

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Mason
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 12 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Courthouse Square and "Mechanics' Row" Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Tub Row"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Third Street between Market and Sutton Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Maysville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
7

STATE:
Kentucky

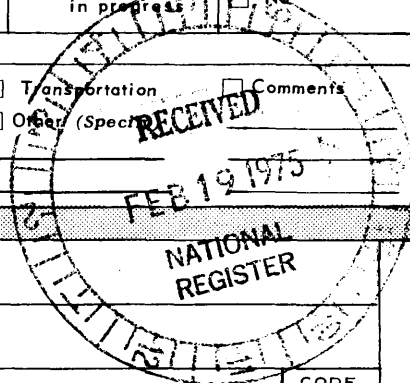
CODE:
021

COUNTY:
Mason

CODE:
161

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Maysville

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Mason County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Maysville

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAY 12 1975

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This district includes the Mason County Courthouse, the Sheriff's Office, the County and Circuit Court Clerk's Office, and the adjacent Presbyterian Church. Mechanics' Row and Doctor's Row complete the district. The total district consists of fifteen houses, three offices, and one church. The houses of Mechanics' Row are referred to in the deed books as mansion houses. The seven row houses on the north side of Third Street (Mechanics' Row) are believed to have had separate buildings used as kitchens behind them. These were later connected to the houses. The eight houses on the south side of Third Street, across from both Mechanics' Row, the church, and the courthouse complex, were the homes and offices of the doctors of the area.

The courthouse then as now is centrally located between the commercial riverfront and the residential hillside. Mechanics' Row occupies a conspicuous site immediately adjacent to the church and commercial center.

Johnny Armstrong, a prominent Maysville merchant, bought land on which to construct what is now known as Mechanics' Row. When built, circa 1816, these houses were identical to each other. This part of the district is now one of the finest concentrations of New Orleans-influenced architecture in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

- (1) The Mason County Courthouse was built in 1844 in a very pure Greek Revival mode. It is treated consistently as a temple, with a continuous cornice or entablature. The large pediment supported by the large columns forms the portico which dominates the Greek Revival mode (photo #2). The two-story unfluted columns have no bases. Regularly spaced pilasters along the sides of the building have simple Doric capitals. The simple cornice has elegantly proportional molding (Photo #1). The windows are cut out of the wall surfaces. The steps ascent at either side to a railed portico at the second level of the three main stories. The cupola is set back over the building behind the portico. In 1850 a locksmith from Flemingsburg, Kentucky, made a clock that was placed atop the courthouse. There is an octagonal lantern above it with a plain balustrade. The well-preserved interior is about to undergo sympathetic adaptive restoration.
- (2) The Mason County Clerk's Office was constructed in 1860. The county clerk's office has always been housed in this building. Today both the county clerk and circuit clerk are housed in this building. The one large gable on the front of the clerk's office is suited for a much larger structure but the scale is mitigated by delicately inverted scallops of bargeboard. The severe Doric pilasters with the unusual placement of columns in the center suggest that they were not (continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1816-1860**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Mason County was formed in 1788. It was one of the nine counties in existence when Kentucky obtained its statehood in 1792. At that time the county encompassed all the land south of the Ohio between the Licking and Big Sandy Rivers.

At this time the county seat was located at Washington, a small community on the hill above Maysville. Following a fire in Washington around 1848 the county seat was moved to Maysville. The records within the courthouse and county offices are complete since 1788 and are invaluable; these records have never been damaged by fire as have many other older courthouse records.

Maysville served as a staging point for goods enroute from the Ohio to the Bluegrass area of the Commonwealth around Lexington. The increasing importance of the port at Maysville and its commercial development were factors which led to Maysville's becoming the county seat. Built on the flood plain of the Ohio River and surrounded by a plateau, it was an ideal trading center for Ohio River traffic. Much of Maysville was built on the hillside overlooking the River.

The land on which Mechanics' Row was constructed once belonged to Edmund Martin who had purchased the land from John May in 1797. John May was clerk of the old Kentucky County. He was also Clerk of the Land Commission who was sent to Kentucky by the Virginia government in 1779 to hear and settle disputes about western lands.

Mechanics' Row was given that name because of the concentration of merchants' and craftsmen's homes located there. These houses were constructed in the early 1800s. The New Orleans flavor evident in the architecture of many of the homes in the historic district was a result of the large amount of river traffic and trade that took place between Maysville and New Orleans.

In earlier times the Row was called "Tub Row" by its occupants because of the tubs of ornamental shrubs and plants which appeared
(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clift, Glenn. History of Maysville and Mason County, Volume I.
Lexington; Ky.: Transylvania Printing Co., 1936.

Coleman, Winston J. Historic Kentucky, "Mason County Courthouse",
Lexington: Henry Clay Press.

Collins, Lewis. Collins History of Kentucky. Maysville: Lewis
Collins, 1847.

(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	38'	51"	83°	45'	53"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	38	54	83	50	00
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	38	47	83	45	56
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	38	50	83	46	03

17/249250
4281050
C2

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kathryn Burke

ORGANIZATION:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

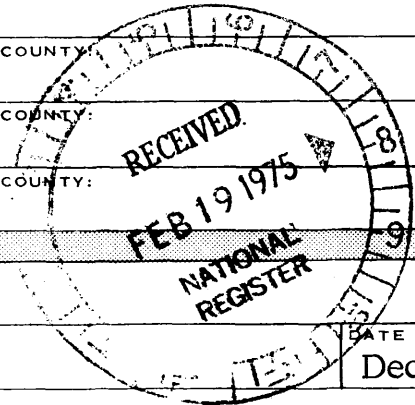
DATE:
Dec., 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Eileen W. Mutton

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 2-10-75

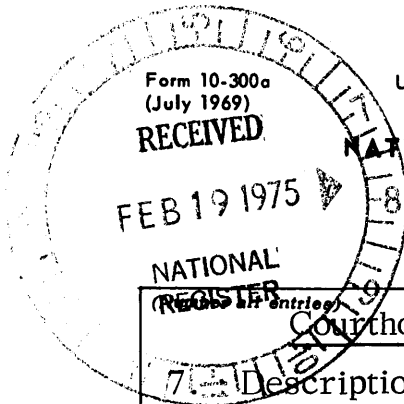
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/12/75

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/9/75



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

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FEB 19 1975

NATIONAL

REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATE	Kentucky	
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Courthouse Square and "Mechanics' Row" Historic District

Description (continued)

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original (photo #3).

(3) Mason County Sheriff's Office was built by Pleasant Baird. Since its construction, circa 1820, alterations have been made. Italianate brackets were added, the roof raised in front, windows elongated and hoods added over the windows. The original shingle roof is still in place behind the facade (photo #4).

(4) The Armstead Purnell-Hargett House, the center house of Mechanics' Row, had two stories as did the other houses in Mechanics' Row. A third story was later added to the Hargett House and to the two houses on the eastern end of the Row (the Richardson Houses) (photo #5). The New Orleans influence can be seen in the ornate, lacy ironwork of the balcony. This ironwork distinguishes it from the other houses on the block.

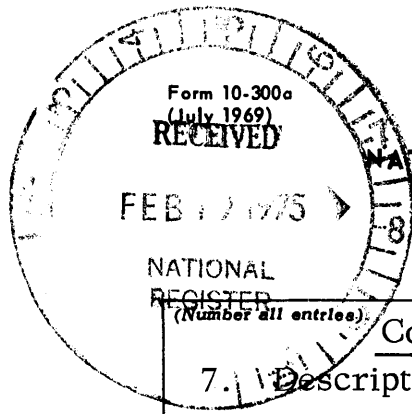
Mechanics' Row originally had no porches and was set back from the church. The western three houses have windows inserted in the cornice. The three houses on the eastern end of the Row have had their roofs raised and mansard dormers added. These dormers express a baroque quality.

- (5) The Owens House
- (6) The John Nelson Thomas House
- (7) Judge E. C. Phister House

These three houses on the western end of the block were constructed in the early 1800s. They are two-story structures with eyebrow windows in the cornice. Row shutters on the other windows and a low porch are now a part of these houses (photo #5).

(8) The Richardson Houses, the three houses on the eastern end of the block, have had their roofs raised and mansard roofs with dormers added (photo #5).

(9) The Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1850 after a fire had destroyed the "Old Blue Church." The upper part of the church which is the present sanctuary was completed in 1852. In 1854, there was an explosion of a nearby powder magazine and the church was damaged. The hole caused by this explosion is still apparent in the church. The front of the building is graced by a Gothic-arched stained-glass (continued)



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STATE Kentucky	
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Courthouse Square and "Mechanics' Row" Historic District

7. Description (continued)

window. The corner buttresses are uninterrupted from the street level to the capitals at the roof and base of the tower. The horizontal ledge above the entrance level does not interrupt the buttresses. Rectangular panels flank the low segmental-arched central entrance. The date of construction is seen in a trefoil in the tower. The stained-glass window gives an upward focus to the building which is topped by a high octagonal spire. The pinnacles at the corners are connected by a pierced balustrade. The side windows are flat-headed and without any Gothic features. The brick church has been painted white (photo #6).

- (10) The Jones House opposite the courthouse was built before 1856. It is a three-story structure with severe features and sparse decoration. There is a recessed entranceway which appears in other houses on the block. Italianate hoodmolds are over the window. The bracketted cornice has handsome acanthus brackets at the ends of the cornice (photo #7).
- (11) The January-Duke House next to the Jones House was built in 1838. It has stepped gables and parapets which add to its expansive features. The dentil molding adds decorative relief as do the shutters of the first and second story windows. A handsome Doric portico with columns accents the front of the house. The impressive spacing of the windows on the extensive brick surfaces contributes to the appeal of the house. A sideyard surrounded by a black metal fence gives an added appeal to the house. Metal urns are set at intervals on the railing (photo #8).
- (12) The Hord-Cartmell House is believed to be the oldest home on the block. It was constructed from 1816-1822. The rounded-arched dormers and mansard roof were added later. The roof is notable for its scalloped and pointed slates. Rococo Revival latticework is perched on minimal twisted-rope supports. The handsome, low wrought-iron railing on the stone coping is also notable (photo #9).
- (13) The Brisbois House was built by Isaiah Wilson in 1821-1824. The austere verticality of this building is counteracted by the richly decorated cornice that extends beyond the side walls. The dentil molding, even under the window hoods, is a traditional decoration in the area. The stepped gables contribute to the apparent narrowness of the structure (photo #10). The recessed entranceway is also characteristic of the area.

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	MAY 12 1975

(Number all entries)

Courthouse Square and "Mechanics' Row" Historic District

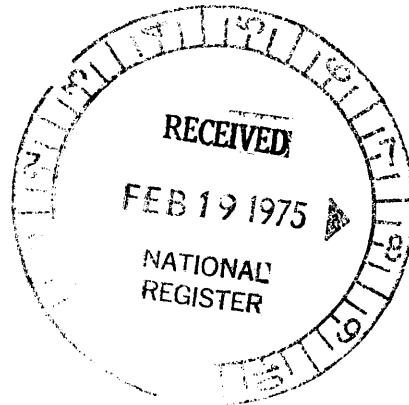
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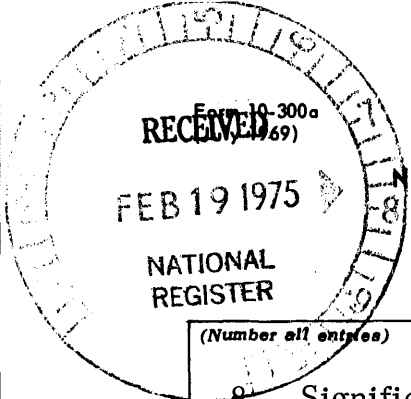
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(14) The Flarity House was built in 1850. It, too, has the stepped gables and parapets, with a later shingled wing and fanciful porch, which almost seems a stiffer wooden version of the earlier ironworks. These features are out of keeping with the original concept of the block, yet interesting in themselves (photo #11).

(15) The three houses at the eastern end of the south side of the block have been much altered. These houses are plain Federal or Greek Revival masses with added porches and other adornments reflecting changing tastes and materials. The house on the end of the block has a recently added "Georgian" doorframe and aluminum clapboard wall (photo #12).

The boundaries of the historic district are approximately as follows (see outline on detail of 1876 Atlas): north of Third Street between Sutton Street on the west and the alley east of Mechanics' Row on the east, north to the alley north of Mechanics' Row and behind the Courthouse, Presbyterian Church, Clerk's and Sheriff's Offices; south of Third Street between the alley east of Sutton Street on the west and Market Street on the east, southward to a line approximately that of the alley north of the Baptist Church. (The structures facing Market Street east of Mechanics' Row are commercial; the corner between Sutton and the alley east of it contains a modern church complex.)





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(Number all entries) Courthouse Square and "Mechanics' Row" Historic District

8. Significance (continued)

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in their yards during the spring. Each fall they disappeared into the cellars of Mechanics' Row.

- (1) The Mason County Courthouse was originally built in 1844 for use as the Maysville City Hall. The leaders of Maysville hoped that a new building could help persuade people that the county seat could be moved to Maysville from nearby Washington. The county seat was moved to Maysville four years after the building was constructed. The city later deeded the courthouse to the county. The building was built by Ignatius Mitchell, Christopher Russell, Stanislaus Mitchell, and Ignatius Purnell. The land on which the courthouse stands was bought from a New York firm, Doremus, Suydam & Nixon. A log school house had previously stood on this site.
- (2) The County Court Clerk's Office, Courthouse Square, was constructed in 1860 on land which was bought from Johnny Armstrong.
- (3) The present Mason County Sheriff's Office--originally a private residence--was built by Pleasant Baird. It fronted on Sutton Street. On the Third Street side there originally were houses in front of the house. It has been used as a Sheriff's Office since the 1920s.

The construction of the houses along Mechanics' Row, 7 - 19 West Third Street, north side of street, was a result of the building regulations which were imposed by the town trustees, including Jacob Boone (a cousin of Daniel Boone) and Daniel Boone in 1787. At this time the town was laid out into half-acre lots which were sold at auction with the condition that the houses had to be at least sixteen feet square with stone or brick chimneys. The houses had to be constructed within five years of the purchase or it was sold at auction.

- (4) Armstead Purnell who occupied the Hargett House was a plasterer. He bought his Mechanics' Row property in 1842.
- (6) John Nelson Thomas, a well-known local wine merchant who built the Thomas building in the commercial area of Maysville, originally occupied this house on Mechanics' Row.
- (7) Judge E. C. Phister served as a local judge for several years.

(continued)

Kentucky

Mason

MAY 12 1975

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Courthouse Square and "Mechanics' Row" Historic District

8. Significance (continued)

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- (8) The lower three houses were owned originally by the Richardson family and they later descended to the Keith family. Dudley Richardson bought these houses and he later gave them to his daughter.
- (9) The Presbyterian Church, 21 West Third Street, which is located between the Courthouse and Mechanics' Row, was established in 1817. The first church was destroyed by fire in April 1850. The present building was begun immediately after this and the basement was occupied in December 1850. The first pastor of the church was Dr. Robert G. Grundy.
- Maysville's most prominent and well-known citizenry were members of this congregation. The author of the venerable Collins' History of Kentucky (1847) Lewis Collins was a member and served as Superintendent of Church School for many years. His son Richard, who revised the History in 1874, was also an active member. W. W. Richeson and Jacob Rand who operated the Maysville Seminary (which U. S. Grant attended for one year in 1836) were active in the congregation. The nephew of Chief Justice John Marshall served as minister from 1857-1859. He was also an author who wrote The Western Adventure (1854) and Camden, A Tale of the South. Andrew (A.M.) January (to be mentioned later) was a member and elder of this congregation.
- (10) The Jones House, 24 West Third Street, on the south side of the street was known as the Doctor's House. It was built by Lewis Frazee who had received the land from R. C. Pickett and his wife in 1856.
- (11) The January-Duke House, 20 West Third Street, has remained in the same family since it was built. A. M. January was president of the historic State Bank and Trust Company from 1835-1877. He also backed the chartering of the Maysville Gas Company in 1849.
- (12) The Hord-Cartmell House, 18 West Third Street, is believed to be the oldest house on the block. Construction began in 1816 and was not completed until 1822. It was built by Rhodin Hord, brother-in-law of Edmund Martin's wife.
- (13) Dr. John Shackelford maintained an office and residence in what is now the Flarity House, 8 West Third Street. Other doctors maintained houses in the district.

(continued)

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COUNTY	Mason	
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	May 12 1975	

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Courthouse Square and "Mechanics' Row" Historic District

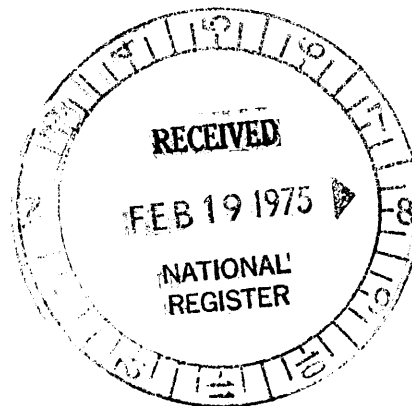
8. Significance (continued)

Page 4

Called by Rexford Newcomb one of the best of the "temple-type county courthouses erected in the state between 1830 and the end of the Civil War" (p. 122), the Mason County Courthouse (originally built as the Maysville City Hall with an eye toward attracting the county seat to the expanding riverside town) was then as now centrally located between the commercial concentration along the riverfront to the north and the residential district constructed by the steep hillside to the south (see the West Fourth Street District listed on the National Register on November 7, 1974).

The Presbyterian Church adjacent to the courthouse (contrasting its ecclesiastical Gothic to the civic greek) as well as other churches in the area, and the other nearby public buildings including later the Old Library (now Museum; entered on National Register August 30, 1974) remained the focal points of the cluster of impressive although closely spaced residences of Mechanics' and Doctors' Rows. Changes in fashion --Italianate, Second Empire or Neo-Baroque, "Queen Anne," and Richardsonian, even modern "Georgian"--have altered the composition and details of many of the structures. Yet the basic massing and common parapet end-walls dignify and unify the varied structures juxtaposed here.

This district was the civic, religious, and residential core of an expanding commercial center. People travelling the Ohio River stopped in this bustling town and influenced its architectural, cultural, and social growth. The merchants, craftsmen, doctors, ministers, and politicians of this district aided in the development of one of the Commonwealth's leading trading centers during the 19th century.



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9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

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Lansdell, Sarah. "Heritage Homes," The Courier-Journal & Times Magazine, August 5, 1973 (Sunday Magazine), pp. 16, 17, 18, 19.

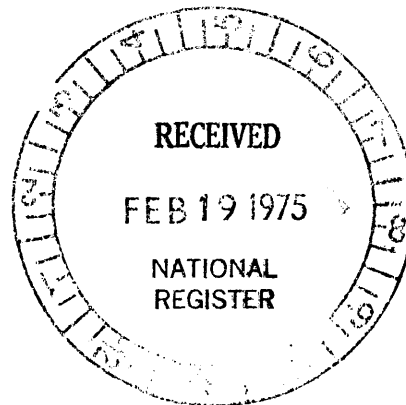
. "Kentucky's Courthouses," The Courier-Journal & Times Magazine, August 23, 1970, (Sunday Magazine), p. 21.

McEvoy's Maysville City Directory for 1860-61. St. Louis, Mo.: H. N. McEvoy, Publisher and Compiler, 1860.

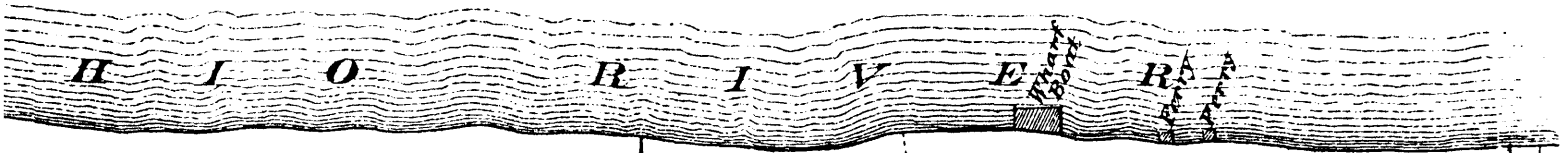
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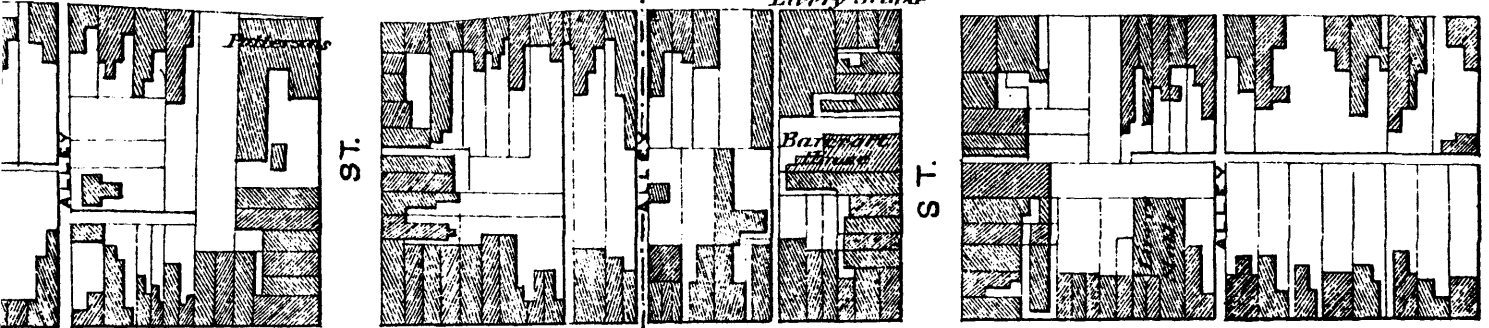
Scale 300 feet to an Inch



UPPER GRADE

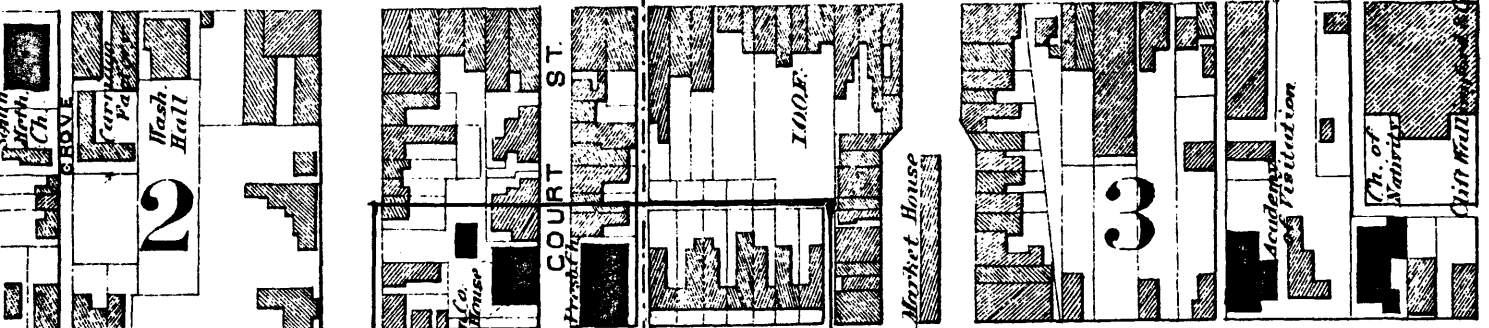
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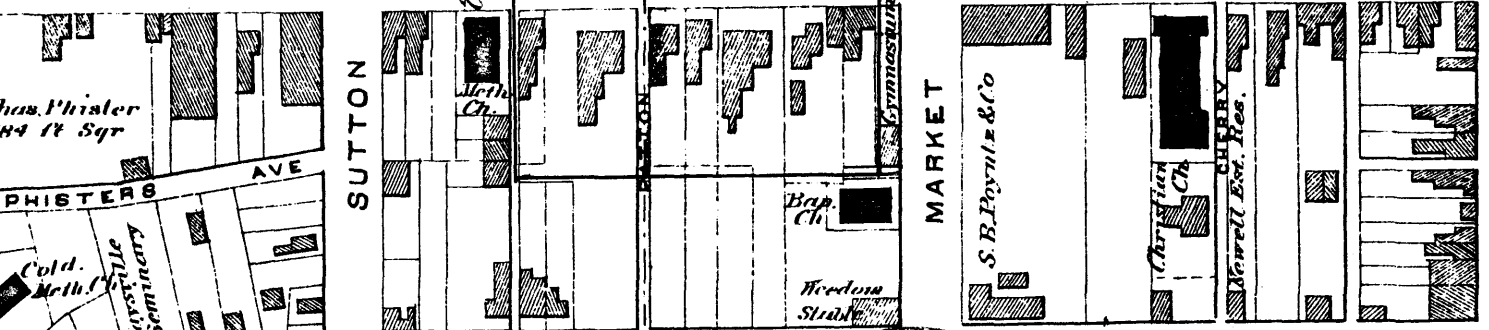
SECOND

ST.



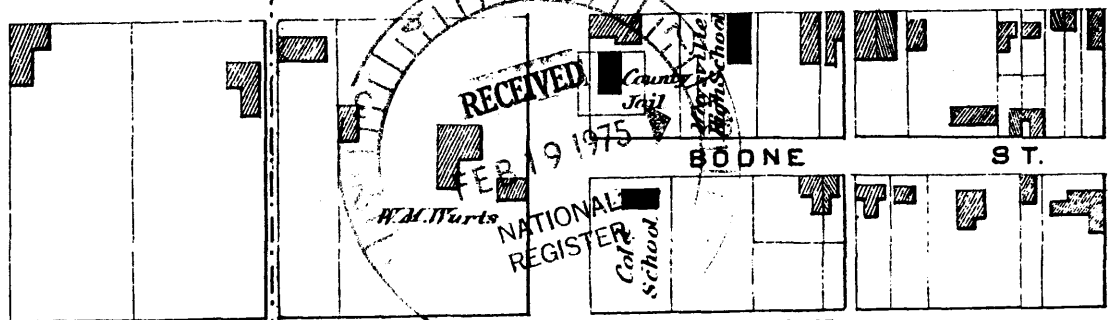
THIRD

ST.



FOURTH

ST.



FIFTH

LIMESTONE

RECEIVED
FEB 9 1975
W.M. Wurts
NATIONAL REGISTER
Columbia School