

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 30 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 11 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 Fayette Safety Vault and Trust Co. Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

111-13 Cheapside St.

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

6

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE

067

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William S. Howard

STREET & NUMBER

111 Cheapside

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

W. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

March, 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Fayette Safety Vault and Trust Company Building is located on Cheapside facing Cheapside Park which adjoins the Fayette County Courthouse. Cheapside Park was, up until the early 20th century, the marketplace of Lexington and the main hub of commercial activity. In the center of the downtown district, this desirable location still attracts the professional community of the Bluegrass area, especially those in the legal field.

Designed by Herman L. Rowe, it was erected in 1890-91 for a vault and trust company. Designed in the High Victorian style (Photo 1), this three-story, four-bay building has a cut-stone facade with a rough-stone foundation. This facade has a gable over the two middle bays, which are articulated as a pair by emphatic series of pilaster strips (Photo 2). Raised courses about the first story, at the third story sill-level, as well as the modillioned cornice that continues across the base of the gable, emphasize the horizontals. Special attention is given to the junction of these verticals and horizontals. The second story windows are flat-topped; the third story are round-arched and, curiously, their frames extend into the pilaster strips at the ends of the facade. This is in keeping with the tendency of the entire facade to expand visually upward--a characteristic late Victorian feature. For instance, the outer pilaster strips rise from foliate corbels at the ends of the entablature over the first story shopfront and entrance (which has been simplified); the two center pilasters emerge from the wall at about the midpoint of the second story. The molding courses and ornamental figures also seem to be larger and more plastic the higher they are placed. The stone surfaces are almost all textured: rough (at the bases of the stories), bush-hammered, pecked, panelled, or incised to suggest fluting; sometimes in combination. The ornament is richly carved, with a variety of degrees of stylization and historic reference. Additional color and pattern are conveyed by the tracery and stained glass of the windows. The transom over the entrance to the upper floors is circular (Photo 3); this is echoed by the elaborate treatment of the upper sash of the outer third story windows as similar roundels, set in panels of small panes. The second story windows have colored transoms (some now missing). The high slate roof with a patterned center band is visible only from a distance and there is cresting with a guilloche pattern at the top.

The cornice has elongated grooved modillions or brackets, more emphatic in place of capitals for the outer pilaster strips; the inner pilasters are surmounted by stylized Corinthian capitals, and have equilaterally triangular acroteria above at the corners of the equilateral gable, which also has an equilateral sunburst at its peak.

The interiors of the upper stories have been remarkably little altered and recently were renovated effectively. A complex stairacase, with several landings and architectonic, dome-topped newel posts, rises between the second and third stories (photo 4). There are still plain rectangular castiron mantels in several of the offices facing the courthouse, some with tiles inset (Photo 5).

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 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

1890-91

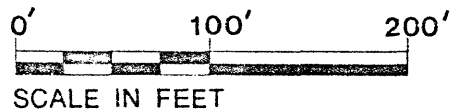
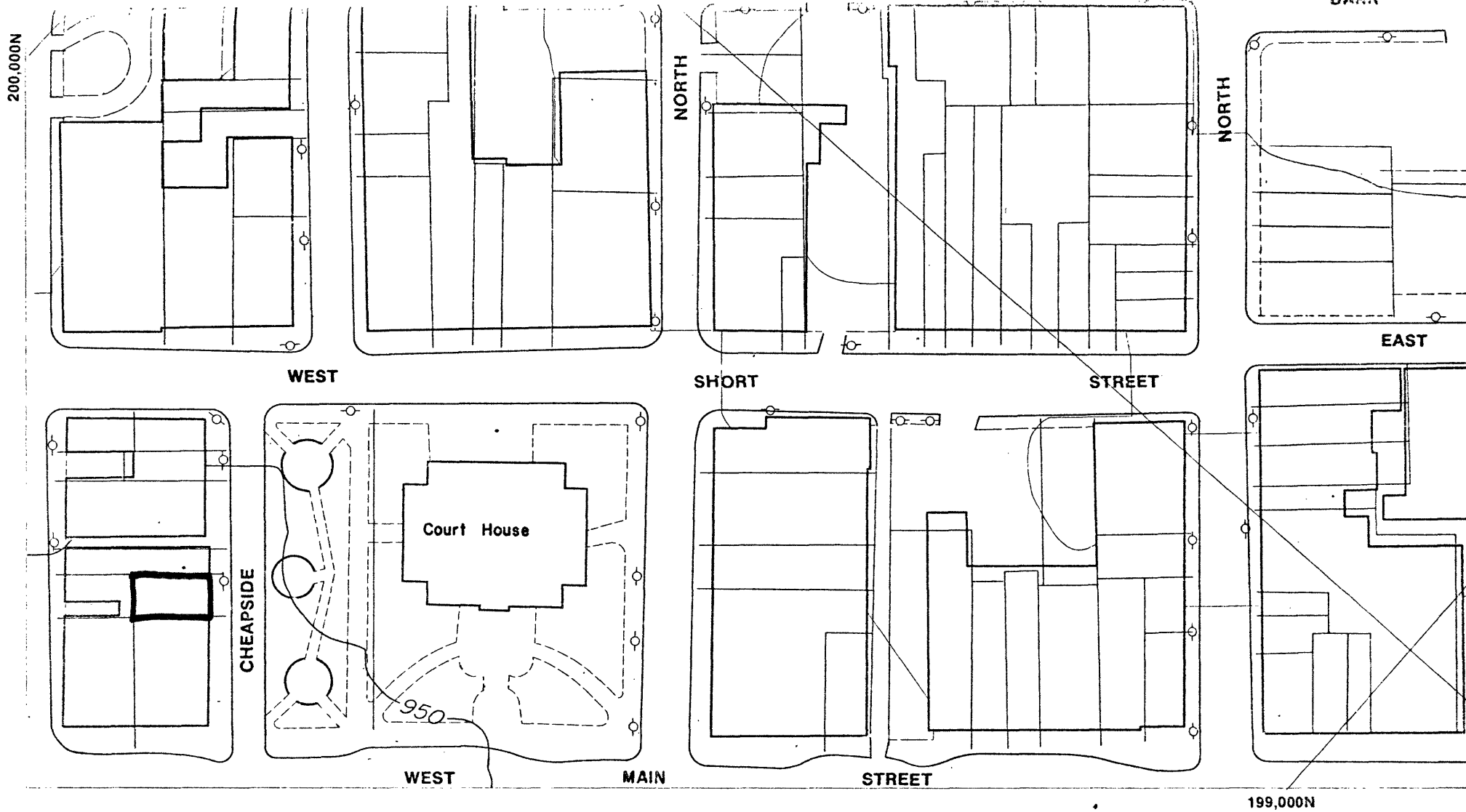
BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Herman L. Rowe

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fayette Safety Vault and Trust Company Building is the most interesting, impressive and intact of late High Victorian commercial buildings in Lexington. Designed by Herman L. Rowe, one of the most active and distinctive of Lexington's turn-of-the-century architects, this building forms a waystation between his equally eclectic Lexington Opera House of 1883-84 and the Beaux-Arts Baroque/Classic Public Library (1905-06).

Erected in 1891 for a vault and trust company, it soon became the address of many of the leading lawyers, realtors, and insurance agents, and other professionals. At the turn of the century it was also the location of the offices of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Moving Picture Theatorium, the first cinema in Lexington. In recent years it has been sympathetically renovated and regained its status as professional offices. The stone-veneered facade, a strange but compelling mixture of Italianate, Neo-Greek, Gothic, and Romanesque motifs, and the interior staircase are well preserved. The new building was described, just after it opened in The Kentucky Leader as "one of the most attractive in the city and for its size is not excelled in appearance by any building in Kentucky. . . . The new vault is a perfect marvel of beauty, safety, and convenience." The first tenants included, not only the vault company but also J.E. Delph & Sons, established real estate and auction firm. Although the vault company moved out almost immediately, several prominent law firms occupied it in the 1890s. Various insurance agents, attorneys, savings and loan companies, realtors, and dentists occupied the offices until the early 1930s, when Mrs. Ella Sutherland had a restaurant there (and apparently lived upstairs). Since World War II there has again been a series of professional services located there. The tactful recent renovation has made the address again one of the most desirable in Lexington.



- PROPERTY LINE
- PAVEMENT EDGE
- PRIVATE OR SECONDARY ROAD
- WATER COURSE

- 950- CONTOUR
- X 947 SPOT ELEVATION
- ▭ BUILDING
- - - - - PARKING AREA

FLOOD PLAIN
S—DATA BASED ON SOIL TYPE

* Actual limits of the flood plain areas may vary from those shown on the map because the contour interval and scale of maps does not permit the precise plotting of the 100 year flood plain.

REVISIONS

Mapping by GRW AERIAL SURVEYS
Lexington, Kentucky

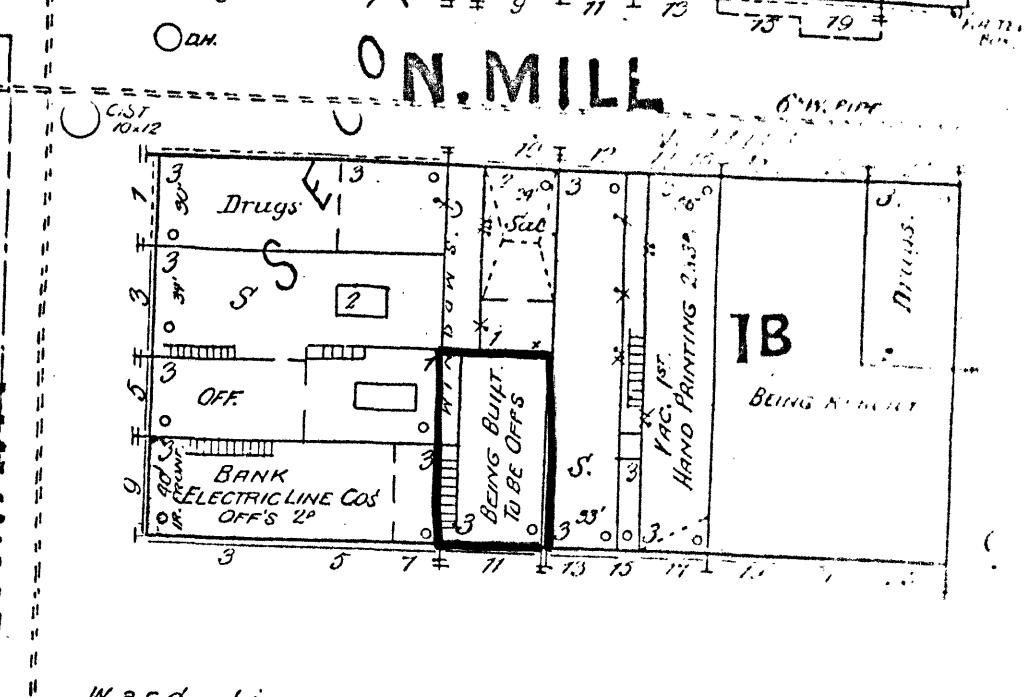
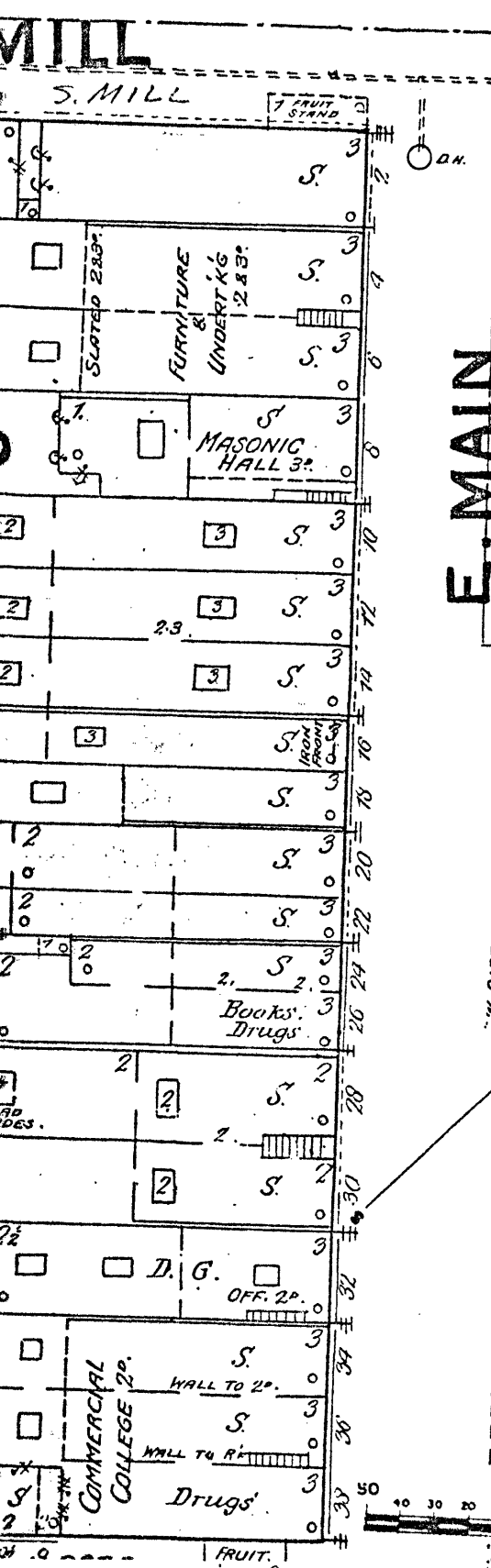
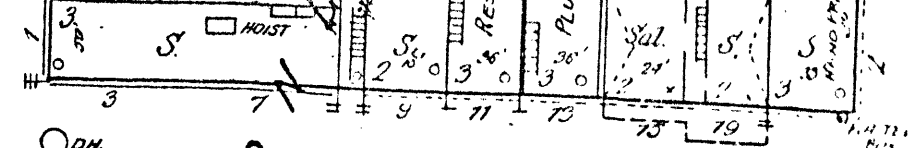
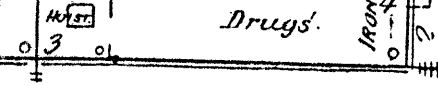
Fayette Safety Vault and Trust Co. Building
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

0861 0 & NNC

Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission
225 N. Upper
1" - 100'

Map 2 - Fayette Safety Vault and Trust Co. Building
outlined in red.

AUG 11 1980

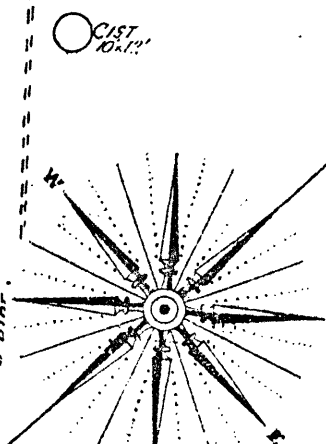


E. MAIN

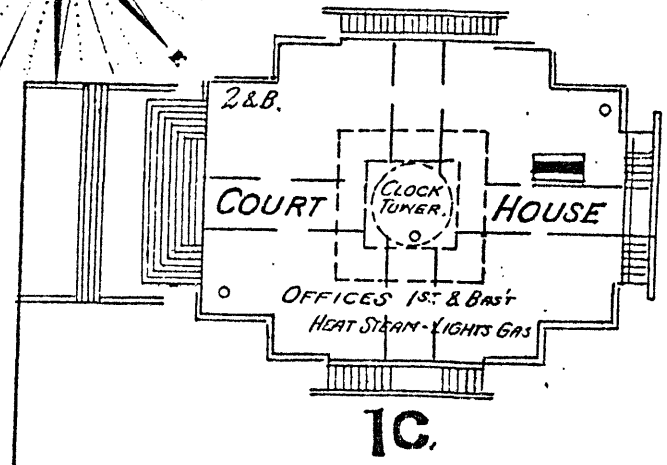
N. MILL

Ward Line

CHEAPSIDE



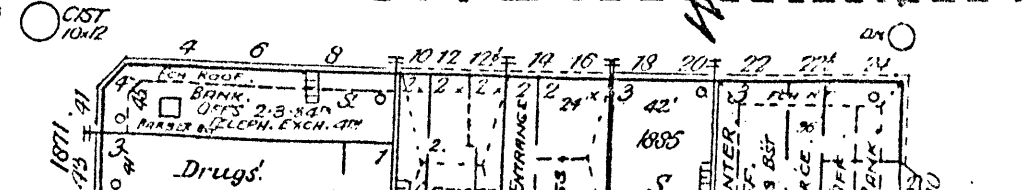
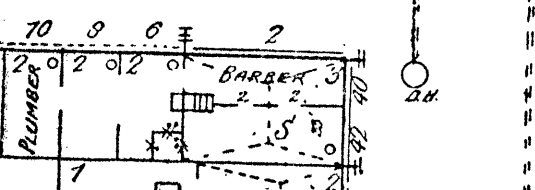
DEC. 1890
LEXINGTON
KY.



Scale of Feet.

UPPER

N. UPPER



Fayette Safety Vault and Trust Co. Building
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

Sanborn Insurance Map
University of Kentucky
1" - 100' 1890

0861.0 & N11
AUG 11 1980

Map 3 - Fayette Safety Vault and Trust Co. Building
outlined in red.

111 Cheapside

1890