

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUL 11 1985

date entered AUG 8 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic POYNTER BUILDING

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town London \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Kentucky code \_\_\_\_\_ county Laurel code \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Classification**

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                            | <b>Status</b>                                       | <b>Present Use</b>                             |
| ___ district                                    | ___ public                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | ___ agriculture                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | ___ unoccupied                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| ___ structure                                   | ___ both                                    | ___ work in progress                                | ___ educational                                |
| ___ site  | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | ___ entertainment                              |
| ___ object                                      | <u>NA</u> in process                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | ___ government                                 |
|   | <u>NA</u> being considered                  | ___ yes: unrestricted                               | ___ industrial                                 |
|   |   | ___ no  | ___ military                                   |
|   |   |   | ___ museum                                     |
|   |   |   | ___ park                                       |
|   |   |   | ___ private residence                          |
|   |   |   | ___ religious                                  |
|   |   |   | ___ scientific                                 |
|   |   |   | ___ transportation                             |
|   |   |   | ___ other:                                     |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. & Mrs. Warren Scoville

street & number Main Street

city, town London \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state KENTUCKY

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Laurel County Courthouse

street & number

city, town London \_\_\_\_\_ state KENTUCKY

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Survey of Historic Sites in KENTUCKY has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1985 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort \_\_\_\_\_ state KENTUCKY

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date .....

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Poynter Building is a well-preserved, two-story commercial building built in 1910. Sited at the hub of London's commercial district, it is oriented both toward Main Street, London's primary commercial strip, and toward the Courthouse Square. Its highly visible corner location gives it a greater visual impact than most of the commercial buildings in London.

London is the seat of Laurel County. London is located approximately 80 miles south of Lexington in the Laurel Patch Region which is a part of the Appalachian Region of Kentucky. London is situated on the major transportation corridor which has historically linked Central Kentucky with the Cumberland Gap and East Tennessee. The Wilderness Road passed through present day London as did the primary overland route from Lexington to Knoxville. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad linked the city to Lexington and Knoxville in the 1870s and today Interstate 75 passes through the area. Other historic properties in the community are the U.S. Courthouse, located a block south of the Poynter Building and the Sue Bennett College Campus, located approximately one-half mile to the west.

The Poynter Building is a two-story, brick building laid in common bond. A five-course corbeled cornice with limestone cap surmounts both primary facades. The Main Street facade is divided into two bays, each containing three windows at the second level. The courthouse facade is organized into four, two-story bays separated by pilasters.

A seven foot entrance bay set at a 45 degree angle with the two main facades provides the focal point for the exterior. At the first level an arched limestone doorway made of local limestone is the focal point. The wooden door is not original.

To either side of the entrance are display windows with transoms above. A recent rehabilitation project has removed a metal covering that had covered the transom area since the 1950s. New stained glass transoms were reinstalled in the space which closely approximates the original. The store windows were also replaced during the rehabilitation project with double-glazed, sound-proofed windows which are divided into nine lights by wooden muntins. Below the windows are wooden panels of recent vintage.

The Poynter Building has always had a full basement devoted to commercial use. On the Main Street facade the original storefronts at the basement level were accessed from concrete steps which descended from the sidewalk into a four-foot wide recessed area. These storefronts have been removed and a skylight has been emplaced at the street level to close off this area which suffered major moisture problems over the years due to its design. The skylight is protected by a handsome iron railing installed during the rehabilitation project.

Other important exterior features include the stone window caps and sills used in all of the second floor windows. Of the small windows at the rear of the first level, one contains the original stained glass while the others are replacements.

On the interior, the handsome pressed tin ceiling remains in the first floor commercial space. All other details and room arrangements are products of the recent rehabilitation project which converted all three floors of the building to modern office use.

# 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/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates**      1910                              **Builder/Architect**      Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Poynter Building is significant as the best example of turn of the century commercial architecture in London and because of its association with the development of significant modern commercial and communication facilities in London. Although changes have been made in the storefront in recent years, this building more than any other in the city, provides a visual link with London as it was in the early 20th century.

The Poynter Building housed London's first drugstore and continued to provide pharmacy services under a series of owners until 1983. An innovative building for its time and place, the Poynter Building had its own water supply system before the City of London provided water services in the 1920s. It was the first building in the Laurel County seat to have offices on the second floor. It was the first home of the Western Union Telegraph Company in London and continues to serve as a relay center for Western Union.

Today, London is a thriving commercial center of 6,000 people. It is a regional center with the region's only commercial airport and is the site of the U.S. Courthouse which serves a multi-county area. But London's importance is a relatively recent development. Like most of southeastern Kentucky, population in the area was relatively sparse during the 19th century. In 1870 the City had a population of 165 and the county contained only 6,016 people. Growth began early in the 20th century as local mining efforts to the southeast expanded. As a result of this recent growth, the London commercial district is composed entirely of 20th century buildings. The Poynter Building is the best surviving building from the early 20th century growth of London.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Centennial Edition, The Sentinel Echo; Loudon, Kentucky, April 10, 1985.

Dyke, Russell, Laurel County, Kentucky. London, Kentucky; The Sentinel Echo; 1954.

Scoville, Warren. Personal Communication and Private Papers.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name London

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a corner of Main & Fifth or Sublimity Streets, running with Main Street & parallel thereto 40 ft. to a stake; thence running westwardly at right angles to Main Street & running parallel with Sublimity Street 70 ft. to a 10 foot alley; thence southerly direction with line of said alley 40 feet to a stake at Sublimity Street; thence with Sublimity Street 70 ft. to the beginning. Said lot including the 2-story brick bldg. known as the

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** Poynter-Lewis Bldg.

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Polsgrove, Historic Sites Program Manager

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date April 1985

street & number 12th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005

city or town Frankfort 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 *David T. Morgan*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6-21-85

### For NPS use only

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

*for Deborah Byers* Entered in the National Register date 8/8/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration