

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR: 06/17/86 NRHP: 12/11/86

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kentucky Hotel

(DHL File #118-177)

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 900 Fifth Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lynchburg

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county (in City)

code 680

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	b e i n g considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sandra W. Crowther

street & number Blenheim Farm Rt. 1

city, town Concord

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lynchburg Clerk's Office

street & number Court House, 900 Court St.

city, town Lynchburg

state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Division of Historic Landmarks Survey

File #118-177

has this property been determined eligible? y e s ☒ no

date 1980, 1984

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks

991 Governor Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Kentucky Hotel, one of Lynchburg, Virginia's three remaining early 19th century ordinaries, is located at 900 Fifth Street. The hotel likely was built before 1800 as a private residence of brick laid in Flemish bond. It is two and a half stories raised on an English basement. Originally constructed on a three-bay side hall plan, two additional bays were added in about 1814, converting the house to a center hall plan.

The nomination consists of one contributing building.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Kentucky Hotel was originally built as a two and a half story, three-bay, side hall plan over a raised basement. The brick in this part of the house is laid entirely in Flemish bond. An addition of about 1814 added two bays and converted the structure to the symmetrical five-bay center hall plan. In this section only the main (West) facade is laid in Flemish bond, closely matching the existing brickwork. The South and East elevations of this addition are laid in common bond.

Front (West) Facade

The main facade faces Fifth Street (Business Route 29), a major commercial street in Lynchburg. The building is set back from the sidewalk and the fronts of other buildings on the block approximately twelve feet. This setback together with a ten foot alley between it and the adjacent buildings (which are built in a row) emphasizes its unique, separate character as compared with its later commercial neighbors.

Three broad stone steps lead to the six-panel front door which is recessed slightly from the building front, surrounded by architrave trim, and capped by a graceful semicircular fanlight with arched glazings. Fenestration in the main elevation follows the local tradition with equal spacing and with the largest openings (six over nine) on the main floor and smaller openings (six over six) on the second floor. Because of the topography of the site the front basement windows are partly below grade. Large flat stones line the shallow window wells, allowing air and light into the basement. Wooden bars are set into heavy beaded frames for the six-light sash, and afford a secure look. All of these windows have splayed brick lintels. The main and second floor windows are surrounded by architrave trim and have shutters held open by hand-wrought iron of the "rat-tail and penny" design. A three-step corbelled brick cornice caps the front facade. The steeply gabled roof is covered in standing-seam tin. However, traces of fishtail wooden shingles found in the eaves of the attic during the current restoration suggest the original covering was wood.

Rear (East) Facade

The East elevation has secondary entrances for each basement chamber and for the center hall. The porch for this hall entrance is missing. On this facade only the north chamber basement window has a splayed brick lintel; none of the other fenestration contains lintel. Like the front, the rear elevation is capped by a corbelled brick cornice.

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North/South Facades

Large exterior chimneys dominate the North and South facades. Quarter lights on either side of the chimney at attic level break the North facade on Jackson Street. In addition to the quarter lights, the South facade has a secondary entrance at the southeast corner of the first floor level. The porch for this entrance is missing. All of the secondary doors retain their architrave trim. Both of the chimneys are capped by corbelled brick (1985 restoration) which repeats the cornice of the East and West facades. Originally the house consisted of only three bays on the Jackson Street side. The southern two bays were added later, probably 1814-1816 by James Mallory, whose initials are scratched into a brick in the chimney breast of the South parlor. Mallory's initials are also branded into framing of the passage door on the East facade.

Basement

The two rooms on either side of the central passage in the basement have plastered walls and ceilings. The fenestration consists of single 6-pane windows hinged on a large "H" hinge which, when opened, latch to the ceiling with a forged hook closing. One of the windows survives intact; others have been copied from this model. The East exposure contains one 6/6 window. In the North chimney the original cooking fireplace has been uncovered. The window and door moldings are finished in architrave trim. The newer room on the South side of the passage also has a large cooking fireplace. The enclosed basement stair in this passage has been rebuilt following the marks found in the plastered walls, (1985 restoration).

Interior

First Floor

The first floor rooms are finished with a simple beaded chairrail with an ogee molded cap and beaded baseboard. The mantel in the North room is set into a projecting chimney breast with an architrave surround below paneled pilasters which support a wide, molded shelf. The mantel in the south parlor is missing and will be replaced by a mantel from a demolished early 19th century house on Jackson Street (1985 restoration). Both main floor fireplaces have cut-stone hearths, laid in sand, and stone surrounds.

The hall retains its original wooden cloak pegs set in a beaded board. The stair is original with slender, rectangular spindles and newell post.

Second Floor and Attic

The two chambers on the second floor have identical mantels with reeded pilasters and molded shelf and the same chairrail and baseboard as the main floor. The third floor (attic) is reached by an enclosed stair. The walls between the passage and the two chambers are composed of feather-edged boards. Batten doors for each chamber are hung with "HL" hinges and retain the original leather washers under rosehead nails. Each chamber has a tiny arched fireplace, off-center in the plastered chimney breast.

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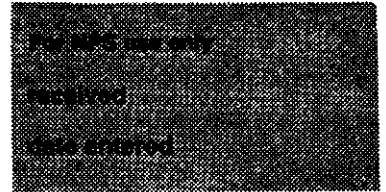
General

All interior six-paneled doors and some box locks survive as does a quantity of fine early ironwork, including hinges, latches, and fine rat-tailed shutter hooks. The house retains a great quantity of early window glass.

No original outbuildings remain. Early stone walls and several large trees will be retained in the landscaping of the rear lot.

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composed of several rows of corbelled bricks. The twin chimneys are capped with several rows of corbelled brick.

Glazed fan lights, either arched or segmental, capped the doorway. Again, the Kentucky Hotel follows this standard Lynchburg style which was typical of both residential and commercial buildings.

In 1813, John and Mary Lynch sold a half acre lot at the junction of 7th Alley and 9th Street to Israel Snead. (5) A year later Snead sold the same lot to James Mallory. (6) Mallory received an ordinary's license for his house on Cocke (5th) Street. (7) Mallory is believed to have added the south two bays about 1814 (his initials are etched into the chimney breast of that parlor and in the frame of the center basement door).

Mallory operated the Kentucky Hotel as an ordinary until 1828 when he sold it to Jacob Feazle - for \$3,000. A deed of trust describes the property as "the same lot and premises purchased by the said Feazle of James Mallory and known by the name of the Kentucky Hotel." (8) In 1845 - the house, no longer a hotel, was insured for Pleasant Partin by the Mutual Insurance Society. (9)

In 1856 Partin sold the property to William Oyler, a prominent tobacconist, (10) who built a factory on the adjacent lot.

In July 1869 both properties were offered at public auction, (11) The house was purchased by Mr. John S. Lewis. Mrs. Lewis, the former Elizabeth Dabney Langhorne, was "a veteran fighter for social reform and the aunt of Lady Astor and Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson." She was particularly noted for her fight for Women's Rights and Suffrage. (12)

The building passed through several owners and was purchased by trustees of the Odd Fellows Association of Lynchburg in 1894. (13) The Odd Fellows became inactive and by 1985 the building was vacant and deteriorating when purchased by the present owner. The former Kentucky Hotel was found to be surprisingly architecturally intact, having suffered from neglect but having undergone few changes - a remarkable survival for a 19th century structure that was so much a part of Lynchburg's early economic and social growth.

END NOTES

1. Writers Program, Work Projects Administration, Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion (New York, 1940) p. 267.
2. Ibid.
3. Campbell Co. Deed Book 8, pages 327 & 339.

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4. Lynchburg, An Architectural History, S. Allen Chambers, Jr., University of Va., Press 1981, p. 50,51.
5. Lynchburg Deed Book B, 146.
6. Lynchburg Deed Book B, 147.
7. "Ordinaries in Lynchburg in 1816" Louise Blount, Lynchburg Historical Society Museum, Vol. VI No. 3.
8. Op. Cit., Chambers, P. 48.
9. Ibid, note #33 p. 517.
10. Lynchburg Deed Book U, 480.
11. "The Virginian" July 14, 1869.
12. Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion (New York 1940) 267.
13. Lynchburg Deed Book YY, 452.

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Chambers, S. Allen, Jr., Lynchburg, An Architectural History, Univ. of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, Va., 1981.

Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion, Works Projects Administration, Writers Program, U.S. Government, New York, N.Y. 1940.

"The Virginian" Newspaper, Lynchburg, Va., July 14, 1869.

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Justification

The bounds have been drawn to include the building and 0.16 acre lot, all that remains of the original 0.5 acre lot deeded from John Lynch.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Late 18th-Early 19th Century **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1816 when James Mallory received his ordinary license for the Kentucky Hotel, Lynchburg, Virginia was, according to Thomas Jefferson, "the most rising place in the U.S...." Lynchburg received all the rich produce of the western lands of Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky. There were warehouses to store the goods awaiting transport on the James River and 16 ordinaries to house the travelers. The Kentucky Hotel, one of three surviving Lynchburg ordinaries, is the only one without major alterations or later additions. The hotel is also a rare survivor of Lynchburg's Federal-style architecture: brick five-bay, single pile, gable roof, with twin end chimneys, and an arched fan light over the center entrance. Other notable examples of this type are Sandusky and the Dr. John Cabell house, which has been demolished. The Kentucky Hotel is an impressive 19th century remnant and continues as a commercial structure located on Lynchburg's major thoroughfare, U.S. business Route 29.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Kentucky Hotel is situated on its original site at the junction of Fifth and Jackson Streets (the old 7th Alley and 9th Street). Fifth Street was the earliest road west existing even before Lynchburg was incorporated. The house is believed to have been built by Edward Terrell before 1800. (1) Terrell is said to have left Lynchburg in 1803 after which the property was the residence of "Staunton" John Lynch and his wife Mary Terrell. (2) No firm evidence of Terrell's ownership exists although Terrell continued to sell tracts of land in the area as late as 1808. (3)

The Terrells together with the Lynches were Lynchburg's founding Quaker families. The Quaker tenets of propriety, conservatism, and good taste are recognizable in the Kentucky Hotel and other major Lynchburg houses of this period. In his book about Lynchburg architecture, Chambers cites the similarity of the major houses of the early growth of the city which was expanding rapidly on the wave of wealth generated by tobacco. (4) Although large and comfortable, there was little ostentatious display of wealth; in fact the buildings were significant in their conservatism and refined good taste.

Although not identical, there were so many similarities among these houses that they represent a unique style that is recognizable in the Kentucky Hotel, Sandusky, the Dr. John Cabell house (demolished) and numerous others still extant.

Interior plans were also similar, usually consisting of a center hall with straight stairs and a single room on either side. The plan is repeated on each floor. The Kentucky Hotel follows this plan.

Exterior details of the standard symmetrical five-bay facade include fenestration that is evenly spaced, with second-floor windows that are shorter than those on the first floor. Splayed brick lintels top the windows. On several of the houses the cornice is

9. Major Bibliographical References

Blount, Louise, "Ordinaries in Lynchburg in 1816", Lynchburg Historical Society Museum, Vol. VI, No. 3, Lynchburg, Va.

See Continuation Sheet #4

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Lynchburg, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7
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6	6	3	6	5	0
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4	1	4	2	2	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point at the NW corner of the intersection of 5th St. and Jackson St.; thence extending approx. 113' SE along the W side of Jackson St.; then approx. 60' SW; thence approx. 113' NW to a point on the S side of 5th St.; then approx. 60' NE along S side of 5th St. to point of origin. (See Continuation Sheet 5)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas A. & Sandra W. Crowther

organization N/A

date October 1985

street & number Blenheim Farm Rt. 1

telephone (804) 846-7677
(804) 283-4451

city or town Concord

state Virginia 24538

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director
title Division of Historic Landmarks

date November 10, 1986

For NPS use only

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

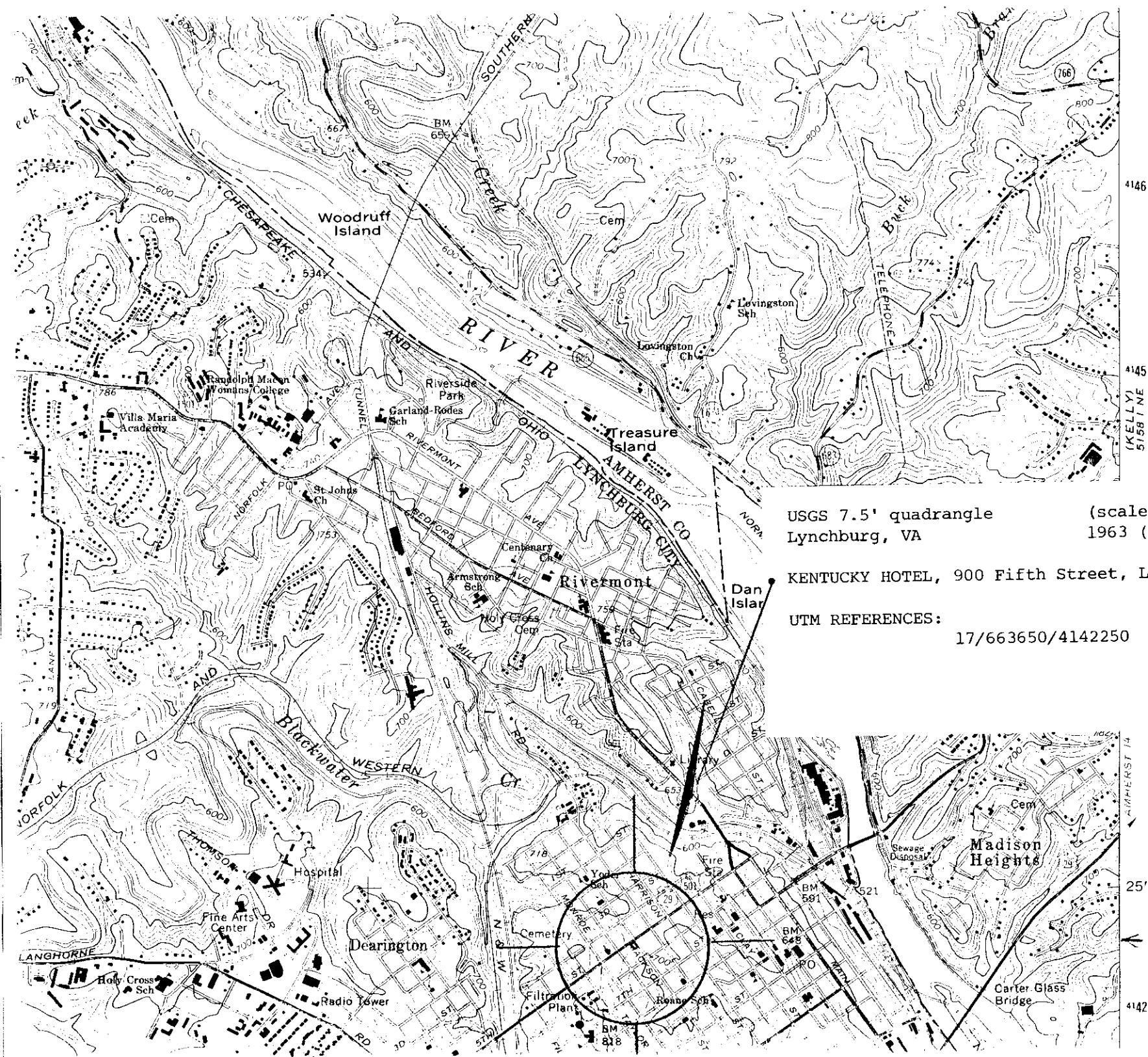
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Lynchburg, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1963 (PR 1984)

KENTUCKY HOTEL, 900 Fifth Street, Lynchburg, VA

UTM REFERENCES:

17/663650/4142250