LEXINGTON FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

H-1 Designation Report

June 6, 2000

Division of Historic Preservation

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LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Local Historic Landmark Designation

In 1775, William McConnell and a group of pioneers camped at a sinking spring in the wilderness of the Bluegrass Region. Having recently heard of the first battle of the Revolutionary War at Lexington, Massachusetts, they named their future settlement "Lexington". In the early 1840's students Stephen H. Austin and John Cabell Breckinridge may have gathered on the college lawn of Transylvania University, now Gratz Park, for concerts and events. In the 1920's, a luxurious high rise hotel, the Lafayette, was built on Main Street; and a spectacular theater, the Kentucky Theatre, was constructed adjacent, complete with a new vitaphone system for "talking" motion pictures.

These are just a portion of the important structures and sites owned by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government that represent the community's history. These buildings and places were important and significant in their time and are still important physical reminders of the cultural and historical evolution of Lexington.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) owns numerous historic buildings, sites and monuments which are representative of most periods of the Bluegrass Regions' historic development. It is the purpose of this report to review those government owned properties, initiated for study by the Urban County Council, and to make a recommendation on the appropriateness of Local Landmark (H-1) designation for those properties.

Initiation Request

In December 1999, after interest was expressed by both citizens and council members, the intergovernmental committee of the Urban County Council discussed the fact that the Urban County Government owns and is responsible for many significant historic properties. The committee requested that the LFUCG Historic Preservation Commission and the Division of Historic Preservation staff review those properties and make a recommendation to the Intergovernmental Committee as to ones that should be considered for designation as Local Historic Landmarks.

A committee of the Historic Preservation Commission and the staff reviewed all the properties and forwarded their recommendation to the Intergovernmental Committee on February 7, 2000. After review and discussion, the Intergovernmental Committee voted to forward a recommendation to the Urban County Council that the Council initiate the process to review those properties for Local Historic Landmark Designation.

The Urban County Council took final action on March 9, 2000 initiating the designation process for the historic properties owned by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

BOAR ACTION

The Board of Architectural Review heard the request on June 6, 2000 and voted to recommend approval of the designation.

Designation Report Organization

The proposed landmarks have been organized into the following categories, according to their building type or original use:

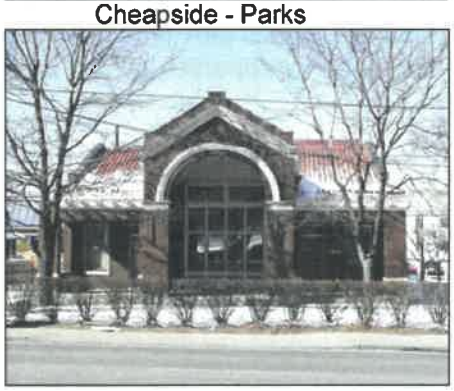
- Commercial/Institutional Buildings
- Residential Estates, Grounds and Accessory Structures
- Parks, Park Buildings, Statues and Monuments
- Fire Stations

Each of the above four categories represents a section of the report. The sections of the report each contain two parts. The first part is a short description of the properties, a summary of their historical context and a summary of their historical significance as it relates to the purposes of this study. Within this first part will be a table, which graphically represents the historical significance of the properties, using the criteria established in Article 13 of the Lexington Fayette Zoning Ordinance.

The second part of each section will be a series of property forms for all the properties. Each property form will include pictures and descriptions, property locations, maps, present use, date of construction and the agency responsible for management. Following the four main sections that constitute the body of the report are the findings and recommendations.

Ashland – Residential Estates

Cheapside - Parks



H-1 Zoning

Local Historic District or Landmark Overlay (H-1) zoning helps protect and preserve structures and sites of historic and architectural importance in Lexington and Fayette County. Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette County Zoning Ordinance sets parameters for the application process for (H-1) designation and the procedures by which the design review process works once the designation is established. Within a historic (H-1) overlay, exterior changes are monitored, through the design review process, to assure that changes made to properties do not negatively alter the character of the designated building, site, landmark and/or district. Exterior changes are defined as: "rehabilitation or replacement which is not ordinary maintenance and repair; new construction of any building element, addition, building or structure; and demolition of any building element, addition, building, or structure."

For landmark properties, all proposed exterior changes must be reviewed by the Board of Architectural Review (BOAR) and/or the staff of the Division of Historic Preservation. Approval of proposed work is granted by the BOAR or the staff through issuing a permit called a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). The Board of Architectural Review has mandated to the staff, the Division of Historic Preservation, the review of a number of routine items such as walks, fences, re-roofs, tuck-pointing, etc. Other proposed work, including such things as new construction or demolition, is reviewed by the full Board and, after approval, a Certificate of Appropriateness is issued. Over the last several years about 60% of the requests have been items that staff has been able to issue permits for, with the other 40% of the items requiring review and approval by the BOAR.

H-1 overlay does not require a property owner to make improvements but does mandate a design review process for those improvements applicants choose to make. The overlay does not affect the existing "underlying" zoning of a property but applies in addition to the land-use zoning.

The guidelines and the legislation which set up the design review process are structured so that there may be a variety of solutions to design and construction needs that do not negatively impact the structure, site, landmark or district.

The review process helps to ensure that exterior changes are compatible to the landmark and/or other properties within the historic district. New infill construction, such as additions to existing buildings, garages or outbuildings and new buildings, is encouraged where appropriate. The design review process does not require or encourage that new construction look like historic buildings. The goal is to ensure that new construction is compatible with the existing building, grounds or neighborhood.. Guidelines for new construction, whether additions or entire buildings, emphasize building characteristics that may be shared by new and old buildings alike, regardless of "style". Attention to these

elements encourages the design of buildings that clearly are new, yet do not disrupt the continuity of the historic landmark and/or district.

These elements include:

- Set back
- Building height
- Scale
- Orientation, spacing, site coverage
- Façade proportions and window patterns
- Size, shape, and proportions of entrances and porches
- Projections
- Materials, textures and color
- Roof form
- Landscaping, walls and fences

Some of the items relevant to site work that would be reviewed include but are not limited to:

- any removal or construction of fences or walls, walkways and decks
- placement of new utility equipment
- construction of paved surfaces such as parking or patios
- substantial landscaping and the removal of trees over 10" in diameter
- signs

LFUCG as Property Owner

By participating in its own design review process, the LFUCG has the opportunity to have there be an ongoing review of changes to its historic properties. Through this review would come beneficial design and technical assistance. This would assure that the government's repairs and improvements of these significant buildings, sites and monuments will be appropriate and will not be inadvertently detrimental.

It should be noted that several of these properties are in or adjacent to already designated H-1 districts or properties owned by the private sector. The LFUCG has the opportunity to demonstrate it is following the same process for its historic properties that is asked of other property owners with properties in existing H-1 Districts. In addition, for substantial changes that would require approval of the BOAR, there would be an opportunity for the public to learn of the proposed work and make comments. On many of these properties, the ability for the public to be informed and have the opportunity for comment would be quite desirous.

At the present time there are several divisions of the LFUCG who have or share responsibility for the properties recommended for designation within this report.

These include: Division of Building Maintenance and Construction, Division of Parks and Recreation, Division of Sanitary Sewers, Division of Fire and Emergency Services, and the Mayor's Office. In addition, some of the properties have tenants and/or support organizations who provide additional assistance.

For properties owned by LFUCG that are designated as Historic Landmarks, the application for a permit (COA) would be made by the Division carrying out the proposed work. In the case of properties that are leased or operated by other entities, the application for a permit would be made by the entity who is responsible for the landmark and who will be overseeing the work. If work is to be done by an outside firm, it would be best if the request were made prior to/or during the formulation of the bid package. This would assure that the work being bid out was consistent with appropriate renovation or new construction for the historic site.

Certificates of Appropriateness (COA's) are valid for one year and may be extended by staff for an additional six months. The Division of Historic Preservation staff is available to provide technical assistance whenever needed, both before and during the construction.

Designation Procedures

An area or individual site may be designated with an H-1 overlay by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council after a series of public hearings have been held. The designation process begins with a request for a zone map amendment before the Planning Commission or the Urban County Council. If the Urban County Council initiates the request, it is then referred to the BOAR for study and the process begins.

The process for the LFUCG to obtain landmark or historic district designation is as follows:

Study and Report

The Division of Historic Preservation studies the area(s) proposed for designation and makes its recommendations in a written report. It is then forwarded to the BOAR for their review. This is the first of three public hearings.

Public Hearing # 1 – Board of Architectural Review

The BOAR considers the significance of the properties proposed for landmark designation utilizing the criteria enumerated in Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance. The BOAR makes a recommendation concerning the H-1 designation to the Planning Commission.

Public Hearing #2 – Planning Commission
The Planning Commission receives and discusses the report and the recommendations of the BOAR at a public hearing. Based on the criteria established in Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Commission makes a recommendation concerning the H-1 designation to the Urban County Council.

Public Hearing #3 and Final Vote – Urban County Council
The Council considers the designation report and the recommendation of the Planning Commission and BOAR. After considering the criteria established in Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance, the Urban County Council has the final decision on the historic designation.

Historic Zoning Criteria

To receive historic zoning, a property, structure, site, landmark or district must meet one or more of nine criteria established in the definition of historic district and landmark in Article 13. The definition explains that a historic district or landmark is an area, neighborhood, place, building, structure, site or improvement which:

A. Has value as a part of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the county, state or nation.
B. Is a site of a significant local, state or national event.
C. Is identified with a person or persons or famous entity who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state or nation.
D. Is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the county, state or nation.
E. Has value as a building that is recognized for the quality of its architecture and that retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
F. Has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
G. Has character as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration of buildings or structures united by past events or by its plan or physical development.
H. Has character as an established and geographically definable residential neighborhood, agricultural area, or business district, united by culture, architectural style or physical plan and development.
I. Is the place or setting of some unique geological or archaeological location.

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COMMERCIAL / INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

Commercial and Institutional Buildings

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) owns numerous Commercial and Institutional buildings that are historically significant. Most of these buildings are located in and around the downtown core. These buildings represent the type and character of development that was occurring in the downtown area in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In most cases the Government-owned buildings make a significant contribution to the streetscape of the downtown area. Many of the Commercial/Institutional buildings owned by LFUCG were designed or built by local, state or nationally recognized architects and/or builders and some were settings of significant local, state or national events.

The Commercial/Institutional Buildings owned by LFUCG have been organized into subgroups that will be discussed in the following text. Their historic significance, relative to the designation criteria established in Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette Zoning Ordinance, is summarized in Table I.

Artsplace (former YMCA Building)

Black and Williams Community Center

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE – COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL

GOVERNMENT-OWNED PROPERTY: COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS												
HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LANDMARK CRITERIA: ARTICLE 13, LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY ZONING CODE		Artsplace (YMCA Building)	Black and Williams Neighborhood Center	Carnegie Library	Carver Community Center	Embry Buildings	Kentucky Theatre	Lexington-Fayette Government Center	Lowenthal Building	Nunn Building	Parks and Recreation Offices	Switow Building
	A. Has value as part of the cultural or archeological heritage of the county, state or nation.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	B. Is a site of a significant local, state or national event.						X	X				
	C. Is identified with a person or persons or famous entity who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state or nation.			X			X	X	X			X
	D. Is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the county, state or nation.						X	X				
	E. Has value as a building that is recognized for the quality of its architecture and that retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	F. Has distinguished characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	G. Has character as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration of buildings or structures united by past events or by its plan or physical development.											
	H. Has character as an established and geographically definable residential neighborhood, agricultural area, or business district, united by culture, architectural style or physical development.											
	I. Is the place or setting of some unique geographical or archeological location.											

High Rise Buildings

LFUCG owns two magnificent Beaux-Arts buildings built in the first decade of the 20th century, the former **YMCA**, now Artsplace building (1905) on North Mill Street and the former Carnegie Library (1905) in Gratz Park. The YMCA building, designed by Columbus, Ohio architects Richards, McCarty and Bulford on North Mill Street and Church Street in 1905 is significant as one of the first high-rise commercial buildings in Lexington using "modern" steel framing. The YMCA building is an exceptional example of the Beaux-Arts style. The Beaux-Arts style is associated with graduates of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, the premier architectural school of the nineteenth century. The YMCA building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The YMCA building underwent a sensitive $1,300,000 renovation in 1983 for the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council.

The **Carnegie Library** although not a high-rise per se, was built in the classical style favored by turn of the century high rise architects and is grandiose in its scale and massing. It was listed on the National Register in 1979 as part of the Northside Historic District. The Carnegie Library is in the Gratz Park Local (H-1) Historic District. The Carnegie Library was the main city library from 1905 until 1982. It is now a literacy center. Except for minor changes this building is still largely intact and remains a prominent anchor of the Gratz Park neighborhood. (See also Gratz Park)

The **Lafayette Hotel** is often considered Lexington's second skyscraper. It was Lexington's second tallest building at the time, after the fifteen story National Bank Building, designed by McKim, Mead and White and built in 1914. The twelve-story hotel was erected on the corner of Main Street and Harrison Avenue in 1920-21 and was just across the street from the Union Railroad Station. The elegance of its accommodations and cuisine made the Lafayette popular for many years. The hotel began a sort of renaissance of the Main Street streetscape in this block. After the Lafayette Hotel construction, the Kentucky Theatre and Switow Building housing the State Theatre soon followed during the decade of the 1920's. The hotel was constructed in the Georgian Revival style and designed by C. C. and E. A. Weber of Cincinnati. The hotel was named after the General Marquis de Lafayette, the famous French General who aided the country during the American Revolution. After the hotel closed in 1962, the building was used for offices until 1982. The building was then purchased by the LFUCG and renovated for use as a Government Center. The Lafayette Hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Another multi-story building in the downtown area owned by LFUCG is the **Nunn Building** or **Lexington Herald** building. A handsome, dignified and substantial buff-brick building, it was designed by Lexington architects Leon K. Frankel and F. Paul Anderson, both professors at the University of Kentucky. It was constructed for Desha Breckinridge, scion of a distinguished Kentucky family, who both published and edited the Lexington Herald, and it housed the Lexington

Herald newspaper offices and printing plant. It was completed in 1918 and was sold to J. Lindsey and Gilmore Nunn when they bought the Herald in 1936. F. Paul Anderson was a well known local architect who also designed numerous buildings on the University of Kentucky campus and in the City of Lexington including the government owned, former Booker T. Washington Elementary. Anderson was the Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky in the 1910's and 20's. The Nunn Building was listed on the National Register in 1982 and is currently being used for Government offices.

Theatres

Lexington has a rich theatrical history. Among the early twentieth century theatres and movie houses were the Ben Ali, Strand, Opera House, Ada Meade, the Kentucky and the State Theatres. Two are currently owned by LFUCG, including: Kentucky Theatre (1921) and State Theatre (1929) located in the Switow Building. The construction of the **Kentucky Theatre** was initiated by the Lexington Amusement Company, a corporation formed by several longtime Lexington residents including Louis des Cognets (president of Lexington Coal and Coke Company), David L. Ades (owner of a large dry goods store), L.B. Shouse (president of the Lafayette Hotel) and George Graves and Charles Manning (Chief Officers of the Security Trust Company). The showmen who ran the company were William James (Secretary), Michael Switow (Vice President) and Colonel Fred Levy (President). The Kentucky Theatre was built on a lot adjacent to the Lafayette Hotel owned by Graves, Manning and Des Cognets. The three-story theatre was designed by the prominent Louisville architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph, which was responsible for the Rialto Theatre and a number of significant institutional buildings, schools and factories in the Louisville area.

The Kentucky Theatre has a lavish polychrome brick and tile façade, with classical symmetry and adamesque urn and garland details above the windows. The theatre was unusual for its time in that it was only one floor, and contained no balcony seating. The Kentucky Theatre was built for a cost of approximately $250,000. The Lexington Amusement Company touted the Kentucky Theatre as a masterpiece in the "Italian Renaissance style of architecture." But according to architectural historian Walter E. Langsam, the Kentucky could be more accurately described as a combination of Beaux-Arts and Adamesque influences. Governor Edward P. Murrow dedicated the Theatre and the opening night featured an overture performed by H. Haden Read on the Kentucky Theatres' $25,000 Wurlitzer organ. At the time, the "Mighty Wurlitzer" was the second largest organ south of Chicago. The Kentucky was the first theatre in the state and one of the first fifty in the United States to have a Vitaphone system installed, which allowed for sound motion pictures. The Kentucky's interior was elegant and featured large round artglass domes on the ceilings and a classically detailed interior. The Kentucky Theatre was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The Kentucky Theatre was renovated in the 1990's and it and the State Theatre are functioning movie theatres.

The **Switow** building was designed in the then popular Craftsman style and constructed around 1920. A false tile roof on paired brackets hides a parapet. A vertical plaque over the upstairs entrance was originally labeled "Moise". The Moise building was originally named for its owner-occupant J. Haden Moise whose store in the building was listed as "Distributors and jobbers of everything electric". The Lexington Amusement Company added a mid-sized "atmospheric" Theatre, called the **State Theatre**, to the building in 1929. Next door to the Kentucky Theatre – a passageway connected the projection booths of the two theatres – the State had no facilities for live entertainment and a quite narrow auditorium. The State had 888 seats, 98 of which were upstairs in a balcony that had its own separate entrance on Main Street and served African-Americans before desegregation. The State was designed by the Lexington architectural firm of Frankel and Curtis for approximately $200,000. The chief selling point of the State Theatre was its "Spanish-influenced" décor. The interior was designed to resemble the courtyard of an ancient Spanish castle. The ceiling was punctured with pinlights and two cloud machines operated at the sides of the theatre projecting moving clouds across the ceiling. A state of the art theatre for its day, Al Jolson was the master of ceremonies at its grand opening. The Switow building was listed on the National Register in 1983. The Switow building was renovated in the 1990's and the theatre returned to use after a fire. The Downtown Design Center occupies the first floor storefront and LFUCG offices are above.

Retail Buildings

The LFUCG owns two examples of turn of the century retail buildings, the **Loewenthal** building (1890), and the **Embry** buildings (1900). The Embry's building includes a two story section at 139 East Main Street, which was the Lexington Laundry Company building, originally built as a three story Victorian ca.1900 and designed by Herman L. Rowe, a prominent local architect. This portion was truncated and redesigned around 1930 and a handsome art deco façade was added. This small but monumental façade is the finest and most definite example of the Art Deco or Moderne decorative manner in Lexington, and an important ingredient of the streetscape of this crucial block of Main Street.

The main portion of the **Embry's** building is a four story Neo-Classical building at 141-143 East Main Street, likely designed by local architect H.L. Rowe. There were a series of prominent livery stables here until the lot was purchased by Fannie Boswell Graham, the daughter of a bank president, and the present building was built ca.1900. The first tenants of the ground floor of the building were Embry's Milliners and Ladies furnishings. Embry's took over the entire building in 1911. The building makes a dramatic statement on Main Street with its classical detailing and yellow-green glazed brick and fine limestone trim. The façade is four bays wide with four Corinthian pilasters symmetrically spaced on the third and fourth stories set on implied pedestals on the second story. A large entablature with garlands and decorated pediment capped the center two bays. On either side of the pediment, a flanking parapet ends in pedestals. The Embry

buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as part of the Downtown Commercial District.

The **Lowenthal** building was originally a three story Italianate structure with a heavy cornice and large oriel windows on the second and third story's flanking a center bay. The façade of the Lowenthal building was remodeled in the 1930's and an Art deco façade with a Greek Key decorative course above the upper windows was added. The Lowenthal Furs building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as part of the Downtown Commercial District.

School Buildings

LFUCG owns three former pre-World War II school buildings: Booker T. Washington Elementary (1915), George Washington Carver School (1934) and a portion of the original Dunbar High School (1923). **Booker T. Washington Elementary** was designed by prominent local architect and Dean of the Kentucky University College of Engineering F. Paul Anderson. Anderson designed a number of buildings on the University of Kentucky campus and in Lexington, including the Nunn (Lexington Herald) Building. Booker T. Washington Elementary School was named after the nationally famous African-American educator and founder of Tuskeegee Institute. Booker T. Washington Elementary closed its doors in the early 1970's when a new Booker T. Washington Elementary was built in Douglas Park. The school was reopened as the Black and Williams Community Center in 1975. The Black and Williams Center was named in honor of Evelyn Jones Black, an educator and professor at the University of Kentucky; and Alex Williams Jr., a well-known Georgetown Street personality and neighborhood activist. The grounds include the former Booker T. Washington Elementary and an adjoining gymnasium built in 1958.

George Washington Carver Elementary School was built in 1934 with Works Progress Administration grant money and replaced the old Patterson School which was demolished in the 1930's. The brick, two story building was built with classical details including a federal style entryway with a recessed fanlighted door. The south façade has two entries, each with handsome Greek Revival door surrounds. The southern façade overlooks a spacious and well-kept playground with ca.1930's playground equipment and a basketball court. The Carver School was reopened as the Carver Community Center in 1975 and continues in use today.

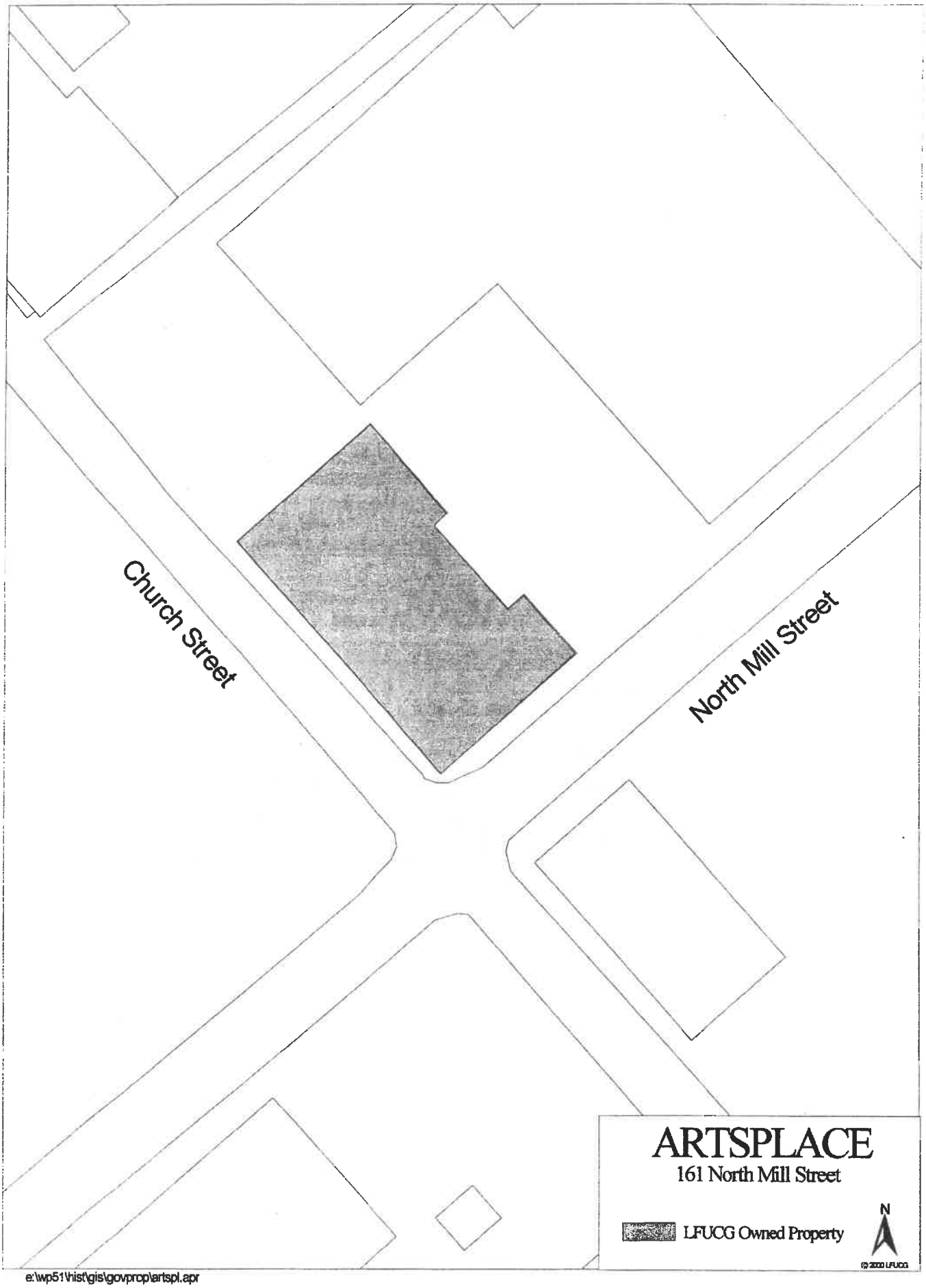
Dunbar High School was built in 1923 on the west side of Upper Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets and for over 40 years was an important part of the African-American community. The main part of the building was demolished in 1974 and the front doorway of the building was salvaged from the main entrance and moved to the Gymnasium portion of the building, which was retained. The building on the site is now used as offices for the City Parks and Recreation Department.

NAME:	ARTSPLACE
HISTORIC NAME:	YMCA BUILDING
ADDRESS:	161 NORTH MILL STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	OFFICES OF LEXINGTON ARTS & CULTURAL COUNCIL & VARIOUS ARTS ORGANIZATIONS.
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAIN. & CONST. LEXINGTON ARTS & CULTURAL COUNCIL
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1903-05

Artsplace

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Artsplace was the former YMCA and YWCA building. Constructed in the Beaux-Arts style, a classical style popular after the turn-of-the-century, the four story, brick and stone building is highly visible at its location on the corner of Mill and Church streets. The exterior appearance suggests that of a Renaissance Italian palace. The projecting cornices, flat, but elaborately articulated wall-surfaces, classical columns, entablatures, brackets and ornamental stonework are all elements that contribute to its high style. Artsplace meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



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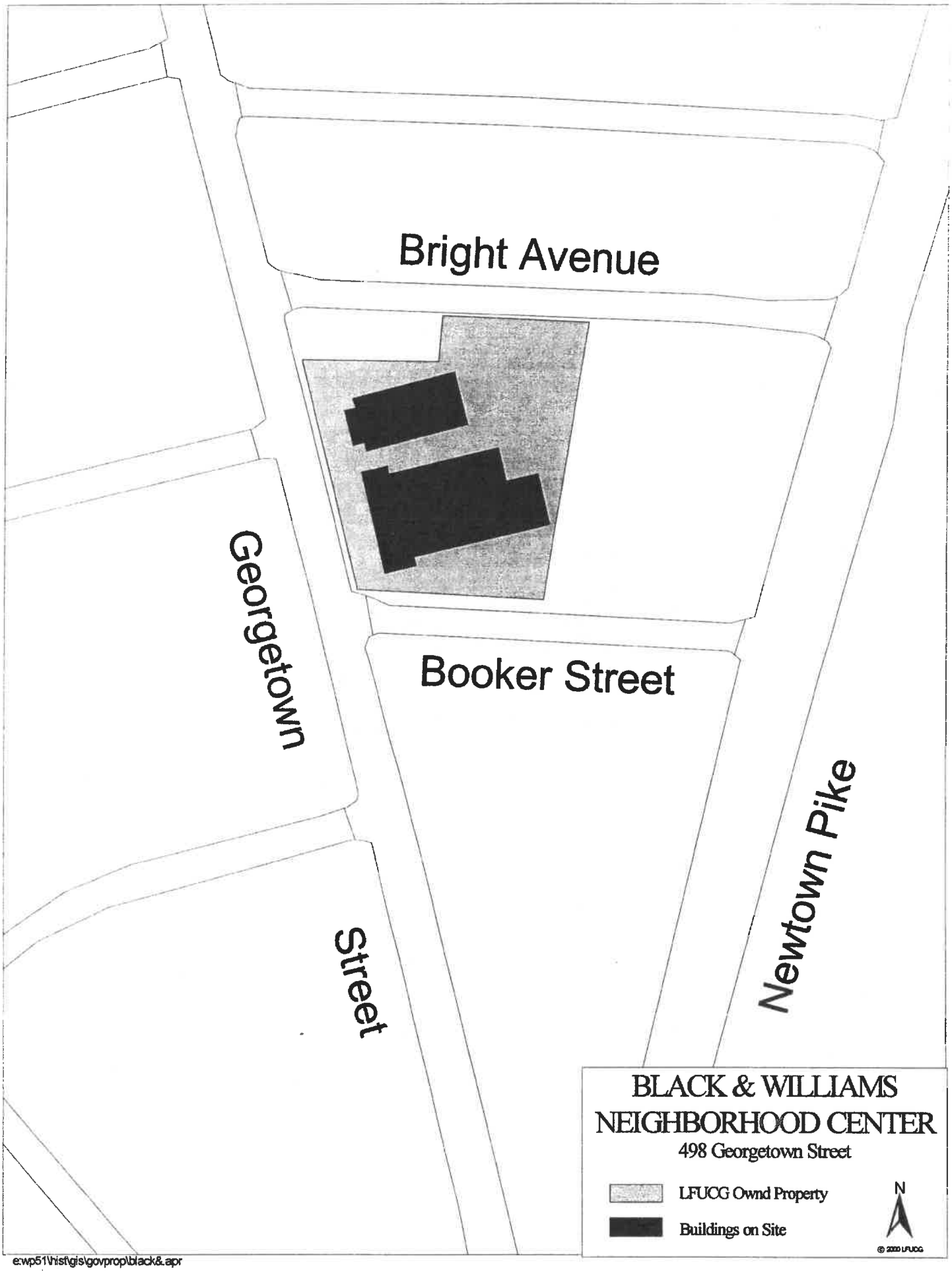
NAME:	BLACK AND WILLIAMS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
HISTORIC NAME:	BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL
ADDRESS:	498 GEORGETOWN STREET
DESIGNATION:	KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
PRESENT USE:	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1915

Black and Williams Community Center

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This school building was constructed in 1915 and was designed by the local architectural firm of Anderson and Frankel and opened in January 1917. F. Paul Anderson was Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Engineering. Designed in the Arts & Craft style of architecture, the two-storied brick school building sits on a high basement with a rough stone foundation topped by a smooth band of stone. There is a slightly projecting center mass displaying a double window with a segmental arch highlighted by blocks of stone. This double window replaced the original front entrance, which was removed in the 1970's. In 1975 this school was purchased by the Urban County Government, remodeled and reopened as the Black and Williams Community Center. The Center was named in honor of Evelyn Jones Black a social worker and professor at the University of Kentucky and Alex Williams Jr., a neighborhood activist. The Black and Williams Center meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


Bright Avenue
Georgetown
Street
Booker Street
Newtown Pike
BLACK & WILLIAMS
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
498 Georgetown Street
LFUCG Ownd Property
Buildings on Site
N
© 2000 LFUCG
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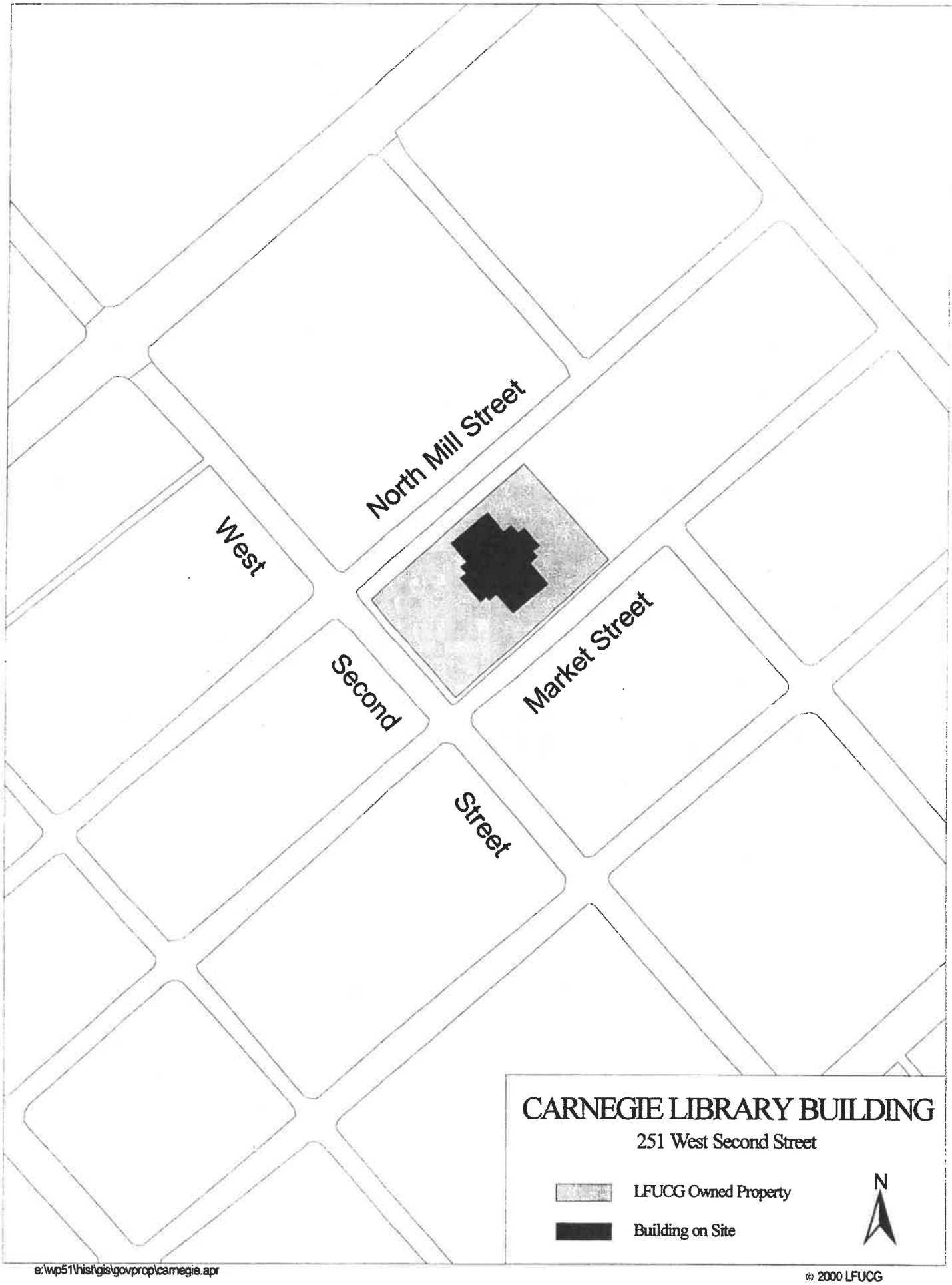
NAME:	CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING
HISTORIC NAME:	LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
ADDRESS:	251 WEST SECOND STREET
DESIGNATION:	LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1) NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	CARNEGIE LITERACY CENTER
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST. MAYOR' OFFICE
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1903-05

Carnegie Library

Carnegie Library – Early Twentieth Century

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Designed by Lexington architect Herman L. Rowe, this majestic library building is Beaux-Arts style. This massive, 2-story stone building on a high basement is the focal point of Gratz Park. Constructed at a cost of $75,000.00 most of the funds for this project were donated by Andrew Carnegie, the great steel magnet and philanthropist. The colossal 4 columned portico has elaborate decorative elements including large dentils. Windows are large 1/1 and a balustrade encircles the top of the cornice. The interior of the building originally had an open center, rising through the second floor to a large skylight. This was rebuilt as part of the renovation process. Except for a few minor changes, this imposing building is largely intact. This building was the central library from its construction in 1905 until 1982. The Carnegie Library meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance. (See Gratz Park)



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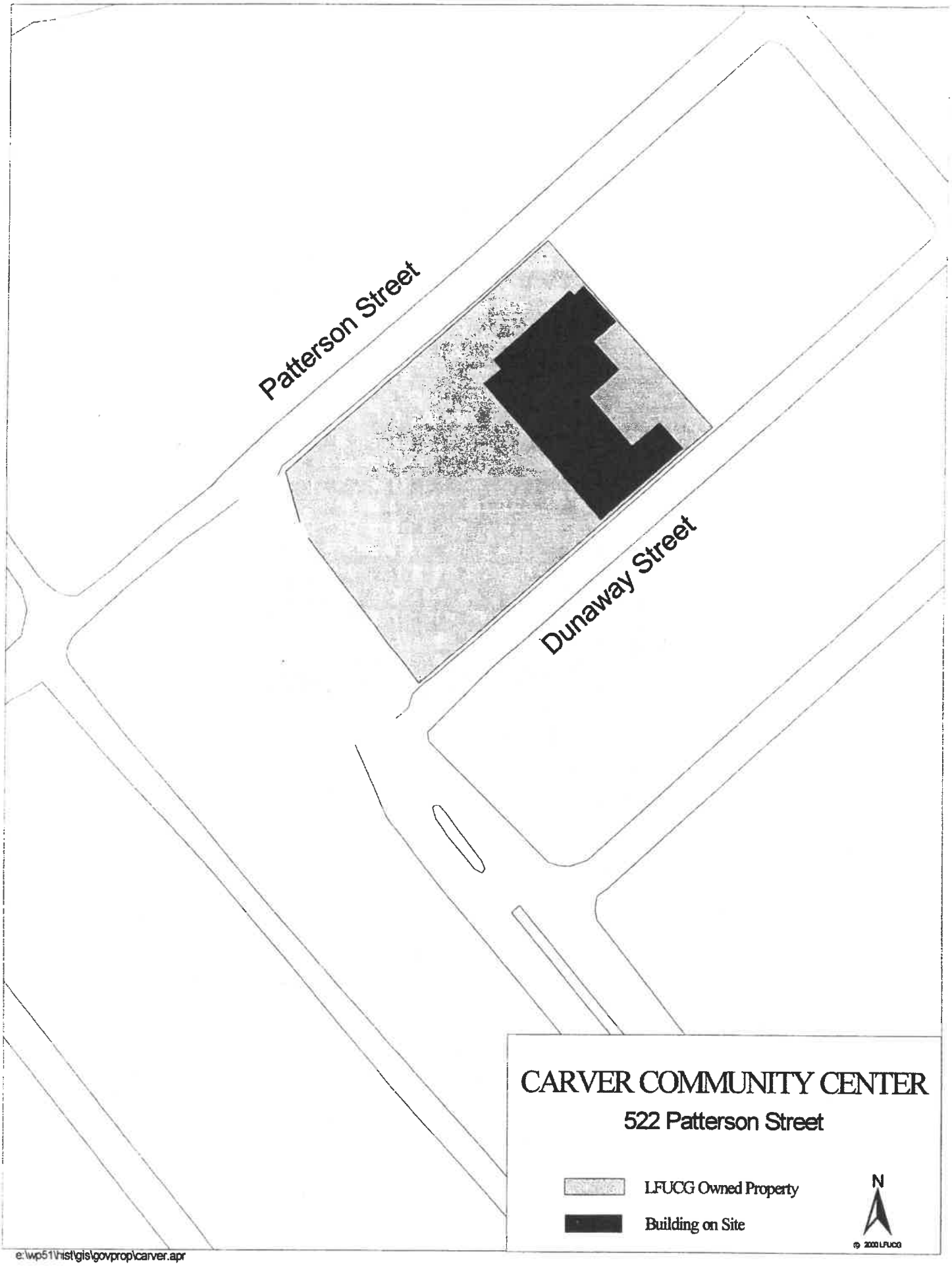
NAME:	CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER
HISTORIC NAME:	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ADDRESS:	522 PATTERSON STREET
DESIGNATION:	NONE
PRESENT USE:	COMMUNITY CENTER
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1934

George Washington Carver Elementary School

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Carver School was constructed to replace the old Patterson School, which was located on that same block on Patterson Street. It appears that the earlier school was demolished in 1934. The architecture of this imposing brick structure emulates earlier styles, reflected in classical detailing and design. The front façade is a series of seven arches, with stone keystones. Within each of the center five arches is located a window, except on the south end where the main entrance is located. The end arches are blank. This entrance has a large Federal style entryway with a recessed fanlighted door. The south façade has two entries, each with impressive Greek Revival style door surrounds. The Carver Community Center meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


Patterson Street
Dunaway Street
CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER
522 Patterson Street
LFUCG Owned Property
Building on Site
N
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© 2000 LFUCG

NAME: KENTUCKY THEATRE

HISTORIC NAME: KENTUCKY THEATRE

ADDRESS: 208-212 EAST MAIN STREET

DESIGNATION: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PRESENT USE: THEATRE

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
MAYOR'S OFFICE

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1921-22

Kentucky Theatre

State Theatre, Kentucky Theatre
& Lafayette Hotel – ca. 1950

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kentucky Theatre is three-storied and its front façade is constructed in salmon-colored glazed brick with white and polychrome glaze tile details. The building, one of the most lavish on Main Street, was designed by the Louisville architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph. Large arches encase window openings in the center 3 bays of the building and high-style classical details are above them, beneath the cornice. Originally the building had a marquis that stretched across the full front. That was later changed to the existing marquis that extends in a "v" shape. This marquis, recently thoroughly renovated, utilizes neon and light bulbs to create a stylish appearance. The recessed foyer includes a ticket sales box and has marble on its walls. The interior was renovated in the 1950's in a "Southern Colonial" manner, but it still retains much of the original Adamesque décor, including one of two art-glass skylight domes. The theatre showed the first "talkies" in Lexington. The theatre suffered a fire in 1987 and has been renovated for use as a theatre with office space above. The Kentucky Theatre meets criteria A, B, C, D, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

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NAME: LEXINGTON-FAYETTE GOVERNMENT CENTER

HISTORIC NAME: LAFAYETTE HOTEL

ADDRESS: 200 EAST MAIN STREET

DESIGNATION: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PRESENT USE: LFUCG OFFICES

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1920

Lexington-Fayette County Government Center

Early Postcard View

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

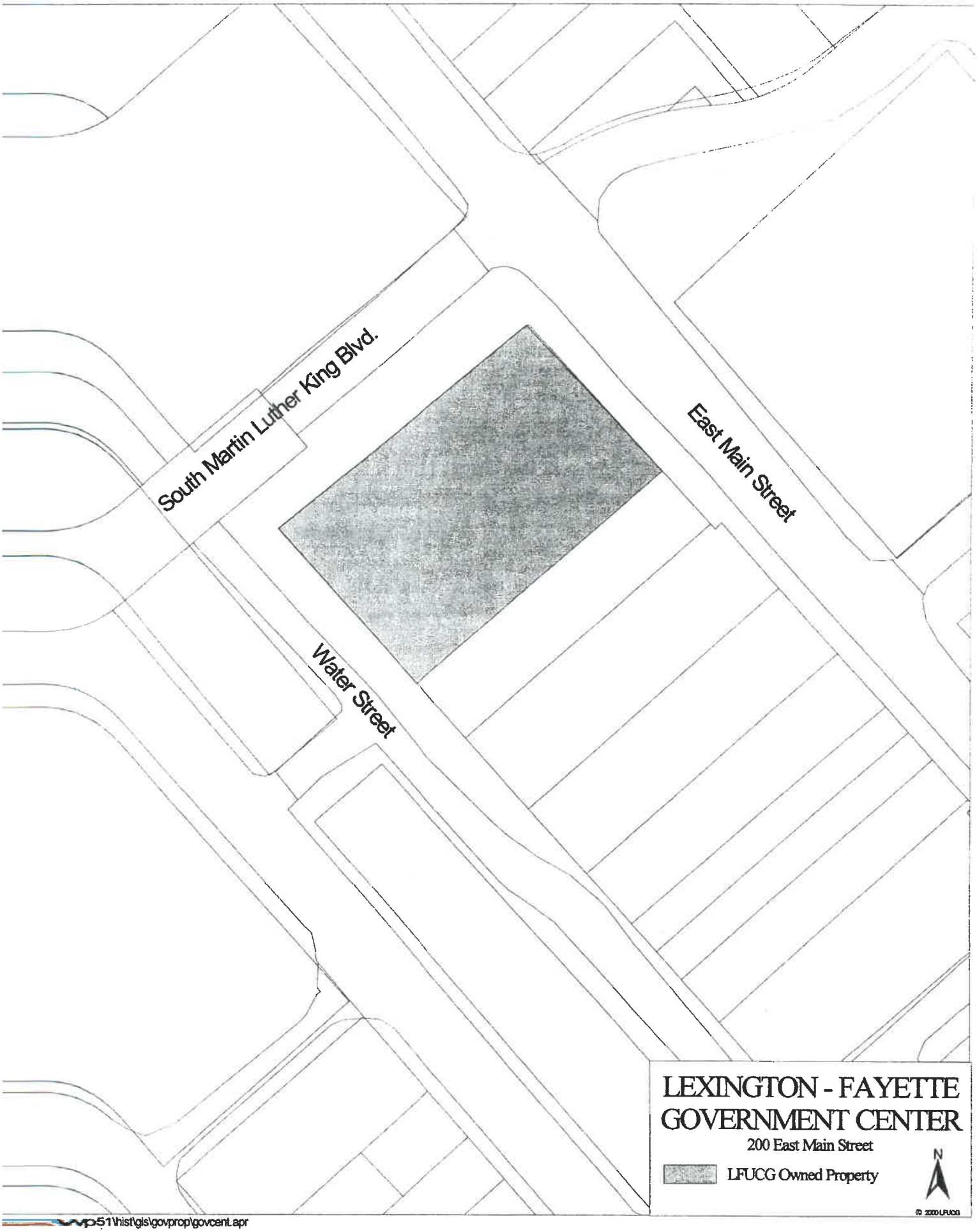
One of the most handsome of Lexington's early 20th century high-rise buildings, this 12 story brick and stone building was constructed in 1920 as the Lafayette Hotel. Designed in the Georgian Revival style by C. C. and E. A. Weber of Cincinnati, the hotel was named for General Marquis de Lafayette, the famous French General who aided the country during the American Revolution.

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE GOVERNMENT CENTER

The base of the building is pink Rockford granite and buff Bedford limestone, the shaft of the upper two stories are glazed. The cornice has modillions and is beneath a simple parapet.

The architectural details and elegant décor made it a favorite place for Lexingtonians and provided visitors a first-class hotel for over 40 years. The interior includes an elegant 2-story entrance foyer with square wood-paneled piers supporting the mezzanine level. The building is now LFUCG offices known as the Government Center.

The Lexington-Fayette Government Center meets criteria A, B, C, D, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


South Martin Luther King Blvd.
East Main Street
Water Street
LEXINGTON - FAYETTE
GOVERNMENT CENTER
200 East Main Street
LFUCG Owned Property
N
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LEXINGTON FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

H-1 Designation Report

June 6, 2000

Division of Historic Preservation

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INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Local Historic Landmark Designation

In 1775, William McConnell and a group of pioneers camped at a sinking spring in the wilderness of the Bluegrass Region. Having recently heard of the first battle of the Revolutionary War at Lexington, Massachusetts, they named their future settlement "Lexington". In the early 1840's students Stephen H. Austin and John Cabell Breckinridge may have gathered on the college lawn of Transylvania University, now Gratz Park, for concerts and events. In the 1920's, a luxurious high rise hotel, the Lafayette, was built on Main Street; and a spectacular theater, the Kentucky Theatre, was constructed adjacent, complete with a new vitaphone system for "talking" motion pictures.

These are just a portion of the important structures and sites owned by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government that represent the community's history. These buildings and places were important and significant in their time and are still important physical reminders of the cultural and historical evolution of Lexington.

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) owns numerous historic buildings, sites and monuments which are representative of most periods of the Bluegrass Regions' historic development. It is the purpose of this report to review those government owned properties, initiated for study by the Urban County Council, and to make a recommendation on the appropriateness of Local Landmark (H-1) designation for those properties.

Initiation Request

In December 1999, after interest was expressed by both citizens and council members, the intergovernmental committee of the Urban County Council discussed the fact that the Urban County Government owns and is responsible for many significant historic properties. The committee requested that the LFUCG Historic Preservation Commission and the Division of Historic Preservation staff review those properties and make a recommendation to the Intergovernmental Committee as to ones that should be considered for designation as Local Historic Landmarks.

A committee of the Historic Preservation Commission and the staff reviewed all the properties and forwarded their recommendation to the Intergovernmental Committee on February 7, 2000. After review and discussion, the Intergovernmental Committee voted to forward a recommendation to the Urban County Council that the Council initiate the process to review those properties for Local Historic Landmark Designation.

The Urban County Council took final action on March 9, 2000 initiating the designation process for the historic properties owned by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

BOAR ACTION

The Board of Architectural Review heard the request on June 6, 2000 and voted to recommend approval of the designation.

Designation Report Organization

The proposed landmarks have been organized into the following categories, according to their building type or original use:

- Commercial/Institutional Buildings
- Residential Estates, Grounds and Accessory Structures
- Parks, Park Buildings, Statues and Monuments
- Fire Stations

Each of the above four categories represents a section of the report. The sections of the report each contain two parts. The first part is a short description of the properties, a summary of their historical context and a summary of their historical significance as it relates to the purposes of this study. Within this first part will be a table, which graphically represents the historical significance of the properties, using the criteria established in Article 13 of the Lexington Fayette Zoning Ordinance.

The second part of each section will be a series of property forms for all the properties. Each property form will include pictures and descriptions, property locations, maps, present use, date of construction and the agency responsible for management. Following the four main sections that constitute the body of the report are the findings and recommendations.

Ashland – Residential Estates

Cheapside - Parks

H-1 Zoning

Local Historic District or Landmark Overlay (H-1) zoning helps protect and preserve structures and sites of historic and architectural importance in Lexington and Fayette County. Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette County Zoning Ordinance sets parameters for the application process for (H-1) designation and the procedures by which the design review process works once the designation is established. Within a historic (H-1) overlay, exterior changes are monitored, through the design review process, to assure that changes made to properties do not negatively alter the character of the designated building, site, landmark and/or district. Exterior changes are defined as: "rehabilitation or replacement which is not ordinary maintenance and repair; new construction of any building element, addition, building or structure; and demolition of any building element, addition, building, or structure."

For landmark properties, all proposed exterior changes must be reviewed by the Board of Architectural Review (BOAR) and/or the staff of the Division of Historic Preservation. Approval of proposed work is granted by the BOAR or the staff through issuing a permit called a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). The Board of Architectural Review has mandated to the staff, the Division of Historic Preservation, the review of a number of routine items such as walks, fences, re-roofs, tuck-pointing, etc. Other proposed work, including such things as new construction or demolition, is reviewed by the full Board and, after approval, a Certificate of Appropriateness is issued. Over the last several years about 60% of the requests have been items that staff has been able to issue permits for, with the other 40% of the items requiring review and approval by the BOAR.

H-1 overlay does not require a property owner to make improvements but does mandate a design review process for those improvements applicants choose to make. The overlay does not affect the existing "underlying" zoning of a property but applies in addition to the land-use zoning.

The guidelines and the legislation which set up the design review process are structured so that there may be a variety of solutions to design and construction needs that do not negatively impact the structure, site, landmark or district.

The review process helps to ensure that exterior changes are compatible to the landmark and/or other properties within the historic district. New infill construction, such as additions to existing buildings, garages or outbuildings and new buildings, is encouraged where appropriate. The design review process does not require or encourage that new construction look like historic buildings. The goal is to ensure that new construction is compatible with the existing building, grounds or neighborhood.. Guidelines for new construction, whether additions or entire buildings, emphasize building characteristics that may be shared by new and old buildings alike, regardless of "style". Attention to these

elements encourages the design of buildings that clearly are new, yet do not disrupt the continuity of the historic landmark and/or district.

These elements include:

- Set back
- Building height
- Scale
- Orientation, spacing, site coverage
- Façade proportions and window patterns
- Size, shape, and proportions of entrances and porches
- Projections
- Materials, textures and color
- Roof form
- Landscaping, walls and fences

Some of the items relevant to site work that would be reviewed include but are not limited to:

- any removal or construction of fences or walls, walkways and decks
- placement of new utility equipment
- construction of paved surfaces such as parking or patios
- substantial landscaping and the removal of trees over 10" in diameter
- signs

LFUCG as Property Owner

By participating in its own design review process, the LFUCG has the opportunity to have there be an ongoing review of changes to its historic properties. Through this review would come beneficial design and technical assistance. This would assure that the government's repairs and improvements of these significant buildings, sites and monuments will be appropriate and will not be inadvertently detrimental.

It should be noted that several of these properties are in or adjacent to already designated H-1 districts or properties owned by the private sector. The LFUCG has the opportunity to demonstrate it is following the same process for its historic properties that is asked of other property owners with properties in existing H-1 Districts. In addition, for substantial changes that would require approval of the BOAR, there would be an opportunity for the public to learn of the proposed work and make comments. On many of these properties, the ability for the public to be informed and have the opportunity for comment would be quite desirous.

At the present time there are several divisions of the LFUCG who have or share responsibility for the properties recommended for designation within this report.

These include: Division of Building Maintenance and Construction, Division of Parks and Recreation, Division of Sanitary Sewers, Division of Fire and Emergency Services, and the Mayor's Office. In addition, some of the properties have tenants and/or support organizations who provide additional assistance.

For properties owned by LFUCG that are designated as Historic Landmarks, the application for a permit (COA) would be made by the Division carrying out the proposed work. In the case of properties that are leased or operated by other entities, the application for a permit would be made by the entity who is responsible for the landmark and who will be overseeing the work. If work is to be done by an outside firm, it would be best if the request were made prior to/or during the formulation of the bid package. This would assure that the work being bid out was consistent with appropriate renovation or new construction for the historic site.

Certificates of Appropriateness (COA's) are valid for one year and may be extended by staff for an additional six months. The Division of Historic Preservation staff is available to provide technical assistance whenever needed, both before and during the construction.

Designation Procedures

An area or individual site may be designated with an H-1 overlay by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council after a series of public hearings have been held. The designation process begins with a request for a zone map amendment before the Planning Commission or the Urban County Council. If the Urban County Council initiates the request, it is then referred to the BOAR for study and the process begins.

The process for the LFUCG to obtain landmark or historic district designation is as follows:

Study and Report

The Division of Historic Preservation studies the area(s) proposed for designation and makes its recommendations in a written report. It is then forwarded to the BOAR for their review. This is the first of three public hearings.

Public Hearing # 1 – Board of Architectural Review

The BOAR considers the significance of the properties proposed for landmark designation utilizing the criteria enumerated in Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance. The BOAR makes a recommendation concerning the H-1 designation to the Planning Commission.

Public Hearing #2 – Planning Commission
The Planning Commission receives and discusses the report and the recommendations of the BOAR at a public hearing. Based on the criteria established in Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Commission makes a recommendation concerning the H-1 designation to the Urban County Council.

Public Hearing #3 and Final Vote – Urban County Council
The Council considers the designation report and the recommendation of the Planning Commission and BOAR. After considering the criteria established in Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance, the Urban County Council has the final decision on the historic designation.

Historic Zoning Criteria

To receive historic zoning, a property, structure, site, landmark or district must meet one or more of nine criteria established in the definition of historic district and landmark in Article 13. The definition explains that a historic district or landmark is an area, neighborhood, place, building, structure, site or improvement which:

A. Has value as a part of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the county, state or nation.
B. Is a site of a significant local, state or national event.
C. Is identified with a person or persons or famous entity who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state or nation.
D. Is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the county, state or nation.
E. Has value as a building that is recognized for the quality of its architecture and that retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
F. Has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
G. Has character as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration of buildings or structures united by past events or by its plan or physical development.
H. Has character as an established and geographically definable residential neighborhood, agricultural area, or business district, united by culture, architectural style or physical plan and development.
I. Is the place or setting of some unique geological or archaeological location.

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COMMERCIAL / INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

Commercial and Institutional Buildings

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) owns numerous Commercial and Institutional buildings that are historically significant. Most of these buildings are located in and around the downtown core. These buildings represent the type and character of development that was occurring in the downtown area in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In most cases the Government-owned buildings make a significant contribution to the streetscape of the downtown area. Many of the Commercial/Institutional buildings owned by LFUCG were designed or built by local, state or nationally recognized architects and/or builders and some were settings of significant local, state or national events.

The Commercial/Institutional Buildings owned by LFUCG have been organized into subgroups that will be discussed in the following text. Their historic significance, relative to the designation criteria established in Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette Zoning Ordinance, is summarized in Table I.

Artsplace (former YMCA Building)

Black and Williams Community Center

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE – COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL

GOVERNMENT-OWNED PROPERTY: COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS												
HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LANDMARK CRITERIA: ARTICLE 13, LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY ZONING CODE		Artsplace (YMCA Building)	Black and Williams Neighborhood Center	Carnegie Library	Carver Community Center	Embry Buildings	Kentucky Theatre	Lexington-Fayette Government Center	Lowenthal Building	Nunn Building	Parks and Recreation Offices	Switow Building
	A. Has value as part of the cultural or archeological heritage of the county, state or nation.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	B. Is a site of a significant local, state or national event.						X	X				
	C. Is identified with a person or persons or famous entity who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state or nation.			X			X	X	X			X
	D. Is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the county, state or nation.						X	X				
	E. Has value as a building that is recognized for the quality of its architecture and that retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	F. Has distinguished characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	G. Has character as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration of buildings or structures united by past events or by its plan or physical development.											
	H. Has character as an established and geographically definable residential neighborhood, agricultural area, or business district, united by culture, architectural style or physical development.											
	I. Is the place or setting of some unique geographical or archeological location.											

High Rise Buildings

LFUCG owns two magnificent Beaux-Arts buildings built in the first decade of the 20th century, the former **YMCA**, now Artsplace building (1905) on North Mill Street and the former Carnegie Library (1905) in Gratz Park. The YMCA building, designed by Columbus, Ohio architects Richards, McCarty and Bulford on North Mill Street and Church Street in 1905 is significant as one of the first high-rise commercial buildings in Lexington using "modern" steel framing. The YMCA building is an exceptional example of the Beaux-Arts style. The Beaux-Arts style is associated with graduates of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, the premier architectural school of the nineteenth century. The YMCA building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The YMCA building underwent a sensitive $1,300,000 renovation in 1983 for the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council.

The **Carnegie Library** although not a high-rise per se, was built in the classical style favored by turn of the century high rise architects and is grandiose in its scale and massing. It was listed on the National Register in 1979 as part of the Northside Historic District. The Carnegie Library is in the Gratz Park Local (H-1) Historic District. The Carnegie Library was the main city library from 1905 until 1982. It is now a literacy center. Except for minor changes this building is still largely intact and remains a prominent anchor of the Gratz Park neighborhood. (See also Gratz Park)

The **Lafayette Hotel** is often considered Lexington's second skyscraper. It was Lexington's second tallest building at the time, after the fifteen story National Bank Building, designed by McKim, Mead and White and built in 1914. The twelve-story hotel was erected on the corner of Main Street and Harrison Avenue in 1920-21 and was just across the street from the Union Railroad Station. The elegance of its accommodations and cuisine made the Lafayette popular for many years. The hotel began a sort of renaissance of the Main Street streetscape in this block. After the Lafayette Hotel construction, the Kentucky Theatre and Switow Building housing the State Theatre soon followed during the decade of the 1920's. The hotel was constructed in the Georgian Revival style and designed by C. C. and E. A. Weber of Cincinnati. The hotel was named after the General Marquis de Lafayette, the famous French General who aided the country during the American Revolution. After the hotel closed in 1962, the building was used for offices until 1982. The building was then purchased by the LFUCG and renovated for use as a Government Center. The Lafayette Hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Another multi-story building in the downtown area owned by LFUCG is the **Nunn Building** or **Lexington Herald** building. A handsome, dignified and substantial buff-brick building, it was designed by Lexington architects Leon K. Frankel and F. Paul Anderson, both professors at the University of Kentucky. It was constructed for Desha Breckinridge, scion of a distinguished Kentucky family, who both published and edited the Lexington Herald, and it housed the Lexington

Herald newspaper offices and printing plant. It was completed in 1918 and was sold to J. Lindsey and Gilmore Nunn when they bought the Herald in 1936. F. Paul Anderson was a well known local architect who also designed numerous buildings on the University of Kentucky campus and in the City of Lexington including the government owned, former Booker T. Washington Elementary. Anderson was the Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky in the 1910's and 20's. The Nunn Building was listed on the National Register in 1982 and is currently being used for Government offices.

Theatres

Lexington has a rich theatrical history. Among the early twentieth century theatres and movie houses were the Ben Ali, Strand, Opera House, Ada Meade, the Kentucky and the State Theatres. Two are currently owned by LFUCG, including: Kentucky Theatre (1921) and State Theatre (1929) located in the Switow Building. The construction of the **Kentucky Theatre** was initiated by the Lexington Amusement Company, a corporation formed by several longtime Lexington residents including Louis des Cognets (president of Lexington Coal and Coke Company), David L. Ades (owner of a large dry goods store), L.B. Shouse (president of the Lafayette Hotel) and George Graves and Charles Manning (Chief Officers of the Security Trust Company). The showmen who ran the company were William James (Secretary), Michael Switow (Vice President) and Colonel Fred Levy (President). The Kentucky Theatre was built on a lot adjacent to the Lafayette Hotel owned by Graves, Manning and Des Cognets. The three-story theatre was designed by the prominent Louisville architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph, which was responsible for the Rialto Theatre and a number of significant institutional buildings, schools and factories in the Louisville area.

The Kentucky Theatre has a lavish polychrome brick and tile façade, with classical symmetry and adamesque urn and garland details above the windows. The theatre was unusual for its time in that it was only one floor, and contained no balcony seating. The Kentucky Theatre was built for a cost of approximately $250,000. The Lexington Amusement Company touted the Kentucky Theatre as a masterpiece in the "Italian Renaissance style of architecture." But according to architectural historian Walter E. Langsam, the Kentucky could be more accurately described as a combination of Beaux-Arts and Adamesque influences. Governor Edward P. Murrow dedicated the Theatre and the opening night featured an overture performed by H. Haden Read on the Kentucky Theatres' $25,000 Wurlitzer organ. At the time, the "Mighty Wurlitzer" was the second largest organ south of Chicago. The Kentucky was the first theatre in the state and one of the first fifty in the United States to have a Vitaphone system installed, which allowed for sound motion pictures. The Kentucky's interior was elegant and featured large round artglass domes on the ceilings and a classically detailed interior. The Kentucky Theatre was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The Kentucky Theatre was renovated in the 1990's and it and the State Theatre are functioning movie theatres.

The **Switow** building was designed in the then popular Craftsman style and constructed around 1920. A false tile roof on paired brackets hides a parapet. A vertical plaque over the upstairs entrance was originally labeled "Moise". The Moise building was originally named for its owner-occupant J. Haden Moise whose store in the building was listed as "Distributors and jobbers of everything electric". The Lexington Amusement Company added a mid-sized "atmospheric" Theatre, called the **State Theatre**, to the building in 1929. Next door to the Kentucky Theatre – a passageway connected the projection booths of the two theatres – the State had no facilities for live entertainment and a quite narrow auditorium. The State had 888 seats, 98 of which were upstairs in a balcony that had its own separate entrance on Main Street and served African-Americans before desegregation. The State was designed by the Lexington architectural firm of Frankel and Curtis for approximately $200,000. The chief selling point of the State Theatre was its "Spanish-influenced" décor. The interior was designed to resemble the courtyard of an ancient Spanish castle. The ceiling was punctured with pinlights and two cloud machines operated at the sides of the theatre projecting moving clouds across the ceiling. A state of the art theatre for its day, Al Jolson was the master of ceremonies at its grand opening. The Switow building was listed on the National Register in 1983. The Switow building was renovated in the 1990's and the theatre returned to use after a fire. The Downtown Design Center occupies the first floor storefront and LFUCG offices are above.

Retail Buildings

The LFUCG owns two examples of turn of the century retail buildings, the **Loewenthal** building (1890), and the **Embry** buildings (1900). The Embry's building includes a two story section at 139 East Main Street, which was the Lexington Laundry Company building, originally built as a three story Victorian ca.1900 and designed by Herman L. Rowe, a prominent local architect. This portion was truncated and redesigned around 1930 and a handsome art deco façade was added. This small but monumental façade is the finest and most definite example of the Art Deco or Moderne decorative manner in Lexington, and an important ingredient of the streetscape of this crucial block of Main Street.

The main portion of the **Embry's** building is a four story Neo-Classical building at 141-143 East Main Street, likely designed by local architect H.L. Rowe. There were a series of prominent livery stables here until the lot was purchased by Fannie Boswell Graham, the daughter of a bank president, and the present building was built ca.1900. The first tenants of the ground floor of the building were Embry's Milliners and Ladies furnishings. Embry's took over the entire building in 1911. The building makes a dramatic statement on Main Street with its classical detailing and yellow-green glazed brick and fine limestone trim. The façade is four bays wide with four Corinthian pilasters symmetrically spaced on the third and fourth stories set on implied pedestals on the second story. A large entablature with garlands and decorated pediment capped the center two bays. On either side of the pediment, a flanking parapet ends in pedestals. The Embry

buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as part of the Downtown Commercial District.

The **Lowenthal** building was originally a three story Italianate structure with a heavy cornice and large oriel windows on the second and third story's flanking a center bay. The façade of the Lowenthal building was remodeled in the 1930's and an Art deco façade with a Greek Key decorative course above the upper windows was added. The Lowenthal Furs building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as part of the Downtown Commercial District.

School Buildings

LFUCG owns three former pre-World War II school buildings: Booker T. Washington Elementary (1915), George Washington Carver School (1934) and a portion of the original Dunbar High School (1923). **Booker T. Washington Elementary** was designed by prominent local architect and Dean of the Kentucky University College of Engineering F. Paul Anderson. Anderson designed a number of buildings on the University of Kentucky campus and in Lexington, including the Nunn (Lexington Herald) Building. Booker T. Washington Elementary School was named after the nationally famous African-American educator and founder of Tuskeegee Institute. Booker T. Washington Elementary closed its doors in the early 1970's when a new Booker T. Washington Elementary was built in Douglas Park. The school was reopened as the Black and Williams Community Center in 1975. The Black and Williams Center was named in honor of Evelyn Jones Black, an educator and professor at the University of Kentucky; and Alex Williams Jr., a well-known Georgetown Street personality and neighborhood activist. The grounds include the former Booker T. Washington Elementary and an adjoining gymnasium built in 1958.

George Washington Carver Elementary School was built in 1934 with Works Progress Administration grant money and replaced the old Patterson School which was demolished in the 1930's. The brick, two story building was built with classical details including a federal style entryway with a recessed fanlighted door. The south façade has two entries, each with handsome Greek Revival door surrounds. The southern façade overlooks a spacious and well-kept playground with ca.1930's playground equipment and a basketball court. The Carver School was reopened as the Carver Community Center in 1975 and continues in use today.

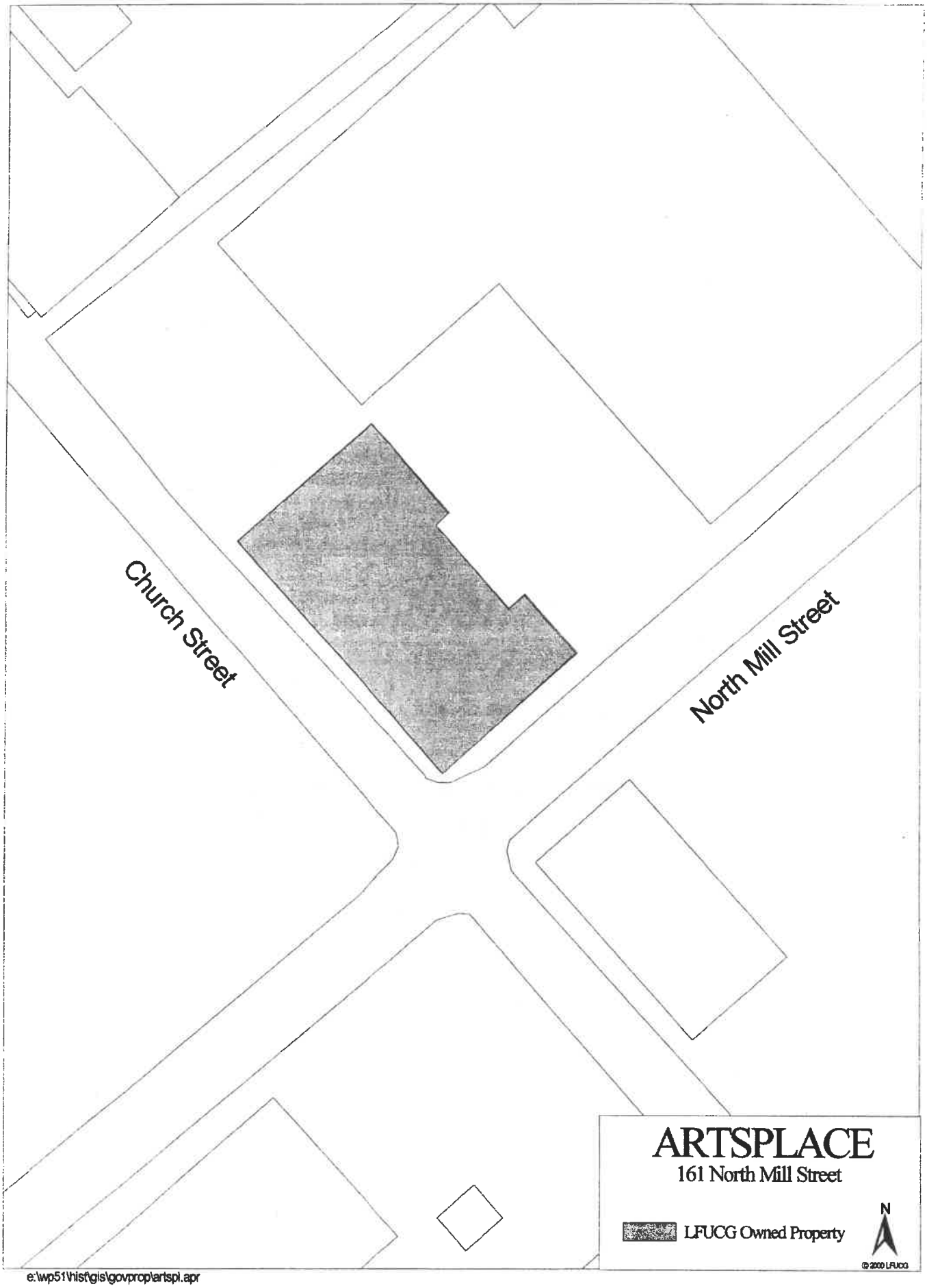
Dunbar High School was built in 1923 on the west side of Upper Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets and for over 40 years was an important part of the African-American community. The main part of the building was demolished in 1974 and the front doorway of the building was salvaged from the main entrance and moved to the Gymnasium portion of the building, which was retained. The building on the site is now used as offices for the City Parks and Recreation Department.

NAME:	ARTSPLACE
HISTORIC NAME:	YMCA BUILDING
ADDRESS:	161 NORTH MILL STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	OFFICES OF LEXINGTON ARTS & CULTURAL COUNCIL & VARIOUS ARTS ORGANIZATIONS.
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAIN. & CONST. LEXINGTON ARTS & CULTURAL COUNCIL
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1903-05

Artsplace

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Artsplace was the former YMCA and YWCA building. Constructed in the Beaux-Arts style, a classical style popular after the turn-of-the-century, the four story, brick and stone building is highly visible at its location on the corner of Mill and Church streets. The exterior appearance suggests that of a Renaissance Italian palace. The projecting cornices, flat, but elaborately articulated wall-surfaces, classical columns, entablatures, brackets and ornamental stonework are all elements that contribute to its high style. Artsplace meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



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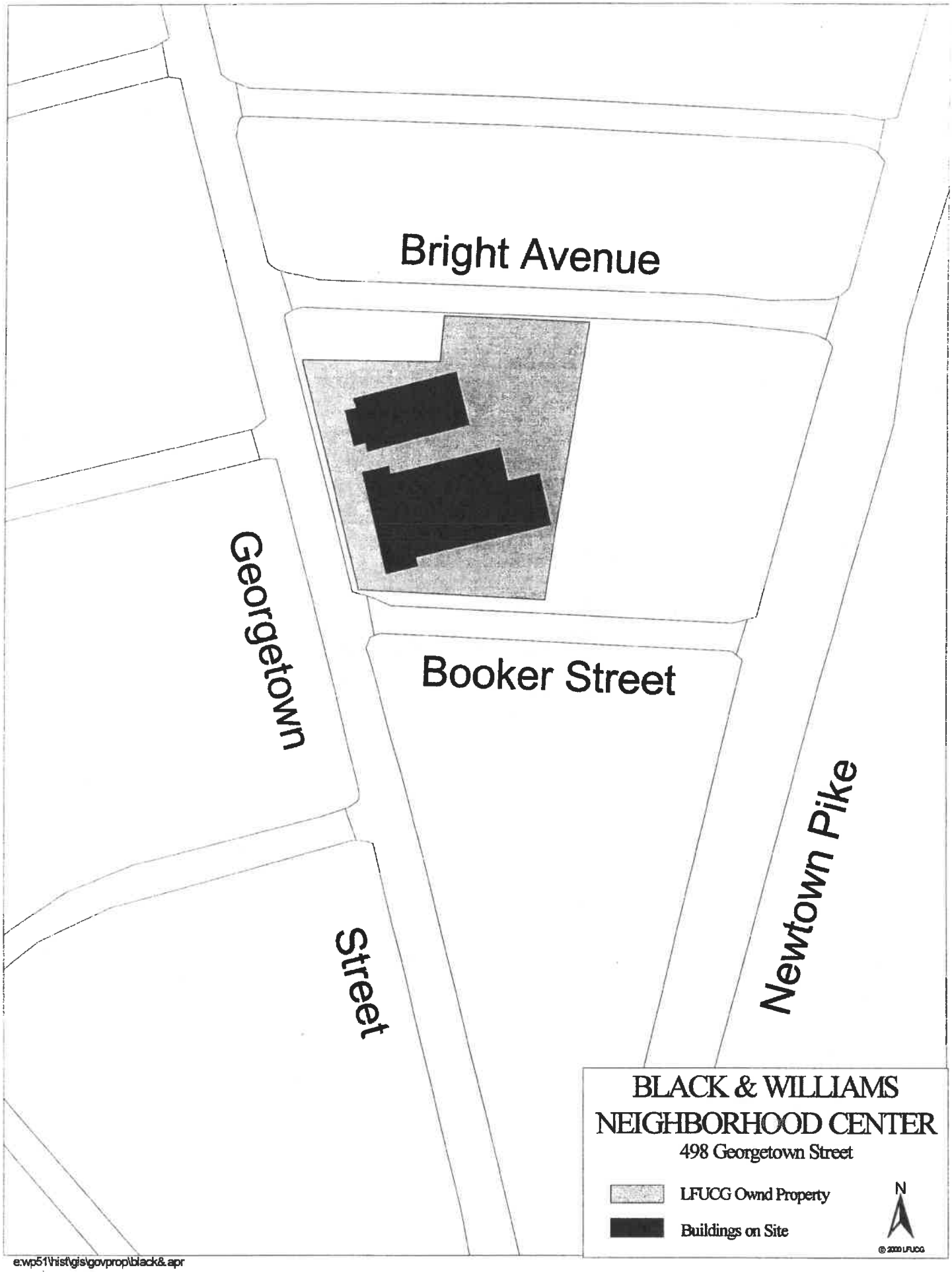
NAME:	BLACK AND WILLIAMS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
HISTORIC NAME:	BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL
ADDRESS:	498 GEORGETOWN STREET
DESIGNATION:	KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
PRESENT USE:	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1915

Black and Williams Community Center

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This school building was constructed in 1915 and was designed by the local architectural firm of Anderson and Frankel and opened in January 1917. F. Paul Anderson was Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Engineering. Designed in the Arts & Craft style of architecture, the two-storied brick school building sits on a high basement with a rough stone foundation topped by a smooth band of stone. There is a slightly projecting center mass displaying a double window with a segmental arch highlighted by blocks of stone. This double window replaced the original front entrance, which was removed in the 1970's. In 1975 this school was purchased by the Urban County Government, remodeled and reopened as the Black and Williams Community Center. The Center was named in honor of Evelyn Jones Black a social worker and professor at the University of Kentucky and Alex Williams Jr., a neighborhood activist. The Black and Williams Center meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



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NAME: CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING

HISTORIC NAME: LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ADDRESS: 251 WEST SECOND STREET

DESIGNATION: LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1)
NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES

PRESENT USE: CARNEGIE LITERACY CENTER

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
MAYOR' OFFICE

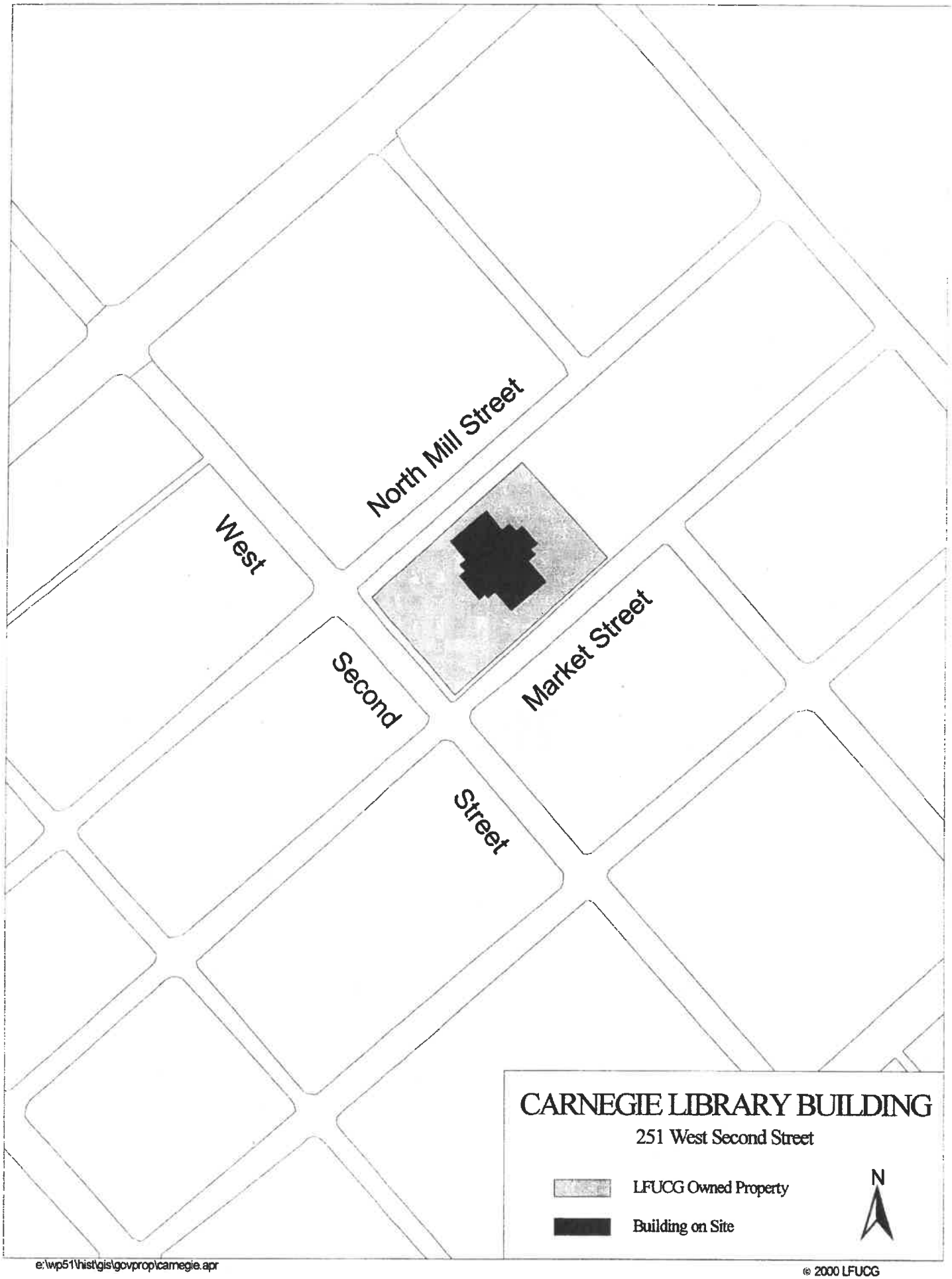
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1903-05

Carnegie Library

Carnegie Library – Early Twentieth Century

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Designed by Lexington architect Herman L. Rowe, this majestic library building is Beaux-Arts style. This massive, 2-story stone building on a high basement is the focal point of Gratz Park. Constructed at a cost of $75,000.00 most of the funds for this project were donated by Andrew Carnegie, the great steel magnet and philanthropist. The colossal 4 columned portico has elaborate decorative elements including large dentils. Windows are large 1/1 and a balustrade encircles the top of the cornice. The interior of the building originally had an open center, rising through the second floor to a large skylight. This was rebuilt as part of the renovation process. Except for a few minor changes, this imposing building is largely intact. This building was the central library from its construction in 1905 until 1982. The Carnegie Library meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance. (See Gratz Park)



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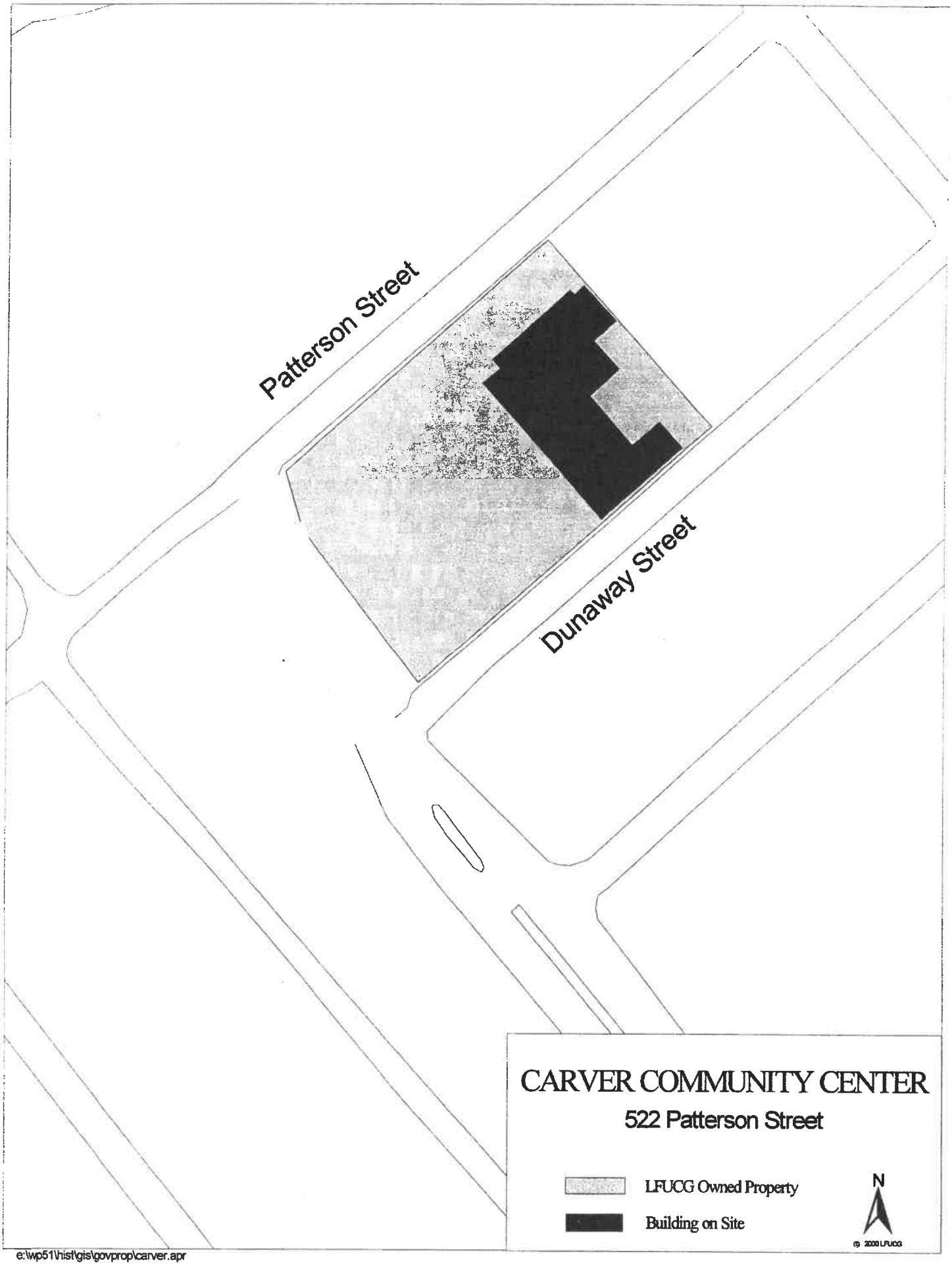
NAME:	CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER
HISTORIC NAME:	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ADDRESS:	522 PATTERSON STREET
DESIGNATION:	NONE
PRESENT USE:	COMMUNITY CENTER
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1934

George Washington Carver Elementary School

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Carver School was constructed to replace the old Patterson School, which was located on that same block on Patterson Street. It appears that the earlier school was demolished in 1934. The architecture of this imposing brick structure emulates earlier styles, reflected in classical detailing and design. The front façade is a series of seven arches, with stone keystones. Within each of the center five arches is located a window, except on the south end where the main entrance is located. The end arches are blank. This entrance has a large Federal style entryway with a recessed fanlighted door. The south façade has two entries, each with impressive Greek Revival style door surrounds. The Carver Community Center meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


Patterson Street
Dunaway Street
CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER
522 Patterson Street
LFUCG Owned Property
Building on Site
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NAME: KENTUCKY THEATRE

HISTORIC NAME: KENTUCKY THEATRE

ADDRESS: 208-212 EAST MAIN STREET

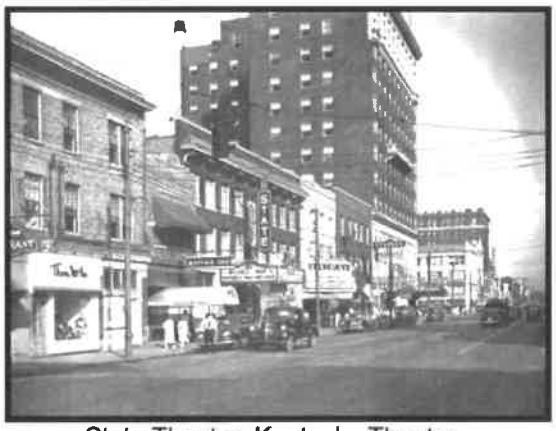
DESIGNATION: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PRESENT USE: THEATRE

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
MAYOR'S OFFICE

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1921-22

Kentucky Theatre



State Theatre, Kentucky Theatre
& Lafayette Hotel – ca. 1950

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kentucky Theatre is three-storied and its front façade is constructed in salmon-colored glazed brick with white and polychrome glaze tile details. The building, one of the most lavish on Main Street, was designed by the Louisville architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph. Large arches encase window openings in the center 3 bays of the building and high-style classical details are above them, beneath the cornice. Originally the building had a marquis that stretched across the full front. That was later changed to the existing marquis that extends in a "v" shape. This marquis, recently thoroughly renovated, utilizes neon and light bulbs to create a stylish appearance. The recessed foyer includes a ticket sales box and has marble on its walls. The interior was renovated in the 1950's in a "Southern Colonial" manner, but it still retains much of the original Adamesque décor, including one of two art-glass skylight domes. The theatre showed the first "talkies" in Lexington. The theatre suffered a fire in 1987 and has been renovated for use as a theatre with office space above. The Kentucky Theatre meets criteria A, B, C, D, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

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NAME: LEXINGTON-FAYETTE GOVERNMENT CENTER

HISTORIC NAME: LAFAYETTE HOTEL

ADDRESS: 200 EAST MAIN STREET

DESIGNATION: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PRESENT USE: LFUCG OFFICES

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1920

Lexington-Fayette County Government Center

Early Postcard View

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

One of the most handsome of Lexington's early 20th century high-rise buildings, this 12 story brick and stone building was constructed in 1920 as the Lafayette Hotel. Designed in the Georgian Revival style by C. C. and E. A. Weber of Cincinnati, the hotel was named for General Marquis de Lafayette, the famous French General who aided the country during the American Revolution.

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE GOVERNMENT CENTER

The base of the building is pink Rockford granite and buff Bedford limestone, the shaft of the upper two stories are glazed. The cornice has modillions and is beneath a simple parapet.

The architectural details and elegant décor made it a favorite place for Lexingtonians and provided visitors a first-class hotel for over 40 years. The interior includes an elegant 2-story entrance foyer with square wood-paneled piers supporting the mezzanine level. The building is now LFUCG offices known as the Government Center.

The Lexington-Fayette Government Center meets criteria A, B, C, D, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

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NAME:	LOWENTHAL FURS BUILDING
HISTORIC NAME:	STRAUS AND WILSON BUILDING
ADDRESS:	145-49 EAST MAIN STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	VACANT
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAIN. & CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1890, REMODELLED ca.1930

Lowenthal Furs Building

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The original building was a 3 story, 3-bay Italianate with a heavy cornice and oriel windows in the center bay on the 2nd and 3rd floors. It was probably built for Gus Straus and Garrett D. Wilson, the well-known horseman whose livery stable was next door to the east. There were a variety of tenants in the building from merchants and tailors to sign painters and music teachers. In around 1930 the building was renovated and a simple Art Deco façade was added. Lowenthal Furs was the last tenant of the building. The building is now vacant and the interior gutted, but the simple, late Art Deco façade with Greek Key band above the third floor windows, is an important ingredient of the East Main Street streetscape. The Lowenthal building meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

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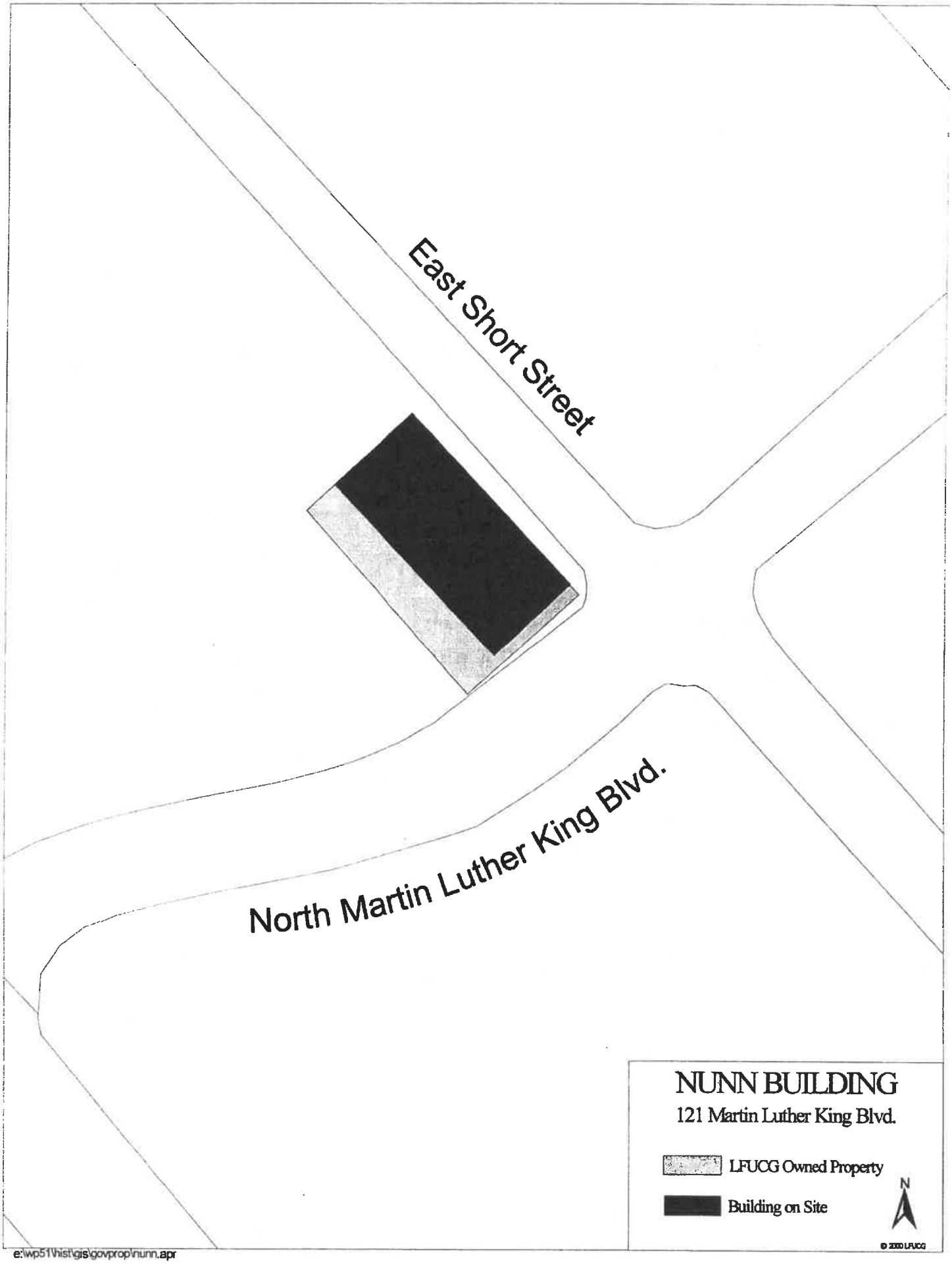
NAME:	NUNN BUILDING
HISTORIC NAME:	LEXINGTON HERALD BUILDING, NUNN BUILDING
ADDRESS:	121 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	LFUCG OFFICES
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. AND CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1917 & 1929

Nunn Building

Nunn Building – ca. 1930

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Lexington architects F. Paul Anderson and Leon K. Frankel designed this plain but handsome four-story brick commercial building. Its buff colored pressed-brick exterior was intended to be dignified, handsome and substantial, consciously representing the character of the newspaper it was to house as both office and workshop. In 1929, a harmonious two-story wing was added to the west side of the building. The building is now offices for the LFUCG. The Nunn Building meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


East Short Street
North Martin Luther King Blvd.
NUNN BUILDING
121 Martin Luther King Blvd.
LFUCG Owned Property
Building on Site
N
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NAME:	EMBRY BUILDING
HISTORIC NAME:	GRAHAM BUILDING
ADDRESS:	141-43 EAST MAIN STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	VACANT
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAIN. & CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca.1900

Embry Building – east portion

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Graham Building is a 4-story Neo-Classical building, likely designed by well-known Lexington Architect H. L. Rowe, who designed the Opera House and the Carnegie Library among other local landmarks. There were a series of prominent livery stables on here until Fannie Boswell Graham built the present building in 1900 as a speculative office building. The first tenants of the ground floor were Embry's Milliners and Ladies furnishings. Embry's took over the entire building in 1911. The building makes a dramatic statement on Main Street with its classical detailing and yellow-green glazed brick and fine limestone trim. The Graham Building/Embry's meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

NAME:	EMBRY BUILDING
HISTORIC NAME:	LEXINGTON STEAM LAUNDRY COMPANY BUILDING
ADDRESS:	139 EAST MAIN STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	VACANT.
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAIN. & CONST.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	CA.1900

Embry Building-west portion

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

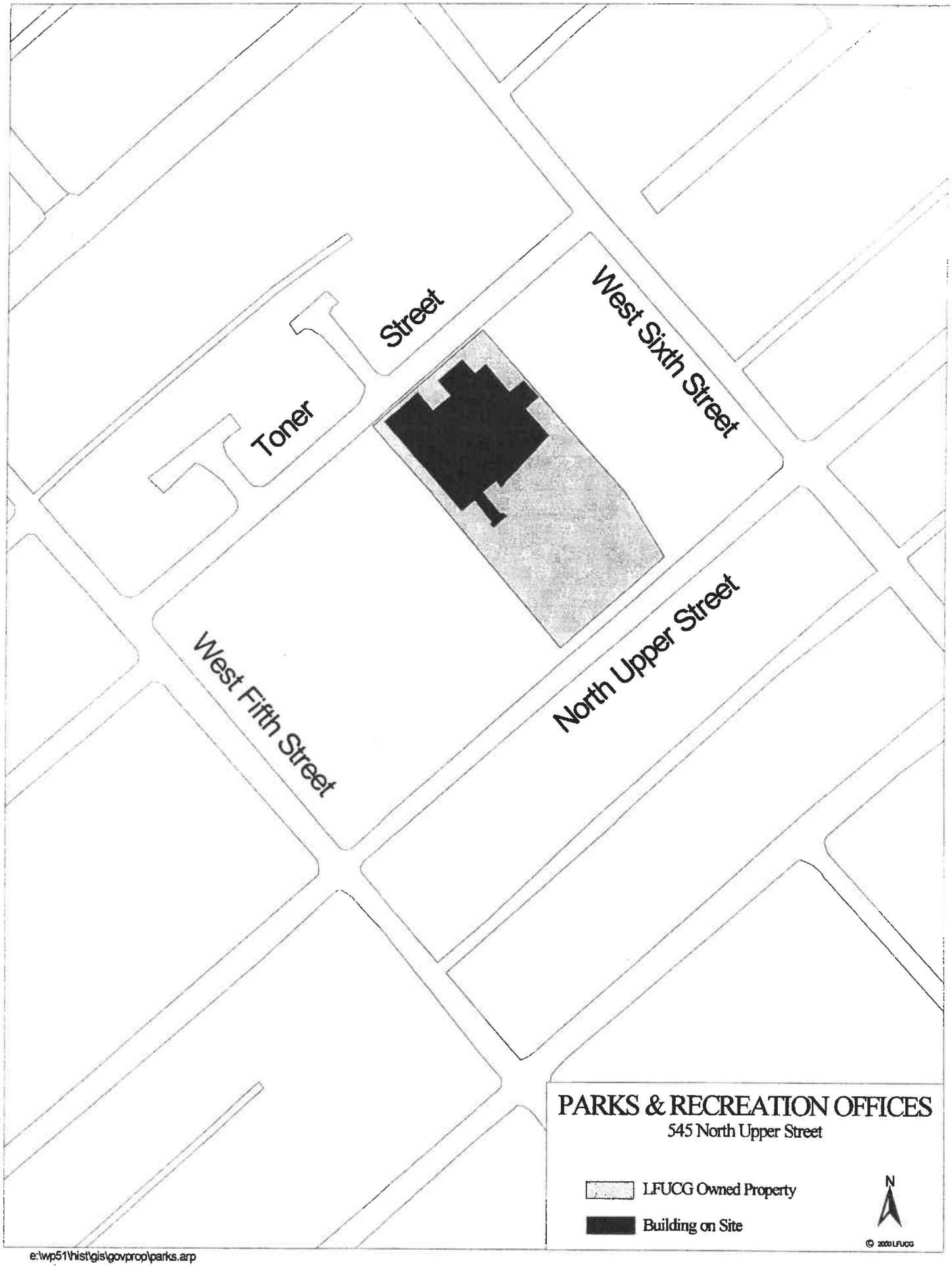
This building was identified with the Lexington Laundry Company from about 1900 until the 1940s, when it became part of Embry's. The current building is a remodeling of a 3-story Neo-Classical building that sat on this site until around 1929. The 1929 façade is the finest and most definite example of the art deco or moderne decorative manner in Lexington, and an important ingredient of the streetscape of this block. The glazed tile façade is decorated with stylized floral motifs. The Lexington Laundry Company/Embry building meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

NAME:	PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICES
HISTORIC NAME:	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
ADDRESS:	545 NORTH UPPER STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION OFFICES RECREATION CENTER
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1923, additions

Parks and Recreation Building

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Parks and Recreation Department is now housed in what was the rear portion of the Dunbar High School building. The main part of the building was demolished in 1974 and the front doorway of the building was salvaged from the main entrance and moved to the portion of the building that was retained. This handsome stone classically detailed doorway has an elliptical entablature set above banded columns. Dunbar High School was constructed in 1923 on the west side of Upper Street between Fifth and Sixth streets and for over 40 years was an important part of the African-American community. The school produced many graduates who distinguished themselves in various fields. The Parks and Recreation Department office meets criteria A; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



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NAME:	SWITOW BUILDING
HISTORIC NAME:	STATE THEATRE, CINEMA THEATRE
ADDRESS:	214-22 EAST MAIN STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	THEATRE, OFFICE SPACE
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST. MAYOR'S OFFICE
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1920 (BUILDING) 1929 (THEATRE)

Switow Building

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This Arts and Crafts style building was constructed sometime around 1920. The 3 Story, brick commercial building was constructed in the Craftsman style and has an overhanging roof with paired brackets. The name "Switow" is set in the center of the structure. In 1929, the State Theater was added onto the eastern portion and it was heralded as the "Jewel Box of the Blue Grass". The theater, with its 950 seats cost $200,000. Originally, much of the interior décor had a Spanish flavor suggesting a walled garden. Remnants of this décor remain. At the grand opening, Al Jolson, famous comedian-singer, was the master of ceremonies via the "vitaphone" process for the "new home of talking Pictures". The building is currently being used as a theater, office space and storefronts. The Switow Building meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

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RESIDENTIAL ESTATES AND GROUNDS

Residential Estates and Grounds

LFUCG currently owns and maintains a number of buildings and grounds that were originally built as town or country estates. Most were surrounded by substantial land holdings when they were built. Most of the "in-town" residences had seen their estates eaten away by the expanding city and were largely surrounded by 19th and 20th century suburban development when they were acquired by the LFUCG.

In many cases the remaining estate grounds were converted into parks and the historic buildings were occupied by LFUCG offices or were leased out to local groups. These houses and grounds are significant historically because they were, for the most part, built by and for prominent 19th century Lexingtonians. They reflect characteristic building styles and construction methods of the day and they also provide valuable insight into the lifestyles of the early residents of Lexington and the patterns of settlement of the City of Lexington. They also contribute significantly to the neighborhoods or areas in which they are located by providing a valuable historic landscape or link with the past. LFUCG owns the following residential estates and grounds and their significance, relative to the designation criteria established in Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette County Zoning Ordinance is summarized in Table II.

Ashland, Henry Clay Estate

Loudoun House, Castlewood Park

TABLE II. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE – RESIDENTIAL ESTATES

HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LANDMARK CRITERIA: ARTICLE 13, LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY ZONING CODE	GOVERNMENT-OWNED PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL ESTATES AND GROUNDS						
	Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate	Bell House, Carriage House and Park	Glen Rose	Loudoun House and Castlewood Park	Morton House and Duncan Park	Prather House and Raven Run Sanctuary	Spurr House
A. Has value as part of the cultural or archeological heritage of the county, state or nation.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. Is a site of a significant local, state or national event.	X						
C. Is identified with a person or persons or famous entity who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state or nation.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. Is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the county, state or nation.	X	X		X	X		
E. Has value as a building that is recognized for the quality of its architecture and that retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
F. Has distinguished characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
G. Has character as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration of buildings or structures united by past events or by its plan or physical development.	X	X				X	
H. Has character as an established and geographically definable residential neighborhood, agricultural area, or business district, united by culture, architectural style or physical development.							
I. Is the place or setting of some unique geographical or archeological location.							

The **Prather House** (ca. 1805) in Raven Run Nature Sanctuary is an excellent example of an early rural Federal style residence. It appears that the Prather family arrived in Kentucky in the early 1800's and purchased the land from James W. and Benjimen D. Johnson. The Johnsons had purchased the land from Evan Shelby, father of Kentucky's first Governor, Isaac Shelby, who had obtained the land from a military grant. The brick, five bay, side gabled house with a low-pitched roof was constructed in a Flemish bond brick pattern with a decorative belt course on the front façade. It appears that the left three bays were built first and the additional two bays soon after. The house includes an intact stone kitchen wing. The family cemetery exists, but is in a poor state of repair.

The rural land surrounding the old homestead is now part of **Raven Run Nature Sanctuary**. Located off Jacks Creek Road, Raven Run Nature Sanctuary is a unique natural area dedicated to the preservation of the flora and fauna of the Kentucky River palisades region. It is comprised of 372 acres on which the public may enjoy not only the natural beauty of early Kentucky, but buildings and sites of historical interest. Located within the sanctuary is an early brick house (see Prather House) with two outbuildings, two early cemeteries, two large tobacco barns, the foundation of the 1820 Evans Mill, remains of the mill pond, an old lime kiln, an old corn crib and a number of early rock fences.

The **Morton House** in Duncan Park, built for William "Lord" Morton in 1810, was considered one of the most elegant houses in Lexington at the time. The home was built on a 5 acre outlot that Morton obtained at the time Lexington first exercised a town plan. The landholdings around the house were later increased to 22 acres. William Morton was an early Lexington merchant and president of Lexington's earliest bank, which operated as one of the functions of the Kentucky Insurance Company, chartered in 1802.

Later owners of the home included antislavery crusader and publisher of *The True American*, Cassius Marcellus Clay, who resided in the house from 1838 until 1850. Later, a former Lexington Mayor Henry T. Duncan owned the house and property. The house follows the sprawling one story plan often used by Thomas Jefferson and the five-part plan often attributed to Palladio. The house with its tall arched doorway flanked by Palladian windows, is one of the most elegant survivals of early Lexington town residences. The house is one of the earliest in Lexington to be stuccoed. The stucco was scored to resemble stonework with quoins at the corners. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The Morton House is currently occupied by the Child Abuse Center. The building was renovated in the late 1980's. At that time, a new structure was added in the rear of the building and is connected to the original Morton House with a long corridor.

In 1912, the City voted a $25,000 bond issue for the purchase of 5 ½ acres around the Morton House for a public park. It was the family of Mayor Henry T. Duncan that sold the property to the city for a public park in 1913 to be named **Duncan Park**. The Morton House is setback from Limestone Street and the front yard remains open and contains many large specimen trees. Portions of the original stuccoed-brick entrance posts remain adjacent to Limestone Street.

The park today includes numerous park structures and improvements including a basketball court and play equipment mostly located to the side and rear of the house. Duncan Park is adjacent to two National Register Historic Districts: Northside Historic District and the Northeast Lexington Residential Historic District. The Morton House was listed on the National Register in 1975. (See Morton House)

Glen Rose (ca.1850), is a Gothic Revival home on Old Frankfort Pike that is important both architecturally and historically. Originally the home was called Spring Hill and was the homestead of noted pioneer industrialist Benijah Bosworth. The Bosworth family settled on a wooded tract of 27 acres purchased from pioneer Alexander McDonnell in 1800. He then built a house, dammed the stream at the edge of the property and constructed a malt house, still and cotton factory behind the house. Benijah Bosworth was a man of many talents. He practiced medicine and was a blacksmith, an inventor and a shipbuilder. He also had the first contract to pave the streets in Lexington.

Built around 1800, the home was remodeled in the Gothic Revival mode around 1850 probably not long after John McMurtry, popular local architect-builder, built his own house on South Broadway in the "new" Gothic style. The remodeling modified a Palladian window over the front door by giving it a pointed arch, articulating the chimneys each into four stacks, extending the eaves of the roof, and attaching a bay window to the east end of the house. The home is typical of the adaption of Gothic revival ideas and influences to conventional and classical forms then prevalent in the mid-nineteenth century bluegrass. Glen Rose is missing some of the original exterior details of the Gothic Revival period, but it still retains much of its character.

The grounds of Glen Rose include a brick outbuilding, stacked stone fences, large trees and the stone foundation of a large building that once housed the city jail. Glen Rose was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Loudoun House (1850) is located in what is today referred to as Castlewood Park. Loudoun house was built on a 56-acre tract that belonged to Francis Key Hunt and his wife Julia. The house was designed by nationally famous New York Architect Alexander Jackson Davis and built by prominent local builder/architect John McMurtry. A.J. Davis was one of the most renowned American architects of his period. He may be best known for his collaboration with Alexander Downing

in producing the widely circulated books *Cottage Residences* and *The Architecture of Country Houses*. The popularity of the Gothic Revival in the Bluegrass was due in large part to the activities of McMurtry. He produced over two hundred buildings in the bluegrass, most of them residences.

The Loudoun House is known today as one of the largest and finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Kentucky, if not the south. It is one of only five remaining castellated Gothic villas in the United States by New York architect A.J. Davis. The home was finished in 1852 and cost $30,000, as much as many public buildings in the mid 19th century.

Between 1870 and 1889 Loudoun House was the home of Colonel William Cassius Goodloe who served as chairman of the national committee of the Republican Party and was later appointed Minister to Belgium by President Hayes.

In 1930, the City purchased the home and grounds, which at the time included 33 acres, for $85,000. The grounds became park space for the north side of town and were named **Castlewood Park**. The grounds include several structures built for park use, as well as the main house and its accessory structure. Several fine burr oak trees and other mature trees dot the landscape and the grounds retain some of the original rural character. A Tudor style gymnasium has been added in the 1930's at the rear of the house. The land behind the house includes a swimming pool and other park facilities.

Among the most significant estates is **Ashland**, the Henry Clay Estate (1859). Henry Clay, the great Kentucky statesman, Kentucky Representative, US Senator, Secretary of State and three time candidate for presidency of the United States, built his original home on 510 acres in Lexington. The mansion was originally erected in 1805-06 with wings added from plans attributed to nationally famous architect Benjamin Latrobe. (Architect of the capital in Washington D.C.) Mr. Clay christened the home Ashland because it was located in a forest of majestic Ash trees. Many of these trees were cut, sawed into lumber and used for the finished wood interior.

After Henry Clays death the home was rebuilt by his son on essentially the same footprint and the 1856 home is an Italianate style, brick house with a center two story mass flanked by one story wings. The interior of the house is one of the most significant Victorian interiors in Central Kentucky and includes elaborate plaster details, natural finish woodwork, a paneled library and marble mantels. Ashland is listed as a National Historic Landmark.

The original **Bell House**, known as Woodside, was constructed in the 1840's from drawings by Major Thomas Lewinski. It was located on a 56-acre tract owned by David Sayre. The estate had been part of the farm of Bluegrass pioneer James Masterson before Sayre's purchase. The house was completed in

1846 and Sayre soon sold it to Henry Bell. Both Bell and Sayre were prominent Lexingtonian's related by marriage. The house burned in 1884, and soon after, Henry's son D.D. Bell hired Cincinnati architect William Stewart to rebuild the house for him.

Although the present Bell House (ca.1886) gives the appearance of the Greek Revival style, with its full height Corinthian columned portico, its details reflect the Victorian influence and the Queen Anne style. The elaborately detailed carriage house on the property is built in the Queen Anne style with a Swiss Chalet effect due to the multiple heavily bracketed gables with accentuated overhangs.

The property, exempting 5 acres around the house, was subdivided in 1906, when it was purchased and developed by the Bell Land Company. The site currently forms the centerpiece of the Bell Court neighborhood. In 1940, the home was given to the city in memory of D.D. Bell with the stipulation that Mrs. Sydney Sayre Cary could remain in the house until her death, which occurred in 1958.

The Bell House, Carriage House and Park are located in the Bell Court Local (H-1) Historic District, which was established in 1990. The Bell House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The Bell House, which is in good repair, is occupied by the Parks Department and is rented out for events. The Carriage House is leased out by the Studio Players. A local theatre group. The grounds are used as open space for the surrounding Bell Court neighborhood and contain many large specimen trees.

The **Spurr House** (ca.1890) is a two story brick Queen Anne style house located on land associated with the Spurr family since the early nineteenth century. The land was originally owned by Richard Masterson, who sold the property to the Beatty family. Daniel Spurr married Barbara Beatty in 1807. Their daughter and her husband lived on the place and it eventually came into their ownership.

Daniel Spurr, a farmer devoted in general agriculture, served in the state legislature for three years 1848, 1855,1863 and as a Justice of the Peace for his precinct. The Spurr family came early to Fayette County and became prominent citizens. Spurr Road is named for them. The original family cemetery is located on the property near the house and is enclosed by a rock fence. The Spurr House remains residential in use today and is occupied by a Parks Department employee.

NAME:	ASHLAND, THE HENRY CLAY ESTATE
HISTORIC NAME:	ASHLAND
ADDRESS:	120 SYCAMORE ROAD
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	HOUSE MUSEUM
RESPONSIBILITY:	HENRY CLAY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1857 (MAIN HOUSE)

Ashland-Henry Clay Estate

Ashland – ca. World War I

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

As early as 1804, Henry Clay, who was to become Kentucky's greatest statesman, began acquisition of the land that he often referred to as his "beloved Ashland". Clay, who became one of the most influential political figures in the U.S. in the first half of the 19th century, was Secretary of State during John Quincy Adams' administration, served 15 years in the U.S. Senate, and was three times an unsuccessful candidate for president of the United States. Ashland was his home from ca. 1809 until his death in 1852.

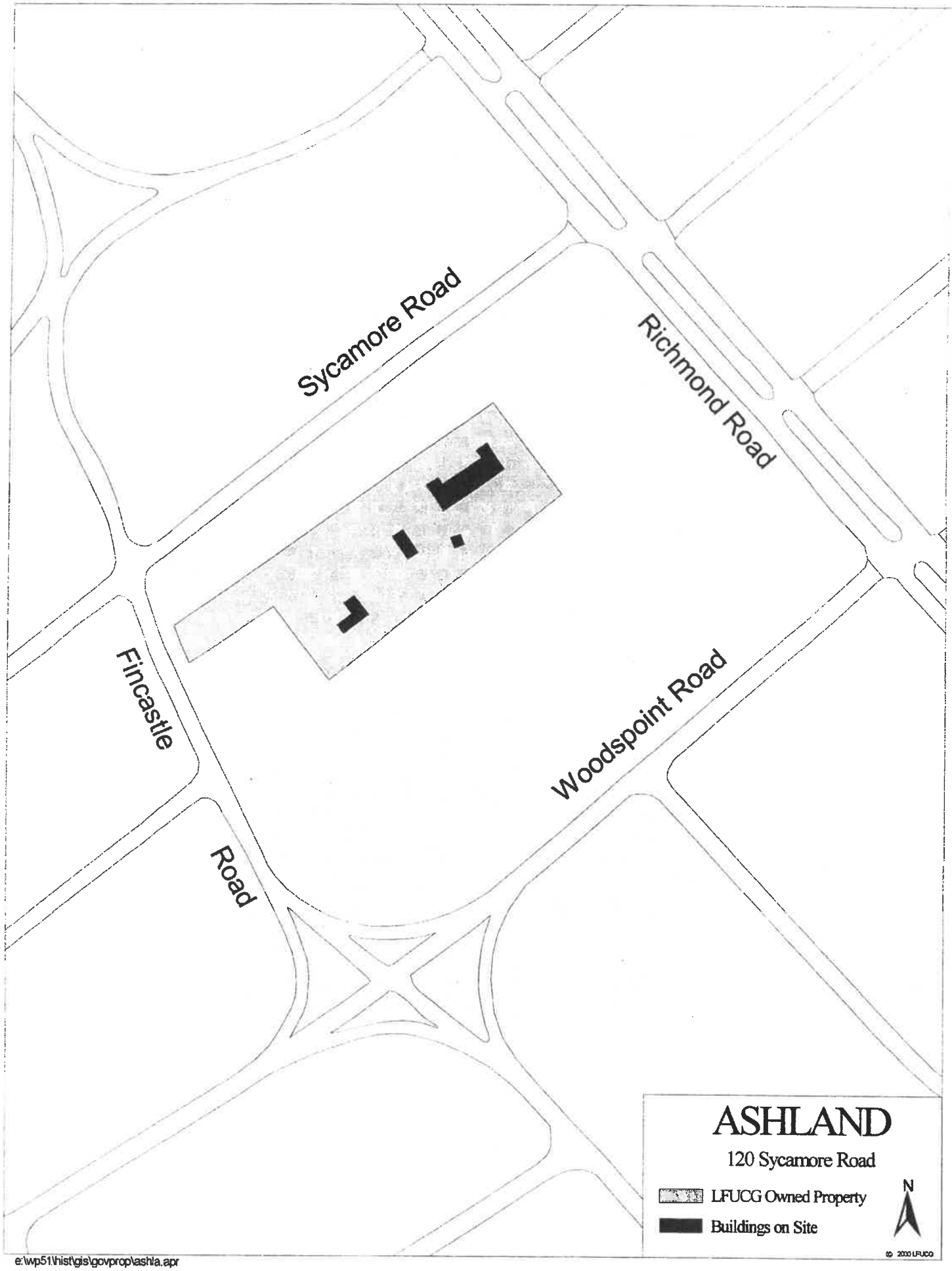
ASHLAND, THE HENRY CLAY ESTATE

One of Henry Clay's sons, James B. Clay, tore down the house after Senator Clay's death. James Clay rebuilt the house, which was said to have been suffering serious structural problems, along the same floor plan in 1857. The Italianate style, brick house consists of a center 2 story mass flanked by one story wings and has cast-iron elements including hood mould, entrance entablature, balcony rails, etc. Stone quoins decorate the corners of the structure. The interior of the house is one of the most significant Victorian interiors in Central Kentucky and includes elaborate plaster ceiling details, natural finish woodwork, a paneled library and marble mantels.

The Henry Clay Memorial Foundation opened Ashland as an historic house museum in 1950. Today, the grounds consist of approximately seventeen acres and include five outbuildings: the farm managers' cottage, the coach house/smoke house complex, the icehouses, the dairy cellar and a small brick structure.

In December 1990 the LFUCG purchased 2.5 acres of the Ashland Estate, including the main house and all the outbuildings. The LFUCG leased their real estate interest back to the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation, who in turn are responsible for operating the museum and all maintenance to the property and grounds. The Ashland Estate meets criteria A, B, C, D, E, F and G; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

Farm Managers Cottage



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NAME:	BELL HOUSE & CARRIAGE HOUSE
HISTORIC NAME:	BELL HOUSE
ADDRESS:	545 SAYRE AVENUE
DESIGNATION:	LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1) NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	BELL HOUSE SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER STUDIO PLAYERS (Carriage House)
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARK & RECREATION STUDIO PLAYERS
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1886

Bell House

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The original Bell House, known as Woodburn and constructed in the 1840s, burned in 1884 and soon after, D. D. Bell hired Cincinnati architect William Stewart to design a new house for him.

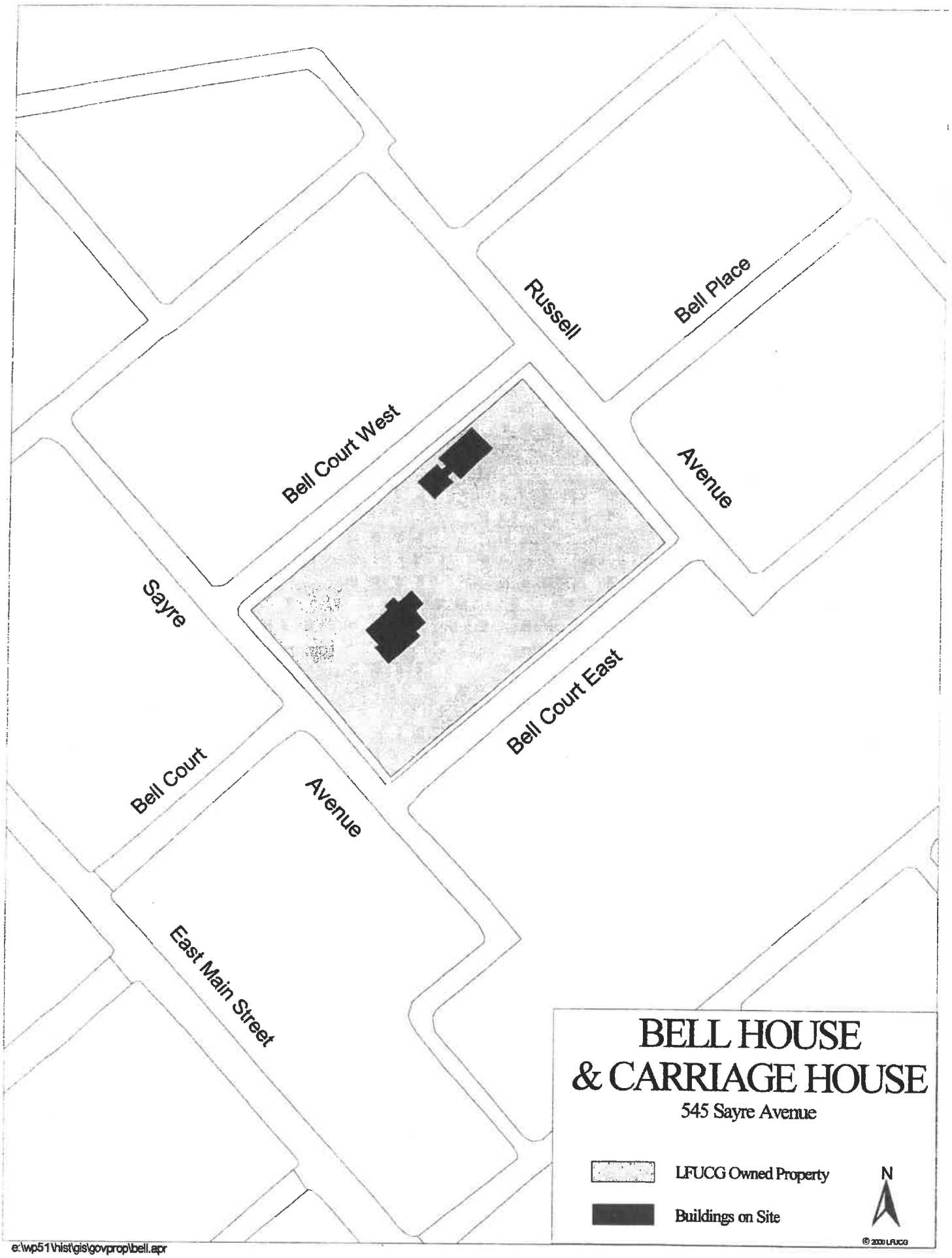
BELL HOUSE AND CARRIAGE HOUSE

Although the present Bell House gives an appearance of the Greek Revival style, its details reflect the Victorian influence and the Queen Anne style. The massive 2 story, 3 bay, brick house has flat pilasters dividing the bays and a colossal 2 story portico with fluted Corinthian columns. A porte-cochere is on the west side of the house. The Queen Anne style is reflected in many of the details including the curved scroll design on the front parapet on the front façade, the corbeled chimney stacks, the stained glass windows and the sunburst motifs used on the porte-cochere.

The carriage house on the property is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. The 1½ story, brick building has a hip roof with projecting dormers and a cupola at the apex of the roof. The roof also has an accentuated overhang and this, along with the heavy brackets and gables, gives this building a tremendously three-dimensional feeling.

In 1906, the Bell family sold all but the house and five acres to the Bell Place Land Development Company. The site forms the centerpiece of the Bell Court neighborhood. The family used the house until 1957, at which time it was given to the City of Lexington. The Bell House and grounds meet criteria A, C, D, E, F and G; outlined in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

Bell Carriage House



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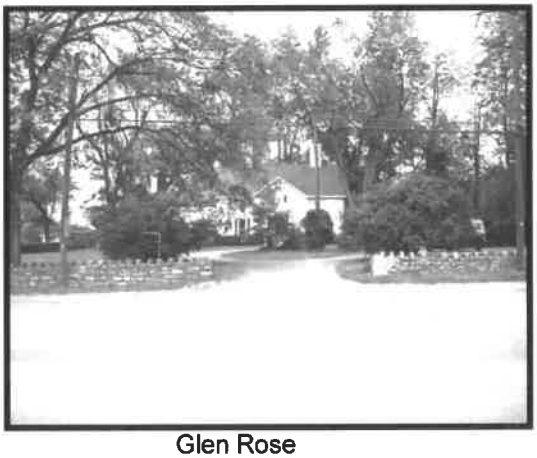
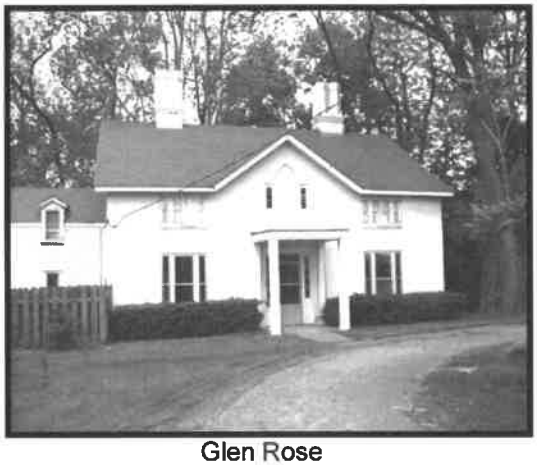
NAME:	GLEN ROSE
HISTORIC NAME:	SAME
ADDRESS:	1401 OLD FRANKFORT PIKE
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	RESIDENCE (for LFUCG employee)
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIVISION OF SANITARY SEWERS
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1850



Glen Rose



Glen Rose

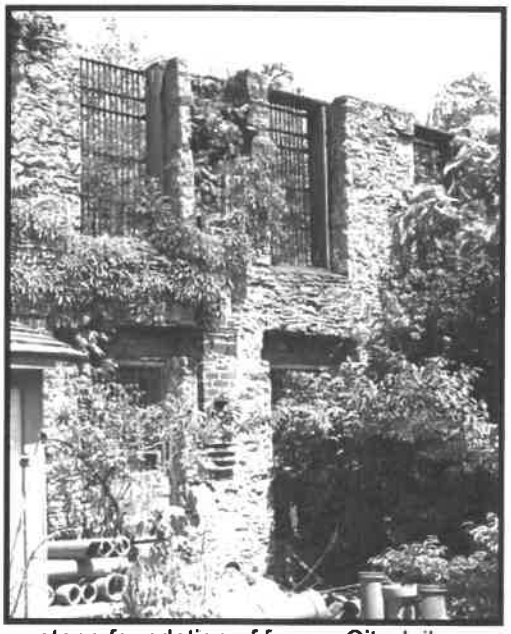
HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Glen Rose reflects the Gothic Revival style while retaining many of the conventional and classic forms then prevalent in the mid-nineteenth century Blue Grass region. The 1½ story, brick, 3 bay house has a center gable and articulated chimneystacks. The gable roof has overhanging eaves. The classical elements include the symmetrical floor plan, the Greek Revival woodwork and the Palladian style windows over the front and rear entrances.

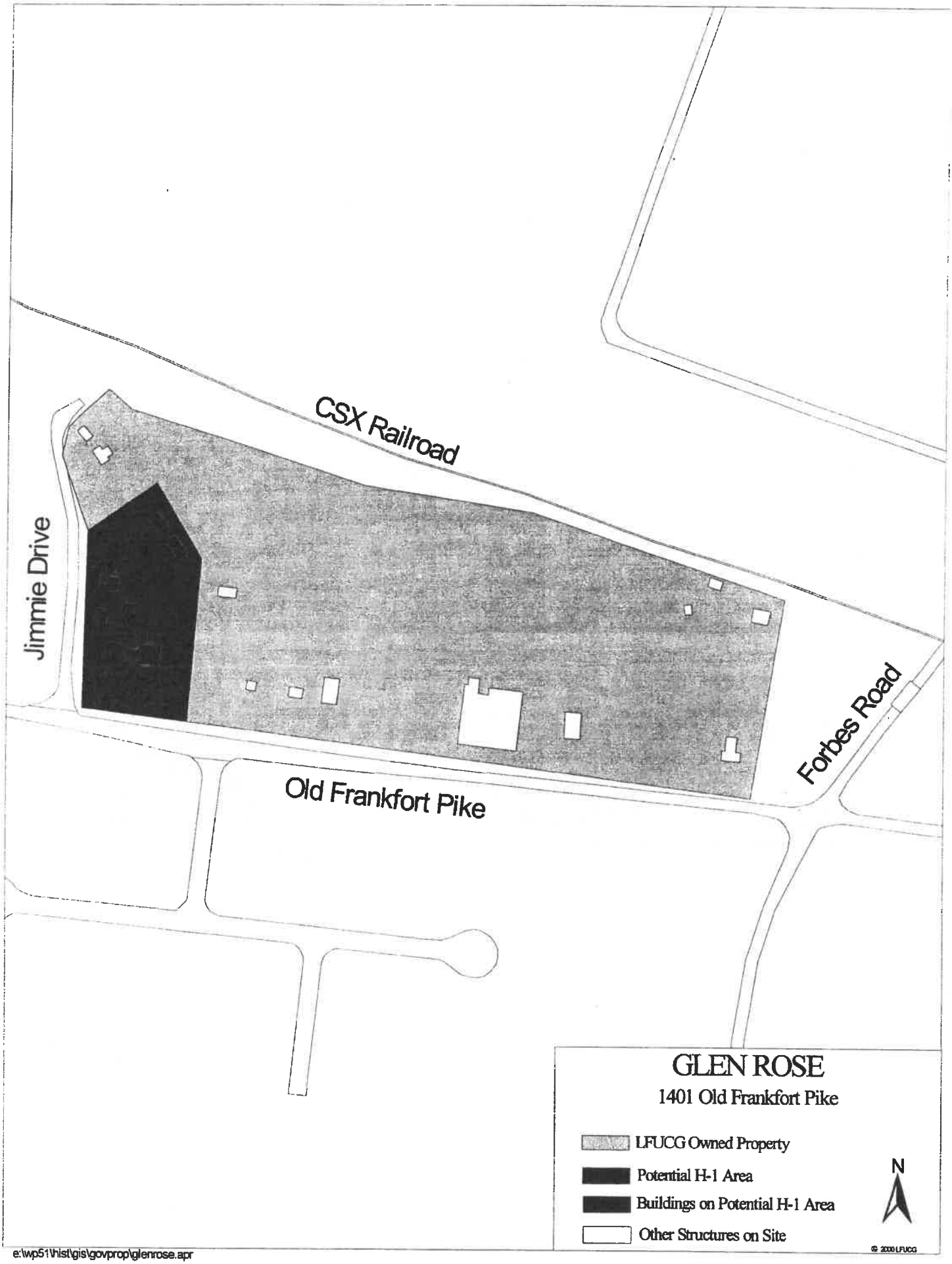
GLEN ROSE

The house sits back from the road and historically the land was part of the farm of noteworthy pioneer industrialist, Benajah Bosworth. In 1981, the City of Lexington purchased the property and has used it for various purposes since, including at one time the site of the old city jail. The Glen Rose grounds are located in an industrial area, but the house is sited beautifully with a meandering dry stack rock wall to the east of the house, contrasting with a later crenellated stone wall in front. Trees are grouped behind and to the sides of the house creating a visual frame. The property slopes gently to the Town Fork of Elkhorn at the rear where the ruins of the old Bosworth Mill. The grounds include a small brick outbuilding that may have been a smokehouse. Glen Rose meets criteria A, C, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

Glen Rose Outbuilding



stone foundation of former City Jail



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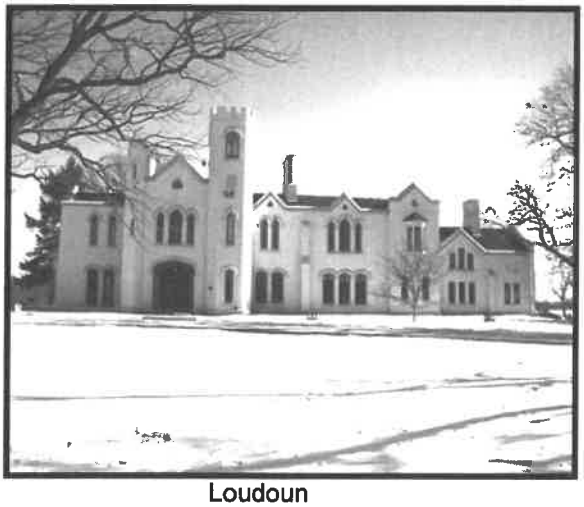
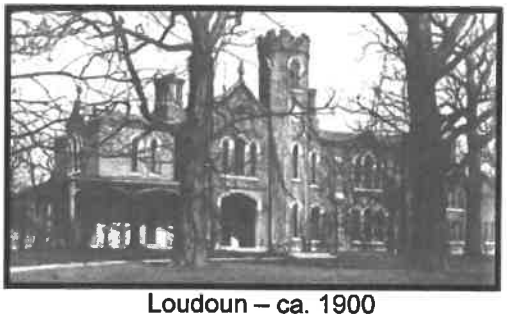
NAME:	LOUDOUN HOUSE
HISTORIC NAME:	LOUDOUN HOUSE
ADDRESS:	209 CASTLEWOOD DRIVE
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	LEXINGTON ART LEAGUE
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION LEXINGTON ART LEAGUE
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1850-52



Loudoun



Loudoun – ca. 1900

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Loudoun House, originally the home of Francis Key Hunt, was designed by New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis and constructed by well-known local architect/builder John McMurtry, at a cost of $30,000. On May 26, 1852, Mr. Hunt wrote to his architect, "My house is almost finished... It is a beautiful structure: and commands universal admiration as certainly the handsomest building in Kentucky." It was the first castellated Gothic Villa in Kentucky, and is considered by many to be one of the best examples of this style in the American South. The 2 story, brick building includes a 3 story, crenellated tower just to the right of the entrance bay. Windows are in pairs and triples and a projecting oriel decorates a 2nd floor window on the front façade.

LOUDOUN HOUSE

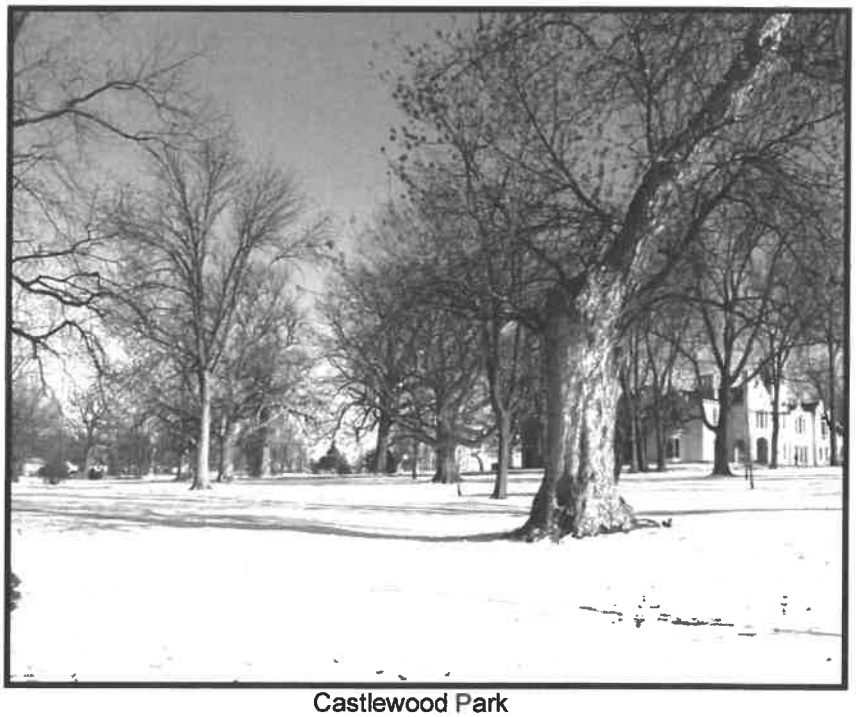
Shown in historic photographs, the house originally had an umbrage, or porch, at its entrance corner, the floor of which remains. The interior of the house is very much intact, from its elegant paired entrance doors to the Tudor inspired marble mantel. A Tudor style gymnasium has been added at the rear of the house. The land behind the house includes a swimming pool and other park facilities.

A brick outbuilding remains to the northeast of the house.

Loudoun belonged to the Goodloe family from 1884 until 1921 when it was sold to Judge Bailey. The City of Lexington purchased the house and grounds in the 1920's. The grounds include some very fine burr oak trees and the entire setting still reflects some of its rural sense. The Loudoun House and grounds meet criteria A, C, D, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

See also Castlewood Park.

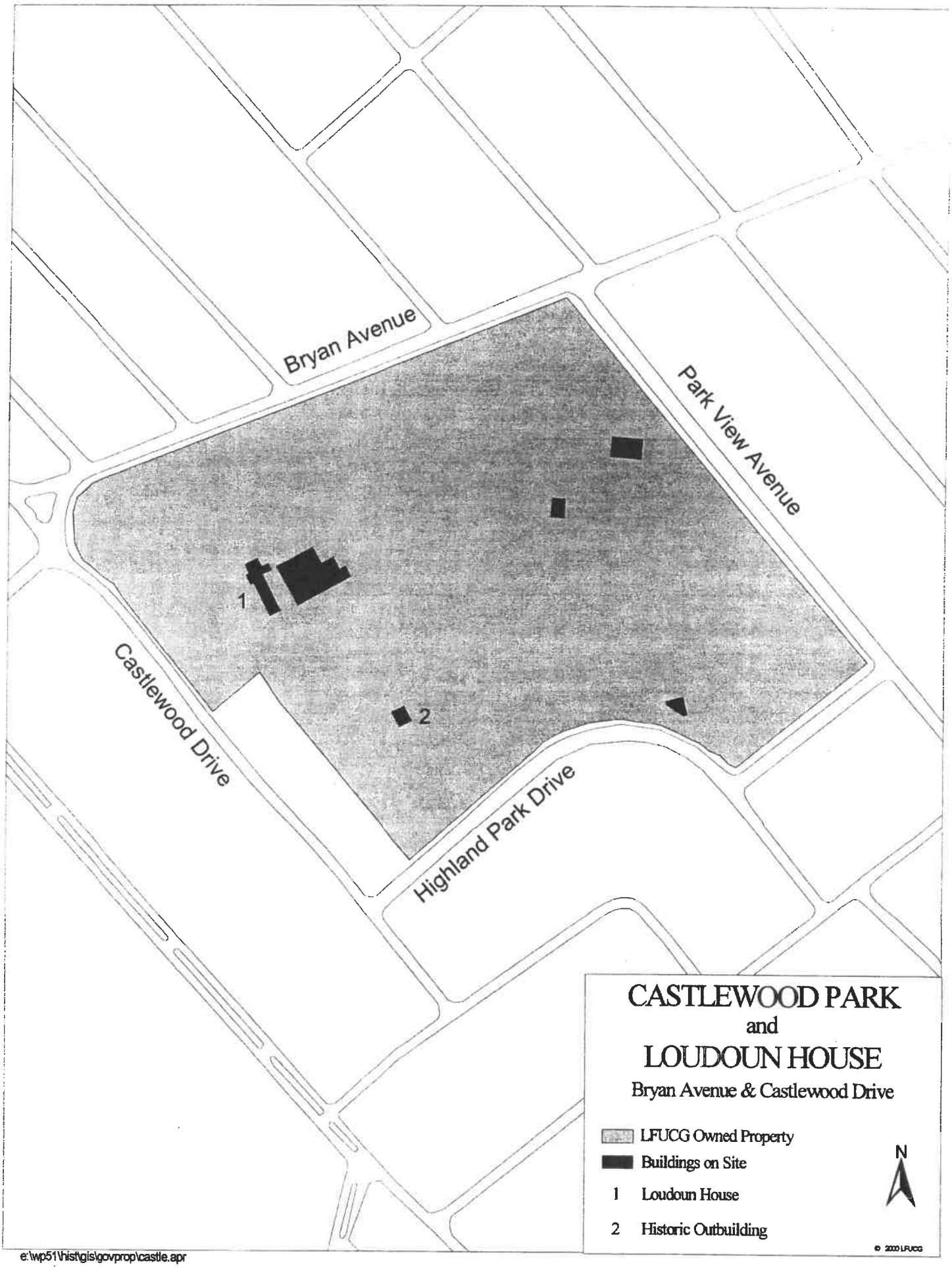
NAME:	CASTLEWOOD PARK
HISTORIC NAME:	LOUDOUN
ADDRESS:	201 CASTLEWOOD DRIVE
PRESENT USE:	PARK
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1920's



Castlewood Park

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Castlewood Park consists of 30 acres of what was a 56-acre tract that belonged to Francis Key Hunt in 1850. He had Loudoun constructed and in the 1880s the Goodloe family owned the property. The City of Lexington purchased the property in the 1920s and it became park space. The grounds include several structures built for the park use, as well as the main house. Several fine burr oak trees and other mature trees dot the landscape. (see also Loudoun)



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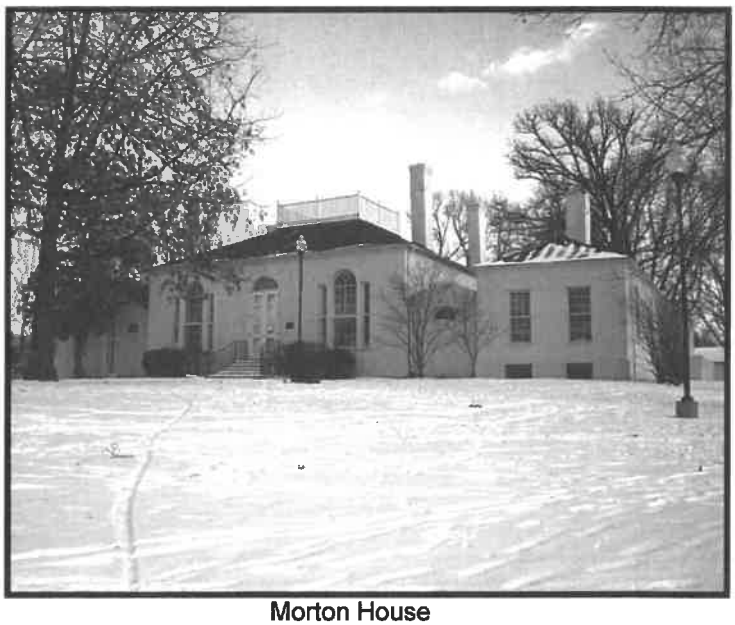
NAME:	MORTON HOUSE
HISTORIC NAME:	WILLIAM "LORD" MORTON HOUSE
ADDRESS:	518 NORTH LIMESTONE STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	CHILD ABUSE CENTER
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1810



Morton House

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Morton House, with its tall arched doorway flanked by great Palladian windows, is an elegant survivor of early Lexington town residences. Erected by William "Lord" Morton, this house follows the sprawling one-story concept often used by Thomas Jefferson.

The 1 story, 5 bay house is of a similar massing to Rose Hill, just across Limestone Street. The house is stuccoed and the cornice has dogwood motif. The interior of the house has suffered over the years, but retains its floor plan. The building was renovated in the late 1980's for use as the Child Abuse Center.

At that time a new structure was constructed to the rear of the building and has a connector tied in to the historic house.

The Morton House is set back from the street and some portion of the pair of round post entrance gates remain near the sidewalk on Limestone. The site now includes park equipment and a pool but the front yard area remains intact. The Morton House and grounds meet criteria A, C, D, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

Morton House – Early View

NAME: DUNCAN PARK

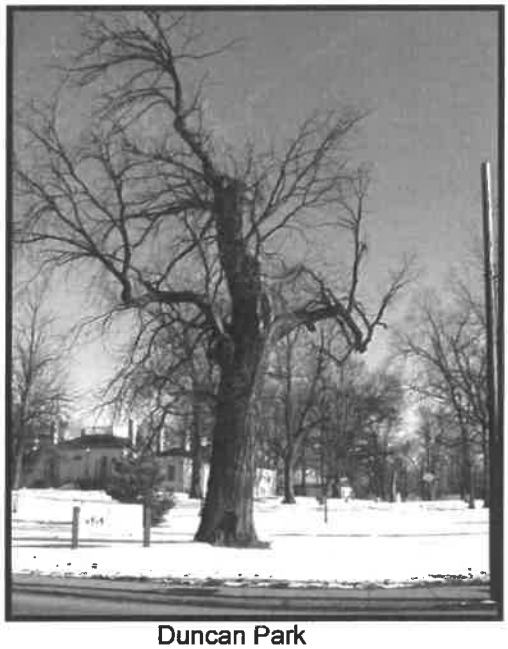
HISTORIC NAME: SAME

ADDRESS: 530 NORTH LIMESTONE

PRESENT USE: PARK

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

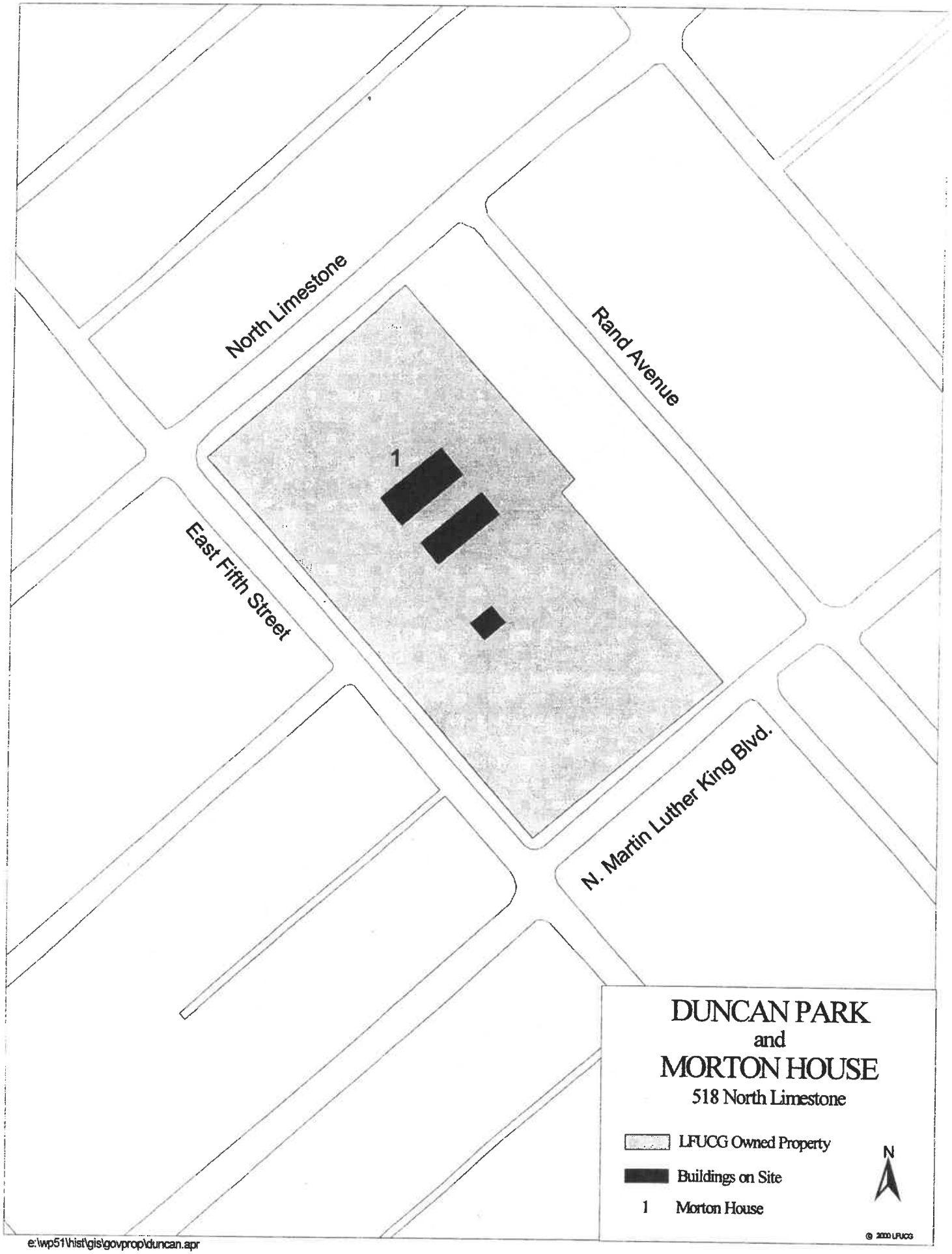
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1913



Duncan Park

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Duncan Park was originally land owned by William "Lord" Morton and on which he built his now historic house in 1810. Both the house and land have historical associations. Morton was an early Lexington merchant who was awarded this land when he drew for an outlot at the time Lexington first exercised a town plan. In 1838, the property was sold to Cassius Marcellus Clay, one of Kentucky's most famous citizens. Clay and his family resided at the Morton house until 1850. Later, a former Lexington mayor, Henry T. Duncan, owned the house and property. It was the Duncan family who, in 1913, sold the property to the City of Lexington for a public park. The Morton House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Duncan Park has several very old trees and occupies half of a city block. Duncan Park is adjacent to two National Register Districts, the Northside Historic Residential District and the Northeast Lexington Residential District. (See also Morton House)



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NAME:	PRATHER HOUSE (On Raven Run Nature Sanctuary)
HISTORIC NAME:	UNKNOWN
ADDRESS:	JACKS CREEK ROAD
DESIGNATION:	KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
PRESENT USE:	VACANT
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1805

Prather House

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This brick, 5 bay house was laid up in the Flemish bond brick pattern with a belt course on the front façade. It appears that the left three bays were built first and the additional two bays soon after. Window frames are pegged although most of the window sashes are two-over-two replacements. The house is an excellent example of a rural, early Federal style house. The attached stone kitchen wing is intact. The family cemetery exists, although in a poor state of repair.

It appears that the Prather family arrived in Kentucky in the early 1800's and purchased the land from James W. and Benjamin D. Johnson. The Johnsons' had purchased the land from Evan Shelby, father of Kentucky's first Governor, Isaac Shelby, who obtained the land from a military grant. The Prather House and grounds meets criteria A, C, E, F and G and I; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance. (See also Raven Run Sanctuary).

NAME: RAVEN RUN NATURE SANCTUARY

ADDRESS: 5886 JACKS CREEK ROAD

PRESENT USE: NATURE SANCTUARY

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION
FRIENDS OF RAVEN RUN

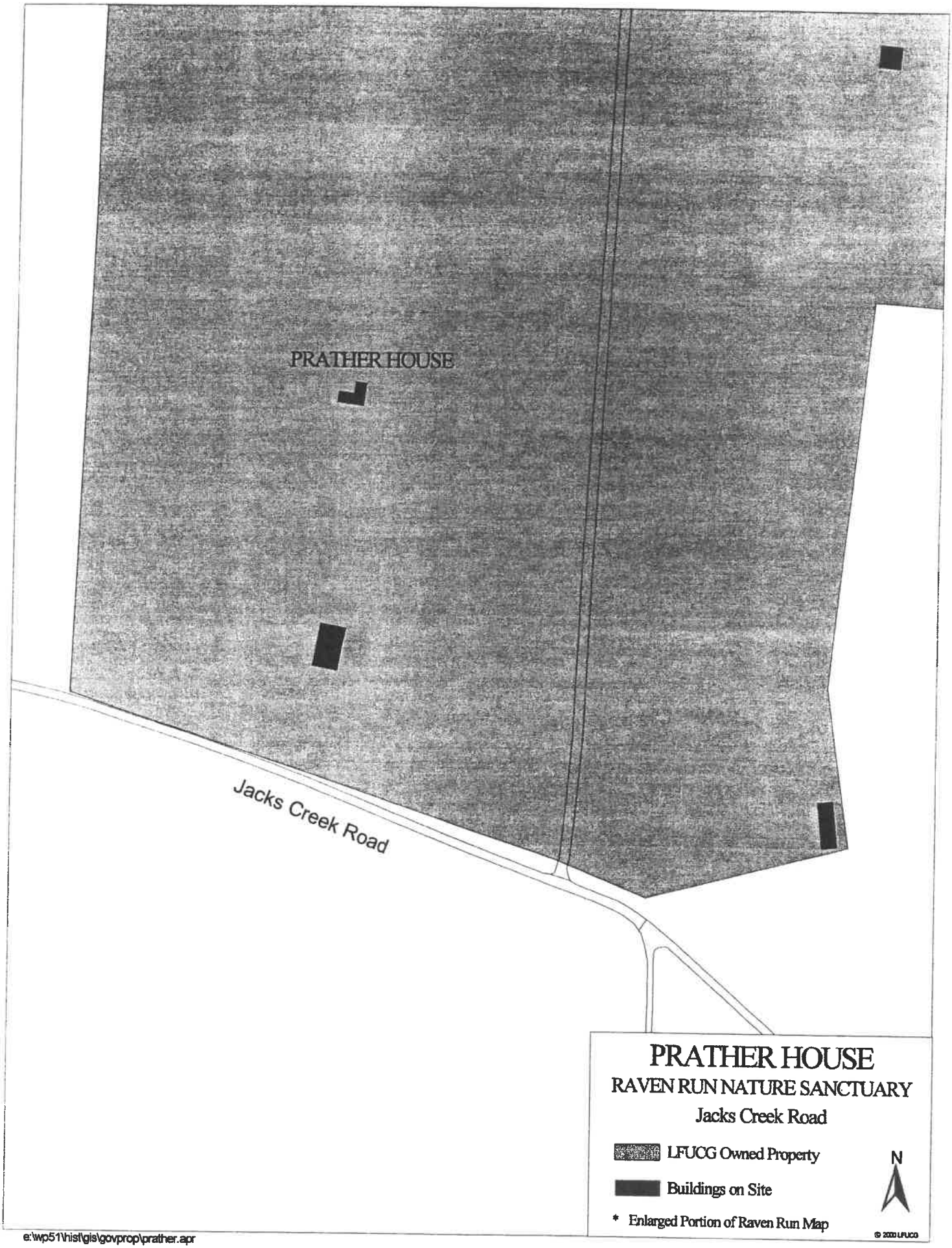
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Park created in the 1980s

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary, located off the Jacks Creek Pike, is a unique natural area dedicated to the preservation of the flora and fauna of the Kentucky River palisades region. It is comprised of 372 acres on which the public may enjoy not only the natural beauty of early Kentucky, but man-made buildings and sites of historical interest. Located within the sanctuary is an early brick house with two outbuildings, two early cemeteries, two large tobacco barns, the foundation of the 1820 Evans Mill, remains of the mill pond, an old Lime Kiln, an old corn crib and a number of early rock fences. Raven Run Nature Sanctuary meets criteria A, C and G and I; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance. (See also Prather House)



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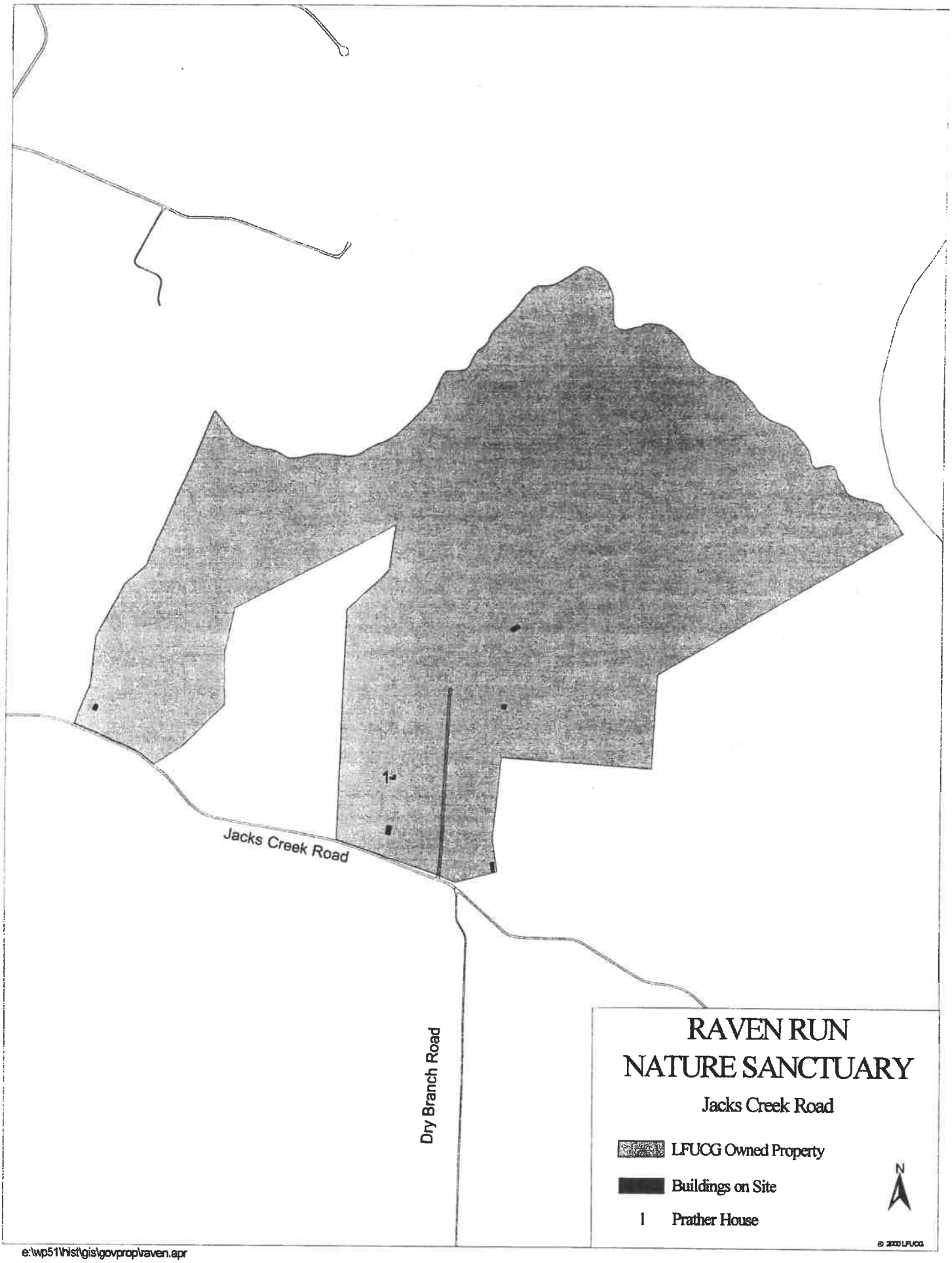

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NAME:	SPURR HOUSE
HISTORIC NAME:	SPURR HOUSE
ADDRESS:	SPURR ROAD (Masterson Station Park)
DESIGNATION:	KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
PRESENT USE:	RESIDENCE FOR LFUCG EMPLOYEE
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1890

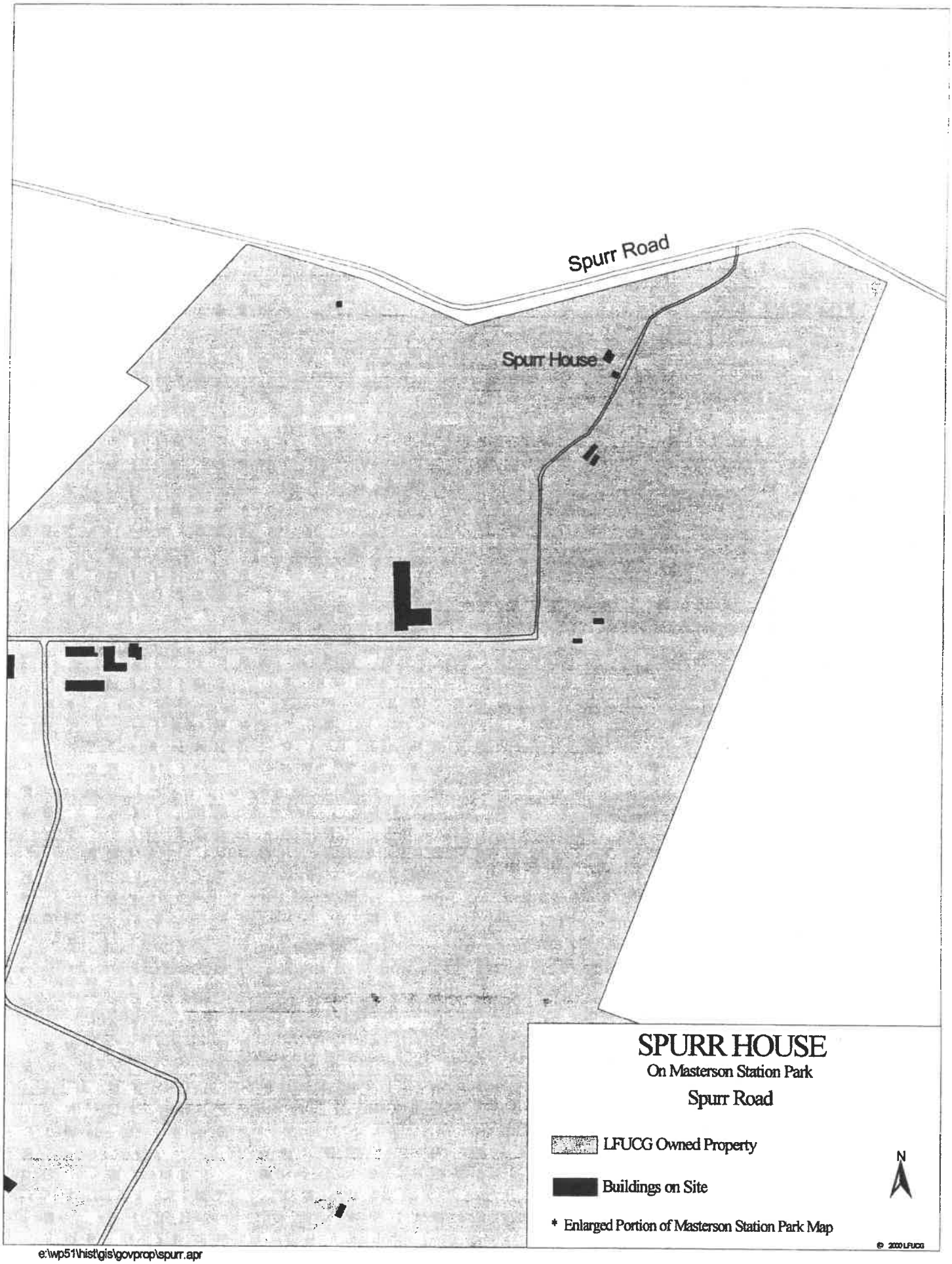
Spurr House

Spurr family cemetery

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This 2 story, brick house, with its projecting parlor bay, was constructed ca. 1890 and is now part of Masterson Station Park. The Queen Anne style house has a low-hipped roof and a Colonial Revival style wrap-around porch. Windows are segmental arched.

Associated with the Spurr family since the early nineteenth century, this property stayed in the Spurr family for a number of years. The land was originally owned by Richard Masterson, who sold the property to the Beatty Family. Daniel Spurr married Barbara Beatty in 1807. Their daughter and her husband lived on the place, and it eventually came into their ownership. There was probably an earlier house on this farm, which was replaced by the present one. The original cemetery is located near the house and is enclosed by a rock fence. The Spurr House meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


Spurr Road
Spurr House
SPURR HOUSE
On Masterson Station Park
Spurr Road
LFUCG Owned Property
Buildings on Site
* Enlarged Portion of Masterson Station Park Map
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Spurr Road
Leestown Road
MASTERSON STATION PARK
Leestown Road
LFUCG Owned Property
Buildings on Site
1 Spurr House
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PARKS, BUILDINGS, SCULPTURES/MONUMENTS

Parks, Park Buildings, Statues and Monuments

The LFUCG owns numerous parks which are historically significant due to their age, location, setting or historic elements that are contained within the park boundaries. Each of these parks is unique in their own right. Their importance comes from having been established for a long time and having been the location of a number of local, state or national historic events. Also, many parks are an integral part of, or are adjacent to a local historic or National Register District or have buildings and/or sites within their boundaries which have unique natural or historic elements.

These factors contribute to making a public open space special and worthy of local historic designation and protection. The following parks, park buildings, statues and monuments are owned by LFUCG and their significance, relative to the designation criteria established in Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette County Zoning Ordinance, is summarized in Table III.

Charles Young Community Center

Castlewood Park

Gratz Park

Cheapside Park

TABLE III. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE – PARKS, STATUES AND MONUMENTS

GOVERNMENT-OWNED PROPERTY: PARKS, PARK BUILDINGS, STATUES AND MONUMENTS									
HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LANDMARK CRITERIA: ARTICLE 13, LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY ZONING CODE		Fayette County Courthouse, Courthouse Square & Monuments	Cheapside Park & Monument	Charles Young Center	Gratz Park, Gratz Park Kitchen & Monument	McConnell Springs	Phoenix Park & Monuments	Richmond Road Median, McDowell Speedway Marker	Woodland Park
	A. Has value as part of the cultural or archeological heritage of the county, state or nation.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	B. Is a site of a significant local, state or national event.	X				X			X
	C. Is identified with a person or persons or famous entity who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state or nation.	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	D. Is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the county, state or nation.	X							
	E. Has value as a building that is recognized for the quality of its architecture and that retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.	X		X	X				
	F. Has distinguished characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.	X		X	X				
	G. Has character as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration of buildings or structures united by past events or by its plan or physical development.	X	X		X				X
	H. Has character as an established and geographically definable residential neighborhood, agricultural area, or business district, united by culture, architectural style or physical development.								
	I. Is the place or setting of some unique geographical or archeological location.					X			

In May 1775, William McConnell and a party of frontier explorers camped at a natural spring in what was then the wilderness of Kentucky. Having recently heard of the first battle of the Revolution fought at Lexington, Massachusetts, the group named their future settlement "Lexington". Prior to the settlers' arrival, the spring served as a reliable water source for native Americans and wildlife. Over the years, the spring was to become the location of a mill, gunpowder factory, distillery and dairy farm. In the 20th century the site lay abandoned, bounded by New Circle Road and industrial sites. However, in 1993 a group called the friends of McConnell Springs formed to try and buy the property and succeeded in doing so with the help of a donor. Today, **McConnell Springs** is a 24-½ acre history and nature reserve, including woodlands, an educational center and the springs, resulting in a green oasis in town.

The primary historical features on the **McConnell Springs** site date from the McConnell era and those succeeding it. They include: the foundations of the William McConnell house; a foundation of a building constructed on the Cahill Farm; a foundation of a dairy barn constructed in the late 1800's; the ruins of a dam, similar in style to early 19th century dams; these may be the remains of a grist mill that operated on the site at this time; and 1500 feet of drystack rock fences of the type built between 1840 and 1860, primarily by Irish immigrant laborers. The primary ecological features include the spring and related groundwater drainage system and the woodland environment. The site includes two 250-year-old burr oaks that are important remnants of the Oak savannah present at the time of the 1775 McConnell encampment.

Gratz Park is located north of downtown between Market Street and Mill Street. It is identified as outlot 6 on the original town plat of Lexington. In 1793 a group of citizens bought the land for Transylvania Seminary, which eventually became Transylvania University. The main building of Transylvania University was located in what is now known as Gratz Park from 1818 until it was destroyed by fire in 1829. After the main campus building burned in 1829, the University moved across to the north side of Third Street and the grounds found use as a college lawn for the University. In the 1860's, Civil War regiments of the Union Army camped on the lawn. In the late 1870's, the H. Howard Gratz leased the park and he named it after his father, Benjamin Gratz, a leading hemp manufacturer and Transylvania trustee. Gratz Park is well wooded and is the heart of the Gratz Park Local (H-1) Historic District.

The **Gratz Park Kitchen** building (1816-18), located in the northwest corner of the park, was one of a matching pair of dependencies to the main building of Transylvania University, designed by Mathew Kennedy, one of Lexington's earliest architects. The "kitchen" survived the 1829 fire that destroyed the main building. The "kitchen" as it has been known for a number of years was probably not one at all as its fireplaces are too small for large scale cooking. It was more

likely used as classrooms. After the fire and until 1905 it was the only building remaining on the college lawn. The "kitchen" was used by H. H. Gratz as his principal residence during his years of leasing the grounds between 1878 and 1903. The Gratz Park Kitchen is significant due to its age of construction; its close association with the "college lawn"; its identification with locally and nationally famous persons; as an example of a support building to a large 19th century institutional structure. The building is currently used as offices for the Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 1914, Gratz Park, consisting of four acres, was bought by the city for a public park. The **James Lane Allen fountain** was installed in the north end of the park in 1933. James Lane Allen was born in Lexington in 1849 and became one of Kentucky's most famous and prolific writers of novels and short stories. He left a bequest in his will to fund this fountain as a "gift to the children of Lexington". Sculpted by Joseph Pollia of New York City, it was dedicated on October 15, 1933.

The "college lawn" certainly was the location of many significant local events as a place for college events, debates and fairs. Transylvania University was a center of intellectual and cultural life in Lexington in the early to mid nineteenth century. Many of the nations future leaders attended Transylvania during this early period including Jefferson Davis, Stephen Austin, who moved on to lead in the opening and settlement of Texas; and future Vice-Presidents of the United States Richard M. Johnson and John C. Breckinridge. In the late 19th century H.H. Gratz operated the lawn as a semi-private park and held ticketed concerts and events there including a celebrated horse show every May.

The southern 1/3 of the park was to become the site for the Carnegie Library in 1905. Although the construction of the library ate up valuable green space in the park it did add to the significance of the park as a public space. The park is also significant as a geographically defined area surrounded by important residences and institutional buildings and is used as a social gathering spot and green space by the community. Gratz Park is part of the Gratz Park Local (H-1) Historic District, the city's first local district, established in 1958. Gratz Park was listed on the National Register in 1979 as part of the Northside National Register District.

Woodland Park was originally part of the 110-acre estate owned by the Trotter family and called Woodlands. The residence on the farm stood on what is now the site of the swimming pool complex. In 1832, Colonel John Erwin and his wife Anne Clay, daughter of Henry Clay, purchased the property. After the Civil War and until 1882, the property was occupied by the Agricultural and Mechanical College, which later became a part of the University of Kentucky. In 1884, all but eighteen acres of the farm was subdivided into building lots. The eighteen acres became Woodland Park, which was owned by the Kentucky Chautaugua Assembly and provided a gathering place for numerous meetings, political rallies,

barbecues and concerts. The city purchased the property in 1902 as its first public park. Today, the park is the focal point of the Aylesford neighborhood with mature trees and open space as well as a baseball diamond, tennis courts, pool, a bandstand and a skateboard park. Woodland Park is located in the Woodlands Historic National Register District, established in 1984, and the Aylesford Local (H-1) Historic District.

The Lexington trustees set aside land for a county courthouse at the center of town in the public square on the original plat of the City of Lexington. The **Fayette County Courthouse Square** is symbolically the center of town and the center of Fayette County (Lexington being the county seat). In 1788, the first county courthouse was built in the square. It was a two-story, stone courthouse. In 1806 it was razed to make room for a larger building. The third county courthouse and second in the square was erected in 1806 in the Federal style. It was razed in 1883 for a newer building. The fourth courthouse burned in a spectacular fire in 1897 and was replaced in 1900 by the courthouse standing today.

The present **Fayette County Courthouse** (1900) is among the most important buildings owned by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. It is the most prominently sited public building in Lexington--located on the Town Square--the geographic and symbolic center of town. Designed by Lehman and Schmitt of Cleveland, Ohio, it is one of the largest and arguably most impressive Romanesque Revival style building in Kentucky.

The Romanesque Revival style was often used for large residential and Institutional buildings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and is associated with Henry Hobson Richardson, an American architect trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris who popularized the style in the United States. Masonry construction and heavy ashlar arches and lintels characterize the style.

The exterior of the Fayette County Courthouse is largely unaltered and is an exceptionally well proportioned example of the style. The Courthouse sits on the most prominent and historically important site in the city and as the center of government activity for almost a century has hosted numerous gatherings, events and trials of local, state and national importance. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, the Courthouse is surrounded by a wide veranda, still intact although the east, south and west entrances are closed to the public. It relates well to the surrounding square and streetscapes which are largely intact.

The Fayette County Courthouse Square is a significant site in the culture of Fayette County and in addition to be the location of the County Courthouse it is the location of many of its oldest and most important monuments. Among the monuments located in the Courthouse Square include the Ellis Fountain, the John H. Morgan Statue, the Sesquicentennial Plaque, and the World War 1 Plaque. The **Ellis Fountain** was presented to the City in 1921 by E.B. Ellis.

E.B. Ellis, born in 1861, was the Vice-President of the Lexington Water Company and Director of the First and City National Bank. The fountain was donated due the insufficient public water access downtown. The fountain had a concrete receptacle and cooling coils and storage for ten gallons of ice water. The red granite basin, resting on a gray granite main base, houses the fountain, which depicts three children clasping each other surrounding a cluster of reeds. It cost $10,000 to construct and was maintained jointly by the city and county.

The **John H. Morgan Statue** was dedicated on October 18, 1911 before an estimated crowd of 10,000 people. The bronze equestrian statue atop a granite pedestal represents the role of the Confederate General John Hunt Morgan, member of a prominent Lexington family, in the culture and mythology of the South. He was a local Calvary leader who conducted famous and often devastating raids on the Union forces throughout much of the Civil War. Pompeo Coppini of San Antonio, Texas sculptured the statue at a cost of $15,000.

Also located on the Courthouse lawn are the **World War 1 Plaque** dedicated in 1924 to the memory of World War 1 veterans and the **Sesquicentennial Plaque** (1942). The Fayette County Courthouse Square was listed on the National Register in 1983 as part of the Downtown Commercial District.

Adjacent to the Courthouse Square to the west is **Cheapside Park**. Shortly after Lexington was founded, the area known as Cheapside Park became where court days were held at which livestock and other goods were sold or traded. This practice continued until 1920, when court days were declared a public nuisance and were legally prohibited by 1921. In 1928, the area was filled in, creating a small, creating a small town park and narrow street.

The **John C. Breckinridge Statue,** which was erected adjacent to the Courthouse Square in 1887, was originally flanked by elegant cast iron fountains, which have subsequently been removed. The Breckenridge Statue was dedicated on November 16, 1887 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and private citizens to honor one of its most distinguished statesmen, United States Vice-President John Cabell Breckinridge. A respected citizen of Lexington, he also served as Secretary of War and as a brigadier general for the confederacy. Edward L. Valentine of Richmond, Virginia was the sculptor and the base of the statue is inscribed, "The Henry-Bonnard Co N.Y.". Cheapside Park was listed on the National Register in 1983 as part of the Downtown Commercial District.

McDowell Speedway Marker. In the median on Richmond Road at Preston Avenue on the north and Sycamore Road on the south, stands a large granite marker, which reads, "McDowell Speedway - This tablet was erected by Fayette County to the memory of H. C. McDowell to whose efforts the citizens are indebted for this roadway – 1900". H. C. (Henry Clay) McDowell was the husband of Anne Clay, granddaughter of the statesman Henry Clay. H. C. Mcdowell was the president of Lexington and Eastern Railroad. He was also the

director of the Kentucky Trotting Horse Breeders Association and a nationally known breeder of standardbred horses. He purchased the Ashland Estate in 1882 and continued the breeding of horses on the farm. He improved the property by adding two tracks for the training of horses, one circular track south of the Ashland homestead and one straightaway along the Richmond Pike for the use of Trotters. H. C. McDowell and his wife Anne gave to the City the right-of-way for the median and improvements to Richmond Road, which incorporated the former McDowell Speedway road.

Duncan Park (see Morton House)

Castlewood Park (see Loudoun House)

Charles Young Center and Park were created in the 1930's as a park for the East Third Street neighborhood, which was predominantly African-American. The park itself was known early on as East End Park. The Community Center was built to include a basketball court, dance hall and crafts room, all of which are still in use. The building is a 11/2 story, brick, Georgian Revival building with decorative stone quoins, keystones and water table and a handsome pedimented entranceway. It was named in honor of Charles Young, the third African American to graduate from West Point and a Colonel in the U.S. Army, who was decorated for his service in Haiti and Liberia. Charles Young Park sits on a full block between East Third Street and Midland Avenue. It includes all of its original structures, play equipment, basketball court and baseball diamond.

Phoenix Park was created on a portion of the site of the former Phoenix Hotel. Initially known as Central Park, the park was renamed at its completion in 1990. The park includes a fountain, seating area, landscaping and the Fayette County Peace Officers Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Union Station Camel Statue. The Peace Officers Memorial was dedicated in 1997. The handsome granite pedestal was erected in memory of the many officers who died in the line of duty throughout Lexington's history. The monument includes an internal flame at its cap and is engraved with the names of those honored. The Vietnam Veteran Memorial was dedicated in 1988. The memorial was moved to its present location when the park was redesigned and reopened in 1990. The Union Station Camel is a modest granite marker with a small bronze stature of a heavily laden camel and rider. It was intended to mark the origin of Lexington's highways. The monument was erected in 1926 and was located just east of the Union Station Terminal at the corner of Main Street and Harrison Avenue. It designated the starting point of the then major highways radiating from Lexington. In 1960, when Union Station was demolished, it was moved to the Courthouse lawn. It was moved again to its present location when Phoenix park was redesigned.

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary (see Prather House)

NAME: CHARLES YOUNG PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER

ADDRESS: 540 EAST THIRD STREET

PRESENT USE: PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

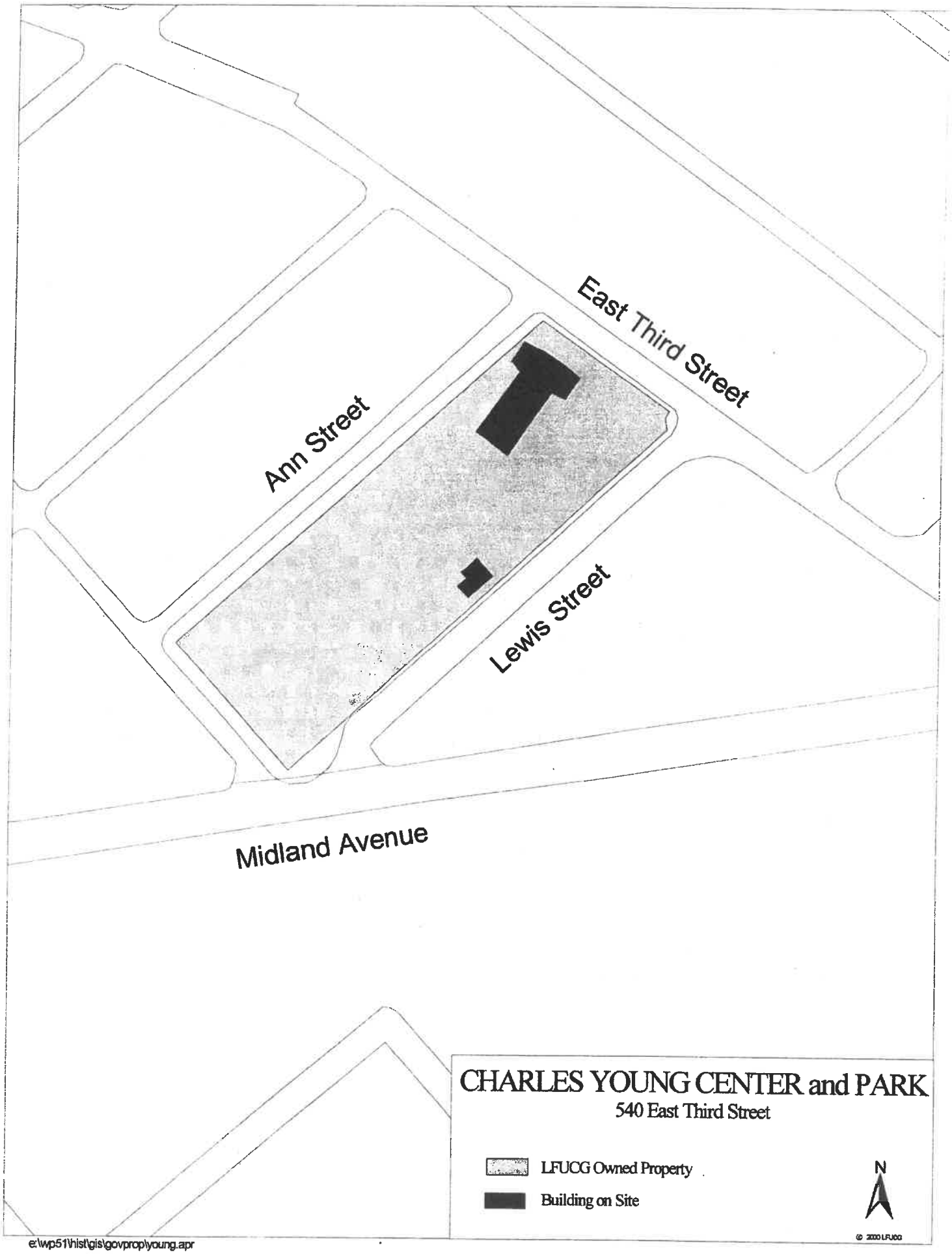
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca.1930

Charles Young Community Center

Charles Young Park

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The park and community center were created in the 1930s and the park itself was known early on as East End Park. The community center was built specifically for that use and is a brick 1½ story, Georgian Revival building with decorative stone quoins, keystones and water table and a handsome pedimented entranceway. The building was designed to include a basketball court, dance hall and crafts room, all of which are still in use. Named in honor of Charles Young, the third African American to graduate from West Point and a Colonel in the U. S. Army, who was decorated for his service in Haiti and Liberia. The Charles Young Community Center and park meets criteria A, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


East Third Street
Ann Street
Lewis Street
Midland Avenue
CHARLES YOUNG CENTER and PARK
540 East Third Street
LFUCG Owned Property
Building on Site
N
© 2000 LFUCG
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NAME: FAYETTTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HISTORIC NAME: SAME

ADDRESS: 215 WEST MAIN STREET

DESIGNATION: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PRESENT USE: CIRCUIT COURTS

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF BUILDING MAINT. & CONST.
DIV. OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – KY COURTS

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1898-1900

Courthouse Square

Courthouse Square – ca. 1907

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This is the fifth Fayette County Courthouse, the fourth on this same location. Designed by Lehman & Schmitt of Cleveland, Ohio, it is one of the very few, and by far the largest, and most impressive of the courthouses in Kentucky whose design was clearly inspired by the Romanesque Revival style. The 3 story, rough surface stone building features an octagonal dome rising from a pyramidal roof over a basically cross-shaped, cubical main block. A wide veranda surrounds the structure, with entrances to the building on all four sides. The interior of the building, which originally had a very handsome stairway in its entrance hall, has experienced two rather insensitive renovations, one in 1961 and the other in 1972. The Fayette County Courthouse meets criteria A, B, C, D, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

NAME:	CHEAPSIDE PARK
HISTORIC NAME:	CHEAPSIDE
ADDRESS:	BETWEEN WEST MAIN STREET & WEST SHORT STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRESENT USE:	PARK
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1928

Cheapside Park

Cheapside Park – 1930's

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

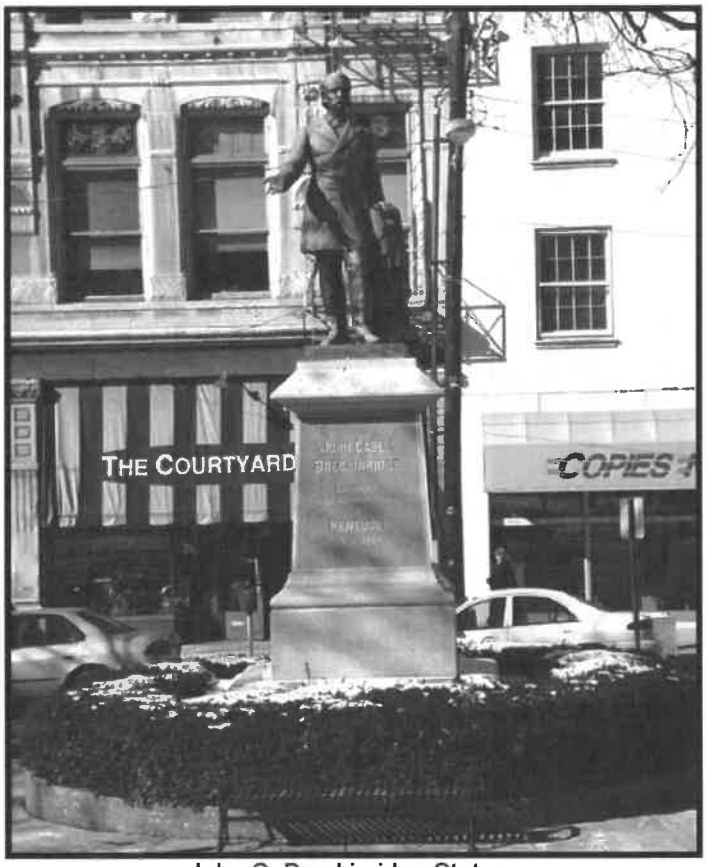
Shortly after Lexington was founded, the area known as Cheapside Park became where court days were held at which livestock and other goods were sold or traded. This practice continued until 1920, when court days were declared a public nuisance and were legally prohibited by 1921. In 1928, the area was filled in, creating a small town park and a narrow street. The Breckinridge Statue was originally flanked by elegant cast iron fountains, which had been removed by the early 1960s. Today, the park area besides the courthouse provides a welcome greenspace in the downtown area. Cheapside Park is within the Downtown Commercial National Register District. Cheapside Park meets criteria A, C, and G; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

NAME: JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE STATUE

ADDRESS: CHEAPSIDE PARK

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1887



John C. Breckinridge Statue

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This statue was dedicated on November 16, 1887 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and private citizens to honor one of its most distinguished statesmen, Vice-President John Cabell Breckinridge. A respected citizen of Lexington, he also served as Secretary of War and as a brigadier general for the Confederacy. Edward L. Valentine of Richmond, Virginia was the sculptor and the base of the statue is inscribed, "The Henry-Bonnard Co N. Y.". The John C. Breckinridge statue is situated in the center and is an integral part of Cheapside Park. It faces the west side of the Courthouse.

NAME: ELLIS FOUNTAIN

ADDRESS: COURTHOUSE SQUARE

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1921

Ellis Fountain

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Located in the center of the sidewalk, which leads to the steps of the Courthouse on the Main Street entrance, is this graceful fountain. The red granite basin, resting on a gray granite main base, houses the fountain, which depicts three children clasping each other surrounding a cluster of reeds. This decorative fountain has a bronze plaque, which reads, "Presented by E. B. Ellis to City of Lexington and Fayette County 1921". (See Courthouse Square)

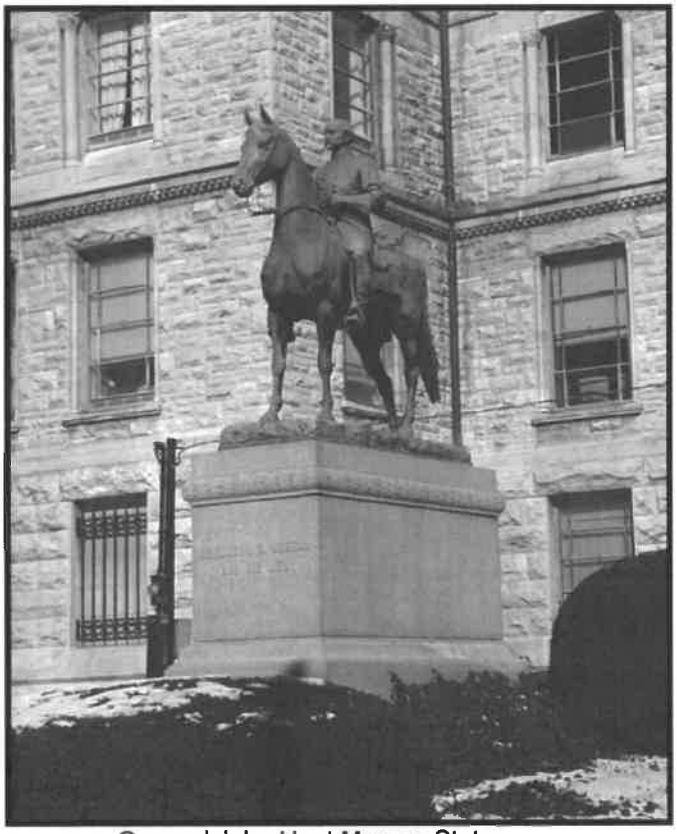
NAME: JOHN H. MORGAN STATUE

HISTORIC NAME: SAME

ADDRESS: COURTHOUSE LAWN

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1911



General John Hunt Morgan Statue

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This bronze equestrian statue atop a granite pedestal represents the role of the Confederate General John Hunt Morgan, member of a prominent Lexington family, in the culture and mythology of the South, particularly Kentucky, from which he conducted his famous and often devastating raids on the Union forces. Pompeo Copponi of San Antonio, Texas sculptured the statue, at a cost of $15,000. It is said that 10,000 people were at the unveiling of this statue on October 18, 1911. (See Courthouse Square)

NAME:	SESQUICENTENNIAL PLAQUE
ADDRESS:	COURTHOUSE LAWN
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1942

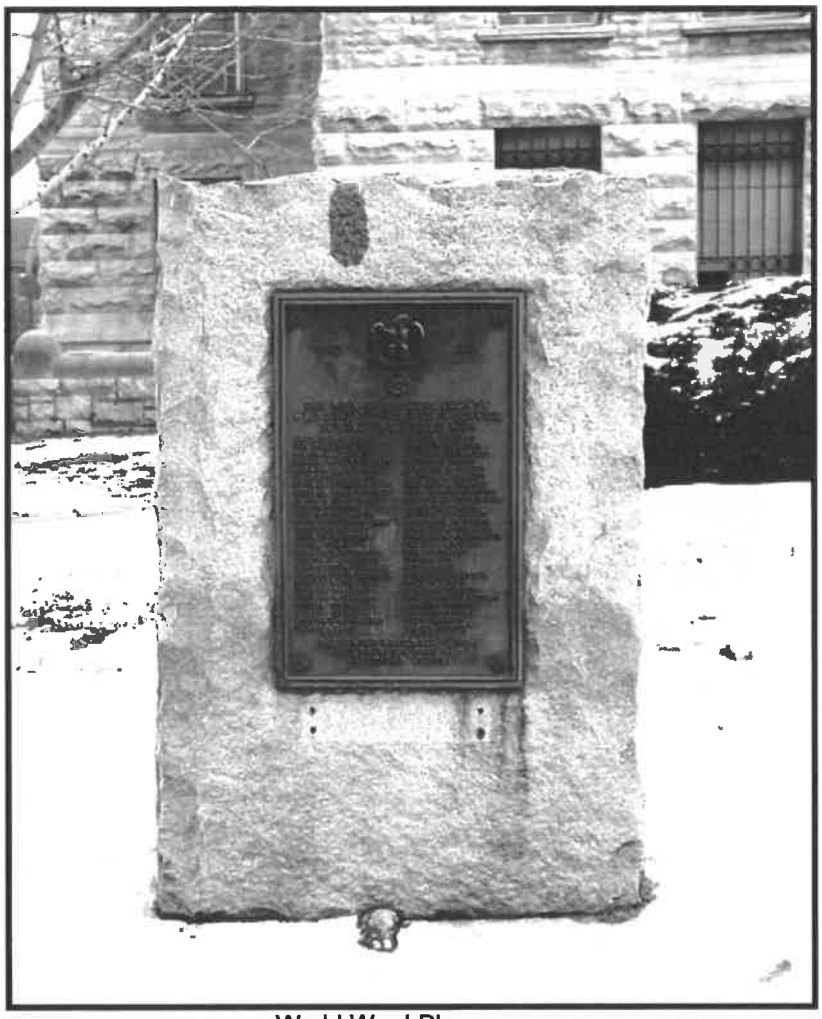
Sesquicentennial Plaque

NAME: WORLD WAR I PLAQUE

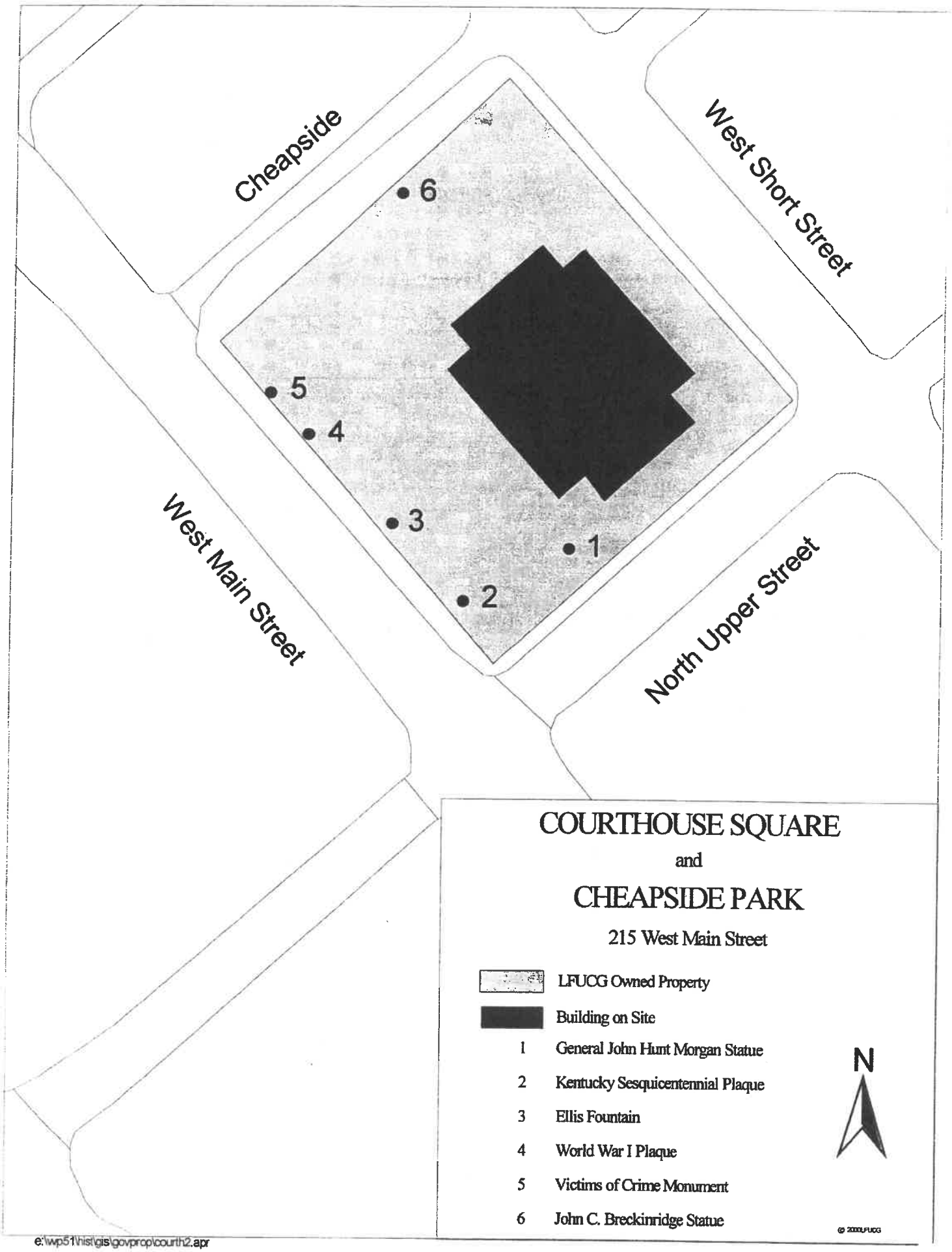
ADDRESS: COURTHOUSE LAWN

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1924



World War I Plaque


Cheapside
West Short Street
West Main Street
North Upper Street
6
5
4
3
2
1
COURTHOUSE SQUARE
and
CHEAPSIDE PARK
215 West Main Street
LFUCG Owned Property
Building on Site
1 General John Hunt Morgan Statue
2 Kentucky Sesquicentennial Plaque
3 Ellis Fountain
4 World War I Plaque
5 Victims of Crime Monument
6 John C. Breckinridge Statue
N
© 2000 LFUCG
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NAME:	GRATZ PARK
HISTORIC NAME:	COLLEGE LAWN/GRATZ PARK
ADDRESS:	250 WEST THIRD STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1)
PRESENT USE:	PARK
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1830s and later

Gratz Park

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Gratz Park stated as Outlot No. 6 on the original town plat of Lexington. In 1793, a group of citizens bought it for Transylvania Seminary, which eventually became Transylvania University. After the main campus building burned in 1829, the University moved across to the north side of Third Street. In the 1860s, Civil War regiments camped in the park. In the late 1800s, the Gratz family was in charge of the park and H. Howard Gratz named it after his father, Benjamin Gratz, a leading hemp manufacturer and a Transylvania trustee. The important buildings and sites that remain with the Park are the Gratz Park Kitchen, the Lexington Library building and the James Lane Allen fountain. Gratz Park is a part of the Gratz Park Local Historic District (H-1) and the Northside Historic Residential National Register District. Gratz Park meets criteria A, C and G; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

NAME:	GRATZ PARK KITCHEN
ADDRESS:	253 MARKET STREET
DESIGNATION:	LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1) NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	BLUE GRASS TRUST OFFICES
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION; BLUE GRASS TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1816

Gratz Park Kitchen

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

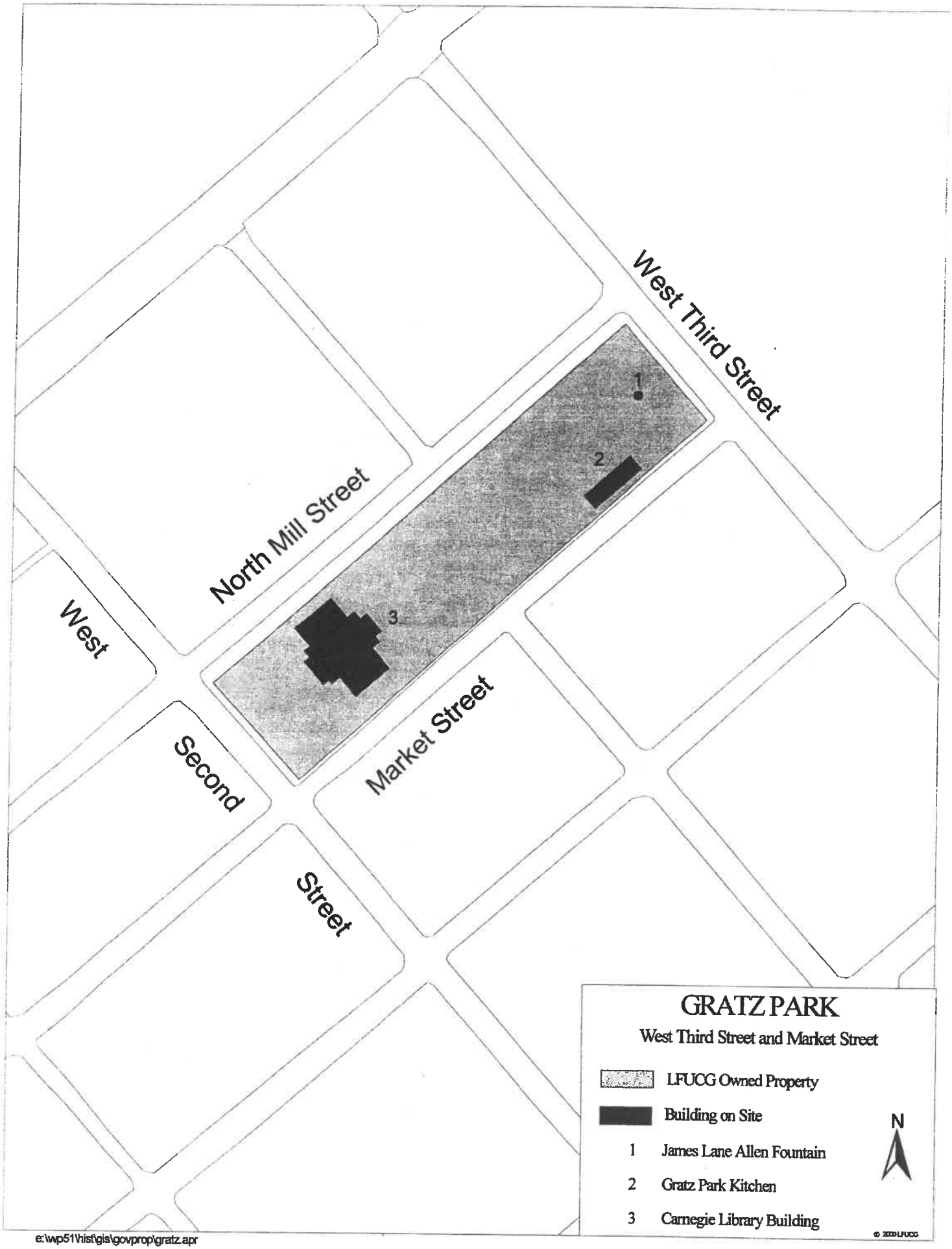
This building was one of a matching pair of dependencies to the main building of Transylvania University, which was located in Gratz Park. This complex of buildings was designed and built in 1816 by early Lexington architect/builder, Matthew Kennedy. The main building burned in 1829. This brick, 1 story, structure has a hipped roof and large interior chimney. Windows are 9/6. The building was the residence of H. Howard Gratz in the late 19th century. For a number of years in the mid-20th century, it was the offices for the Lexington Parks Department. The Gratz Park "kitchen" meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

NAME:	JAMES LANE ALLEN FOUNTAIN
HISTORIC NAME:	SAME
ADDRESS:	250 WEST THIRD STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1)
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1933

James Lane Allen fountain

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The James Lane Allen fountain is located in the north end of historic Gratz Park. Allen was born in Lexington in 1849 and become one of Kentucky's most famous and prolific writers of novels and short stories. He left a bequest in his will to fund this fountain as a "gift to the children of Lexington". Sculpted by Joseph Pollia of New York City, it was dedicated on October 15, 1933. The James Lane Allen fountain meets criteria A and C; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


West Third Street
North Mill Street
West
Second
Street
Market Street
1
2
3
GRATZ PARK
West Third Street and Market Street
LFUCG Owned Property
Building on Site
1 James Lane Allen Fountain
2 Gratz Park Kitchen
3 Carnegie Library Building
N
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NAME:	McCONNELL SPRINGS
HISTORIC NAME:	SAME
ADDRESS:	416 QUARRY DRIVE
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PRESENT USE:	NATURE RESERVE
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION FRIENDS OF McCONNELL SPRINGS
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1993

McConnell Springs Nature Center

McConnell Springs

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

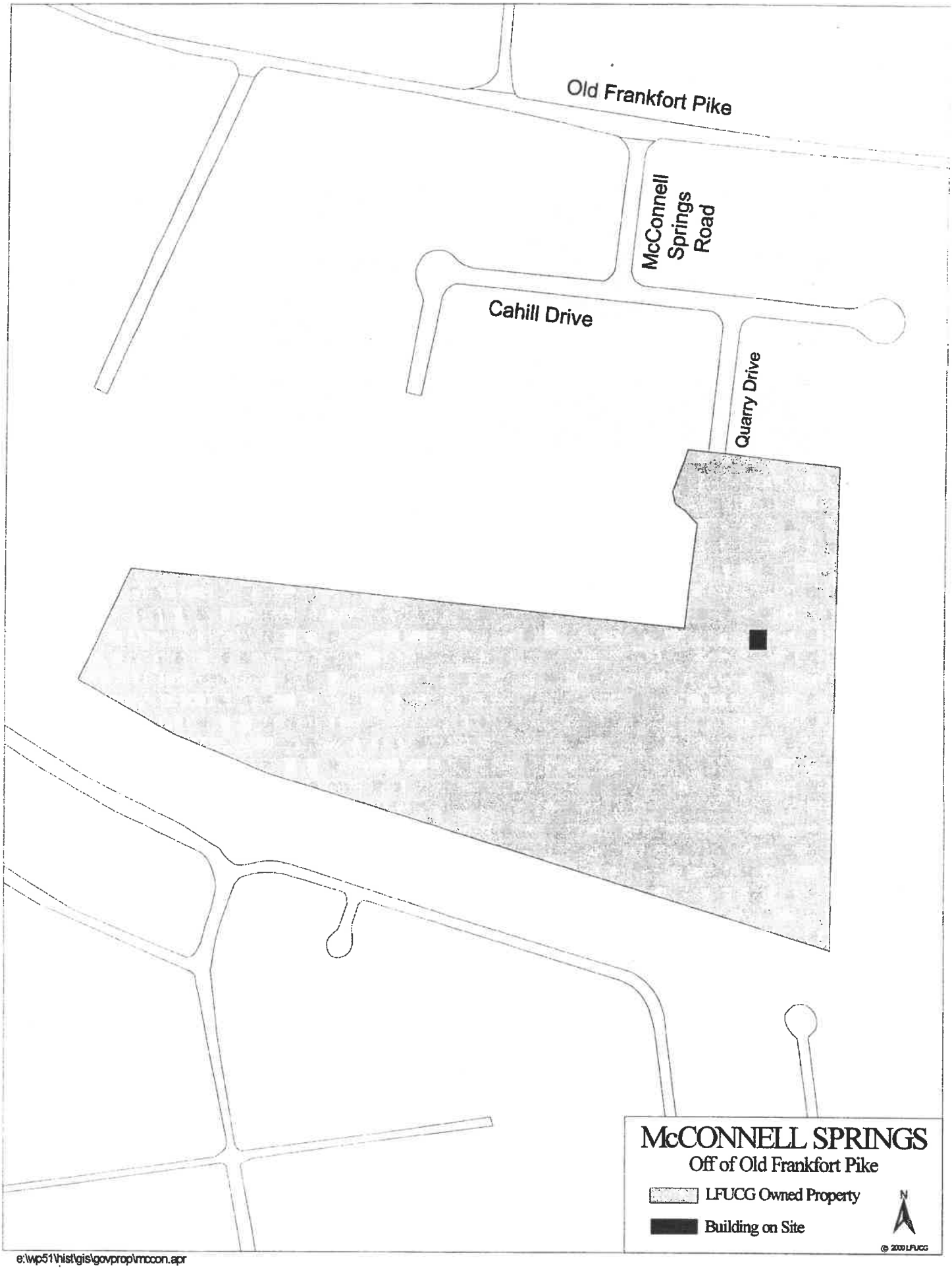
In May of 1775, William McConnell and a party of frontier explorers camped at a natural spring in what was then the wilderness of Kentucky. Having recently heard of the first battle of the American Revolution fought at Lexington, Massachusetts, the group named their future settlement "Lexington".

Over the years, the spring site was to become the location of a mill, gunpowder factory, distillery and a dairy farm. In the 20th century, the site lay abandoned. However, in 1993 a group called the Friends of McConnell Springs formed, to try to buy the property and succeeded in doing so with the help of a donor. Today, the site is a history and nature reserve, including woodlands, an education center and the springs. McConnell Springs meets criteria A, B and C and I; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

McCONNELL SPRINGS

McConnell Springs

McConnell Springs



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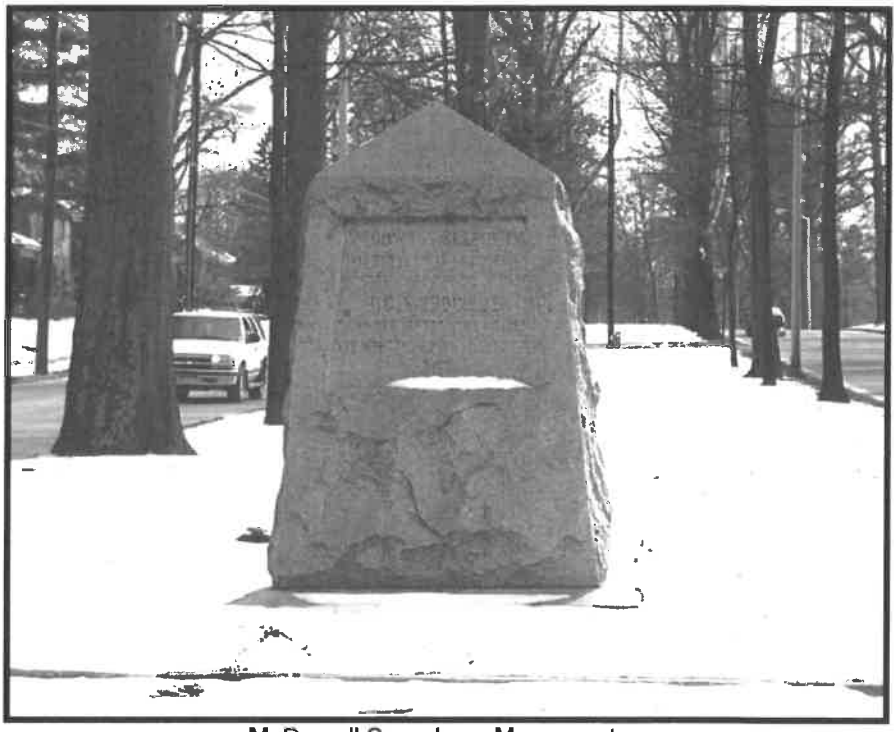
NAME: McDOWELL SPEEDWAY MARKER

ADDRESS: RICHMOND ROAD AT SYCAMORE

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

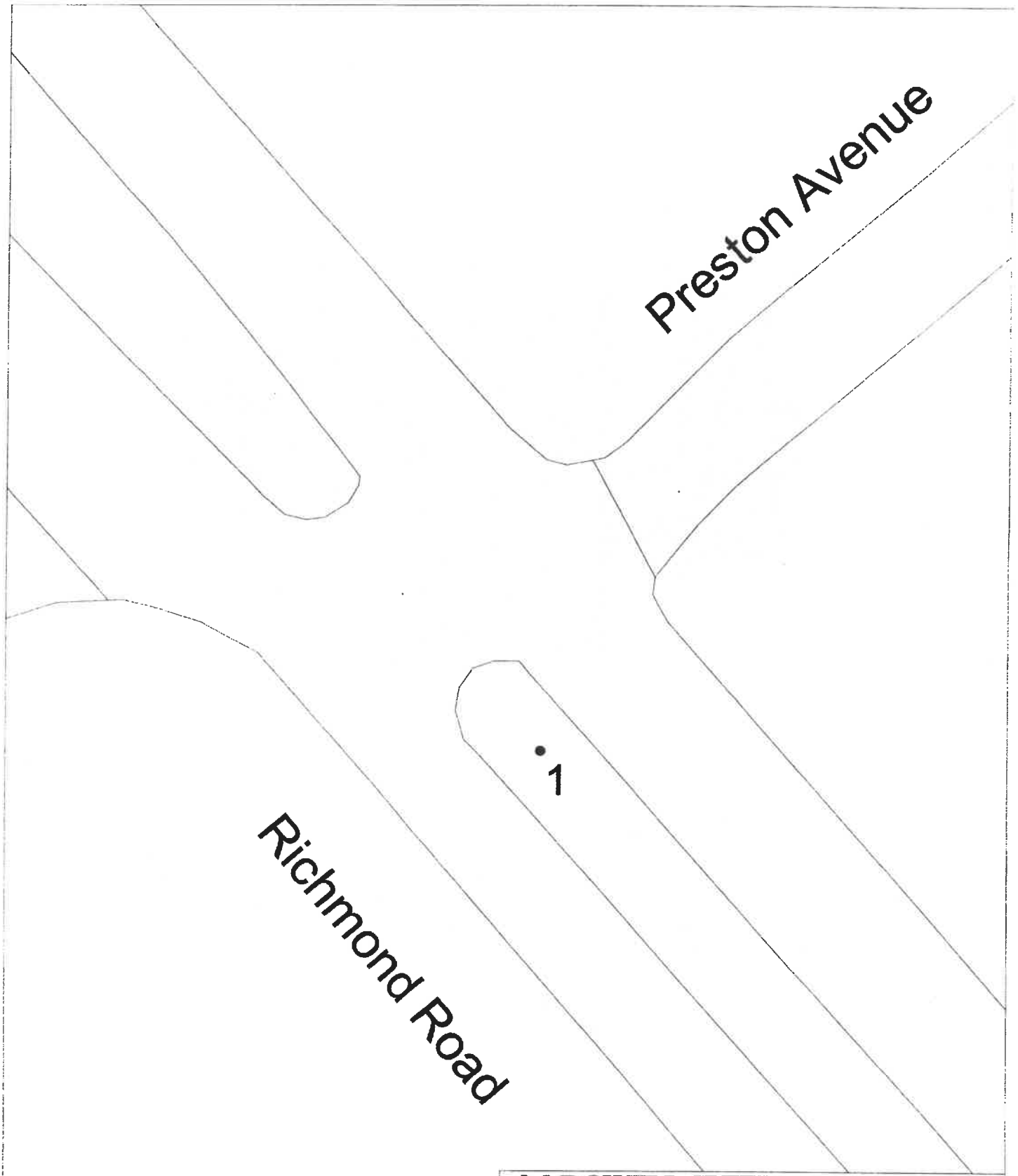
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1900



McDowell Speedway Monument

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

In the median on Richmond Road at Preston Avenue on the north and Sycamore Avenue on the south, stands this granite marker, which reads, "McDowell Speedway – This tablet was erected by Fayette County to the memory of H. C. McDowell to whose efforts the citizens are indebted for this roadway – 1900". The McDowell Speedway Monument meets criteria A and C; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



McDOWELL SPEEDWAY MARKER

Richmond Road at Preston Avenue

1 McDowell Speedway Marker

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NAME:	PHOENIX PARK
HISTORIC NAME:	FORMERLY KNOWN AS CENTRAL PARK
ADDRESS:	100 EAST MAIN STREET
PRESENT USE:	PARK
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1990

Phoenix Park

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Phoenix Park was created on a portion of the site of the former Phoenix Hotel. The park is adjacent to the main branch of the Lexington Public Library and Park Place Apartments. Initially known as Central Park, the park was renamed at its completion in May 1990. The park includes a fountain, seating area, landscaping and several memorial monuments. Phoenix Park meets criteria A and C; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

NAME: FAYETTE COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL

ADDRESS: PHOENIX PARK

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1997

Peace Officers Memorial

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

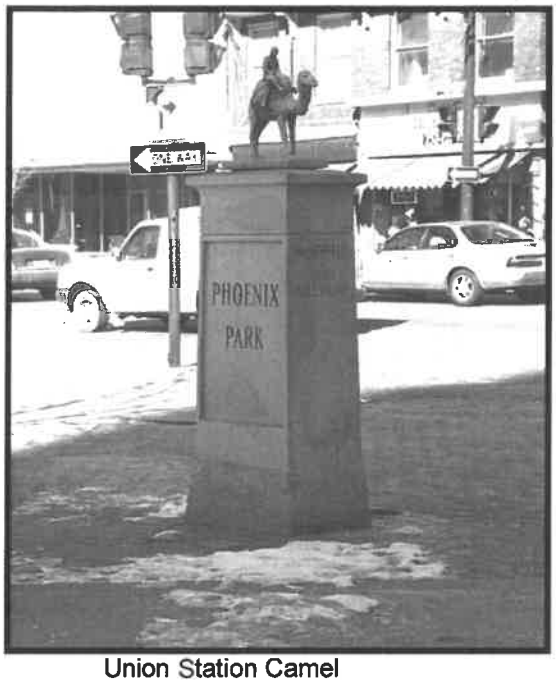
Dedicated in May of 1997, this handsome granite pedestal was erected in memory of officers who died in the line of duty throughout Lexington's history. The monument includes an eternal flame at its cap and is engraved with the names of those honored. A walkway and flagpole provide the setting for the monument.

NAME: UNION STATION CAMEL STATUE

ADDRESS: PHOENIX PARK

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1920



Union Station Camel

Camel at Original Union Station Location

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

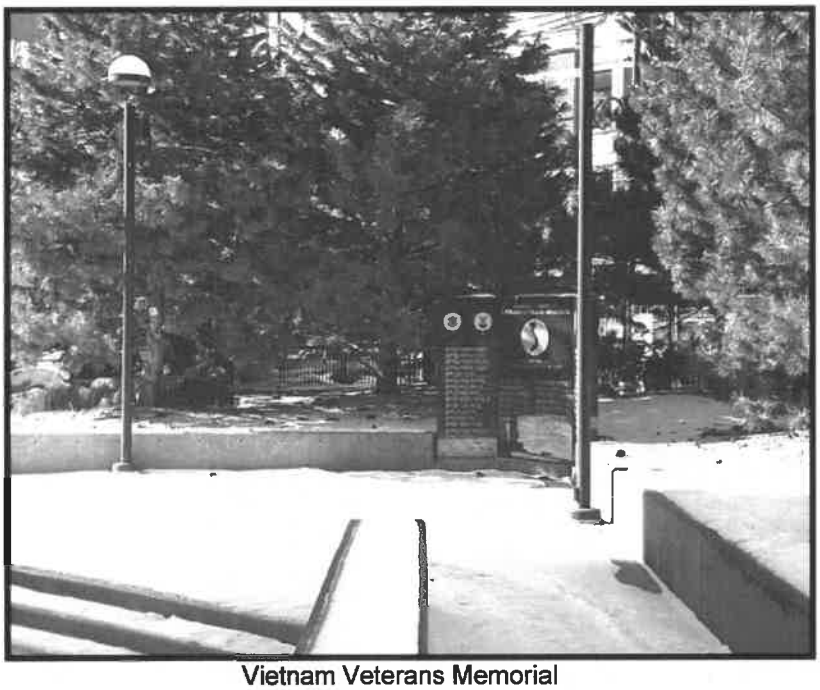
This modest granite marker with its small bronze statue of a heavily laden camel and rider was intended to indicate the origin of Lexington's highways. It was erected around 1920 and located just east of the former Union Station. In 1960, when Union Station was demolished, the statue was moved to the Courthouse lawn. In 1990, it was moved again, this time to the corner of East Main and Limestone Streets at the main entrance to Phoenix Park.

NAME: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

ADDRESS: PHOENIX PARK

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

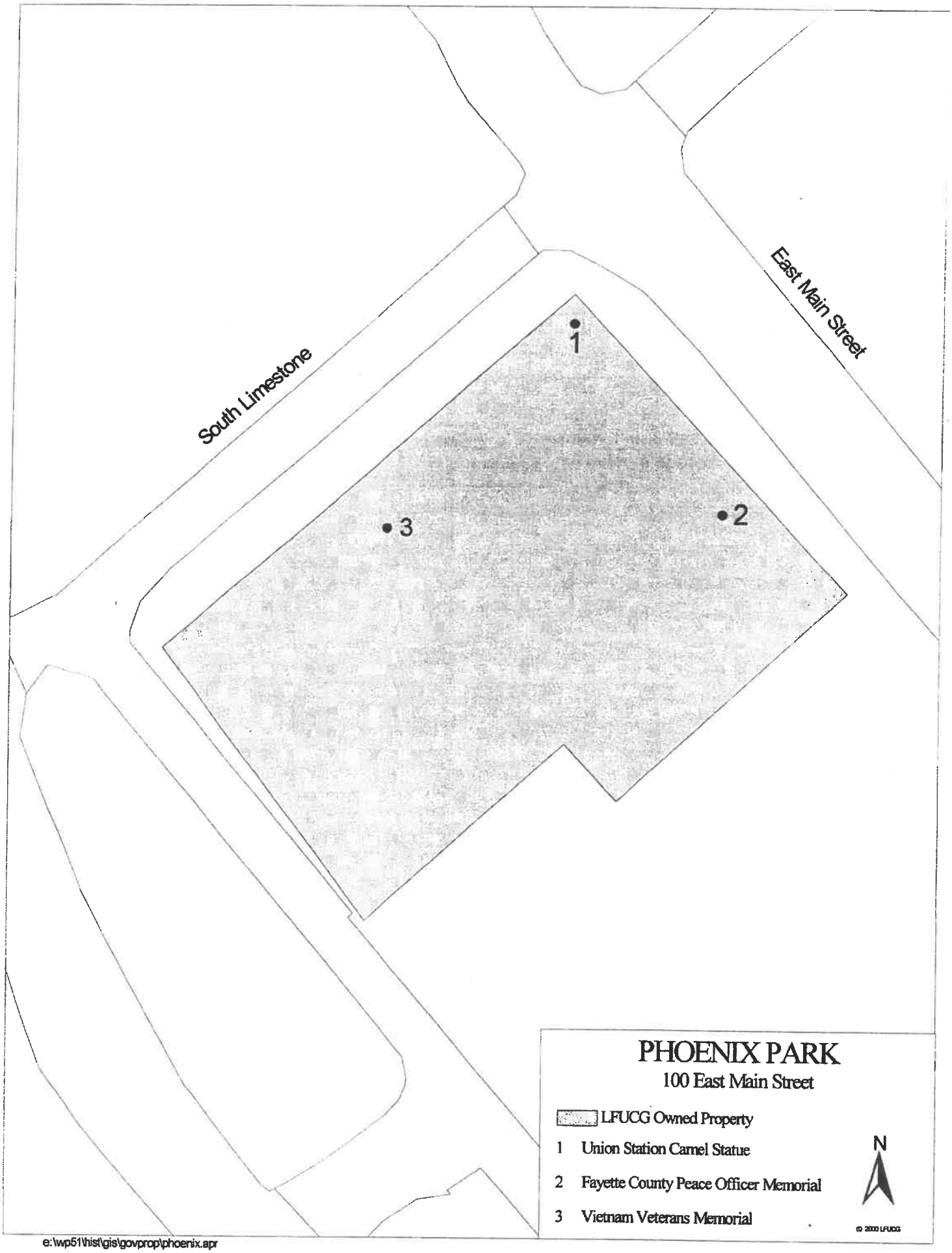
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1988, 1990



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The Lexington-Fayette County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Committee raised the funds for this impressive monument. It was dedicated on January 18, 1988. The memorial was moved to its present location in Phoenix Park when the park was redesigned and reopened in 1990.



PHOENIX PARK

100 East Main Street

LFUCG Owned Property

1 Union Station Camel Statue

2 Fayette County Peace Officer Memorial

3 Vietnam Veterans Memorial

N

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NAME: WOODLAND PARK

HISTORIC NAME: SAME

ADDRESS: 801 EAST HIGH STREET

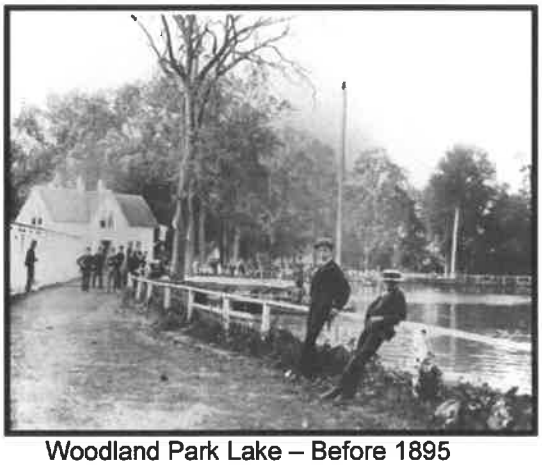
DESIGNATION: NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1)

PRESENT USE: PARK

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF PARKS & RECREATION

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1882

Woodland Park



Woodland Park Lake – Before 1895

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

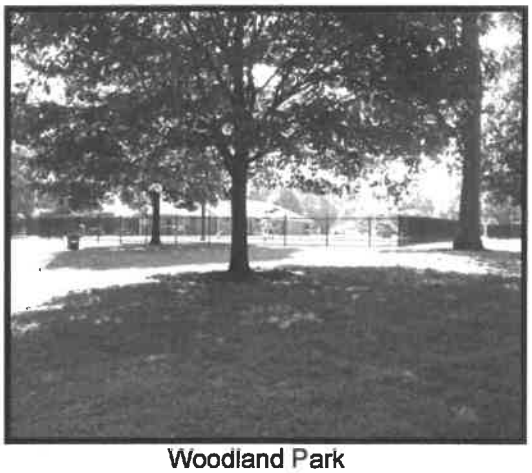
Woodland Park was originally part of the 110-acre estate owned by the Trotter family and called Woodlands. The residence on the farm stood on what is now the site of the swimming pool complex. In 1832, Colonel John Erwin and his wife Anne Clay, daughter of Henry Clay, purchased the property. After the Civil War until 1882, the property was occupied by the Agricultural and Mechanical College, which later became a part of the University of Kentucky. In 1884, all but eighteen acres of the farm was subdivided into building lots. The eighteen acres became Woodland Park, which was owned by the Kentucky Chautaugua Assembly and provided a gathering place for numerous meetings, political rallies, barbecues and concerts.

WOODLAND PARK

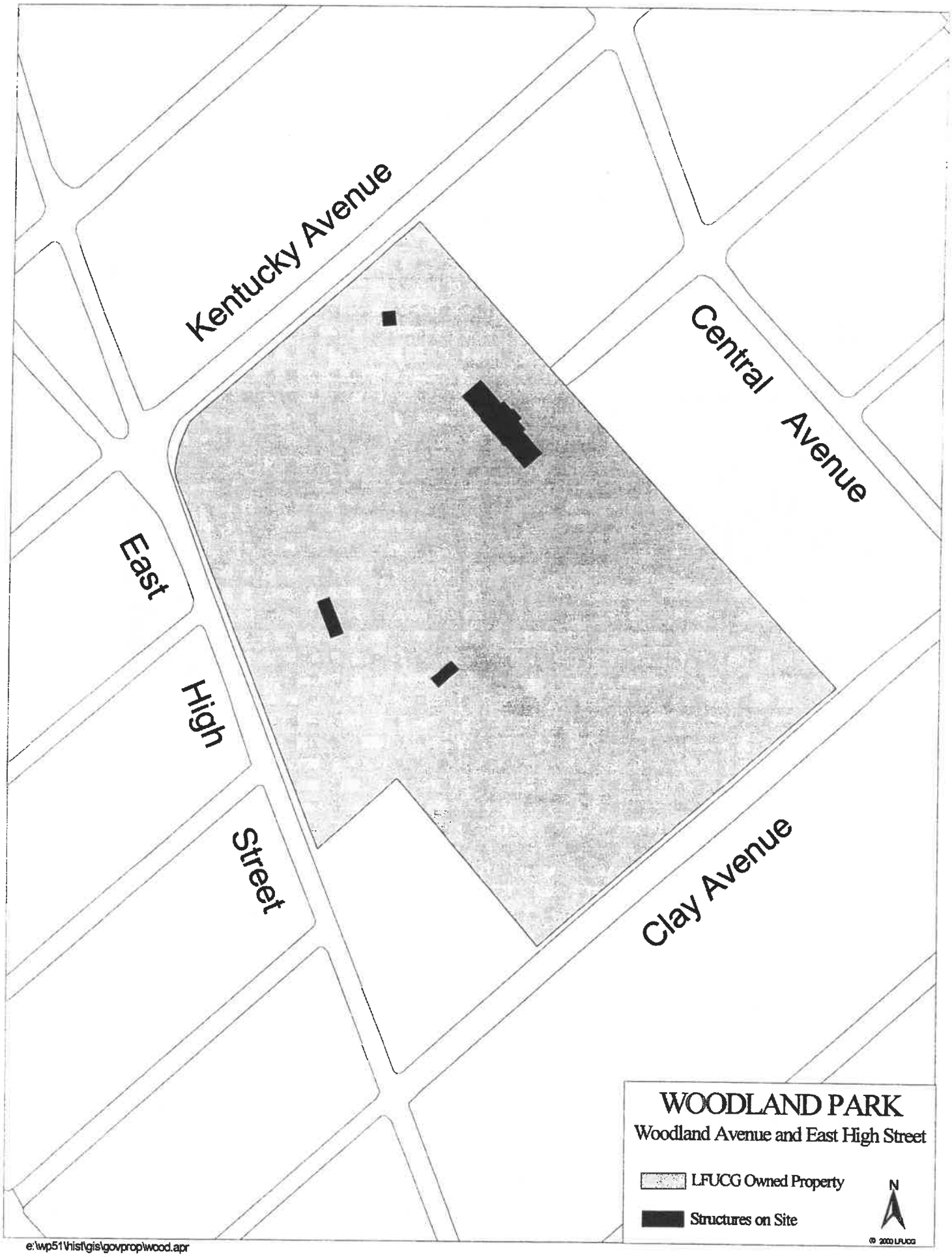
The city purchased the property in 1902 as its first public park. Today, the park is a focal point of the Aylesford neighborhood with mature trees and open spaces as well as a baseball diamond (which was the site of a pond until it was filled in ca. 1895), tennis courts, pools and a bandstand. Woodland Park is included in the Woodlands Historic National Register District and the Aylesford Local Historic District (H-1).

Woodland Park meets criteria A, B, C and G; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

Woodland Park



Woodland Park


Kentucky Avenue
Central Avenue
East High Street
Clay Avenue
WOODLAND PARK
Woodland Avenue and East High Street
LFUCG Owned Property
Structures on Site
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© 2003 LFUCG
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FIRE STATIONS

Fire Stations

Fire Stations are examples of an unique building type. As such, they seem worthy of special classification. The LFUCG owns five historic Fire Stations, two of which are already in local (H-1) historic districts. The five existing historic Fire Stations (numbers 1,3,4,5 and 6) were constructed between 1904 and 1929.

These historic Fire Stations are representative of distinct architectural styles prevalent during these years; and they serve to illustrate the history of the Lexington Fire Department and fire department technologies and practices of the period. They are all significant in that they have been in constant service to the City/County for greater than 70 years and have been a stable presence in their respective neighborhoods during that period.

Stations 3,4,5 and 6 were constructed and placed in service during the period of horse drawn fire wagons. The first piece of motorized equipment was purchased in 1911 and in 1926 the last run by horses was made out of the Merino Street Fire Station (#3). Central Fire Station constructed in 1929 ushered in the modern period of Fire Service.

The significance of the historic Fire Stations, relative to the designation criteria established in Article 13 of the Lexington-Fayette County Zoning Ordinance, is summarized in Table IV.

Vogt Reel House

Fire Station#5, Woodland Avenue

TABLE IV. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE – FIRE STATIONS

GOVERNMENT-OWNED PROPERTY: FIRE STATIONS						
HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LANDMARK CRITERIA: ARTICLE 13, LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY ZONING CODE		Fire Station # 1 Central Fire Station	Fire Station # 3 Merino Street Station	Fire Station # 4 Vogt Reel House	Fire Station # 5 Woodland Avenue Station	Fire Station # 6 Scovell Engine House
	A. Has value as part of the cultural or archeological heritage of the county, state or nation.	X	X	X	X	X
	B. Is a site of a significant local, state or national event.					
	C. Is identified with a person or persons or famous entity who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state or nation.			X		X
	D. Is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the county, state or nation.					
	E. Has value as a building that is recognized for the quality of its architecture and that retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.	X	X	X	X	X
	F. Has distinguished characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.	X	X	X	X	X
	G. Has character as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration of buildings or structures united by past events or by its plan or physical development.					
	H. Has character as an established and geographically definable residential neighborhood, agricultural area, or business district, united by culture, architectural style or physical development.					
	I. Is the place or setting of some unique geographical or archeological location.					

The oldest existing firehouse in Lexington, the **Vogt Reel House** (1904) is still in service on Jefferson Street in the Northside Residential National Register Historic District. It was erected to provide supplementary service and facilities for what was then the far west end of town. This Neo-Jacobean style station was built soon after a devastating 1901 fire known as the "West End Conflagration". The destructive fire started on West Short Street near Jefferson. Fed by a "furious gale blowing from the northwest", the West End fire destroyed three city blocks along Short Street, consuming twenty-nine buildings.

The Vogt Reel house was built on land donated by the Chairman of the Fire Committee of the Board of City Councilmen, Henry Vogt. He donated the land to the Fire Department to utilize for as long as a fire station remained on the property. It cost approximately $3000 to construct and housed a new state of the art chemical and fire wagon. The Vogt Reel House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 as part of the Northside National Register District.

Constructed (ca. 1905), **Fire Station #5** was built with classical details and proportions reflecting Beaux-Arts stylistic influences. It was built largely as the result of the lobbying efforts of the new Fire Chief W.A. Jesse, who desired a new station to cover the southeast part of town. Once built, George Muir, former Fire Chief (1887-1904) was appointed its captain.

It has a hipped roof and although plain on three sides, the front façade has a raised bank of brick similar to a belt course. The second story windows have a raised band of bricks surrounding them. On the first level, the fire engine doors are topped with a segmented arch with raised brick panel surrounding them. This station is located within the Aylesford Local (H-1) Historic District and the Southeast Lexington Residential and Commercial National Register District, established 1984.

In 1909 Fire Chief Jesse requested the first "Automobile hose and chemical wagon." He said: "...They are no longer an experiment..."; are specially adapted to long runs; and being cheaper to maintain than horses, would pay for themselves in a few years. In 1911, the department put into service the first two motor driven apparatus. He also requested and was granted a motorized aerial ladder in 1911 and a chief's car in 1912. In 1926 the transition from horses was complete. On July 26, 1926, the last run by horses was made out of Fire Station #3 on Merino Street.

Fire Station #6 was built in 1917 in the Craftsman style. The Craftsman style was dominant in this country during the first quarter of the 20th century. The 1 1/2 story, brick building has a large center gable with an arch rising the full 1 1/2 stories. The tile roof is typical of the craftsman style, as well as the trellised porch roofing on either side of the arched fire engine entrance. A local company, Congleton Construction built the station, for $7381. A drill tower five stories tall

was erected behind the station in 1926 and demolished in 1965. In its early years, Station 6 was called the "Scovell Engine House", named after Melville A. Scovell, a prominent agricultural leader with national recognition at the turn of the century.

Fire Station #3 on Merino Street was built around 1920. After selling the old station on Pine Street, the city purchased property at Maxwell and Merino Street. Gus Clark and Norman King constructed the station built on the site. Its walls were constructed of solid concrete and it came at the hefty price tag of $14,300. The 2 story, 2 bay building is covered with stucco and has a small parapet on the front façade. This station saw Lexington's last response by a horse drawn vehicle on July 26, 1926. The station is located in the Woodward Heights Local (H-1) Historic District and the Woodward Heights National Register District, established 1980.

In 1928 the City Council sought outside help from other cities to reorganize the Fire Department; wishing to incorporate the most modern methods of firefighting into the Lexington Department. The move to reorganize the Fire Department by the City Council was largely in response to increased Fire Insurance rates. One result of the modernization of the Department was the construction of a new headquarters on East Third Street.

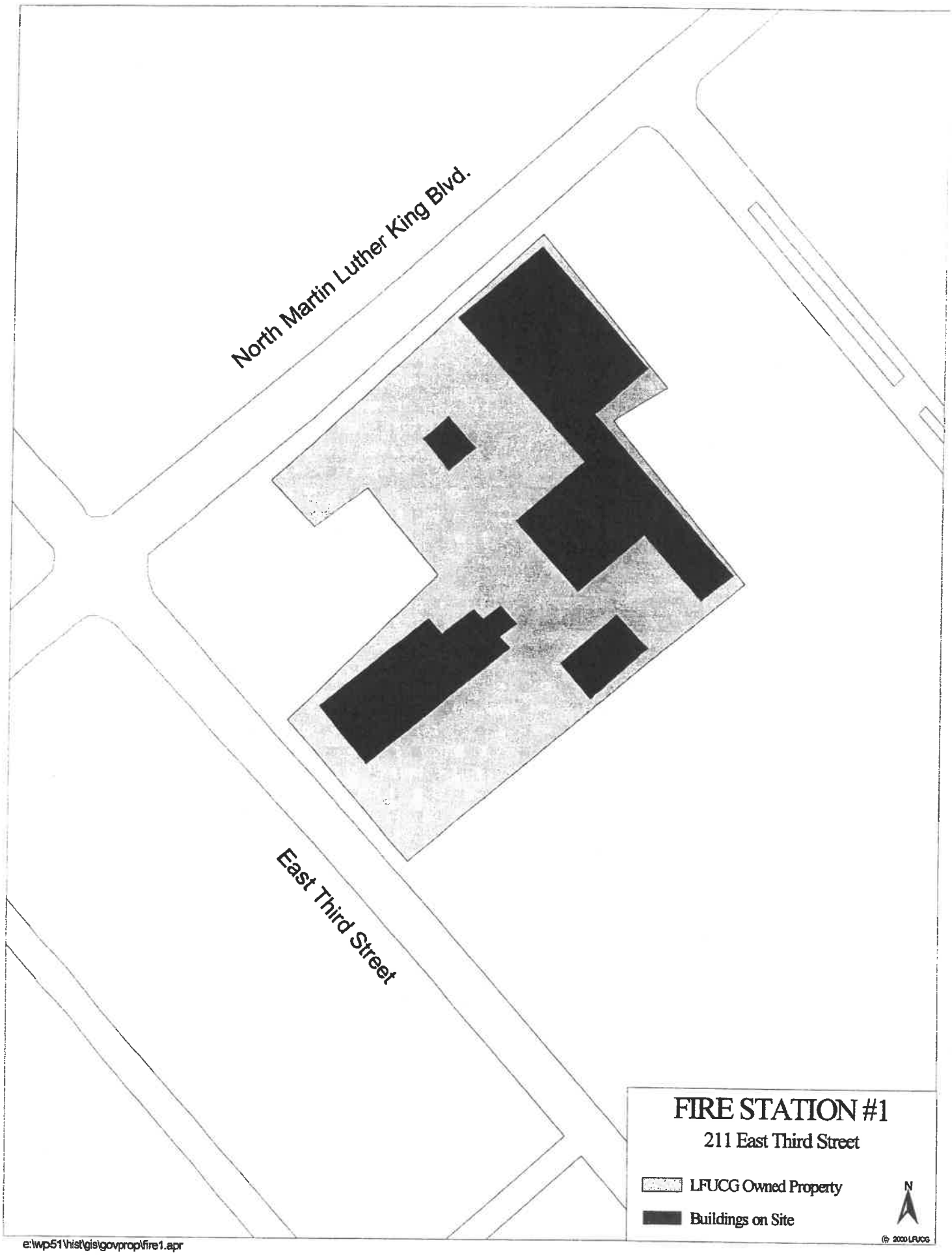
Built in 1929, the **Central Fire Station** was one of the first buildings to be constructed in the Art Moderne style in Lexington. This building replaced the old main fire station on West Short Street and it has served as the headquarters of the Fire Department since its construction. It was built by Skinner Brothers and Perry Lumber Co. and designed by J. Graham Miller. The two story, three bay, brick structure has paneled brick piers rising at the corners and one story porte-cochere type bays flanking either side of the main structure.

NAME:	FIRE STATION # 1
HISTORIC NAME:	CENTRAL FIRE STATION
ADDRESS:	211 EAST THIRD STREET
PRESENT USE:	FIRE STATION
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1929

Central Fire Station

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Built in 1929, this building was one of the first to be constructed in the Art Moderne style in Lexington. The 2 story, 3 bay, brick structure has paneled brick piers rising at the corners and 1 story porte-cochere type bays flank either side of the main structure. This building replaced the old main fire station, which was located on the southside of West Short Street between Limestone and Upper Streets and it has served as the headquarters of the Fire Department since its construction. Central Fire Station meets criteria A, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



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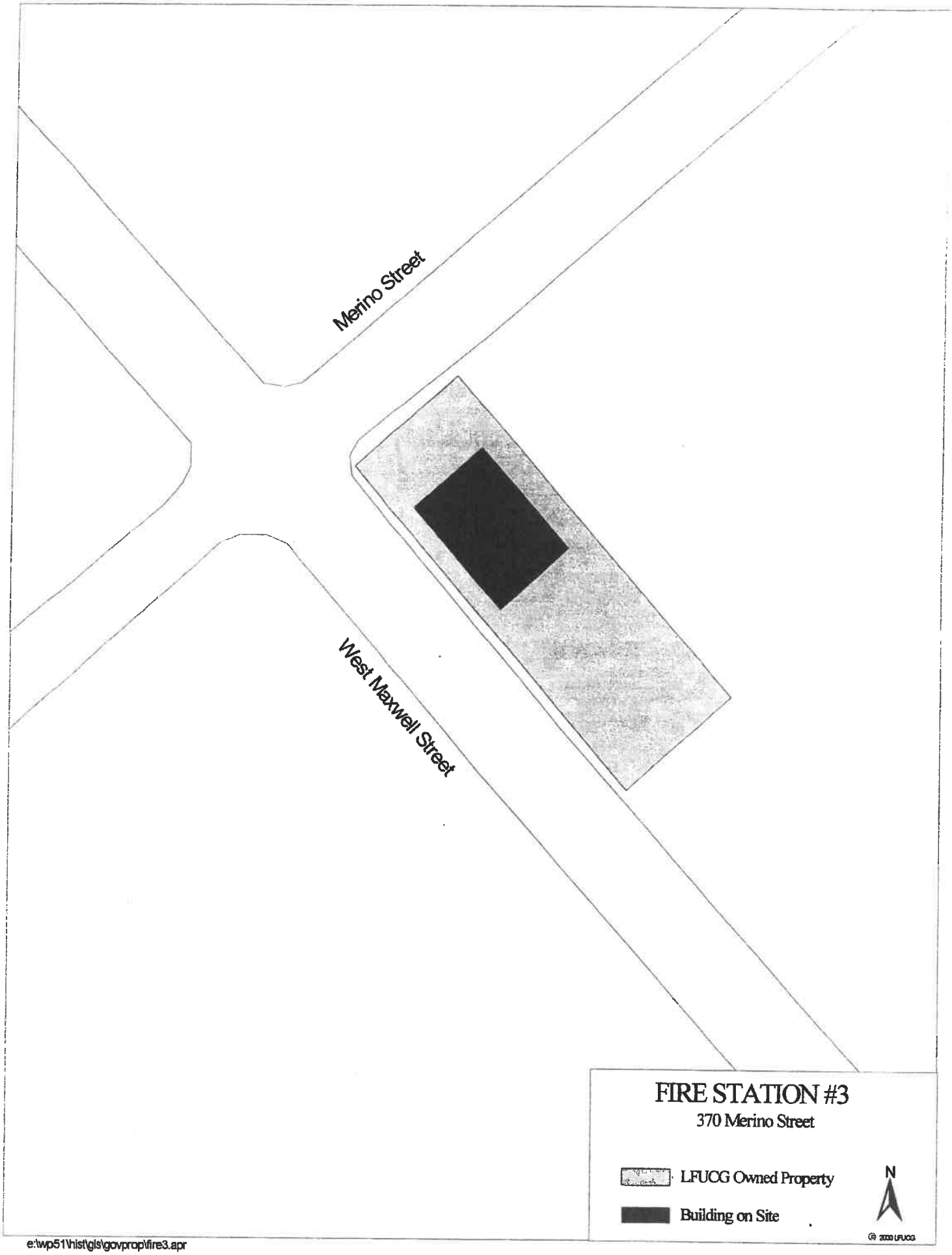
NAME:	FIRE STATION #3
HISTORIC NAME:	MERINO STREET STATION
ADDRESS:	370 MERINO STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1)
PRESENT USE:	FIRE STATION
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1920

Merino Street Fire Station

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

This fire station was built around 1920. The 2 story, 2 bay building is covered with stucco and has a small parapet on the front façade. A one story, gable roofed entrance bay, which was added in the late 1980's, is on the left front bay. An early photograph shows it with a horse-drawn wagon in front of it. Horse-drawn units were last used in Lexington in 1926. This station is within the boundaries of the Woodward Heights Neighborhood Local Historic District (H-1) and the Woodward Heights National Register District. Fire Station #3 meets criteria A, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



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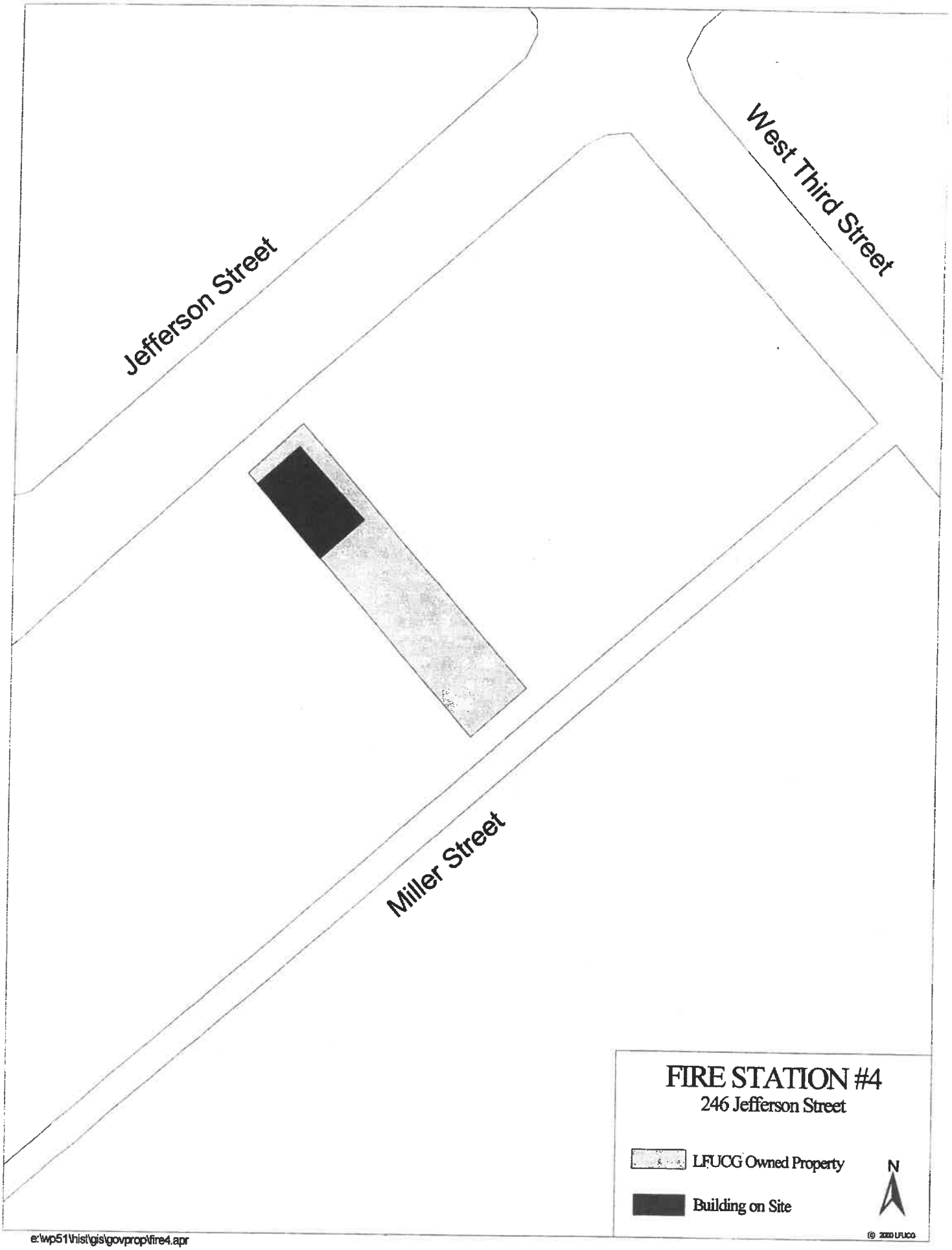
NAME:	FIRE STATION #4
HISTORIC NAME:	VOGT REEL HOUSE
ADDRESS:	246 JEFFERSON STREET
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRESENT USE:	FIRE STATION
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1904

Vogt Reel Engine House

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

The oldest existing fire station in Lexington, the Vogt Reel House was erected in 1904 to provide supplementary service and facilities for what was then the far west end of town. Henry Vogt, who lived nearby on Maryland Avenue, donated the land. Constructed in the Jacobean Revival style, this 2 story, 2 bay brick station with its unique brickwork, patterned stone and metal trim and distinctive stepped gable has become a decorative landmark of our city. It is within the Northside Historic Residential National Register District. Fire Station #4 meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.



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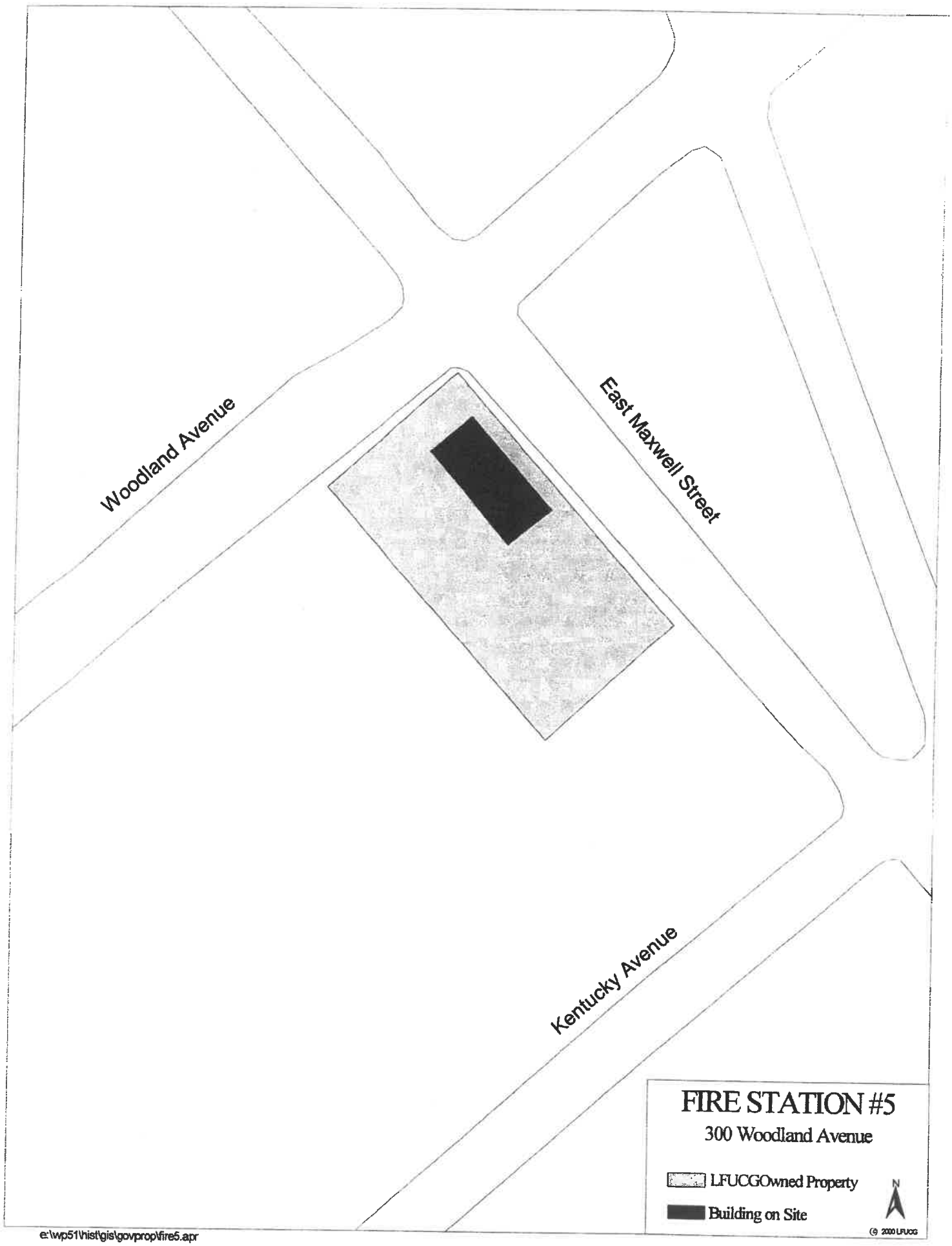
NAME:	FIRE STATION #5
HISTORIC NAME:	WOODLAND AVENUE STATION
ADDRESS:	300 WOODLAND AVENUE
DESIGNATION:	NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (H-1)
PRESENT USE:	FIRE STATION
RESPONSIBILITY:	DIV. OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1912

Woodland Avenue Fire Station

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Constructed ca. 1905, this 2 story brick building at the corner of Woodland and Maxwell streets has a hipped roof and although very plain on three sides, the front façade has a raised bank of brick similar to a belt course. The second story windows have a raised band of bricks surrounding them. On the first level, the fire engine doors are topped with a segmented arch with raised brick panel surrounding them. This station is located within the Southeast Lexington Residential and Commercial National Register District as well as the Aylesford Local Historic District (H-1). Fire Station #5 meets criteria A, E, and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.


Woodland Avenue
East Maxwell Street
Kentucky Avenue
FIRE STATION #5
300 Woodland Avenue
LFUCGOwned Property
Building on Site
N
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NAME: FIRE STATION #6

HISTORIC NAME: SCOVELL ENGINE HOUSE

ADDRESS: 501 SOUTH LIMESTONE STREET

PRESENT USE: FIRE STATION

RESPONSIBILITY: DIV. OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1917

Fire Station #6

Fire Station #6 – c. 1930

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE:

Built ca. 1917, this fire station reflects the Craftsman style, which was dominant in this country during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The Craftsman style was used mostly for small-scale residences, but was also seen in commercial buildings. The 1½ story, brick building has a large center gable with an arch rising the full 1½ stories. The tile roof is typical of the Craftsman style, as well as a pergola on either side of the arched fire engine entrance. There was a sensitive addition constructed at the rear of this building in the 1970s. Fire Station #6 meets criteria A, C, E and F; as established in Article 13, Historic District and Landmark Definition of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance.

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FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION

Findings

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government owns numerous architecturally and historically significant commercial and institutional buildings, residential estates, parks, parklands and monuments, details of which are reflected in this report. These include properties such as important early estate homes and grounds, significant commercial buildings and public spaces such as the Lafayette Hotel, the Fayette County Courthouse and the Kentucky Theatre, Gratz Park, arguably the intellectual and social center of Lexington for much of the 19th century, important structures and sites reflective of African-American heritage, and significant historic rural landscapes and natural areas such as Raven Run Nature Sanctuary and McConnell Springs. In total, this important assembly of properties reflects many aspects of the historic evolution of the Lexington-Fayette County region.

The proposed designation of these properties as Local Historic Landmarks is consistent with the Lexington-Fayette County Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan states as one of its goals that the community should strive to "Protect and preserve Fayette County's significant historic and cultural heritage." As part of the mechanism to accomplish this one of the objectives is to "Encourage protection of significant historic resources through the documentation and designation of historic districts and historic landmarks." To "Encourage inter-governmental cooperation among the various units of the Urban County Government in dealing with the protection and maintenance of both private and public sites and structures" is another objective reflected in the Comprehensive Plan toward accomplishing the preservation of its historic resources.

Each of the properties enumerated in this report have been found to meet several of the criteria outlined in Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance. Each of these individual properties are significant and merit designation as Local Historic Landmarks. (Please refer to the information provided on each of the properties for the statements of significance and which of the criteria are applicable.)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the properties enumerated in this report and initiated by the Urban County Council be approved as submitted for Local Historic Landmark designation and be forwarded with a recommendation for approval to the Urban County Council for public hearing, discussion and final action.