

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Louisville Grocery Company Building

other names/site number (JF-CD-255)

2. Location

street & number 231 E. Main Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Louisville vicinity N/A state Kentucky code KY  
county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO Date 3-04-03

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall  
         See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register       
         See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action 4-18-03

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public/local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public/State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public/Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing   N/A  

### 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: warehouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work-in-progress Sub: commerce/business

### 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements:  
Commercial Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Rubber

walls Brick

other N/A

Narrative Description (See continuation sheets.)

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- 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 Commerce

Period of Significance 1915-1952

Significant Dates 1915

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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  University
- Other State agency  Other
- Federal agency
- Local government Name of repository: The Kentucky Heritage Council

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

Zone Easting Northing Louisville East Quad  
16 609520 4234750

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cynthia Johnson organization N/A date December 2, 2002  
street & number 51 Mentelle Park, #4 telephone (859) 268-3199  
city or town Lexington state KY zip code 40502

**Property Owner**

name Jack B. Dulworth  
street & number 120 S. Brook St. telephone (502) 583-6383  
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Louisville Grocery Co. Building  
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**General Description**

The Louisville Grocery Company (JF-CD-255) building located at 231 E. Main Street in Louisville, Kentucky is a five story, shed-roofed, unpainted masonry building that is rectangular in form. The building was constructed circa 1914-1915 on the eastern edge of the central business district. The buildings in the surrounding area are primarily two-to-three story commercial buildings. The Louisville Grocery Company and the adjacent Arctic Building (formerly Merchant's Ice and Cold Storage), as well as the former Armor Meat building at the southwestern corner of Brook and Main, are the tallest buildings in the 200 block. This part of Main Street historically was associated with food processing, storage and distribution. From the time of its construction until 1963 when the Louisville Grocery Company became the Sysco Food Service Company and relocated, the building served as a wholesale grocery warehouse.

The site of the Louisville Grocery Company building is located in the area historically known as "Preston's Enlargement" and is lot #6. The building's footprint occupies roughly half of the site. The remainder of the site is used as a parking lot. The building's historic fabric remains largely intact even though the building was used as a Thrift Dollar Store warehouse after the Louisville Grocery Company vacated the premises. The building's dimensions measure approximately 60 x 110 feet and the area is approximately 40,000 square feet, which includes a full basement. The foundation of the building is concrete. Masonry bearing walls in a common bond pattern form the building's structural system.

**South (Main Street) Façade**

The primary façade facing south along Main Street is organized in three distinct blocks reminiscent of the Chicago School style with a distinct base, shaft and capital arrangement. The four bay façade has minimal ornamentation with limestone belt courses visually separating the first and second floors, as well as a limestone belt course between the fourth and fifth floors.

The storefront that faces Main Street has retained most of its historic fabric. The historic arrangement of the entrance doors and storefront windows remain intact. The window framing

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elements appear to be original based on photographic evidence (Fig. 1 and 2) including the transom windows. The original entrance doors have been replaced but are still in a double-door configuration. The entrance width has been reduced with the addition of sidelight windows on either side of the doors. The window glazing for the storefront has also been replaced with an opaque plexiglass that obscures the view into the first floor of the building.

The original windows have been replaced but the historic configuration of four-over-four, double-hung sash windows have been retained. The windows on the second through fifth floors on the primary façade are grouped together in a tripartite manner, which defines the width of each bay. The windows on the second through the fourth floors also have limestone sills. The fourth floor windows are arched recalling a Sullivanesque design. Framed by the masonry arches in each of the four bays, the windows on the second through the fourth floors are recessed to create a unified appearance between the three floors.

The fifth story is capped with a decorative corbelled masonry cornice that forms a dentil pattern across the upper level of the façade. The roofline is defined by a limestone coping course. The shed roof is slopes to the rear (north) façade and has a rubber roof that was replaced in 1996.

#### **East Facade**

The east façade serves as a party wall and faces onto Floyd Street. The east wall is sparsely detailed. There are two small, original windows that puncture the first floor. The main feature on this façade is the ghost of an original painted sign that signifies the historic use and name of the building, "The Louisville Grocery Company." This sign occupies almost a quarter of the area on this wall. A parapet wall capped with a terra cotta coping course extends the length of this façade.

#### **North Facade**

The rear (north) façade faces Washington Street and served as the merchandise receiving area. A raised loading dock supported

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by concrete piers extends across the entire length of the first floor of the façade. There are six piercings on the first floor including one metal door, two metal overhead doors, and three windows (with limestone sills), which all appear to be replacements. There are security bars on all of the first floor openings except on the metal door. A standing seam metal roof covers the loading dock, which replaced the original. The balance of the façade is composed of eight bays with six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The original windows were replaced approximately ten years ago. The window openings on the second through fourth floors have jack arches and all of the windows have limestone sills. A painted sign with the words "Louisville Grocery Company" is situated between the fourth and fifth floor windows. The roofline is delineated only with a gutter that extends the length of the façade.

### **West Façade**

The west facade of the Louisville Grocery Building shares a party wall with the Arctic Building, originally a cold storage facility. Therefore, most of this elevation is not visible. Only a small portion of the northwest corner is exposed. There are no windows or doors along this facade and there is no ornamentation. The red brick wall is constructed in common bond and is capped with plain terra cotta coping.

### **Interior**

The interior of the building has been largely unaltered over time. There is a post-and-beam structural system to support the floor spans. This system forms a grid of three columns wide and seven columns deep that run from the basement to the fifth floor. The interior spaces are open in their configuration with no partitions dividing the space. The masonry walls are exposed and unpainted. There seems to be little evidence of plaster finish on the walls. There is a small patch of plaster on the west wall between the entrance and the staircase. All the floors are hardwood except for the basement, which has a concrete floor surface. The ceilings have exposed rafters with no other finish materials. Generally, there is no decorative

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finish carpentry on the interior, which reflects the historic use of the building as a warehouse facility.

The only interior alterations have been on the first and second floors. Bathrooms and a bar area were added along the east wall on the first floor. The first floor also has a plywood floor that is over the hardwood floor. Most of the second floor has been converted to offices that are separated with interior partitions. Vinyl tile floors, drywall and dropped tile ceilings were added to the second floor sometime between 1970 and 1980.

The only other interior features in the building are the unornamented, wooden stairs located in the southwest corner of the building that run from the basement to the fifth floor. A freight elevator located in the northwest portion of the building also provides access to all of the floors. The elevator is an open platform that has had temporary, plywood enclosures constructed on each floor. There is also a masonry vault in the southeastern corner of the basement and first floor. All of these features appear to be original to the building. The overall condition of the building is quite good indicating that has been maintained through time.



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**Statement of Significance**

The historic Louisville Grocery Company building at 231 East Main Street in Louisville, Kentucky was built circa 1914-1915. The building meets the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A significant for its association with wholesale grocery distributors in Louisville, Kentucky. It is significant in the area of commerce because wholesale grocery distributors were an essential resource for supplying mom-and-pop grocery stores that were scattered throughout the city. This property is being evaluated as significant within the historic context "Wholesale Grocery Distribution in Louisville, 1850-1952." The significant date is 1915, when the Louisville Grocery Company located its business in the new warehouse building at 231 East Main Street.

The beginning of the time period for the context corresponds with the emergence of wholesale grocery warehouses beginning to locate along Main Street in Louisville during the 1850s. The establishment of a wholesale district was taking shape on West Main Street as the retail life of the city was relocating to Market Street at this time.<sup>4</sup> The ending date of the context is related to the close of the 50-year period. It also coincides with the decline of the centralized wholesale grocery districts as suburban warehouse facilities were becoming prevalent.

The property was compared to other buildings associated with the wholesale grocery business in Louisville. Site visits to wholesale grocery warehouses listed in the city directories from 1915 to 1952 revealed that several were still extant. These resources, however, reflect different periods of wholesale grocery warehouse development in Louisville that is distinct from the Louisville Grocery Company warehouse both in architecture and location.

A majority of the existing properties are representative of the mid- to late-nineteenth century commercial architecture. These buildings were found in the original wholesale district of West Main Street. These resources which are located in the West Main Street Historic District include: Altsheler & Co., 829 W. Main; Bollinger & Babbage, 714 W. Main; Johnston Bros. Co., 719-721 W. Main; National Grocer Co., 723-725 W. Main; Ohio Valley

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Grocery Co., 822 W. Main; Wahking & Sons, 718 W. Main; Kentucky  
Grocery Company, 121 W. Main.

There are two remaining properties along with the Louisville Grocery Company located in the wholesale district on the east side of downtown Louisville. These are the Winkler and Sons, 301 E. Market and U Be See Wholesale Grocery Company at 302-308 S. Campbell Street. Both of these warehouses date to construction in the nineteenth century, suggesting that they were not built originally as wholesale grocery warehouses.

Other extant properties associated with wholesale grocery warehousing are the Vaughn Grocery Co., 202 E. Main and the Triangle Food Stores Inc, 1301 W. Main. These resources are representative of the shift to single-story warehousing that was adopted in the mid-1930s.<sup>2</sup>

### **Wholesale Grocery Business in Louisville**

The role of the wholesale grocery distributor was to streamline the process between the food producer and the food retailer by regulating supply and demand of products.<sup>3</sup> Known as the proverbial "middleman," the wholesale grocery jobber purchased large lots of food products from the supplier. The wholesaler then stored the purchased lot in a warehouse that was either owned or leased. The wholesaler distributor then dispatched the company's salesmen to grocery stores in the city and the smaller outlying communities. The salesmen took orders for the products on hand at the warehouse and arranged for them to be delivered.<sup>4</sup> Food producers benefited from wholesalers because they could sell products without having the expense of warehousing and delivering directly to the retailer. Retailers were able to purchase what they needed from wholesalers in small quantities instead of being obligated to buy large lots.

Wholesale grocery distribution was a vital element to the growth of the city. By 1850 the Louisville's population had risen to 43,000. There were five public Market Houses that sold food and other goods directly to the public.<sup>5</sup> They were located on Market Street. In order to serve the burgeoning population, independent retail grocery stores started appearing throughout the city. Wholesale grocery distributors, in turn, provided

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these grocery stores with foodstuffs to feed the city. In 1850, there were 39 wholesale grocery warehouses in Louisville.<sup>6</sup>

Typical of a substantial city, wholesalers of all lines were clustering along West Main Street. By 1865, 30 of the 45 wholesale grocery warehouses were located in this district.<sup>7</sup> Wholesalers of all types were located in this district including: dry goods, hardware, tobacco, and liquor.<sup>8</sup> The warehouses were multi-story buildings due to the high cost of real estate in the central business district. This was the building type favored by wholesalers during this era.<sup>9</sup> The wholesale grocers were located on West Market Street and Fourth Street. Only one wholesale grocery house was on East Market.<sup>10</sup>

By 1871, the city's population was 100,753. The number of wholesale grocery warehouses, however, had dropped to 29. Of these wholesalers, 24 were in business on West Main Street. Only the wholesale grocery business of Phillip Winkler and Sons was located at 110 East Main. By this time the wholesalers were serving 612 retail grocery outlets.<sup>11</sup>

According to the city directory of 1880, the number of wholesale grocery warehouses had dwindled to 20. Fifteen of these businesses were found on West Main Street. The balance of grocery wholesalers were located on West Market and East Market. By this time the number of grocery stores had grown to 748. The city was growing as the population reached 123, 758.<sup>12</sup>

In 1891, there were still 20 wholesale grocery distributors. While a majority of these businesses were still located in the West Main Street district, a noticeable shift to the east was occurring. Three wholesale grocery houses were now located in the 300 block of East Market Street.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century, Louisville's wholesale grocery distributors started to take interest in the east side of downtown. This was spurred by the development of the "Haymarket" during the 1890s, which was located two blocks to the south in the area of East Jefferson between Brook and Floyd Streets bounded by Market Street.<sup>13</sup> Local truck farmers selling produce directly to city dwellers started the Haymarket in 1891. It was serving the need left by the departure

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of the last Municipal Market House in 1888. By 1893, the city declared the area around the Haymarket to be a "Public Market Place." The presence of the Haymarket encouraged food-related marketing activities including food wholesalers who began locating in the area.<sup>14</sup>

While 13 of the 20 wholesale grocery businesses were on West Main Street in 1900, five were now located in the area of East Market and Brook Street.<sup>15</sup> This reflected the growing influence of the Haymarket in the establishment of a secondary wholesale district on the east side of downtown Louisville. The population had reached 204,731 by the beginning of the twentieth century underscoring the importance of the wholesale grocery distributor to serve the retail grocery stores located throughout the city.<sup>16</sup>

The 1910 city directory lists 17 wholesale grocery distributors. While eleven grocery warehouses are still found on West Main Street, six others are located in the area surrounding the Haymarket.<sup>17</sup>

By the year 1920, the number of wholesale grocery warehouses had increased to 21. This was in part to the growing influence of chain grocery stores that used company owned wholesalers due to the chains purchasing power. The Piggly Wiggly Valley Co. and Quaker Maid appeared in the city directory under the wholesale grocery section.<sup>18</sup> Another factor for the rise in wholesalers may have been the thousand plus mom-and-pop grocery stores that were scattered throughout the city.<sup>19</sup> Louisville's population had reached 234,891 by the beginning of the decade.<sup>20</sup> The area around the Haymarket continued to retain a portion of the wholesale grocery warehouses with four located in the immediate area.<sup>21</sup>

In 1930, the number of wholesalers dropped to 16 even though the city's population had grown to 307,745.<sup>22</sup> The wholesale grocery distribution business in Louisville, however, was profitable as it was reflected in the first Census of Business for Wholesaling with \$10,988,918 in net sales. The wholesale grocery houses employed a total of 273 employees and had a total of \$1,036,675 of stock in the warehouses.<sup>23</sup> Five of the sixteen wholesale grocers were located on the east side of downtown near the Haymarket.<sup>24</sup>

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In the period after the Depression of the 1930s, the number of independent wholesale grocery warehouses began to drop in Louisville. With the increased presence of the chain warehouses, the independent wholesalers had difficulty competing with their buying power.<sup>25</sup> In 1940, the number of wholesale grocers decreased to eleven.<sup>26</sup> For the first time, more warehouses were located in the east part of downtown, with five of the eleven found in the Haymarket area.<sup>27</sup>

By the close of the context period in 1952, the idea of decentralization for warehouses had started to take hold in Louisville. The cheaper land values of the suburban areas surrounding the city, as well as, the improvements in truck transport, lessened the need to be in a central warehouse district.<sup>28</sup> The city directory for 1951 lists 12 wholesale grocery warehouses. Only two are located in the traditional warehouse district on West Main Street. Three others are located in a large single-story warehouse in the 1300 block of West Main. Four of the wholesale grocery houses are in the immediate Haymarket vicinity. The remaining three are found further east away from the Haymarket district.<sup>29</sup>

By 1950, the importance of the Haymarket itself was on the wane. It was seen as outdated and inadequate. Many wholesalers preferred trading in efficient markets.<sup>30</sup> In 1955, the Louisville Produce Terminal was opened on Jennings Lane, which was removed from the central city. This precipitated the decline of the Haymarket and the surrounding wholesale businesses.<sup>31</sup>

The era of the independent wholesale grocery distributor had passed by the 1950s. The rise of the chain grocery stores and their associated wholesale warehouses diminished the need for the local wholesale grocery companies. As quickly as the independent retail grocer was being supplanted by chain grocery stores, so were the wholesale grocery distributors that served them.<sup>32</sup>

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**The Louisville Grocery Company**

The Louisville Grocery Company was organized in 1902 Mr. Wilkers, Mr. E.G. Wigginton, and Mr. Doerhoefer.<sup>33</sup> E.G. Wigginton's family had a wholesale grocery business in 1865 but was gone by 1870.<sup>34</sup> In 1903, brothers James and William Glazebrook purchased the entire stock of the company.<sup>35</sup> The Glazebrook family had owned wholesale grocery businesses since 1865.<sup>36</sup> James Glazebrook served as the president of the company until 1913.<sup>37</sup>

E.V. Thompson Jr. took over as president of the company in 1913. It was during this time that the Louisville Grocery Company purchased the lot at 231 E. Main from John M. Atherton and the Louisville Paper Company for a sum of \$23,000 on March 20, 1914.<sup>38</sup> The Louisville Paper Company building had burned on the site in 1913 and decided to relocate.<sup>39</sup> The purchase of the lot at 231 East Main Street established a permanent location for the Louisville Grocery Company. The company was previously located at 144 E. Washington (1902); 150 E. Washington (1904); 317-319 W. Main (1905); 337-339 W. Main (1906); 327-329 W. Main (1914).<sup>40</sup>

The move to the new East Main Street location represents the development of the east end of Louisville as a wholesale, ice and cold storage and meat packing district as evidenced in the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Prior to this time, the area along East Main Street was a mix of dwellings, shops and lumberyards.<sup>41</sup> The proximity of the railroad also made the site attractive since orders were shipped to the Louisville Grocery Company by rail.<sup>42</sup>

The warehouse itself was a multistory structure with five floors and a basement. The architectural design of the exterior was in a decidedly early twentieth century commercial style that was relatively devoid of ornamentation. The interior was followed the traditional warehouse facility layout with open floors to store merchandise.<sup>43</sup> It was unusual for the wholesaler to own their warehouse since the business was prone to vulnerability. Leasing warehouse space was much more common in the wholesaling business.<sup>44</sup> The Louisville Grocery Company's decision to build their warehouse represents a significant move to establish a business identity.

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The Louisville Grocery Company was involved in the general line of wholesale grocery business stocking non-perishable food products such as beans, sugar, coffee, nuts, cereals and flour. The business sold products to grocery stores, hotels, schools, restaurants and bakeries.<sup>45</sup> The grocery wholesaler served the Louisville area, as well as the surrounding counties.<sup>46</sup> Although local producers made some of the products sold, most food supplies were shipped from canneries and factories from across the country.<sup>47</sup>

Typical of wholesale grocery distributors, the Louisville Grocery Company was involved in processing products.<sup>48</sup> They roasted their own coffee and peanuts, as well as, powdering their own sugar.<sup>49</sup> By 1936 the company's coffee roasting business had outgrown the capacity of the building.<sup>50</sup> The Louisville Grocery Company built a dedicated coffee roasting building at the northwest corner of the property.<sup>51</sup> In this building, the Zachary Taylor brand of coffee was made.

By the mid-1930s, the Louisville Grocery Company established a voluntary grocery co-operative as a response to the competition from the chain grocery stores.<sup>52</sup> A trend seen across the country, local wholesalers teamed up with a group of retail grocers to decrease costs. The retailer could remain an independent merchant but was able to offer prices that were comparable to the chain grocery stores.<sup>53</sup> The retailers promised to buy collectively from one wholesaler and the wholesaler agreed to provide assistance in marketing. Typically, voluntary co-ops established their own brand. In the case of the Louisville Grocery Company, the U Be See brand was created for its voluntary co-op.<sup>54</sup> By 1940, there were 52 independent retailers in the co-op. This helped to establish the Louisville Grocer Company as a leading grocery wholesaler in Louisville.<sup>55</sup>

The establishment of the U Be See Co-op helped to keep the Louisville Grocery Company in business at a time when the independent grocery wholesaler was becoming rare. At some point, however, the Louisville Grocery Company separated from the voluntary co-op. By 1951, the city directories have a listing for the U Be See Wholesale Grocery Company at 302-308 South Campbell Street.<sup>56</sup>

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The Louisville Grocery Company stayed at the 231 East Main location through the 1950s until 1964 when the building was sold to the Royalty Realty Company.<sup>57</sup> The grocery wholesaler had been in the same location for fifty years. Very few wholesale grocery houses in Louisville stayed in the same location for a substantial number of years.<sup>58</sup>

The Louisville Grocery Company did not go out of business when it sold the warehouse. The company, however, was changing its focus to become an institutional supplier for restaurants, schools and hotels across the country. The company renamed itself the Sysco Food Service Company and located to a property on the south side of Louisville at 7705 National Turnpike.<sup>59</sup>

### **Evaluation of Integrity**

The historic significance of the Louisville Grocery Company is established through the integrity of setting, location, design, materials, association and feeling. The property has retained its integrity of setting since the area immediately surrounding it remains intact. This area of East Main Street became associated with meat packing, cold storage and wholesale grocery distribution by the 1920s. Many of these buildings still remain intact. Also close in proximity is the Haymarket that helped establish the eastern side of downtown as a secondary wholesale district. The decision of the Louisville Grocery Company to choose the East Main Street address represents the change among Louisville's wholesale grocery distributors to view the east side as a viable wholesale district.

The location of the building also helps to express its integrity since the building has not been moved. Though the coffee roasting building was demolished due to storm damage, the primary warehousing function of the building is very apparent.

The property also retains its integrity of design because the building has had a few minor alterations since it was constructed. The scale and mass of the original design of the building remain intact. The original open floor plan is also largely retained throughout the building.



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The building also conveys its integrity through the materials. The interior of the building retains much of the historic materials associated with the wholesale warehouse. The hardwood floors, the post-and-beam structure and the exposed rafters retain the sense of a warehouse function. Though the original windows have been replaced, the replacement windows closely resemble the historic configuration of window lights and proportion.

Finally, the feeling and association linked to the building help to convey its integrity. The building's relationship with the surrounding area has been retained. This is underscored by the connection to the Merchants Ice and Cold Storage building (now the Arctic Building), which is the adjacent building to the west. The Louisville Grocery Company building is in close proximity to the Haymarket, which strengthens the integrity of feeling and association. The Haymarket's presence helped establish the eastern side of downtown as a secondary wholesale district. The decision of the Louisville Grocery Company to choose the East Main Street address represents the change among Louisville's wholesale grocery distributors to view the east side as a viable wholesale district.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Jones, Elizabeth, pg. 8-3.
- <sup>2</sup> Beckman, et al. *Wholesaling*, pg. 425.
- <sup>3</sup> Zanger, Helen, pg. 177.
- <sup>4</sup> Shirk, S. Urban. *Marketing Through Food Brokers*, pg. 7.
- <sup>5</sup> Casseday, Ben. *The History of Louisville*, pg. 233.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup> *Williamson's City Directory for Louisville*, 1865-66.
- <sup>8</sup> Jones, Elizabeth, pg. 8-4.
- <sup>9</sup> Beckman, et al. *Wholesaling*, pg. 425.
- <sup>10</sup> *Williamson's City Directory for Louisville*, 1865-66.
- <sup>11</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville*, 1871 and 1880.
- <sup>12</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville*, 1880.
- <sup>13</sup> Woleben, Sally V., ed. *Louisville History "On the Air."* Pg. 28
- <sup>14</sup> "The Haymarket", *Louisville Encyclopedia*, pg. 377.
- <sup>15</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville*, 1900.
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville*, 1910.
- <sup>18</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville*, 1920.
- <sup>19</sup> "Grocery Stores", *Louisville Encyclopedia*, pg. 361.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville*, 1920.
- <sup>22</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville*, 1930.
- <sup>23</sup> Fifteenth Census of U.S.: 1930.

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- <sup>24</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville, 1930.*
- <sup>25</sup> Converse, Paul D. "The Role of the Wholesaler." In *Food Marketing and Distribution, 1971*: pg. 81.
- <sup>26</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville, 1940.*
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Beckman, et al. *Wholesaling*, pg. 325.
- <sup>29</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville, 1951.*
- <sup>30</sup> "The Haymarket", *Louisville Encyclopedia*, pg. 377.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> "Grocery Stores", *Louisville Encyclopedia*, pg. 361.
- <sup>33</sup> Zanger, Helen, pg 180.
- <sup>34</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville, 1865-66 and 1870.*
- <sup>35</sup> Zanger, Helen. pg. 180.
- <sup>36</sup> *Caron's City Directories for Louisville, KY.*
- <sup>37</sup> Zanger, Helen. pg. 180.
- <sup>38</sup> Deedbook 802, pg. 546.
- <sup>39</sup> Zanger, Helen. pg. 180.
- <sup>40</sup> *Caron's City Directories for Louisville, KY.*
- <sup>41</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1892, 1905, 1940.
- <sup>42</sup> Zanger, Helen. pg. 179.
- <sup>43</sup> Beckman, et al. *Wholesaling*, pg. 430.
- <sup>44</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>45</sup> Zanger, Helen. pg. 178.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>47</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>48</sup> Beckman, et al. *Wholesaling*, pg. 100.
- <sup>49</sup> Zanger, Helen. pg. 182
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>51</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1940.
- <sup>52</sup> Converse, Paul D. "The Role of the Wholesaler." In *Food Marketing and Distribution, 1971*: pg. 83.
- <sup>53</sup> Zanger, Helen. pg. 186.
- <sup>54</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>55</sup> Zanger, Helen. 186-188.
- <sup>56</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville, 1951.*
- <sup>57</sup> Deedbook 3882, pg. 290.
- <sup>58</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville, 1865-1953.*
- <sup>59</sup> *Caron's City Directory for Louisville, 1963.*

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the Louisville Grocery Company are indicated from the deed description dated March 20, 1914, found in Deed Book 802, page 546 housed in the Jefferson County Clerk's office:

Beginning on the North side of Main Street seventy-eight and three-fourths feet West of Floyd Street; thence running Westwardly along the North side of Main Street, sixty-one and one-fourth feet, and extending Northwardly, of that width throughout, between lines parallel with Floyd Street, two hundred and four feet to Washington Street.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Louisville Grocery Company building and which is occupied by the structure. This acreage maintains the integrity of setting and location and is appropriate for nomination.

**Additional Documentation**

Maps:

Map 1 USGS topographic map showing location of property.

Historic Photographs:

Figure 1 Image of the main facade and east façade as it appeared circa 1940. Photo source: the Royal Photo Company Collection, Negative Number: 8830.00 housed in the University of Louisville Photographic Archives at the Ekstrom Library.

Figure 2 Image of the primary (south) façade taken in the late 1930's. Photo source: the Lyon industry and business student archive, 1939-1942.

Plans:

Figure 3 Typical floor plan of the Louisville Grocery Company building

Fig. 1: Louisville Grocery Company  
1940

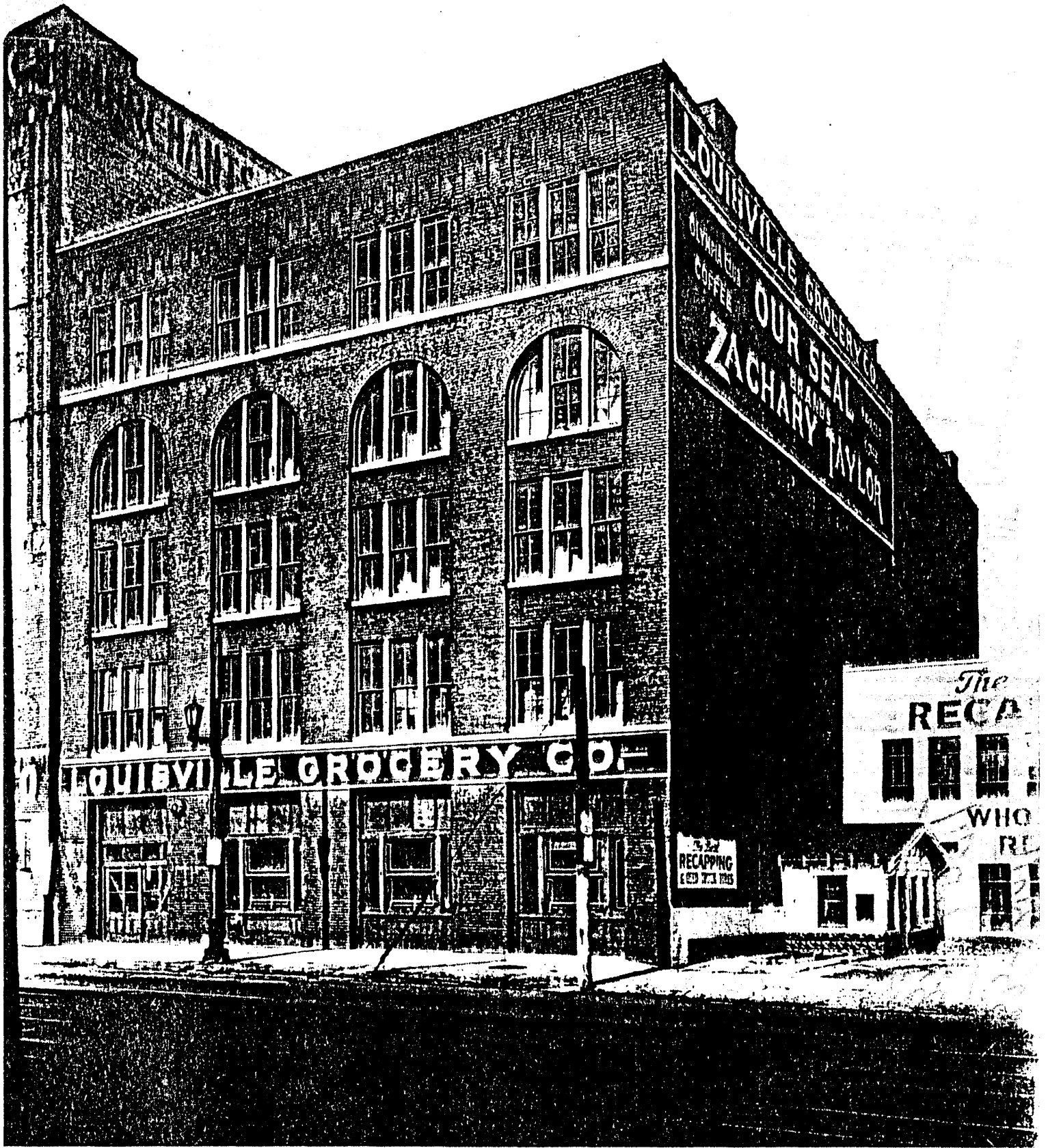


Fig. 2: Louisville Grocery Company  
late 1930s

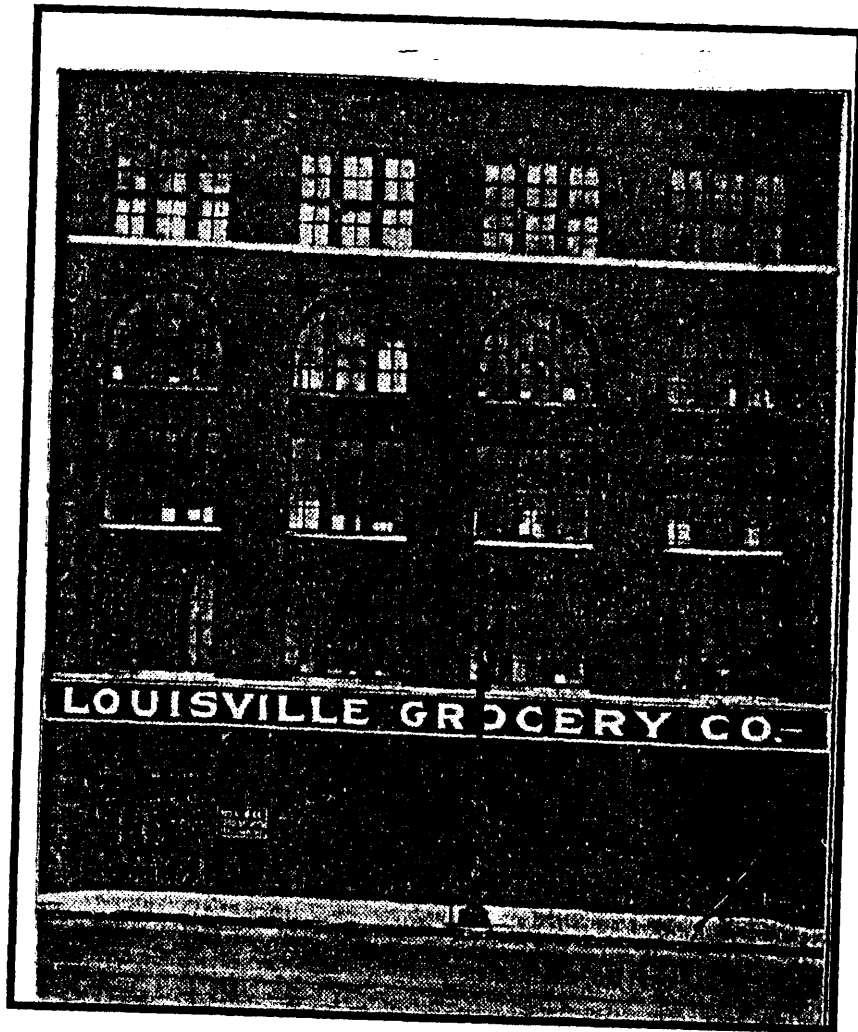
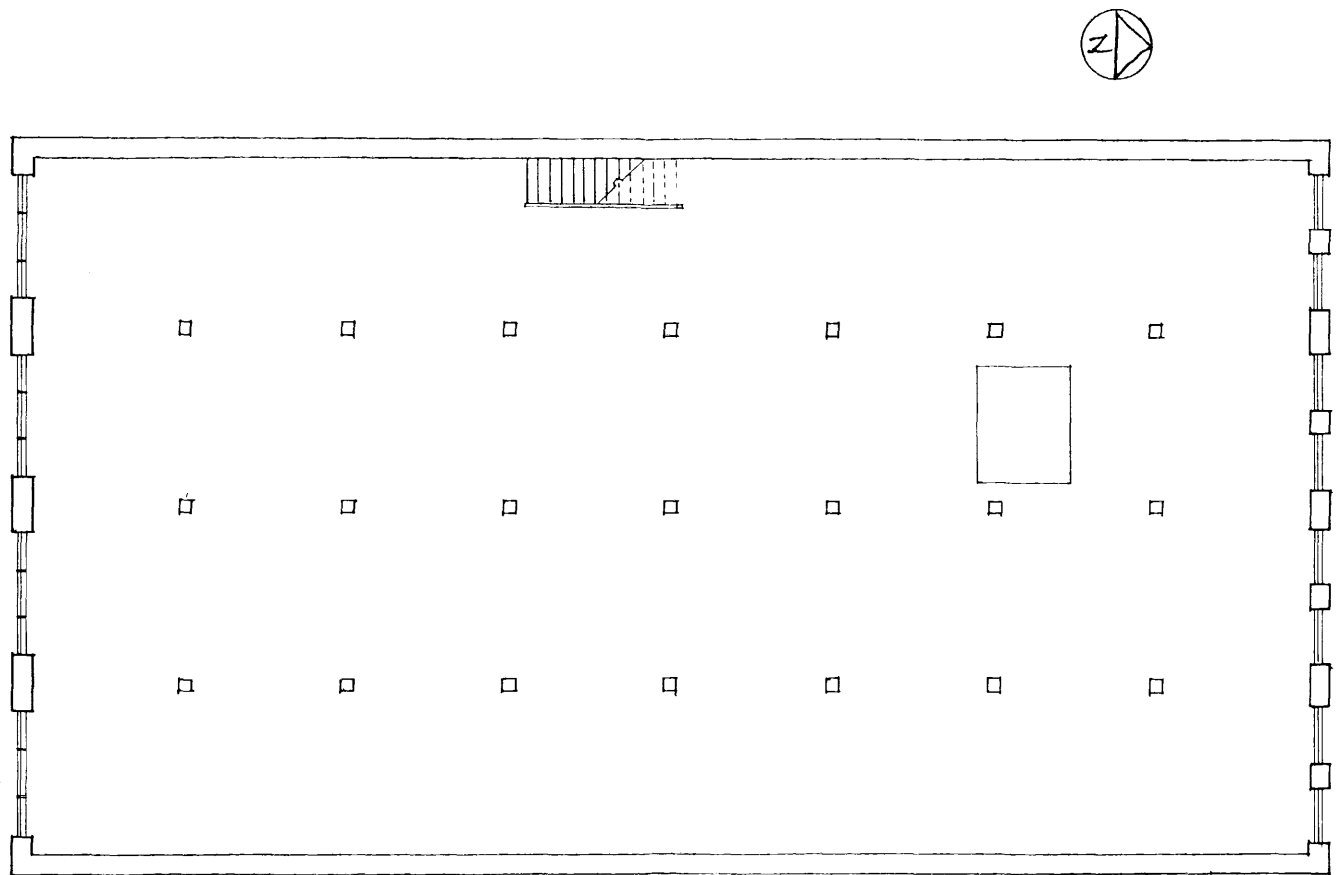
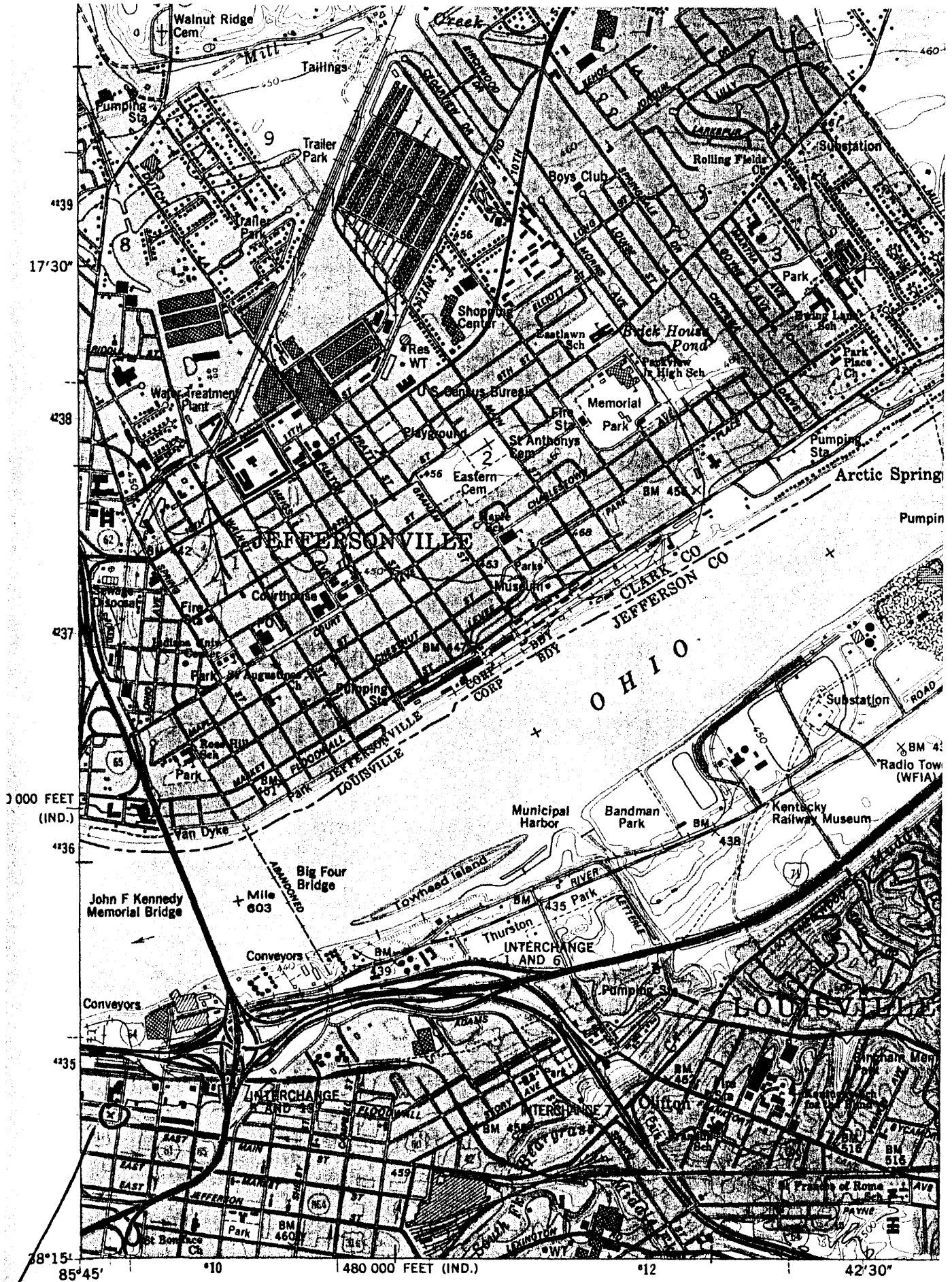


Fig. 3: Typical Floor Plan of the Louisville Cannery Co.



Scale 1/8" = 1/2'



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
 in cooperation with Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
 and Kentucky Geological Survey



Louisville Grocery Company | Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY / UTM Reference:  
 16/09520/4234750



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**Photo Key**

All photographs represent the building, streetscape features and surrounding geographical context of the Louisville Grocery Company building. The property is located at 231 E. Main St. in Louisville, Kentucky. All photographs were taken by Cynthia Johnson in November, 2002 and the negatives remain in her possession.

- 1 Looking northwest at the primary façade showing the three distinct divisions on it.
- 2 Looking northeast at the primary facade illustrating the arched detail on the fourth story windows and the recessed openings.
- 3 Looking west along the Main Street corridor showing the Louisville Grocery Building's relationship to the central business district.
- 4 Looking east along Main Street showing the relationship of the resource to the edge of the downtown area.
- 5 Looking northwest at the party wall on the east side of the building. The ghost sign is in the upper left-hand corner of the wall.
- 6 Looking south at the rear façade and lot that faces Washington St.
- 7 Looking south at the loading dock on the rear façade.
- 8 Looking northeast at the primary entrance on East Main St.
- 9 Looking northeast at the storefront windows along East Main St.
- 10 Looking northeast in the basement of the Louisville Grocery Company. The staircase is at the left.
- 11 Looking northeast at the interior of the first floor with the later bar area to the right.
- 12 Looking southwest through the interior of the first floor showing the open space.
- 13 Looking north at the masonry vault located on the first floor.
- 14 Looking north at the interior of the first floor showing the staircase. A small patch of existing plaster is visible to the left between the paneling and the masonry wall.
- 15 Looking south at the freight elevator. The enclosure built around the elevator appears to be a later addition.
- 16 Looking southeast on the second floor that has been altered.
- 17 Looking west in the offices on the second floor that front Main St.
- 18 Looking southwest at the third floor warehouse space.
- 19 Looking southeast on the third floor showing the elevator enclosure at the left.
- 20 Looking southwest on the fourth floor showing the arched windows.
- 21 Looking northeast on the fourth floor with the staircase on the left.
- 22 Looking northeast on the fifth floor showing the uninterrupted storage space.
- 23 Detail of a typical column found throughout the building.