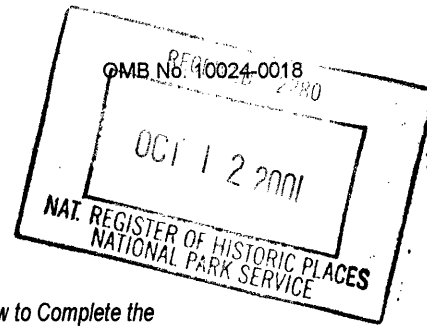


1253



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewrite, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Turner, J. L. & Son Building

other name/site number ALS-56

2. Location

street & number Old East Main St. at 7th St.

not for publication N/A

city or town Scottsville

vicinity N/A

state Kentucky

code KY

county Allen

code 003

zip code 42164

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
 request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive
Signature of certifying official/Title Director, KHC

10-3-01
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 Register
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for
Edson H. Beall

11/21/01

Turner, J. L. & Son Building
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade / warehouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation unknown
walls brick, metal, concrete block
roof other (built-up tar)
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheet

Turner, J. L. & Son Building
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1939-1951

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance see continuation sheet

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography see continuation sheet

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Allen County Historical Society

Turner, J. L. & Son Building
Name of property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

USGS 7.5 minute topographic map: Scottsville, KY 1954
Revised 1994

1	1 6	5 7 2 8 9 0	4 0 6 7 4 9 0
	zone	easting	northing
2			

3			
	zone	easting	northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description see continuation sheet

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification see continuation sheet

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph E. Brent

organization Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. date July 31, 2001

street & number 129 Walnut Street telephone 859-879-8509

city or town Versailles state KY zip code 40383

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets pages 1-11, attached

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the properties location. attached

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. N/A

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property photos 1-4, attached

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Dolgen Corp.

street & number 100 Mission Ridge Rd. telephone 615-855-4000

city or town Goodlettsville state TN zip code 37072

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U. S. C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Location

The J.L. Turner Building, ALS 56, is located on the east side of Old East Main, one block east of the intersection of Old East Main Street and East Main Street in Scottsville, Kentucky, seat of Allen County.

Description

The date of construction of this building is unknown. Hobdy & Read, a wholesale firm, operated a business in the building between 1912 and 1915, and it seems likely that the building was constructed ca. 1910. From 1916, until at least 1926, the building was occupied by Davidson Bros., dealers in wholesale produce and poultry. In 1939 J. L. Turner and his son, Hurley Calister "Cal" Turner, purchased the building and began a wholesale drygoods business, J. L. Turner and Son. In 1956 the company was renamed Dollar General Corporation.

The building is a utilitarian structure, a warehouse with limited office space. There have been two additions to the original two-story structure, a one-story shed roof addition on the east side of the building and a two-story flat roof addition on the west side of the original building.

The building appears to be frame, with brick veneer on the front (north) façade. The east side of the original structure is covered with rectangular panels of metal sheeting. In a photograph of the building taken during the period it was occupied by Hobdy & Read, 1912-1915, the front façade appears to be covered in rectangular panels, probably the same as the metal panels which still cover the east façade of the original structure. The brick veneer on the front façade was added sometime later, but just when is uncertain.

In plan, the building is irregularly shaped, with six sides. The shape of the building mirrors the shape of the lot, which was partially determined by the road in front of the building and the railroad, which once ran behind the building.

Original Structure

The original building is a plain two-story building with brick veneer on the front façade. The east façade is covered in large rectangles of patterned metal. The roof is flat, covered with built-up tar. The front façade has six bays of six-over-six wooden sash windows on the second story. There are ten bays on the first story, eight six-over-six wooden sash windows and two large double bay doors.

On the east half of the first story front façade are two windows spaced equidistantly from a large double door. On the second story, three windows mirror the placement of the first floor bays. On the west half of the front façade, beyond the western most window flanking the first door, are two double six-over-six

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

wooden sash windows. These are paired together under the fourth window from the east on the second floor. The western-most portion of the front facade has a large double door flanked by two six-over-six windows. Here, again, the windows on the first floor are mirrored by windows on the second floor. The six-over-six windows are replacement windows. The original windows, which are shown in a photograph of the building at the time it was occupied by Hobdy & Read, clearly show two-over-two windows. These windows are in the same location as the current windows. There are two windows in the original wall of the east facade, above the one-story addition. Shutters cover both of these windows.

A concrete loading dock runs the entire length of the front of original building. An awning runs the length of the loading dock and is attached to the building just below the upper story windows.

One-story roof addition

On the east end of the original building is a brick or brick veneer one-story shed roof addition that runs the length of the eastern face. There are three windows on this addition. Two are covered by shutters; the third has been boarded from the inside. A drive leads to the addition where there may once have been a loading or access door, but the front facade has been covered with brick.

Two-story addition

The addition on the western-most side of the building is of cement block construction with brick veneer on the front facade. It has a flat roof and is three bays wide. On the front facade, the attic space is delineated by three evenly spaced two-light casement windows. On the second floor are three evenly spaced eight-light casement windows, one below each attic window. The first floor also has three bays - a large garage-type loading bay door flanked by two eight-light casement windows. Immediately to the east of the large door is a steel entrance door. There are no openings on the west facade of the building. This addition appears to have been completed in 1924. A newspaper article dated January 17, 1924, stated: "The Davidson Bros. Poultry department has moved into the new added section to their wholesale house."¹

Present Condition

The J. L. Turner & Son building has been vacant since 1986 when Dollar General vacated it to occupy the former Washington Overall factory on South Court Street. The building is still owned and maintained by the Dollar General Corporation. It is in very good to excellent condition. The Dollar General Corporation has expressed their support of this nomination.

Statement of Integrity

The J. L. Turner & Son building is located on the eastern edge of Scottsville. It was constructed ca. 1910

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

to take advantage of a location near the Scottsville Railroad Depot. The railroad tracks, which ran along the south side of the building, were removed when rail service to Scottsville was terminated in the 1970s, but the old grade is still clearly visible, as is the Scottsville Freight Depot, built in 1886.

The J. L. Turner & Son building retains, in large part, integrity of location and setting.

Historically, this area of Scottsville was, and still is, given over to small commercial establishments, warehouses and dealers in bulk goods, such as lumber and building supplies. When purchased in 1939 by J. L. Turner and his son, Cal, to house the wholesale operations of the J. L. Turner & Son company, the location near the railroad was still an important consideration, although delivery of bulk goods by truck was becoming increasingly common.

The J. L. Turner & Son building fronts on the road that was once the main thoroughfare through town. In recent years, East Main Street has been straightened and rerouted to pass one-half block north of the J. L. Turner & Son building and since that time there has been development along the new route. For the most part this development has been in character with previous development in this area. The original road, now designated Old East Main Street, is still in use and its relationship to the Turner building has not changed. The buildings on Old East Main near the J. L. Turner & Son building date to the early years of the 20th century and have changed little in appearance since that time.

As noted above, there have been modifications made to the J. L. Turner & Son building since it was constructed ca. 1910. An early photo shows window and loading bay doors in the same location. All of the modifications made to the building seem to have been in place when J. L. Turner & Son purchased it in 1939.

The J. L. Turner & Son building retains its integrity of design and materials. The exterior of the building does not seem to have been altered since 1939. The sign that is now painted on the front façade is a restoration of the sign that was painted on the building shortly after J. L. Turner & Son was established.

The J. L. Turner & Son building also retains its integrity of association and feeling. Since its construction, the building has functioned as a warehouse. The earliest known occupants, Hobdy & Read, dealt in bulk items such as ice, coal, lime and cement as well as feed, corn, wall plaster, brick, sand, sewer pipe and scrap iron. Hobdy and Read were succeeded by Davidson Bros., wholesale dealers in produce and poultry. J. L. Turner & Son began as a wholesale dealer in general merchandise before adding retailing to their operation in the late 1940s. Until 1973, when a new warehouse facility was built, the building was a combination of warehouse space and office space for the Dollar General Corporation. The J. L. Turner & Son building still has the look and feel of a warehouse. The loading bay and large doors on the front façade leave little doubt about its original function.

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Section number 7 Page 4

Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

The sign painted on the building readily identifies it as the J. L. Turner & Son building. Residents of Scottsville are quick to point out the building to visitors and to explain who J. L. Turner was. The building's ties to the Turner family and Dollar General Corporation are widely recognized.

¹ *Citizen Times*. "Poultry House Goes into New Quarters," January 17, 1924.

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Continuation Sheet

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Statement of Significance

The J. L. Turner & Son Building (ALS-56) meets National Register Criterion A and is significant locally within the area of Commerce as the original headquarters of the J. L. Turner & Son company, which in 1968 became Dollar General Corporation. J. L. Turner & Son /Dollar General Corporation utilized the Turner building as a warehouse and/or office space from the time of its founding in 1939 until 1986. The J. L. Turner & Son Building is still owned and maintained by the Dollar General Corporation.

The fact that Dollar General Corporation, a nationally recognized, multi-billion dollar company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, originated in Scottsville is a source of pride for the people of the area. The J. L. Turner Building is pointed out to visitors as "the place where Dollar General began." The building is considered an important part of the history of Scottsville. The history of J. L. Turner & Son is described below in the context "J. L. Turner & Son: An American Success Story."

J. L. Turner & Son: An American Success Story

Background

The J. L. Turner & Son Building was constructed circa 1910. At that time, Scottsville had two commercial focal points. The main commercial center was downtown, mostly in the square around the Allen County Courthouse, where a variety of retail and professional establishments including banks, groceries, drug stores, jewelers, hardware stores and buggy and farm supply stores were located. At the far east end of East Main Street was a second commercial district. This district grew up around the railroad depot, which had been completed in 1886. Lumberyards, warehouses and wholesale dealers in household and construction goods and other bulk items, built facilities in this area.¹

It was in the second commercial area where the J. L. Turner & Son Building was constructed, sometime around 1910. The exact date of construction is unknown but it may have been constructed for Hobby & Read, wholesale dealers in ice, coal, lime and cement as well as feed, corn, wall plaster, brick, sand, sewer pipe and scrap iron, who are known to have occupied the building from at least 1912 through 1915. Hobby & Read were succeeded by Davidson Bros., wholesale dealers in produce and poultry, who occupied the building from 1916 until at least 1926. The building, which may have had other owners, was purchased in 1939 by J. L. Turner and Cal Turner as an office and warehouse for their new company, J. L. Turner & Son.²

J. L. Turner

J. L. Turner was born in Macon County, Tennessee in 1891, the oldest of four children. His father died when he was eleven, leaving a small, mortgaged farm. As the oldest, J. L. Turner took on the responsibil-

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

ity of running the family farm and helping his mother support the family. Turner continued to work the farm through his teens, saving what he could with the hopes of someday fulfilling his ambition of running a small store. He married at 17 and a few years later he and his wife began a small business, making harness, saddles and bridles. To supplement their income, Turner secured a job managing a Farmer's Union General Store located nearby.³

In 1916, one year after the birth of his son, Hurley Calister, called Cal, Turner went into partnership with his brother-in-law. They bought the stock of a small general store and moved it to a store in the small community of Adolphus, in Allen County, Kentucky. Business was good and a second store soon followed, but a drop in retail prices several years later forced both stores to close in the early 1920s.⁴

Turner's search for a job after the stores' closings was hampered by his lack of education, his formal schooling ended at the third grade. He worked for a wholesale grocer but left when he was offered a job as a salesman for a wholesale drygoods business. By 1929 he was once more running his own store, the J. L. Turner Bargain Store, on South Court in Scottsville, Kentucky. Turner bought the stock of failing and bankrupt stores at bargain prices and resold it through his store at prices lower than retail. The business continued to do well, in spite of, or perhaps because of, the Depression, when people were seeking ways to make what money they had go further.⁵

J. L. Turner & Son

In 1939, J. L. Turner and his son, Cal, each invested \$5,000 to found a new business venture, J. L. Turner & Son, a wholesaler of basic dry goods. They set up shop in a warehouse, ALS-56, at the east end of Main Street, near the railroad depot.⁶

For the next six years the business prospered. World War II ended in 1945 and factories quickly switched from wartime to peacetime production. After trying to sell an overstock of goods, the realization came to the Turners that wholesaling, as it had been practiced before the war, would soon be a thing of the past. The Turners opened their first retail store in Albany, Kentucky in 1945. Ten years later, J. L. Turner & Son owned and operated thirty-five self-service dry goods stores. They were stocked with merchandise bought cheaply – manufacturers overstocks, discontinued goods and irregulars – and sold below retail.⁷

The Turner's developed the dollar store concept, where nothing in a store sold for more than one dollar, in 1955. That year, the first Dollar General Store opened in Springfield, Kentucky. The concept was a resounding success, over half of the store's stock sold in the first two days. The following year the company incorporated and two years later, in 1958, a J. L. Turner & Son Company Dollar Store opened in Scottsville.⁸

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Dollar General Corporation

In 1968 J. L. Turner & Son adopted the name Dollar General Corporation and went public. In spite of its new status, the company continued to operate out of the building near the depot. A newspaper reported: "The hub of this multimillion-dollar business is an old brick warehouse. Nowhere is the bold yellow-and-black Dollar General identification visible; only a painted black and white sign which reads "J. L. Turner & Son – Wholesale." ⁹

Although Dollar General Corporation continued to be headquartered in the J. L. Turner & Son Building, the business had long since outgrown the warehouse space there. The volume of business necessitated the purchase or rental of a number of tobacco warehouses in and near Scottsville, which were remodeled for drygoods storage. These too, were rapidly outgrown and in 1973 a new 470,000 square-foot warehouse facility was built on a 110-acre lot on U. S. Highway 31E. In 1988 the facility was enlarged to 670,000 square feet, employing 800 people. Today, Dollar General Corporation has over 5,000 stores in twenty-four states and several regional distribution centers. ¹⁰

In 1986 Dollar General moved its administrative offices out of the Turner Building and into the former Washington Overall Factory on South Court Street. In 1999 the corporate headquarters was moved to Goodlettsville, Tennessee. Scottsville continues to be the distribution headquarters and home of some of the corporation's administrative offices.

Although the Dollar General Corporation no longer uses the Turner Building, it is still owned and maintained by the company. ¹¹

The fact that Dollar General Corporation, a nationally known multi-billion dollar company, originated in Scottsville is a source of pride for the residents of Scottsville. It is a part of the history of their city that is important to them and is eagerly shared with visitors. The J. L. Turner & Son Building is considered one of the city's important historic structures, the physical reminder that J. L. Turner and Cal Turner chose to base their new company in Scottsville, in a warehouse near the railroad depot.

The Turner Building, ALS-56, meets National Register Criterion A and is significant locally within the area of Commerce as the original headquarters of J. L. Turner & Son, later Dollar General Corporation.

¹ Allen County Historical Society, *The Beginning: A Pictorial History of Allen County, Kentucky*. (Allen County Historical Society, Scottsville, Kentucky, 1985), p. 30; H. H. Patton, *A History of Scottsville and Allen County*, (Scottsville, Kentucky, 1974), p.21.

² *The Citizen*, advertisement for Hobdy & Read, May 20, 1915; *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973.

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

³ *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973 and Dollar General Corporation, www.dollargeneral.com, "Mission and Values Founding Principles," 2001.

⁴ *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973 and *Allen County News*, "Local Firm, J. L. Turner & Son, Inc. Featured in Sunday Courier-Journal," February 2, 1958.

⁷ *Allen County News*, "Local Firm, J. L. Turner & Son, Inc. Featured in Sunday Courier-Journal," February 2, 1958; Dollar General Corporation, www.dollargeneral.com, "Mission and Values Founding Principles." 2001 and *Tompkinsville News*, "How to Make Money: 2 'Cals' Break All the Rules," June 4, 1970.

⁸ *Allen County News*, Photograph caption, "The scene above . . ." October 8, 1958; *Allen County News*, "Local Firm, J. L. Turner & Son, Inc. Featured in Sunday Courier-Journal," February 2, 1958 and *Tompkinsville News*, "Cal Turner Holds To Small Town Theory For Good Business Practice," October 16, 1969.

⁹ *Courier-Journal & Times Sunday Supplement*, "Dollar General Stores' Unique Selling Style Works – 40 Million Times a Year." April 20, 1969.

¹⁰ *Tompkinsville News*, "How to Make Money: 2 'Cals' Break All the Rules," June 4, 1970 and *Courier-Journal*, "Dollar General's growth in Scottsville," July 31, 1989.

¹¹ *Allen County News*, "Photograph and caption 'Snipping Away . . .,'" December 9, 1973 and Joyce Weaver, personal communication, April 19, 2001.

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Section number 9 Page 9

Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

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Allen County News. Photograph and caption "The scene above . . ." October 8, 1958.

Allen County News. "Dollar General Open House August 26." August 9, 1973.

Allen County News. "Photograph and caption, "Snipping Away ..." December 18, 1986.

Citizen Times. "Poultry House Goes into New Quarters." January 17, 1924.

Citizen Times. "Late J. L. Turner Learned How To Turn Adversity Into Profit." August 23, 1973.

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Courier Journal. "Dollar General's center in Scottsville to expand." December 14, 1988.

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Section number 9 Page 10

Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Tompkinsville News. "Cal Turner Holds To Small Town Theory For Good Business Practice." October 16, 1969.

Tompkinsville News. "How to Make Money: 2 "Cals" Break All the Rules." June 4, 1970.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 11

Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Verbal Boundary Description

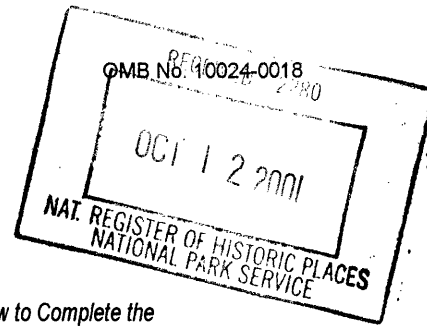
The Turner Building sits on an irregularly shaped, five-sided lot designated 4-34-4 in the Allen County PVA office. The lot begins approximately 200 feet east of the intersection of East Main Street and Old East Main Street. It extends approximately 200 feet east along Old East Main Street before turning south for approximately 75 feet, to the right-of-way of the former L&N railroad. The lot boundary then turns to the southwest, paralleling the old railroad grade for approximately 200 feet. It then turns to the west for approximately 50 feet. The lot boundary then turns to the north for approximately 175 feet, to meet the beginning point in this description.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This is the description of the lot, designated 4-34-4 in the Allen County PVA office, upon which the Turner Building sits. This is the lot that was purchased by J. L. Turner and Hurley Calister Turner when the J. L. Turner & Son company was established in 1939.

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National Register of Historic Places
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1. Name of Property

historic name Turner, J. L. & Son Building

other name/site number ALS-56

2. Location

street & number Old East Main St. at 7th St.

not for publication N/A

city or town Scottsville

vicinity N/A

state Kentucky

code KY

county Allen

code 003

zip code 42164

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
 request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive
Signature of certifying official/Title Director, KHC

10-3-01
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 Register
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for
Edson H. Beall

11/21/01

Turner, J. L. & Son Building
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade / warehouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation unknown

walls brick, metal, concrete block

roof other (built-up tar)

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheet

Turner, J. L. & Son Building
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1939-1951

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance see continuation sheet

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography see continuation sheet

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Allen County Historical Society

Turner, J. L. & Son Building
Name of property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

USGS 7.5 minute topographic map: Scottsville, KY 1954
Revised 1994

1	1 6	5 7 2 8 9 0	4 0 6 7 4 9 0
	zone	easting	northing
2			

3			
	zone	easting	northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description see continuation sheet

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification see continuation sheet

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph E. Brent

organization Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. date July 31, 2001

street & number 129 Walnut Street telephone 859-879-8509

city or town Versailles state KY zip code 40383

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets pages 1-11, attached

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the properties location. attached

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. N/A

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property photos 1-4, attached

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Dolgen Corp.

street & number 100 Mission Ridge Rd. telephone 615-855-4000

city or town Goodlettsville state TN zip code 37072

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U. S. C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Location

The J.L. Turner Building, ALS 56, is located on the east side of Old East Main, one block east of the intersection of Old East Main Street and East Main Street in Scottsville, Kentucky, seat of Allen County.

Description

The date of construction of this building is unknown. Hobdy & Read, a wholesale firm, operated a business in the building between 1912 and 1915, and it seems likely that the building was constructed ca. 1910. From 1916, until at least 1926, the building was occupied by Davidson Bros., dealers in wholesale produce and poultry. In 1939 J. L. Turner and his son, Hurley Calister "Cal" Turner, purchased the building and began a wholesale drygoods business, J. L. Turner and Son. In 1956 the company was renamed Dollar General Corporation.

The building is a utilitarian structure, a warehouse with limited office space. There have been two additions to the original two-story structure, a one-story shed roof addition on the east side of the building and a two-story flat roof addition on the west side of the original building.

The building appears to be frame, with brick veneer on the front (north) façade. The east side of the original structure is covered with rectangular panels of metal sheeting. In a photograph of the building taken during the period it was occupied by Hobdy & Read, 1912-1915, the front façade appears to be covered in rectangular panels, probably the same as the metal panels which still cover the east façade of the original structure. The brick veneer on the front façade was added sometime later, but just when is uncertain.

In plan, the building is irregularly shaped, with six sides. The shape of the building mirrors the shape of the lot, which was partially determined by the road in front of the building and the railroad, which once ran behind the building.

Original Structure

The original building is a plain two-story building with brick veneer on the front façade. The east façade is covered in large rectangles of patterned metal. The roof is flat, covered with built-up tar. The front façade has six bays of six-over-six wooden sash windows on the second story. There are ten bays on the first story, eight six-over-six wooden sash windows and two large double bay doors.

On the east half of the first story front façade are two windows spaced equidistantly from a large double door. On the second story, three windows mirror the placement of the first floor bays. On the west half of the front façade, beyond the western most window flanking the first door, are two double six-over-six

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

wooden sash windows. These are paired together under the fourth window from the east on the second floor. The western-most portion of the front facade has a large double door flanked by two six-over-six windows. Here, again, the windows on the first floor are mirrored by windows on the second floor. The six-over-six windows are replacement windows. The original windows, which are shown in a photograph of the building at the time it was occupied by Hobdy & Read, clearly show two-over-two windows. These windows are in the same location as the current windows. There are two windows in the original wall of the east facade, above the one-story addition. Shutters cover both of these windows.

A concrete loading dock runs the entire length of the front of original building. An awning runs the length of the loading dock and is attached to the building just below the upper story windows.

One-story roof addition

On the east end of the original building is a brick or brick veneer one-story shed roof addition that runs the length of the eastern face. There are three windows on this addition. Two are covered by shutters; the third has been boarded from the inside. A drive leads to the addition where there may once have been a loading or access door, but the front facade has been covered with brick.

Two-story addition

The addition on the western-most side of the building is of cement block construction with brick veneer on the front facade. It has a flat roof and is three bays wide. On the front facade, the attic space is delineated by three evenly spaced two-light casement windows. On the second floor are three evenly spaced eight-light casement windows, one below each attic window. The first floor also has three bays - a large garage-type loading bay door flanked by two eight-light casement windows. Immediately to the east of the large door is a steel entrance door. There are no openings on the west facade of the building. This addition appears to have been completed in 1924. A newspaper article dated January 17, 1924, stated: "The Davidson Bros. Poultry department has moved into the new added section to their wholesale house."¹

Present Condition

The J. L. Turner & Son building has been vacant since 1986 when Dollar General vacated it to occupy the former Washington Overall factory on South Court Street. The building is still owned and maintained by the Dollar General Corporation. It is in very good to excellent condition. The Dollar General Corporation has expressed their support of this nomination.

Statement of Integrity

The J. L. Turner & Son building is located on the eastern edge of Scottsville. It was constructed ca. 1910

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

to take advantage of a location near the Scottsville Railroad Depot. The railroad tracks, which ran along the south side of the building, were removed when rail service to Scottsville was terminated in the 1970s, but the old grade is still clearly visible, as is the Scottsville Freight Depot, built in 1886.

The J. L. Turner & Son building retains, in large part, integrity of location and setting.

Historically, this area of Scottsville was, and still is, given over to small commercial establishments, warehouses and dealers in bulk goods, such as lumber and building supplies. When purchased in 1939 by J. L. Turner and his son, Cal, to house the wholesale operations of the J. L. Turner & Son company, the location near the railroad was still an important consideration, although delivery of bulk goods by truck was becoming increasingly common.

The J. L. Turner & Son building fronts on the road that was once the main thoroughfare through town. In recent years, East Main Street has been straightened and rerouted to pass one-half block north of the J. L. Turner & Son building and since that time there has been development along the new route. For the most part this development has been in character with previous development in this area. The original road, now designated Old East Main Street, is still in use and its relationship to the Turner building has not changed. The buildings on Old East Main near the J. L. Turner & Son building date to the early years of the 20th century and have changed little in appearance since that time.

As noted above, there have been modifications made to the J. L. Turner & Son building since it was constructed ca. 1910. An early photo shows window and loading bay doors in the same location. All of the modifications made to the building seem to have been in place when J. L. Turner & Son purchased it in 1939.

The J. L. Turner & Son building retains its integrity of design and materials. The exterior of the building does not seem to have been altered since 1939. The sign that is now painted on the front façade is a restoration of the sign that was painted on the building shortly after J. L. Turner & Son was established.

The J. L. Turner & Son building also retains its integrity of association and feeling. Since its construction, the building has functioned as a warehouse. The earliest known occupants, Hobdy & Read, dealt in bulk items such as ice, coal, lime and cement as well as feed, corn, wall plaster, brick, sand, sewer pipe and scrap iron. Hobdy and Read were succeeded by Davidson Bros., wholesale dealers in produce and poultry. J. L. Turner & Son began as a wholesale dealer in general merchandise before adding retailing to their operation in the late 1940s. Until 1973, when a new warehouse facility was built, the building was a combination of warehouse space and office space for the Dollar General Corporation. The J. L. Turner & Son building still has the look and feel of a warehouse. The loading bay and large doors on the front façade leave little doubt about its original function.

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

The sign painted on the building readily identifies it as the J. L. Turner & Son building. Residents of Scottsville are quick to point out the building to visitors and to explain who J. L. Turner was. The building's ties to the Turner family and Dollar General Corporation are widely recognized.

¹ *Citizen Times*. "Poultry House Goes into New Quarters," January 17, 1924.

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Statement of Significance

The J. L. Turner & Son Building (ALS-56) meets National Register Criterion A and is significant locally within the area of Commerce as the original headquarters of the J. L. Turner & Son company, which in 1968 became Dollar General Corporation. J. L. Turner & Son /Dollar General Corporation utilized the Turner building as a warehouse and/or office space from the time of its founding in 1939 until 1986. The J. L. Turner & Son Building is still owned and maintained by the Dollar General Corporation.

The fact that Dollar General Corporation, a nationally recognized, multi-billion dollar company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, originated in Scottsville is a source of pride for the people of the area. The J. L. Turner Building is pointed out to visitors as "the place where Dollar General began." The building is considered an important part of the history of Scottsville. The history of J. L. Turner & Son is described below in the context "J. L. Turner & Son: An American Success Story."

J. L. Turner & Son: An American Success Story

Background

The J. L. Turner & Son Building was constructed circa 1910. At that time, Scottsville had two commercial focal points. The main commercial center was downtown, mostly in the square around the Allen County Courthouse, where a variety of retail and professional establishments including banks, groceries, drug stores, jewelers, hardware stores and buggy and farm supply stores were located. At the far east end of East Main Street was a second commercial district. This district grew up around the railroad depot, which had been completed in 1886. Lumberyards, warehouses and wholesale dealers in household and construction goods and other bulk items, built facilities in this area.¹

It was in the second commercial area where the J. L. Turner & Son Building was constructed, sometime around 1910. The exact date of construction is unknown but it may have been constructed for Hobby & Read, wholesale dealers in ice, coal, lime and cement as well as feed, corn, wall plaster, brick, sand, sewer pipe and scrap iron, who are known to have occupied the building from at least 1912 through 1915. Hobby & Read were succeeded by Davidson Bros., wholesale dealers in produce and poultry, who occupied the building from 1916 until at least 1926. The building, which may have had other owners, was purchased in 1939 by J. L. Turner and Cal Turner as an office and warehouse for their new company, J. L. Turner & Son.²

J. L. Turner

J. L. Turner was born in Macon County, Tennessee in 1891, the oldest of four children. His father died when he was eleven, leaving a small, mortgaged farm. As the oldest, J. L. Turner took on the responsibil-

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

ity of running the family farm and helping his mother support the family. Turner continued to work the farm through his teens, saving what he could with the hopes of someday fulfilling his ambition of running a small store. He married at 17 and a few years later he and his wife began a small business, making harness, saddles and bridles. To supplement their income, Turner secured a job managing a Farmer's Union General Store located nearby.³

In 1916, one year after the birth of his son, Hurley Calister, called Cal, Turner went into partnership with his brother-in-law. They bought the stock of a small general store and moved it to a store in the small community of Adolphus, in Allen County, Kentucky. Business was good and a second store soon followed, but a drop in retail prices several years later forced both stores to close in the early 1920s.⁴

Turner's search for a job after the stores' closings was hampered by his lack of education, his formal schooling ended at the third grade. He worked for a wholesale grocer but left when he was offered a job as a salesman for a wholesale drygoods business. By 1929 he was once more running his own store, the J. L. Turner Bargain Store, on South Court in Scottsville, Kentucky. Turner bought the stock of failing and bankrupt stores at bargain prices and resold it through his store at prices lower than retail. The business continued to do well, in spite of, or perhaps because of, the Depression, when people were seeking ways to make what money they had go further.⁵

J. L. Turner & Son

In 1939, J. L. Turner and his son, Cal, each invested \$5,000 to found a new business venture, J. L. Turner & Son, a wholesaler of basic dry goods. They set up shop in a warehouse, ALS-56, at the east end of Main Street, near the railroad depot.⁶

For the next six years the business prospered. World War II ended in 1945 and factories quickly switched from wartime to peacetime production. After trying to sell an overstock of goods, the realization came to the Turners that wholesaling, as it had been practiced before the war, would soon be a thing of the past. The Turners opened their first retail store in Albany, Kentucky in 1945. Ten years later, J. L. Turner & Son owned and operated thirty-five self-service dry goods stores. They were stocked with merchandise bought cheaply – manufacturers overstocks, discontinued goods and irregulars – and sold below retail.⁷

The Turner's developed the dollar store concept, where nothing in a store sold for more than one dollar, in 1955. That year, the first Dollar General Store opened in Springfield, Kentucky. The concept was a resounding success, over half of the store's stock sold in the first two days. The following year the company incorporated and two years later, in 1958, a J. L. Turner & Son Company Dollar Store opened in Scottsville.⁸

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Dollar General Corporation

In 1968 J. L. Turner & Son adopted the name Dollar General Corporation and went public. In spite of its new status, the company continued to operate out of the building near the depot. A newspaper reported: "The hub of this multimillion-dollar business is an old brick warehouse. Nowhere is the bold yellow-and-black Dollar General identification visible; only a painted black and white sign which reads "J. L. Turner & Son – Wholesale." ⁹

Although Dollar General Corporation continued to be headquartered in the J. L. Turner & Son Building, the business had long since outgrown the warehouse space there. The volume of business necessitated the purchase or rental of a number of tobacco warehouses in and near Scottsville, which were remodeled for drygoods storage. These too, were rapidly outgrown and in 1973 a new 470,000 square-foot warehouse facility was built on a 110-acre lot on U. S. Highway 31E. In 1988 the facility was enlarged to 670,000 square feet, employing 800 people. Today, Dollar General Corporation has over 5,000 stores in twenty-four states and several regional distribution centers. ¹⁰

In 1986 Dollar General moved its administrative offices out of the Turner Building and into the former Washington Overall Factory on South Court Street. In 1999 the corporate headquarters was moved to Goodlettsville, Tennessee. Scottsville continues to be the distribution headquarters and home of some of the corporation's administrative offices.

Although the Dollar General Corporation no longer uses the Turner Building, it is still owned and maintained by the company. ¹¹

The fact that Dollar General Corporation, a nationally known multi-billion dollar company, originated in Scottsville is a source of pride for the residents of Scottsville. It is a part of the history of their city that is important to them and is eagerly shared with visitors. The J. L. Turner & Son Building is considered one of the city's important historic structures, the physical reminder that J. L. Turner and Cal Turner chose to base their new company in Scottsville, in a warehouse near the railroad depot.

The Turner Building, ALS-56, meets National Register Criterion A and is significant locally within the area of Commerce as the original headquarters of J. L. Turner & Son, later Dollar General Corporation.

¹ Allen County Historical Society, *The Beginning: A Pictorial History of Allen County, Kentucky*. (Allen County Historical Society, Scottsville, Kentucky, 1985), p. 30; H. H. Patton, *A History of Scottsville and Allen County*, (Scottsville, Kentucky, 1974), p.21.

² *The Citizen*, advertisement for Hobdy & Read, May 20, 1915; *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973.

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

³ *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973 and Dollar General Corporation, www.dollargeneral.com, "Mission and Values Founding Principles," 2001.

⁴ *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Citizen Times*, "Late J.L. Turner Learned How to Turn Adversity into Profit," August 23, 1973 and *Allen County News*, "Local Firm, J. L. Turner & Son, Inc. Featured in Sunday Courier-Journal," February 2, 1958.

⁷ *Allen County News*, "Local Firm, J. L. Turner & Son, Inc. Featured in Sunday Courier-Journal," February 2, 1958; Dollar General Corporation, www.dollargeneral.com, "Mission and Values Founding Principles." 2001 and *Tompkinsville News*, "How to Make Money: 2 'Cals' Break All the Rules," June 4, 1970.

⁸ *Allen County News*, Photograph caption, "The scene above . . ." October 8, 1958; *Allen County News*, "Local Firm, J. L. Turner & Son, Inc. Featured in Sunday Courier-Journal," February 2, 1958 and *Tompkinsville News*, "Cal Turner Holds To Small Town Theory For Good Business Practice," October 16, 1969.

⁹ *Courier-Journal & Times Sunday Supplement*, "Dollar General Stores' Unique Selling Style Works – 40 Million Times a Year." April 20, 1969.

¹⁰ *Tompkinsville News*, "How to Make Money: 2 'Cals' Break All the Rules," June 4, 1970 and *Courier-Journal*, "Dollar General's growth in Scottsville," July 31, 1989.

¹¹ *Allen County News*, "Photograph and caption "Snipping Away . . .," December 9, 1973 and Joyce Weaver, personal communication, April 19, 2001.

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

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Allen County News. "Dollar General Open House August 26." August 9, 1973.

Allen County News. "Photograph and caption, "Snipping Away ..." December 18, 1986.

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Tompkinsville News. "Cal Turner Holds To Small Town Theory For Good Business Practice." October 16, 1969.

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Turner, J. L. & Son Building

Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky

Verbal Boundary Description

The Turner Building sits on an irregularly shaped, five-sided lot designated 4-34-4 in the Allen County PVA office. The lot begins approximately 200 feet east of the intersection of East Main Street and Old East Main Street. It extends approximately 200 feet east along Old East Main Street before turning south for approximately 75 feet, to the right-of-way of the former L&N railroad. The lot boundary then turns to the southwest, paralleling the old railroad grade for approximately 200 feet. It then turns to the west for approximately 50 feet. The lot boundary then turns to the north for approximately 175 feet, to meet the beginning point in this description.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This is the description of the lot, designated 4-34-4 in the Allen County PVA office, upon which the Turner Building sits. This is the lot that was purchased by J. L. Turner and Hurley Calister Turner when the J. L. Turner & Son company was established in 1939.