

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 15 1984
date entered NOV 15 1984

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

1. Name

historic Wright and Taylor Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 611-17 S. ^{4th St,} ~~Fourth Street~~ not for publication

city, town Louisville na vicinity of congressional district

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Kentucky Trust Company Trustee ATTN: Real Estate Department

c/o First Kentucky Trust Company

street & number P. O. Box 30610

city, town Louisville na vicinity of state Kentucky 40233

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson Street

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wright and Taylor Building, located at 611-617 Fourth Avenue, is located on the east side of this strategic north-south corridor.

This two-story, four-bay commercial storefront houses four separate businesses. The first floor has both recessed entries and large plate glass windows which have all been altered through the years to accommodate each owner's needs. Each bay is clearly defined by vertical shafts of glazed architectural terra cotta. The floors, in turn, are defined by spandrels of polychromatic terra cotta. The second floor window fenestration centers around a large central light, flanked by casement windows and surmounted by multi-paned transoms. The parapet wall above, is gabled on the end bays and crenellated in the center. A lion holding a shield, a plumed crown and several watchtowers add to this building's castle-like appearance. The Wright and Taylor Building is a thoughtful reminder of era when the use of terra cotta was at its zenith. A rare example of the use of this particular material in the Tudor-Gothic Style, the Wright and Taylor Building is a masterful addition to the architectural heritage of downtown Louisville.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1928 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Glazed architectural terra cotta is found in abundance throughout the Louisville area especially in the Central Business District. Nowhere are its qualities of adaptability to distinct architectural styles, modular rhythms and quality and variety of colors more apparent than in the Wright and Taylor Building. It is an excellent example of the Tudor-Gothic Style.

This building was constructed in 1928 by Wright and Taylor Inc. It originally housed a variety of small commercial concerns, including a dress shop and a games store.

The term terra cotta literally means cooked earth, molded from a high grade of clay, then fired at high temperatures, terra cotta has a tremendous amount of strength and durability. The Wright and Taylor Building is constructed of hollow cast block that have an internal web-like structure that increases its load bearing capacities, thus, making it particularly suited to the Wright and Taylor Building's modest height.

The Wright and Taylor Building is testimony to the durability and richness of color obtainable with glazed architectural terra cotta. Here, the light green hues indicate recessed areas and are in turn framed by glistening white terra cotta. These color changes are so subtle that, to the casual passer-by, they might go unnoticed except as variations in the building's plane. A multi-colored band of shields, each adorned with diagonal banners, and flanked by griffen heads illustrates the wide range of colors possible when using terra cotta glazes. The violet, mustard and green shades found in this portion are again repeated in the colorful composition adorning each gable. This profusion of color serves to call attention to the building, liven up its facade and offset the building's most prominent features creating a pleasing visual effect.

The significance of the Wright and Taylor Building lies in its beautifully crafted use of architectural terra cotta in the Tudor-Gothic motif. Strategically located in Louisville's Central Business District, the Wright and Taylor Building was a marvel in its day for its imaginative use of stylistic motifs in a variety of colors and shapes and remains as a rare local example of Tudor-Gothic architecture executed in glazed architectural terra cotta.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Louisville West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	0	8	7	0	0	4	2	3	3	8	9	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 13K, Lot 143. 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 Joanne Weeter, Researcher

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission

date August 15, 1984

street & number 727 W. Main Street

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 David L. Morgan

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 2, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 11-15-84

James Selover Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

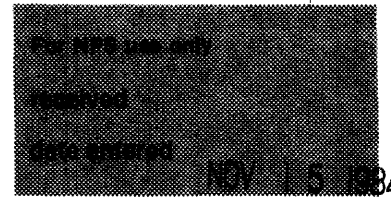
**United States Department of the Interior
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Wright and Taylor Building, Louisville, Jefferson Co. KY
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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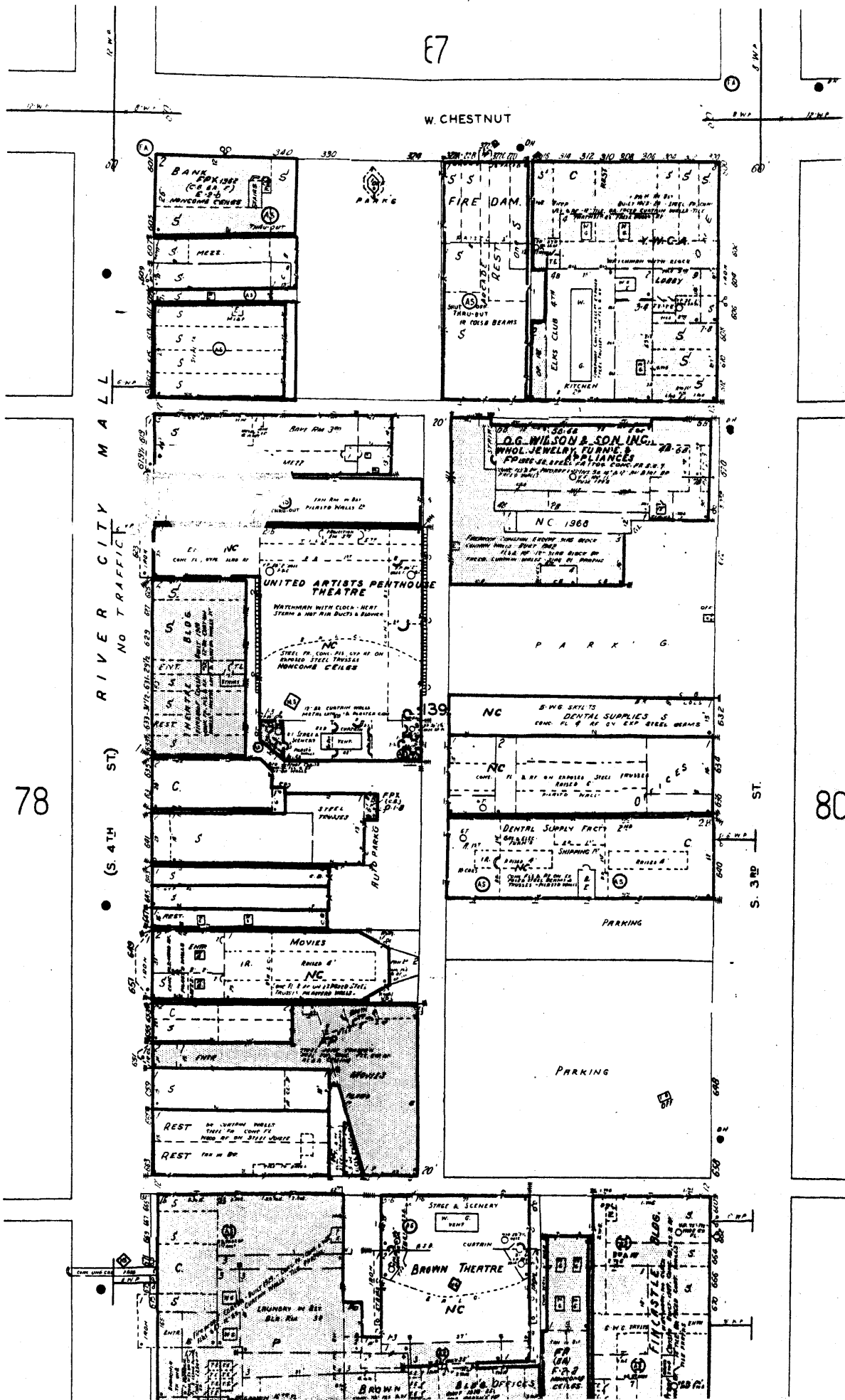
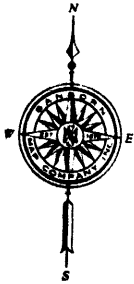
Bibliography

American Terra Cotta, Standard Construction, New York: Publications of the National Terra Cotta Society, 1911

Darling, Sharon J., Chicago Ceramic and Glass, Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 1980.

Tiller, DeTeel Patterson, "The Preservation of Historic Glazed Architectural Terra Cotta." Preservation Briefs #7, Washington D. C.: Technical Preservation Services Division, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Services, 1979.

Weeter, Joanne. "Architectural Terra Cotta in the United States and Louisville." Honors Project for the University of Louisville, November 16, 1981.



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Wright and Taylor Building
611-617 S. Fourth Street
Louisville, Jefferson Co. KY
Sanborn Map Company, Inc.
629 Fifth Avenue
Pelham, New York