

UNIT NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received NOV 29 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Speed Building

and/or common Speed Building

2. Location

street & number 319 Guthrie Green na not for publication

city, town Louisville na vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Robco, Inc.

street & number 319 Guthrie Green

city, town Louisville na vicinity of Kentucky state

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 no

date 1978 na federal state na county na local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

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 <u>na</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Speed Building is located in the heart of downtown Louisville. The structures two facades face pedestrian malls. The building is in the same block as the recently renovated Seelbach Hotel (National Register, August, 1975) and the Stewarts Dry Goods Company Store (National Register, August, 1982).

The Speed Building is a four-story structure which is sheathed in white glazed brick. The Fourth Street facade is divided into four bays. The lower floor contains shops and has been altered. The second floor is separated from the first by terra cotta banding. The second floor is organized into four, large, unadorned bays. Each bay contains two large window units. The third and fourth floors are divided from the lower stories by a strong horizontal molding. The bay divisions and fenestration are continued on these floors. The bays are divided by pilasters which run the height of the two stories. The windows are divided by smaller pilasters. A plain frieze band is supported by the piers. The building has an extended cornice with a corbel table and is capped by a terra cotta balustrade.

The Guthrie Green facade is composed of four distinct sections which are of the same style and materials as the Fourth Street facade. These sections vary in height and each has a separate cornice. At the corner of Fourth and Guthrie, the building continues the four-story height. Adjoining this is a two-story portion followed by a three-bay, four-story section. The building terminates in a two-story section.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1915-17 **Builder/Architect** Loomis & Hartman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Speed Building is an important early twentieth-century commercial building and is located in one of the most important remaining blocks in downtown Louisville. The structure is an excellent example of the decorative use of glazed brick and glazed terra cotta highly popular as a building material in this period.

Plans for the Speed Building were first announced in 1913. The widening and continuation of the blink alley, on the east side of Fourth Street, which is now Guthrie Green was planned at this time. The building was completed in 1917 and occupation began at this date. In 1919, legal action was begun against the owners of the Speed Building by the Pendennis Club and the Louisville Realty Corporation. The foundations and window sills of the Speed Building encroached on the property of the two concerns.

The Speed Building was designed by Arthur Loomis, a prominent Louisville architect, with his partner Julius Hartman. The firm also designed the Norton Company Building (National Register May, 1982). Loomis later works include the Speed Art Museum and a number of buildings on the Southern Baptist Seminary Campus. The Speed Building is typical of structures of the period which combined new materials and classical motifs. Architectural faience provided a rich range of ornamentation, more economical than tradition cut stone. Faience also allowed for building surfaces of either unified (as in the case of the Speed Building) or contrasting colors in a wide range of hues. The Speed Building is one of the two largest structures in Louisville surviving which exclusively utilized glazed brick and terra cotta details.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architectural Terra Cotta. New York: National Terra Cotta Society, 1911.
 "Big Building," Louisville Courier-Journal, 4 July, 1913

RECEIVED

JAN 24 1983

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Louisville West

LANDMARKS COMMISSION
 Quad 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
---	---

6	0	8	7	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	3	4	0	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification
 City of Louisville, Block 13E, Lot 74
 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 Marty Hedgepeth, Director of Research

organization Landmarks Commission date November 12, 1982

street & number 727 W Main Street telephone 502/587-3501

city or town Louisville state Kentucky 40202

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 Corman Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 1, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register date 5/18/83

J. Andrew Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received 11/24/82
date entered

Speed Building

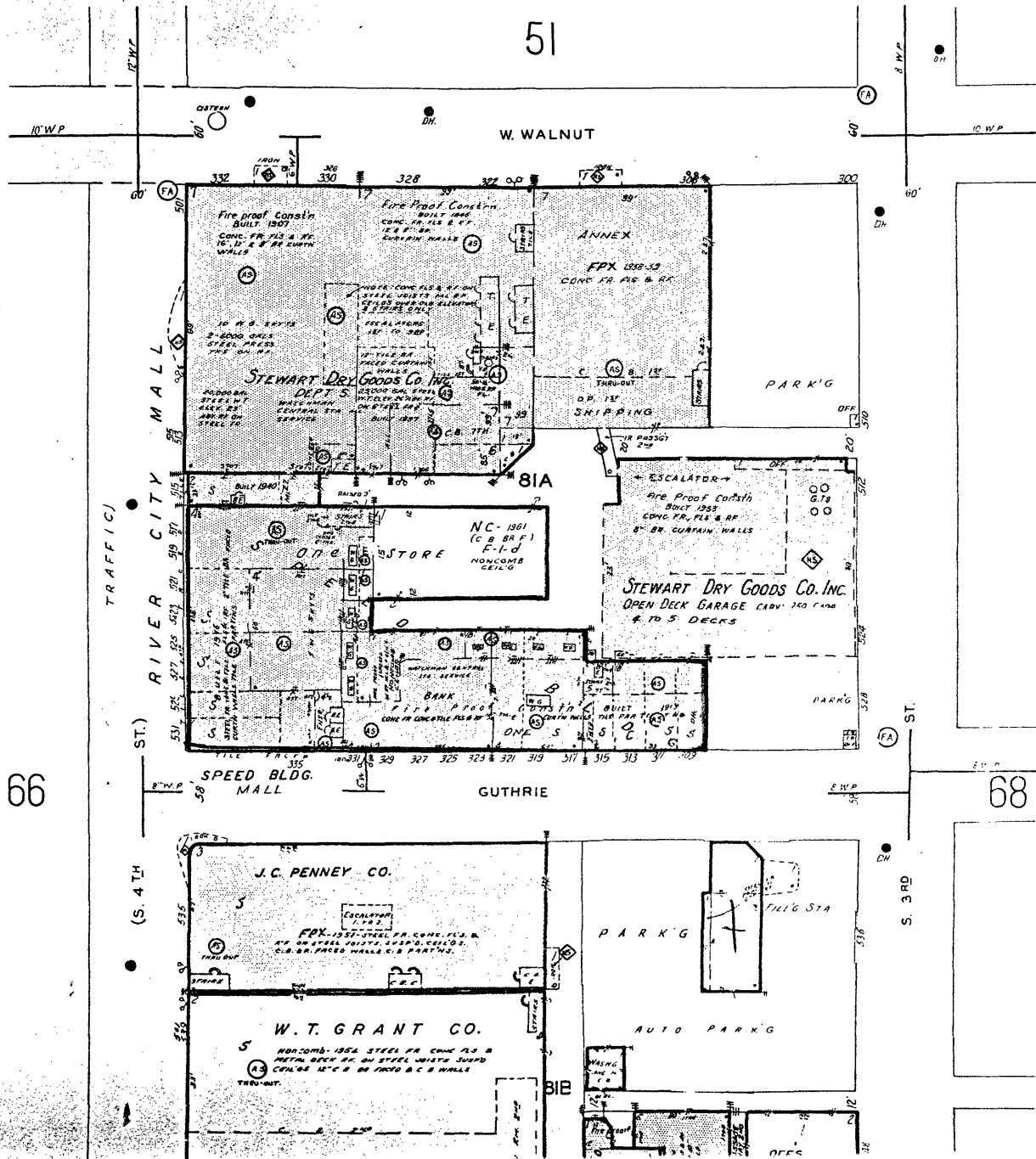
319 Guthrie Green

Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson Cty., KY

Item number 9

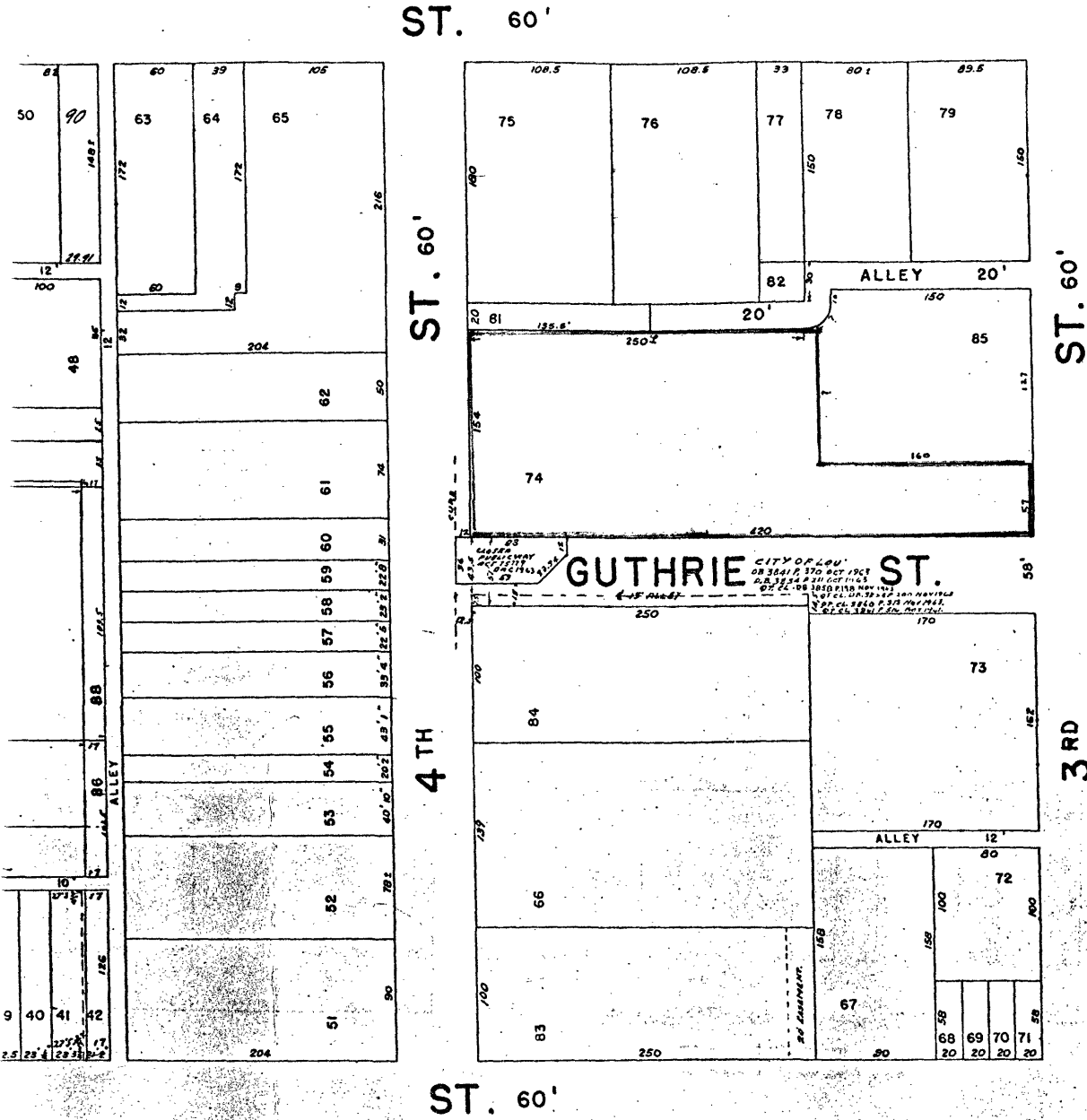
Page 2

- "No Decision in Realty Battle," Louisville Courier-Journal 1 October 1919.
- "Speed Building Case Reopened," Louisville Courier-Journal 26 July 1919.
- "Speed Building Deal Completed," Louisville Courier-Journal 31 January 1926.
- "Squabble Over Speed Building Grows Warmer," Louisville Courier-Journal 15 July 1919.



Speed Building
319 Guthrie Green
Louisville, Jefferson Cty., KY
Sanborn Map Co. Pelham, N.Y., 1974

Map 1 Sanborn Map



Speed Building
319 Guthrie Green
Louisville, Jefferson Cty.,KY
Jefferson Coutny Real Estate Atlas
Real Estate Data, Inc. Miami,1979

Map2 Real Estate Map