/255-8312
city or town Lexington state Kentucky zip code 40508

2/5/88

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Continuation Sheet

Lexington Dry Goods Company Building, Fayette County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 2

#12). The passenger elevator is an open birdcage style, and it and the freight elevator were made by the Warner Elevator Manufacturing Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The full basement houses the vault which was manufactured by the Victor Safe and Lock Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. The wooden floors are still in place, with those in the addition of somewhat narrower boards than in the earlier part.

This commercial building, both on the exterior and interior, has seen less changes over the years than any other downtown building of similar vintage remaining in Lexington. Except for a couple of broken window panes, all details are original and in good condition.

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Continuation Sheet**

Lexington Dry Goods Company Building, Fayette County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 2

in this new building in 1907. Royster, born in Shelby County, Kentucky, was a successful banker there before entering the dry goods business. Thompson was a traveling salesman before he joined his uncle, "and since then they have constituted a well working team of merchants who have kept their business growing every consecutive year generating over a million dollars per annum in 1919 and 1920, and when they constructed the east wing it increased the building's floor space from 35,000 to 55,000 square feet. The firm served over 2,000 retail customers throughout Eastern and Central Kentucky and part of Virginia with large quantities of goods bought immediately at the factories of origin; . . . it also does a large importing business from Europe and the Orient."

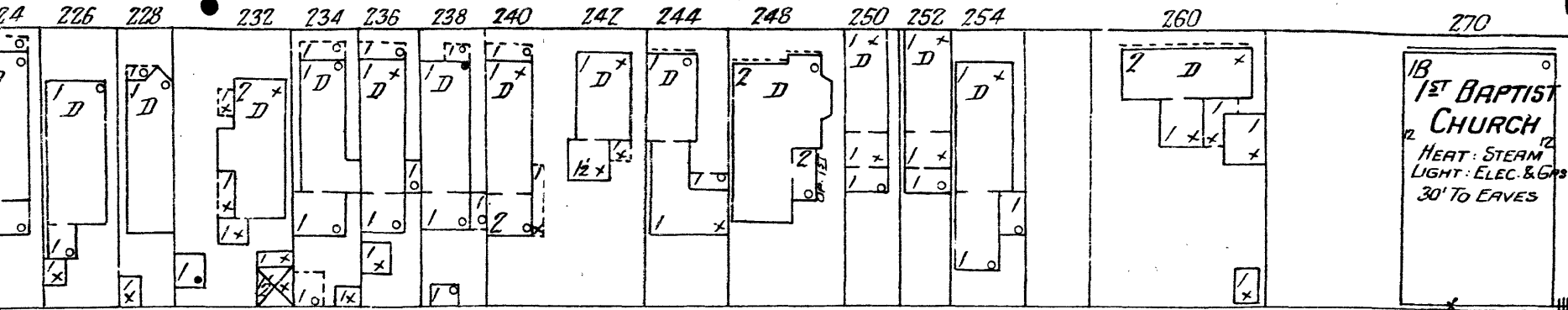
By 1927 the name of the firm had been changed to the Ades-Lexington Dry Goods Company, which it has remained until this year. Born in provincial Russia, David Ades came to America at the age of 13 and joined his brother Simon in Lexington. Penniless to start with, he soon acquired his own store in 1908 and then expanded his capital and force of salesmen rapidly until he took over the Thompson-Royster firm in 1925. David Ades was also a director of the First City National Bank of Lexington and active in civic and social affairs, as are several current members of the family. About 1940, the associated United Shoe & Garment Company and the Seda Company, Inc., were also listed as being located in the building. David Ades, president of these companies until at least the 1950s, was not only listed among prominent Jewish citizens of Lexington in the 1917 special issue of the Lexington Herald, but was given an extended biographical notice in Kerr's History of Kentucky. "A business that has done much to fortify Lexington as a wholesale market for the entire Bluegrass Region is the wholesale dry goods and notions house of David Ades. It is a business with an interesting history and the career of its proprietor is an illuminating history of American opportunity grasped and improved by a foreigner."

In 1977, the Ades family discontinued the dry goods business, sold off the company's inventory and turned the building into a warehouse. In early 1987, the building was sold to the present owners who have plans to renovate the building into a combination of retail, restaurant, office and residential space. This project is due to get under way in the spring of 1988.

4" W. PIPE

E. SHORT

D.H.

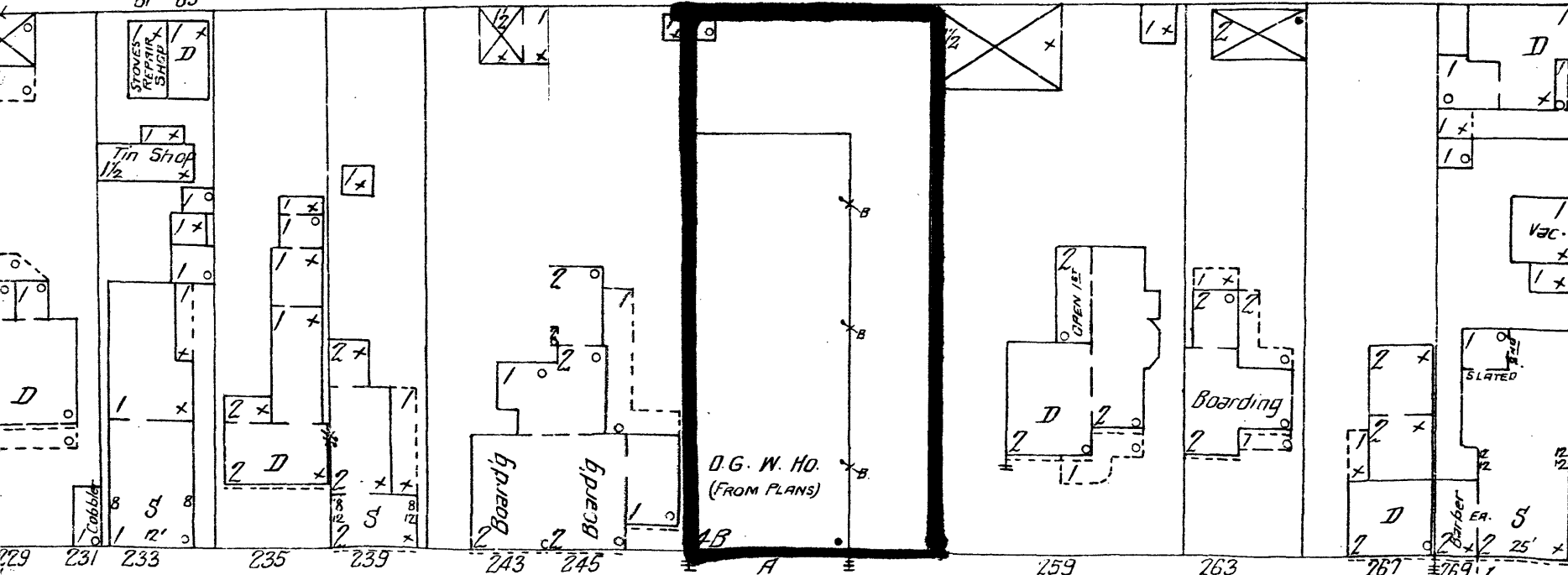


50'

50'
48'

1B
1ST BAPTIST
CHURCH
HEAT: STEAM
LIGHT: ELEC. & G.P.S.
30' TO EAVES

61 63



E. MAIN

DEWEESE

D.G. W. HO.
(FROM PLANS)

4B

D.H.

D.H.

1" W. PIPE

4" W. PIPE

8" 10" W. PIPE

D.H.

260 262 264 266 268

B

LEXINGTON

Lexington Dry Goods Company Building
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

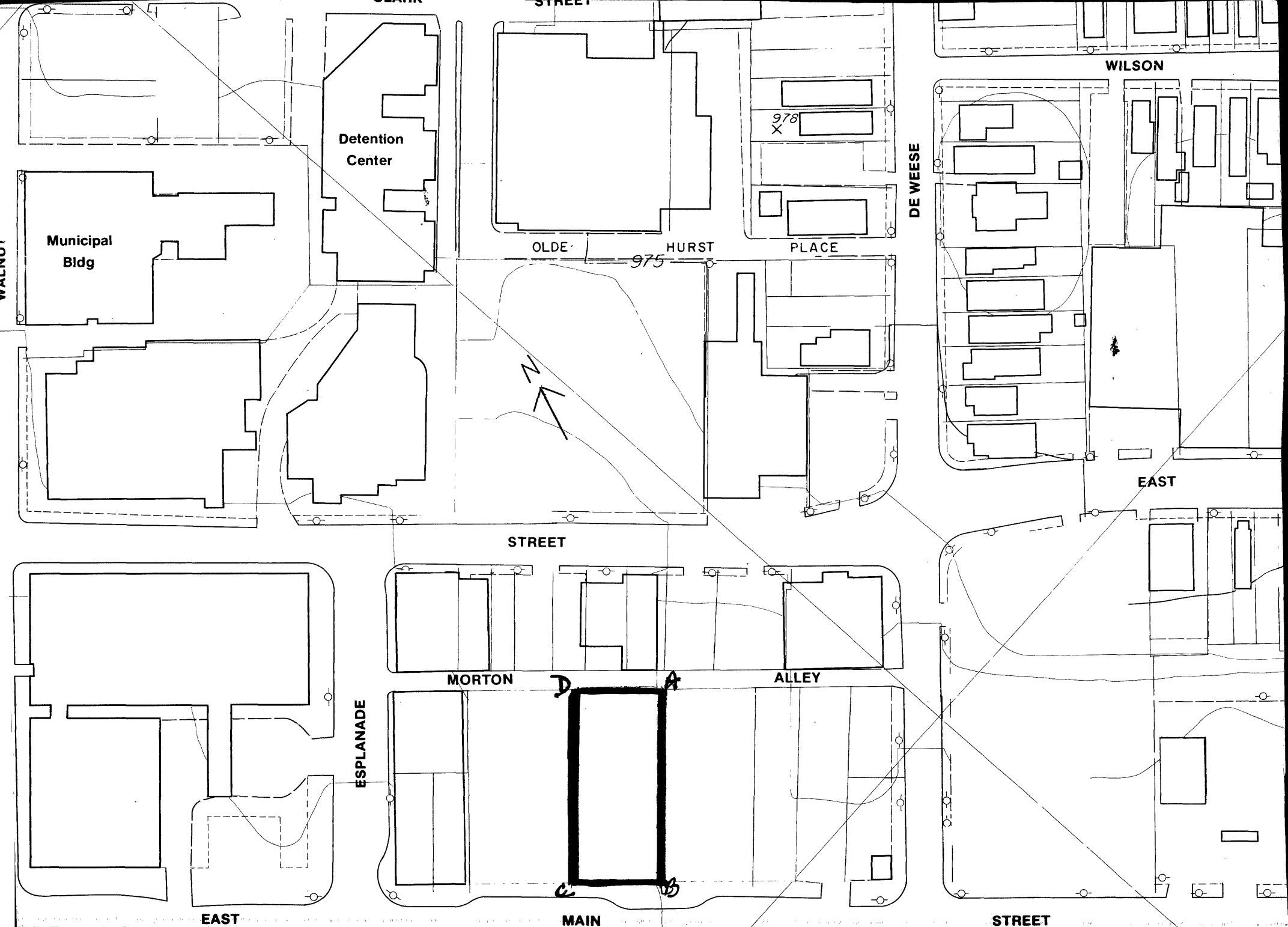
Sanborn Insurance Map
University of Kentucky (Source)

Date: 1907
Scale: 1"=50'

Map 1 of 3



26/52



Detention Center

Municipal Bldg

OLDE HURST PLACE

978 X

DE WEESE

WILSON

EAST

STREET

MORTON

ALLEY

ESPLANADE

EAST

MAIN

STREET

MATCH SHEET 4 (100')

198,000N

1,930,000E

Lexington Dry Goods Company Building
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

Urban County Planning Commission Map
Fayette County

Scale: 1" = 100'
Date: 1976

Map 2 of 3

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