

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 29 1982

DATE ENTERED

APR 29 1982

**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 Commodore Apartment Building

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2140 Bonnycastle Avenue

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

STATE

Kentucky

NA VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	NA <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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
ACRE Realty Company

STREET & NUMBER
1216 North LaSalle

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
6th & Jefferson Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

Has this site been determined
eligible? yes no

DATE

1980

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Commodore Apartment Building is located in the eastern section of the city of Louisville in the Bonnycastle neighborhood. The building sits at the edge of Cherokee Park, an F. L. Olmsted designed park (pending National Register listing), in a residential area of generally large, brick dwellings built in the second and third decades of the twentieth century.

The Commodore is an eleven-story, light orange brick structure in a T-plan, designed in a Spanish Renaissance Revival style. The first floor of the building has a veneer of large terra cotta tiles of a cream color. The windows on the first floor are simple and have six-over-one lights, as do all windows in the building. The second floor windows contain engaged terra cotta twisted columns on the frames supporting an arch decorated with a channel molding and scroll keystone. The columns have acanthus leaves at the base and capitals decorated with acanthus leaves and scrolls. The tympanums of the windows contain the same decoration; a central urn with foliage. Panels below the windows contain griffins, flanking a central cartouche with a fleur-de-lis. A denticulated stringcourse divides the second and first floors. A deeper stringcourse with egg-and-dart and enriched talon moldings divides the second and third floors. All windows on the third through ninth floors are simple, with no decoration. The tenth floor windows have the same engaged columns, but do not have the panels below or the arch above.

The eleventh floor windows connect the tenth floor windows with all of the same decorative motifs found on the first floor. The eleventh floor is also veneered in terra cotta panels like those on the first floor. The cornice of the building has large consoles and a dentil molding. Above the cornice is a parapet wall. All corners of the building contain single, twisted columns which rise the full height of the building, and contain the same base and capital as found on the window frames. The entrance of the building faces Bonnycastle Avenue. It contains a large, arched entry with a central cartouche, and has roundels with eagles on either side. The door has sidelights and a tripart transom, all in leaded glass. A balustrade on the roof line of this one-story entry also has corner posts with panels of cartouches and swags.

A garage on the back of the building contains all of the same window decorations found on the main building. It is one story in height and attached to the main building.

The foyer of the apartment building continues the Spanish flavor of the exterior design. The walls are all stuccoed, with a coffered ceiling and rinceau crown molding in the main lobby area. A large fireplace with carved griffins, egg-and-dart molding and foliate patterns, and black marble is located directly across from the main entrance. Small, arched openings on either side of the fireplace pierce the wall and contain decorative wrought iron. Large archways lead to a small sitting room to the left of the main lobby area, and to the right lead to the secondary lobby area. The arches spring from large griffin corbels. The secondary lobby area has an exposed beam ceiling, with urns and foliage patterns painted on the beams. The floors are all tile with decorative tile borders. Stained glass is used in nearly every doorway on the first floor. Frequently, a Spanish ship is part of the stained glass design, as seen in the large transom of the main entry. Brass is also used frequently, particularly in the entrance. The doors are fully plated in brass, and the radiators, just inside the entrance, are covered with highly stylized brass grills.

There are no other buildings on the lot.

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 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Platoff Const. Co./Joseph & Joseph

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Commodore Apartment Building is one of Louisville's finest high rise apartment buildings, designed by the prestigious local firm of Joseph & Joseph. It is the only known example of the Spanish Renaissance Revival style in a large scale structure. The rich, decorative elements used on both the interior and exterior of the building are of the highest quality, with few local counterparts in residential high-rise architecture.

The Commodore was designed for Biltmore Development Company by the architectural firm of Joseph & Joseph, and constructed by Platoff Construction Company. It was completed in 1929. Joseph & Joseph was also responsible for the designs of the Willow Terrace, 1924, and the Dartmouth, 1928, both eight-story apartment buildings located nearby in the Cherokee Triangle Preservation District (National Register, 1976). In the design of the Commodore, Joseph & Joseph combined their experiences from the Willow Terrace and the Dartmouth, to create an exquisitely rich design in the unusual Spanish Renaissance Revival style.

During the decade of the 1920s, Mediterranean motifs and designs were in vogue nationwide. Architectural journals of that period frequently featured Italian and Spanish Renaissance Revival designs, but generally on a small scale, such as single family dwellings. Elements such as twisted columns, highly stylized tympanums and repeated arch motifs were frequently cited. Joseph & Joseph successfully interpreted the style into a large scale design. The terra cotta detail in a cream color contrasts with the light orange brick facades. The classical ornamentation, found only at the base and top of the building, humanizes the scale. The interior spaces are also very human in scale, and convey, with the multiple textures and ornamentations, the rich, warm atmosphere of the Mediterranean style.

Joseph & Joseph, founded in 1908, is still an active local firm. Some of their other outstanding works are the Rialto Theatre (destroyed), YMHA Building, 1913, and the Elks Club, 1924. (National Register, 1979).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville.

"Commodore." Biltmore Development Company, promotion pamphlet, 1929.

Louisville Landmarks Commission. Office files on Joseph & Joseph Architects.

Joesph & Joseph Architectural Catalogue. Cedar Rapids, Iowa; French-Stamats, 1940.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .8

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 613720 4232220

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 77E

Block 77E Lot 60 (177.5' x 200'). See Map 1 for boundaries.

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

STATE	NA	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

February 2, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

727 W. Main St.

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 x

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 Susan Appel

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

3/11/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the National Register

DATE

4/29/82

Delores Dyer
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

PARSONS PL.

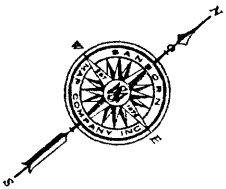
S E E V O L U M E S I X

LOUISIANA, KY Vol. 3
904

BONNYCASTLE AV.

200'

177.5'



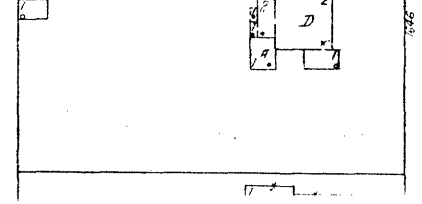
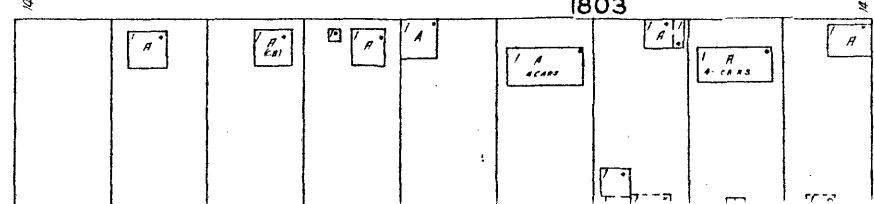
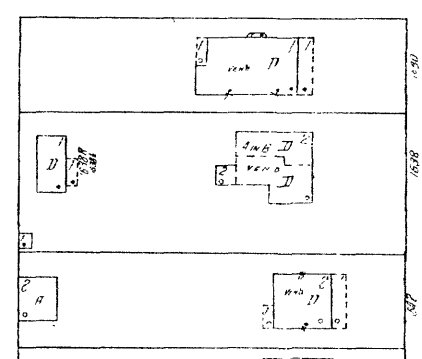
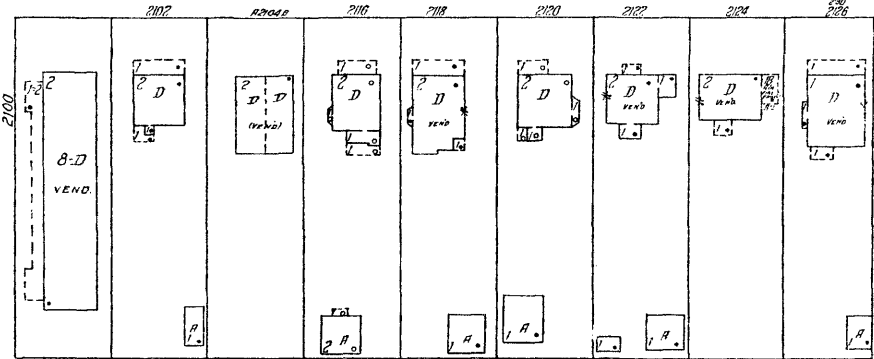
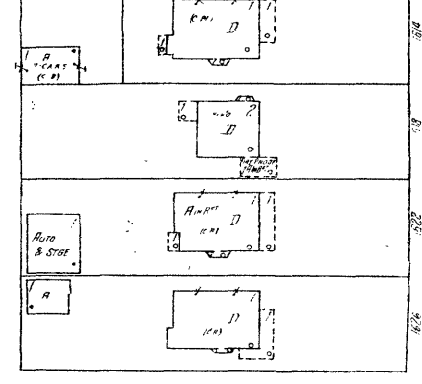
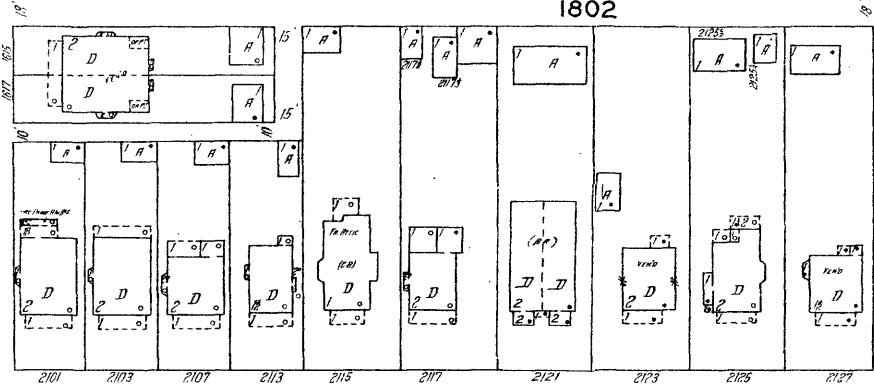
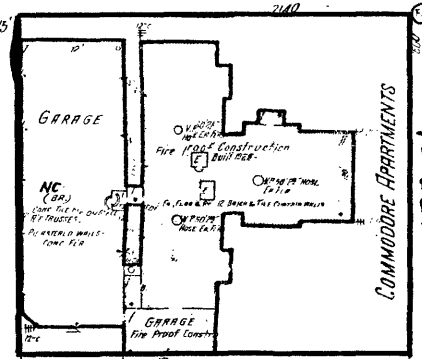
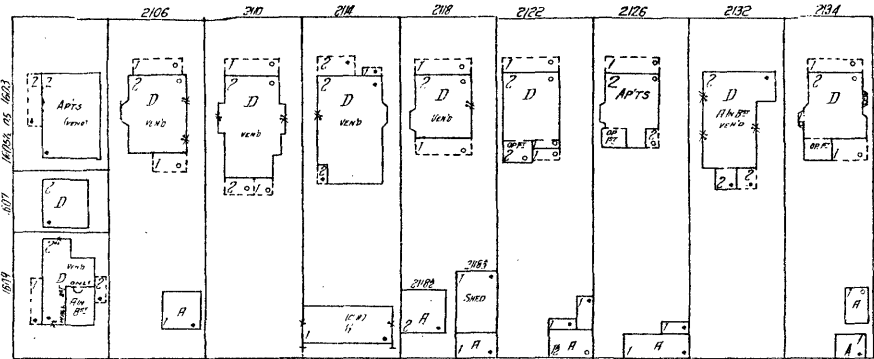
CHICHESTER AV.

MURRAY AV.

COWLING AV.

903

931



The Commodore Apartment Bldg.
2140 Bonnycastle Ave.
Louisville, Jefferson, KY
Map 1 - Sanborn Map Co., 1972