10-300 (Rev. 10-74) PHO 35384/
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Frankfort

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MAR 25 1977

Kentucky

INVENTORY NOMINATIO	N FORM	DATE ENTERED JUL	4 5 15/1
SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HO</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES	OW TO COMPLETE N S COMPLETE APP		18
1 NAME			
HISTORIC	•		
** Brown-Proctoria Hotel			
AND/OR COMMON			
Brown-Proctor Hotel			
2 LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER			
Intersection of Main Street	and Lexington Av	enueNOT FOR PUBLICATION	N .
CITY, TOWN	,	CONGRESSIONAL DIS	TRICT
Winchester	VICINITY OF	06 COUNTY	CODE
STATE Kentucky	CODE 021	Clark	049
3 CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS		SENT USE
DISTRICTPUBLIC X_BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
	XUNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTUREBOTH	WORK IN PROGR		PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITI			
OBJECTIN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED		SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRIC		TRANSPORTATION
	- <u>- NO</u>	MILITARY	X _{OTHER:} vacant
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY			
	·		
George Proctor / J. L.	Brown Heirs 4/J	ne McCord	
STREET & NUMBER	DIOWII IICII B.	- Wilder	
20 Boone Avenue /	τ.	exington Road	
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
Winchester	VICINITY OF	Kentuc	ky
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DES	CRIPTION		
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clark County	Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	Courmouse		
SINEE) & NOMBER	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
Winchester		Kentuc	ky
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXI	STING SURVE	YS	
Survey of Historic Sites in	Kentucky (Supplem	ient)	
DATE	/ /IPP-011		
1976	FEDI	RAL XSTATE _COUNTY _LOC	AL
DEPOSITORY FOR	····		
SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritag	ge Commission	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
CITY, TOWN		STATE	



__EXCELLENT

XGOOD.

__FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS

CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brown-Proctoria Hotel is situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and Lexington Avenue (formerly Fairfax Street) in downtown Winchester, Kentucky. Main Street is the major business axis and is lined with a fine collection of Victorian and late Victorian commercial buildings, as well as the Greek Revival courthouse (placed on the National Register August 7, 1974). Lexington Avenue is the main route into town from the west.

The major facades of the Brown-Proctoria (east and north) front these two streets and give the impression that the hotel is a rectangular block when in fact, the rear is irregular in outline (see photo 1). Four stories in height, the first floor of the building is surfaced with Indiana limestone and the upper floors with granite brick.

The fenestration of the first floor is in no way symmetrical, instead reflecting very clearly the functional roles of the building. At the south end of the east (Main Street) facade are two original storefronts, separated by a decorative cast iron pilaster. The north shop has a transom of many small panes of glass, similar to the Luxfer type of prismatic glass. The area below this shop's windows is covered in pleasing green tiles. North of these two storefronts is a large plate glass window opening into the /defunct/ restaurant (see photo 2). This area originally contained three smaller windows (compare photos 2 and 2A). This facade projects slightly in the center, where the main hotel entrance is located. A metal canopy, supported on iron columns with an iron balustrade above and with a pressed tin ceiling, covers the first floor (and entrance) of the projection. The recessed double entry doors are flanked by tripartite iron-framed windows.

Proceeding north there is another shop and on the corner is the entrance to the bank, which continues down the north (Lexington Avenue) facade nearly to the end of the building, where there is situated an impressive doorway (see photo 3). This doorway, which originally gave access to offices formerly on the second floor, is overlaid with the raised parallel bands which surround the entire first floor, creating a Mannerist effect. This effect is reinforced by the exigencies of the site as the ground slopes off to the west and in order to keep the top of the doorway level with the rest of the windows the doorway had to be raised off the ground, necessitating the introduction of an extra base under the normal ones. This composition destroys the otherwise fairly

8. SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1904-06	BUILDER/ARCH	H. W. Aldenbu	rg, Architect
	ELECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF TH	INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	
1800-1899	XCOMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	X.ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	•

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brown-Proctoria Hotel, situated at the corner of the crossing of Lexington Avenue and Main Street in downtown Winchester, the county seat of Clark County, was begun in 1904 during a period of expansion and growth in the town's history. The county's location at the foot of the Appalachian chain that runs through the eastern part of the state gave rise to great expectations that Winchester would participate in the development of east Kentucky and become the region's "gateway to the Kentucky mountains." Although these hopes went largely unrealized, there was sufficient traffic through the city to maintain the elegant hotel, which, for many years was the finest in the area. A massive block of Indiana limestone and granite brick trimmed with Colonial Revival detail, the structure strives toward a Beaux Art contemporary ideal of power and easily dominates the Lexington-Main intersection. The interior also contains many fine details, such as marble wainscotting, mosaic tiles, and Victorian woodwork, which adds to the architectural significance of the building.

Winchester, located on the old Lexington-Mt. Sterling turnpike, was established in 1793, following Clark County's formation in 1792, the year Kentucky became a state. The lot on which the Brown Proctoria is built was number 67 on the original plat. In 1804, Peter Flanagan constructed a log house on this lot, using it as a tavern. It was sold in 1805 to Chilton Allan who replaced the log building with a much larger brick inn. The hotel became quite well-known and had many famous guests, among whom were General Andrew Jackson, then President of the United States, who stayed at the bavern while on the way back to Washington from his home in Nashville.

Major W. E. Rees was a later owner and for many years the brick building was known as the Rees House, or the National Hotel. In 1902 Rees sold it to Joseph L. Brown and his brother-in-law George M. Proctor, Sr. (1856-1913), natives of Clark County, who previously had been primarily engaged in farming. They continued to run the hotel until 1904 when the two men decided to erect a new structure. Reported the Winchester Democrat on the demolition of the historic tavern:

Old Landmark Going. Contractor Joe Jones begins today the work of

	ford Counties, Kentucky,
Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and Woods Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1877.	
Beckner, W. M. Hand-Book of Clark County and the C	City of Winchester, Kentucky.
Chicago: The Arkansaw Traveler Publishing Co., 18	889.
	(continued
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
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C C D C	<u> </u>
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
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1 FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME/ TITLE	al Historian
	al Historian DATE
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Brown-Proctoria Hotel

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correct proportions of the doorway, which is of too small a scale for the door anyway. The bold arch of the fanlight, although of a larger scale than the doorway, is still powerful and effective. The keystone of the arch is identical to those on the upper floors, having an unusual rolled profile which reflects the rounded northeast corner and the semicircular bayed windows.

The fenestration of the upper floors in some places bears a distinct relationship to the first floor, while in other places the relationship is quite tenuous. Two projecting bayed windows at the south end of the east facade reflect the two storefronts below, while the next four bays north originally lined up directly with the openings below. The entrance is emphasized by a larger, three-story bayed window (the other four are of two stories), flanked by two single windows indistinctly connected to the larger windows flanking the entrance below.

Next north is a series of four windows which are grouped over the storefront below, and then a series of two windows appears off center over one of the bank windows. At the corner is a series of four windows, three of which are symmetrically placed about the corner, but the fourth of the series is tacked on the north facade, just over the large bank window. Next is a single window, below which is nothing. Finally, the rest of the north facade is logically composed with windows appearing directly over openings on the first floor. The bayed windows are decorated with Colonial Revival motifs, particularly with a series of wreaths (between the third and fourth floors) and a series of swags (below the third floor). The large bayed window over the entrance is different in that it lacks the swags, has wreaths between the second and third floors, and has written in the area between the third and fourth floors: "Brown-Proctor /ia/."
The 'i' and 'a' have been removed fairly recently (see photo 4).

The walls are capped by a classical dentilled modillion block cornice with an implied frieze below (which has a series of attic windows positioned over the windows below). The cornice breaks at the northeast corner, where a plaque thrusts upwards, reading: "Brown-Proctor / ia/," and originally having a date (1904) above. This plaque originally pointed to a domed pavilion which was situated on this corner. The dome was fitted with a classical cornice very similar to that remaining on the walls below, and capped by a "cloud-reaching" flag staff (Winchester Democrat, May 15, 1905).

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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The hotel is entered through a vestibule into a large reception/entry hall (photo 5). paved with square mozaic tile. The marble reception desk (photo 6) is directly across from the doorway, and is reached by passing between two Ionic columns which reflect identical columns behind the desk. The gilded Ionic capitals are enriched by the application of gilded swags. To the left of the reception desk is the main stair to the second floor. It has heavy massive newel posts which contrast markedly with the slender turned balusters. On the second floor the stairs open into a large hall which originally had an area open to the reception hall below. Directly over the entrance is a suite of three parlours, a large one in the middle entered through double doors from the hall, and small ones on either side. smaller rooms retain fine Colonial Revival inspired classical mantels having pilasters and brackets supporting a mantel-shelf, above which is a miniature arcade, screening a mirror. The whole has a strong Italian Renaissance flavor (photo 8). above, on the the third floor, is a similar suite, the smaller parlours having less elaborate mantels, still in the classical vein (photo 9). The main dining room, on the second floor, occupies the central rear wing (photo 7), and has a kitchen and storage area behind it.

The interior of the Brown-Proctoria is remarkably intact, retaining original floors, woodwork, decorative detail, plumbing and light fixtures, and stairs.

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tearing down the Rees House, one of the oldest hotel buildings in central Kentucky if not in the State. Eighty years ago the father of Judge James Flanagan demolished a log cabin that stood on the site and part of the present brick building was erected then. A magnificent four-story hotel and office building will be built by the present proprietors, Messrs. J. L. Brown and George M. Proctor.

(Winchester Democrat, April 5, 1904.)

Brown and Proctor were no doubt influenced in their decision to construct the larger hotel by the development that had been taking place in east Kentucky since the late 1800s related to the region's timber and mineral resources. Winchester was conveniently situated at the junction of three railroad lines; the C & O, running east-west; the L & N, running north-south; and later the L & E, which started in Lexington and extended 100 miles east into the mountain regions of the State. All three railroads penetrated the mountains and all converged at Winchester, which was the first important town on the L & E, and the largest on the C & O and the L & N in the mountain area ("Winchester, Kentucky," p. 3). The population of Winchester around the time the hotel was built was approximately 5,964, but was expected to rise substantially.

The cornerstone of the Brown-Proctoria was laid June 17, 1904. The design of the hotel incorporates a conflict of materials and appearances which adds to the building's character. The solid appearance of the stone ground floor, contrasts to the thin skin-like appearance of the upper brick walls. The solidity of the first floor is, on second inspection, much less real than apparent as the raised bands appear merely to be laid over a smooth surface, which is pierced by openings that do not recognize the solid quality of a stone wall. All the openings, with the exception of the north doorway, are punched through the walls, having no projecting frames. The bayed windows are likewise merely tacked on, and do not grow organically from the walls. The walls themselves exhibit a certain plasticity in the rounded corner and the slight projection of the central bays of the Main Street facade, which is somewhat enhanced by the bayed windows and the sensuous keystones, but which is not overpowering.

The architect of the building was H. W. Aldenburg of Lexington. He had earlier, in conjunction with J. R. Scott, designed the Citizens National Bank in Winchester. Both these buildings are more sophisticated than the typical downtown Winchester commercial structure. John W. Crone, of Slack and Crone, an architect and builder, was apparently the major contractor for the Brown-Proctoria.

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The hotel can profitably be compared with other buildings in Winchester, including two buildings by John W. Crone, who was influenced by Aldenburg's Brown-Proctoria design. The Parrish and Bradley building (now the Winchester Sun building), is similar in the basic blocky massing and the classical cornice, while Crone's Elks building has a two-story semi-octagonal bay set above the first floor shopfront, similar to the bayed windows of the Brown-Proctoria. Some of the decorative elements, again influenced by the Colonial Revival, are similar. The hotel also reflected a certain predilection for towers and rounded corners in Winchester which can be seen on the Citizens National Bank of 1888-89 (by Aldenburg and Scott of Lexington), the S. P. Kerr business block, also of 1888-89, and the St. George Hotel of 1903. It was quite possibly an upstaging of the St. George that Aldenburg had in mind when he designed the Brown-Proctoria, shortly after the ''new'' St. George was opened,

The monumentality of the building was originally enhanced by the domed pavilion set on the roof at the northeast corner (photo 2A), which was quite large in relation to the rest of the building. It formed a suitable climax to the composition at that point, a climax emphasized by the upward pointing "Brown-Proctoria" plaque!

In the September 9, 1904 issue of the Winchester Democrat it was stated that "the contract for furnishing material and building the woodwork, etc., of the new hotel was given to Tudor and Co., of Lexington, whose bid was \$21,850." those more outstanding interior features which perhaps attributed to Tudor and Company include Tonic supporting the lobby ceiling, beautiful mosaic tiles on the first floor with varying designs in each of the rooms, marble wainscotting on the first floor and in the formal dining room on the second floor, and attractive Victorian mantels in the parlors on the second and third floors. The hotel had many conveniences for its guests, including a barber shop (with original fixtures and marble basins remaining), a

¹The plaque was described as "a massive galvanized iron piece bearing the inscription in bold letters, "Brown-Proctoria." (Winchester Democrat, May 16, 1905.)

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dining room on the second floor, a smaller dining area on the first floor, a parlor facing the balcony on the second floor for hotel guests and their visitors; a ladies' waiting room apart from the main lobby; and sample rooms for drummers to display their wares.²

The building was so constructed as to include space in the northeast corner for the People's Bank, of which George Proctor was one of the stockholders, a drug store, retail stores on the southeast end and offices on the second floor of the hotel.

Around 1918-1919, the area experienced an oil boom and the drug store was converted into a stock exchange office. Therefore the history of the town in the 20th century was very much reflected in the history of the Brown-Proctoria. The hotel remained open until September 1976, when expensive repairs forced its closing. The building is now vacant, but the owner hopes to sell to a buyer who would make no major change in the exterior appearance, or alter the character of the interior.

²The hotel trade originally consisted in large part of businessmen, or ''drummers'' who came from different parts of the State and Nation to sell their wares to local merchants.

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Collins, Richard and Collins, Lewis. <u>History of Kentucky</u>. Vol. II. Berea, Kentucky: Kentucky Imprints, 1976 (originally published 1874), pp. 129-130.

Norton, Carl. "The Brown-Proctor Hotel," 1968.

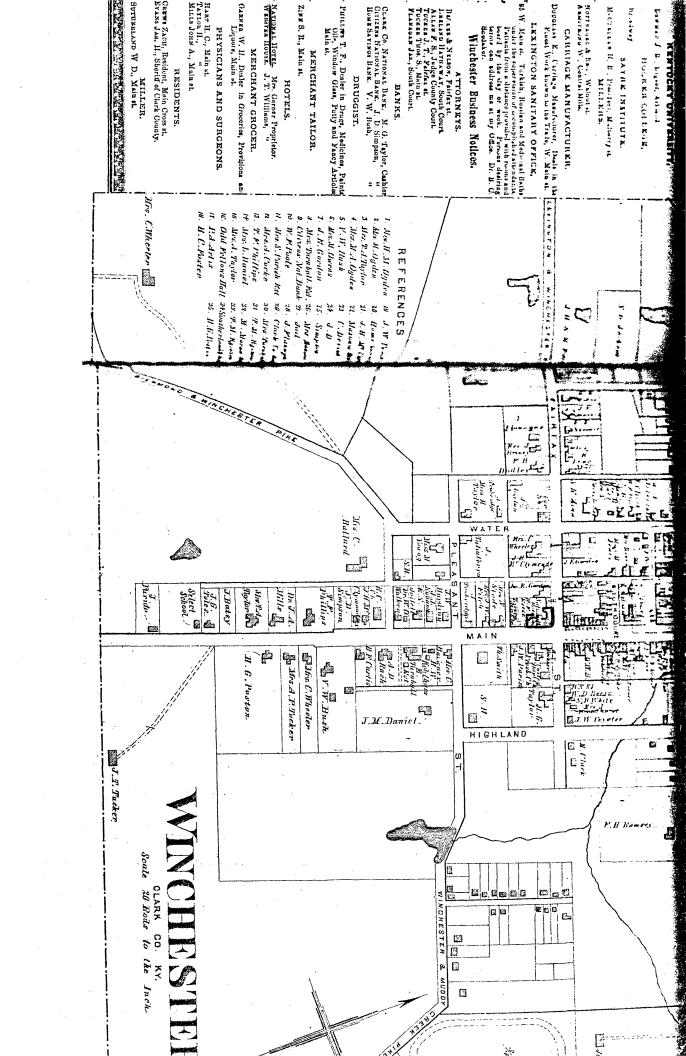
"Old Landmark Going," Winchester Democrat, April 5, 1904.

"Passing of the Rees House. Brief History of the Famous Old Hostelry Now being Razed to make Way for a Modern Building." n.d. (after March 1, 1904), article from unidentified newspaper, transcribed by George F. Doyle of Winchester, copy in the University of Kentucky library.

"Preparing to Build," Winchester Democrat, March 11, 1904.

"Winchester, Kentucky, Mountains to Blue Grass." c. 1920.

Various other Winchester Democrat articles, 1904-05.



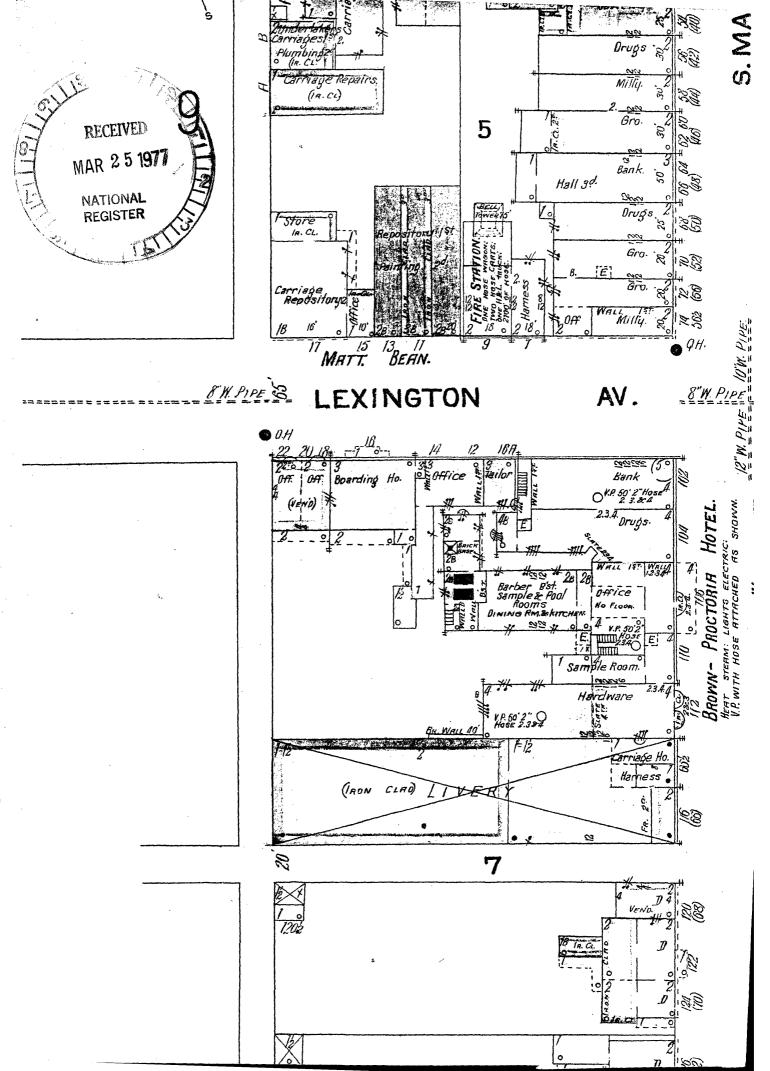
Brown-Proctoria Hotel Winchester Clark County Kentucky

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1877.

Map 2. Hotel is outlined in red.

JUL 29 1977

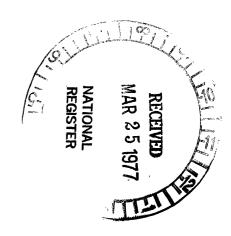




Brown-Proctoria Hotel Winchester Clark County Kentucky

Sanborn Map 1907 Map 3

JUL 29 1977



Sanbour map