

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY.-- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 3 1980

DATE ENTERED DEC 3 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Chestnut Street Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

912 W. Chestnut Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

— VICINITY OF

STATE Kentucky

CODE 021

COUNTY

CODE

Jefferson 111

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church

STREET & NUMBER 912 W. Chestnut Street

CITY, TOWN Louisville

— VICINITY OF

Kentucky 40203 STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth & Jefferson

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisville

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites

DATE 1980

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN Frankfort

Kentucky STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Chestnut Street Baptist Church is located on the eastern edge of the Russell neighborhood, just west of the central business district of Louisville. The church is in an area which has suffered greatly from Urban Renewal clearance. Chestnut Street Baptist Church is close to the Chestnut Street Methodist Church, South (National Register, July, 1979) and Union Station (National Register, August 1975).

The Chestnut Street Baptist Church is an ornate Gothic Revival structure. The red brick church is richly ornamented with terra cotta. The facade of the structure consists of a central gabled section with two towers. The main feature of the central section is a fine porch reminiscent of a medieval cloister. Short composite columns which are banded rest on brick bases. Five pointed arches spring from the columns which have a terra cotta boss at each of their junctions. The area above the arches is filled with small terra cotta squares. The main facade is set behind this porch. Four geometrically styled stained-glass windows are surmounted by four arched windows and a small rose window. The gable face is ornamented by a decorative terra cotta sheathing.

The right tower is three stories in height and buttressed. The ground floor has a narrow double door of wood with an arched transom of stained-glass and tracery. The second story is pierced by a rose window. A corbel band articulates the top story of blind pointed arches.

The left tower repeats the ground floor opening of the right tower. A highly decorative chamfered section makes a transition between the ground floor and the hexagonal upper tower. This hexagonal section is pierced by lowered arches and capped with a steep roof.

The sanctuary is an open hall with no columns. The room is two stories in height with a flat ceiling. The ceiling has eighteen recessed panels which are decorated by painted floral motifs. The lower walls are wainscotted in dark wood and pierced by large pointed arched stained-glass windows with vivid-colored geometric decoration.

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 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 c. 1884 **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Henry Wolters.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chestnut Street Baptist/Quinn Chapel Church is a significant example of Gothic Revival ecclesastical architecture in Louisville. It is also an important part of the history of one of the city's earliest and most important black congregations.

The Chestnut Street Baptist Church was built around 1884 and later known as the Weaver Baptist Church. The church became the fifth home of the Quinn Chapel A.M.E. congregation in 1910. The Quinn Chapel congregation is one of the oldest black churches in the city and had its beginings in 1838 as the Bethel congregation. The church takes its name from Bishop Paul Quinn, an early black church leader and abolistionist and the first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal faith to visit Kentucky. The congregation of Quinn Chapel was comprised of free men who were active in the anti-slavery movement and gained the church the title of the " Abolistionists' church". The first school for black children in Louisville was started by the congregation in the late 1840's.

Henry Wolters, the architect of the church, was born in Hanover, Germany and educated at the Berlin Polytechnic Institute and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Wolters was one of the engineers of the Suez Canal before coming to America in 1872. Wolters had an office in both New Orleans and Louisville. His work exemplified the exuberance of detailing associated with the Victorian style and the attention to compositional elements, the hallmark of Beaux-Arts training. Wolters' work is found throughout the southern part of the United States. His work includes the design of fifty railroad depots for the Central Georgia Railroad Company, the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, the Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama Railroad Depots, the Evansville Indiana Courthouse and the Memphis Cotton Exchange. In Louisville his designs include the 1892 Kaufman-Straus Building (destroyed); Norton Hall of the Baptist Theological Seminary (destroyed); the Tyler Block (National Register, 1973, destroyed); Kentucky Wagon Works (destroyed); the Knights of Phydias Building (National Register, November, 1978) and the Bamberger Bloom Building (National Register, West Main Street District, March, 1974). The Chestnut Street Baptist Church is the only extant ecclesastical building in Louisville which can be assigned to Wolters.

The Chestnut Street Baptist Church is a richly detailed exampl> of the Gothic Revival style. The church is one of a very few historic structures left in a large urban renewal area. The structure is exemplary of the exuberance in decorative detailing found in the work of the German-born architect, Henry Wolters (1845-1921).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caron Directory of the City of Louisville. Louisville: C.K. Caron, 1880-1900.

"Henry Wolters Dies; Famed as Architect." Louisville Courier Journal. 30 August 1921.

Inland Architect and News Record III. (July) 1884.

"Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church". Louisville: Quinn Chapel, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Less than one acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED 1:24,000

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville West

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 607890 4234020

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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City of Louisville Block 13H, Lot 198

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 Marty Poynter Hedgepeth Director of Research

ORGANIZATION Landmarks Commission DATE August 8, 1980

STREET & NUMBER 727 West Main Street TELEPHONE 502/587-3501

CITY OR TOWN Louisville 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 Acting SAPO DATE 10-22-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce DATE 12/3/80

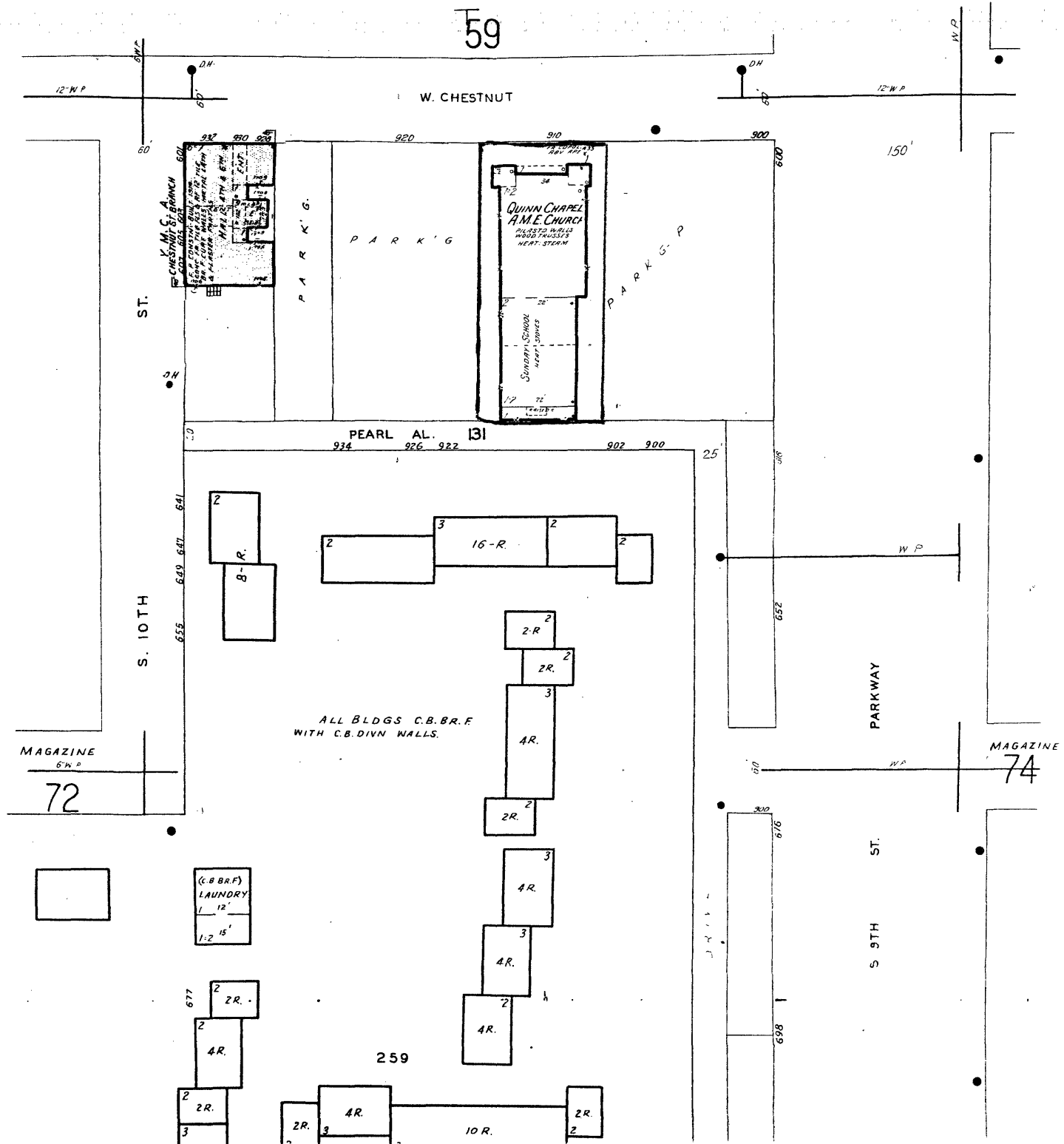
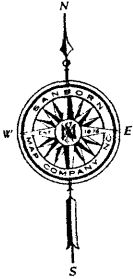
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: _____ DATE _____

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

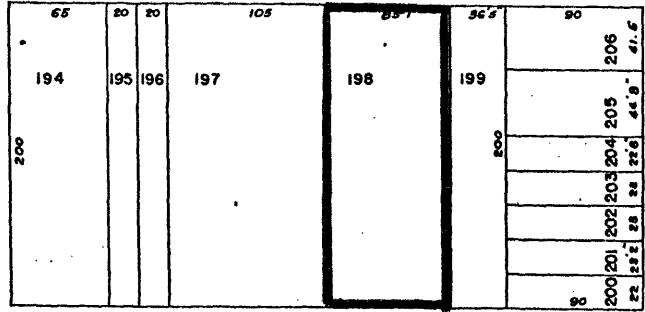
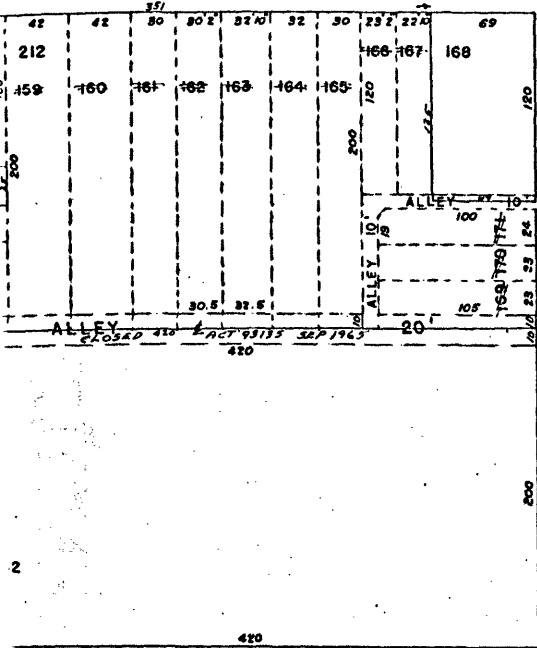
ENTIRE SHEET WITHIN WEST DOWNTOWN RENEWAL AREA

DEC 3 1980
NOV 8 1980



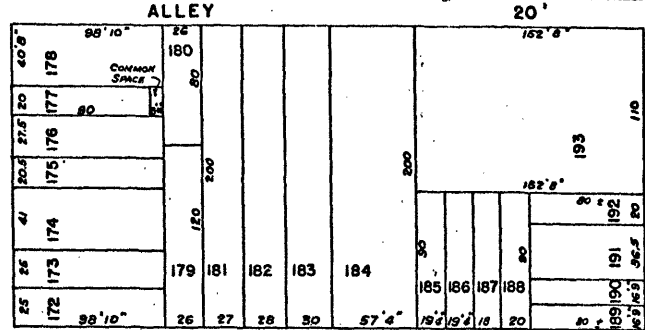
Chestnut Street Baptist
Church, 912 W. Chestnut
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.
Map 2 Sanborn Real Estate
Map

ST. 60'

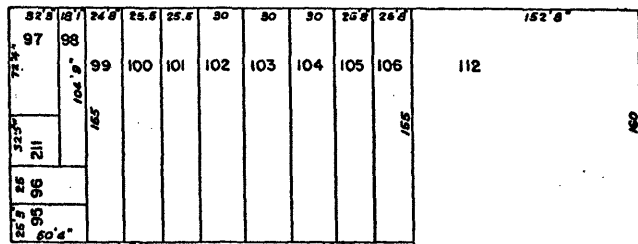
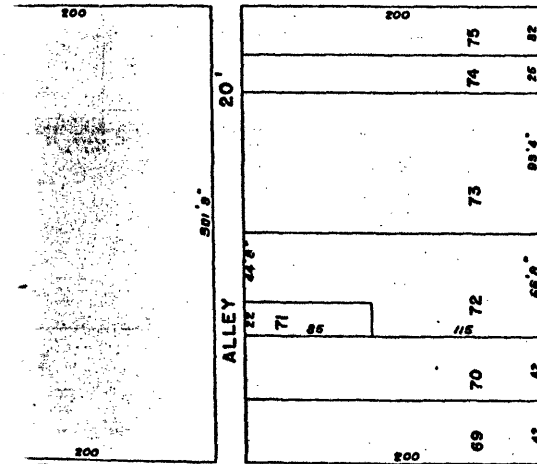


ST. 60'

ST. 60'

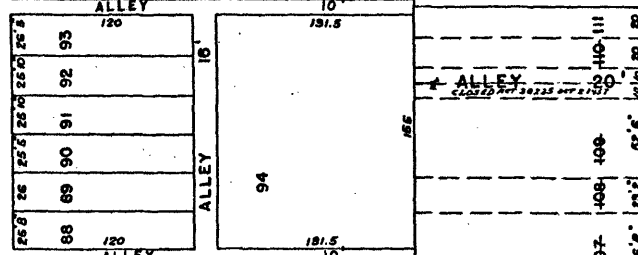


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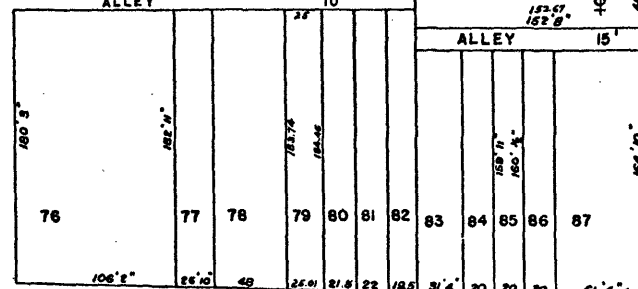
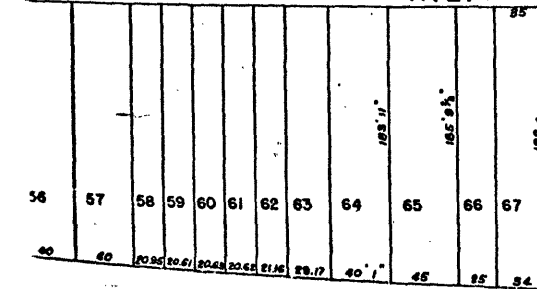


10 TH

9 TH



ESQUIRE AVE. 20'



BROADWAY

120'

NOV 3

1980

DEC 3 1980

Chestnut Street Baptist Church
912 W. Chestnut
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.
Real Estate Atlas of Jefferson County
Vol. 1, Real Estate Directories , Inc.
1972.

Map 3