

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUL 20 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Bosler Fireproof Garage

and/or common Morris Parking Garage

2. Location

street & number 423 S. Third St.

NA not for publication

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

state Kentucky

code 021

county Jefferson

code 151

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Weight Watchers of Kentucky, Inc.

street & number 9100 Marksfield Rd.

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson St.

city, town Louisville

state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978

NA federal X state NA county NA local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort

state Kentucky

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1983

KY. HERITAGE  
COMMISSION

# 7. Description

**Condition**

~~NA~~ excellent  
 good  
~~NA~~ fair

~~NA~~ deteriorated  
~~NA~~ ruins  
~~NA~~ unexposed

**Check one**

~~NA~~ unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
~~NA~~ moved      date NA

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

The Bosler Garage is located in the heart of the Central Business District of Louisville on Third St. The garage has served and continues to serve as a parking facility for many prominent structures in close proximity. Among them are the Old U.S. Customs House (National Register, 1977) and attached Fireproof Storage Company Warehouse (National Register, 1980), Kaufman-Straus Building (National Register, 1980), and Stewarts Dry Goods (National Register, 1982).

The Bosler Fireproof Garage is a Romanesque Revival design, skillfully incorporated into a utilitarian use. It is a two-story structure of brick with the main facade stuccoed. The building is symmetrical and is divided into three bays. The lower floor contains a large central, stucco, compound arch. The arch springs from compound piers on raised bases. The capitals of the piers have stylized Corinthian motifs. This arch is embellished with a band of rope mold and bead-and-reel mold. On either side of the central bay is a shop area with display windows and transom lights above.

The second floor fenestration consists of three large stucco arches, each containing central, multi-paned rectangular windows. Large stucco pilasters rise the full two-story height on either side of the main facade. Pilasters of equal proportion also rise between bays from the second floor. A cornice with a chevron pattern is topped by a parapet, into which all four pilasters extend.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1919 **Builder/Architect** J. J. Gaffney

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bosler Fireproof Garage is a boldly designed, Romanesque Revival structure, representing a creative architectural solution to a utilitarian purpose. It is the oldest known parking garage remaining in Louisville.

Few structures in Louisville boast their utilitarian purpose with such style as does the Bosler Garage. Its 1919 construction date and fanciful design represent the early-on fascination with the automobile, as well as the early need for adequate parking in downtown Louisville.

The architect for the Bosler Garage, J. J. Gaffney, was a creative and flamboyant local architect. Most exemplary of these traits is the Baroque Byzantine design of St. James Roman Catholic Church (National Register, 1982) in 1913. Gaffney had a widely varying professional career, designing residences, apartment buildings, churches, educational structures, and office buildings. The Bosler Garage is his only known utilitarian design.

His design for this garage is in keeping with his imaginative abilities. The main facade arch received no less attention to detail than did those found in St. James Church. The use of the Romanesque Revival style for an otherwise mundane, utilitarian use is a credit to the architect and subsequently to the community.

Louisville played an active role in the automobile industry. Ford Motor Co. constructed two plants here, 1915 and 1924, both designed by Albert Kahn. Although Ford has always held the corner on the local market, other automobile manufacturing plants were also located in Louisville. Bosler Garage pays tribute to this industry, constructed to accommodate the products of these manufacturing plants.

The Bosler Fireproof Garage is an excellent, albeit late, example of the Romanesque Revival style. The garage is an important local example of utilitarian architecture, and of the local awareness and respect for the automobile industry in the early years of this century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Carons Annual Directories of the City of Louisville  
Louisville Landmarks Commission files.  
University of Louisville Photographic Archives.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name New Albany

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	6	0	8	9	5	0	4	2	3	4	3	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

City Block 17F Lot 12. The building consumes the lot.

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission

date 4-14-83

street & number 727 W. Main St.

telephone 502-587-3501

city or town Louisville

state Kentucky

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Mary Ann Jones*

title

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

date

*July 13, 1983*

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

*8/18/83*

for *Melanie Byrum*  
Keeper of the National Register

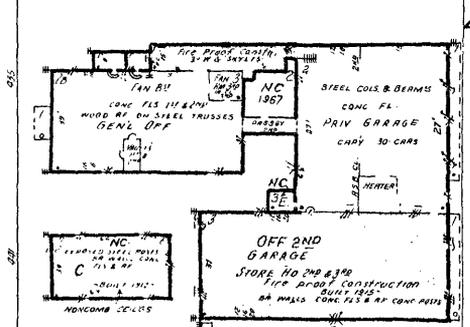
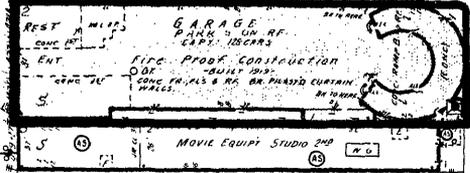
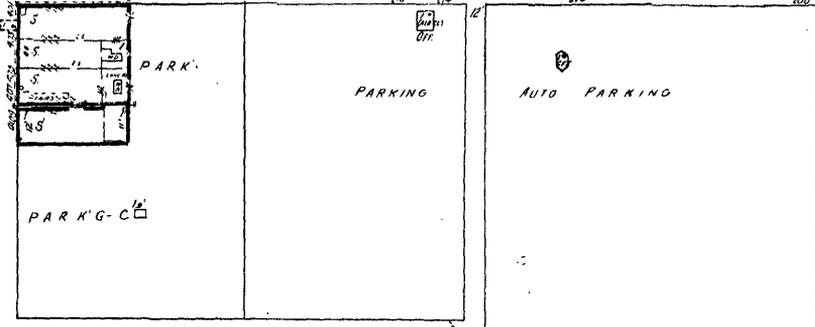
Attest:

date

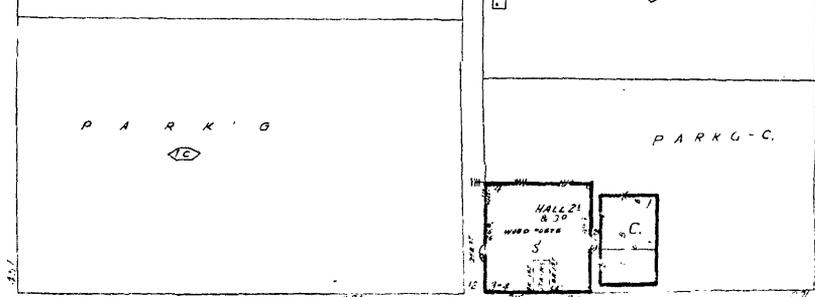
Chief of Registration

39

W. LIBERTY



LOUISVILLE WATER CO., INC.  
MATCHMAN  
AUTO PARKING

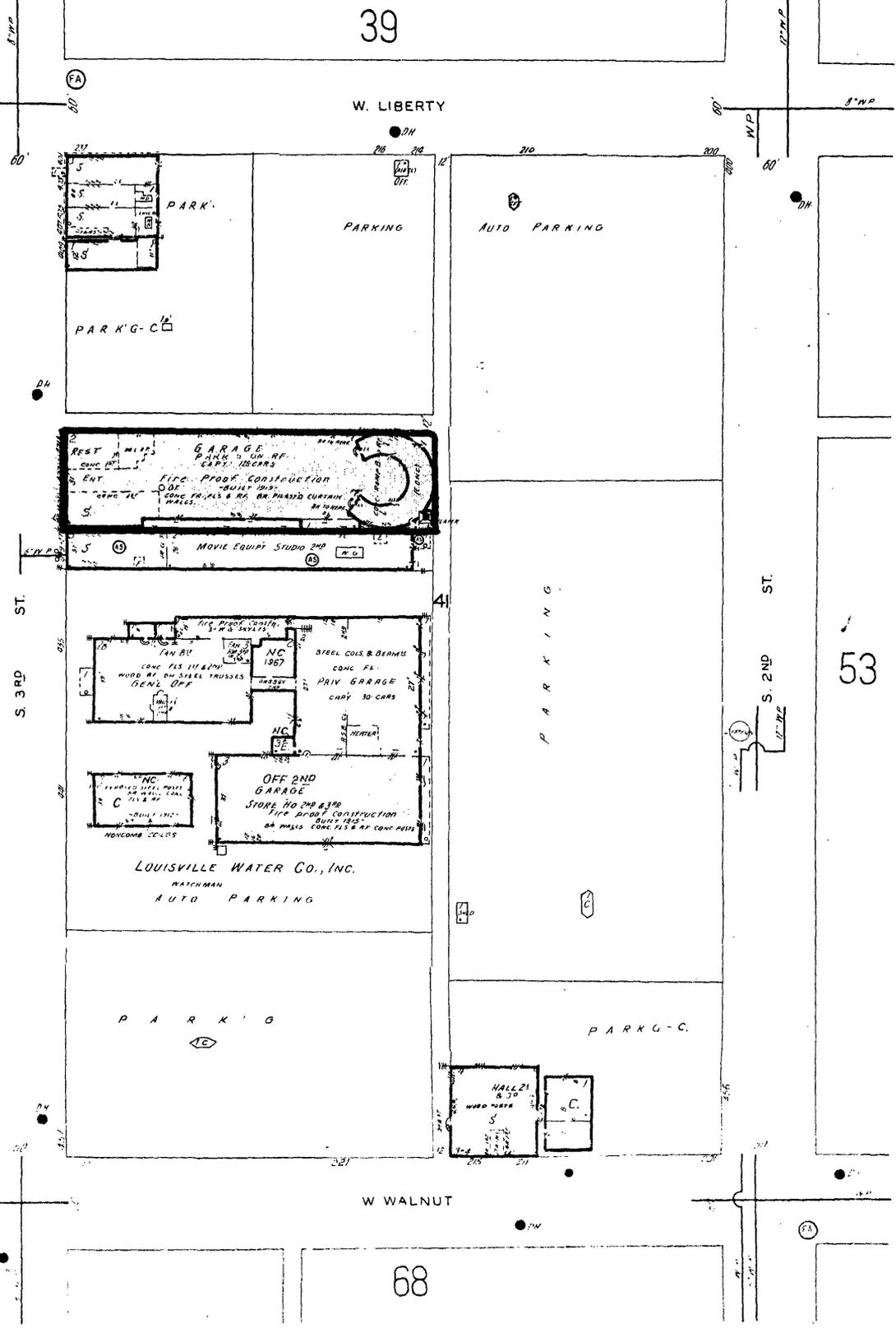


W WALNUT

68

51

53



Bosler Fireproof Garage  
423 S. Third St.  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY  
Louisville Landmarks Comm.  
727 W. Main St. / Lou., KY 40202

Map 2 - Sanborn Map  
Sanborn Map Co.  
Pelham, NY 1974