

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 3 1980

DATE ENTERED

DEC 4 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

John McCauley House

AND/OR COMMON

McCauley House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

319 Lexington Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mary Hester Cooper

STREET & NUMBER

319 Lexington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

July, 1980

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>7/1/73</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John McCauley House is situated on the western side of Lexington Avenue between Maxwell and Euclid Avenues (Photo 1). It is located several yards from the northern boundary of the University of Kentucky campus and three blocks from the center of downtown Lexington. When erected in 1851, this spacious two-and-one-half-story Greek Revival residence of brick construction was on a five-acre plot but through the years the site has been reduced to a 300 x 225 feet city lot.

The house is attributed to well-known architect/builder John McMurtry. Facing north, this brick structure has occasional Flemish bond on its facade. The massive portico which has elongated Doric columns and no pediment bears approximately the same relationship to the mass behind it. The general massing, fenestration, and floor plan are characteristic of the Greek Revival period except for a left rear wing which appears to have been an earlier building (Photo 2).

Architectural historian Clay Lancaster, in his book Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass says, "However, the Doric columns of the portico are of wood with channeled shafts, the house does not have such a high basement, but includes a third floor. Grilled windows in front beneath the plain entablature light the rooms of the third story (at floor level); the entablature turns the corners of the house only for the depth of a pilaster, thus permitting full fenestration in the upper ends of the house, which have parapets above the roofline between the chimneys. Deeply indented is the front doorway in the wider central bay, its Ionic columns having thick shafts." The house is crowned by an octagonal iron-railed cupola (Photo 3). The cupola resembles the one on Botherum (listed on the National Register of Historic Places 3/7/73) which was also designed and built by John McMurtry in 1851. The only major alteration to this building has been the enclosing of the once open gallery on the rear.

On the interior, the first floor has four cubic rooms flanking a central stairhall. A long staircase occupies the rear of this hall and the stairs feature, according to Clay Lancaster, "an unusually heavy newel resembling a large console turned upright" (Photo 4). The newel post has applied rosettes at the top and bottom. The stringers of the staircase have a delicate fluted scross design in three dimensions. These appears to be cast and are unusual for this region, appearing as far as we know, only in the Clark-Ware House. There are plain conic spindles supporting a round handrail. The triple windows on the second and third floor landings have been changed to doors presumably at the time the gallery was enclosed. To compensate for the cutting off of this natural light a dome-style skylight was installed (Photo 5). There are immense baseboards in the hall as in the other major rooms. The hall has a rectangular ceiling molding edged in a morning glory design (Photo 6). There is an egg and dart molding at ceiling's edge.

The completely intact double parlors echo the culmination of this classical style within the Bluegrass region. In both rooms there is a fluted square pilaster system on the doors and windows. At the double doors between these parlors are full Ionic columns (Photo 7). Above these and throughout the two rooms are bold concave cornice moldings with later gilt picture moldings at the base of the entablature (Photo 8). Each room has a large round ceiling medallion which can be attributed to the Minard Lafever design book of 1835 (Photo 9). There are simple Greek Revival mantels of grey marble, geometrically severe with a suggestion of pilasters (Photo 10).

# 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 checked="" 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 1851 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John McMurtry

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John McCauley House, located on the edge of the University of Kentucky campus and within a few blocks of Lexington's downtown commercial area, echoes the culmination of the classic Greek Revival style as reflected by those built in that mode in the Bluegrass area. It is virtually unchanged since its construction in 1851 and is one of the few remaining large residences on the perimeter of the inner city.

The two-and-one-half-story residence was built for John McCauley on property purchased in 1850 from the Luther Stephens and Hallet M. Winslow heirs. Winslow and Stephens were in the building business and, as house-joiners, built some of the fine early and architecturally important buildings in Lexington. Stephens and Winslow had purchased the entire south side of Maxwell Street, from Limestone to Rose Streets, from John Maxwell, one of the founders of Lexington and owner of the entire section of the city south of Maxwell Street. According to C. Frank Dunn in his manuscript "Old Houses of Lexington," "Luther Stephens, upon his death, devised the five-acre lot on Maxwell St. to his granddaughter Mary Saunders. She and her husband, Wm. G. Ford, sold the five-acre lot here in 1850 to John McCauley." John McCauley, according to Perrin's History of Fayette County, was "one of the extensive grocers of Lexington." He was also known to be a successful bagging manufacturer.

In 1866, Christ Church Seminary was established here by Rev. Silas Totten, D.D. C. Frank Dunn says in his manuscript, "It was a large and prosperous school for many years. Its principal, Dr. Totten, was a man of great learning and high standing in educational ranks. He was born in New York in 1804, was a tutor in Union College for sometime after his graduation there, was for three years Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Trinity College at Hartford, and then called to its presidency, which he held for twelve years. Afterwards he held a professorship in William and Mary College, and was President of Iowa State University." He died in 1873 but Christ Church Seminary continued under the direction of his daughter, Miss Helen Totten, until 1884. An advertisement in the Lexington Daily Press dated July 6, 1876 says, "With its ample accommodations, its spacious grounds and its full corp of experienced teachers, it is believed that it promises facilities for educating young ladies thoroughly and in all the accomplishments unsurpassed by other institutions in the State."

From the 1880s until 1920, the house had several owners. Lexington Avenue was cut through the property in 1903. It is known that it was owned for several years at the turn of the twentieth century by A.N. Gordon where he operated a private school. In 1920, the property was purchased by the University of Kentucky and became known as Smith Hall, a girls' dormitory. Under the ownership of the University, it served for many years as the Chi Omega sorority house. In 1946, Mrs. Agnes Spears Cooper purchased the house from the University and today the property remains in the ownership of her daughter.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.54 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Lexington East & Lexington West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 719365 4213110  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard S. DeCamp, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Lexington-Fayette Co. Historic Commission

DATE

August 22, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

253 Market Street

TELEPHONE

255-8312

CITY OR TOWN

Lexington

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

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE

Acting SAPO

DATE

10-22-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

John D. Ray  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/4/80

ATTEST:

Paula Flint McClelland  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

12.4.80

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John McCauley House

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The doors of the main block are four-paneled. The east rooms are less elaborate with no pilasters although the raked window and door frames with their bold-eared surrounds are carried into these less important rooms (Photos 11 and 12). Original mantels in these two rooms have been replaced with small paneled ones of the later Gothic style.

The service ell of the McCauley House appears to be an earlier two-story dwelling. There are utterly plain corner blocks above the doors and windows and pegged window frames (Photo 13) on the exterior lower floor. The upstairs doors are beaded and random width.

On the third floor, there are two rooms with windows at floor level. These are covered with handsome iron grills of an urn design. A ceiling trap door leads to the attic entrance steps of the cupola.

According to Clay Lancaster, "The appurtenances once included a stable, smokehouse and two-storied servants' house. The grounds have dwindled to a fraction of their former size, with a church interposing between the house and Maxwell Street."

The nominated area consists of the house and city lot under present ownership.

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John McCauley House  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Bibliography for John McCauley House

Dunn, C. Frank. "Old Houses of Lexington, Kentucky." Unpublished Manuscript, Historical Society, Frankfort, 1930 - 1950.

Historical Sketch of Christ Church Cathedral, by the Altar Guild, Transylvania Printing Company, Lexington, 1898.

Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961.

Lancaster, Clay. Back Streets and Pine Trees. Lexington: Bur Press, 1956.

Perrin, William Henry, ed. History of Fayette County, Kentucky. Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., 1882.

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John McCauley House

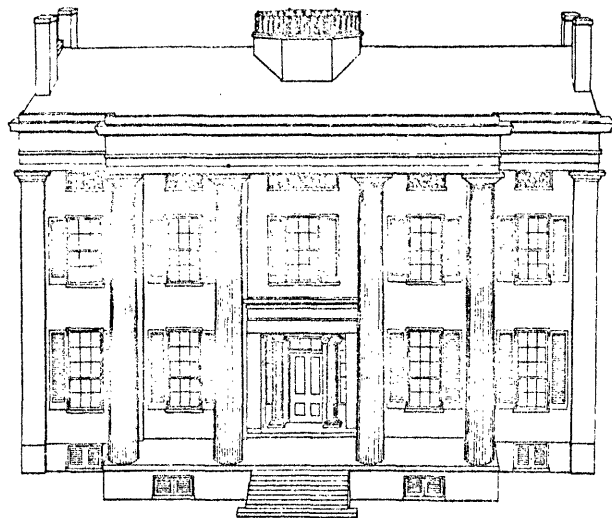
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CONTINUATION SHEET

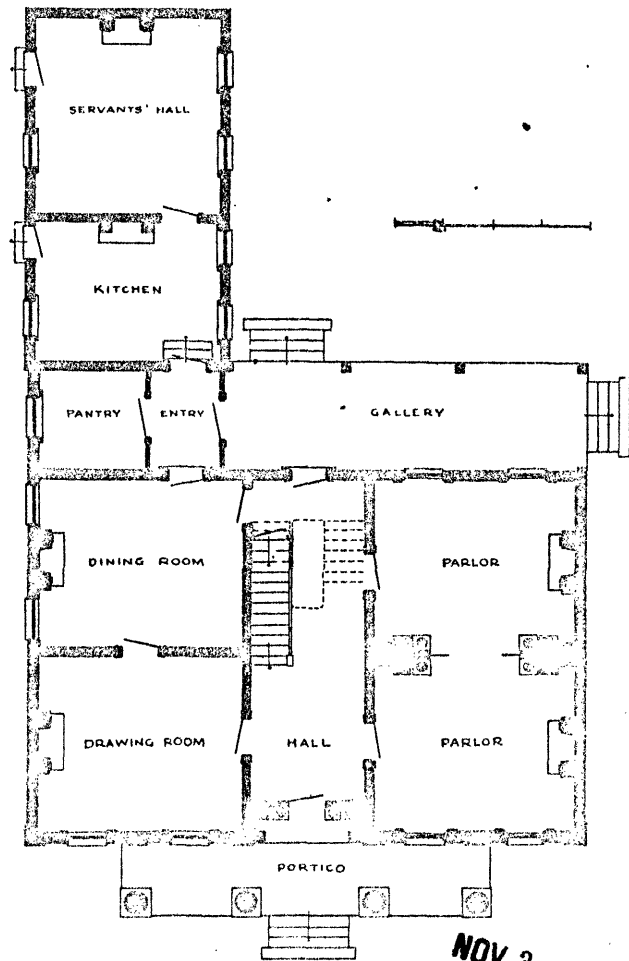
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary begins at point B (see Map 4) on the north side of Lexington Avenue approximately 300' southwest of the intersection of E. Maxwell Street and Lexington Avenue and continues southwest along Lexington Avenue about 300' to point C. The line turns northwest, continuing 225' to point D, then turns southeast 225' to the point of beginning.



135. McCauley House.

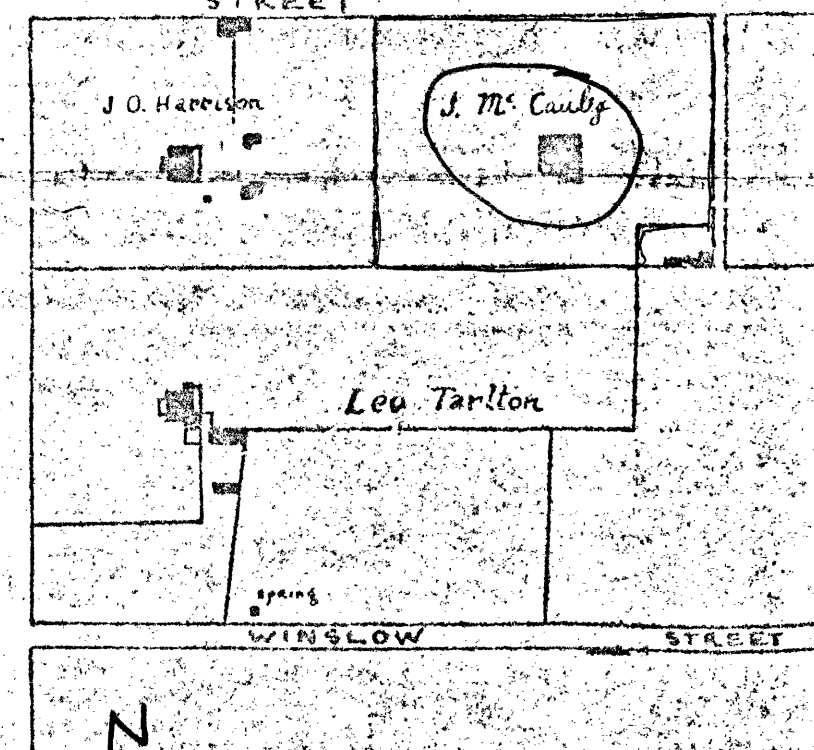
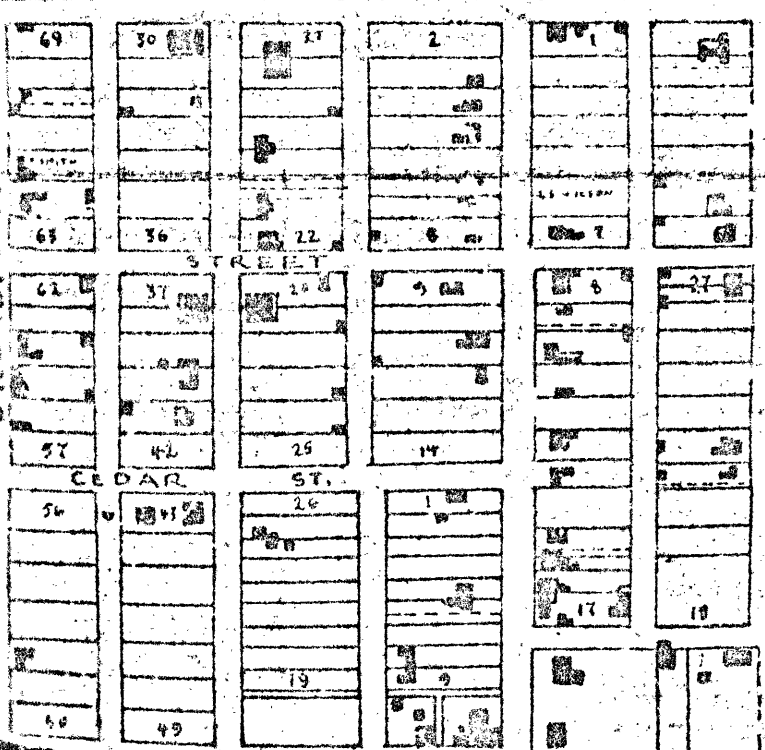
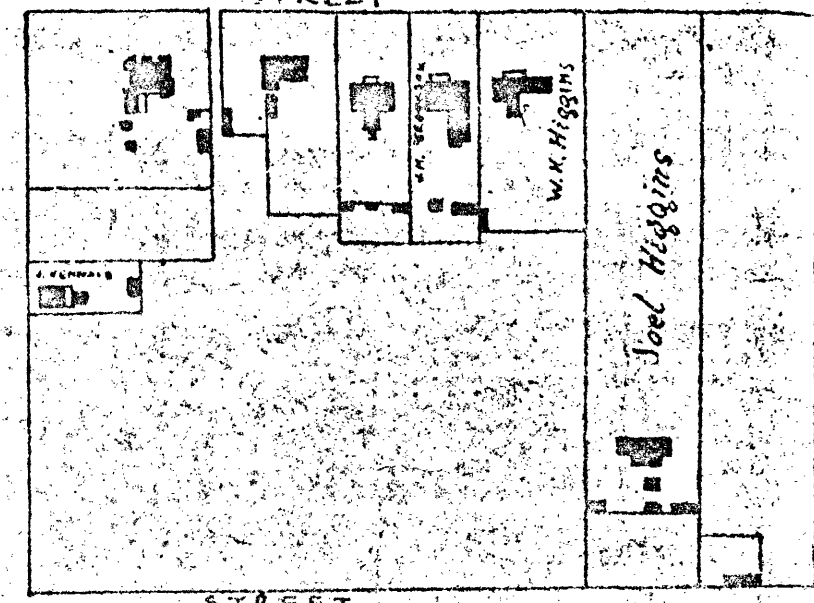
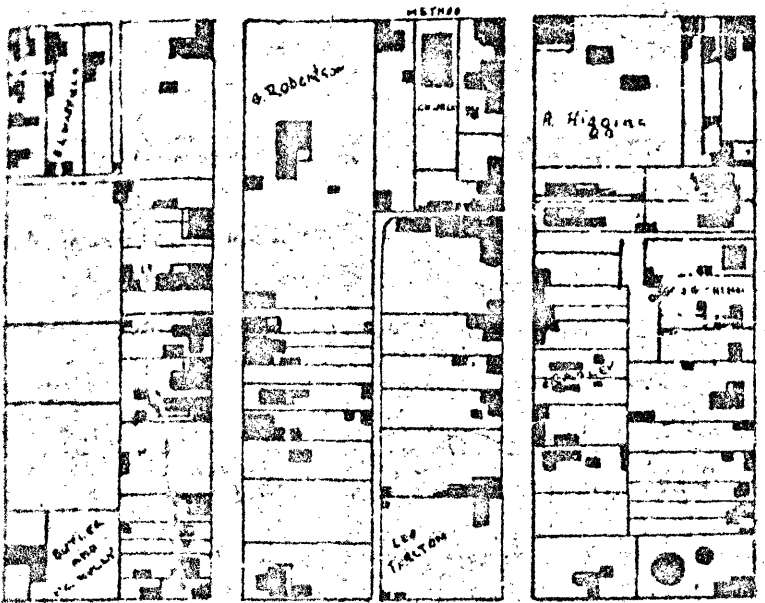
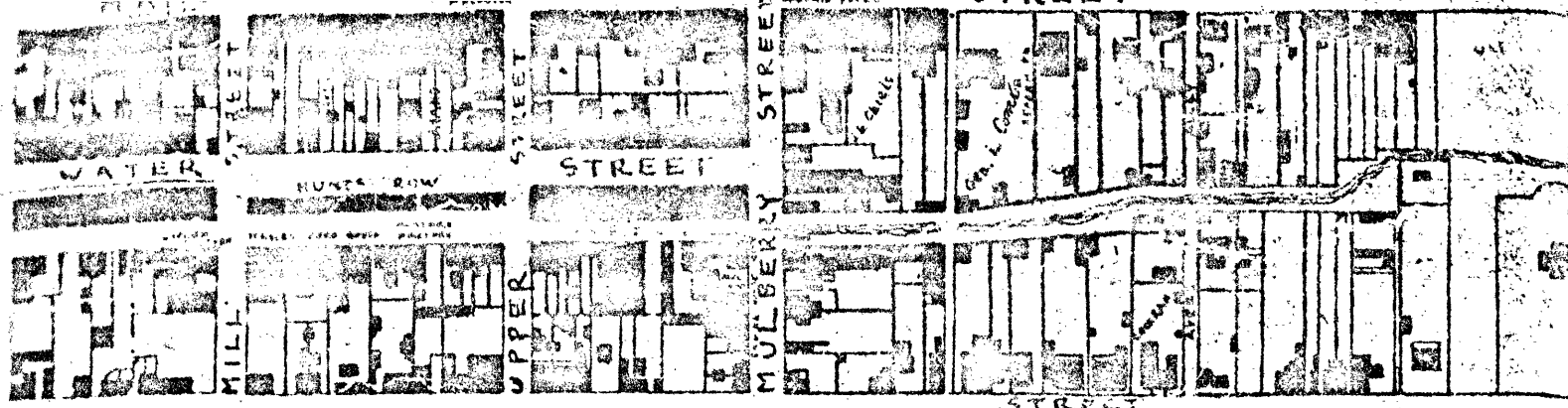


136. First Floor Plan of McCauley House.



John McCauley House  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

Line drawing from Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass  
by Clay Lancaster, page 99.



NOV. 3 1980

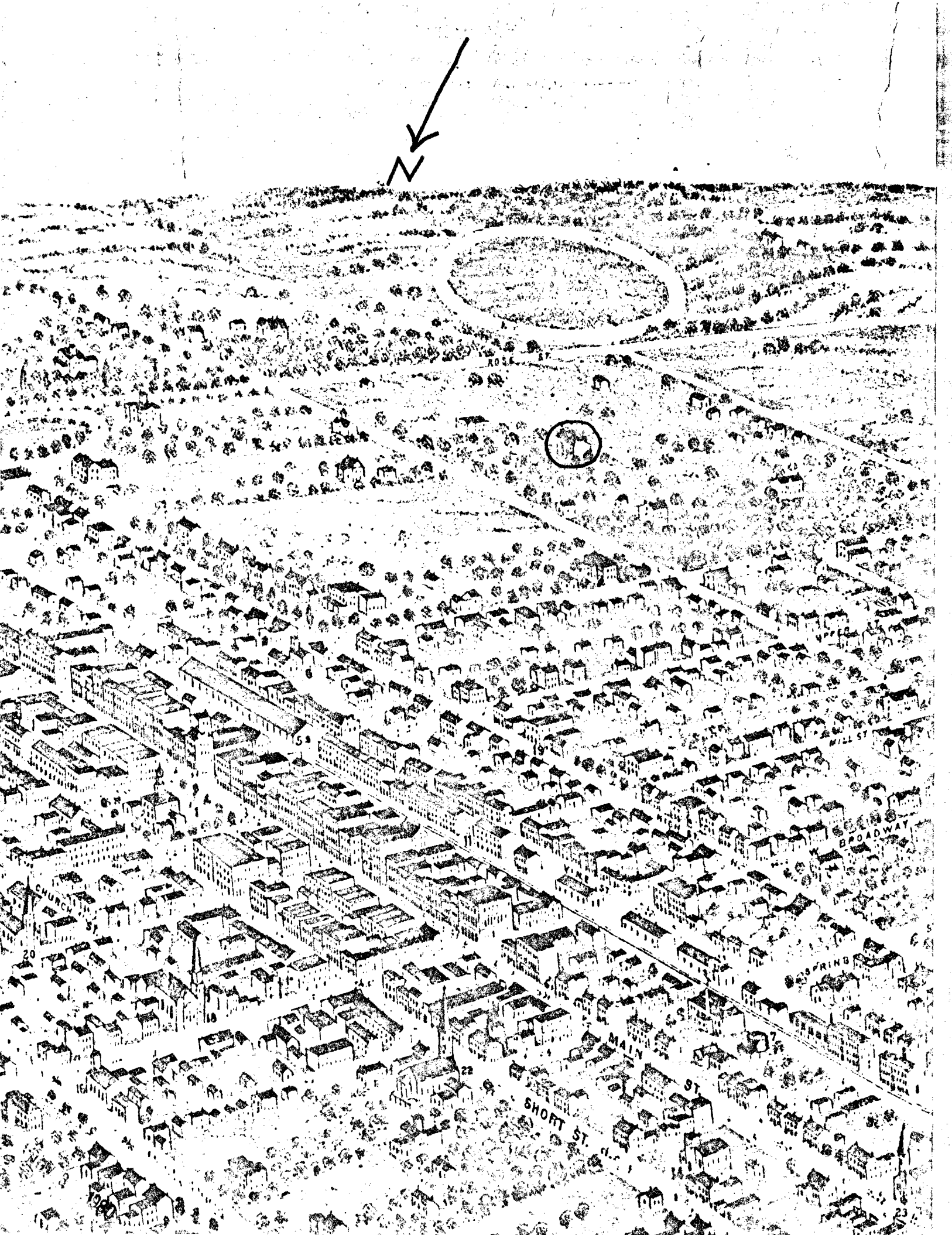
FAIR GROUND

John McCauley House  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

DEC 4 1855

Hart and Mapother Map of the City of Lexington,  
Fayette Co., Ky.  
Lexington-Fayette Co. Historic Commission  
253 Market Street, Lexington, Ky.  
Scale: Unknown      Date: 1855

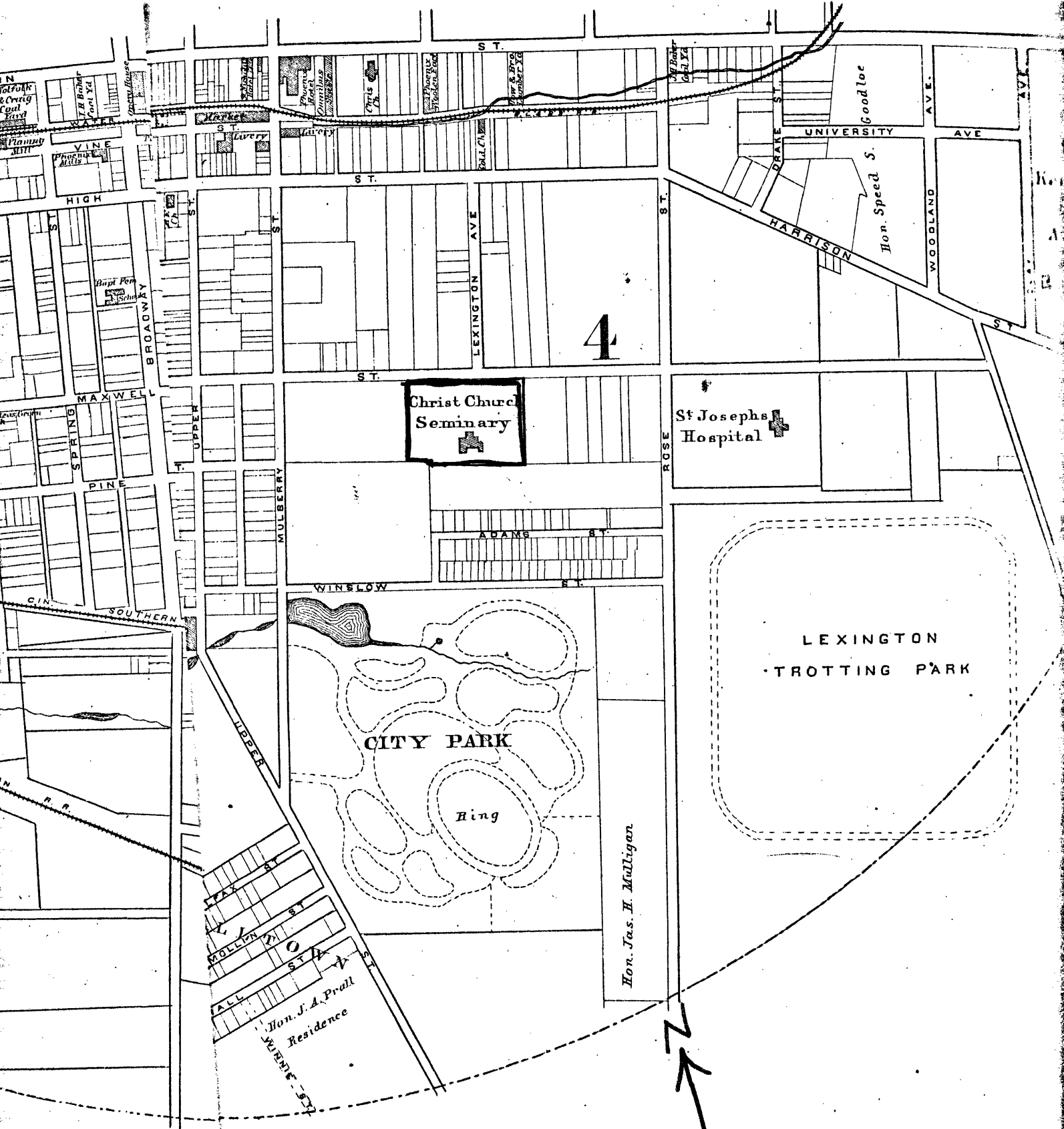
Map 1 - McCauley House is circled.



John McCauley House  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

Bird's-Eye View of the City of Lexington, Fayette Co.,  
Kentucky  
Lexington-Fayette Co. Historic Commission  
253 Market Street, Lexington, Ky.  
Scale: Unknown      Date: 1871

Map 2 - McCauley house circled.



4

Christ Church  
Seminary

St Josephs  
Hospital

CITY PARK

Ring

LEXINGTON  
TROTTER PARK

Hon. Jas. H. Mulligan

Hon. J. A. Prall  
Residence

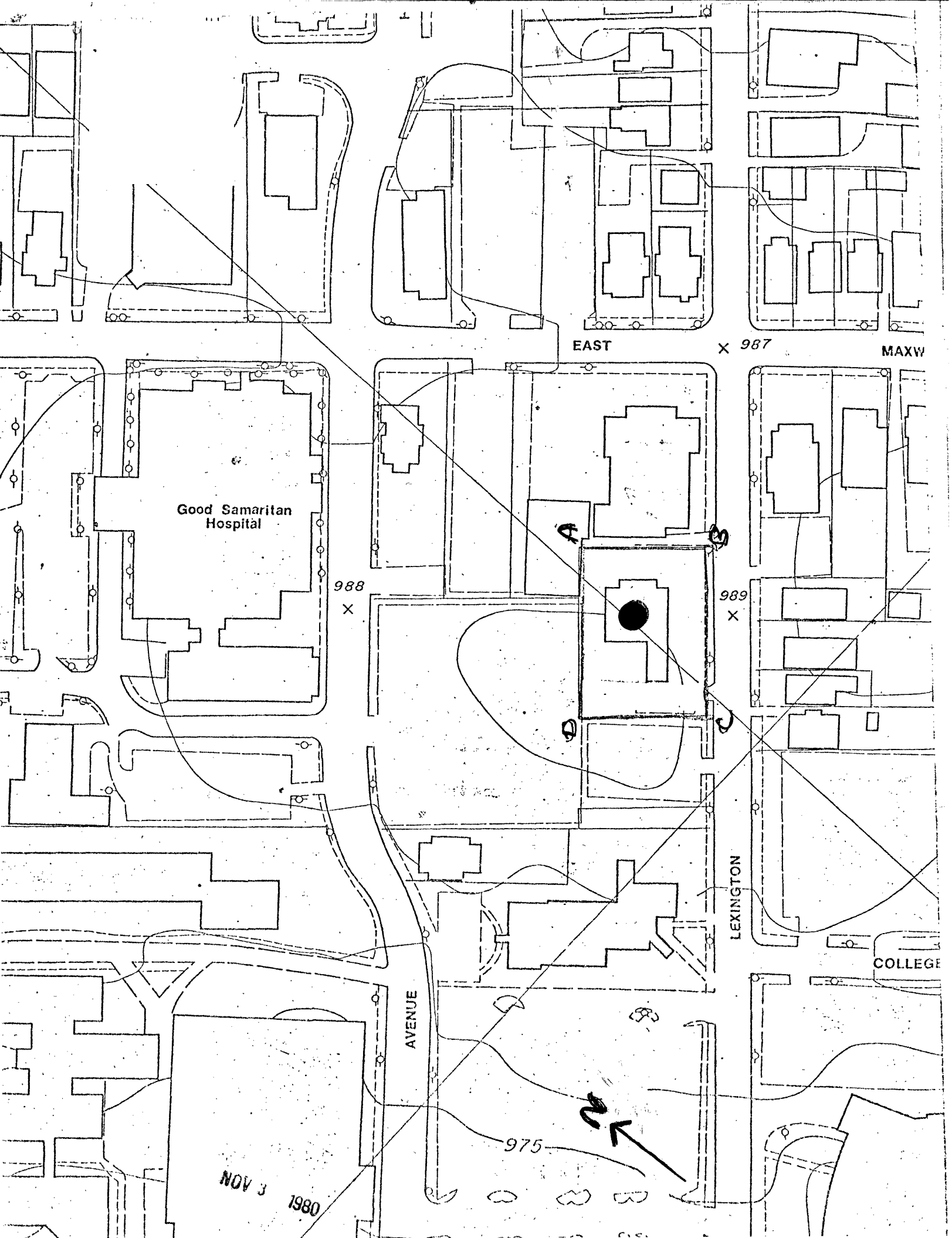
NOV 3 1980

John McCauley House  
Lexington  
Fayette  
Kentucky

DEC 7 1880

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and  
Woodford Counties, Kentucky. D.G. Beers & Co.  
Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission  
253 Market Street, Lexington, Ky.  
Scale:  $1\frac{1}{4}''=1$  mile Date: 1877

Map 3 - McCauley House circled.



Good Samaritan  
Hospital

EAST

X 987

MAXW

988

X

989

X

LEXINGTON

COLLEGE

AVENUE

975

NOV 3 1980

2





John McCauley House  
Lexington, Fayette Co., Ky.

Urban-County Planning Commission Map  
227 North Upper Street  
Scale: 1"=200'      Date: 1976

Map 4 - McCauley House marked with blue dot.