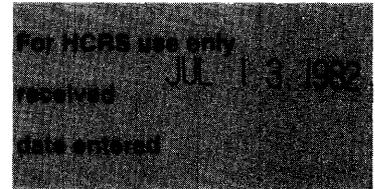


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Republic Building

and/or common Republic Building

2. Location

street & number 429 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. na not for publication

city, town Louisville na vicinity of congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Walter G. Knestrick

street & number P. O. Box 111269

city, town Nashville na vicinity of na state Tennessee 37211

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W Jefferson

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes na no

date 1978 na federal state na county na local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Division

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<u>na</u> excellent	<u>na</u> deteriorated	<u>na</u> unaltered	<u>xx</u> original site	
<u>xx</u> good	<u>na</u> ruins	<u>xx</u> altered	<u>na</u> moved	date <u>na</u>
<u>na</u> fair	<u>na</u> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Republic Building is located in the central business district of Louisville. This structure is next to the Cathedral of the Assumption (National Register, 1977) and in the same block as the Galleria project.¹ The building was originally slated for demolition by Oxford Properties, the Galleria developer. The Republic Building is also in the vicinity of the Seelback Hotel (National Register, 1975) and the Jefferson County Armory (National Register, 1980).

The Republic Building is located on the corner of Fifth and Muhammad Ali (Walnut St.). The largest facade faces Fifth Street which has seven bays. The Muhammad Ali facade has three bays. The building is eleven stories in height and sheathed in terra cotta and buff-colored, glazed brick. The first and second stories are unified by pilasters which terminates in cartouches. The cartouches are surrounded by green terra cotta. The ground floor bays have large shop windows and entries for commercial space. Large terra cotta panels emulate stone on the first through third floors. A string course of egg and dart mold articulates the second and third and third and fourth stories.

The fourth through ninth floors are sheathed in glazed brick. The fenestration of the upper stories consists of alternating double and triple groups of windows. The triple window groups are set in terra cotta surrounds and articulated by pilasters. Terra cotta panels of swags and garlands are under these clusters. Pilasters articulate the bays and are crowned by the cartouche motif. The upper two stories are composed of horizontally segmented layers of glazed brick and terra cotta. The pilasters are also topped by a cartouche. The structure is capped by a massive extended cornice adorned by brackets, modillions and dentils.

¹The Louisville Galleria Project is a major retail/office development. Housing and Urban Development funds were involved which resulted in a federal review of the project during the period 1979-1980.

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 1912 - 1916 **Builder/Architect** Joseph & Joseph

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Republic Building is an outstanding example of early twentieth century commercial architecture in Louisville. The Renaissance decoration and extensive use of terra cotta are hallmarks of the early work of the prominent, local architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph.

The Republic Building was built as an office building with commercial space on the first floor. The structure was slated for demolition in the final phase of the Galleria. This phase has been dropped and the structure has been resold for renovation and continued use as an office building.

The Republic Building is the work of the local architectural firm of Joseph & Joseph. One of the principals, Alfred Joseph, Sr., began his architectural career with the office of McDonald & Dodd. The firm of Joseph & Joseph was founded in 1908 and their early works reflect the influence of McDonald and Dodd. The work of Joseph & Joseph in the first quarter of the twentieth century shows a pronounced tendency toward Mediterranean influence, especially that of the Spanish and Italian Renaissance. The use of terra cotta and glazed brick, a rich sense of color and textural contrast are all features of their work. These features are all clearly evident in the Republic Building. The structure is one of the major early works of the firm to survive. Other works of the firm include: the Rialto Theatre (destroyed), the YMHA (in the state of demolition), the Elks Club (National Register), the Breslin (Fincastle) Building, the Willow Terrace and Dartmouth Apartments (National Register, Cherokee Triangle District) and the Commodore Apartments (National Register, pending).

The Republic Building is a fine example of the elegance, ornament and texture of the classical revival influence applied to a large-scale commercial building. It is one of a very few multi-story office buildings of the early twentieth century which remain in downtown Louisville.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Joseph & Joseph Catalog. New York: Architectural Catalog Co., 1925

"Republic Building," Louisville Courier-Journal 2 June 1912

"Republic Building to Close Ten Floors." Louisville Courier-Journal 4 April 1978

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .13 acres

Quadrangle name New Albany

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

City of Louisville, Block 14K, Lot 24. 54'X105' (See Map 2.)

The structure occupies the entire lot.

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

state na code na county na code na

state na code na county na code na

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martyr Hedgepeth Director of Research

organization Landmarks Commission date April 1, 1982

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Mary Curran Appel*

title *State Historic Preservation Officer* date *7/9/82*

For HCPS use only

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

Delores Boyer Entered in the National Register date *8/12/82*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

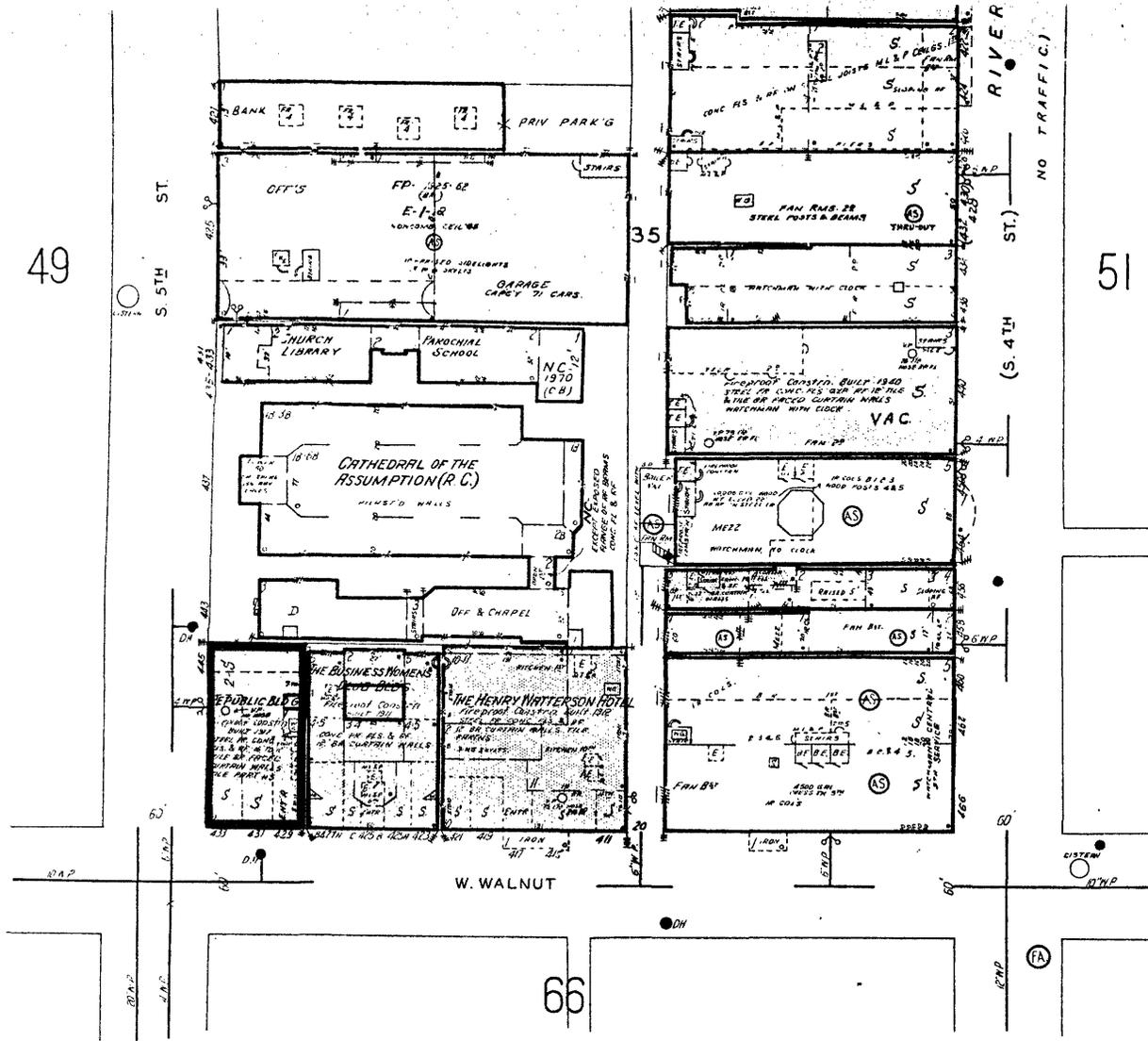
Louisville, Jefferson Cty., KY
Republic Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 2

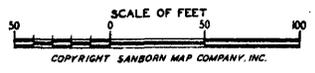
Historic American Building Survey
Federal-1980



49

51

66



Republic Building
429 Muhammad Ali Blvd. (Walnut St.)
Louisville, Jefferson Cty., KY.
Sanborn Map Co. Pelham, N. Y., c.1974.

Map 2 Sanborn Map

Nominated area shown in green.