

**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street & number Main Street _____ not for publication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

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ 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

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 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

1	6	7	5	9	0	4	0	4	1	1	2	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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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