

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 3 1980

DATE ENTERED DEC 4 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

New Enterprise Tobacco Warehouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

925 West Main Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 &amp; 4

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: 1

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Otterwal Corporation

STREET &amp; NUMBER

925 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40202

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County (Ky.) Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

531 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky 40202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

July 1979

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former New Enterprise Tobacco Warehouse is located in downtown Louisville, two blocks south of the Ohio River and just west of the central business district. The West Main Street Historic District (National Register- March 1974) is one-half block to the east; however, the Interstate access ramp which crosses Main Street at Ninth Street in effect separates this structure from the district.

This two-story brick building measures 80 feet wide by 200 feet deep. The facade, which is painted gray, consists of five compound arches rising two stories and separated by brick piers. The central, projecting bay is round-arched, while the smaller, flanking arches are segmental. The arches contain large areas of fixed, metal frame windows which are not original. The central vehicle entry and pedestrian entrances have been altered somewhat. The piers rise from large, rough-cut stone bases to cast-iron capitals above the first story. Below the capitals, the brick has been laid in such a manner as to resemble fluting. Above the capitals, the arches spring from stone imposts. The cornice line is accentuated by brick corbeling, which does not extend through the central bay. Over-sized, ornamental brackets of cast-iron are attached at the corners of the roofline. Hidden by the facade is a clearstory of windows which runs nearly the entire depth of the building.

On the inside, the office space at the front of the building has been altered somewhat by opening it up. The warehouse in the rear remains nearly unchanged. The two-story open space in the center is flanked by two-tiered storage areas. The original hardwood piers, beams and rafters are intact, as are the pine floors. The clerestory lends a light, airy feeling to the interior. Several large skylights are intact but covered.

The warehouse has a full basement with a limestone foundation. Fourteen-inch square oak piers resting on solid stone slabs support the main floor. The original dirt floor of the basement has been covered with concrete. Due to the slope of the lot, the rear of the basement is at street level. Several arched entries in the rear wall have been bricked in. Several years ago, a portion of the northeast corner of the building was removed and the walls rebuilt in concrete block in order to make way for the expressway ramp. This area is in the rear, is not visible from the street and has been painted gray to match the rest of the structure.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
__1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
__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      1890                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The New Enterprise Tobacco Warehouse is the finest remaining example of the many warehouses that formed the center of Louisville's vast tobacco trade in the nineteenth century. It is a significant representative of that period's commercial architecture and history.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, Louisville boasted the largest loose-leaf tobacco market in the world. The tobacco district was concentrated along Main Street between Sixth and Twelfth Streets in an area known as the "Breaks." The name derived from the custom of breaking open the huge hogsheads of tobacco for inspection and auction. At its height in the 1890s, the "Breaks" contained no fewer than eighteen warehouses. The tobacco warehouse was more than simply a storage building. It was a public auction house, as well as housing offices for buying and selling agents, shippers and handlers. The warehouse was a corporate symbol, as the firms that owned them competed for a larger share of the lucrative market. Prominent architects such as H.P. McDonald and D.X. Murphy were hired to design them. A few of the houses, like the Phoenix and the Farmer's, were truly magnificent. But, like the New Enterprise, they all combined the rich architectural style of the day with a functional design that matched the commercial nature of the building.

The New Enterprise warehouse was built in the last half of 1890, following the destructive tornado of March 27 that swept through the tobacco district. The new building had a capacity of 2000 hogsheads and was reported to be the best lighted warehouse in the city. It continued as a tobacco warehouse under several different names until the mid 1920s, when Louisville's importance as a tobacco market had considerably diminished. An auto parts supplier now occupies the structure.

Only a handful of the old tobacco warehouses still exist. By virtue of its quality of design and the preservation of its original character, the New Enterprise Tobacco Warehouse stands as the best reminder of a significant period in Louisville's commercial history.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville, 1890-1940.

"Main Street's Loss" Louisville Courier-Journal, 29 March 1890, p. 3.

"The Tobacco Districts" Louisville Courier-Journal, 1 January 1891, p. 17.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME New Albany

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 608015 4234930  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 15-C, Lot 40, City of Louisville

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 Hugh Foshee Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE July 30, 1980

STREET & NUMBER 727 West 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

*Donna C. Hopkins*

TITLE Acting SHPO

DATE 10-22-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. Ray Luce*

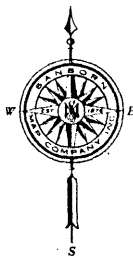
DATE 12/4/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

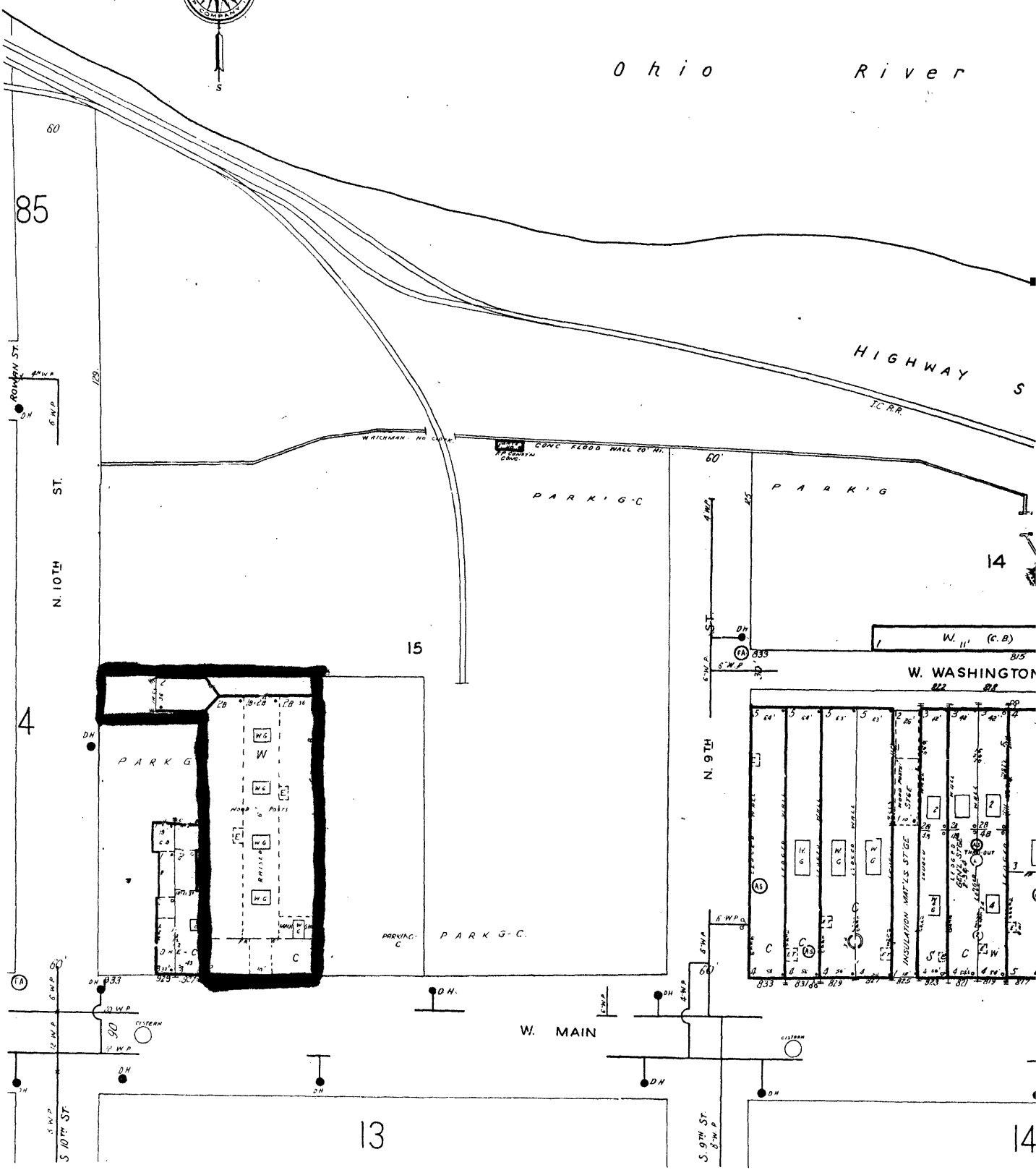
ATTEST: *Paula Jean McAllister*

DATE 12.4.80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

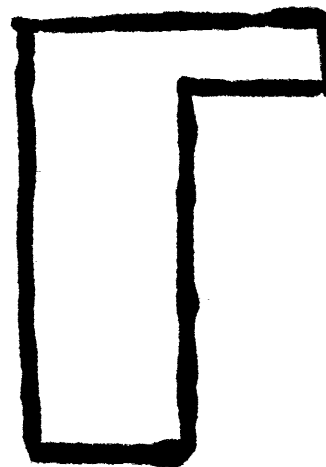


Ohio River



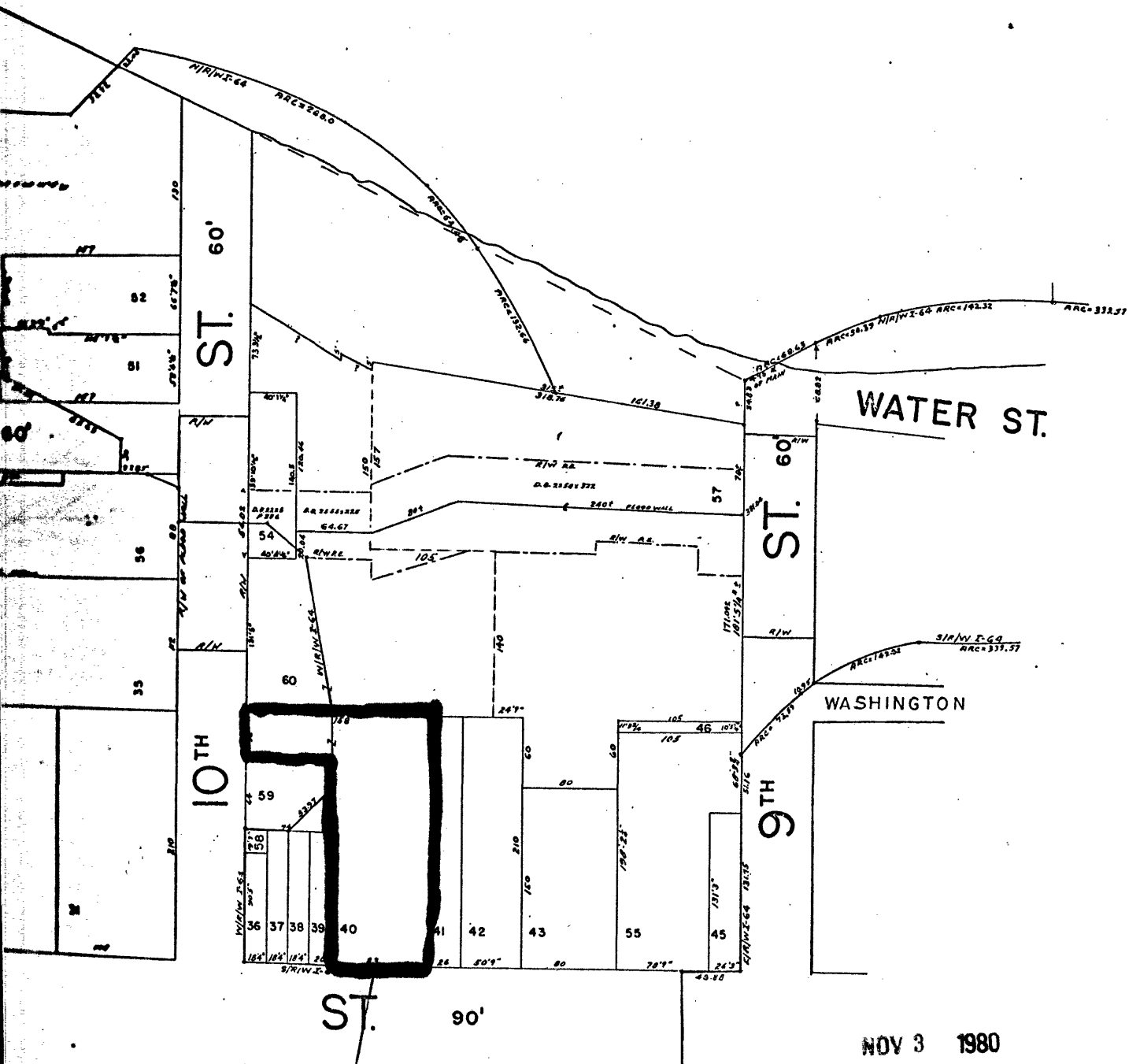
NOV 3 1980

New Enterprise Tobacco Warehouse  
925 West Main Street  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Sanborn Map Company  
Pelham, New York (1974)  
Map 1. Sanborn Map, vol.1, p. 5.



SHIPPINGPORT  
ISLAND

OHIO  
RIVER



WATER ST.

ST. 60'

WASHINGTON

ST. 60'

ST. 60'

10TH

ST. 90'

New Enterprise Tobacco Warehouse  
925 West Main Street  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Jefferson County Real Estate  
Atlas (1968)

Map 2. Real Estate Atlas. 4 1968  
DEC

