

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 14 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 14 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

Kaufman-Straus Building

AND/OR COMMON

Ayr-Way Department Store

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

427-437 South Fourth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

3 and 4

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

III

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

Louisville Free Public Library

STREET & NUMBER

301 West York Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth and Jefferson Streets

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Brown-Doherty Survey

DATE

1960

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Falls of the Ohio Council of Governments, 802 Fiscal Court Building

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

(continued)

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 six-story Kaufman-Straus Building fronts 136 feet on the east side of Fourth Street north of Walnut Street, in Louisville, Kentucky. The building, which is of brick and terracotta, is closely related in style to Louis Sullivan's Gage Building in Chicago (see photos 1 and 3b).

The facade is framed by the base, the corner piers, and a prominent cornice. Within the framework, the fenestration is organized and divided into five vertical bays by means of four slender piers. The piers extend uninterrupted from the second story to the cornice. They are major and supportive piers which reveal the steel skeleton of the structure underneath. There are five secondary and ornamental piers which are recessed and miniaturized in scale. These start at the centers of the third story windows and extend continuously through the fifth. Both major and minor piers terminate in a foliage pattern not unlike those of Sullivan's (see photos 2, 3, and 4).

The dominant characteristic of the facade is its distinct emphasis on verticality. Uninterrupted lines which are embodied in the piers are emphasized and lightened by the recession of the horizontal elements, which consist of windows and the narrow spandrels. The upward movement concludes with a protruding and dominant cornice (see photos 4 and 5).

The base, as originally designed, was separated from the facade by a distinctive string course but repeated the same sectional division as the facade above. The entrance occupied the space within the central piers while other four spaces were taken by the shop windows.

The facade remains intact since its date of completion; the base, however, has undergone changes which has somewhat altered its original scheme. It was rebuilt in 1937 after a major flood undermined it. The new base was horizontally divided into two sections by an emphatic string course. The lower part was sectioned into intervals of three shop windows and two entrances. The piers were topped with ornamental capitols. The upper section was occupied by five mezzanine windows following the same line of division as that of the facade and the base. Today the mezzanine strip is totally covered by sheets of smooth red marble.

Some major interior changes have also taken place without affecting the interior of the building. The fifth floor was made into two floors which gave additional floor space of 22,500 square feet, and another 9,000 square feet were added by means of a first floor mezzanine.

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 c. 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mason Maury

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mason Maury (1846-1919) was the only Louisville architect at the turn of the century whose work continuously reflected the development of the Chicago School. Today there are only a few examples left standing in Louisville which are representative of his work independent from his long time partner [Beaux Arts practitioner William J. Dodd (1862-1930)]. Of these buildings, the last Richardsonian structure known to us remains the Judge Russell Houston House (1886) at 1328 South Fourth Street (which is threatened with demolition). His Sullivanesque period is reflected in the Kaufman-Straus Building (1902); the best and the only remaining of this stage. Finally his Prairie style is embodied in two residences at 2409 Cherokee Parkway (c. 1910), and 2119 Kenilworth Avenue (1910).

The Kaufman-Straus Building was built on the location of the Polytechnic Building or the Public Library of Kentucky. The Library Building had been the old Central Market Building, erected in 1866-67 for two Louisville businessmen, E. D. Tyler and Samuel P. Weisiger. The architects were McElfattrick and Wood. In 1873 the Central Market Building was sold to the Public Library of Kentucky, later to become the Louisville Free Public Library. Before moving to the new structure in February, 1903, the Kaufman-Straus dry goods firm had occupied a building on Fourth Street just north of the Library Building.

The Kaufman-Straus Building was meant to be a department store when it was designed, with the exception of the top story which was to be occupied by the library. The exterior, however, did not reveal this quality of purpose.

The new structure was meant to be seen from the street side since, as was typical of the 19th century commercial structures, it was connected to rows of other buildings. The facade, therefore, carried the personality of the total mass. It was designed after Louis Sullivan's Gage Building in Chicago but it is in the differences rather than the similarities that Maury exhibits his ability as an able

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Theodore M. Introduction to Louisville. 1960.

"Central Market - Praiseworthy Enterprise." The Louisville Daily Journal.
August 31, 1866, p. 3.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	6, 0, 8, 7, 4, 0	4, 2, 3, 4, 3, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The structure is located in Block 14-K, Lot 59 in the City of Louisville, Kentucky.

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

Tooba K. Latham

MCO

ORGANIZATION

DATE

February 1976

STREET & NUMBER

2009 Greenfield Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

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

Cedric W. Miller

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/1/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rethig

DATE 2/14/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE 2-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Kaufman-Straus Building

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Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

1971 State

Kentucky Heritage Commission

Frankfort, Kentucky

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Kaufman-Straus Building

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architect and disciple of Sullivan's architectural theories. The Kaufman-Straus Building is wider and two stories shorter, which by itself creates a heavier sense of mass than the Gage Building. To minimize this impression, Maury has carried the piers all the way from the base to the cornice to include the height of the base and the mezzanine in the rest of the facade. The upward movement is reinforced in the recessed ornamental piers. The piers in the Gage Building start at the second level but do not damage the vertical effect of the building since its narrowness and height emphasizes the upward movement encased in it.

The ornaments above the piers in the Gage Building are delicate and fluid in treatment which befits its feminine quality. On the other hand, the Kaufman's are more rigid, rectangular and controlled, appropriate to its lofty masculine quality.

The smaller decorations in the Gage Building are repeated in the spandrels of every floor in a delicate and free fashion. Those of the Kaufman-Straus Building are limited only to the last row of the spandrels, and in character repeat those of the larger ones; rigidity and control are emphasized by their linkage to the vertical piers beneath them.

Maury shows in Kaufman-Straus Building the ability to create unity from different parts, and when copying Sullivan's design consciously adapts the elements into the nature of his structure. Every architectural element seems to be an integrated part of the total mass which is reflective of Sullivan's analogy of architecture to the human body.

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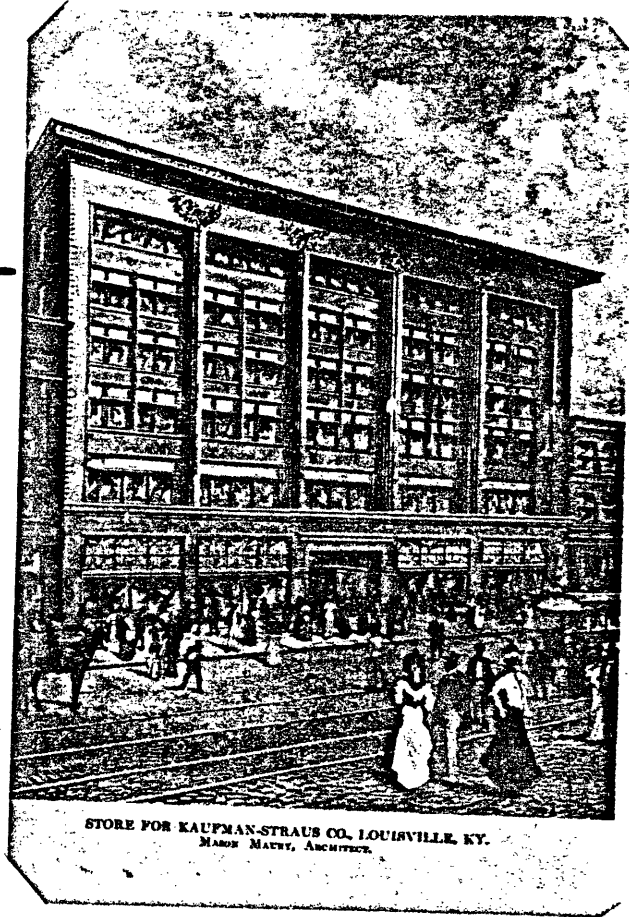
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 2

Latham, Tooba K. "Mason Maury and the Influence of the Chicago School in
Louisville." Master's thesis, University of Louisville, 1975.

Libraries and Lotteries, A History of the Louisville Public Library. 1944.



STORE FOR KAUFMAN-STRAUS CO. LOUISVILLE, KY.
MASON MANN, ARCHITECT.

Kaufman-Straus Building
Louisville
Jefferson County: APR 11 1977
Kentucky

Tooba K. Latham, "Mason
Maury and the Influence of the
Chicago School in Louisville."

Master's thesis, University of
Louisville, 1975.

Photo 3. View of Kaufman-
Straus Building as it appeared
in 1902.

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C. G. 8 Feb. 1903
sec 1 p 3

Co.

The Date
of our
Formal Opening
Will Be
Announced
Later.



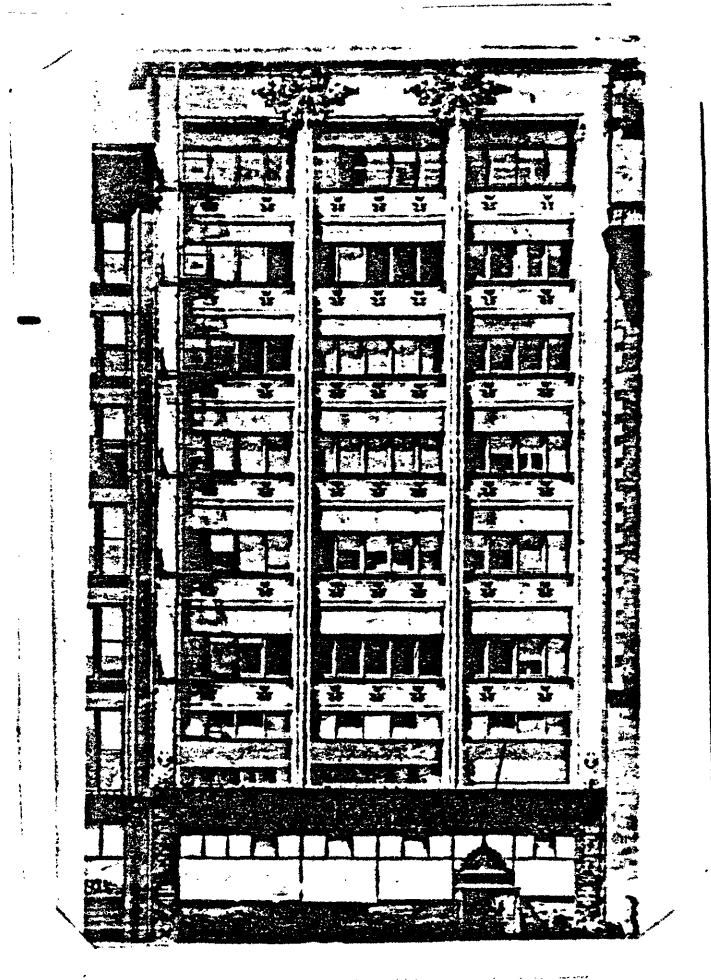
Kaufman-Straus Building
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Courier-Journal
February 8, 1903

Photo 3a. Copy of an
engraving of the Kaufman-Straus
Building in 1903.

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From Tooba K. Latham, "Mason
Maury and the Influence of
the Chicago School in Louisville."
Master's thesis, University of

Louisville, 1975.

Photo 3b. Photo showing the
Gage Building, Chicago, 1899,
designed by Sullivan. FEB 14 1978