Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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JAN 18 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

		storic District		
AND/OR COMMON Same				
LOCATION STREET & NUMBER	Countly ne lq tinuation sheet	jert Emirono		
CITY, TOWN			NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	IICT
Paris STATE	844444		06	CODE
Kentuck	У	021	COUNTY Bourbon	017
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CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
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STREET & NUMBER			STATE	
		VICINITY OF		
LOCATION O	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Bourbon County Co	urthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	Courthouse Square			
CITY, TOWN	Paris	······································	state Kentucky	- <u>-</u>
REPRESENT	ATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
ΤΪΤLE	Survey of Histori	c Sites in Kentuc	ky (Supplement)	
DATE	1971	FEDERAL		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Kentucky Heritage	e Commission		

7 DESCRIPTION

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	XALTERED	MOVED	DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Paris Courthouse Square Historic District is composed of the court square in Paris, Kentucky, and those buildings facing the square from Main and High Streets, Ardery Place, and Bank Row. The portion of High Street west of the square is a mixture of residences and buildings of other uses, and the downtown commercial district is immediately west of the square along Main Street. (Plans are being formulated to nominate the downtown commercial buildings to the National Register of Historic Places as a separate district in the future.) A variety of architectural styles is in the district due to the widely differing dates of construction. Individual components of the Paris Courthouse Square Historic District are discussed below in an itemized manner:

<u>Building 1</u>. The Bourbon County Courthouse (listed on the National Register December 31, 1974) is a dramatic Beaux-Arts building that occupies the center of a spacious square. Designed by Frank Milburn of Columbia, South Carolina, it was constructed between 1902-05 at a cost of \$170,000, and it roughly follows the lines of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The site is on a slight rise, and there are wide, impressive steps approaching the courthouse from Main Street (see photo 1 and site location map).

Building 2. The Memorial Building (see photo 2 and site location map) was constructed in 1859 as a combination residence/banking establishment, and the bank operated until 1884. After World War I it was purchased by the commissioners of the Memorial Fund for the use of veterans and the Bourbon County Post of the American Legion. Since then, it has also been a meeting place for various civic organizations, and has served as temporary shelter for the homeless.

The Memorial Building is a two-story, L-shaped brick construction of the asymmetrical Italianate mode. The windows have a variety of treatments, and there are modillions emphasizing the gabled end facing Ardery Place.

<u>Building 3</u>. Teen Square (see photo 2) is a one-story brick building with a full basement. It serves as a recreational center for the youth of Paris and Bourbon County, and the building was constructed in the 1960s.

<u>Building 4</u>. The Ewalt Building (see photo 2) is a Greek Revival townhouse that appears to date from ca. 1840. This two-story, four-bay brick building has been altered, but the original fabric remains evident. The first level's window arrangement was changed to a single opening (other than the entrance) with a semi-circular head and a heavy lintel at the sill. Also, the pitch of the roof has been increased in steepness, and there are two dormers added later. The original owner of this residence was Samuel Ewalt.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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SPECIFIC DAT	ES	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Paris Courthouse Square Historic District is a fine collection of buildings arranged in one of the most notable town square plans. As a grouping, the components of the district represent the development of Paris, one of the leading towns in Kentucky's famed Bluegrass region. The buildings themselves span a diversity of architectural styles, ranging from the 1788 Georgian Duncan Tavern to the 1939 W.P.A. Bourbon County Welfare Building and Jail. The center of the square is occupied by the 1905 Beaux-Arts Bourbon County Courthouse (listed on the National Register December 31, 1974). Earlier courthouses were located on the same site, and the lots facing the square were traditionally the location of important businesses until the turn of the century. Fraternal lodges have been housed in several buildings in the district, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church immediately north of the courthouse is notable as being the second oldest Episcopal church in use in Kentucky.

In his 1874 <u>History of Kentucky</u>, Lewis Collins noted that Bourbon County, formed in 1785, was one of the nine counties organized by the Virginia Legislature prior to Kentucky's statehood. "It lies in the heart of the garden of Kentucky-the surface gently undulating, the soil remarkably rich" (Collins, <u>History of Kentucky</u>, Vol. II, p. 66). Paris was established by the same legislature in 1789--the first courthouse having been built on the present square in 1787.

Soon after the completion of the first courthouse, the current streets seem to have taken their present arrangement on the square's four sides. They fall into the typology of the central courthouse square:

The central courthouse square plan, which reached its popularity in America between 1780-1830, is a derivation of the Philadelphia plan. The public ground is placed in the center of town, and is occupied by civic structures--courthouse, jail, stock pen, etc. The property lots bordering the square/public ground are filled with commercial structures. Often an early church and Masonic are among these buildings (Carolyn Torma, "Typology of Kentucky Towns," p. 1).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

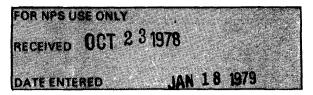
Collins, Lewis. <u>History of Kentucky</u>, Vol II. Berea, Ky :Kentucky Imprints, 1976. (Originally published in 1784.)

Everman, H.E. The History of Bourbon County: 1785-1865. Paris: Bourbon Press, 1977.

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LIST ALL STATES A	AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTI	ES OVERLAPPING STA	TE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARI	ED BY		
NAME/TITLE Daniel Kidd, Arch	nitectural Historian		-
ORGANIZATION			DATE
Kentucky Heritage	e Commission		August, 1978
STREET & NUMBER 104 Bridge Street	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		TELEPHONE 502-564-3741
CITY OR TOWN	• 		STATE
Frankfort			Kentucky
12 STATE HISTOR	IC PRESERVATION	OFFICER CE	RTIFICATION
	VALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF 1	*	
NATIONAL		/	LOCAL
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Paris Courthouse Square Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET	FEM NUMBER	2	PAGE	2
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The Paris Courthouse Square and all properties facing the square; on the west, 21 Ardery Placeto the corner of Main and Fourth Streets to include the Bourbon Agricultural Bank and Trust Building; on the south, 332-226 Main Street; on the east, all properties on Bank Row; and on the north, 301-323 High Street. Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74) 。

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVENT 2 3 1978 DATE ENTERED JAN 1 8 1979

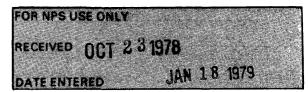
Paris Courthouse Square Historic District

	CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2
	City of Paris	Sam Cummins
	City Hall	6 Ridgeway Drive
1	Paris, KY	Paris, KY
	Teen Square	James S. Wilson and Douglas Wilson
	c/o Mrs. Betty Jo Heick	226 Main St.
/	Box 312	Paris, KY
•	Paris, KY	
		Covenant Housing and Development, Inc.
	Bourbon Agricultural Bank	134 Tenth St.
	and Trust Co.	Paris, KY
/	Main and Fourth	
	Paris, KY	Mrs. A.S. Monson
		252 Houston Ave.
	David H. Farley	Paris, KY.
1	532 Rosemont Garden	
\checkmark	Lexington, KY	Bourbon County Fiscal Court
		Bourbon County Courthouse
	Mrs. Overby Campbell	Paris, KY
	29 Horseshoe Drive	
\checkmark	Paris, KY	Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Collins
		301 High St.
	Dr. O.D. Tomlin	Paris, KY
	26 Woodmont Dr.	
レン	Paris, KY	St. Peter's Episcopal Church
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	311 High St.
	Raymond and Carolyn Connell 244 Eastridge Dr.	Paris, KY
<i>`</i>	Paris, KY	
	Kentucky Society, Daughters of	
	the American Revolution	
,	Duncan Tavern	
•	High Street	
	Paris, KY	
	Milton Sheeler	
	1544 Cypress St.	
· · V		

Paris, KY

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Paris Courthouse Square Historic District

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<u>Building 5</u>. (see photo 2) is a two-story, three-bay brick residence whose first floor has been used for commercial purposes for many years. Large display windows now occupy the street level, and a large, shed-roofed appendage was added to the attic at an unknown time.

<u>Building 6</u>. The Hanson Building (see photo 2) is assumed to have been constructed ca. 1835, and this two-story, three-bay brick building was probably a business/ residence as evidenced by the side entrance retained on the north. Display windows have been installed, a balcony serving the second floor has been removed, and an attic appendage like that of the neighboring building has been made.

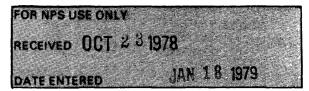
<u>Building 7</u> is a two-story, three-bay brick construction whose first level has been greatly mutated. The second level, however, is intact and contains three windows with semi-circular heads and cast-iron hoodmolds. The street facade is surmounted by a heavy metal entablature.

<u>Building 8</u>. The Bourbon Agricultural Bank and Trust Building (see photo 2) is a significant feature in the make-up of Main Street in Paris. This three-and-one-half-story structure has bowed corner projections on the main facade, and these continue up and into the attic where they are covered by hemispherical domes and are pierced by oculi. Decorative stonework embellishes the windows, and a continuous dentilled cornice is below the attic level. In the center of the facade is a shaped gable, and there are four Ionic pilasters arranged below the gable. A pseudo-Georgian veneer has been attached to the street level in recent years.

The Bourbon Agricultural Bank and Trust is the largest bank in the county, and was formed from five banking establishments: the Citizens'Bank, the Agricultural Bank, the Bourbon Bank, the George Alexander Bank, and the Farmers' and Traders' Bank. The institution as it is now began in 1915 with a capital stock of \$200,000. The present building was constructed in the last quarter of the 19th century, but with the final merger, it was remodeled in 1915. Around that time <u>The Kentuckian-Citizen</u>, a local newspaper, described the bank as being the "most commodious and convenient banking rooms in central Kentucky."

Building 9 (see photo 3) appears to have been built in the 1870s, and has been used for various commercial purposes since then. The street facade of this two-story, three-bay brick building is much intact, and incorporates cast-iron pilasters with Grecian details, three rounded windows in the second floor that have corresponding hoodmolds and that are separated by pilasters, and a chaste entablature.

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Paris Courthouse Square Historic District

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<u>Building 10</u> (see photo 3) is a two-story, three-bay Italianate structure whose first level has been altered, but whose second level is much in its original state. Characteristic features include three windows with semi-circular heads and cast-iron hoodmolds, and a bracketed cornice. The building dates from the 1870s and varying businesses have been housed here.

<u>Building 11</u> (see photo 3) is among the earlier buildings on Main Street as indicated by the gabled roof with a parapet on the south. The street facade was remodeled in the 1870s to conform with its Italianate neighbors. Windows of the second and third floors are treated with flat hoodmolds, and there is a fine metal entablature above.

Building 12. The Duncan-Bell Building (see photo 3) is a two-story, four-bay Italianate building with several cast-iron elements on the street facade. It was built for Jeremiah Duncan ca. 1870 and was owned by his family continuously for 60 years. Presently, the Paris Chamber of Commerce is located in the first floor.

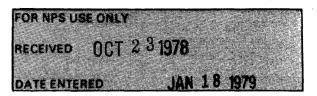
<u>Building 13</u> (see photo 3) carries on the fenestral rhythm of its southern neighbors. This ca. 1870 brick structure has a severely altered street level, but the second level with its Italianate features is unchanged.

<u>Building 14</u> (see photo 4) is a nondescript building of recent construction that serves as the offices and repair shop for an auto sales business.

<u>Building 15</u>. The two-story, three-bay brick building on the western corner of Main and Third Streets (see photo 4) was built for W.E. Simms in 1885, and the only major exterior alteration has been the installation of larger windows on the street front. This level is framed by metal pilasters and a projecting fascia, and the emphatic hoodmolds above the second floor's windows are reciprocal with the heavy entablature that has a peak in the center.

<u>Building 16</u>. The turn-of-the-century Wilson Building on the eastern corner of Main and Third (see photo 4) has a virtually unchanged exterior. This three-story, five-bay brick building's street level is of cast iron and has multiple openings. Alternating stone blocks link the heads of all second and third-floor windows facing main to form a subtle pattern. A sense of greater height is provided by a parapet on the facade, and the parapet is crowned by a dentilled entablature of metal. Shortly after its erection, the Wilson Building accomodated a banking room, a horse equipment business, professional offices, and a fraternal hall.

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Paris Courthouse Square Historic District

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<u>Building 17</u>. The former Masonic Building (see photo 5) is a key corner edifice in the district. Erected ca. 1900, it has four stories and is of brick construction with stone trim above all windows. The southern corner is bowed, a pair of oriel windows is on the southwestern wall, and the main facade is treated with a fine embossed metal parapet. Built for the Paris lodge of the B.P.O.E., the structure was sold to the local MasonicLodge in 1926. The upper floors served for many years as the Bourbon Hotel until being converted into apartments, and the first floor has housed a succession of businesses since the hotel went out of business. Present plans call for utilizing the building as apartments for the elderly.

<u>Building 18</u> is a late-19th-century double building--two stories in height and constructed of brick (see photo 5). Few changes have occured to the exterior. The first floor retains most of its original openings, and the 6-bay second floor is unaltered.

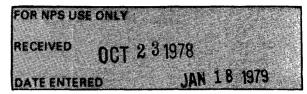
Building 19 is a one-and-one-half-story double building constructed between 1835-40. The gable roof is at a long slope in the front, and a parapet separates the building's two portions (see photo 5). Presently, specialty shops are housed here.

<u>Building 20</u>. The Bourbon County Welfare Building and Jail (see photo 5) was constructed in 1939 under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration. Though functional in nature, it achieves dignity through the application of a colossal stone frontispiece in the center, and through stone trim around the auxillary entrances and along the base. In contrast, all windows are cleanly cut.

<u>Building 21</u> (see photo 6) is a one-story frame dwelling with a stone foundation and a gable roof. This house was built sometime between 1860-77, and the porch spanning the front was added in the early 20th century.

<u>Building 22</u>. St. Peter's Episcopal Church (see photo 6) was initially built in 1833 on a lot sold to the parish for \$100. Originally, the church was a Greek Revival building with Corinthian columns, but in the late 1860s it was enlarged and remodeled in the Romanesque style at a cost of \$10,000. The square tower topped by a steeple was added at that time, and fine Florentine glass was installed in the major windows. Adjoined to the church in the late-19th century is a rectangular two-story residence of brick construction (see building 23 on site location map). St. Peter's is the second oldest Episcopal church in use in Kentucky.

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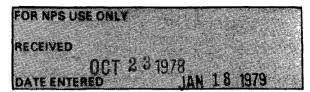
Paris Courthouse Square Historic District

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<u>Building 24</u>. The Paris Fire Station (see photo 6) was built in the mid-1870s on property bought by the city under the condition that a jail or workhouse never occupy the site. This provision was probably made due to the Episcopal church's immediacy. The original three-bay section on the east is easily distinguished by its Italianate features, and this portion formerly had three segmental arched openings--one remaining on the east. When first built, the police station was located in a room on the first floor, and for a while, the city commissioners met in a space on the second level. Atop is a delightful wooden bell tower that serves as one of the best-known features of the courthouse square. The fire station was doubled in size in 1927 following a fire that destroyed a frame carriage house.

<u>Building 25</u>. Duncan Tavern (listed on the National Register of Historic Places April 11, 1973) is a Kentucky landmark that dates from 1788. The original portion was a 20-room hostelry that ranked among the finest of its day and that served as a center of early Bluegrass social life. Construction is of native limestone, and the two-story mass, with high basement and attic, offers a Georgian frontal pediment toward the courthouse square (see photo 6).

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In its early days, Paris grew at a moderately fast rate. In 1798, only a few hundred people inhabited the town. By 1810, Paris boasted 838 residents, and by 1830, the population numbered 1,217. Both Main and High Streets had several taverns during the town's youth, and Main Street in front of the courthouse was the location of several dry goods stores. A Thespian Society was formed as early as 1808, and this group, as well as other travelling ones, gave performances in the ballroom of Duncan Tavern (H.E. Everman, <u>The History of Bourbon County</u>, pp. 29-30).

The first court in Bourbon County met on May 16, 1786, at the residence of James Garrard, later Governor of Kentucky. Later, in November of the same year, the Court ordered

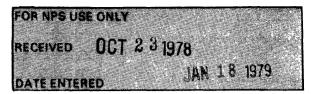
that the place of holding courts for this county be established at the confluence of Stoner and Huston forks of the Licking, and that Alvin Mountjoy, John Grant Gent, and James Matton fix on convenient ground for that purpose, and let out to the lowest bidder the building of a court house which shall be a frame 32 x 26 feet with a shingle roof and furnished in necessary manner. Also a jail 16 feet of hewn logs 12 inches square. (Bourbon County Fiscal Court Order Book I)

Two acres were purchased for the civic buildings that were soon erected.

In what appears to have been foresight that the square would become a significant location, Major Joseph Duncan had a tavern built of stone northeast of the courthouse in 1788. Duncan Tavern (listed on the National Register April 11, 1973) soon established a reputation as one of the finest lodging and gathering spots in the country. A post office and early commercial buildings were constructed on Ardery Place, but these were destroyed by fire in 1833. Reconstruction began soon, however, and three ca. 1835-40 buildings remain as a group (see sites 4,5, and 6, and photo 2). Direstly opposite and across the square is a small double building of the same vintage or perhaps earlier (see site 19 and photo 5).

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is among the early buildings of the district also (see site 22 and photo 6), and numerous leading citizens of Paris have belonged to this parish. The building was constructed in 1833, wnd was remodeled in the late 1860s under the direction of an energetic priest.

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Several banking establishments have been located on the square. On the northwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets is the Bourbon Agricultural Bank and Trust (see site 8 and photo 2). This bank was formed from five others, and is the largest business of its type in the county. Other banks have been housed in buildings 2 and 16.

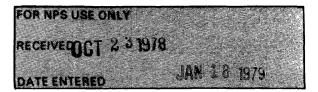
Spaces in several buildings have been used as fraternal lodges (sites 2, 16, and 17), and for many years the largest hotel in Paris was housed in the building on the northeast corner of Main and Bank Row (see photo 5). In addition to the courthouse, there are two other civic buildings on the square, the mid-1970s/1927 Fire Station (see site 24 and photo 6), and the 1939 Welfare Building and Jail (see site 20 and photo 5).

Of the 25 buildings encompassed by the Paris Courthouse Square Historic District, two are intrusions (see sites 3 and 14, and photos 2 and 4). In addition, there is an empty lot between buildings 13 and 14 that detracts from the visual quality of the area. Although the 1939 Welfare Building and Jail is under the age of 50 years, this element is not considered an intrusion. It was built under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, an undertaking of the federal government that contributed greatly to the broad patterns of American history. Even aside from this fact, the building is of an admirably clean design and it attains architectural merit on its own. According to changing retail practices, the street levels of many buildings have been altered, but the majority of upper floors remain in their original state.

The Paris Square has been, and continues to be, a center of pedestrian and vehicular traffic in this town of 7,823 (1970 census). Presently, Main Street is one-way proceeding east, and High Street is one-way west. The order causes Bank Row and Ardery Place to be frequently used as connectors between the two busiest thoroughfares of the town.

In comparison with courthouse squares in towns of equal size, the square in Paris is spacious, and the present Bourbon County Courthouse is one of the most dramatic and sophisticated courthouses in Kentucky. The arrangement of streets is successful in allowing a generous view of this notable edifice.

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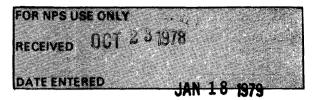


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Torma, Carloyn. "Typology of Kentucky Town Plans." Unpublished paper, 1978.

Additional information provided by Mrs. Wade Hampton Whitley, Bourbon County Representative for the Kentucky Heritage Commission, and by Mrs. Robert VanMeter, Bourbon County Co-Representative.

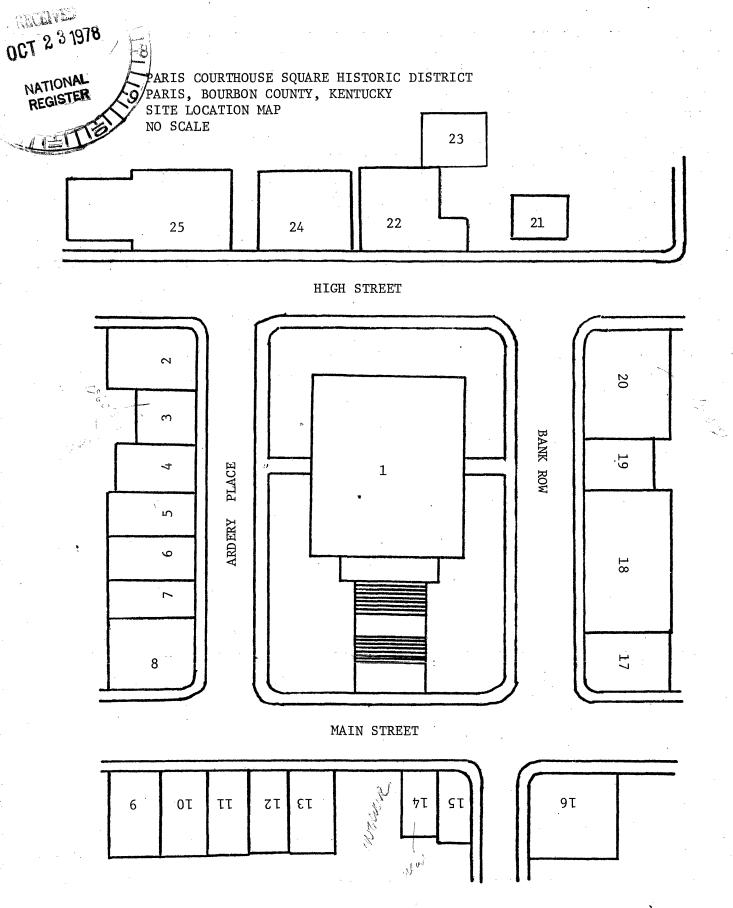
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Agricultural Bank and Trust Building; on the south, 332-226 Main Street; on the east, all properties on Bank Row; and on the north, 301-323 High Street.



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