

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 18 1980  
DATE ENTERED OCT 24 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 George W. Grant House / Lexington House of Mercy / Florence Crittenton Home of Lexington  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
519 W. Fourth St.       NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN  
Lexington       VICINITY OF      6th      CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE      CODE      COUNTY      CODE  
Kentucky      021      Fayette      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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Social-Humanitarian</u>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
The Florence Crittenton Home and Services of Lexington, Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER  
519 W. Fourth St.  
CITY, TOWN      STATE  
Lexington       VICINITY OF      Kentucky 40508

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fayette County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
W. Main St.  
CITY, TOWN      STATE  
Lexington      Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky  
DATE  
March, 1980       FEDERAL       STATE       COUNTY       LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Kentucky Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN      STATE  
Lexington      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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Florence Crittenton Home consists of a Greek Revival residence slightly altered after the Civil War with Italianate trim and again in the mid-1890s to adapt it as a home for unwed mothers and their infants; a twentieth-century east wing is compatible in scale and material. The Home is located just west of the Northside Residential Historic District (placed on the National Register August 28, 1979) between a huge one-story tobacco warehouse to the west and an only slightly smaller industrial-storage facility to the east. Beyond to the west of the tobacco warehouse are the landscaped grounds of the Eastern Kentucky Hospital, on the south side of Fourth St. opposite the Home are vacant lots and several medium-size industrial facilities. Behind the property to the north is Fifth St. Court, a modest cul-de-sac reached only off Fifth St. Extended. The old Belt Line Railway curves around the southeast corner of the Home property, and a vacant lot with trees, now part of the warehouse property, cuts out a segment of the southwest corner. Nevertheless, the grounds of the Home are quite ample, with large old trees and shrubbery. The building is approached inconspicuously and appropriately off Fourth St. between remains of a late 19th-century iron fence and gateposts, with a circular drive in front of the building (Photo 1).

The original house is a two-story, five-bay, common-bond brick building with central hall and two-story rear ell on the west side, with a lower section behind that (Photo 2). Many of the original 6/6-pane sash windows--longer on the first floor--remain on the front and west sides; they have plain raked frames. The entrance (now covered with a frame and glass vestibule) has heavy Grecian pilasters and entablature, with a two-light transom; the original flat-panelled front door seems to have been given Italianate round-arched windows and outer moldings. There are several plain pilastered Grecian mantel-pieces in the front first-floor rooms, with plain Grecian baseboards, large flat double six-panel doors between the parlors on the left (west), and several two- or six-panel doors elsewhere. The main staircase has simplified curved stringers, with tubular railing and slender columnar newel posts upstairs; the spindles seem Italianate, and the downstairs newel is oak, as are several "Queen Anne" 10-panel doors that probably date from the late 19th century (Photo 3).

After the Civil War the roof was altered, with unevenly-spaced but nicely curved Italianate brackets under the wide eaves and a gable over the entrance enclosing a trefoil attic vent. At a later date, probably when the residence was converted into an institution in 1894-95, or slightly earlier, an attractive three-bay front porch, which survives almost intact, was added. It has narrower round-arched outer bays with sunbursts in the spandrels; above spindlework; the wide central bay and side bays have segmental arches with sunbursts and spindles above; the posts are turned.

The twentieth-century east addition has two stories, with four bays on the front; the east bay projects slightly; the foundations are concrete rather than the rough stone of the original building. The front aligns with that of the older building and the openings brickwork, and other features are all compatible and residential in scale.

No older outbuildings remain, although there are a house trailer and another frame structure in the rear. Maintenance of house and grounds could be improved, but the main building appears to be structurally sound.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Florence Crittenton Home of Lexington, one of a series of homes for unwed mothers and their infants across the country, has been located since it was founded in 1894 as the Lexington House of Mercy in a plain but handsome antebellum residence. Then on the outskirts of town, the ample grounds are still rather remote, situated between warehouse facilities and a railroad, but protected by an inconspicuous entrance and mature plantings. The house had a series of interesting residents and owners in the fifty years or so before it was converted to its present use, and was given an Italianate architectural flavor sometime after the Civil War. A discreet and compatible wing has been added to the home, whose social-humanitarian purpose has remained constant, although the attitudes toward the women it benefits have varied somewhat in the past 85 years. This admirable enterprise is one of the older social institutions in the city.

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The core of the present building is an L-shaped, five-bay, two-story Greek Revival residence that probably dates from the late 1840s or '50s; it appears with its ell on the 1855 map of Lexington, with the landscaped grounds of the Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, as it was then called (see National Register form), to the west. According to local historian C. Frank Dunn, as quoted by Joe Jordan (Leader, Oct. 25, 1947), the house was built in 1823, but this must refer to an earlier building or simply the purchase of the site. It seems likely, however, that it was indeed built, as Dunn indicates, by Thomas Grant for his son George W., if it was not a replacement built by George for himself. The property had been part of the huge tracts inherited by Mrs. Mary Owen Todd Russell (later Wickliffe) from her father, Col. John Todd, who acquired the land as part of a military grant before his death at the Battle of Blue Licks in 1782. Thomas Grant bought the land in 1823 with Francis Downing, who was described as "the old pioneer whose narrow escape from being murdered by Indians is recounted in so many Kentucky histories;" they were partners in the operation of a large store on West Short St. that handled drugs, groceries, and paint. Grant soon bought out Downing's interest and presumably at some later date built the Greek Revival house for his son.

A rectangular building (perhaps incorporating a gallery or porch in the northeast corner of the ell) appears here on the 1855 map of Lexington and it is shown on the ca. 1856 bird's-eye view, although apparently with the ell on the east rather than west side. The 1871 Bird's-Eye View, however, taken as if from nearby to the northwest over the Insane Asylum, clearly shows the main block with its two- and one-story ell, plus at least one outbuilding to the north (see Maps I, II, and III).

(cont.)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached continuation sheet.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .9 acre

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A northeast of the main building as marked on Map IV, proceed 300' south to the railroad property line at point B; then 140' west to point C; then 300' north to point D; then 140' east to the starting point at A, in order to include the entire main building with ample grounds on all sides including the driveway turn-around, but not including the entire lot and outbuildings.

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

ORGANIZATION

Lexington-Fayette Co. Historic Commission

DATE

May, 1980

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

*Acting State Historic Preservation Officer* DATE *8-7-80*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*10/24/80*

ATTEST:

*W. Ray Price*  
*Genda Hunt McClanahan*

DATE

*10.23.80*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Florence Crittenton Home

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Lexington street directories begin only in 1887, less than a decade before the dwelling was converted into the House of Mercy in 1894-95. After George Grant's death in 1863 (see his obituary, Observer & Reporter, Jan. 2, 1864, 3-5; he had died December 12, 1863, at his home, probably here) the occupants are unknown, until W.H. Cassidy, a coal and grain dealer, later a commission merchant, moved here, probably by the late 1870s; it is likely that he was responsible for the Italianate alterations such as the front gable and brackets. In 1888 the occupant was Professor Alfred Fairhurst, a popular teacher and vehement anti-Darwinian who had been professor of natural science at Transylvania University for 32 years at his death (see his obituary, Herald, May 25, 1921, 12-4; also Wright, p. 242 et passim). Apparently known as "the old Totten home" before it was converted, the house was listed in 1890 as the residence of Alfred I. Totten and his sisters, who came of a distinguished Episcopal ecclesiastical family. Totten was the city engineer and surveyor during a period of extensive real estate development in Lexington before the turn of the century; his sisters included Anna, an artist, and teachers Helen and Mary; the former succeeded their father, the Rev. Silas Totten, as principal of the Christ Church Episcopal Seminary (see Ranck, Review, p. 102; and Survey form for 114 Woodland Avenue).

Since 1895 the building and grounds have been occupied by the Lexington House of Mercy under its successive names. The institution was established in 1894 by a group of local women, with \$3,000 from the city and \$3,000 from the county, used for the purchase of the property. An additional \$1,000 contributed by public subscription was expended on modification and repair of the house, and the institution was opened with about a dozen young women in January of February 1895. According to an account in a section of the Herald entitled "The Angel of Charity" in 1900 (April 15, p. 12), additional income was derived from the laundering of lace curtains, although the occupants were not required to do other work aside from their own cooking, housekeeping, and laundering.

Florence Crittenton, whose name the institution took in 1921, died about 1880 at the age of four. Her father, Charles Nelson Crittenton, opened the first such home, then known as the Florence Crittenton Home for Wayward and Fallen Women, in New York City in 1883. The Lexington institution became affiliated with a nationwide group of similar institutions and adopted their name in 1921, changing it slightly to the present form in 1938.

Still operated under a private board of directors but with a majority of Federal funds, the Home continues to provide physical care for single, pregnant women in an understanding, homelike atmosphere. Both group and individual counselling, as well as medical care, are now available, with an extensive full-time and part-time support staff, in addition to volunteer assistance. Educational, vocational, and recreation programs are also a feature of the institution, which has maintained its humane intention for over 85 years.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Florence Crittenton Home  
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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

Lexington Public Library Newspaper Index and Vertical File, and information from the Home.

Ranck, George W. A Review of Lexington, Kentucky, as She Is. New York: John Lethem, 1886.

Wright, John D., Jr. Transylvania: Tutor To the West. Lexington: Transylvania University, 1975.

# FR INGTON CO.

CIVIL ENGINEERS  
No. 9 Court Place Louisville  
& N.W. cor. Trinity Place and Thayer  
Lith. of Royce Co. Louisville Ky.



AUG 18 1980

Florence Crittenton Home  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

OCT 24 1950

Map I - City of Lexington, Fayette Co., Ky.  
Scale: Unknown  
Date: 1855

Insa  
Asylum



George W.  
Grant House

W. 4th St.



W. 3rd St.

Jefferson St.

AUG 18 1980

Florence Crittenton Home  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

Map II - View of the City of Lexington, Ky.

Scale: Unknown

Date: 1856

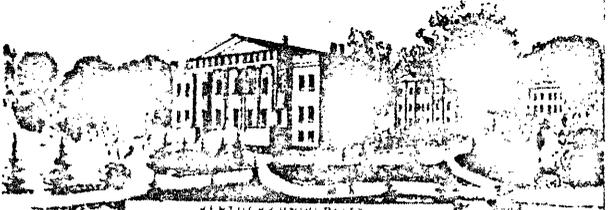
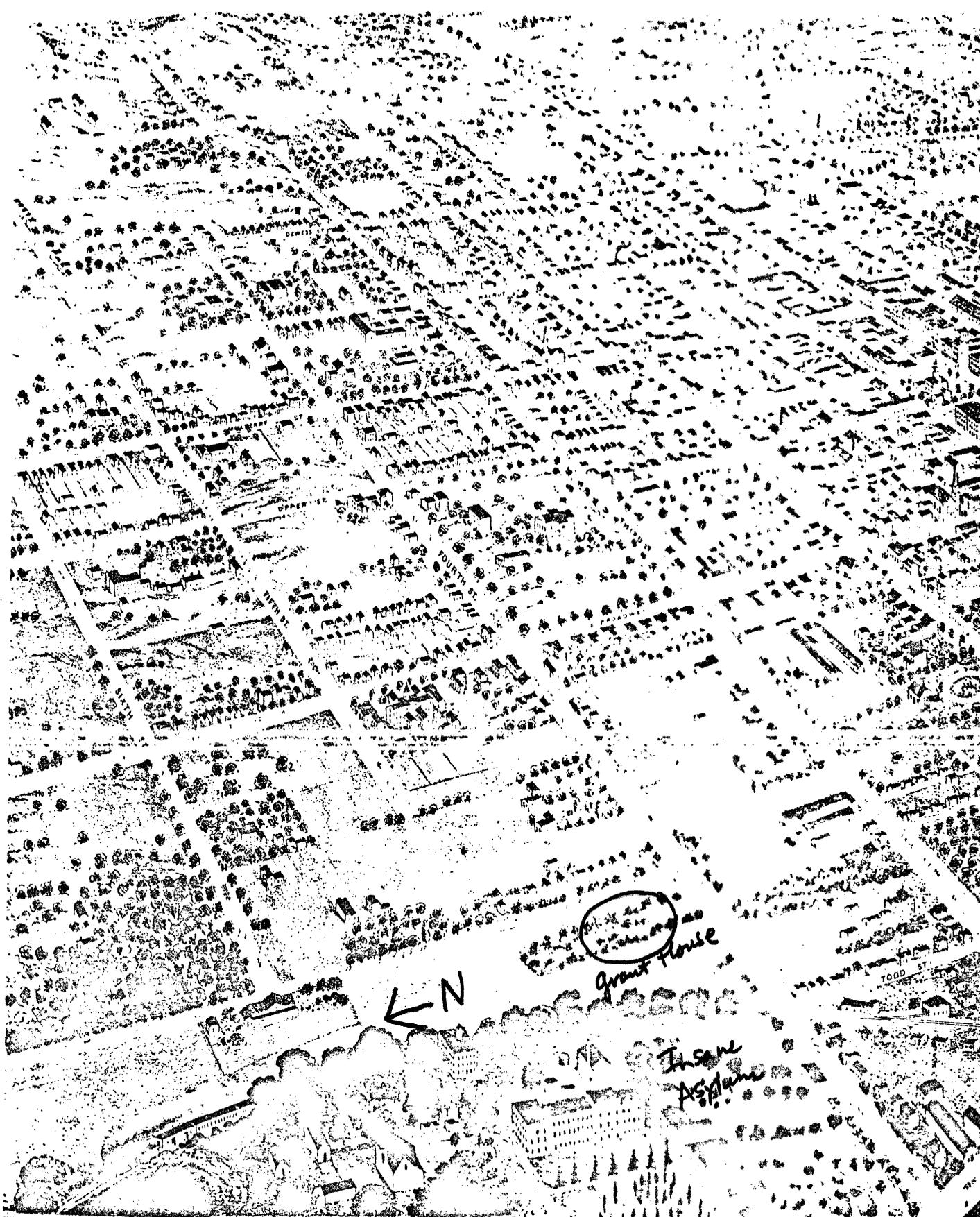
OCT 24 1856

**LEXINGTON**  
 ...man, Jr.

...preeminent  
 ...owner of the  
 ...has been rec-  
 ...states from  
 ...Lincoln Mem-  
 ...Alma Mater,  
 ...by A mem-  
 ...tropolitan Soci-  
 ...and learned  
 ...in *Who's*  
 ...years

...It has col-  
 ...history of  
 ...for a lifetime  
 ...of the West,  
 ...since 1772,  
 ...of Henry  
 ...to the Civil  
 ...development  
 ...growing and  
 ...times in the  
 ...words Lexing-  
 ...For pleasant  
 ...just get-  
 ...her is the  
 ...the 200 years

...Kentucky  
 ...the Civil  
 ...ay Press,  
 ...ntuckiana  
 ...m edited  
 ...History. The  
 ...action is  
 ...the library  
 ...wealth.



- REFERENCES:**
1. *Who's Who*
  2. *Kentucky University*
  3. *Historical Sketch of Lexington*
  4. *Lexington, Kentucky*
  5. *Lexington, Kentucky*
  6. *Lexington, Kentucky*
  7. *Lexington, Kentucky*
  8. *Lexington, Kentucky*
  9. *Henry Clay's Monument*
  10. *Historical Sketch of Lexington*
  11. *Lexington, Kentucky*
  12. *Hockey's Lexington*
  13. *Sayre*

AUG 28 1980

BIR  
**L**  
 FAYETTE

Florence Crittenton Home  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

Map III - Birds'-Eye View of the City of Lexington  
Scale: Unknown  
Date: 1871

OCT 24 1880

0861 8 1 AUG 1980

1,929,000E

MATCH SHEET 17 (200')

203,000N

W 8/11/80



D

A

Florence Crittenton Home

C

B

W. 4th St.

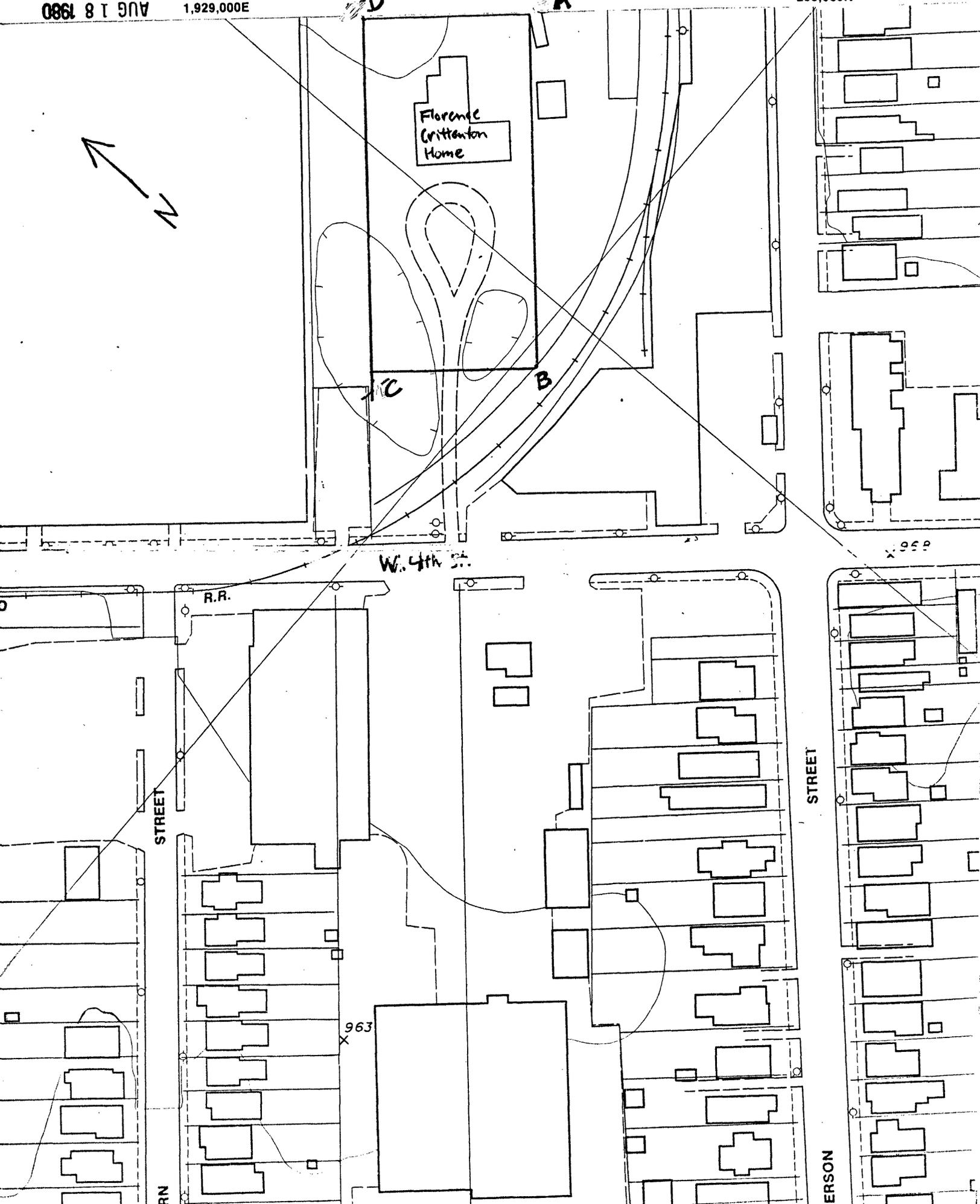
R.R.

STREET

STREET

963

ERSON



Florence Crittenton Home  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

OCT 24 1960

Map V - Urban-County Planning Commission Map  
Scale: 1"=100'  
Date: 1976