

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 22 1980
DATE ENTERED APR 1 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 Lexington City National Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON
Court Square Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
259-65 W. Main Street

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF 6th
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Fayette CODE 067

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
Ms. Joyce P. Fields

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 7047

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky 40522

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
West Main Street

CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

DATE
October, 1979
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lexington City National Bank Building occupies a prominent location on the corner of West Main Street and Cheapside in the downtown business district of Lexington, Kentucky. This location is directly across from the west corner of the Fayette County Courthouse and is an anchor to the square commonly known as Courthouse Square. Cheapside, which runs along the east side of this building, was once the market square for Lexington.

Constructed in 1904-05, the Lexington City National Bank Building is eight stories on a raised basement (photo 1). There is a mezzanine above the first floor. The first story, the boldly plain basement and the mezzanine are treated as a base with rusticated (horizontally banded) granite piers between large mullioned double windows (photo 2). There are colossal paired unfluted columns with swag capitals flanking the recessed center entrance (photos 3 & 4). The second story facade is faced in buff glazed tile with low relief obelisks over the entrance columns, panels on the press between bays, and an emphatic horizontal course accented by the guilloche meander above. The top (8th) floor and upper half of the 7th floor are lavishly treated in glazed tile, with rusticated wall areas, and cartouches and swags depending from the rich modillioned cornice above (photo 5). The 7th story double windows are segmental-arched with over-scaled triple "keystones" and continuous impost moldings under a subsidiary cornice. A large balustrade (closed over the wall areas below) acts as a parapet on the roof. From the third story up to the lower half of the seventh story the walls are clad in bare purplish-red brick with plain lintels. According to the early photographs, there were originally interesting scrolled iron grills over the first story windows, large metal lamp standards with 2 or 3 globes each in front of the obelisks over the entrance, and a marquee suspended on chains over the sidewalk at the entrance (photo 6).

The 1907 Sanborn Insurance map describes the structure as "Fireproof construction;" in 1934 it was specified as having a steel frame, brick and tile-faced curtain walls.

As shown in a 1919 brochure, the interiors were rather sober, square piers divided the interior of the banking hall with lush but squashed capitals and denticulated moldings along the grid of beams. The interior has been thoroughly modernized, although some marble facing in the vestibule and elsewhere survives; there are handsome bronze doors with rosettes at the main entrance; and a large vault remains at the rear of the banking hall, labelled "Yale Automatic Belt Operating Device, No. 113, Stockwell & Fowler Patents, May 21, 1889; Two Patents, June 23, 1891; Aug. 20, 1901."

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1904-05

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richards, McCarty & Bulford

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lexington City National Bank Building, built in 1904-05, is a good example of a Beaux-Arts-inspired high-rise office building. This building has a definite Baroque flavor, with highly contrasting brick, stone and glazed-tile cladding over its fireproof steel structure and richly plastered ornament at the lower three and top two stories. Like several of its contemporary bank and office "skyscrapers," as well as a number of other commercial and institutional complex in Lexington, this building was designed by the Columbus, Ohio, firm of Richards, McCarty & Bulford. It housed not only the City National Bank, through various premutations and mergers, and later the Bank of Commerce, but also the headquarters of local utility companies and others drawn by the convenient location.

The site on which the Lexington City National Bank is built has been important since the founding of Lexington. Only one block from Lexington's first blockhouse and fort (1779) the land belonged to some of Lexington's earliest settlers. The buildings formerly on this site housed not only banks, but also important local utility companies, and the Lexington Street Railway Company remained in the new building, as did perhaps the Lexington Water Co. There were supposedly 100 rooms, nearly all used as offices, with many other prominent tenants particularly during the earlier years, although the convenient location across from the courthouse has insured continuity through the years.

The Lexington City National Bank announced in early 1904 that they were contemplating erecting an eight-story building on this site. The bank moved into its new quarters in late 1905. The Lexington Herald (12/17/05) described the new building enthusiastically, emphasizing the fireproof construction and lavish interior finish.

The architects of this building--like two of the other four pre-World War I high-rise office buildings around the courthouse square in downtown Lexington, including the Security Trust building--were Richards, McCarty & Bulford of Columbus, Ohio, with Clarence E. Richards apparently the designing partner in this case. Among these the City National Bank Building is by far the most lavish, if not over-blown, in ornamental treatment, compared to the relatively severe Security Trust and McClelland Buildings, whose Beaux-Arts sources seem more Renaissance than Baroque, and whose ornamentation is mostly confined to the entrance features; this is also true of the five-story former Y.M.C.A. building nearby at the northwest corner of Mill & Church Sts. erected about the same time.

George B. Long of Buffalo, but formerly of Lexington, was awarded the construction contract and he advertised the materials from the previous buildings on the site for sale.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chinn, Asa. A collection of photographs (ca. 1920).

Coleman, J. Winston. The Squire's Sketches of Lexington. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1972

Dunn, C. Frank. Old Houses of Lexington, Kentucky. Unpublished manuscript, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, 1930-50. (see continuation sheet)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .09 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 7119 | 51010 | 4213 | 8710 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of a rectangular area (approximately 50 feet on Main St. by 80 feet on Cheapside) comprising only that land on which the City National Bank Building stands.

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

Walter E. Langsam, Architectural Historian, and Richard S. DeCamp, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission

DATE

11-1-79

STREET & NUMBER

253 Market Street

TELEPHONE

255-8312

CITY OR TOWN

Lexington

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

1-4-80

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

4/1/80

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/6/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 2

With its contrasting red-brick "shaft" and tan-gray upper and lower stories, highly plastic surface and deeply-projecting cornices, the City National Bank is indeed a fine example of a Beaux-Arts style "skyscraper" and is a conspicuous feature of the central downtown.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Lancaster, Clay. Vestiges of the Venerable City. Lexington, Ky.: Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1978.

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

Leavy, William A. "A Memoir of Lexington and Its Vicinity." (1873) Register, Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 40 (April 1942), 111-131; (July 1942) 253-267; (October 1942), 353-375; Vol. 41 (Jan. 1943), 44-62, (Apr. 1943), 107-137; (July 1943), 250-260; (Oct. 1943), 310-346; Vo. 42 (Jan. 1944), 26-53.

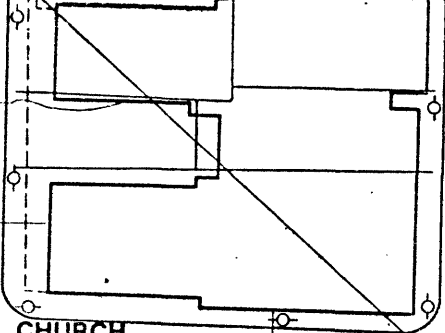
Lexington City Directories.

Lexington-Fayette County Deed and Will Books.

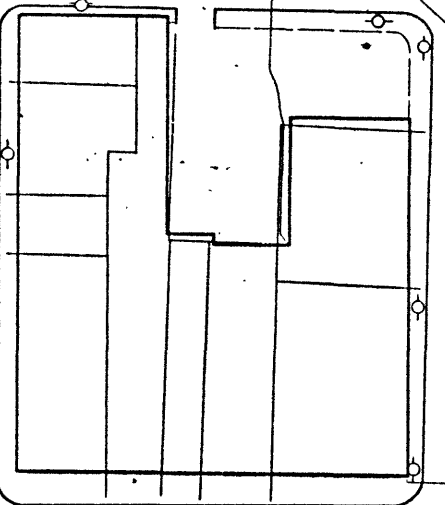
Sanborn Insurance Maps.

200 000E
200 000E

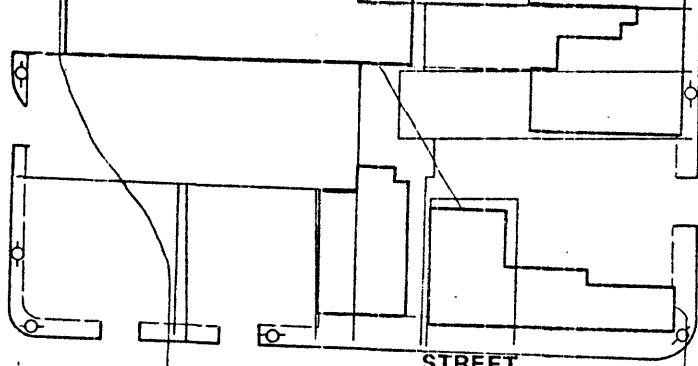
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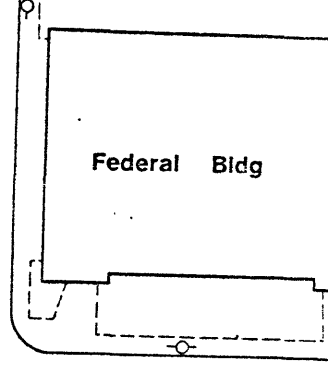
CHURCH



NORTH

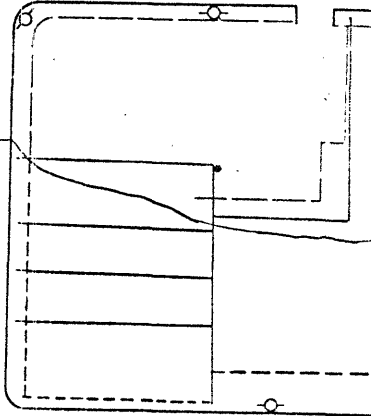


STREET



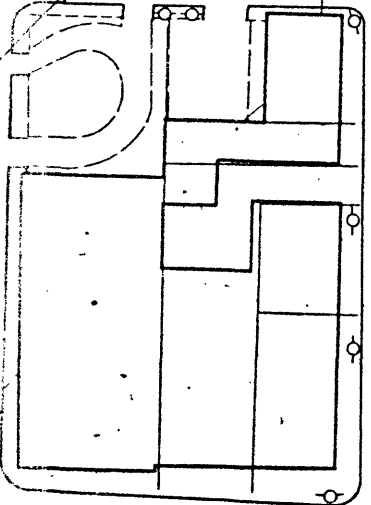
Federal Bldg

BARR



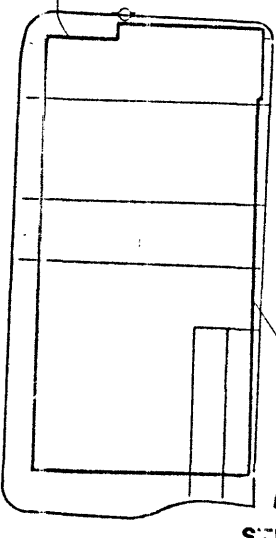
NORTH

EAST

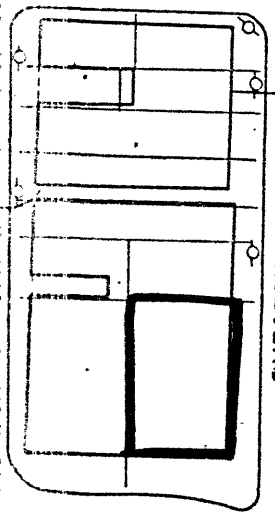
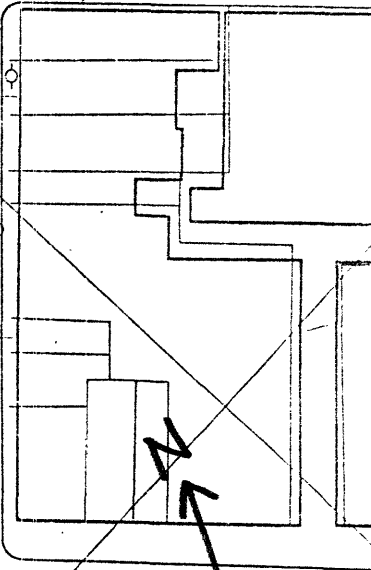


WEST

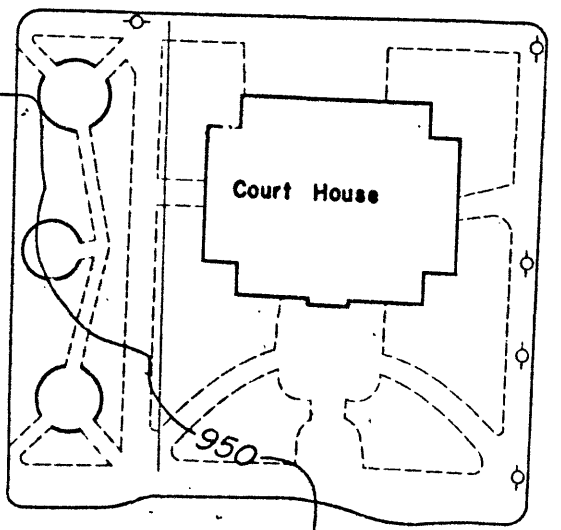
SHORT



STREET



CHEAPSIDE



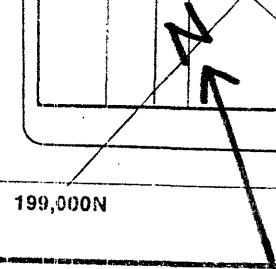
Court House

950

WEST

MAIN

STREET



199,000N

City National Bank Building

Lexington
259-65 W. Main St.
Fayette
Kentucky

Lexington-Fayette Urban Co. Planning Commission Map

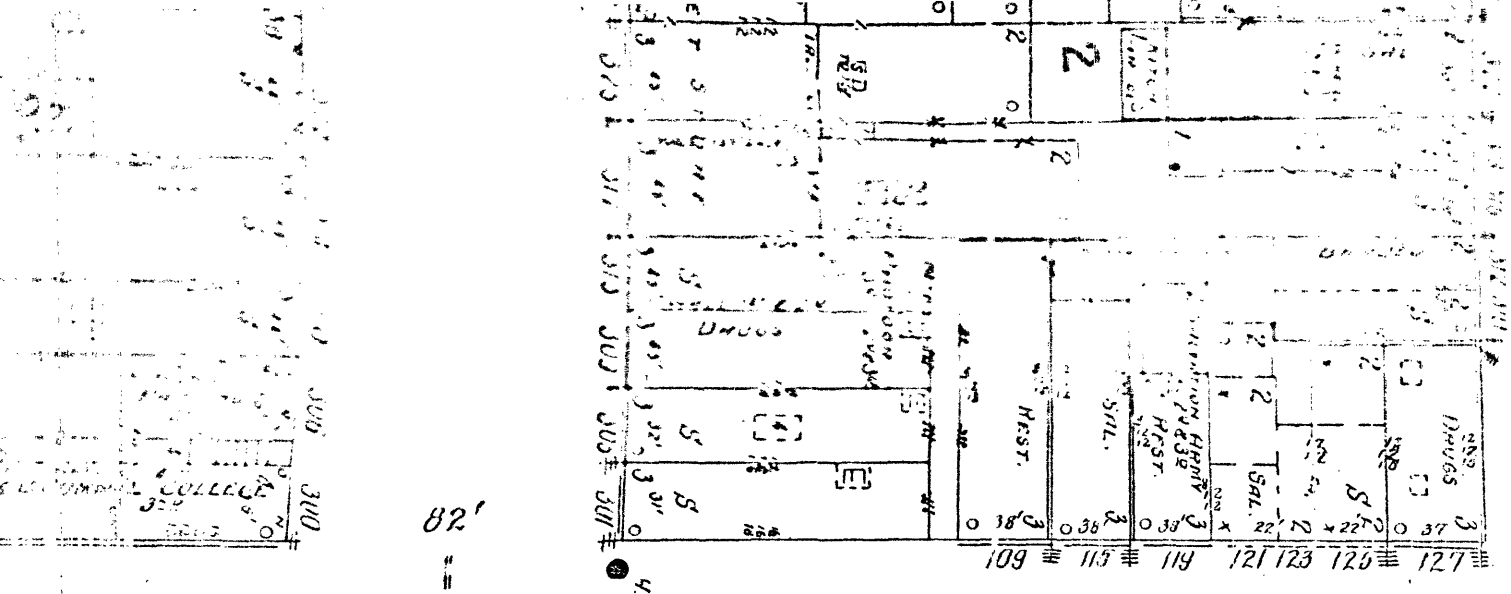
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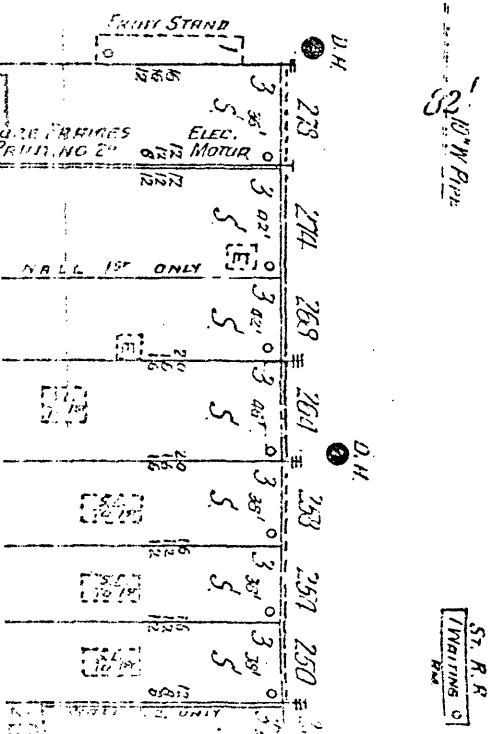
Map 2

JAN 22 1980

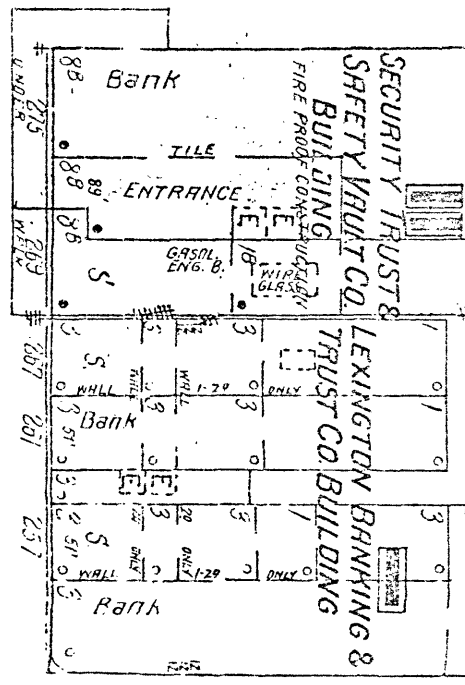
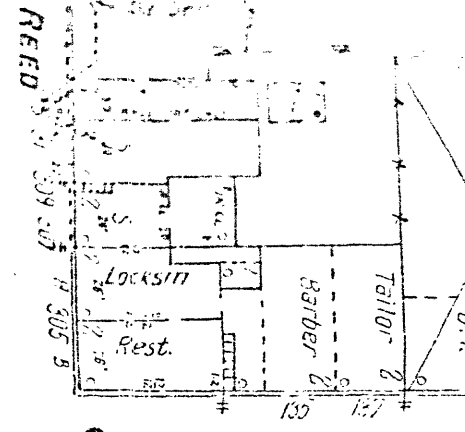
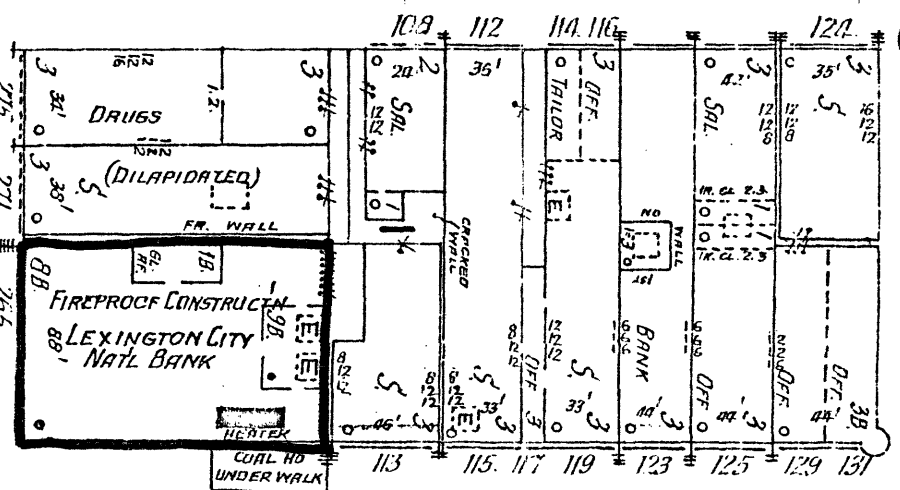
APR 1 1980



N. MILL



CHEAPSIDE



82'

82'

ST. R. R.
WAITING ROOM

108'

48'

108'

(EA)

114

04'

04'

4'

1'

REED

4\"/>

4\"/>

4\"/>

4\"/>

4\"/>

1907
Sanborn

City National Bank Building

Lexington
259-65 W. Main Street
Fayette
Kentucky

JAN 22 1980

Sanborn Insurance Map

Scale 1"=1200'
Date 1907
Map 3

APR 1 1980