

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 31 1977**
DATE ENTERED **MAR 24 1978**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Levy Brothers Building

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

235 West Market Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

03

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

(see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

6th and Jefferson Streets

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Levy Brothers Building, designed by the firm of Clarke and Loomis, is located on the northeast corner of Third and Market Streets in Louisville (see photo 1). Occupying a prominent downtown site, its location is two blocks south of the Ohio River and three blocks northeast of the Jefferson County Courthouse and the Louisville City Hall Complex (listed on the National Register April 10, 1972 and September 1, 1976, respectively).

This five-story building is constructed of red smooth-faced sandstone. A six-story pyramidal slate-roofed tower that originally held an elevator occupies the corner position and provides the pivoting point for sections extending north and east. Above the first-floor level, details and openings remain intact, including two major round-arched bay windows having a height of two floors (see photo 2).

Though much of the building's terracotta detail has the overwrought quality attributed to the French Renaissance in the late 19th century, the final design is more discreet than a version shown in a lavish perspective drawing in the 1895 brochure, "Louisville of Today." "As erected, the structure has considerable dignity as well as display [for many years the arches, balconies, windows, were framed by bright electric lights at night], and the reddish-yellow brick and terracotta provides an appealing contrast to the colder grey limestone and pale yellow brick of much downtown [Louisville] construction."¹

The annex which extends from the north arm of the original building completed in 1893 was begun by the Louisville firm of Joseph and Joseph in 1913. Designed in the same style and employing the same materials, this addition is well integrated with the initial store. With the exception of first-floor modifications, such as the covering of bullseyes and the addition of cast-iron grillwork (see photos 3 and 4), the Levy Brothers Building's exterior remains essentially as designed. The interior has been considerably altered to accommodate present day retail practice.

¹Walter E. Langsam, Metropolitan Preservation Plan (Louisville: Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1973), p. 93.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Levy Brothers Building, located in downtown Louisville, remains as one of Louisville's finest examples in the city of sandstone construction, Richardsonian-Romanesque design, and commercial investment. Designed by C. J. Clarke and Arthur Loomis, the red sandstone structure creates a strong physical landmark; its tower is a pivot at the intersection of two downtown streets.

In their design for Levy Brothers, Clarke and Loomis tried their hand at deviating from the standard Richardsonian style of most of their work in the 1890s. The new building was completed in 1893, though enlarged later. The newspaper account of the opening states that the design is of "no particular style of architecture, but in detail what may be called French Renaissance." Actually, the profile of the tower, which turns the corner so effectively, the combination of square-headed and round-arched windows, and the delicate, open treatment of the street level shop windows are all reminiscent of the Chicago School.

The owners, Moses and Henry Levy were originally from Germany. Moses Levy emigrated in 1857 from Nierstein, Germany, to the United States, to be followed fifteen years later in 1872 by his younger brother Henry. In 1861 Moses opened a store known as "Levy, The Clothier," which in 1866, moved to the northeast corner of Third and Market Streets--the present location of the firm. Henry joined his brother in business about a year after his immigration into America, and the store has been continuously run by the Levys, now aided by the fourth generation, since its inception.

The old building was razed on June 14, 1892 and the Levy brothers opened their new building on September 28, 1895 with a magnificent party whose "floral designs" and music attracted "many from a distance in the county all over the State."

Years later hundreds of incandescent lights were added to exterior and display areas from which comes the (now archaic) local expression, "Lit up like Levy's." Another custom of the store was to send a pair of "pants" (about the size of one's hand) to many newborns in the city with a letter stating: "...When he shall gave outgrown these we shall be glad to have him call on us for another pair..."

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News. October 10, 1893, v. 42, p. 39, plate 930
(signed drawing of store for Levy Brothers).

Cadiz Record. Cadiz, Kentucky, May 11, 1905 (advertisement for Levy Brothers).

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

4 2 3 4 - 6 7 0

A	1,6	6,0,8,9,5,0	4,2,3,6,5,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rowland Miller

DK:GM

ORGANIZATION

University of Louisville

DATE

October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

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

Edred W. Nelson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/20/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. Monte
William H. Cole

DATE

3/24/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-13-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Levy Brothers Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

- ✓ Henry Levy, 5821 Brittany Woods Circle, Louisville
- ✓ Grace Levy, 5821 Brittany Woods Circle, Louisville
- ✓ Jane Levy Weinberg (Mrs. Martin), 5011 Cliffwood Road, Louisville
- ✓ Dorothy L. Steiner (Mrs. Bernard), 2600 Canterbury Road, Birmingham, Alabama
- ✓ James H. Levy Jr., c/o Levy Bros., Inc., Louisville
- ✓ Jerri Levy Blumenthal (Mrs. Morris), 2721 Altadena Lake Road, Birmingham, Alabama
- ✓ Stuart G. Levy Jr., 201 Travois Road, Louisville
- ✓ Stuart and Selma Levy, 201 Travois Road, Louisville
- ✓ Robert S. Levy, ~~87 Malabu Drive~~, Lexington * - *128 D. Hanover - Lexington Ky 40502*
- ✓ E. H. Mann (Mrs. Harry), 5201 Tomahawk Road, Louisville
- ✓ Frances Hiller (Mrs. Merwin), 364 Central Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois
- ✓ Frank Fleischaker, Trustee, 5208 Tomahawk Road, Louisville
- ✓ Richard Felsenthal, ~~2277 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee~~ 38104 * *5100 Poplar Ave Suite 101, Memphis Tenn 38117*
- ✓ Judith Goodman (Mrs. Nelson), ~~117 Blaine Road~~, Louisville * *195 Buff Court Cincinnati Ohio 45231*
- ✓ Rose Felsenthal (Mrs. Henry), 475 Highland Avenue North, Memphis, Tennessee 38122
- ✓ Sidney Feltenstein Jr., 11 Munnings Drive, Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776
- ✓ Robert Felsenthal, Felsenthal's, Brownsville, Tennessee
- ✓ Karolyn Feltenstein (Mrs. Sidney), 8114 Lake Terrace, Louisville
- ✓ Liberty National Bank and Trust Co., 416 W. Jefferson Street, Louisville
- ✓ Levy Bros., Inc., 235 West Market Street, Louisville

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Levy Brothers Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 2

Both the Levy brothers were active in their community. Moses was a director of the Cleveland Orphan Asylum, a member of the Board of Trade, The Commercial Club, the Standard Club, and others; Henry was a member of the Board of Trade, a director of the Commercial Club, vice-president of the Standard Club, Chairman of the Building Committee of the Young Hebrew Men's Association, and a Trustee of Temple Adas Israel.

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Levy Brothers Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Greater Louisville, 1895. p. 91 (signed drawing for the Levy Brothers Store).

History of the Jews in Louisville. Compiled by Jewish Historical Society, date unknown, pp. 47 and 50 (biographies of Henry and Moses Levy).

Louisville Anzeiger. March 1, 1893, p. 11 (advertisement for Levy Brothers).

_____. March 1, 1898 (biographies of Henry and Moses Levy).

Louisville Evening Post. September 28, 1893, pp. 2 and 8.

Louisville of Today (1895). (ill., p. 60).

Preservation. Louisville: Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1973. Text by Walter E. Langsam, p. 93.

Riebel. Louisville Panorama. p. 80 (ill., p. 193).

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

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

Levy Brothers Building, 235 W. Market Street,
Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

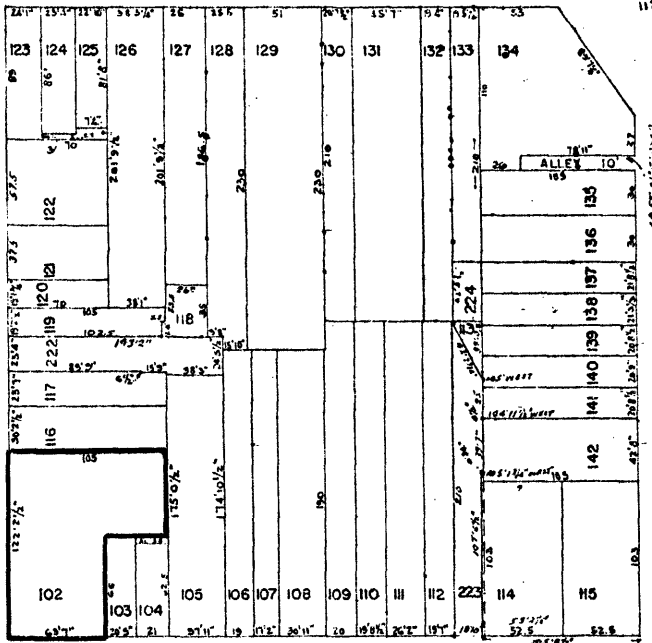
Verbal Boundary Description

The Levy Brothers Building occupies an L-shaped lot identified as City Block 17A Lot 102. The building occupies the entire lot. This nomination does not include the three-story addition to the east side of the building which occupies City Block 17A Lot 103. See attached real estate map for dimensions.

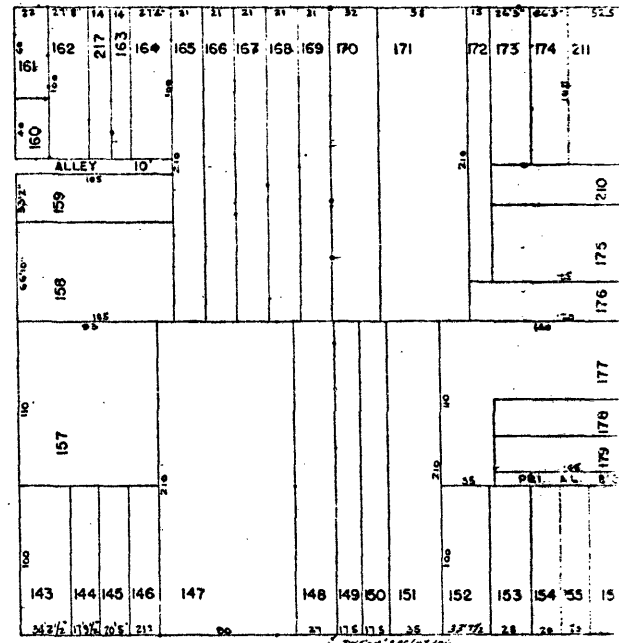
SCALE, 1" = 60'

MAIN

ST. 60'

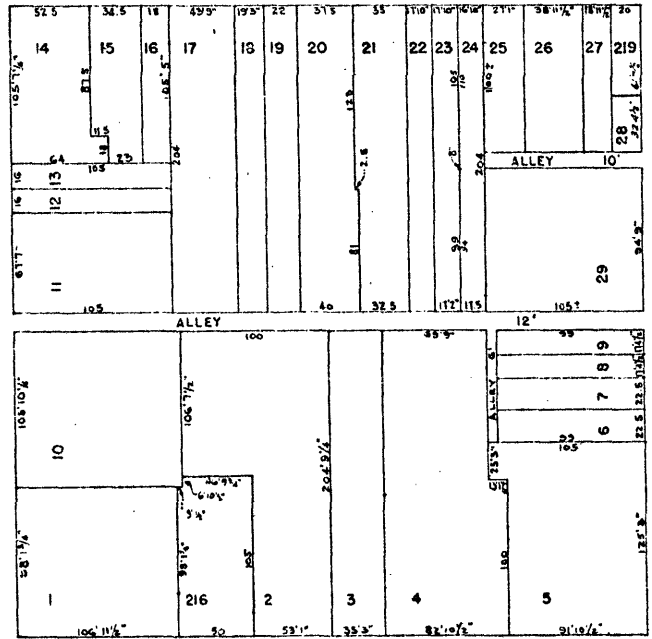


ST. 60'

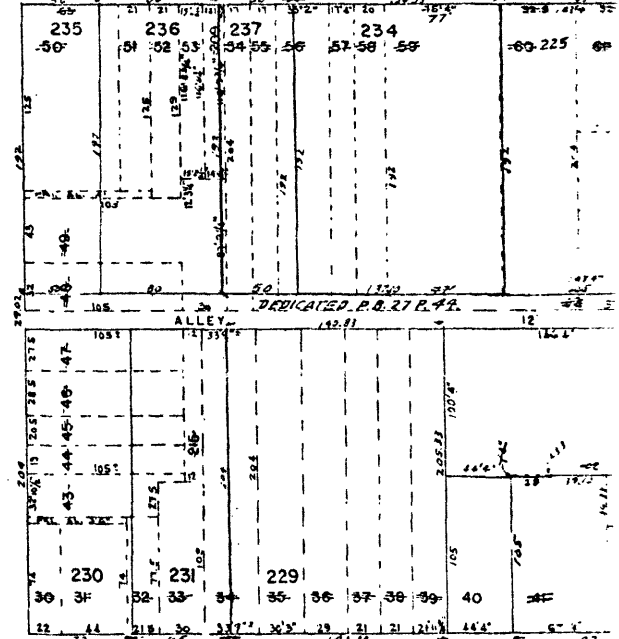


MARKET

3 RD.



2 ND.



JEFFERSON