

PH0076848

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

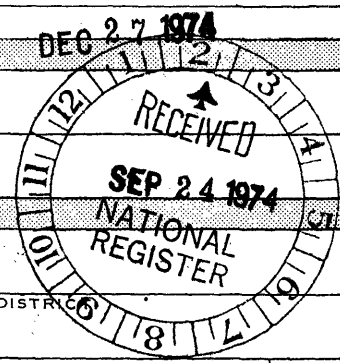
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Kentucky

COUNTY:
Fayette

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
Postal Finance Company

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Monsieur Giron's Confectionery *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
125 North Mill Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
06

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Fayette** CODE: **067**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Robert Blanton

STREET AND NUMBER:
125 North Mill Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fayette County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street at Cheapside

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: **DEC 27 1974**

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building known as Monsieur Giron's Confectionery was a two-story brick structure with Tuscan pilasters along the front. Iron lace was added later to the floor level windows on the second story.

The confectionery shop occupied the lower floor with ballrooms above it. The ballrooms extended back some fifty feet the depth of the property, with great panelled folding doors of cherry opening to the high ceiling. There were halls in the center above and below.

"There was a vast open fireplace in each room, with mantel-pieces made of cherry wood, and supported by graceful columns."¹

At present the north half, or three bays, of the original building survives. The upper story is unchanged: the stone voussours small-paned, deeply recessed windows of pleasant proportions, pilasters which appear to bear the weight of the continuous entablature, and beautiful wrought-iron railing are still extant.

The first floor facade and interior have undergone commercial remodeling. However the original Greek Revival woodwork around all three front openings on the interior of the second floor survives. Remaining, too, are the original baseboards on the south wall of the two upstairs rooms and also on the west wall of the rear room.

Other interior features include three windows facing south in the rear room with horizontal panels beneath the sills. There is a massive arch between the two rooms, squared in the Greek Revival manner, with a frame matching those of the doors and windows. The fireplaces have been removed and plastered over.

The rear ell seems to have been open on the first floor with circular brick piers supporting an enclosed second story. Three brick piers survive of purpose-molded brick, probably pie-shaped bricks.

This unique survivor of an age long since past is finely proportioned and gives an overall illusion of French neo-classicism with its chaste moldings. The architecture could also be said to resemble that of New Orleans, presenting a substantial yet elegant effect. Located in a downtown commercial area, the confectionery could very easily have been overwhelmed by the scale of its neighbors. The structure holds it own, however, and retains its distinctive flavor.

¹J. Winston Coleman, Historic Kentucky (Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968), p 54.

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9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **C. 1829**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Monsieur Mathurin Giron, a French immigrant, came to Lexington, Kentucky in about 1810 and approximately a year later opened his "Lexington Confectionery and Saloon" on Mill Street. Here it was recorded "the elite of the Bluegrass gathered for the fashionable balls and parties of the season."

For his catered parties Monsieur Giron boasted that he could furnish "the choicest refreshments, wines, liquors, and pastry-cakes, in a style equal to any in the West." Giron's renowned cook, Dominique Ritter, made the famous "castellated" cake which was presented to General Marquis de Lafayette on his visit to Lexington in May, 1825.

The rooms were used for a variety of purposes-- a meeting place for political clubs and at times for theatricals. In 1833 another Frenchman, Monsieur Xaupi, opened a "dancing academy" in the confectionery where "waltzes, gallopades, cotillions, and all fashionable modes of dancing" were taught the young ladies and gentlemen.

In 1844, the little Frenchman retired from business and left Mill Street. The cultural life of Lexington had been enriched by his confectionery and the establishment played a significant part in the period the city was termed "the Athens of the West."¹

¹All quotes from J. Winston Coleman, Historic Kentucky p.54.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968, p. 54.

Doty, William Kavanaugh. "The Confectionery of Monsieur Giron." Charlottesville; Virginia: Michie Co., 1915.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

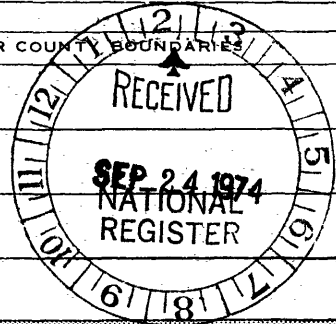
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 02' 55"	84° 29' 55"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

16/719470
4213950
00

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .03 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. George L. Foster - Fayette County Representative

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **March 15, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1635 Ashwood Road GM

CITY OR TOWN: **Lexington** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

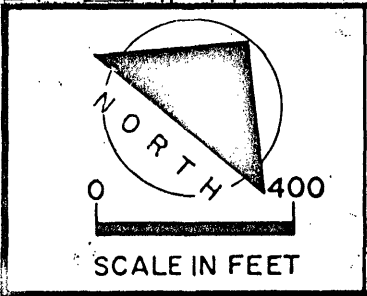
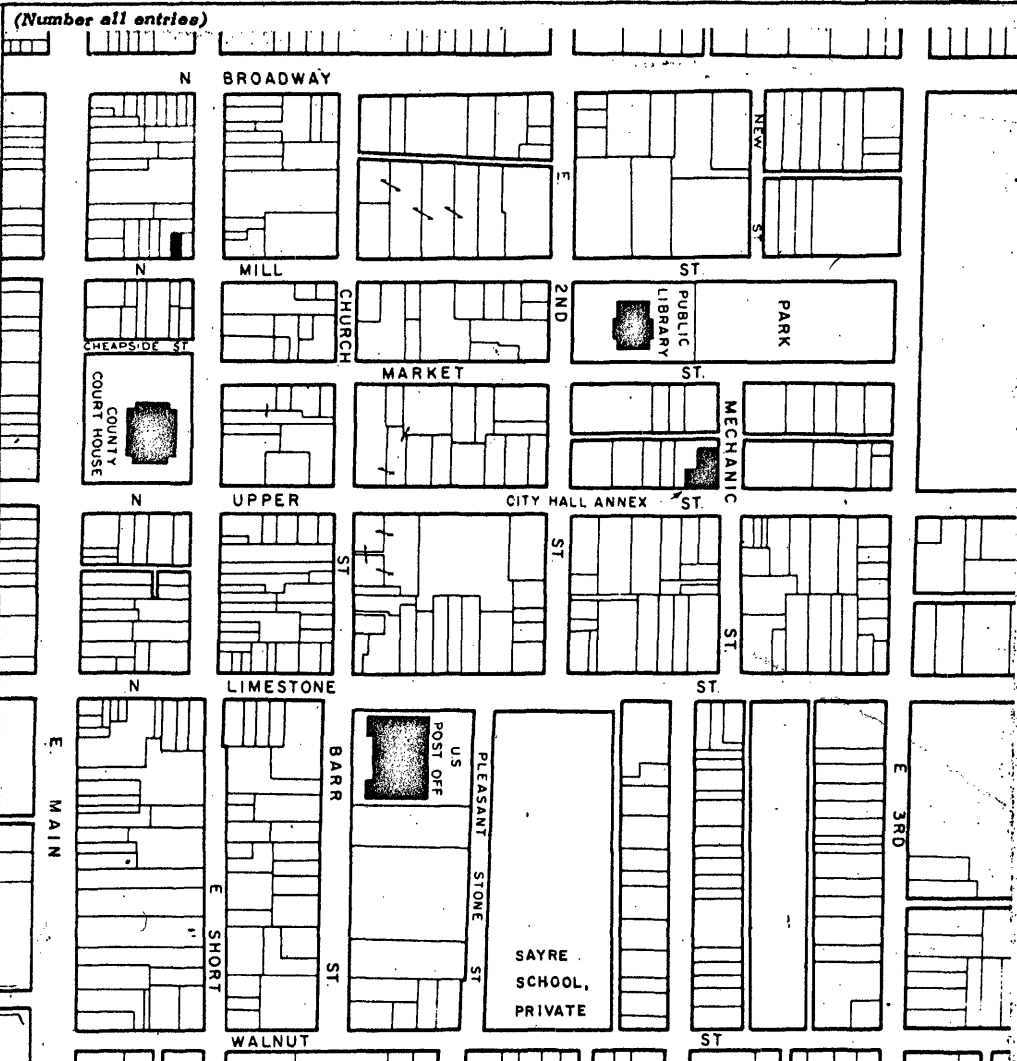
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Eldred W. Melton</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>9-15-74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. R. Mortensen</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>12/27/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. M. [Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date DEC 26 1974</p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Fayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



Latitude: 38° 02' 55"
Longitude: 84° 29' 55"

Monsieur Giron's Confectionery
125 North Mill Street
Lexington, Kentucky.



Giron's Confectionery

FAYETTE COUNTY—On the west side of North Mill Street, immediately below Short, stands part of a once-famous establishment where the elite of the Blue Grass gathered for the fashionable balls and parties of the season. Monsieur Mathurin Giron, a Frenchman, settled in Lexington and around 1811 opened his "Lexington Confectionery and Saloon." This unique man conducted his business in the two-story brick building with Tuscan pillars which supported a balcony of iron lace along the front of the upper story. The confectionery occupied the first floor and on the second floor, separated by a wide hall, were the ballrooms with paneled folding doors of cherry. In each of the rooms were large fireplaces with cherry mantels supported by graceful

columns. Dominique Ritter, Giron's Swiss cook, made the famous "castellated" cake which was presented to General Lafayette on his visit to Lexington, in May, 1825.

Another Frenchman, M. Xaupi, in 1833 opened a "dancing academy" in Giron's confectionery where "waltzes, gallopades, cotillions & all fashionable modes of dancing" were taught the young ladies and gentlemen. Monsieur Giron boasted that he could furnish "the choicest refreshments, wines, liquors and pastry-cakes, in a style equal to any in the West." In 1844, the small Frenchman, immortalized by James Lane Allen in his *King Solomon of Kentucky*, retired from the business and left Mill Street.

