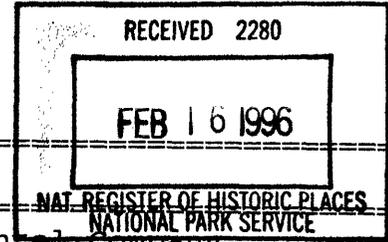


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Harig, Koop & Company/Columbia Mantel Company
other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 845 South Ninth Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Louisville

vicinity: N/A

state: KY county: Jefferson

code: 111

zip code: 40203

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Local significance David L. Morgan, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

David L. Morgan

2-7-96

Signature of certifying official

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council, the State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson R. Beall 3/14/96

Entered in the National Register

other (explain):

for

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: INDUSTRY

Sub: manufacturing facility

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub:

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival
OTHER: Brick factory, post&beam const.
OTHER: Brick factory, truss roof

Materials: foundation BRICK roof TAR
 walls BRICK other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: INDUSTRY

Period(s) of Significance: 1871 -1941

Significant Dates : 1871 1905 C. 1926-1928

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

-- _____
-- _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
 X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. (Determination approved 9/14/95, NPS #1215-95-KY)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: 1.3 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	16	607880	4233300	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

The boundary is indicated on an accompanying site plan. It includes the city lot historically associated with the property.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

The boundary justification is located in Section 7, Continuation sheet 5.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization:

Date: November 28, 1995

Street & Number: 1288 Bassett Avenue

Telephone: 502 456-2397

City or Town: Louisville

State: KY ZIP: 40204

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Section number 7 Harig, Koop & Company/
Columbia Mantel Company Page 1
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Description:

The Harig, Koop and Company/Columbia Mantel Company is a small industrial complex located at the corner of West Breckenridge and South Ninth streets in Louisville in a multi-use neighborhood that contains a number of other historic manufacturing facilities, modern sales and service centers, a smattering of modest historic housing, and a number of parking lots on the sites of demolished historic buildings. The complex is located just to the northwest of the Limmerick Historic District on a 1.3 acre site. The Harig, Koop and Company/Columbia Mantel Company complex consists of two 1871 industrial buildings constructed by Harig, Koop and Company as a furniture factory that were each added to and considerably altered by the Columbia Mantel Company in the 1920s. In the 1950s the buildings were joined together when the driveway between them was roofed over and filled in to form offices in front and a shipping area to the rear. Other additions were made to the rear and north side of the complex, principally in the 1960s. (A site plan and copies of 1892, 1905, 1941 and 1976 Sanborn maps included with the nomination hopefully clarify the complex evolution of the facility.)

The two historical portions of the complex consist of parallel structures, a one-story mill building to the north which was extended to the east with a two-story addition and a three-story finishing building which was doubled in size with a three-story extension. Both buildings are of masonry brick construction with brick pilasters that divide the exteriors into bays. Parapet walls at the roofline are capped with terra-cotta coping. Both these buildings retain their original 1871 interior structural systems, but they were rebricked and fitted with large metal industrial sash windows that replaced their original segmental-arched double-hung sash in the 1920s. A historic photograph taken in 1928 documents the completion of the alterations to the finishing building and the two-story addition to the mill by that date. The windows of the mill had not yet been replaced. All sections of the complex are finished with roll roofs which in many areas have been tarred over.

The mill building is a one-story gable-roofed structure with a two-story rear addition. This building functioned historically and up until the time the company was closed as a woodworking shop with sawing and planing operations on the main floor and with, since the late 1920s, a sanding room in the second-floor rear room. The mill area has undergone successive expansions and alterations since its initial construction in 1871 as a rectangular structure with a small two-story rear section containing a boiler room. By 1928 the two-story extension was completed and a new shed-roofed boiler room was constructed at the rear. Sometime

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Harig, Koop & Company/
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shortly after, the walls were rebricked and the windows replaced with metal sash. By 1941 (perhaps as part of the 1920s addition) a portion of the north wall towards the rear had been broken through and two walls built to incorporate two originally freestanding dry kilns (one before the present rehabilitation began with its doors removed) into the space. The front facade of this building was altered again in the 1950s when it was rebricked and given new windows at the time a new office area was constructed between the two historic buildings. Between 1941 and 1971 a shed-roofed section to the north of the original mill building and west of the kilns was constructed and an additional section of the north wall removed to provide access to it. Today this area is one large L-shaped space.

On the interior the original rectangular portion of the mill has a forty-foot clear span made possible by a series of massive wooden roof trusses. The shed-roofed north additions are supported by metal posts and beams. Original skylights in both sections have been removed. The industrial sash windows installed in the 1920s were bricked in during the 1950s and 1960s most of the frames removed. Exposed brick walls give evidence of earlier paint. Floors are currently finished with narrow tongue-and-groove boards in the 1870s portion of the building and concrete slabs in the later areas.

A small wooden stair at the rear used to lead to the second-floor sanding room. This is being replaced as part of the present rehabilitation. The gable roof of the sanding room is supported by a central row of post and beam supports that in turn supports a series of light trusses. Painted brick walls are located on three sides, the north and south ones punctuated by industrial sash windows; the west wall is constructed of diagonal tongue-and-groove boards with two high windows. The floor is finished with heavily patched diagonal tongue-and-groove boards. At the rear of the mill building is a one-story brick-walled shed-roofed boiler room with a concrete-slab floor and a brick containment area for the boiler.

The three-story finishing or "main" building stretches back along Breckenridge Street, with its three-bay front facade facing Ninth Street. This facade is detailed with a Mission-style parapet gable trimmed with cast-stone coping. A circular medallion with the company name is centrally located near the top of the gable with a panel of decorative brickwork immediately below. Large double doors constructed of vertical boards occupy the central bay of the first floor. A small door and window are located in the left bay; a bricked-in industrial window occupies the right bay. Along the long, seventeen-bay south side facade a second pair of doors is located in the fifth bay before the

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east end. The roof of this building reflects its two part construction. The 1871 portion, originally gable-roofed, retains an altered gable roof profile with a monitor area added in the 1920s that lights an attic space. The late 1920s addition has a flat roof.

On the interior, the finishing building is constructed with posts and beams with two rows of 10' square posts running the length of the structure on each floor. Walls are exposed brick which has been painted. Floors are finished with wide diagonally-laid wood boards. Ceilings vary from floor to floor and from one section of a floor to another. Treatments include board and batten, narrow tongue-and-groove boards, wide boards covered with beaver board, and exposed joists. First-floor windows have been bricked in, but the windows frames and glass are still in place on the interior. A few of the original 1871 window openings remain on the north wall of each floor.

All three floors have a predominantly open plan with just a few built-in partitions and enclosed areas. On the first floor several wooden cages for storage are located against the south wall near the center of the space, and, since the 1950s, the west end has been partitioned off for additional office space. The second floor is completely open. An enclosed walkway (earlier open) leads from the center of this space to the second-floor sanding room of the mill building. The third floor has several varnishing and finishing areas set off from the rest of the space by metal troughs on the floor and some vertical partitions. An original three-story elevator and stair tower is located against the north wall of the oldest portion of the building. Non-historic bathroom additions with corrugated-metal exteriors are located to its east and west on each floor.

In 1953 Columbia began a series of alterations and additions that in three stages roofed over the drive-through area that had existed between the two earlier buildings. A one-story office area was constructed at the Ninth Street end forming one long brick facade along Ninth Street. At this time the north wall of an historic narrow shed-roofed office area attached to the finishing building was demolished. The new office space, completed in 1953, was laid out with four enclosed offices along the south wall and an open partially-partitioned area to the north, and was finished with a linoleum floor, plywood-paneled walls and an acoustical-tile ceiling. Shortly after, a concrete slab was poured in the open area behind the office addition as far back as the second-floor walkway between the two buildings, and it was roofed over. By 1960 the rear portion had also been floored and roofed.

Later changes included the construction of the large concrete-block and corrugated-metal lumber shed at the northeast corner of the complex

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about 1961 or 1962, the construction of two loading docks, and the construction of the "new mill," a large masonry-brick room at the northwest corner of the complex in the late 1960s. This new mill extended the front facade of the complex from Breckenridge Street all the way to the alley paralleling it to the north. Two lumber sheds were also built on newly acquired land to the north of this alley during the 1960s.

The complex is currently being rehabilitated for use as office and warehouse space using the Historic Preservation Tax Credits. A Part 1 application for the property was submitted in August, 1995 and certification was obtained on September 14, 1995 (NPS Project Number 1215-95-KY). A Part 2 application was submitted in October, 1995 and approved in November, 1995. Copies of plans for the rehabilitation that were submitted to the Park Service are included with the nomination to help interpret the proposed changes.

As a result of the rehabilitation work a number of changes, approved by the National Park Service, are being made to the complex at the time this nomination is being written. On the exterior very few of these changes affect the buildings' historic fabric. The principal access to the building is being shifted from the historic, west front facade along Ninth Street to the rear, east facade. No changes are being made to the Ninth Street facade or to the historic north wall of the three-story finishing building along Breckenridge Street. Major changes include the removal of the boiler room, the rebricking of the damaged east (rear) wall of the mill building, and the creation of a new main entrance to the new office space at the southeast corner of the mill building. In addition, the roof has been removed over a portion of the central area that was roofed-over in the late 1950s, and a new exterior wall (of architectural block) has been constructed at the point where the second-floor bridge connects the two historic buildings. This change has partially recreated the original effect of two separate buildings separated by a driveway. Other current changes involve the removal of the skylights from the roof of the 1871 mill and the removal and reworking of a number of non-historic features. These include the removal of two loading docks, the removal of a three-story hoist enclosure attached to the north wall of the finishing building, and the reworking of the walls and entrances of the lumber storage facility and other sheds in the northeast corner of the site and along the north alley.

On the interior, no alterations have or will be made to the historic three-story finishing building. The 1871 portion of the mill will remain largely intact with new spray insulation covering the ceiling and the huge trusses scraped and newly painted. New offices

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finished with drywall, carpeted floors, and acoustical-tile dropped ceilings are being created on the first and second floors of the rear, east addition to the mill constructed in the late 1920s. A new staircase is being constructed near the southeast corner of this area to join the two office areas. The newer areas of sheds, and warehouses to the north of the mill are being reconfigured to accommodate new loading docks and storage areas.

Boundary Description and Justification.

In the immediate vicinity of the Columbia Mantel Company, to the north across an alley and on property presently but not historically associated with the business, are two storage sheds built by Columbia in the 1960s, a small historic truck loading facility not associated with the plant, and a row of historic houses fronting on Cawthon Street. To the east beyond another alley behind the complex, a parking lot is located on the site of historic houses. To the south across Breckenridge Street are located a five-story historic brick industrial structure, once a tobacco company factory, and a long-vacant lot. Across Ninth Street, on the earlier site of railroad yards and an L & N Railroad freight depot, is a large recently-constructed one-story distribution center for automobile parts.

The boundary of the nominated property consists of the 1.3 acres (Tract 1) historically associated with the Harig, Koop and Company/Columbia Mantel Factory which includes the historic factory complex and the open rear yard which was used for many years for outdoor lumber storage. This boundary, bordered by Breckenridge and Ninth streets and two alleys, is indicated on an accompanying site plan. Excluded from the nominated property is the 0.99 acres to the north of the alley that is presently associated with the facility. This was purchased in the 1960s and contains two large metal storage sheds built by Columbia Manufacturing Company during the 1960s and several other historic buildings never historically associated with the factory facility.

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Statement of Significance:

The Harig, Koop and Company/Columbia Mantel Company factory, built in 1871, is a historic furniture manufacturing facility that functioned in that capacity for over one hundred years and is almost certainly the facility with the longest use as a furniture factory in the City of Louisville. The property has been evaluated within the historical context: The Furniture Manufacturing Industry in Louisville, Kentucky, 1830 - 1941 which is being developed in a skeletal form for this National Register nomination. The Harig, Koop and Company/Columbia Mantel Company is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its industrial significance. The existing facility is significant for its long associations with both the 19th and 20th century furniture manufacturing industry in Louisville, Kentucky, and for features that document changes in furniture factories during that time period. It provides valuable documentation of this industry in Louisville from the period when it was first developing in the 1860s and 1870s through the time of its greatest historical success in the 1920s and 1930s when Louisville became a regional furniture manufacturing center of some size. It is one of four of the eight or nine major furniture-making factory complexes from the 1860s and 1870s that remains standing. It documents the size and layout of one of Louisville's smallest 20th century "complete furniture-making plants" that was able to start with green lumber and turn out finished products. In addition, the important wood mantel-making operation begun by the Columbia Mantel Company, which enjoyed a large local, national, and much smaller international market, tells an important story about one small segment of the furniture industry. The period of significance for the property is 1871 through 1941, the historical time period during which the two furniture companies that occupied the plant were engaged in industrial operations in the existing buildings and actively contributed to the growth of the furniture industry in Louisville, Kentucky. Important individual dates include 1871, when the factory complex was constructed, 1905 when Columbia Mantel Company was formed and took over operation of the plant and c. 1926-1928, the time when the complex is thought to have been significantly altered and expanded. 1941 has been selected as the ending date for the period of significance because the World War II period from 1941-1945 interrupted the pre-war production pattern at Columbia Mantel. During the war, mantel production ceased, furniture production was reduced, and a number of special war-related items were made for the government.

Because the Columbia Mantel Company continued to operate into the 1980s, certain non-historic changes have been made to the complex reflecting ongoing company needs. The most significant of these in terms of the historic integrity of the complex was the 1950s creation of

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the office and shipping area in the driveway between the two original structures and the rebricking of the front of the mill building. Although this change detracts somewhat from the overall exterior integrity, it is clear that the complex still retains a high degree of integrity of location, feeling and association. The finishing building retains a very high degree of interior and exterior integrity of design, workmanship and materials which together with the mill's strong interior integrity of workmanship and materials clearly tells the story of the physical evolution of the complex over time as it relates to the historical industrial significance of this very important Louisville furniture manufacturing facility.

A Part 1 Historic Preservation Certification Application for this property (#1215 95-KY) was approved by the National Park Service on September 14, 1995. It contained an abbreviated version of the Statement of Significance presented in this National Register nomination. A Part 2 application has been submitted to the National Park Service and is awaiting action at the time this nomination is being prepared.

Harig, Koop and Company

The complex was constructed in 1871 by Harig, Koop and Co., manufacturers of furniture and chairs, to replace an earlier factory that had been destroyed by fire. Harig, Koop, and Co., was formed about 1868 from two separate firms established by Frederick Harig and August Koop respectively. An 1875 ad for the company notes that "particular attention [is] paid to the manufacture of school furniture." [Caron's Louisville City Directory for 1875, p. 647] Harig had been in the chair manufacturing business in Louisville from at least 1858 when the firm of Olges and Harig is listed under the heading "Chair Manufacturers" in the city directory [p. 241]. By 1864 Harig was in business alone running the " Kentucky Chair Company, Manufacturers of Cane-Seat and Windsor Chairs" [p. 53]. An advertisement for "A. Koop and Co., Manufacturers of School Desks and all kinds of Kitchen, Dining Room and Chamber Furniture" first appears in the 1866-67 directory [p. 471].

Harig, Koop and Company continued in business until 1904 or early 1905, although Harig's interest was sold to Koop about 1899, and the name was changed to A. Koop and Sons. August Koop died in 1904. The firm was one of the earliest furniture manufacturers established in Louisville after the Civil War and one of the longest to survive, most of the other comparable firms having gone out of business before 1900.

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Columbia Mantel Company Page 8

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The Columbia Mantel Company

In August, 1905 the property and plant along with much of its equipment and machinery were purchased by the Columbia Mantel Company, established that same year as a manufacturer of high-quality wood mantels by Charles P. Brecher. [Lewis, Charles (grandson-in-law of C.P. Brecher and third president of Columbia Mantel), "Columbia Mantel Company/Columbia Manufacturing Company"] By 1913 Columbia was also manufacturing furniture, a side of the business that enjoyed increasing prominence as the demand for mantels slowed dramatically during the Depression and World War II [Lewis, Interview, July 12, 1995]. The mantel-making operation ceased in 1958. Columbia furniture manufacturing operations continued in the complex until 1986 when the Columbia Manufacturing Company, successor firm to Columbia Mantel, was liquidated. Major alterations and additions were made to the plant in the 1920s at a time when many of Louisville's furniture factories were expanding and new ones were being established and again to a lesser degree in the 1950s and 1960s as the growing company expanded once again.

C.P. Brecher, founder and first president of Columbia Mantel, was the son of Philip P. Brecher, the general superintendent of the Fischer-Leaf Company, an important nineteenth century manufacturer of cast-iron stoves, grates, and mantels in Louisville. Early in his life C.P. Brecher worked for a time as a sales representative for Fischer-Leaf. After Fischer-Leaf closed down, Brecher and a partner, George Buck, in 1900, purchased their retail store which sold mantels, tiles, and lighting fixtures. The store had sold Fischer-Leaf mantels as well as wood mantels manufactured locally by the Voss Mantel Company and the Hegan Mantel Company. This business continues today as the Brecher Lighting Company.

Brecher founded Columbia Mantel to supply fine-quality wood mantels to his retail business at a time when wooden mantels had completely replaced cast-iron ones as the mantel of choice in all houses. The business appears to have been very successful from the start, having driven both its local competitors out of the wood mantel business by 1915. Columbia Mantel only sold to mantel and tile dealers, and quite early on had contracts with dealers in both Chicago and New York. In the early years of the business, mantels were frequently hand-carved and constructed of hardwoods that were finished to specification. By the 1920s simpler painted wood mantels had become more popular and Columbia Mantel primarily produced poplar mantels, ready to be painted and with decorative detailing frequently made from pressed wood rather than carved. Beginning in 1913, the company began producing a line of library furniture that was intended to complement the mantels. Fueled

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by the residential building boom of the 1920s Columbia Mantel expanded considerably. By the 1930s the almost total absence of new house construction in the first half of the decade combined with a continuing decline in the use of fireplaces and mantels in houses was seriously affecting the mantel-making business. Columbia's furniture-making business expanded accordingly. When Columbia stopped making mantels in the 1950s, it was one of only two or three companies with national reputations and distribution networks still in operation. [Lewis, Charles. Interview, July 1995]

FURNITURE MANUFACTURING IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
1832 - 1941

The historical context to be used for this nomination, Furniture Manufacturing in Louisville, Kentucky: 1832 - 1941, has been developed in skeletal form using a variety of primary and secondary source materials. These include city directories dating back to 1832; Sanborn fire insurance maps and other early maps of Louisville; United States census returns providing information relating to manufacturing output in Louisville, Kentucky, and the nation; local newspaper articles on industrial development; and existing survey materials on historic industrial properties located at the city's preservation office. Studying these various sources, certain conclusions can be drawn about furniture making in Louisville.

Pre-Civil War Furniture Making in Louisville

In pre-Civil War Louisville, furniture making was concentrated in small cabinetmakers' shops which in most cases had single or several family proprietors. The 1832 city directory, Louisville's first, lists nineteen cabinetmakers and five chair makers, all with different places of work indicated except for several brother or father-son combinations that are listed at one location. [The Louisville Directory for the Year 1832] Only one firm of cabinet makers, Ward and Stokes, was large enough or ambitious enough to list its operation in boldface type.

Almost no information is available about these early artisans and their work, but from what is generally known about early furniture making in Kentucky in particular and the United States in general it can be concluded that these initial furniture producers were no doubt highly skilled artisans who worked slowly by hand to produce unique pieces of furniture. [Olcott, "Kentucky Federal Furniture," Antiques in Kentucky, pp. 870 - 881 and Metropolitan Museum of Art, 19th Century America: Furniture and Other Decorative Arts, pp. xi - xxxi]

Home addresses were not listed in the first few city directories so

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it is impossible to determine from this source whether these men worked and resided at the same location. By 1858, when for the first time a list of cabinetmakers' firms appears in the back of the directory and both home and work addresses are indicated for most heads of households, nineteen cabinet makers are listed and at least thirteen have the same work and home address [Hurd and Burrow's Louisville City Directory for 1858-59, pp. 237-238]. This would suggest that up until the time of the Civil War the majority of cabinetmakers in Louisville worked independently in small shops which were located either below, next to, or in the rear yard of their place of residence. These early buildings are all gone, and considerable additional research will be necessary to determine the form and appearance of these first furniture makers shops.

Mid-century Changes in Furniture Manufacturing

The catalogue for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's 1974 show "19th-Century America: Furniture and Other Decorative Arts" notes that by the middle of the 19th century the westward movement of the U. S. population in conjunction with new mechanization of the furniture industry was creating new furniture centers, "particularly on the Mississippi and its tributaries" [p. xvii]. By mid-century Louisville's strategic Ohio River location and rapid mid-century growth in population spurred on the local furniture making industry and created a demand that began to exceed the possible output of the original small cabinetmaking shops.

Several sources suggest that although many of the small artisans' shops were still in operation a gradual change to larger businesses was occurring. An 1848 city directory (the city's fifth) contains six advertisements that hint at bigger operations: among the firms advertising are "T.M. Duffy's Chair Manufactory" on Second Street between Main and Market; "Wm. C. Dodge, Manufacturer of Fashionable Cabinet Ware, Upholstery, Chairs, and Venetian Blinds" on Fourth Street; "John Simms' Cabinet Furniture Ware-Rooms" at the corner of Main and Seventh streets; and the "Louisville Cabinet Warehouse" on Fourth Street, "Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in Mahogany Sofas and Dressing Bureaus and Every Variety and Quality of Chairs, Tables and Bedsteads." With their mention of manufactories, ware-rooms and warehouses these ads suggest operations somewhat larger than single artisan operations. Several of the ads mention that steamboats and hotels are furnished to order at the shortest notice. The United States manufacturing census for 1860 also documents the gradual rise in size in furniture-making firms in Louisville. It lists 14 "furniture, cabinet"-making establishments in Jefferson County employing 194 male hands. This averages out to nearly five hands per establishment [Manufactures of the United States in 1860, pp. 178-180].

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Louisville's First Large-scale Furniture Factories: 1865 - 1880

The Metropolitan Museum catalogue for "19th Century America: Furniture and Other Decorative Arts" notes that by 1870 the new midwestern manufacturers had virtually "wiped out" the smaller traditional cabinetmakers [p. xxi]. This national trend certainly seems to have been the pattern in Louisville. The 1866-67 city directory records thirteen furniture manufacturers and only five cabinet makers in its advertising index [pp. 452 and 470].

It was towards the end of the Civil War and primarily in the decade following that a number of furniture manufacturers in Louisville, some newly established and others expanding from smaller more hand-crafted operations, built new factory buildings with steam-powered machinery. They hired many more employees to turn out much larger quantities of mass-produced furniture. In the 1860s and 1870s, at least five substantial three- to five-story masonry brick industrial complexes were constructed to house the city's first large-scale furniture manufacturing operations.

The Wrampelmeier and Schulte Furniture Company, established sometime between 1859 and 1864, was probably the first. By 1865 the company, located at the corner of Fifteenth Street and Portland Avenue and manufacturing a variety of furniture including sofas, bureaus, tables and bedsteads, was advertising as "The Southern Steam Furniture Factory" [Williamson's Annual City Directory, p. 73]. This description suggests that the company was one of the new mass-producers of furniture. The factory, of unknown form and appearance, was replaced about 1880 by a larger five-story L-shaped factory at the nearby corner of Fifteenth and Lytle streets. The latter building, at the time of its construction, was said to be the largest single building in Louisville devoted to manufacturing [Foshee, "Wrampelmeier Furniture Company"]. The 1880 Wrampelmeier factory is extant and listed in the National Register' although by 1895 it was no longer functioning as a furniture factory.

The Louisville Furniture Manufacturing Company, first advertising in the 1866-67 directory at the corner of Ninth and Jefferson Streets (no longer standing) was also among the earliest, probably constructed, at least in part, in 1865. The 1866-67 city directory includes a full page ad [opposite dedication page at front] illustrating both the exterior and interior of its adjoining and attached three- and four-story gable-roofed factory and warerooms.

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About 1868 the Greve, Buhrlage and Company furniture manufacturers, a firm dating back to 1853, completed two adjacent but separate four-story brick buildings, a "steam factory" and "warerooms" (a showroom), at 1501 Lytle Street and 1500 Portland Avenue. These buildings operated as a furniture factory only until the early 1890s, but they are extant, listed in the National Register, and believed to be among the oldest industrial buildings remaining in Louisville [Foshee, "Greve Buhrlage & Company"]. Their masonry load-bearing brick construction with rows of segmental arched windows set between brick pilasters and their interior post-and-beam structural systems are typical of this generation of furniture factory buildings.

City directories and an 1884 map of Louisville suggest that by 1880 three other companies had constructed major new factory buildings. Harig, Koop, and Company built the factory at Ninth and Breckenridge in 1871 to replace its earlier facility that had been destroyed by fire. The two building layout separated by a drive was, according to a transcription of the diary of Mrs. Koop, a deliberate attempt to reduce the risk of fire. This was always a particular hazard in the furniture business because of the need for highly flammable glues and solvents in the manufacturing process. The two building layout became a popular format for some of the later furniture factories in Louisville. Between 1875 and 1880 the J. W. Davis Furniture Manufacturing Company and the Dickinson Furniture Manufacturing Company either built factories or moved into existing facilities located respectively on Preston Street between Lampton and Ross streets and on Jacob Street between Hancock and Clay streets respectively. Neither of these complexes are extant.

By 1880 the furniture manufacturing industry already played an important role in the city's developing industrial base. The 1880 census lists 18 furniture manufacturers in Jefferson County employing 543 males, 4 females and 32 children or youths and 7 chair manufacturers with 184 male works, 10 females and 40 children or youths [Report on the Manufactures of the United States at the Tenth Census, pp. 246-247]. This averages out to about 32.5 workers per establishment, a dramatic rise from the average of five per firm recorded in the 1860 census. This group of 813 employees represented the fifth largest group of workers involved in manufacturing in the city. Of locally produced manufactures only tobacco products, foundry and machine shop products, men's clothing, and printing and publishing employed more hands. The dollar value of the products generated by the furniture making industry, \$1,041,530, ranked the industry ninth.

Louisville lagged well behind its great competitor, Cincinnati, which, along with Grand Rapids, Michigan, had emerged by mid-century as one of the principal inland manufacturing centers for furniture in the

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country. In 1880 119 furniture making operations and 16 chair factories in Cincinnati generated \$4,372,339 in product value. [Report on the Manufactures of the United States at the Tenth Census, p. 394] But Louisville ranked ahead of other cities in the region including Lexington, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Nashville. It was well on its way to becoming a regional furniture manufacturing center.

1880 - 1915

The furniture industry in Louisville grew slowly from the 1880s until the late 1910s. Several more new companies were established and factory facilities constructed or adapted from existing industrial buildings. City directory listings indicate that companies were dissolved and/or reconstituted with different names at a fairly rapid rate and that they often moved from one local factory complex to another. A new plant opened between 1885 and 1890 at 1800 Portland Avenue by the Kentucky Furniture Manufacturing Company is a good example of this. By 1930 it had also been home to both Palmer and Hardin and G.E. Gans Manufacturing, two other furniture makers. A large plant at 620 to 624 South 31st Street (the southwest corner with Magazine Street) was built between 1901 and 1905 by the Gimnich Furniture Manufacturing Company. Soon after it became the home of Wilson Furniture Manufacturing and later Consider H. Willett, perhaps the largest furniture company ever to operate in Louisville. A third large complex was constructed by the Inman-Pierson Company between 1905 and 1910 at 30th and Kentucky streets. By 1935 it appears to have become a second plant for Consider H. Willett.

The Furniture Industry in Louisville Between the Wars: 1916 - 1941

The location of 13 new furniture companies in the city between 1916 and 1921 prompted the Board of Trade to predict that the city was on the verge of becoming one of the nation's leading furniture manufacturing centers. ["City is Furniture Center," Board of Trade Journal, July 8, 1921] The article points out that Louisville was highly suited for furniture manufacturing because it was a major hardwood lumber market and the world's leading producer of face veneers and laminated woods, all critical materials in furniture making. The low cost of fuel, low inbound freight rates, Louisville's ideal central location for distribution, and the plentiful supply of skilled laborers were also cited as factors positively influencing the growth of the furniture manufacturing at that time.

Louisville never became one of the top furniture manufacturing centers in the United States, but census figures document a dramatic rise in the annual value of products generated and people employed by

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the furniture manufacturing industry in the city between 1909 and 1939. The 1929 manufacturing census has no individual figures for Louisville, but ranks furniture manufacturing in terms of profit generated as the seventh largest industry in the state of Kentucky. Nearly all this production would have occurred in Louisville, by far the largest industrial center in the state. [Fifteenth Census of the United States. Manufactures: 1929, Vol. III, Reports by States, pp. 199-200]

Census figures and city directory listings indicate that the furniture industry in Louisville weathered the Depression remarkably well and by 1939, Kentucky placed thirteenth among the states in the production of household furniture. [Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940. Manufactures, Vol. II, Part I, pp.555-556 That year Louisville had sixteen household furniture factories (and probably others producing office furniture) that employed 2,528 workers and generated \$8,191,229 in product value, thus ranking furniture manufacturing as the fifth or sixth biggest industry in the city [Manufactures, Vol. III, p. 366]. By this time Louisville had far outstripped its early regional rival, Cincinnati, whose 20 household and upholstered furniture factories then generated only \$3,275,658 in product value. Louisville had become a true regional furniture making center.

City directory listings for the 1950s and 1960s indicate that furniture manufacturing continued as an important Louisville industry into that time period.

Property Types Associated with the Furniture Making Industry
in Louisville

Four property types associated with this context have been identified. The first type includes the early cabinetmakers shops, primarily from the first half of the 19th century, of which very little is presently known. Many city directory listings for cabinetmakers living and working at the same address suggest that frequently these shops occupied the first floor of a residence or a separate outbuilding associated with a property. Since most of the listed addresses are concentrated in the center of the oldest part of Louisville where there have been at least three successions of buildings, it seems fairly certain that none of these structures remain. Further research which is beyond the scope of this project will have to be conducted to determine more about the form and physical appearance of these buildings.

A second property type includes the emerging small "manufacturing" operations that date from the 1850s through the late 19th century. Very

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few of these buildings remain either, but one, the Buchter Chair Manufacturing Company at 827-29 East Liberty Street (formerly Green Street), is extant and has been surveyed. Dating from about 1872, the three-building complex, located on a large city lot, consists of a three-story brick Italianate commercial building with a characteristic nineteenth century storefront, a small brick Italianate town house, and a two-story brick gable-roofed factory building across the back of the city lot. City directory listings indicate that Buchter lived at this address. The front commercial building most probably served as a wareroom.

An illustrated ad in German and Brother's Louisville City Guide and Business Directory for the year 1869-70 [opp. p. 105] shows the first Harig, Koop and Company facility located on the northwest corner of Third and Madison (now Guthrie) streets. Two adjacent four-story flat-roofed and presumably brick buildings, one, the "warerooms" with a first-floor storefront and the second, the factory, with only a partial storefront are separated by what appears to be a narrow gated walkway. These two examples, which may or may not be typical, suggest that at least some of this second group were located in buildings with more of a commercial than a true industrial appearance. They were situated in neighborhoods close to the heart of the city where residential, commercial, and early industrial properties tended to be intermixed. How they were arranged on the interior is at this point almost impossible to determine.

A third group, which includes the majority of extant furniture factories in Louisville, consists of the first true factory buildings associated with the local furniture making industry. These are two- to five-story load-bearing brick buildings with traditional 19th century factory fenestration consisting of wooden double-hung multi-paned sash windows set in segmental-arched openings. In nearly all the extant buildings brick pilasters alternate with windows, dividing the buildings into multiple bays. These buildings are without exception basic functional structures with little ornamentation. They are located on larger pieces of property than the two documented type two factory complexes and in developing industrial districts that are concentrated along the cities network of rail lines. All these plants had convenient rail service. These factories are very similar to those built for other burgeoning 19th century industries in Louisville such as the Hadley Pottery factory on Story Avenue and Hillerich and Bradsby's bat factory on Jacob Street. Four such complexes remain.

Information collected from Sanborn maps suggests that nearly all these factory buildings had an interior structural system of wooden posts-and-beams. The truss work at the Harig, Koop and Company mill

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building is somewhat unusual. Sometimes the mill and finishing functions of these factories are separated in adjoining structures as at Harig, Koop and Company and Greve, Buhrlage, and sometimes they are incorporated into one building as at the Wrampelmeier Furniture Company. Nearly all appear to have been powered by steam with a prominent boiler room either attached to the factory or in a nearby separate structure. Various furniture factory operations that included the dry kiln, rough and finish mills, the assembly department, and the finishing department were located on different floors and sometimes in different buildings.

Judging from Sanborn maps and extant examples, this type of factory facility continued to serve the furniture industry in Louisville at least until the turn of the century. One of the largest furniture factories ever built in the city, the Wilson/Willett factory at 31st and Magazine streets, has been demolished and no photograph has yet been found to document its exterior appearance. It dates to about 1905. Sanborn maps indicated that the complex consisted of two three-story brick buildings, one a warehouse and the other the factory, separated by a railroad siding which led to the back of the property where dry kilns and lumber sheds were located. Whether the complex had the typical 19th century segmental arched windows and pilastered walls is unknown. It did have an interior structural system of posts and beams.

One of the other largest 20th century factories is also a bit of an enigma. The Louisville Chair and Furniture Company was established about 1926 and located in a huge brick factory at St. Louis Avenue and 11th Street. The five-story building with rows of small segmental arched windows has the appearance of a 19th century factory, but Sanborn maps suggest that it is a 1920s building constructed for the company.

The fourth type, in some ways only a variation of the third type, includes somewhat more modern early 20th century factory buildings. Again these are similar to factories built for some other industries in Louisville. These, while still constructed of load-bearing brick with wooden post-and-beam interior support systems, have large metal sash industrial windows to let in more light to the factory floor. The Inman Furniture Company plant at Kentucky and 30th streets, constructed between 1905 and 1910, is the only good extant example of this type of construction although it is suspected that the Wilson/Willett plant may have been a similar facility. None of Louisville's 20th century furniture factories identified to date have poured concrete framing, although this became a fairly common form of factory construction after about 1915 [Brooks, "The Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant", pp. 16-18].

The Harig, Koop and Company/Columbia Mantel Company facility

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with its 1871 mill and finishing buildings updated and added to in the 1920s provides an interesting combination of a type three and four facility. It is the only one of the early type three Louisville furniture factories that remained in operation well into the 20th century and that reflects changing factory building practices. The two main sections of the plant, the mill with its massive system of trusses and the finishing building with its post-and-beam supports, retain nearly intact 1871 interiors. The exteriors of the buildings which were altered in the late 1920s and 1930s when additions were made to the complex have the large metal-frame industrial windows that are more typical of a type four facility.

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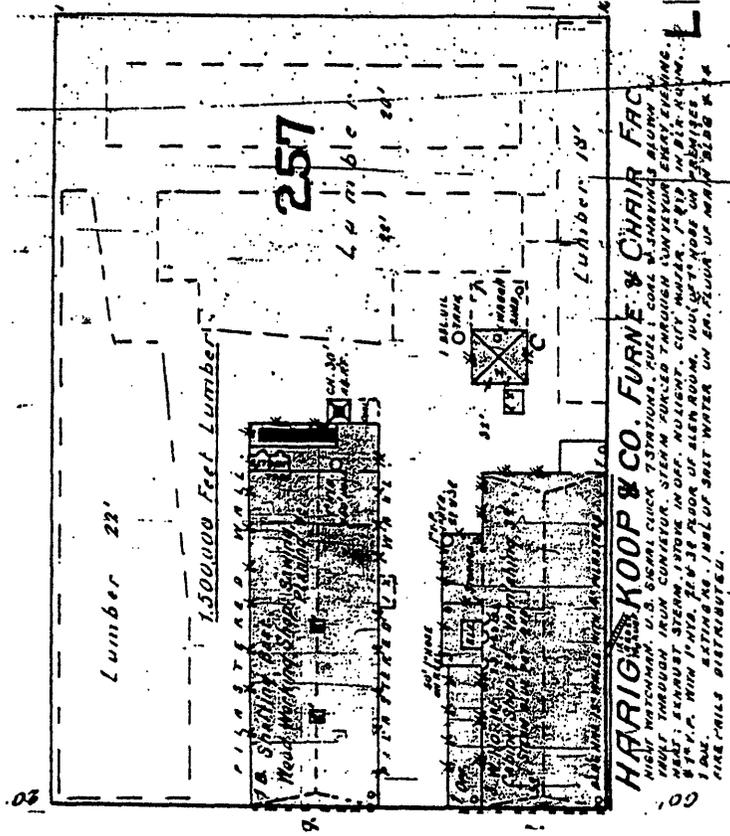
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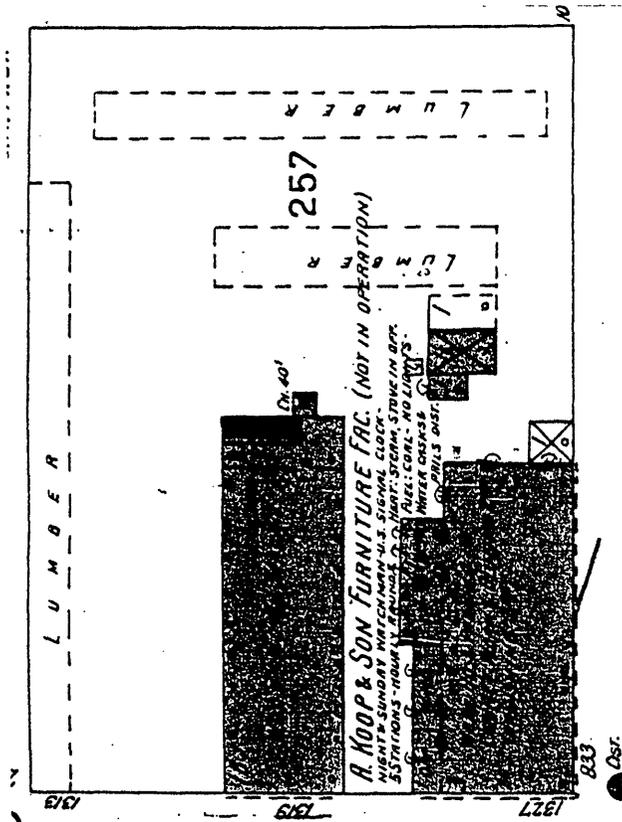
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Vol 1, Sheet 11



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1905
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Section number Photographs

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HARIG, KOOP AND COMPANY/COLUMBIA MANTEL COMPANY
Jefferson County, Kentucky
Photographer: Carolyn Brooks
Date: May, 1995
Negatives on File with the Kentucky Heritage Council

(The above information is the same for all photographs submitted with the nomination. Below the photographs are listed in numerical order and each view is described.)

Photographs

1. Front facade and north side of finishing building; photographer facing northeast.
2. Front facade of finishing building; photographer facing east.
3. Detail, north side of finishing building; photographer facing north.
4. Front facade of Columbia Mantel Co. along Ninth Street; photographer facing northeast.
5. Front facade of entire complex; photographer facing southeast.
6. Rear of complex showing rear of mill building (center) and 1960s lumber storage shed (right); photographer facing northwest.
7. View from roof of finishing building to roofs of mill building and 1950s shipping area; photographer facing northwest.
8. Interior of original mill building showing 1871 truss ceiling; photographer facing east.
9. Interior of driveway area roofed over in 1950s showing 1871 storage area at center; photographer facing southwest.
10. Detail of first-floor (bricked-in) window in finishing building; photographer facing south.
11. Second floor of finishing building; photographer facing northeast.
12. Second floor of finishing building showing doors to stair and elevator shaft; photographer facing northwest.

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- 13. Walkway leading from second floor of finishing building to sanding room on second floor of mill building; photographer facing north.
- 14. Second floor of 1920s area of finishing building; photographer facing east.
- 15. Second-floor sanding room; photographer facing northwest.
- 16. Sanding room; photographer facing southeast.
- 17. Third-floor varnishing area in finishing building; photographer facing southeast.

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NINTH STREET

5

BRECKINRIDGE STREET

3

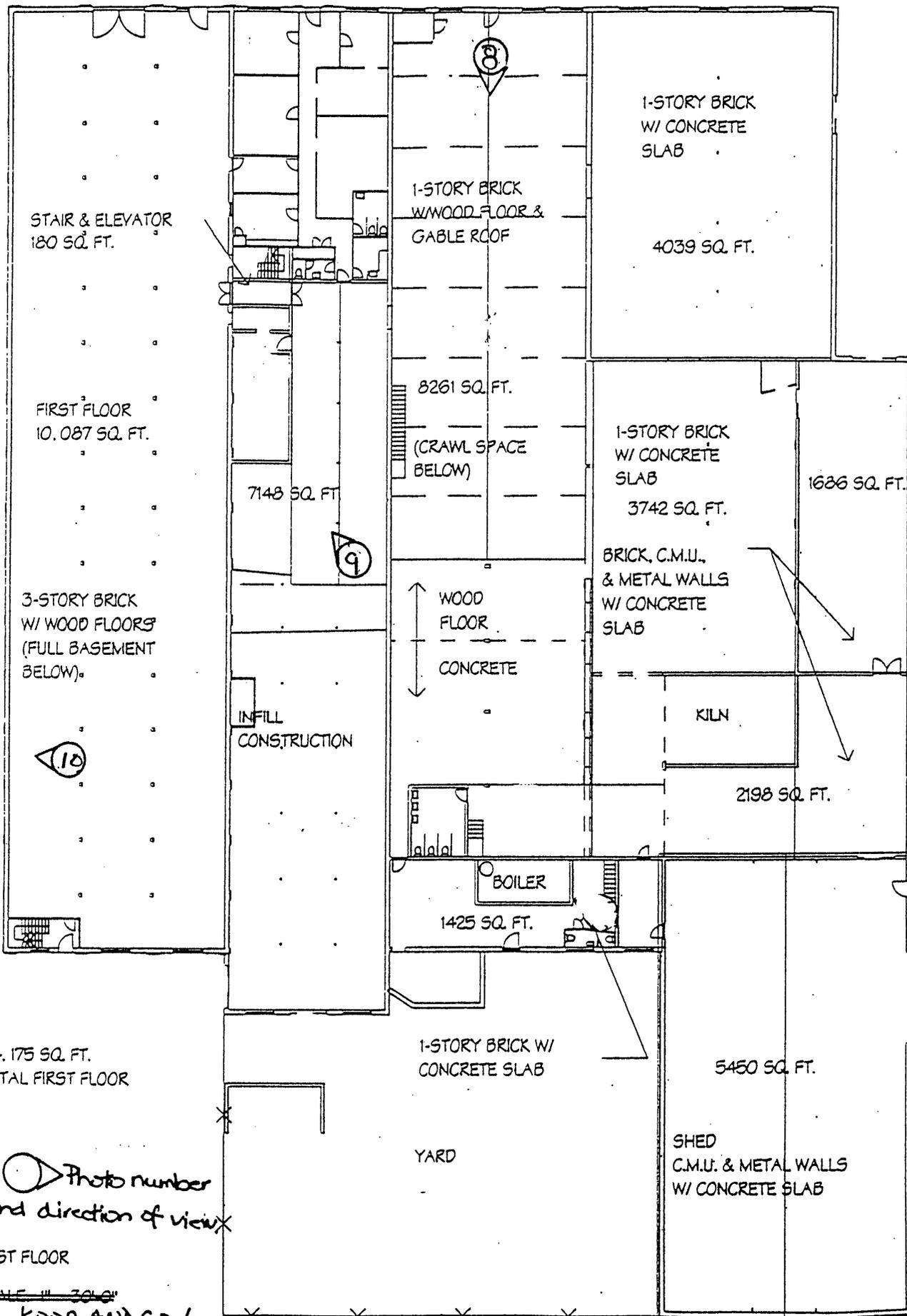


Photo number and direction of view

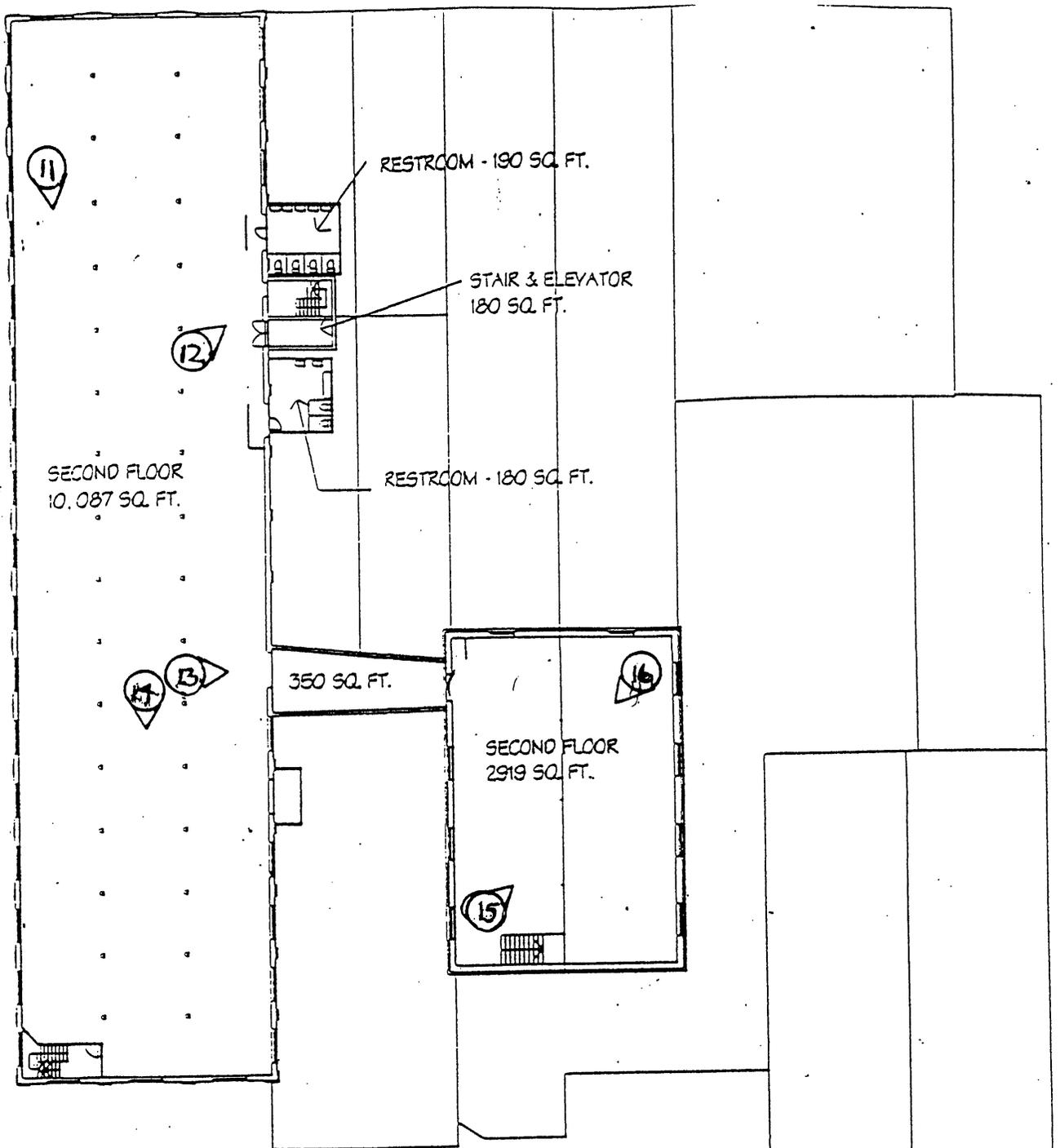
FIRST FLOOR

SCALE 1/8" = 3'-0"

HARIG, KOOP AND CO. / COLUMBIA MANTEL CO. 835-847 S. THIRD ST LOUISVILLE, KY

PLAN OF EXISTING BUILDINGS SPRING 1995

6



○▶ Photo number and direction of view

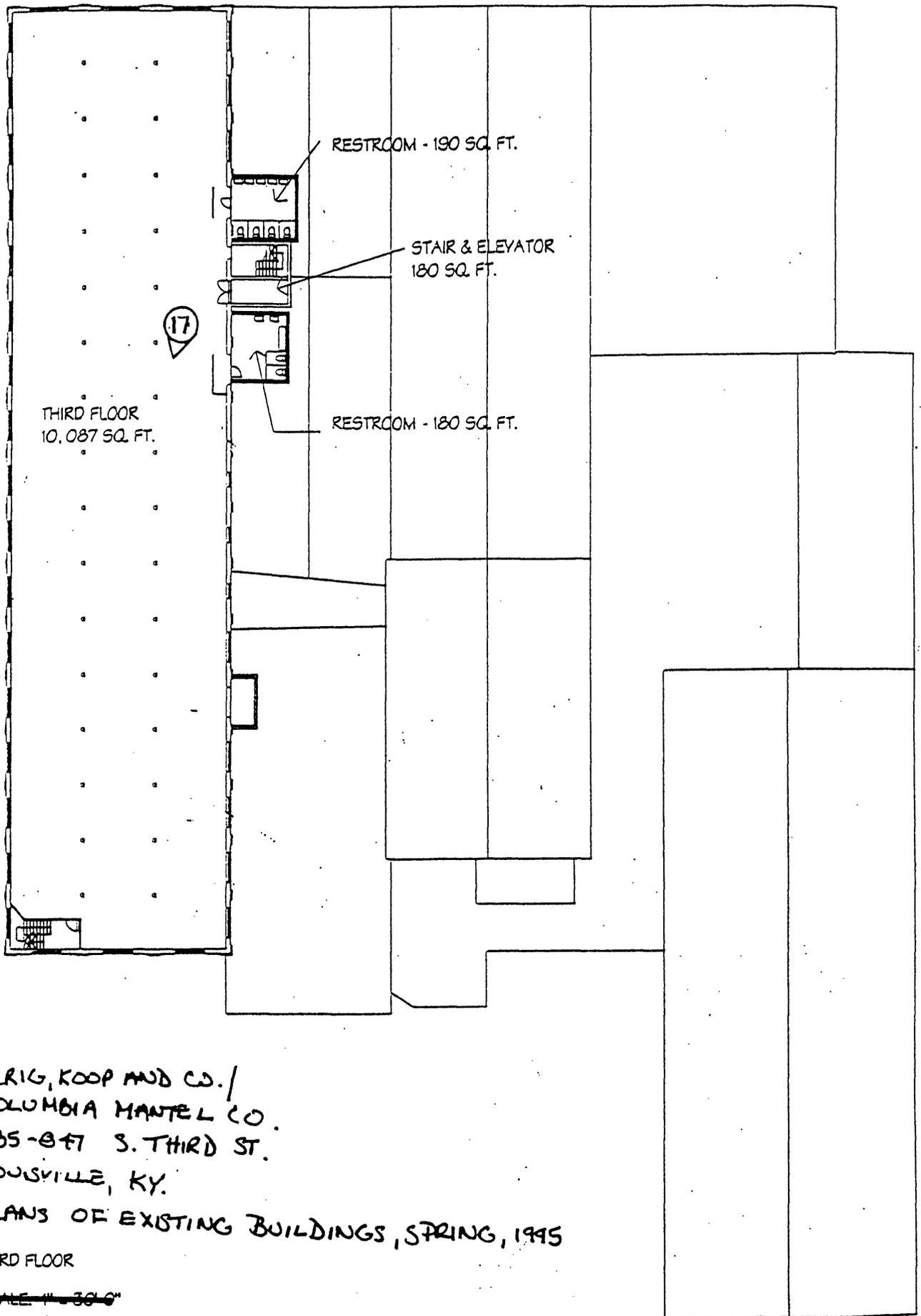
SECOND FLOOR

~~SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"~~
 HARIG, KOOP AND CO./
 COLUMBIA MANTEL CO.

835-847 S. THIRD ST.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

PLANS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS, SPRING, 1995



HARIG, KOOP AND CO. /
 COLUMBIA MANTEL CO.
 835-847 S. THIRD ST.
 LOUISVILLE, KY.
 PLANS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS, SPRING, 1945

THIRD FLOOR

SCALE 1" = 30'-0"

○> Photo number and
 direction of view.