

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 25 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 26 1976

**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 *Wm* ****** Elsmere Park Historic District

AND/OR COMMON Elsmere Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Off North Broadway, between West 6th and 7th Streets

___NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Lexington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
06

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY
Fayette

CODE
067

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" 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 Multiple private ownership (see Continuation Sheet #4)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Survey and Plan for Lexington and Fayette County, Kentucky

DATE 1970 (Supplement)

___FEDERAL ___STATE COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE
Kentucky

(continued)

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 Elsmere Park Historic District includes 29 residential structures and their shared public and private grounds. The area is a T-shaped cul-de-sac bounded by Spence Alley, Elsmere Alley, West Sixth Street, and West Seventh Street (see map3). Platted in 1890 by the Elsmere Park Company and developed between 1891 and 1913, the Park was one of Lexington's first suburbs and is indicative of the changing architectural trends of the period (for evolution of the Park, see maps 4-7). As of November 1975, there were 29 property owners listed within the district (see Inventory Continuation Sheet #4). One owned two pieces of property, 28 owned one piece of property each, and 24 of the owners resided at the Elsmere Park address (a remarkably high percentage of owner-residents for an inner-city neighborhood). The district is one of two areas currently zoned R-1 in Lexington's historic Northside Neighborhood. There are, however, a total of three R-2 and R-3 nonconforming properties on the Park.

The buildings will be considered in approximately chronological order. Because of the sequence of development, this means that in general the west side of the Park will be considered first, followed by the east side. (The lot numbers referred to here appear on map 3.)

The first eight houses were all built by John Buckner in 1891 and 1892 to designs from pattern books, undoubtedly with Buckner's own subtle design changes. The results, seen together, produce a rare example of almost identical houses that do not appear identical at all. The first house in the Park, number 645 (see photos 4 and 6), built by John Buckner in 1891 in the Romanesque style, is of brick, with a two-and-a-half-story main block and a three-story cylindrical tower with extensive ornamentation, a tiny oculis dormer window on the steep slate roof, terra cotta banding below the cornice of the tower, continuous cut stone lintels and sills, curved glass windows, multi-paned and quarter-circle windows, and double entrance doors recessed behind an impressive "eyebrowed" brick arch. In spite of the multiplicity of architectural elements, however, the composition is well organized into vertical units with consistently emphasized horizontals and clearcut geometry. The composition is effective both in elevation and as seen marking the inner corner of the T-shaped court. The high central hipped roof helps to unify the gables and turrets. Dr. Sara McDearman, its present owner, is in the process of restoring the house.

Also in 1891, Buckner built three more houses: numbers 617, 623, and 629 (see photo 5), side-by-side on the west side of Elsmere Park. Numbers 617 (see also photo 3) and 628 are twins flanking 623 which differs from them only in the facade treatment. Number 623 has a projected round turret at the second level, its primary distinguishing feature. In contrast, numbers 617 and 629 have the left projections of their facades symmetrically organized into strong vertical forms, integrating paired windows, broken-face stone lintels, corbelled brick with high relief, topped by a half-circle triple window and a tall pediment. When seen together, the three residences are very complementary, and their similarities are not apparent without a studied second look.

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> ART <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> LAW <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Represents turn-of-the-century upper middle-class society
--	--

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Elsmere Park, situated in Lexington's old Northside, is an upper-middle-class suburban real-estate development of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Unlike most small urbanistically-designed culs-de-sac, however, the Park is not an enclave of similar houses built almost simultaneously. Rather, its twenty-nine residential structures reflect the changes in architecture, methods of construction, and personal taste that occurred during the twenty-two years (1891-1913) of its development. Within its compact area, Elsmere Park displays distinct architectural styles ranging from large Richardsonian Romanesque brick houses to charming "Dutch Colonial" cottages.

The houses found here typify the houses commonly built for successful businessmen and professionals during the period. They are not atypical one-of-a-kind designs, commissioned from architects by wealthy patrons. Instead, they are pattern-book houses "adapted to families having good taste and moderate means."¹ They were built for speculation or to order from standard plans. Yet the initial impression of the Park is not that the houses are alike but rather that they are different. The variety of facades, the use of color and materials, and the diversified landscaping give them individual personalities. Elsmere Park is an excellent example of the beauty and charm that ordinary home builders and developers could achieve with pattern books and standard materials when used with taste in appropriate settings.

The Park was one of Lexington's first private real estate developments to seek avoidance of the "monotonous laying out of block after block of equasized home sites [a design concept that] was anathema to the late Victorian conscious of his rich cultural inheritance. Those who could afford it reacted by establishing court retreats, small sylvan settings withdrawn from the thoroughfare providing for a few substantial residences"² (see photo 14). The Park's T-shaped layout combines privacy with the distances and open spaces required to display the homes, lawns, and tree-lined streets to their best advantage (see photos 15 & 16). The effect is one of spaciousness. The feeling is one of serenity and repose -- that of a quiet middle-class island although surrounded by deteriorating smaller houses and encroaching business and commercial development.

¹James Leffel, Leffel's House Plans (New York, 1884).

²Clay Lancaster, Survey Manuscript. cpt. 2, p. 109-110.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary City Directories: 1893, 1895, 1898-99, 1902, 1904-05, 1906-07, 1908, 1911, 1912-13.

Sources

Secondary Cozine, Larry, and Robert Strunk, A Design Response: The Northside Neighborhood.

Sources Lexington: University of Kentucky, College of Architecture, 1973-74.

Historic Survey and Plan for Lexington and Fayette County, Kentucky. Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1970.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.889 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,2,0	5,3,8	4,2,1,4	9,4,0	B	1,6	7,2,0	6,2,0	4,2,1,4	8,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1,6	7,2,0	4,3,8	4,2,1,4	7,0,0	D	1,6	7,2,0	3,5,0	4,2,1,4	7,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Structures are located on a T-shaped cul-de-sac bounded by Spence Alley, Elsmere Alley, West Sixth Street, and West Seventh Street.

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. Billie S. Strunk, Coordinator WEL; GM

ORGANIZATION

DATE

December 1, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

608 Elsmere Park

TELEPHONE

(606)252-5164

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

Edward W. Meltzer

TITLE

DATE

3/16/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

Acting

James A. [Signature]

DATE

4/24/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

4-23-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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<u>House No.</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Original Resident</u>	<u>Current Resident</u>
645	1891	John Buckner	Sara McDearman
629	1891	W. Monroe	Russell Patton
623	1891	Francis Greene	Michael Putnum
617	1891	Richard Norwood	Michael Durham
657	1892	O verton Crutcher	Joseph Binford
663	1892	Mrs. Anna Llewellyn	(Stinnet)
667	1892	Mrs. Kate Brennan	C. D. Thompson
673	1892	T. Logan Hocker	F. E. Frazier, Jr.
651	1895	J. P. Reese	Charles Ketron
611	1899	John F. Hall	Albert Lewis
638	1902	Maury Kemper	Mrs. R. R. Moloney
632	1903	Caleb Portwood	Mrs. John Kloecker
628	1903	John P. Reese	John Hackworth
624	1903	W. Lynville Neill	Mrs. Emily Lewis
620	1903	W. S. Montgomery	Gary Anderson
600	1904	Dr. Kelley	Elmer Davis
668	1904	George Minkie	Susanne King
607	1905	Hon or ace Wilson	Richard Oexmann
612	1905	Aline Headley	Francis Scott
631	1905	Henrietta &	
		Florence Paul	Paul Fugazzi
640	1905	George Curran	Mrs. Geo. Curran
674	1905	Andrew B. Caden	(1st Sec. Bank & Trust Company)
609	1906	L. S. Fieber	George Prewitt
683	1906	F. O. Crane	Larry Stanley
685	1906	Gilmer Pryor	Don Dugi
666	1906	George I. Hammond	J. W. Wilson
608	1907	C. Yancy Freeman	William Strunk
644	1911	G. G. Bryan	Mrs. Arthur Haynes
			Miss Emerine Phillips
646	1913	Harry Giovanelli	Maurice Clay

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The following year, John Buckner built four neighboring houses at 657, 663, 667, and 673 (photos 6 and 7). These four handsome Romanesque residences, seen together with Buckner's first house, are a fascinating study in variations on the same theme. Employing the same general plan arrangement, Buckner not only varied the facade treatments but also introduced very subtle plan modifications in each house. The last house on the west side of the Park, number 673, appears to be identical to 645, Buckner's first house (see photo 6). While the composition of the facade is indeed identical to 645, Buckner reduced the overall size of the house almost imperceptibly. Each of the three adjacent houses, 656, 663, and 667, is subtly different in plan with intriguing facade variations. The corner towers on 645 and 673 are cylindrical; but Buckner used an octagonal tower on 657, a square tower on 663, and a large gabled dormer in lieu of a tower on 667. Above the entrances of number 645 and 673 Buckner used large pediments with triple attic windows. On number 657, however, he used a small pediment with triangular side windows. In the same position on number 663, he went to a small double-window dormer; while on 667, Buckner added an unusual octagonally-shaped dormer.

"Eyebrows," semi-circular applied wood moldings over brick arches, are included in all five of these houses, but used differently on each facade. These eyebrows seen in perspective from the sidewalk visually tie the facades together with an even, yet, modulated, rhythm (see photo 7). John Buckner's houses are individually impressive, but the significance of these 1891 and 1892 residences becomes evident when they are seen together. While based on the same pattern-book plan, the houses achieve 'unity with diversity,' a quality which is absent from most of our more recent neighborhoods.

Buckner's last house, number 651, was built in 1895. This house is similar to 667, but its facade is somewhat less fanciful. Apparently the panic of 1893 had its impact on Mr. Buckner's home-building enterprise as well as that of the entire industry. In the ten-year period from 1892 to 1902 only two houses were built on Elsmere Park: 651 in 1895 and 611 in 1899.

Then in 1902, the impressive house at 638 was built--the first home on the east side of the Park. George H. Whitney, who was President of the Elsmere Park Company, began building this house for his daughter, Mrs. Maury Kemper (the property later belonged to Moloney family; see photos 2, 8, 8a, 8b, and 9). Concerned about a potential problem with ground-water conditions on the Park's east side, Whitney directed the builder to

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excavate until either rock or the water table was encountered. After many feet of digging, rock was reached with no water. The resulting basement at 638 is 13 feet from the floor to the joists above.

Whitney's house was the first frame residence on the Park, introducing a departure in style from the Romanesque residences on the Park's west side (see photo 8). Its roof forms are symmetrical and exactly on axis with the centerline of the entrance to Elsmere Park (see photo 18). Its dominant position is accentuated by an oversized entrance portico with an eye-shaped window in its pediment which seems to "watch over" the Park. It is an impressive house, truly eclectic in spirit. While its roof is symmetrical, no other aspect of the house follows the symmetry seemingly indicated by the roof; even the chimneys seem syncopated. The entrance is set approximately two feet to the left of the portico axis. The portico has fluted entasis columns with Ionic capitals, while the lower porches flanking the portico have smooth tapered columns with Doric capitals (see photo 9). It is a 1½-story house in the front but the rear two-thirds of the house has two full stories. As a result, the spaciousness of the house and the surprising arrangement of rooms are not apparent from the exterior. It is also an exceptionally well detailed house with extensive dentils; fanlights; wrought-iron chimney brackets; and leaded glass, multi-paned, and bay windows.

Following Whitney's success at 638, the short period between 1904 and 1907 saw the most active building period in the development of Elsmere Park. Fifteen houses were built during this brief period, at least four of them by George Curran.

Four houses were built side-by-side in 1903 at numbers 620, 624, and 628, and 632 (see photo 10). All four show a continuing eclectic spirit, but the Shingle and Queen Anne styles are most evident. All the houses have wood shingle siding on the second or both levels, and number 632 is the only one not having a gambrel roof. The resulting "style" has become known as Dutch Colonial (see photo 10); although they also share more refined Palladian and Adamesque details than are usually associated with the Dutch manner, the facades of each house are almost symmetrical, their front doors being just slightly off center. This curious door placement, possibly copying 638, was apparently done intentionally to avoid perfect symmetry, since the plans would function just as well with the doors on center. Other features include multi-paned windows, skirted shingle roof over the porch on 632, the gambrel dormer on 624, the fanciful window placement on 620, and the full-width front porches.

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In 1904, George Curran built three modest brick and shingle cottages at numbers 600, 666, and 668. Numbers 666 and 668 are twins, similar to many of the houses built during this period in other growing suburban areas of Lexington.

After building numbers 600, 666, 668, George Curran built 640 (see photo 11) in 1905 for himself and his young wife, who has lived there ever since. The Curran house is a very large two-story brick and shingle residence, having the only perfectly symmetrical facade on the Park. Interesting features of this house include its Dutch gambrel roofs, three sets of paired windows with applied ornamentation, paired porch columns on its 45-foot-wide front porch, and the balustrade set into skirted shingles over the front entrance.

In 1905-6, six other houses were built: numbers 607, 612, 631, 674, 683 and 685. John Hall, who built 611 in 1899, built the house at 607, and in 1908 built his last house at 609. Hall's three homes, which are side-by-side, are similar in plan: two-story brick residences with some intricate brick masonry work, multi-paned windows, and an interesting porch roof on 609.

The two-story brick and shingle house at 612 has features characteristic of the Shingle and Queen Anne styles as well as the Bracketed style. This residence has skirted shingle siding and bracketed three-foot eaves, both features running around the entire perimeter of the house, accentuating horizontally. It also has five bays including a five-sided projecting bay window which wraps around one corner of the second floor. Numbers 683 and 685, smaller two-story frame houses, were built behind the corner house at 631 in 1906.

The houses at 608 and 609 were built between 1907 and 1908. Both are two-story brick with cut stone lintels. Number 608 originally had a full-width front portico. Because of the perfectly aligned setbacks of the houses on the Park's east side, one can see from the front porch of 600 through the front porches of ten houses to 666 (see photo 12).

George Curran built the last two houses on the Park: number 644 in 1911 and number 646 in 1913. Number 644 is a two-story Dutch Colonial cottage of brick and shingle construction. Number 646 is a 1½-story brick cottage with a rear sun room overlooking a superb formal garden (see photo 13).

The individual residences of Elsmere Park are relatively free of exterior alterations. Several deteriorated porches have been removed and replaced with porches or terraces of different designs, and a number of brick houses have been painted. With minor exceptions, the Park's current residents have maintained their homes well and have expressed strong interest in efforts to preserve the Park.

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Unlike most suburban neighborhoods, the Elsmere Park district has well-defined physical edges not unlike a room with one door (see especially photos 1 and 14). The west side in particular, with shallow front yards raised above ~~sheet~~^{street} level, provides a balance of public and private claims (see photo 15).

Item Number 6 Page 2

Title: Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

Date: 1976 State

Depository for Survey Records: Kentucky Heritage Commission

104 Bridge Street

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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Symbolically the only pedestrian entrance to the Park is through the wrought-iron gate in the high privet hedge bordering Sixth Street. It faces downtown where most of the residents of Elsmere Park worked. From the beginning, the Park has been the home of clergymen, physicians, attorneys, university professors, editors, and businessmen deeply involved in the economic, public, intellectual, institutional, and spiritual life of their city. It has also been the home of two important State senators.

In summary, Elsmere Park is significant because its houses are excellent examples of the architecture typical of those of upper-middle-class professionals and businessmen at the turn of the century; because these twenty-nine houses were built over a period of twenty-two years and reflect, in a compact geographical area, some of the changes in architecture and personal taste which occurred during that period; because the cul-de-sac design is a good example of the best urban residential planning of the nineteenth century-- a design which still gives the desired sense of privacy and community;³ and because its location at the northernmost edge of Lexington's old Northside serves as a stronghold against encroaching urban residential blight and commercial sprawl.

Architecture

The houses that make up Elsmere Park, built during a twenty-two year period, do not conform to any particular historic (or modern) styles but in general borrow freely from them. The eclectic spirit of the late 19th-century Victorian and early 20th-century traditional phase in architecture is quite evident in the Park where the major concern was to design houses of visual delight through combinations of elements, forms, and details borrowed from the historic styles with plenty of improvisation. The earlier large brick residences on the Park's west side show predominantly Romanesque character. The Shingle, Queen Anne, Cottage Bracketted, and Dutch Colonial styles influenced the design of many of the brick and frame houses on the east side, all of which were built after the turn of the century. Consequently, houses of similar conformation with subtle differences in character are grouped together on the same side of the Park. All of the structures, however, face a common open space (see photo 1) with a very pleasant human scale. It is this relationship of house to open space (see photo 2) and house to house (see photo 3) that results in the fabric of Elsmere Park--a distinct comprehensible place with a sense of unity within diversity.

³Mrs. Clara Curran, who is ninety-four, says "Elsmere Park is a sweet place to live. This is like a big family. If you 're in trouble, someone wants to help. That's not noticeable lots of other places. It makes the park a real home" (The Saturday Herald and Leader, July 26, 1975, D-2).

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The diversity of the residences can be seen in some of their interesting details such as Doric and Ionic columns on the same porch, oculus and half-oculus dormer and pediment windows which seem to "watch over" the houses' domain, and front entrances curiously placed off center in otherwise symmetrical facades. There are examples of quarter-circled windows, large and small bay windows, leaded glass and multi-paned windows, fanlights, and curved glass. There are turrets and towers, some over 50 feet tall. There are bracketed extensions, projecting brick and stone masonry surfaces of fanciful detail, "eyebrowed" arches, dentils, delicate applied wood carvings, and many other elements incorporated into the facades--not out of functional necessity, but for visual interest alone.

While no two houses on the Park seem alike at first impression, there are distinct groups of houses which are based on the same floor plans. Close observation reveals that numbers 617 and 629 are twins, and 623 is only subtly different. Numbers 666 and 668 originally were twins before modification. Even more intriguing is the fact that the Park's original house, number 645, was apparently so popular that it served as a model for seven other houses on the west side of the Park: numbers 623, 629, 617, 697, 663, 667, and 673. Virtually identical in plan layout, the builder artfully gave each its own sense of identity by carefully changing the geometry of the facades, and by changing window sizes, by using turrets of different designs on only four of them, and even by simply scaling down the overall plan.

History

Broadway was a logical location for a residential development. Formerly called Main Cross, it had been an important residential and commercial street since the early settlement of Lexington. Transylvania College had been situated just off Broadway between Third and Fourth Streets. Broadway also connected with the old road south to Harrodsburg and north to Paris and Maysville, thus serving as one of the main arteries into Lexington. Expansion northward along Broadway followed a natural course, with a flurry of development occurring in the late 19th century. Fayette Park, one block south of Elsmere, on the west side of Broadway, was a similar residential development of the late 1880s.

The land on which the court was situated was purchased from two individual owners. The area, therefore, was most probably not totally open fields. The fact that the property is described in deeds as being bounded by existing streets indicates that some development had already taken place, as does the high purchase price (totaling \$45,000), and the release of homestead exemptions on both pieces of property. However, what few structures may have existed were razed in order to construct the court.

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The court was entered in Plat Book I on May 17, 1890, by the Elsmere Park Company; the first house (No 645) was built in 1891 by John A. Buckner, the earliest of Elsmere Park's builders/developers, and became the home of Samuel M. Jefferson, a professor at the University of Kentucky. That same year, Buckner built three more houses (Nos. 617, 623, and 629), probably for speculation, and four more (Nos. 657, 663, 667, and 673) the following year. No. 657 was built for Mr. June Smith, who owned a pharmacy on North Broadway next to the Opera House. No. 673 was built for Mr. T. Logan Hocker, a city alderman and owner of J. M. Hocker and Son. During the early 1900s, No. 623 was the residence of Nanci Lewis Greene, a popular Lexington poet, and her sister Cora, the assistant principal of Johnson Kindergarten. No. 673 was the home of Mrs. Mattie Jenkins Logan, daughter of the president of Transylvania University; and No. 663 was the home of Dr. Woolfolk Barrow, son of Dr. David Barrow, who formed the Barrow Unit for service in World War I and who helped found the Lexington Clinic. Buckner's last house (No. 651) was built in 1895 and became the home of John Cramer, who was secretary of the Phoenix Hotel Company. His granddaughter, Mrs. Betty Ketron, still resides in the house.

Following this initial burst of building, development virtually ceased for almost a decade. The reason was perhaps related to the financial collapse and economic depression following the Panic of 1893.

However, in 1899, active construction was resumed on the Park. That year John F. Hall, another developer, built No. 611 for himself. No. 638 was built in 1902 by George H. Whitney as a wedding gift for his daughter, Mrs. Maury (Estelle) Kemper, wife of a Lexington attorney (see photo 17). The house was purchased in 1938 by another local attorney, R. P. (Dick) Moloney, who served from 1944 to 1955 as Democratic floor leader in the Senate and from 1960 to 1963 as Democratic floor leader in the House. He was one of Kentucky's major political figures. His son, Senator Michael R. Moloney, was born and reared in the house, where R.P. Moloney's widow, Mrs. Mildred Rabe Moloney, still resides.

In 1903, Nos. 620, 624, 628 and 632 were built. No. 620 was built for W. S. Montgomery, a dentist. No. 624, during the early 1900s, was the home of W. Lynville Neill, a prominent Lexington attorney and oilman, and Dr. Alonzo W. Fortune, a Christian minister influential in the development of the Central Christian Church, dean of the College of the Bible, and one of Lexington's outstanding citizens. His daughter, Mrs. Emily Lewis, still lives in the house. No. 628 was the home of George Headley, who was the father of George Headley, an artist and the founder of Lexington's Headley Museum. The younger Mr. Headley was born and reared at that address.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	

Elsmere Park Historic District

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PAGE 5

No. 632, the home of Wallace Muir, a local attorney and son-in-law of Kentucky governor Edwin P. Morrow, was purchased in 1920 by John Kloecker, who owned the Dixie Dairy and Ice Cream Company. His widow, Mrs. Ester Kloecker, still lives there. During the 1940s, No. 668 was the home of Miss Dot Shelby, a descendant of Governor Isaac Shelby.

In 1904, Nos. 600 and 668 were built; No. 600 for Dr. Kelley, a young Lexington physician.

In 1905, George R. Curran, the builder/developer who constructed Nos. 600, 640, 644, 646, 666, and 668, built No. 640 as a wedding gift for his wife Clara, who still lives in the house. He and his father owned a lumber company on the site of the Barr Street Post Office, and he was one of the original directors of the Bank of Commerce.

No. 608 was built in 1907 for C. Yancy Freeman, the assistant cashier of the Lexington Banking and Trust Company. In 1913, the last house on the Park, No. 646, was built for Harry Giovanelli, who came to edit the Lexington Leader. It later became the home of Spence Carrick, a treasurer of Transylvania University.

Elsmere Park was annexed by the city of Lexington on November 15, 1907. Most of the residents favored the annexation, but concern was expressed at the meeting of the General Council on that date lest the City open the Park as a thoroughfare between Sixth and Seventh Streets.⁴ Its cul-de-sac design, which clearly defined its boundaries and provided for only limited vehicular and pedestrian access, served to create a discrete entity that led to a strong sense of community among its residents. They feared the destruction of the integrity and general character of their neighborhood. The same sense of community -- and fear of its destruction--are shared by the present residents who strive to maintain its vitality through individual restorations and through active participation in the Northside Neighborhood Association. (Three of the Association's five officers and one Board member reside on the Park.)⁵

Their efforts are directed toward preventing the type of destruction which has marred the Park's entry from North Broadway (see photo 18). One of its most elegant buildings⁶ was razed and replaced by an insurance office which creates "a disturbing visual inconsistency" because of its use of "facade form and building material that are completely alien to the surrounding urban fabric."⁷

(continued)

⁴The Lexington Herald, November 15, 1907, pp. 5,7.

⁵Sunday Herald-Leader, June 29, 1975, p. A-19.

⁶The Lexington Herald, June 7, 1915, p. 8.

⁷Larry Cozine and Robert Strunk, A Design Response: The Northside Neighborhood (Lexington 1973-74), p. 24.

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Elsmere Park Historic District

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PAGE 6

Such incidents, unfortunately, are all too common in old residential areas, and there is a need for definite legal and physical safeguards against them. Because of its location as the northernmost edge of Lexington's historic old Northside, Elsmere Park helps protect the entire residential area from further penetration by urban blight and commercial sprawl from the east and north. While it remains intact, the other areas are less vulnerable.

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Elsmere Park Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 2

Lancaster, Clay. Survey Manuscript. To be published by the Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission in 1976, Chapter 2.

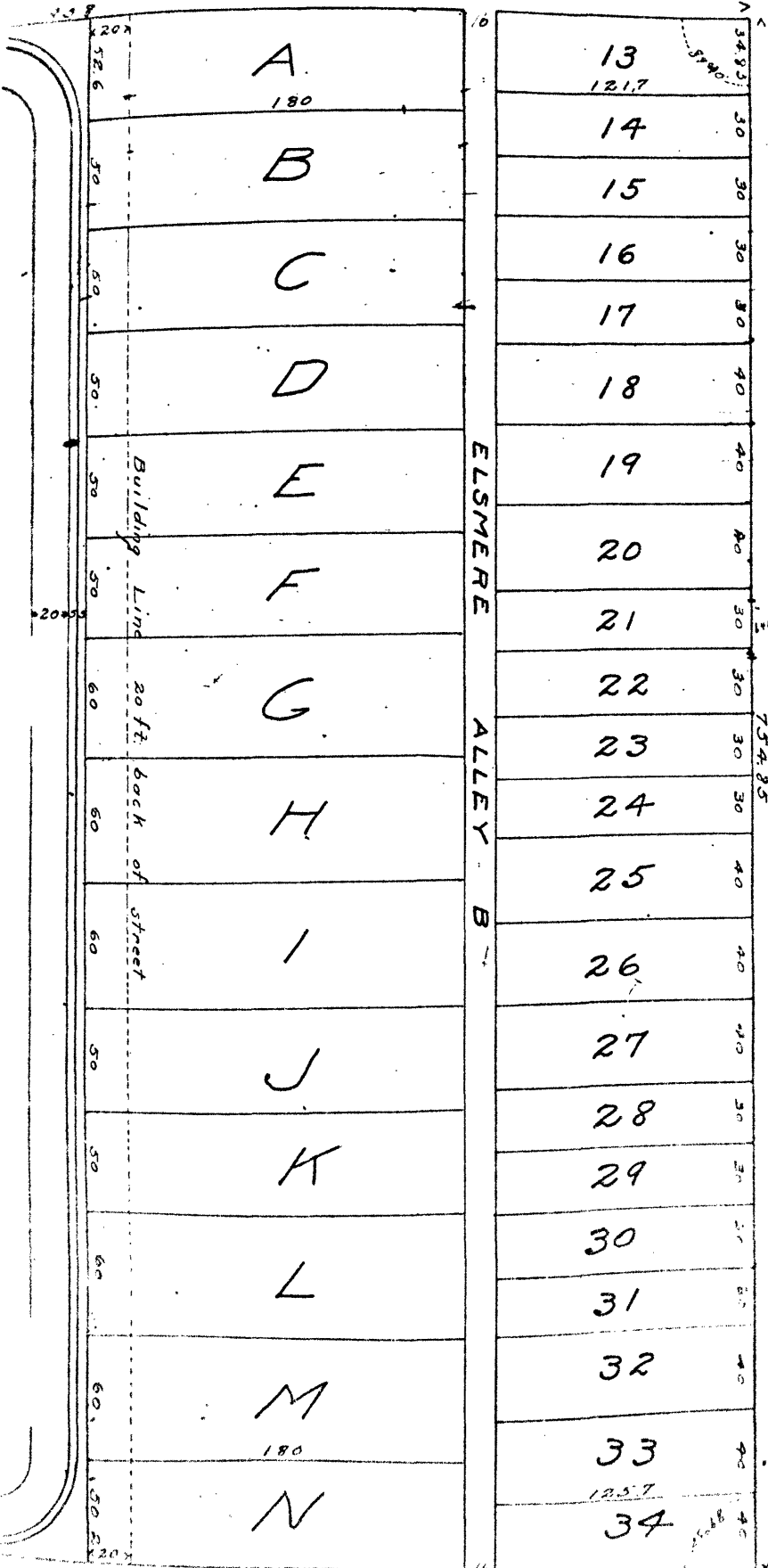
Leffel, James. Leffel's House Plans: Containing Elevations, Plans and Descriptions of Houses Costing from \$500 and \$3,000 and Adapted to Families having Good Taste and Moderate Means. New York: James Leffel and Co., 1884.

Shoulders, Michael R., and Robert E. Wagoner. The Northside: A Neighborhood Study. Lexington: Northend Development Service, 1973.

Lexington Herald-Leader (Lexington, Kentucky), June 29, 1975; July 26, 1975.

The Lexington Herald (Lexington, Kentucky), November 15, 1907; June 7, 1915.

SEVENTH ST.



Scale 50 ft. per inch

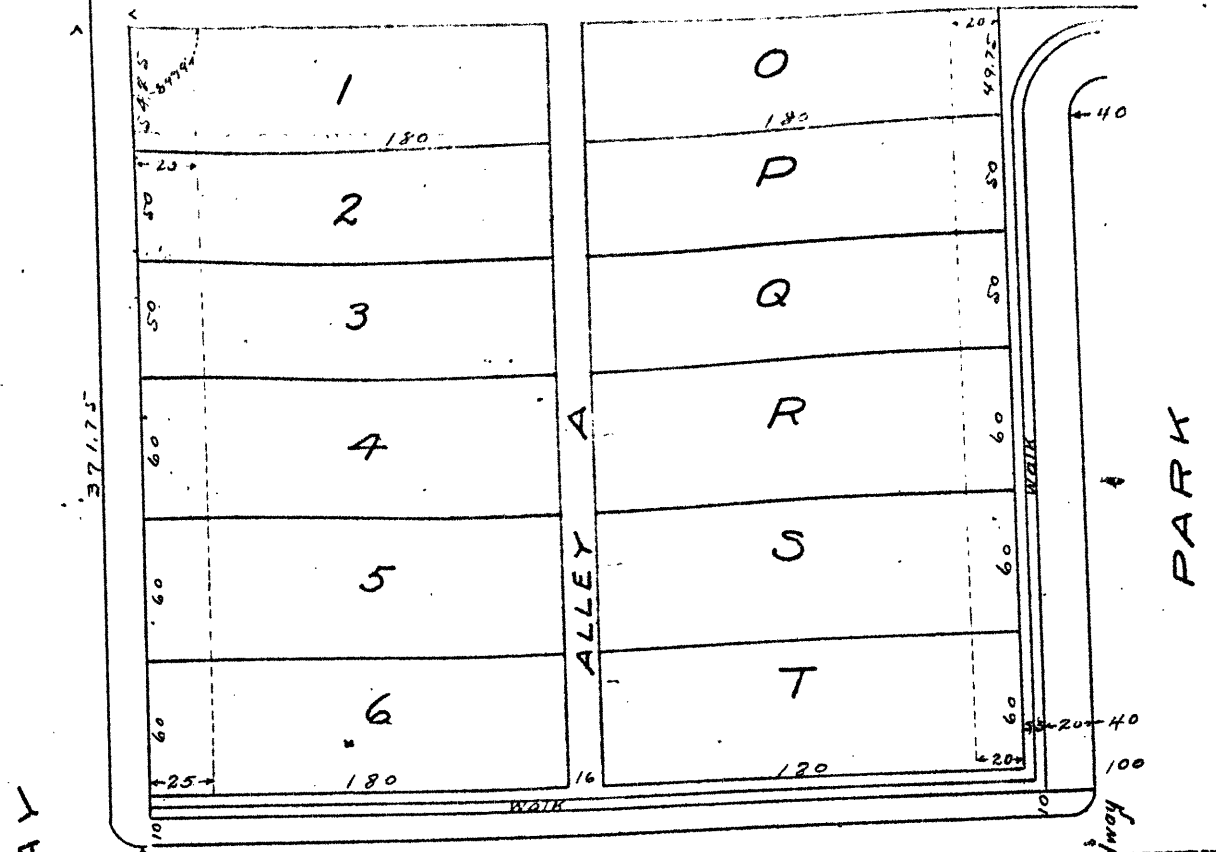
ELSMERE PARK COMPANY

As Platted by

May, 15, 1890

ELSMERE PARK

SEVENTH ST.

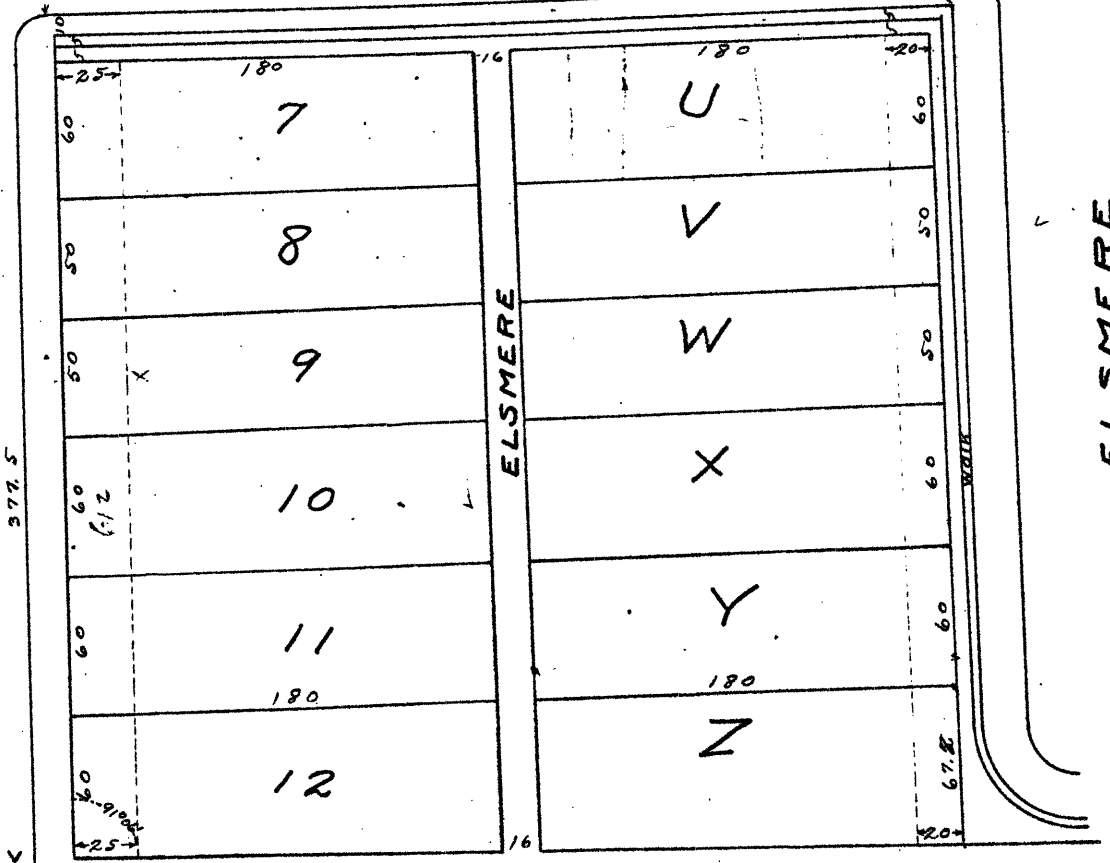


ELSMERE AVENUE

BROADWAY

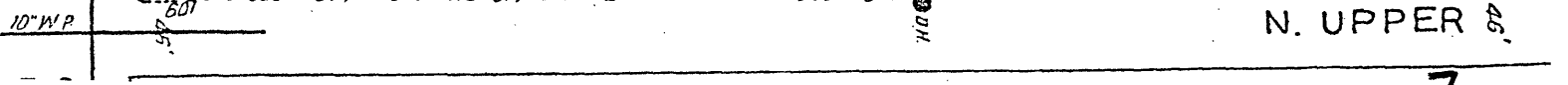
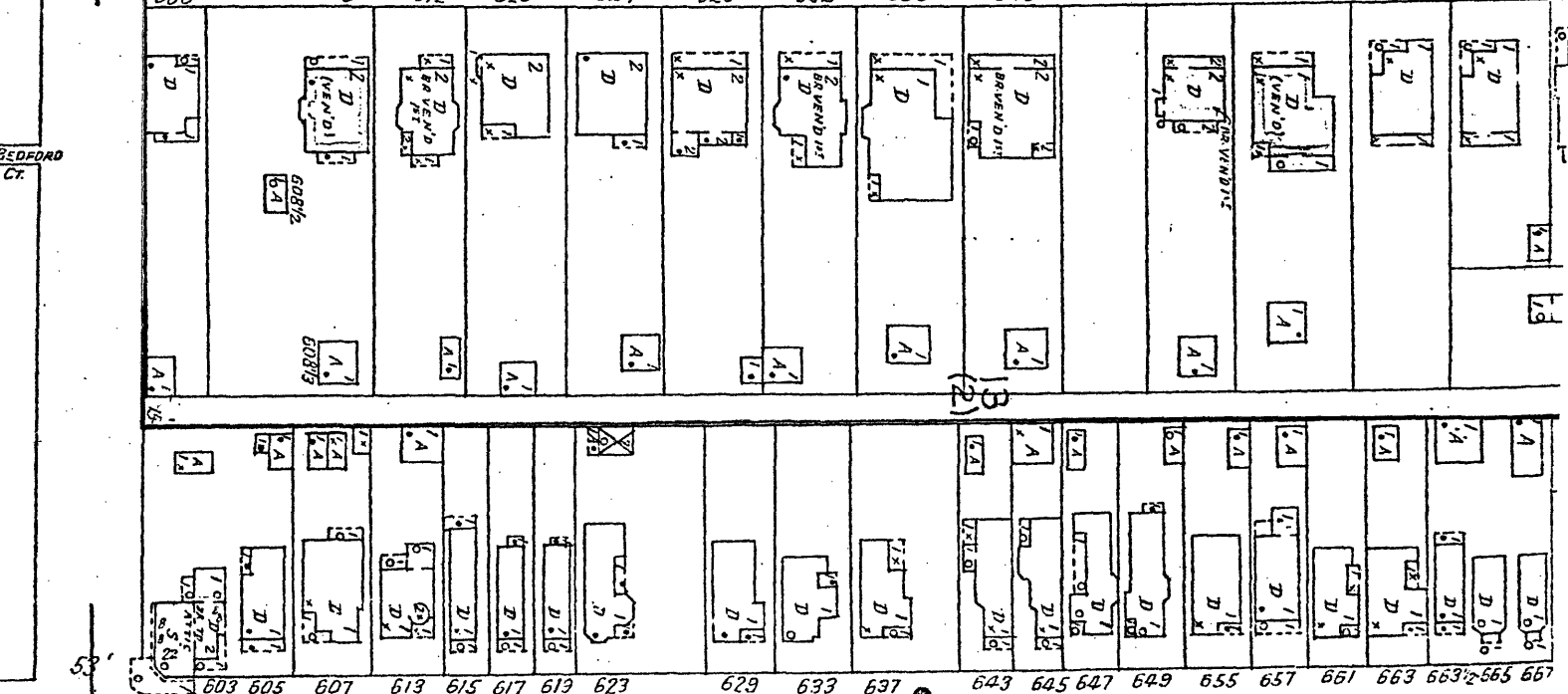
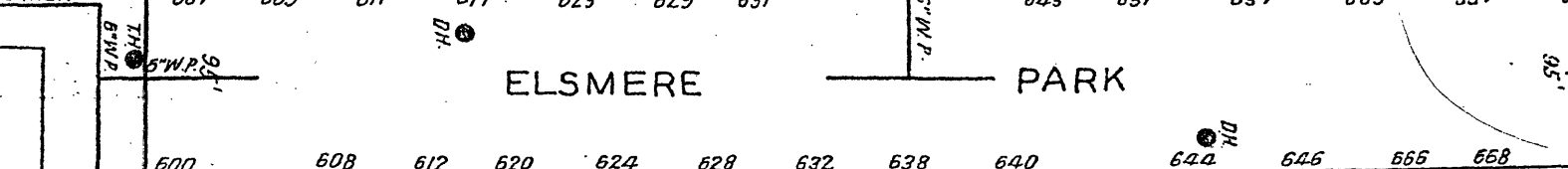
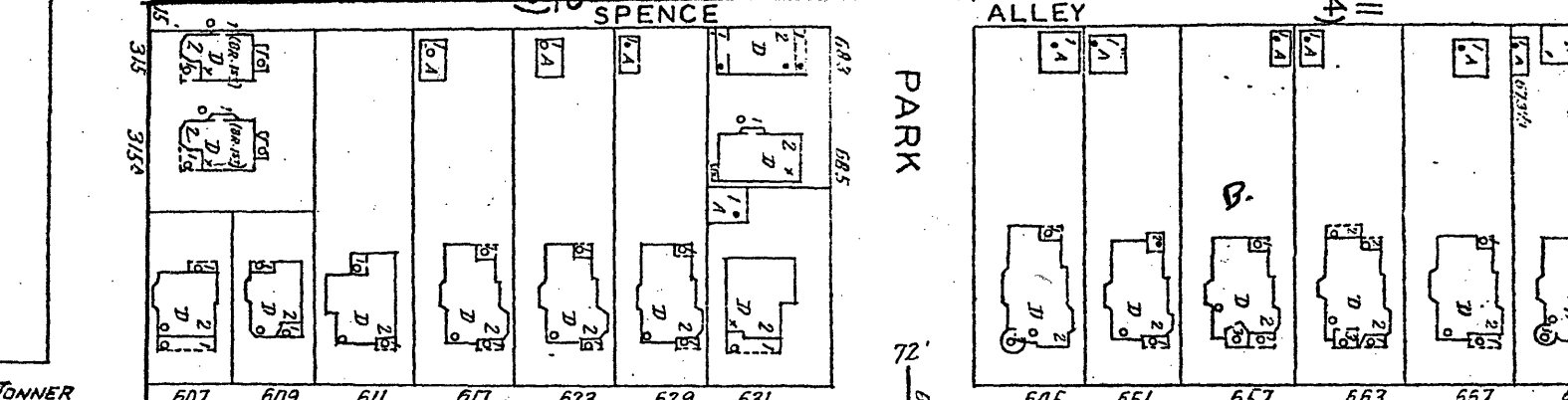
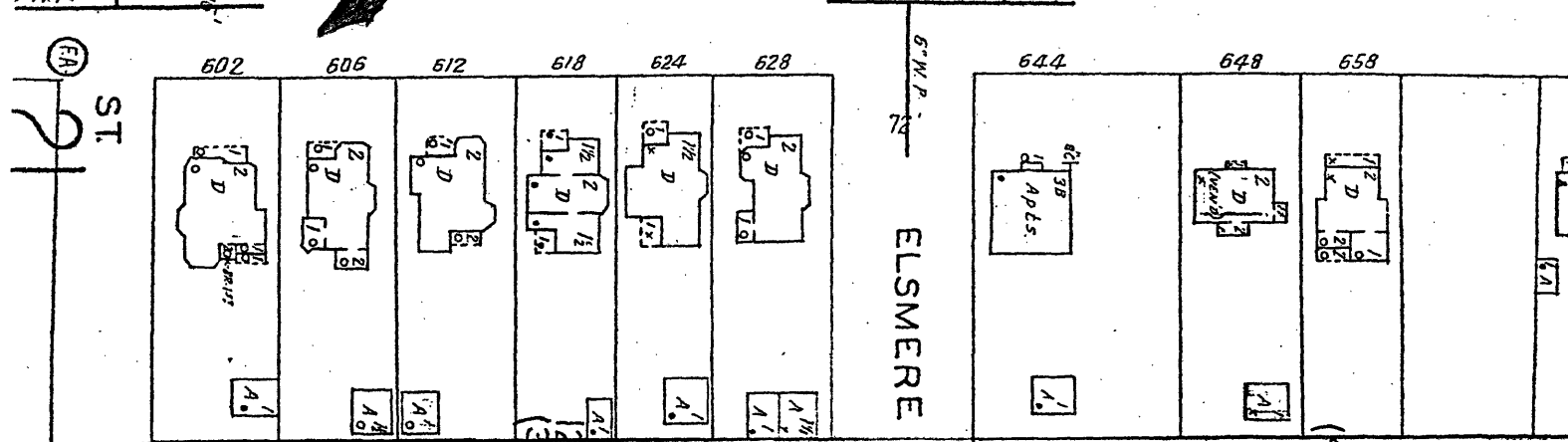
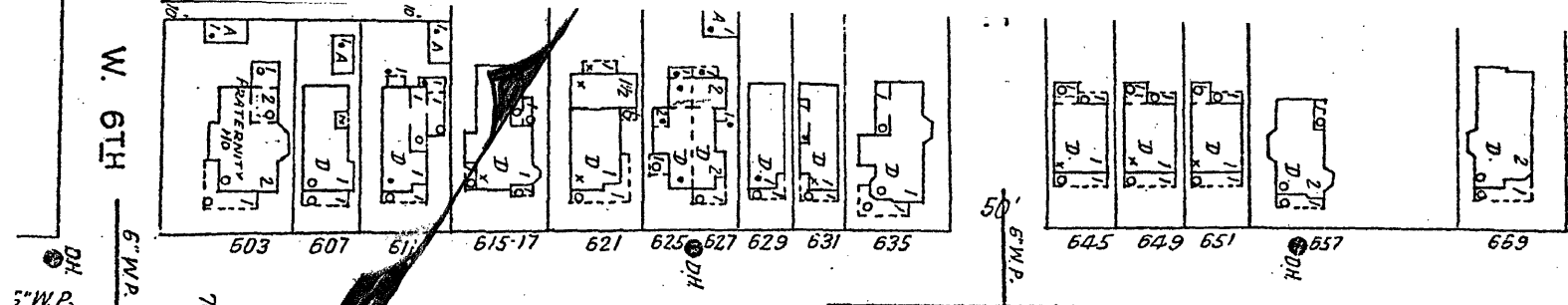
PARK

ELSMERE



SIXTH STREET 46

The foregoing Plat was on the 17 day of May, 1890, produced to me in my office and ordered to be recorded, by J. B. Charles, which has been done.



W. 6TH

ST

ELSMERE

PARK

ELSMERE

PARK

N. UPPER

5\"/>

6\"/>

6\"/>

5\"/>

6\"/>

10\"/>

6\"/>

6\"/>

6\"/>

6\"/>

6\"/>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 25 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 26 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Elsmere Park

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY/TOWN
Lexington

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Fayette

STATE
Kentucky

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Sanborn Insurance Map, University of Kentucky Library

SCALE 1"=100'

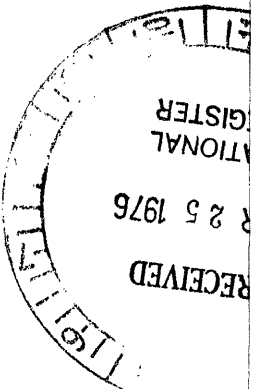
DATE 1934

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

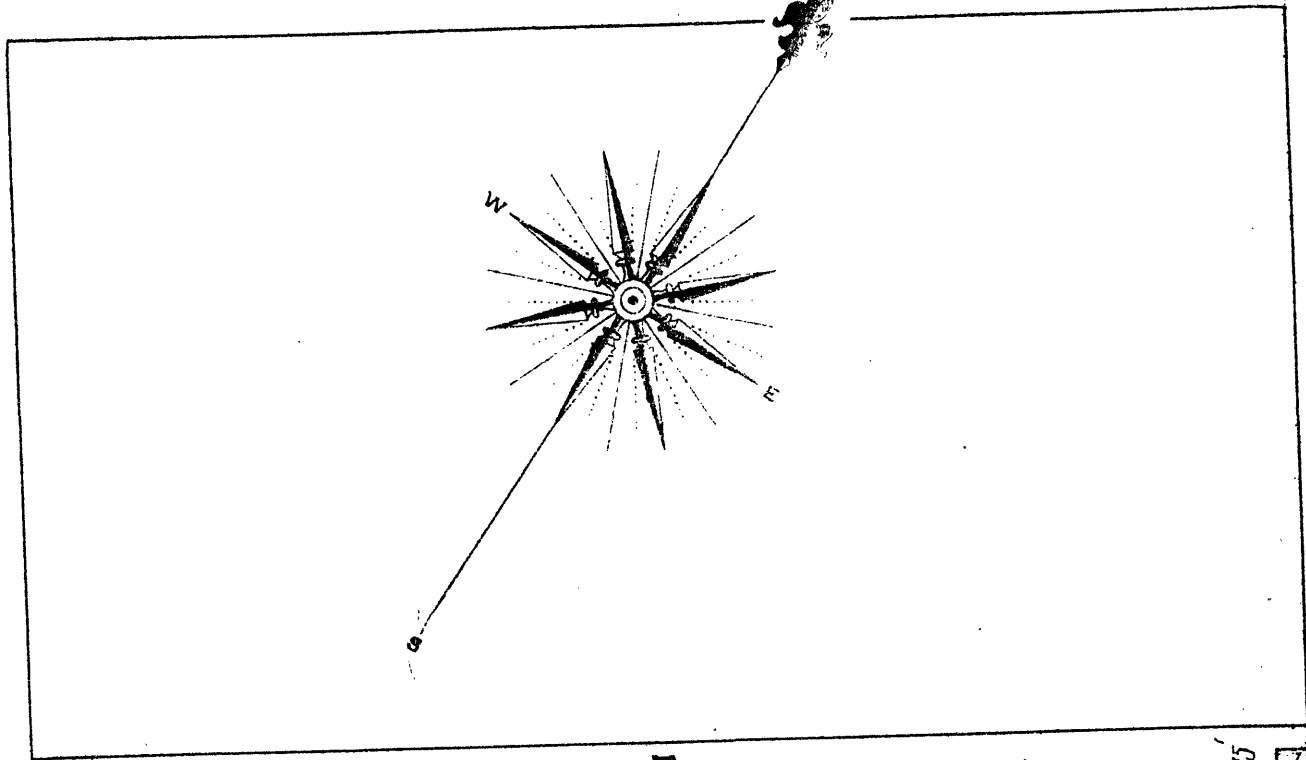
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Map 7



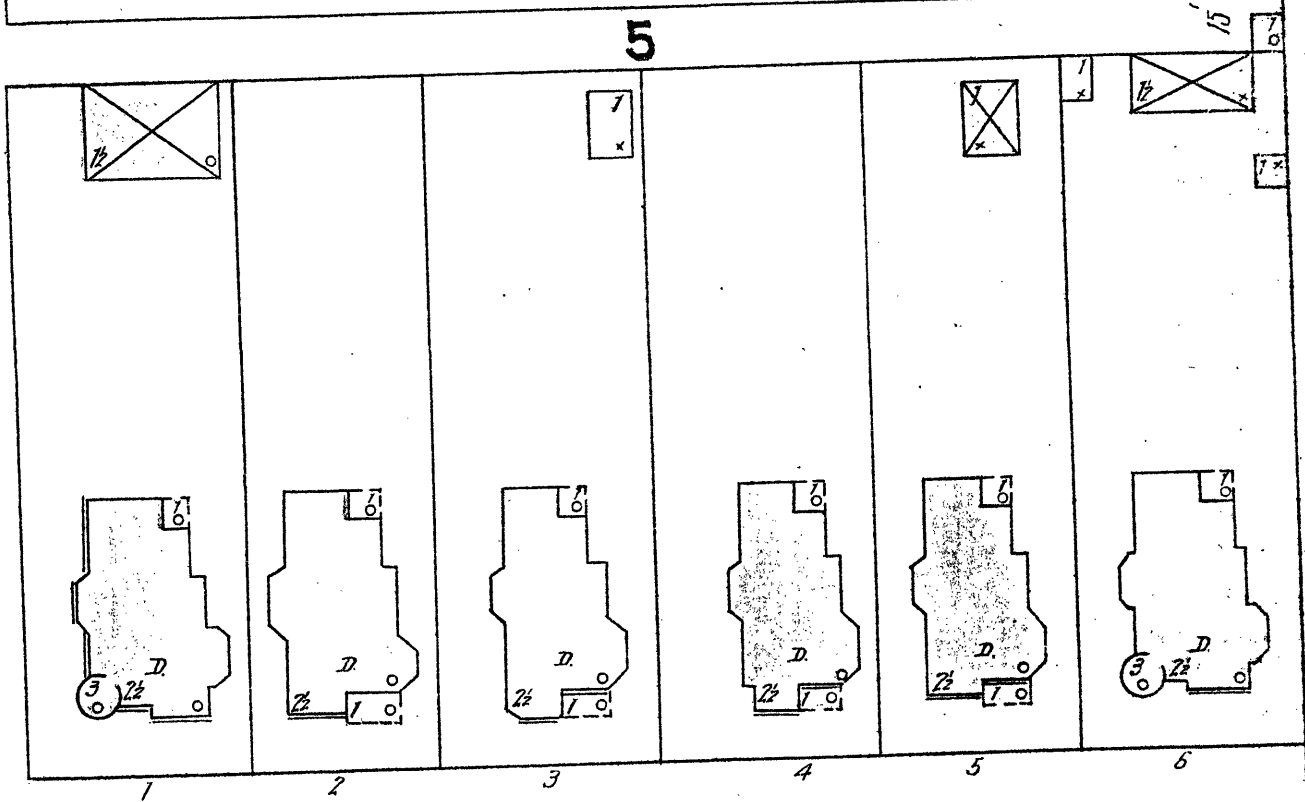
W. ELESMERE PARK

70'



40

5



70'

N. ELESMERE PARK

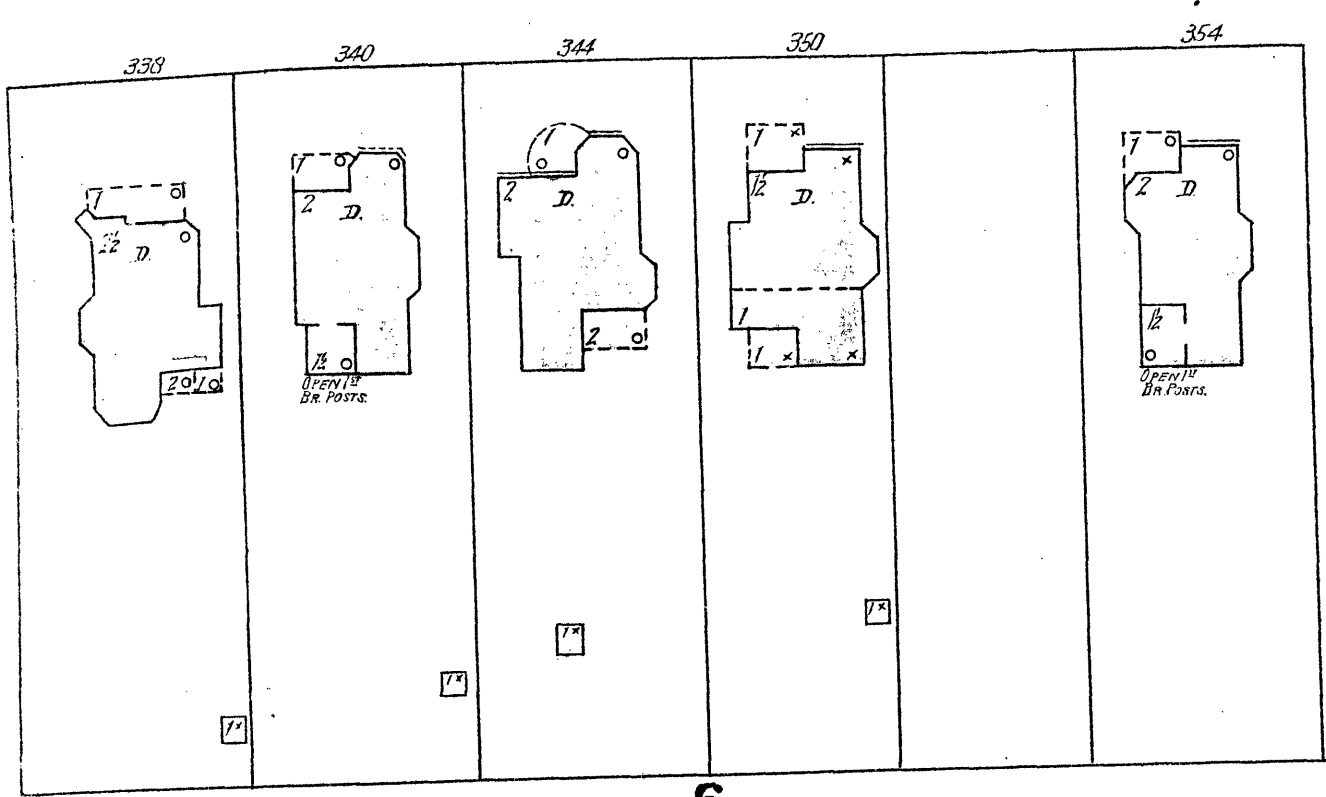
90

5a

NOT OPENED.

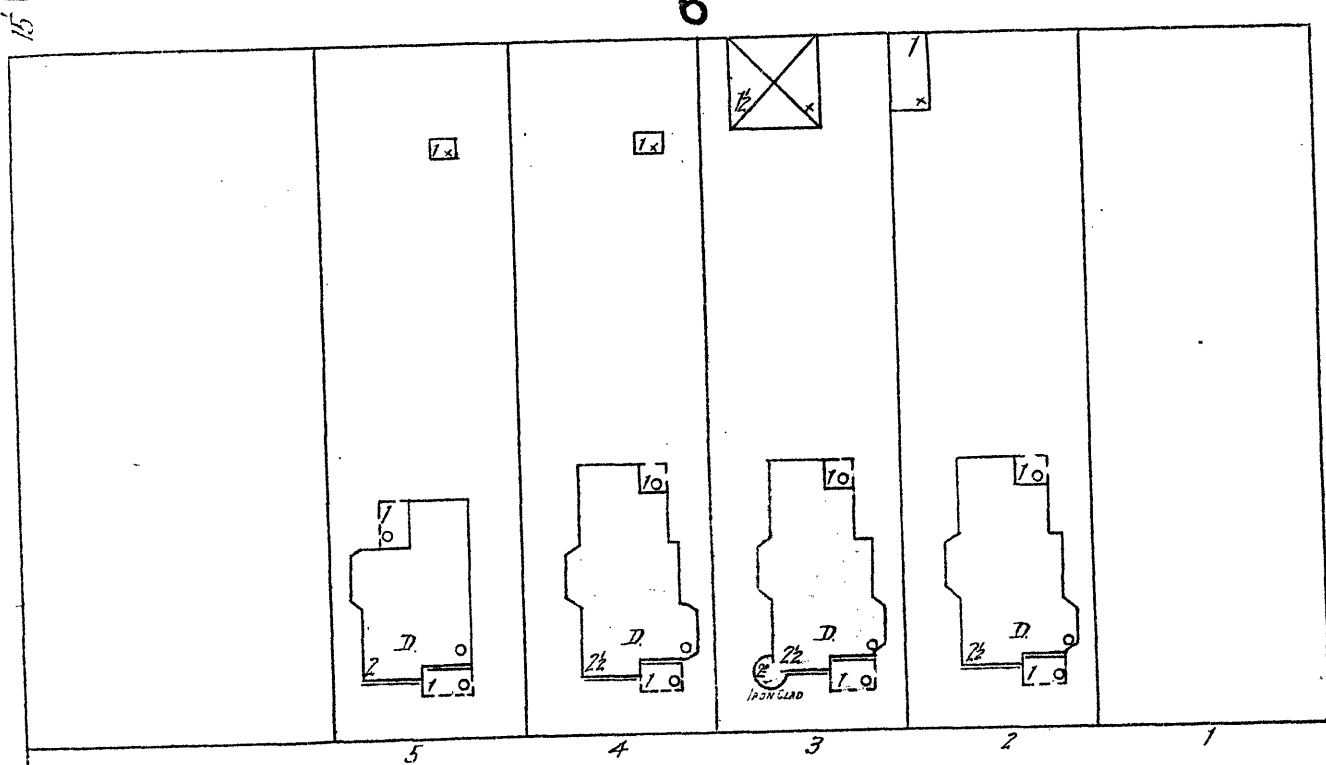
W. 7TH ST.

82
72



6

W 6th St.

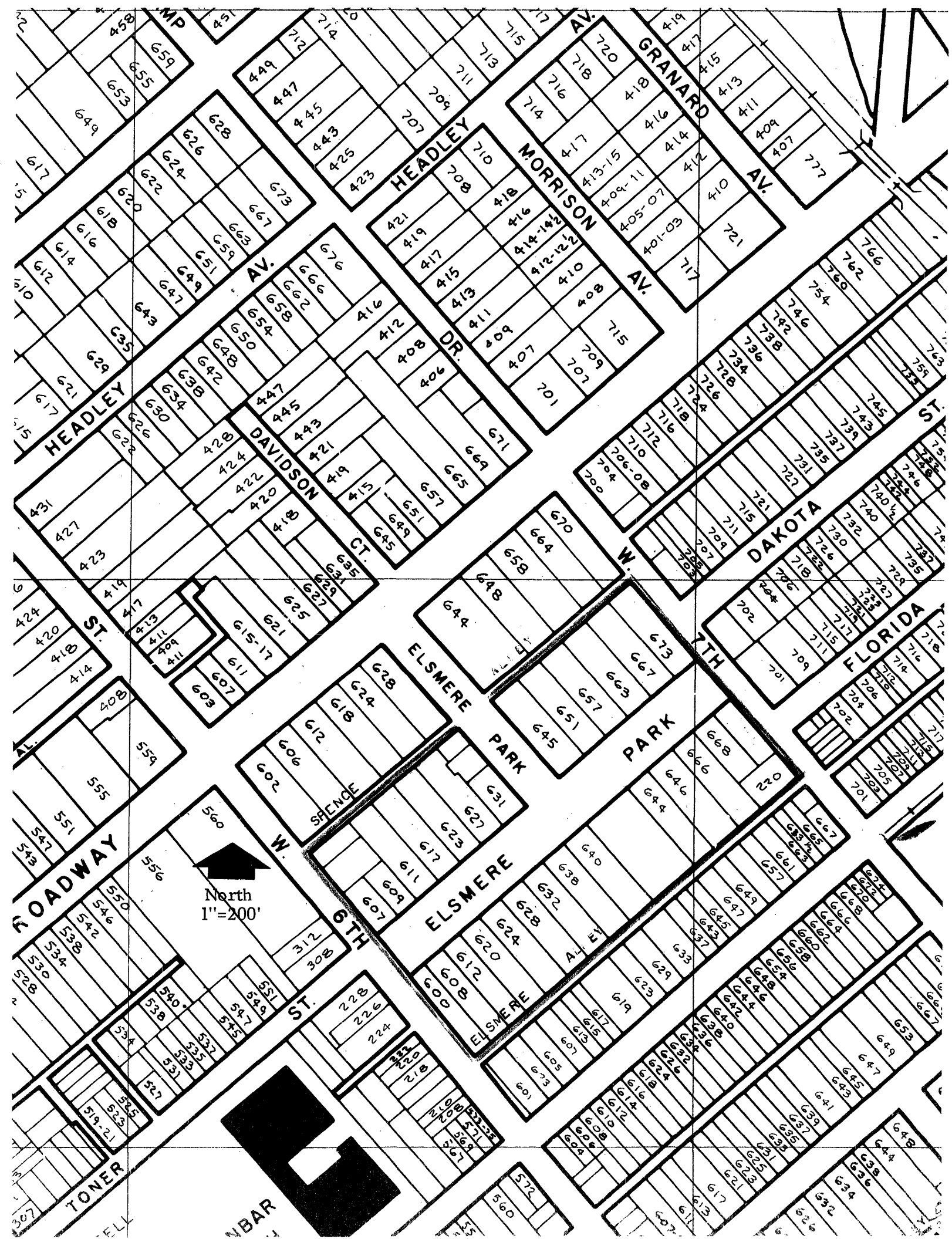


S. ELSMERE PARK

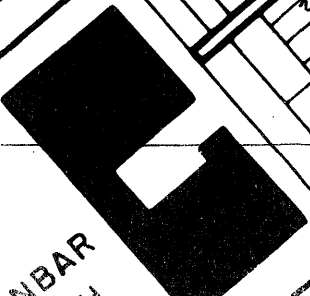
PARK

W. ELSMERE

NOT OPENED 90

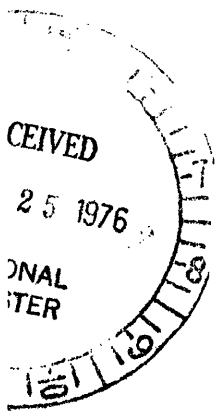


North
1"=200'



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Elsmere Park

AND/OR COMMON Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington

VICINITY OF _____

COUNTY Fayette

STATE Kentucky

3 MAP REFERENCE

source Urban Area Street Names and House Numbers, Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission

SCALE 1"=200'

DATE May 1968

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

The exact boundaries of the district are marked in red.

Map 3

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