UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Western Suburb Historic District contains 59 significant structures in the Lexington downtown area bounded by West Main, Newtown, Georgetown, West Short, Saunier, North Spring and Felix Streets. Dating from the early to the late 19th century (with the exception of the 1913 First Baptist Church), structures within the district can be said to be representative of Lexington during this period. Half of one block on the north side of West Short (525-555) has been excluded from the District; these commercial properties lack historical or architectural distinction and intrude on the primarily residential character of the neighborhood.

The District consists of 131 properties: 94 houses, 4 churches, 13 vacant or parking lots, 2 civic organization headquarters, 17 small businesses and headquarters of the Metro Department of Sanitation. As of January, 1975, there were ninety property owners listed within the district: seventy-four owned one piece of property each; eight owned two pieces of property; four owned three; one owned five; one owned seven, one There were thirty-four property owners whose mailing owned eight and one owned nine. addresses were the same as the addresses of their properties, indicating that they resided at these addresses.

The Western Suburb is currently zoned for several different land uses: these include B-1 (neighborhood business), P-1 (professional offices), B-2 (downtown business), B-2a (downtown business, frame), B-3 (highway service business), R-4 (high density apartments) and I-l (light industrial). The I-l zoning is currently being reviewed by the Planning Commission staff in hopes it can be changed.

Beginning the Western Suburb Historic District on the south side of West Main is 608-610 West Main (1), a mid 19th-century duplex. It is a two-story Flemish bond with a hip a mid 19th-century duplex. It is a two-story Flemish bond with a hip roof; each half has three bays and later porches. It has Greek Revival window frames (but later one over-one-paned sashes in 608 and two-over-two-paned sashes in 610) and pilastered doorways with modern doors. Old Harrison School or Lexington City School No. 2 at 614 (2) is a simplified Greek Revival design built in 1849, a duplicate of Morton School, No. 1, which stood at the southeast corner of Walnut and Short. It is a two-story. three-bay Flemish bond brick building with a pedimented front (see photos 1 and 2). Common bond brick is used in the pediment. It had twelve over twelve-paned windows and pilastered doorways under the second floor triple windows; it now has six over six-paned windows and large modern windows where the doors were, a fan doorway cut in the center and part of the horizontal cornice of the pediment removed.

¹This architectural description and others in this section appear in Clay Lancaster's Survey Manuscript.

² The buildings within the district are numbered and shown in parenthesis. The building numbers and the street addresses are listed on a continuation sheet at the conclusion of the physical description.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES 19th century

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Western Suburb, so called by the early settlers when that section of town was opened for development, represents 19th-century Lexington residences as built by prosperous tradesmen and craftsmen. Excellent brick townhouses showing the Greek Revival influence that swept the Bluegrass area in the 1830s and '40s as well as four (and possibly five) of the less than ten remaining log houses in Lexington combine with structures of a later era to create an interesting mixture of architectural styles. A 1920s gas pump stands on the corner of West Short and North Spring, the only survivor of its kind in Lexington(see photo 9). Old cast iron fences and gates on the north side of West Main Street as well as remnants of brick paving throughout the area add charm and color. The importance of the district, therefore, rests in its interesting variety of architectural styles as well as its inhabitants and its location west of Lexington's main business district.

In the 1970 Lexington Historical Survey the district is described as "possessing significant historic social value through its expression of a middle class residential area. This is the area where the families of people in mixed professional, artisan and tradesmen occupations resided." As C. Frank Dunn said in Old Houses of Lexington: building craftsmen, of which there were a large number in the rapidly growing 'metropolis of the west,' saw opportunities to build homes for themselves and for speculation in this expanding 'western suburb' of the town." They built houses in this area not only to sell The same names appear over and over again in the deeds to the properties. Cincinnatus Shryock, brother of the famous Gideon and architect in his own right, owned properties at various times in this area. John McMurtry, architect; Benjamin Ford, partner of McMurtry; and Robert King, builder, were among the builder-speculators who bought properties, built houses and sold them here as well as James C. Butler, another partner of McMurtry in several large real estate deals; Stephen Holland Reid, house joiner; Captain Macey Thwaits, carpenter; John D. Milbourne, carpenter and builder; Elisha B. Cravens, carpenter and builder; John W. Russell, house joiner; Warren Outten, associate of Robert King; and John Shrock, bricklayer-builder. John D. Dillon, a cordwainer, was the 1814 developer of a sub-division bound by Jefferson, Main, Short and Georgetown; he built the section of Jefferson Street betwain Main and Short and dedicated it to town trustees in 1821.

Many tradesmen built or bought their homes in the Western Suburb to be near their businesses. Samuel McMeekin of 592 West Short operated a machine shop and carding

| 9 MAJOR BIBLIOG | GRAPHICAL REFER | RENCES | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
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| Clay Press, 1972, | p. 54. | | | · |
| Dunn, C. Frank. Old | l Houses of Lexington | , Unpublished M | Ianuscript, Kent | tucky Historic |
| Society, 1930-50, p | p. 81, 148, 157, 163, | 222, 226, 271-7 | 73, 289-90, 357 | -58, 363, 398 |
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On the north side of West Main Street east of Georgetown Street was the old racefield tract. 611 West Main (9), built by Elisha Cravens before 1833 for John D. Dillon, is a two-story, four-bay frame or log house covered by clapboards with later one-over-one-paned windows (see photo 3). 623 (10) was built for Jasper Smith in 1821; it is a two-story, three-bay common bond brick house (see photo 4). Pegged window frames can be seen in the rear of the first-story ell. It has later two-over-two-paned windows. 631 (11) and 633 (12) were built by Henry Ruckel in 1833 for rental property. They are both one-story, three-bay houses in the stretcher + stretcher + header brick pattern (see photo 5).

There is a row of seven consecutive antebellum houses in the 700 block of West Main starting with 705. 707 (14) may have been built for William Williams in 1805 but has later Greek Revival characteristics (see photo 6). It is a one-story, five bay common bond brick house with plank lintels over six-over-six-paned windows, a two-panel Greek Revival door and a modern porch. 715 (15) was built for Andrew Gilmore in 1850 and is a two-story, three-bay unbonded brick with Greek Revival "eared" doorway, later two-overtwo-paned windows and modern porch. 719 (16) was built for James C. Butler after 1846 and sold to Charles F. Shivell in 1849; originally a one-story, five-bay common bond brick house, it has a Greek Revival doorway and window frames. Later two-over-twopaned windows, a second story and a late 19th-century porch were added. 721 (17) was built for John Estes in 1842; it is a two-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick house with Greek Revival window frames and part of a pilastered doorway, later two-over-two-paned sashes and a modern porch (see photo 8). 727 (18), a two-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick house was built for Edward R. Ford in 1846 and sold to Sampson Oots at a court sale in 1848. It has a later bracketed doorway and two-over-two-paned windows. was built for William Montgomery in 1846 and is a one-story, five-bay common bond brick house with a two-panel Greek Revival door and later two-over-two-paned windows.

West Short Street, 66' wide, originally divided the last of the inlots from the first of the outlots. On the south side of West Short Street, 504 (20) was possibly log and built in 1803 (see photo 10). It originally faced Spring Street; only a part of the house from the chimney north survives. 520 (21) and 522 (22), a double house, were built on the site of the old log Catholic chapel; the house was begun by Elza Harney and Benjamin Ford, who sold the property to Robert King in 1836. 520 is a two-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick house with Greek Revival window frames, pilastered doorway and later three-over-one-paned windows; it is under renovation by its owner. 522 is a two-story, five-bay

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Flemish bond with Greek Revival window frames and pilastered doorway (see photo 11). One-over-one-paned windows in the second story, nine-over-nine below, and a shop front on the west end were added later.

The First Baptist Church (23), built in 1913 by contractor-builder, Frank Corbin, at a cost of approximately \$125,000, is on the site of Lexington's early burying ground and of three former Baptist churches (see photo 12). Of Collegiate Gothic style, it can be entered from three streets: West Short, Felix and West Main. Its sanctuary, however, faces West Main and is approached by a climb of fifty steps with five landings, an impressive adaptation of a building to its site. The church, with its square bell tower, is of cut Bedford stone and has a red tile roof. Its entrance bay is deeply recessed; its side entrances and five major windows are articulated with stonework (see photo 13). quatrefoil, cross and other symbols of the church can be seen repeatedly in the decorative stonework of the exterior. Seating 1500, its sanctuary is cruciform with the pulpit centered at the front; there are four balconies, one on each wall, with three reserved for the congregation and one for the choir. A massive pipe organ constructed to fit the recessed arch behind the pulpit dominates the auditorium. There is also a marble baptistry behind the pulpit flanked by steps. Original cluster lights are suspended from the ceiling. and woodwork also date from the construction of the church. Arching the auditorium are The corbels at the base of the ribs, at least three feet thick, of wide-grained chestnut. ribs are intricately carved angels, and above the panelling behind the pulpit are horizontal bands of carved acanthus leaves and acorns in the manner of Grinling Gibbons (see photo 14). Including corridors the church proper has 67 sections or rooms.

The house at 574 West Short (24) is a mid-nineteenth-century two-story, five-bay frame house which had six-over-six-paned sashes; it now has two-over-two and a new porch (see photo 15). 592 (25) was built by Robert King for Samuel McMeekin in 1838. It is a two-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick house with later two-over-two-paned windows and a modern doorway. It was owned by David McMurtry, brother of John, from 1854-1884.

Six houses in the 600 block on the south side of West Short were built in the 1830s and 40s; these included 606 (26), 616 (28), 628 (29), 632 (30), 636 (31) and 640-46 (32). 606, which has been renovated, is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick house with parts of a Greek Revival pilastered doorway and new metal frames. At 616 is a renovated two-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick house, built for Benjamin Ford in 1837. Its

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windows have been enlarged and given two-over-two-paned sashes; it has a later doorway and bracket details. The house at 628 has been renovated; it was built by John W. Russell and sold in 1836 to Charles Cullum. It is a two-story, four-bay common bond brick house which was remodeled in the late 19th century and given windows arched with two-over-two-paned sashes. There is a smokehouse at the rear (see photo 17). 632 was built by John W. Russell for rental property in 1836. It is a one-story, three-bay frame house with pegged window frames and is thought to be framed with brick nogging (see photos18 & 19). It has been renovated and has a new wing at the rear and six-over-four window sashes replacing the original nine-over-six. The front mass of 636 and 640 West Short was built by Robert King and Captain Macey Thwaits before 1840, with King taking 636 and Thwaits 640. row houses are two-and-a-half-stories; each is a three-bay Flemish bond with Greek Revival window frames. 636 has six-over-six-paned sashes in the second story and nine-over-six in the first. 640 has later two-over-two-paned windows that have been enlarged. both have later bracketed doorways, bracketed cornices and dormer windows. incorporate a one-room common bond brick cottage on the east end, which is one-story, and has pegged window frames with six-over-six-paned sashes. It was built by John Dillon after The deed to this property specifies this as part of the old racefield tract.

648 West Short (33) on the southeast corner of Georgetown Street (116 Georgetown) was built for James McConnell and given by him to John Trimble and his wife Maria, McConnell's daughter, in 1825. A two-story, four-bay Flemish bond brick house, it has later two-over-two-paned windows, brackets and a later 19th-century porch (see photo 21). A one-story polygonal addition on the corner of Short Street and a two-story addition (646) on West Short were added later. On the southwest corner of Georgetown is 700 West Short (33), which was built for Peter Elliott, who had a 'wagon-maker's shop' behind, before 1853. It was a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay unbonded brick house and the outline of the original house can be seen in the brickwork on the west end. It has a later gambrel roof, opening changes and modern porch. 704 (35), 708 (36), 712 (37) and 716 (38) are all one-story unbonded brick cottages; 704, 708 and 712 have Greek Revival window frames, while 715 has part of a Greek Revival doorway (see photo 24). 712 and 716 have been renovated (see photo 2712 has an unusual raised basement; 716 a typical Lexington trefoil ventilator in the gable.

Just north of Saunier (called Mechanic until after the Civil War when its name was changed to Sycamore and then later to Saunier), on the north side of West Short, is St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church (40), in the Gothic Revival style (see photo 26). Designed by Pickett and Son of Cincinnati, it was built in 1868-69 by either Cincinnatus Shryock or Julian S. Hoagland. Its graceful entrance tower with a slender spire rising to 210 feet was the tallest

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in the city at the time it was built; clocks were installed in the tower in 1883, making it at that time the only church tower in the city with clocks. Its sanctuary is in three sections, the central nave being wider and having a much higher ceiling than the side aisles (see photo 27). Rows of arched openings separate the nave from the aisles (see photo 28). Columns of clustered colonnettes with composite capitals culminate in the ribs of the vaulted ceiling; there are decorative bosses at the meeting of the ribs. The pointed arches of the ribs are repeated in the shape of the window and door openings and in the rail of the choir loft at the rear of the nave. The handsome stained glass windows are memorials to distinguished Lexingtonians such as Colonel E. R. Bradley, well-known horseman and owner of Idle Hour Stock Farm. The modern wainscotting of the altar and the pews are appropriate to the simplicity of the sanctuary's design.

Next to the church is 511 West Short (41) or Parker Place as it is now called (see photo 29). Owned by the Lexington Orphan's Society, it is occupied by Lexington Children's Theatre. It was built on part of John McMurtry's carpentry-shop and lumberyard lot purchased by John B. Wilgus in 1855. The house is an Italianate villa erected in the 1860s on the site of the earlier house owned by Mary Todd Lincoln's grandparents, Major Robert Parker and his wife Elizabeth. It is a two-story, occasional bond brick residence with a tall square tower, bracketed eaves, paneled chimneys, small veranda, bay window and some round-headed windows. A later octagonal pavilion with bonnet was added on the west side (see photo 30). At 521 West Short Street is a stable (42) which appears on the 1855 map of Lexington; the land on which it stands also belonged to John McMurtry.

The stretch beyond was referred to as the "western suburbs" early in the 19th century. On the northwest corner of Bruce is 563 West Short (43). This house was built for James Eades about 1806; it is two-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick, having later window alterations with arches, two-over-two-paned sashes and bracketed doorway. Other early houses are at 575 and 579 West Short. 575 (44) was built for and by Stephen Holland Reid about 1806. It is a two-story, three-bay Flemish brick house with later one-over-one-paned windows and door switched to east side (see photo 31). It has an unusually fine early cornice, later elongated at ends for raking overhangs. This gougework cornice is a major survival, one of two left in downtown Lexington. 579 (45) was also built by and for Stephen Holland Reid after 1812, and he moved into it from 575. It is a two-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick, but altered at the end of the 19th century with recessed arched porch, rusticated stone youssoirs over one-over-one-paned windows.

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

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A great deal of restoration activity has centered in the 600 block of West Short (see photo 32); on the north side 601 (47) is being worked on while 609 (48), 623 (50), 625 (51) and 629 (52) have been renovated by their owners (see photos 33 and 34). There are seven handsome brick townhouses in this block built during the 1830s and 40s; they are 601, 609, 623, 625, 629, 633 (53) and 643 (54). 601 was built by Warren Outten or perhaps by his associate Robert King in 1840 and sold to James G. Mathers in 1841. It is Greek Revival in style, a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay Flemish bond house having a pilastered and recessed doorway with triple window above. It has later two-over-two-paned windows on the secondstory level and nine-over-nine-paned below. Most of the rear ell of 609, of which only the south half is extant, was built by and for John Shrock, bricklayer and builder, before 1818; evidence of his craft is seen in the rare brick cornice on the rear. of the current house was built for Charles R. Thompson in 1840; it is Greek Revival style, two-and-a-half-stories with three-bays in Flemish bond brick. It has an imposing pilastered, recessed doorway with fluted shafts, egg-and-dart capitals and dentils. windows are six-over-six-paned. Pegged window frames in the garret reused materials. There is a post-Civil War, two-story brick addition on the west side in front of the early ell.

623 West Short was built by John McMurtry in 1844 and sold the following year to William R. Snyder. It is a two-story, three-bay unbonded brick house having Greek Revival window frames with plank lintels. It has later two-over-two-paned windows, and the doorway trim has been changed. 625, built for Thomas J. Harrison in 1843, is a two-story, three-bay unbonded brick house with later bracketed doorway and cornice and enlarged windows with two-over-two-paned sashes. 629 was built for James G. Mathers in 1845. It is a two-story, three-bay unbonded brick with Greek Revival window frames having six-over-six-paned sashes at the second story level and later three-over-one-paned sashes at the first story. It has a transitional Greek Revival console doorway. 633 was built by and for Benjamin Ford in 1835 on land owned by William J. Keiser and purchased by Ford in 1837. It is a two-story, three-bay unbonded brick house with Greek Revival window frames, pilastered doorway with brackets added. It has six-over-six-paned windows on the second story level and later one-over-one-paned windows on the first story. 643 is a two-story, three-bay common bond brick house with Greek Revival window frames, pilastered doorway and one six-over-six-paned window over the doorway. Later one-over-one-paned sashes are found on the other windows and a doorway cut through the front west window. It was built for Robert Wickliffe, apparently by John McMurtry, who bought it and sold it to Thomas Bradley in 1843.

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Georgetown Street originally came into Main from almost due north a little west of the inlots. It has become a major automotive route in recent years. Several old houses survive, however, in the block north of Short Street (see photo 35). 147 Georgetown Street (56) was built for James Crutcher in 1847 and sold to John H. Lusby in 1848 (see photo 36). It is a one-story, three-bay common bond brick house with Greek Revival plank lintels over windows, a later door and two-over-two-paned sashes. The original house built at 159 (57) was acquired by Abraham S. Drake in 1831 and remodeled for Dr. Benjamin P. Drake after 1841. It is two-story, five-bay Flemish bond brick with pegged window frames. Parts of a Greek Revival doorway survive. It must have had nine-over-nine-paned window sashes below and nine-over-six-paned above; it now has two-over-two. 167 (58), built for Mrs. Mary May in 1802, is a one-story, four-bay Flemish bond brick house; its windows have been enlarged and a later porch modernized. 146 (59) on the east side of Georgetown was built for Abel Headington in 1810. It is a two-story, two-bay log house with six-over-six-paned windows at the second-story level. It has later two-over-two-paned windows at the first story level, walls recently me-sided, and a new porch; the original foundations are of stone.

The other structures in the District, although many are of a later period, blend with the older houses in scale and create an interesting mixture of styles and vintages in this downtown residential area.

Thus, the Western Suburb remains, as it was in the 19th century (see the Birds Eye View of the City of Lexington in 1871, Map No. 4), primarily a residential area, with several important churches as its focal points (the former African Baptist Church at Main and Jefferson has long been associated with the area, but the structure is not included in the nomination because the building is a new one). Although the area being nominated includes one large villa, Parker Place, at the eastern end of the district, characteristic of the more elegant and rural residential areas elsewhere in Lexington, nearly all the other dwellings in the district are one- or two-story buildings of relatively They are constructed in a variety of materials ranging, as we have modest dimensions. seen, from log through brick and frame, and a variety of styles, from the rare (in Kentucky) late 18th-century true Georgian to the early 20th-century bungalow--many of them mixed (sometimes as a result of recent well-intentioned but impure 'restoration'). of the structures are set on or close to the streets and there are several row or double houses, there is an urban atmosphere, particularly in the eastern part of the district, which is only a block from the remaining 19th-century commercial part of downtown Lexington, and only three blocks from the central Fayette County Courthouse and its several predecessors (see especially photos 22 and 23). In contrast to the definitely upper-class

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The Western Suburb
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Gratz Park area (listed on the National Register on March 14, 1973) and the surrounding Northside area (to be nominated as a whole in the near future), the Western Suburb represents a more modest socio-economic stratum, in spite of the accomplishments and prominence of many of the families and individuals described in Item #8. This factor, in proximity to the fast-developing downtown metropolitan area and in light of the relatively few functional and visual intrusions, makes it all the more unusual and precious.

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List of Intrusions

The Western Suburb District starts at Jefferson Street on the south side of West Main and runs along the rear property lines of those properties in the 600 block. With the exception of a vacated service station at 600 and one other modern building, the block contains all late 19th-century structures, some of which are businesses.

On the north side of West Main, all properties from Jefferson to Newtown Road (600 and 700 blocks) are included. The 600 block contains 5 ante bellum houses, a service station, and a vacant lot with the remainder of the structures being small residences of a later period. The 700 block has 7 ante bellum structures in a row with several later cottages and a modern small business building with parking at the north end.

The south side of West Short from North Spring Street to Newtown Pike has 20 ante bellum structures as well as other late 19th-century and 20th-century residences. The 600 block of the south side has all ante bellum residences with the exception of two modern brick bungalows. Intrusions include several small businesses, two in modern buildings, and a modern church (Wesleyan Methodist Church) at the east end of the 500 block as well as a modern storage building and a vacant lot at the west end of the 700 block. There is also the large First Baptist Church at 524-560 West Short, of early 20th-century date but architecturally significant in its own right.

The north side of West Short Street has 16 ante bellum structures and begins at Saunier Street with St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, an 1860s Italianate villa, and an ante bellum stable behind a later 19th-century residence. An area on the northeast corner of Bruce and West Short which contains two paved areas, a large 2-story modern factory building, and several small businesses in modern buildings has been excluded from the Western Suburb district. From Bruce Street westward to Georgetown Street there are only two small businesses in modern buildings to interrupt the residential character of the 600 block; there are several late 19th-century and modern residences in addition to the 9 ante bellum houses in the block. The properties in the 700 block belong to the City of Lexington; the late 19th-century building in the which the Department of Sanitation is housed is surrounded by parking area.

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List of Intrusions

Georgetown Street has 4 ante bellum structures on the west side and 1 on the east. There is some city-owned property used for parking at the northwest corner of West Short and Georgetown as well as a 1-story modern apartment duplex and two businesses in late 19th-century structures on the east side. The remainder of the residences are late 19th-century and more modern cottages.

Other properties included in the Western Suburb are 2 small residences on Bruce, 1 small modern business building with parking on the southwest corner of Jefferson and West Short, and 3 cottages on Jefferson.

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factory on Short Street in the late 1830s and 40s. Abraham Drake, who owned a rope-walk just west of his properties, bought extensively in this section. Peter Elliott had a wagon-maker's shop on property at the northwest corner of Main and Georgetown back of his residence at 700 West Short in the mid-1800s, while John McMurtry had a carpentry shop and lumber yard in the 500 block of West Short Street. Henry Ruckel, coach builder who worked for the famous coach maker Richard Ashton, lived on West Main Street and his business was located on North Main Cross Street (now Broadway).

Names of distinguished local citizens are found in deeds to Western Suburb properties. Among them, the family of Mary Todd Lincoln was associated with 501 and 511 West Short Street. There is an historical marker in front of 501 marking the site of the Todd house where Robert S. Todd and Eliza Parker set up housekeeping, and where Mary Todd Lincoln was born in 1818; the original house was razed in the 1880s. The properties belonging to Mary Todd Lincoln's grandparents included a house at 511 West Short (razed in the post-bellum period) where Mary Todd's mother, Eliza Parker, and father, Robert S. Todd, were married in 1812 and where the young Mary spent many happy hours with the Widow Parker (see photo 29).

Other prominent Lexington families owned houses in this area. James McConnell and his wife gave their daughter and her husband, John Trimble, the house at 646 West Short (or 118 Georgetown) (see photo 21) and another on the corner of Main and Georgetown in James McConnell and his three brothers helped build the blockhouse at Lexington in 1779; before that William, a brother of James, had erected a cabin called McConnell's Station at Town Fork below Lexington. John Bradford, the distinguished editor of The owned 575 West Short in 1828 and presented it to his daughter the following year (see photo 31). Nicholas Headington, active in many affairs in Lexington, inherited the log house at 146 Georgetown which his father built in 1810; he, together with the Reverend Samuel Adams, headed a large number of seceders from the Methodist Church in 1856. The house at 520 West Short had a "strange career" during the mid-1800s. Robards, a slave dealer, who had bought the theatre property next door, rented 520 for an office, with parlors on the second floor for exhibition of his "choice stock" to prospective buyers. Suit was brought against him, however, and the slave jail sold by the sheriff in Gus Jaubert bought 628 West Short in 1874; he was known far and wide as the "Burgoo King" and was said to have invented this famed Kentucky stew.

Two distinctive churches whose histories go back over one hundred years and which still serve as important focuses of the neighborhood link Lexington's past to the contemporary

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scene. The First Baptist Church between West Main and West Short at Felix overlooks the Lexington Civic Center under construction. St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church at West Short and Saunier is one block from the intersection of Broadway and Main, the beginning of Lexington's downtown business section to the east.

The First Baptist Church, organized in 1786, is the site of Lexington's early burying ground and of three former churches: a frame meeting house built in 1789, pastored by the Reverend John Gano; and a brick church facing north erected in 1860 and rebuilt by John McMurtry after a fire in 1867. The current building dates from 1913 (see photos 12, 13, 14). When it was dedicated in June, 1915, the church was called the 'largest in the South,' covering 'more area than any other Baptist Church in the world.'

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church was designed by Pickett) and Son of Cincinnati, Clay Lancaster attributes the building of it in 1868-69 to Cincinnatus Shryock, while J. Winston Coleman, Jr., says Julian S. Hoagland was the builder (see photo 26). Beneath the floor of the foyer is the vault of the Reverend John Henry Bekkers, a native of Holland, who founded the church in 1865 and remained its pastor until his death in 1878. He requested in his will that his body be placed "under the steeple" and that instead of the usual funeral oration his words giving "much kindly advice to his congregation" be read. 2

In the 1970 <u>Historical Survey and Plan for Lexington and Fayette County</u> it is noted: "Lexington is fortunate to have groupings of old structures near the downtown area which are interesting not only because of their historic and architectural merits but also because they can continue to have a useful role in the development of the city." This historic area was deemed worthy of preservation by the <u>Survey</u>. Forty-two structures have high priority ratings in the <u>Survey</u>: twelve have a I rating, twenty-four have II, three have a III, two have a IV and one other is noted.

The Western Suburb is essential to the redevelopment of downtown Lexington, whose main business district is two blocks away. Between the two is Lexington's Opera House at 145 South Broadway; it is being restored and is on the National Register. The Mary

^{1&}quot;First Baptist Church Dedicated," The Lexington Herald, June 13, 1915, p.1.

²The Lexington Herald, August 8, 1915, p. 5.

³For another work of Louis Picket (or Pickett) and Son see the National Register form for Sacred Heart Church, Bellevue, Campbell County, Kentucky, listed on the National Register on August 12, 1974. Although apparently of French origin and a recipient of several Roman Catholic commissions, Picket was also responsible for the enlargement of Trinity Episcopal Church in Covington in the late 1880s. (continued)

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Todd Lincoln House at 567 West Main built in 1812 by William Palmateer for an inn—on the National Register and to be a museum—also links the Western Suburb with the business district. The Lexington Civic Center, under construction, is on the south side of West Main across from the Western Suburb, which provides "a pleasant setting for the various uses which are vital to the total success of the Civic Center." And West Main Street is one of the main entries or exits to the downtown area. The Western Suburb is easily accessible to residents and tourists by walking from the business district or via public transportation, so its structures can be viewed and studied by all.

The value of the Western Suburb was recognized when it was named Lexington's third historic district by the Metro Council effective March 5, 1975. According to the Lexington-Fayette County Zoning Ordinance, Article 11, passed in 1958, historic zoning in Lexington is an overlay zoning which necessitates those exterior changes requiring a permit to be reviewed by a board. Appropriate signs designating the historic district are planned by the Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission.

Private citizens, the Bluegrass Trust, the Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission and Board of Architectural Review members have cooperated for over a year in planning the preservation and revitalization of this historic area. The Bluegrass Trust obtained options on six houses in the 600 block of West Short and sponsored a walking tour of the area which triggered public interest. Many of the houses in the district have been restored by individuals and others are being worked on. A West Short Street Neighborhood Association with its members drawn from the entire district was organized in the spring of 1974 and is currently active. In this area twenty-eight buildings are already identified with a Bluegrass Trust marker, evidence the Bluegrass Trust considers them significant examples of early Lexington dwellings and at least one hundred years old.

In summary, the Western Suburb is an indispensable tie to Lexington's past, a mirror of its architecture and society in the 19th century; it is available to all because of its central location in downtown Lexington. During the past 30 years over 100 historic structures have been destroyed in Lexington-Fayette County; National Register status would help protect irreplaceable buildings in the Western Suburb, as well as contribute to the protection and encouragement of the area as a whole as a viable residential and professional neighborhood.

⁴Ibid.

³Staff Report on <u>Petition for Zone Map Amendment</u>, Urban County Planning Commission. March 4, 1975.

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City-County Planning Commission. Historical Survey and Plan for Lexington and Fayette County, Kentucky. 1970, pp. 1, 10, 15, 27, 39, 40, 41-42, 46, 57, 74-75.

"First Baptist Church Dedicated." The Lexington Herald, June 13, 1915, p.1.

Lancaster, Clay. "Early Street Vistas and Inventory of Antiquities." Survey Manuscript, III, Lexington, 1975, pp. 10-11, 17, 25-28, 44-48.

Mastin, Bettye Lee. "C. Frank Dunn Plats Addition 130 Years After Development." The Saturday Herald and Leader, September 13, 1975, D-3.

"The Beginnings of St. Paul." The Lexington Herald, August 8, 1915, p.5.

Urban County Planning Commission. "Staff Report on Petition for Zone Map Amendment," March 4, 1975.

Representation in Existing Surveys (continued Item 6)
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
1975 State
Kentucky Heritage Commission
Frankfort, Kentucky

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The Western Suburb

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Inventory of Historic Structures Located Within the Western Suburb

West Main Street

- (1) 608-610, duplex, 1800s
- (2) 614, Old Harrison School, 1849
- (3) 620, ante-bellum
- (4) 632, late Victorian but may have old nucleus
- (5) 636, may have old nucleus
- (6) 642, ante-bellum
- (7) 646, part ante-bellum
- (8) 609, John D. Milbourne house, 1855
- (9) 611. John D. Dillon house, perhaps before 1833
- (10) 623, Jasper Smith house, 1821
- (11) 631, Henry Ruckel rental house, 1833
- (12) 633-635, Henry Ruckel rental house no. 2, 1833
- (13) 705, eligible for BGT marker
- (14) 707, William Williams house, possibly 1805
- (15) 715, Andrew Gilmore house, 1850
- (16) 719, James C. Butler house, 1846-49
- (17) 721, John Estes house, 1842
- (18) 727, Edward R. Ford house, 1846
- (19) 731, William Montgomery house, 1846

West Short Street

- (20) 504, eligible for BGT marker, possibly log, ca. 1803
- (21) 520, Robert King double house, 1836
- (22) 522, Robert King double house, 1836
- (23) First Baptist Church, 1913
- (24) 574, mid 1850s
- (25) 592, Samuel McMeekin house, 1836
- (26) 606, Benjamin Ford house, 1835
- (27) 612, ante-bellum
- (28) 616, R. P. Sharpe house, 1837
- (29) 628, Charles Cullum house, 1836
- (30) 632, John W. Russell rental house, 1836

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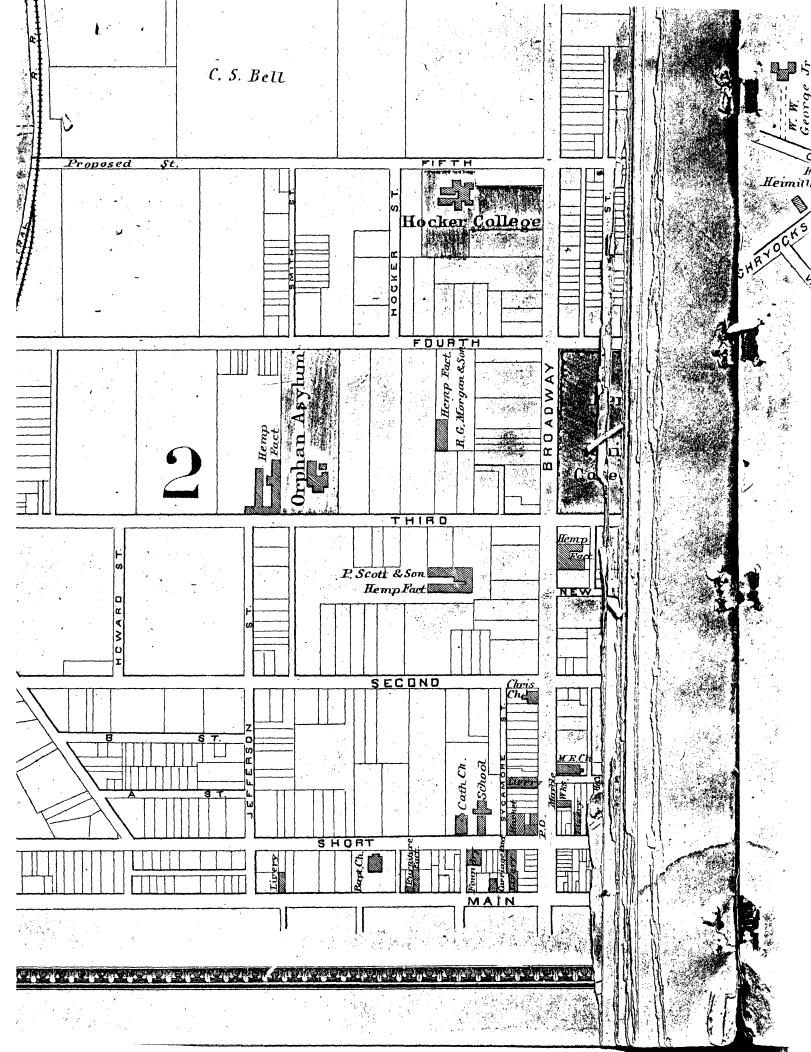
Inventory

West Short Street (continued)

- (31) 636, King-Thwaits row house, ca. 1840
- (32) 640-46, King-Thwaits row house, ca. 1840
- (33) 648 (118 Georgetown), James McConnell house, 1825
- (34) 700, Peter Elliott house, before 1853
- (35) 704, ante-bellum
- (36) 708, ante-bellum
- (37) 712, ante-bellum
- (38) 716, mid 1800s
- (39) 724, on 1886 Sanborn map
- (40) 501, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, in 1868-69
- (41) 511, Parker Place, John B. Wilgus house, 1860s
- (42) stable behind 521, on 1855 Hart and Mapother Map of Lexington
- (43) 563, James Eades house, 1806
- (44) 575, Stephen Holland Reid house, ca. 1806
- (45) 579, Stephen Reid house no. 2, ca. 1812
- (46) 583, 1880
- (47) 601, James G. Mathers house, built by Warren Outten or Robert King, 1840
- (48) 609, Charles R. Thompson house, 1840 (rear ell built for John Shrock before 1818)
- (49) 617, on 1886 Sanborn map
- (50) 623, William R. Snyder house (built by John McMurtry), 1844
- (51) 625, Thomas J. Harrison house, 1843
- (52) 629, James G. Mathers house, 1845
- (53) 633, Benjamin Ford house, 1835
- (54) 643, Thomas Bradley house, 1843
- (55) 651 (128 Georgetown), on 1886 Sanborn map

Georgetown Street

- (56) 147, James Crutcher house, 1847
- (57) 159, Abraham S. Drake house, 1831
- (58) 167, Mary May house, 1802
- (59) 146, Abel Headington house, 1810

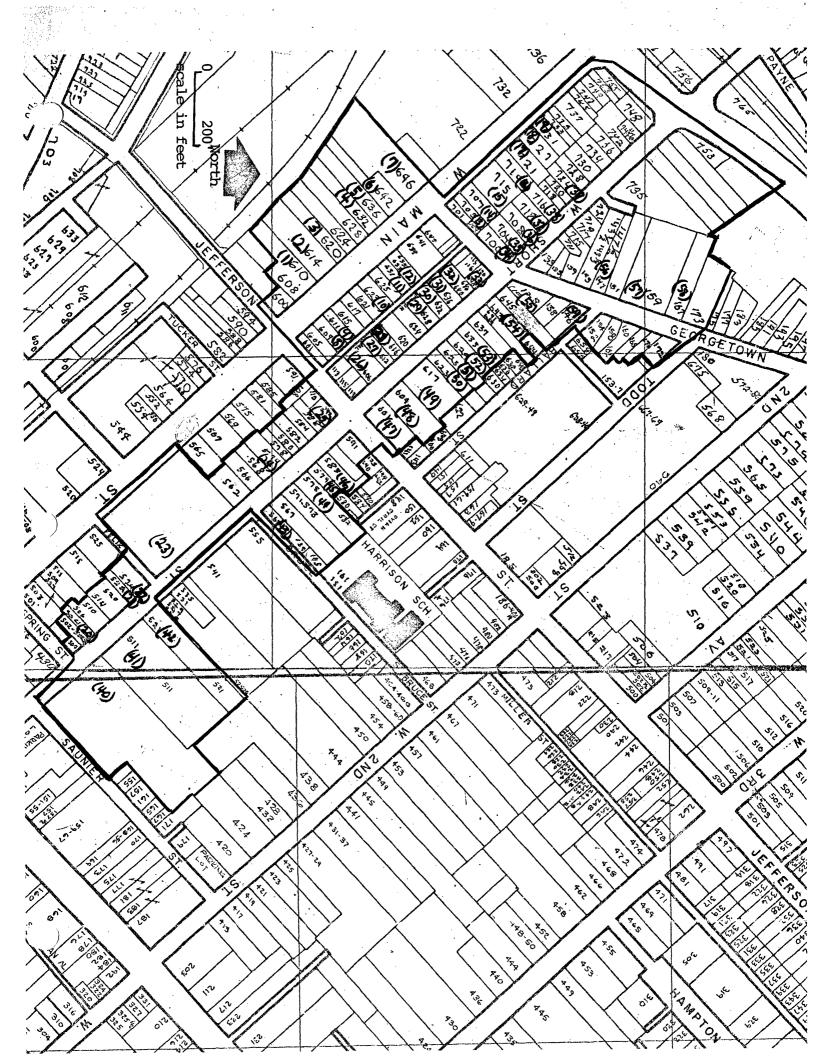


Western Suburb
Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky
Atlas of Fayette . . . Counties, Ky.
(Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co.,
1877) Map 5

Detail showing most of proposed district between Main and Second Streets.

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