

PH0005495

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Mason
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
"Old Library Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Maysville & Mason Co. Library, Historic & Scientific Assn. Bldg.

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Sutton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Maysville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
07

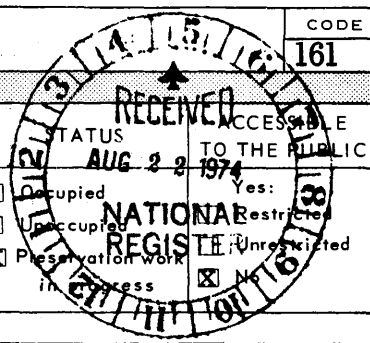
STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **41056** COUNTY: **Mason** CODE: **161**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Vacant-Being Restored	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Maysville Library Association

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Louis Browning, Edgemont Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Maysville

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Maysville

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

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

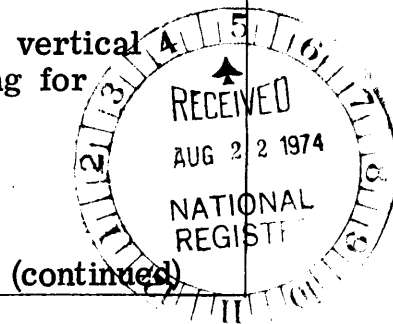
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The library is a long narrow structure set perpendicular to the street. The original front on the street, as shown in an old photograph, was absolutely plain, with a bare brick wall interrupted only by two small wooden porches. (photograph number 5) The appearance must have been as if unfinished and awaiting a facade or additional block across the front. (photograph number 6) In 1973, a new wing consisting of three bays was added onto the front of the original structure. The new facade consists of three bays that match those of the original side elevation exactly except for the insertion of plain double doors into the end bays at ground level. (photograph number 4)

The structure is of brick used in a characteristic and effective way to suggest the actual structural system. Except on the front, there was virtually no bare solid wall surface. Instead, there are tall narrow brick piers between which the actual wall is recessed. But most of the wall consists of the apparent frames of the tall, narrow two-story windows, which seem to occupy most of the surface. These deepset windows have round arches at the top with prominent stone keystones. Circular windows, framed in wood, are inserted within the arch. Above the keystones and within the vertical panels are corbelled brick features with narrow slits between, suggesting machicolation. There has apparently never been an ornamental cornice. The overall effect of the design is of emphatic rhythm and severe functionalism in Victorian terms. The scale of the two-story windows is distinctly non-residential and their form suggests a variant of the mid-19th-century Italianate style often applied to semi-public buildings such as fire stations, banks, Masonic meeting halls, and, as in this case, libraries. (photograph number 4)

The interior, soon to be used as a museum, is striking. It originally consisted of a single long hall with gallery above. The gallery is reached by a dramatic staircase at the far end that splits above a central landing to lead up to the gallery on either side. The gallery is supported by wide-spaced turned columns; above them are strongly modelled newel posts topped by graspable knobs punctuating a severely stylized balustrade. (photograph number 3)

The relatively light gallery seems barely to interrupt the vertical thrust of the side windows, which provide brilliant lighting for the entire space. (photograph number 2)



SIGNIFICANCE

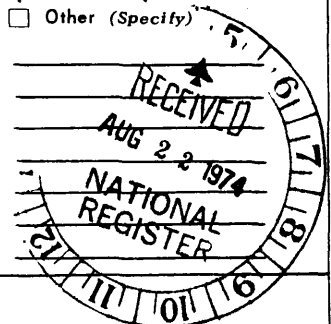
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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) **circa 1880**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mason County was formed in 1788. It was one of the nine counties in existence when Kentucky obtained its statehood in 1792. Being located on the Ohio River, Maysville was commercially important. It was the commercial port of entry for the Bluegrass region of Central Kentucky. Wealthy merchants and businessmen played a large part in the development of Maysville culture. By their philanthropy, these people added to Maysville's cultural enrichment. A case in point is the Maysville and Mason County Library, Historic and Scientific Association.

These people felt the need for a library from the early 1840's until the establishment of the present library in 1878. A library was seen as a needed educational asset to the community.

Since Mason County was established in 1788, four libraries were chartered by the State Legislature. The Maysville Lyceum was chartered in 1839, the Maysville Athenaeum in 1840, and the Maysville Library at an unknown date: it appears, however, not to have existed after 1859. The Maysville and Mason County Library, Historic and Scientific Association initiated the fourth library that was chartered in 1878.

The Old Library Building was built between 1878 and 1880 on land deeded to Dr. A. K. Marshall, William H. Cox, Dr. Thomas E. Pickett, R. A. Cochran, and J. G. Hickman from James Wormald on February 19, 1878. All these men were leading citizens in Maysville. They were involved, not only in the incorporation of the library, but also in the incorporation of other civic and business organizations. All were active in the commercial and civic life of the city. Dr. Thomas E. Pickett served as city physician, was chairman of the Municipal Board of Health, and served on the State Board of Medical Examiners. A. K. Marshall was also a physician. R. A. Cochran and J. G. Hickman were attorneys. William H. Cox was an owner of a dry goods and notion store.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Wadsworth. "Historical Account." Mr. Clark was a former library trustee. The account is presently owned by the Maysville and Mason County Library, Historic and Scientific Association.

Clift, G. Glenn. History of Maysville and Mason County. Volume I. Lexington, Ky.: Transylvania Printing Co., 1936. p. 248.

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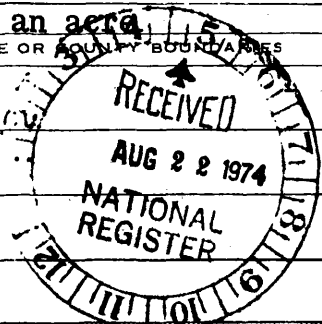
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	38'	55"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		83°	46'	03"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than an acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. C. C. Calvert, Jr., V. P. Board of Trustees, Library Assoc.

ORGANIZATION: **Library Association** DATE: **July 31, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hillcrest

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name Cedric W. Melton

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 8-16-74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Neatness
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/30/74

ATTEST:
Mark A. Herring
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-29-74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Maysville & Mason Co. Library, Historic & Scientific
Association Building

7. Description (continued)

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The addition on the front contains a reduced version of the main gallery to be used as a small art gallery. The balustrade and other details of the interior have been carefully matched. The whole recent adaptation of the structure is both ingenious and rigorously authentic in detail, and seems not only to preserve the integrity of the design, but also perhaps to realize the original architectural concept. (photograph number 1)



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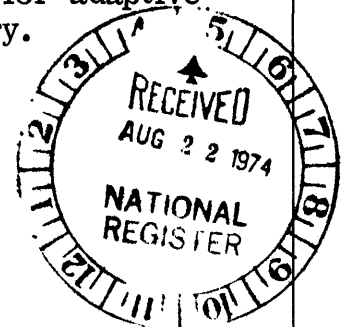
8. Significance (continued)

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At one time, early in its history, the library had approximately 2500 volumes. William Hixson, the first librarian, used the library not only for books, but also for natural history displays. He was an editor and reporter for a local newspaper and a teacher at the local academy operated by Jacob W. Rand and William Richeson. His stuffed animals and other natural history articles were displayed among the books. He was a great collector of Indian artifacts, many of which were also displayed in the library. His interest in the pioneer era led him to the authorship of a "History of Maysville and Mason County." Unfortunately this work was never published and the manuscript was eventually destroyed.

The early citizens of Maysville understood the need for well-planned architectural style. This is evident by the architectural grace of the Old Library Building. The architecture of this building is distinctive because of its galleried form. It is characteristic of the post-Civil War two-story commercial building. The vertical window units have a vaguely Italianate form. This type of utilitarian facade is typical of many structures in this area, but this building has a style and grace which distinguishes it from others.

The front has now been extended and three bays added for adaptive use as a museum, genealogical library, and art gallery.



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ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		AUG 30 1974

(Number all entries) Maysville & Mason Co. Library, Historic & Scientific Association Building

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued) Page Two

McMullen, Haynes. "Special Libraries in Ante-Bellum Kentucky." Register of the Kentucky Historical Society. Volume 58. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Historical Society, 1960. p. 123.

The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky. Cincinnati, Ohio: J. M. Armstrong & Co., 1878.

Sheppard's Maysville Directory 1874. Volume I. Cincinnati, Ohio: J. S. Sheppard, 1874.

