

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 20 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 16 1977

**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 Henry Watt House

AND/OR COMMON
Saunier House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 703 West High Street

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 06
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Dorothy S. Offield

STREET & NUMBER 703 West High Street

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF _____ STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 215 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historical Survey and Plan for Lexington & Fayette Co., Kentucky

DATE 1970
____ FEDERAL ____ STATE COUNTY ____ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Henry Watt House at 703 West High Street is on the front of a lot which slopes down at the back to a lot facing Manchester Street (Photo #2). It is on a triangular island bordered by the Jefferson Street Viaduct, a concrete viaduct constructed over the L&N and C&O Railroads on the west; Manchester Street on the north and West High on the south. The house (numbered 127 prior to 1902) was formerly on the northwest corner of West High and Merino Streets; between 1907 and 1920 the Jefferson Street Viaduct was opened and between 1920-1934 Merino Street (originally called Locust) was closed between Manchester and West High Streets.

The house is a 2-story, 5-bay Flemish bond brick with hipped roof, inside end chimneys, stone foundation and a walk-out basement with fireplaces and brick floors (Photo #1). It has facade windows that are deeper than rear windows in the same rooms. The line of former chair railing is at the level of the higher sills indicating that the front windows were made deeper. They now have 2/2 paned sashes.

The wing on the west side of the main block is 1½-story and 2-bay; its facade once was Flemish bond but has been rebuilt (Photo #3). The window in the west gable of the wing has a 9/6-paned sash although other windows match those of the main block (Photo #4). Both the wing and the main block have overhanging cornices. The wing, probably added during Lexington's Greek Revival period (after 1834), appears on the 1855 and 1871 maps of Lexington. An ell behind the wing (now the kitchen) is shown on the 1871 map.

The front porch was added between 1896 and 1901. A 1-story frame and concrete block garage was attached to the east side of the house in 1907-1934. The concrete floor of the front porch extends three bays although the roof of the porch frames just the entrance with paired columns of stone piers. Stone piers also mark the corners of the porch floor. The door is flanked by pilasters with what appears to be a remnant of an entablature above. There are bushhammered thresholds with chiseled margins to the porch and at the front door. An iron fence with the name of the Cincinnati Iron Fence Co. borders the front of the lot. L-shaped galleries now enclosed are at the rear of the main block and on the east side of the ell (Photo #2). The 1871 Birds Eye View of the City of Lexington shows the galleries at walk-out basement level and the floor above. The 1934 Sanborn Insurance Map shows a third level in the rear, which is the overhanging second floor porch. The entire porch area was enclosed and covered with clapboard by the current owner's father between 1907 and 1934.

The main block of the house, dating from the early 1800s, is basically two rooms with a center hall on both floors. The later two-room wing and the ell have attic storage above. The enclosed porches provide dining and breakfast room space on the first floor and an additional room above.

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 1818 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry Watt House at 703 West High Street (formerly 127 West High) is a significant example of an early nineteenth century house. Later given Greek Revival woodwork, it remains an elegant and imposing residence owned by one family for the last 79 years and the home in the past of prominent Kentuckians. It is three blocks west of the Lexington Civic Center and on one of the main westbound exits from downtown Lexington.

The house is one of the few surviving hipped-roof dwellings in downtown Lexington. An excellent adaptation of a building to terrain, it has a walk-out basement to utilize the natural slope of the land down to what was once Town Branch. The second level of the house overlooked the stream, as did many of the early High Street houses on the east side of Broadway (now destroyed). Interior woodwork probably grained during the Greek Revival period, is an unusually well preserved example of a skill now rare.

Henry Watt, listed as ropemaker on High Street in the 1818 City Directory, inherited this property, which included a house and rope-walk adjoining his residence on the east side, from James Kernes, his uncle, in 1817. By February, 1819, he was in business at this location, according to an ad appearing in the Kentucky Gazette, which said:

HEMP - The highest price cash in hand given for Hemp delivered at the Rope Walk formerly the property of JAMES KERN, dec'd, on Water Street.

HENRY WATT

Watt resided here until his death in 1853. The following year his property was conveyed to Richard Hawes, Jr., lawyer, second governor of the Confederate Provisional Government of Kentucky and "the most distinguished citizen of Bourbon County now living", according to Collins' History of Kentucky (1874). Hawes purchased the property as the result of a suit, instituted by Henry Clay, admr. of Debonis, son of Wilson C. Nicolas, dec'd., vs. Watts, which was filed in 1827¹.

Wesley C. Hamilton, the next owner, was listed as a hemp bagging manufacturer in the 1859-60 City Directory but by 1864-65 was in the furniture store business while James Hamilton operated a rope walk here. In 1866 Hamilton sold the property to Dr. George S. Savage,

¹Hawes owned the property for only a short time--less than one year.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dunn, C. Frank. "Old Houses of Lexington, Kentucky." Unpublished manuscript, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1930-50.
Fayette County Deed Books: 30-85, 29-405, 42-369, 47-372, 49-666, 55-236, 64-35, 70-70, 72-373, 113-428.
Fayette County Will Book: D-253.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. .25 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,1,8,9,5,0	4,2,1,4,1,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On north side of West High, bordered by Jefferson Street Viaduct on west side, 708 Manchester Street on north, and traces of Merino Street on east (now closed).

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 Mrs. James Park, Jr.

ORGANIZATION <u>Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission</u>	DATE <u>April 1, 1977</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>253 Market Street</u>	TELEPHONE <u>(606) 252-2504</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Lexington</u>	STATE <u>Kentucky</u>

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

Charles W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 13, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. ...

DATE

12/16/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles ...

DATE

12-15-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Henry Watt House

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PAGE 2

Henry Watt House

In the first floor hall is a half-turn stair with landing. The heavy newel post, railing and turned balusters are later but the ornamental brackets on the step ends appear original (Photo #5). The ash floor is carpeted here but can be seen in all but the room to the west of the entrance hall. Narrow boards were laid there by relatives of the present owner. The parlor east of the center hall as well as the other rooms in the main block and wing have woodwork grained to resemble other woods (Photo #6). The mantel in the parlor has been similarly enhanced; it has fluted pilasters, a breakfront shelf and a paneled frieze. White tile added in 1911 hides the original opening. A wallpaper border in a floral design and pewter gas chandelier with etched glass shades, representing the four seasons, are decorative touches added with the owner's memory.

In the sitting room to the west is an original pegged press with 6-panel double doors below smaller 1-panel doors (Photo #7). This press is to the right of a Victorian mantel; there is a door on the left of the mantel leading to the wing, replacing a matching press. The line of a ~~former~~ chair rail can be seen on a wall of the sitting room. The doorway leading to the enclosed porch is in the style of the first period of the house; it has a paneled door jamb, pegged threshold and 6-panel door (Photo #8).

The west wing has grained woodwork with Greek "ears" and an earlier 6-panel door that has been reused (Photo #9). A Victorian mantel is found in the back bedroom in this wing. A board and batten door with box lock has been reused in the breakfast room porch (Photo #10).

In the upstairs bedrooms of the main block are early mantels, built up of simple mouldings (Photo #11). Traces of a chair rail line can be seen in later closets. A paneled door jamb between the west bedroom and the hall contrasts with the "eared" door frame superimposed later (Photo #12).

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Henry Watt House

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HENRY WATT HOUSE

Bible agent. Mrs. C. V. Savage ran a select school here, according to the 1867 City Directory. Dr. Thomas D. Kelley, who practiced dentistry in Lexington for 67 years,² and his family lived at this address from 1871-1881. John Yellman, who manufactured hemp here in 1881-82, sold the hemp works to R. C. Morgan & Co., who operated the business at 45 Merino until at least 1887;³ he later sold the residence to H. K. Milward in 1884.

Col. H. K. Milward was "one of the best known citizens of Lexington."⁴ Interrupting his law studies to enlist, he rose to command the 18th Kentucky Veteran Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. Afterwards he was a newspaperman, businessman, county official and eleven years postmaster as well as an active participant in the different fraternal beneficiary orders. The Milward family lived at 703 West High until at least 1890, after which it was rented until conveyed to Margaret E. Saunier in 1898.

Margaret's husband, Steven C., was the founder of a machine shop in existence today on Saunier Alley. Eleven Saunier children grew up in the house, where one of them still lives.

² "Thomas D. Kelley dies at home on West High", The Lexington Herald, September 13, 1930, p. 1.

³ 1887 City Directory.

⁴ George Washington Ranck, A Review of Lexington, Kentucky, As She Is (New York, 1886), p. 125.

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Henry Watt House
CONTINUATION SHEET

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- Lancaster, Clay. Vestiges of a Venerable City. Manuscript to be published by Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1977.
- Lexington City Directories: 1806, 1818, 1838-89, 1867, 1873-74, 1875-76, 1877-78, 1881-82, 1883-84, 1887, 1888, 1890, 1893, 1895, 1898-99, 1902, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975.
- Peter, Robert, M.D. History of Fayette County, Kentucky. Edited by William Henry Perrin. Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., 1882.
- "Thomas D. Kelly Dies At Home on West High." The Lexington Herald, September 13, 1930, p. 1.
- Ranck, George Washington. A Review of Lexington, Kentucky, As She Is, New York: John Lethem, 1886.



Henry Watt House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

DEC 16 1977

JUN 20 1977

Lexington-Fayette County Planning
Commission, 1" = 200', 1968.
Map 2. House is indicated by
black dot.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Henry Watt House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

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Hart-Mapother Map of Lexington,
Scale unknown, 1855.
Map 3. House is circled in
red.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



ROAD AND DANVILLE

ROAD

M. Johnson

D.M. Payne

D.M. Payne

R. WICKLIFFE

L.W. SCOTT

A. MILLER

JEFFERSON STREET

HERINO STREET

LOVEST STREET

DEPOT

J.M. MURTRY

J.M. MURTRY LUMBER YARD

LOWER STREET

P. Bishop

G.L. WARFIELD

J.M. MURTRY

SPRING STREET

MAXWELL

H.I.

STREET

G.W. SUTTON

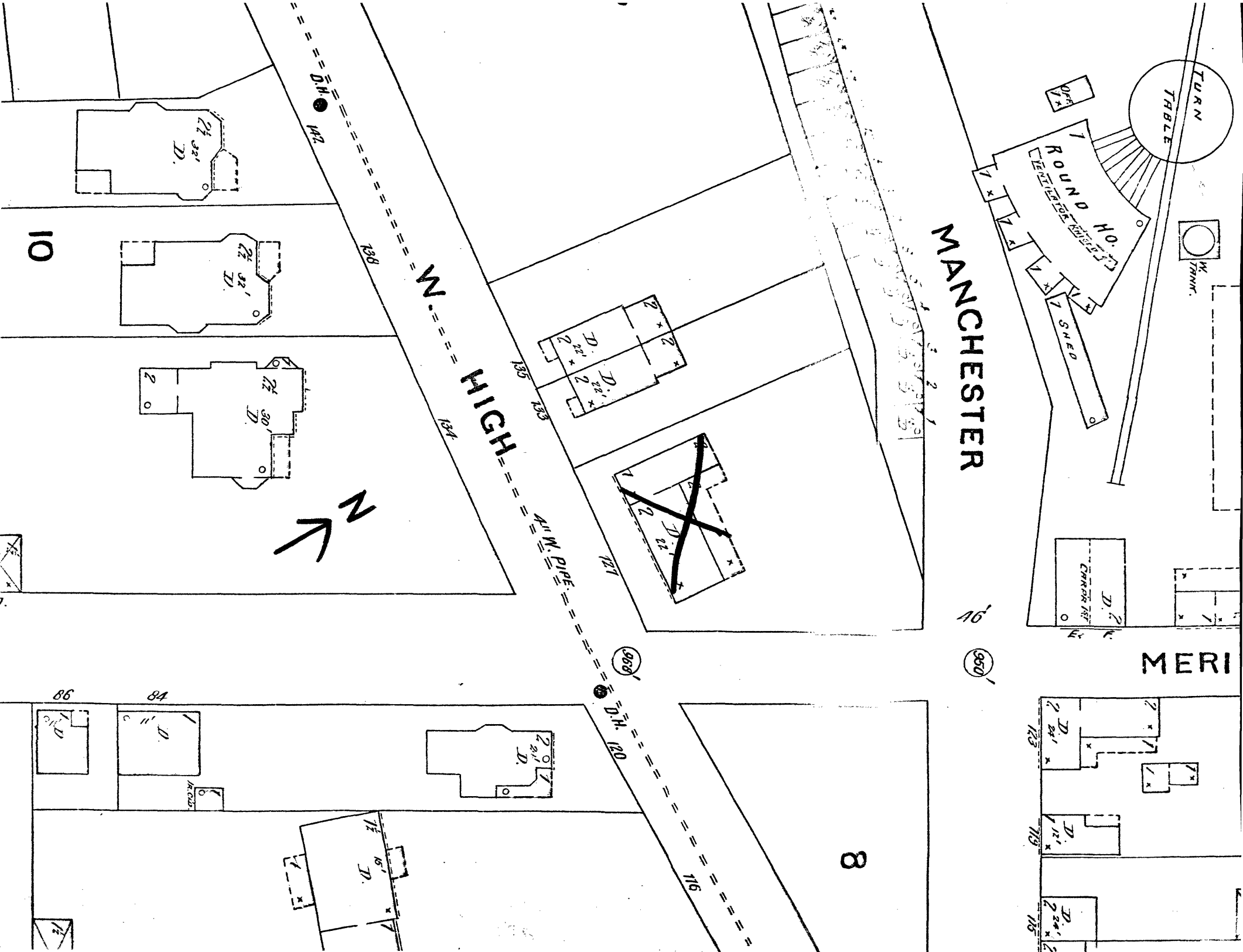
Henry Watt House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

DEC 16 1977

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Birds Eye View of the City of
Lexington, Scale Unknown, 1871.
Map 4. Henry Watt House circled
in red.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



9681

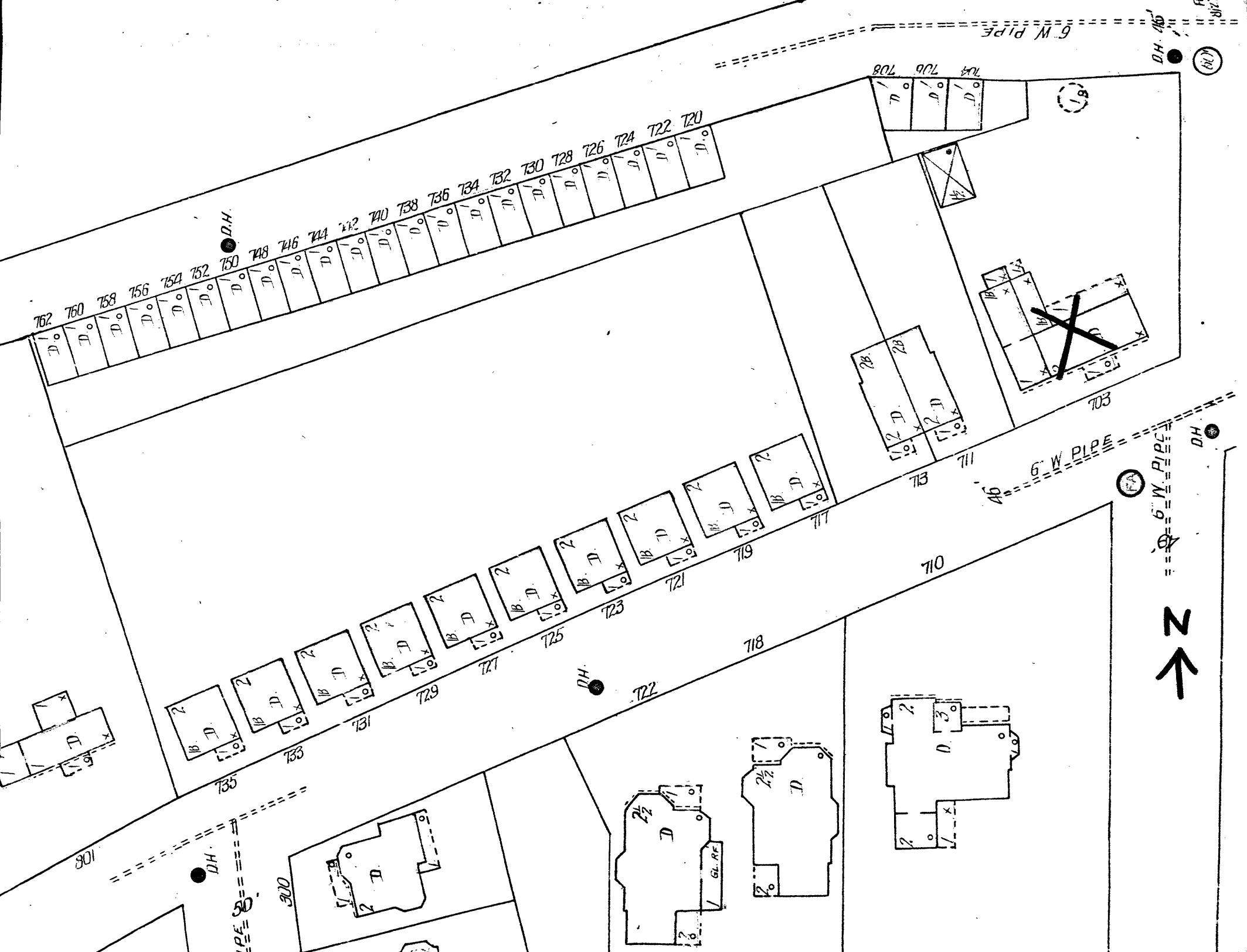
Henry Watt House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

DEC 12 1977

JUN 20 1977

Sanborn Insurance Map, University
of Kentucky Library, 1" = 50', 1896.
Map 5.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



6061

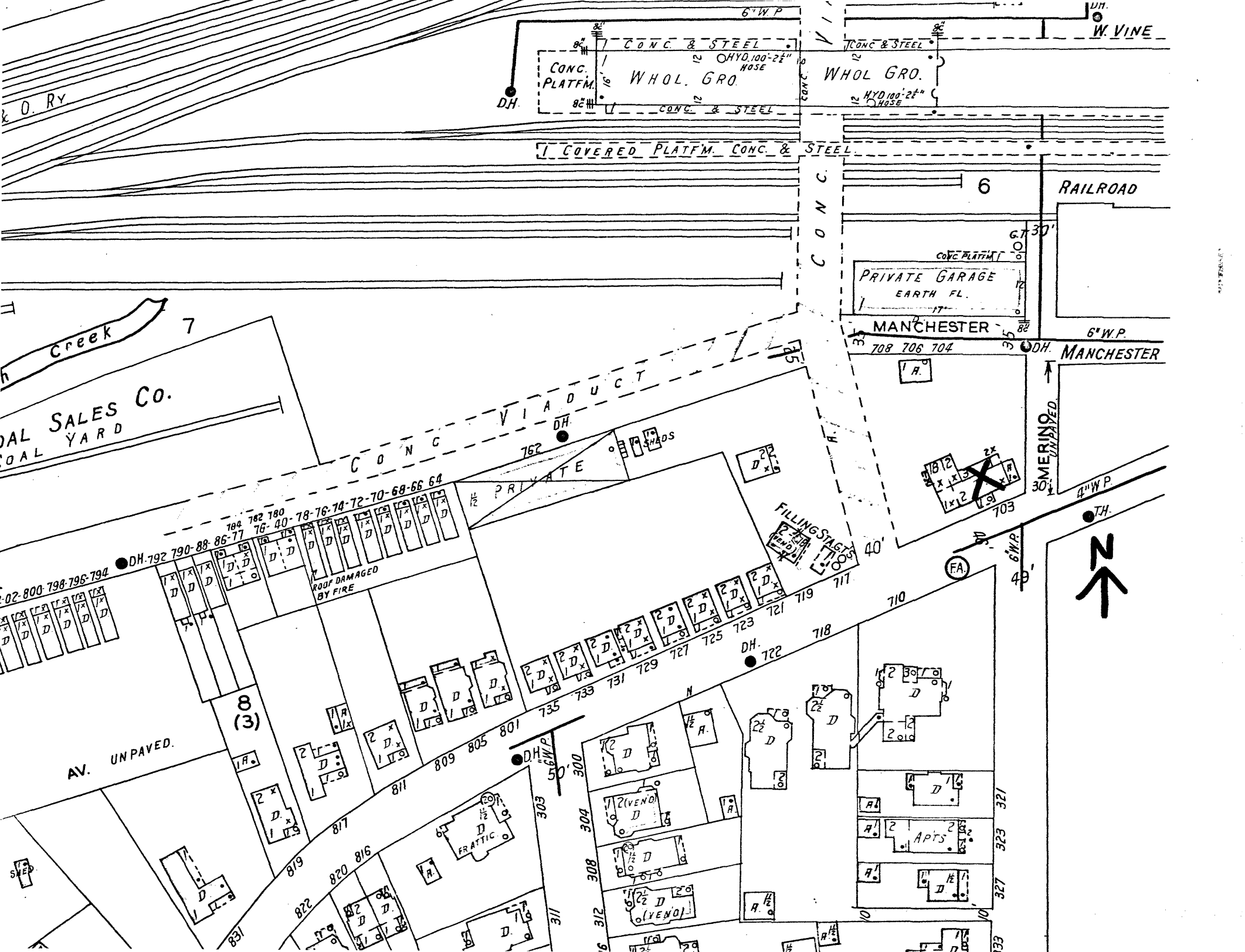
Henry Watt House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

DEC 16 1977

JUN 20 1977

Sanborn Insurance Map, University
of Kentucky Library, 1" = 50',
1907.
Map 6.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



D. Ry

COAL SALES CO.
COAL YARD

COVERED PLATFORM CONC. & STEEL

CONC. & STEEL
CONC. PLATFORM
WHOL. GRO.
HYD. 100'-2 1/2" HOSE

CONC. & STEEL
WHOL. GRO.
HYD. 100'-2 1/2" HOSE

RAILROAD

PRIVATE GARAGE
EARTH FL.

MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER

CONC. VIADUCT

PRIVATE

FILLING STATION

UNPAVED

02-800-798-796-794

ROOF DAMAGED BY FIRE

AV. UNPAVED.



Henry Watt House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

DEC 16 1977

JUN 20 1977

Sanborn Insurance Map, University
of Kentucky Library, 1" = 50',
1934.
Map 7.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER