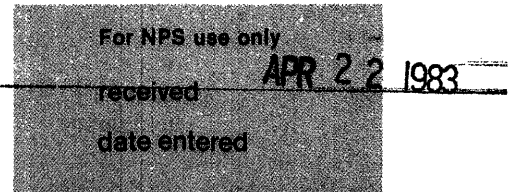


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic First National Bank - Kentucky Title Company Building

and/or common Kentucky Title Company Building

## 2. Location

street & number 214 S. Fifth St.

NA not for publication

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

NA congressional district

state Kentucky

code 021

county Jefferson

code 1111

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>NA</u> district	<u>XX</u> public	<u>XX</u> occupied	<u>NA</u> agriculture	<u>NA</u> museum
<u>XX</u> building(s)	<u>NA</u> private	<u>NA</u> unoccupied	<u>NA</u> commercial	<u>NA</u> park
<u>NA</u> structure	<u>NA</u> both	<u>NA</u> work in progress	<u>NA</u> educational	<u>NA</u> private residence
<u>NA</u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>NA</u> entertainment	<u>NA</u> religious
<u>NA</u> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<u>XX</u> yes: restricted	<u>XX</u> government	<u>NA</u> scientific
	<u>NA</u> being considered	<u>XX</u> yes: unrestricted	<u>NA</u> industrial	<u>NA</u> transportation
		<u>NA</u> no	<u>NA</u> military	<u>NA</u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Jefferson County Government

street & number 517 W. Jefferson St.

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

state Kentucky

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson St.

city, town Louisville

state Kentucky

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? NA yes X no

date 1978

NA federal XX state NA county NA local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Louisville

state Kentucky

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<del>NA</del> excellent	<del>NA</del> deteriorated	<del>NA</del> unaltered	<u>XX</u> original site
<u>XX</u> good	<del>NA</del> ruins	<u>XX</u> altered	<del>NA</del> moved date <del>NA</del>
<del>NA</del> fair	<del>NA</del> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kentucky Title Company building is located in the heart of the Central Business District and is part of the Jefferson County Governmental Complex. The Old Louisville Trust Building (National Register 1977) which now serves as offices for Jefferson County Government, the Jefferson County Courthouse (National Register 1972), and the Courthouse Annex (National Register 1980) are all located in the same city block as the Kentucky Title Company Building.

The building is an L-shaped, brick structure with a four-story east wing facing Fifth Street and a two-story north wing facing Market Street. The Fifth Street facade is symmetrical. The entrance is flanked by large marble fluted pilasters which carry a simple marble entablature. The double doors carry a leaded glass transom. Tripart windows with marble sills flank the entrance. Large marble panels above these windows read "First National Bank" on the south and "Kentucky Title Trust Company" on the north. Single windows on either side form the end bays. These have pedimental hoods supported by consoles and sills supported by brackets, all in white marble.

The second-story central bay contains a recessed Palladian window surrounded by stone, with panels below the sills. Flanking this window are recessed arched windows with similar panels. All three windows have wrought iron balconets. The end bays contain windows similar to those on the first floor but carry flat hoods as opposed to pedimental hoods. A stone band adds horizontal emphasis on this floor. The third floor contains simple, undecorated windows, five evenly spaced over the three central bays and one on each end bay. A large marble cornice above this level is delineated by dentils and block modillions.

Originally, above this cornice was a parapet wall. In 1953 a fourth floor was added exactly duplicating the third floor fenestration. The only difference is a small continuous stone band just below the window sills and another wider band several feet above the windows. Above the band is a parapet wall with a large central cartouche and swags which richly decorate the top of the building.

The south side of the building consists of eight bays. The two end bays are identical to the facade end bays with single windows on each floor, the first and second floor windows carrying marble sills and hoods. The other six bays are identical to the facade bays which flank the entrance, with tripart windows and marble panels on the first floor and arched recessed windows with balconets on the second floor. The marble panels read as follows from east to west: First National Bank Founded 1863; Oldest National Bank in the South; Kentucky Title Trust Company Founded 1900; Kentucky Title Company Founded 1874; Oldest Insurance Company in the South; Erected AD MCMXXVII. The third and fourth floors are identical to the east facade fenestration.

The Market Street facade is very similar to the Fifth Street facade. It is only two stories in height and the central second floor window is not Palladian, but matches the other two arched recessed windows. The Market Street facade is three bays instead of five in width. All other features match the Fifth Street facade. All windows on both wings are multi-paned and double hung.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1927; 1953      **Builder/Architect** Carl M. Ziegler

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kentucky Title Company Building is Louisville's finest example of the use of the Colonial Revival style on a large scale commercial building. The simplicity and purity of the design is a hallmark of Carl M. Ziegler, the architect, a leading Revival style architect from Philadelphia.

In 1925, the First National Bank of Louisville and Kentucky Title Company began construction of the new building on the site of the Old Kentucky Title Company Building. Completed in 1927, the Kentucky Title Company occupied the north wing and the First National Bank occupied the east wing. In 1953, a fourth floor was sensitively added to the east wing. Jefferson County Government purchased the building in 1972 for office space on the upper floors. The first floor is used for public services such as issuing licenses.

Carl M. Ziegler was commissioned as architect for the building in 1925. Based in Philadelphia, Ziegler was an avid student of colonial times, often traveling through New England, Pennsylvania and Virginia to study, photograph and write about the nation's early architecture. As he states in a 1920 article published in American Architect, "...it cannot be too strongly impressed upon the student of architecture that only by the closest kind of study of the buildings themselves may he hope to gain the information that will enable him to have something more than a mere superficial knowledge of the subject. This may make it possible for him to meet the demands of his clients..."<sup>1</sup>

Ziegler was attentive as well to the importance of the design of the interior spaces in conducting good business. The trade publications of this period emphasized that good architecture reflects good business. "To presume that a building to be devoted to business purposes must be ugly and entirely lacking in refinement, as do so many people, is not only a rebuke to architectural art, but carries with it a disgrace to the business which the building houses."<sup>2</sup> As seen in the first floor public space, Ziegler accepted wholeheartedly this architectural philosophy.

Ziegler was responsible for two other known commissions in Louisville. In 1935 he was again commissioned by the First National Bank to convert an old garage into a branch bank on East Broadway. The facade was totally altered with the introduction of new fenestration including a double door entrance and crowning semi-circular fanlight. He also added a double pedimented portico, copied directly from the entrance of "Tallwood", a Virginia plantation, ca.1800, which was a continuous source of reference for Ziegler. The building remains today in a grossly altered state.

<sup>1</sup>Carl M. Ziegler, "An American Architectural Ramble in Virginia," American Architect, Vol.124 (August 1923), p.149.

<sup>2</sup>"Interior Architecture," American Architect, May 20, 1928, p.673.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name New Albany, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	6	0	8	5	8	0	4	2	3	4	6	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

City Block 14E, Lot 11      The building occupies the entire lot.  
See Sanborn Map.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission

date January 5, 1982

street & number 727 W. Main St.

telephone 502-587-3501

city or town Louisville

state Kentucky

# 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

*Mary Cuman Appel*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 1, 1983

For NPS use only

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

*J. Allouis Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/19/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

First National Bank-Kentucky Title Company Building  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky  
Continuation sheet

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received  
date entered

Item number 7

Page 2

The interior banking rooms on the first floors retain most of their original detailing. Fluted pilasters rise the full height of the room along the walls and carry a continuous entablature with triglyphs, metopes and dentils. Fluted piers are positioned in rows down the center of each room with counters between. The teller windows were originally along these counters. The windows have their original eared frames. The front walls on both north and east wings are fully paneled and have paneled foyers with double doors.

The elevators on each floor are flanked by the stair entries. The walls are fully paneled, with arched stair entries on the first floor, and contain bands of dentils. The stairs are marble. Few rooms on the upper floors are left intact, but all window openings and surrounds are original.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

First National Bank—Kentucky Title Company Building  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky  
Continuation sheet

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Item number 8

Page 2

Ralph Gifford, president of First National Bank, commissioned Ziegler in 1936 to combine two existing residences into a single residential design. The houses, an American Four-square and a Dutch Colonial Revival, were on two different grades which creates an interesting and comfortable transition. The exterior was stuccoed and currently appears to be a single, uniform design. The house is located at 2412 Longest Ave. in the Cherokee Triangle (National Register, 1976).

The Kentucky Title Company Building both inside and out contains a very restrained elegance, with a clear balance between its aesthetic and utilitarian qualities. Although the use of the building has changed, it continues to serve both public and private interests and remains as Louisville's finest example of the commercial Colonial Revival style.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

First National Bank-Kentucky Title Company Building  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY  
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

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date entered

BIBLIOGRAPHY

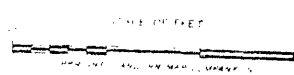
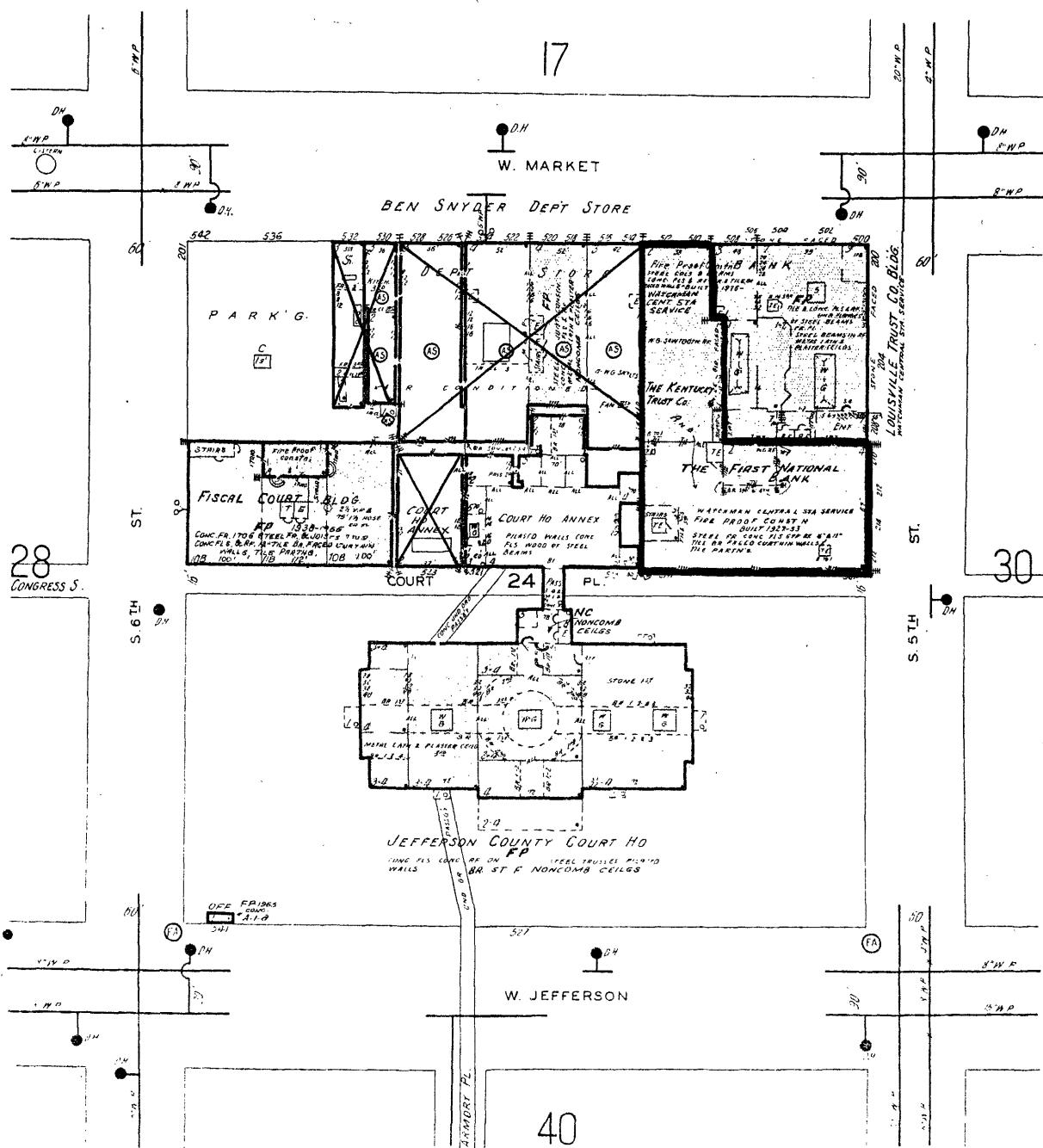
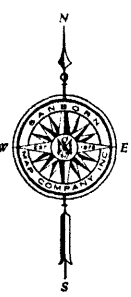
Cram, Ralph Adams. "Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Germantown, PA," American Architect, March 20, 1928, p. 361-364.

"From Service Garage to Banking Service," American Architect, Vol. 147 (1935), p. 46-47.

"House of Ralph Gifford, Louisville, Kentucky," American Architect, Vol. 148 (1936), p. 44-45.

"Interior Architecture," American Architect, May 20, 1928, p. 673-678.

Ziegler, Carl M. "An Architectural Ramble in Virginia," American Architect, Vol. 124 (August, 1923), p. 149-151.





First National Bank/Kentucky  
Title Co., Bldg.  
214 S. 5th St  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Ky  
Sanborn Map 1974