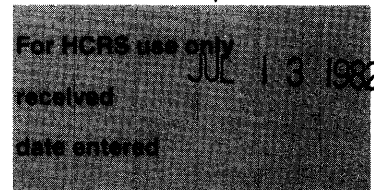


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Stewart's Dry Goods Company Building
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 501 S. ^{4th} Fourth Avenue NA not for publication
city, town Louisville na vicinity of congressional district 3 & 4
state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>na</u> district | <u>na</u> public | <u>x</u> occupied | <u>na</u> agriculture | <u>na</u> museum |
| <u>xx</u> building(s) | <u>xx</u> private | <u>na</u> unoccupied | <u>xx</u> commercial | <u>na</u> park |
| <u>na</u> structure | <u>na</u> both | <u>na</u> 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 | <u>xx</u> 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 % James Brown-Equitable Life Insurance Society of The USA
street & number 2 International Drive Suite 208
city, town Nashville na vicinity of state Tennessee 37217

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse
street & number 517 W. Jefferson
city, town Louisville state KY

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? na yes xx no
date 1978 na federal xx state na county na local
depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Division
city, town Frankfort state KY

7. Description

| Condition | | Check one | Check one | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------|-----------|
| <u>XX</u> excellent | <u>na</u> deteriorated | <u>na</u> unaltered | <u>XXXX</u> original site | | |
| <u>na</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 Stewart's Dry Goods Building is located at one of Louisville's most important downtown intersections. The intersection of Fourth and Walnut was the center of early twentieth century commercial expansion. Stewart is located on the southeast corner, the 1913 Starks Building (National Register eligible)¹ by D. H. Burnham & Co. is on the northeast corner, and the 1905 Seelbach Hotel (National Register, 1975), by Frank Andrews is on the southwest corner. The Stewart's Building is also close to the Kaufman-Straus Store (National Register, 1978), and the Cathedral of the Assumption (National Register, 1977).

The Stewart's Dry Goods Building is an outstanding example of turn-of-the-century, commercial architecture with Beaux-Arts influence. The structure utilizes popular and fairly new building materials for that period, buff-colored brick and terra-cotta exterior ornament which imitates stone. Stylistically, the building is part of a trend in Louisville which shows a preference for a more restrained treatment of Beaux-Arts and classical revival decoration.

Stewart's is a seven-story structure which utilizes the column analogy as its major compositional device. The ground floor has suffered alteration. Originally, store-front windows were set between piers with transoms above. The Fourth and Walnut entries were sheltered by ornate canopies. The store window configuration remains but the transom area has in-fill with stone. The entries have been enlarged to hold revolving doors and astylar canopies have been added.

The brick of the second-story is laid in a rusticated pattern between the windows and is divided into nine bays. Each bay contains two windows in terra cotta surrounds and is articulated by a brick pilaster with a terra cotta, Doric capital and base. A band course articulates this floor from the center section of the building.

The third through six floors continue the same bay and fenestration patterns as the second floor. Brick pilasters rise for the height of these stories and unify this section. The pilasters of the end bays have terra cotta capitals with egg and dart mold and cartouches. The windows are divided horizontally by terra cotta panels. The end bays have panels with a single, center medallion, the panels of the central bays are adorned by an overall series of medallions. A terra cotta band articulates this section from the upper story.

The bay division of the top story is the same as the lower floors but three coupled windows are contained in each bay. The windows of the end bays are encased in a square, terra cotta surround and topped by a cartouche. The windows of the central bays are in segmentally-arched surrounds which have Corinthian keystones. The building has an extended cornice which is boldly embellished by a corbel table, dentils and brackets between the window units. A stone parapet rises above the cornice.

¹The Starks Building was determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register as a result of the review of the Louisville Galleria project.

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 checked="" 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 1907 **Builder/Architect** McDonald & Dodd

Additions: 1937, 1946, 1958

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stewart's Dry Goods Company is an excellent example of turn-of-the-century, commercial architecture with Beaux-Arts motifs. Stewart's is one of Louisville's oldest dry goods establishments and is located at one of the most important intersections of the central business district. The building is an important work of one of the city's most prominent architectural firms, McDonald & Dodd.

Stewart's Dry Goods was formed in 1846 and had become one of the major department stores in the city when the new building opened at Fourth and Walnut on April 15, 1907. The store has remained in the forefront of local retailing.¹

The architectural treatment of Stewart's is typical of the thrust of aesthetic expression in Louisville at the opening of the twentieth century. Two major local architects joined forces in 1905, Kenneth McDonald and William J. Dodd. The firm of McDonald & Dodd was responsible for the design of a number of the most important downtown buildings until its dissolution in 1913. The firm's work shows the influence of structures such as Bruce Price's American Surety Building which served as a prototype to demonstrate the Beaux-Arts justification of the column analogy for the composition of a multi-story building. In addition to the column analogy, the use of contrasting textures of brick and terra cotta, the ornamental motifs being confined to articulation of window areas and building divisions are typical elements of the work of McDonald & Dodd. Stewart's is the earliest major work of the firm to survive. Other major work of McDonald & Dodd in the downtown area includes: the Weissinger-Gaulbert Apartments, 1910 (National Register, 1977); the Western Branch Library, 1908 (National Register, 1975); the Tyler Hotel, 1911; and the YMCA, 1911 (National Register, 1977).²

Stewart's remains as a major landmark of downtown Louisville. The building is an excellent example of the prevailing taste of the period in large-scale architecture in the city.

¹"Stewart's Dry Goods Company," pamphlet from Stewart Dry Goods, 1926.

² Marty Hedgepeth, "The Victorian to the Beaux-Arts: A Study of Four Louisville Architectural Firms," unpublished Masters thesis, University of Louisville, 1981, pp.54-6.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hedgepeth, Marty. "The Victorian to the Beaux-Arts: A Study of Four Louisville Architectural Firms." unpublished Masters thesis, University of Louisville, 1981. pp54-6.

McDonald & Dodd architectural plans for Stewart's Dry Goods, at the office of Ryan, Cooke & Zuren, Louisville, Kentucky

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3

Quadrangle name New Albany

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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|------|---|---------|---|----|---|----------|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|
| 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 18 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 10 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

City of Louisville, Block 13 E-Lot 75,76,77,78--These lots contain the main Stewarts block and the later annexes. The structure fills the entire area. (See Map 2.)

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 Poynter Hedgepeth-- Director of Research

organization Landmarks Commission

date March 30, 1982

street & number 727 W. Main

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 Marty Poynter Hedgepeth

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/19/82

For HCRS use only

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

Silvan Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 8/12/82

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 |
| DATE ENTERED |

Stewart's Dry Goods Building
Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

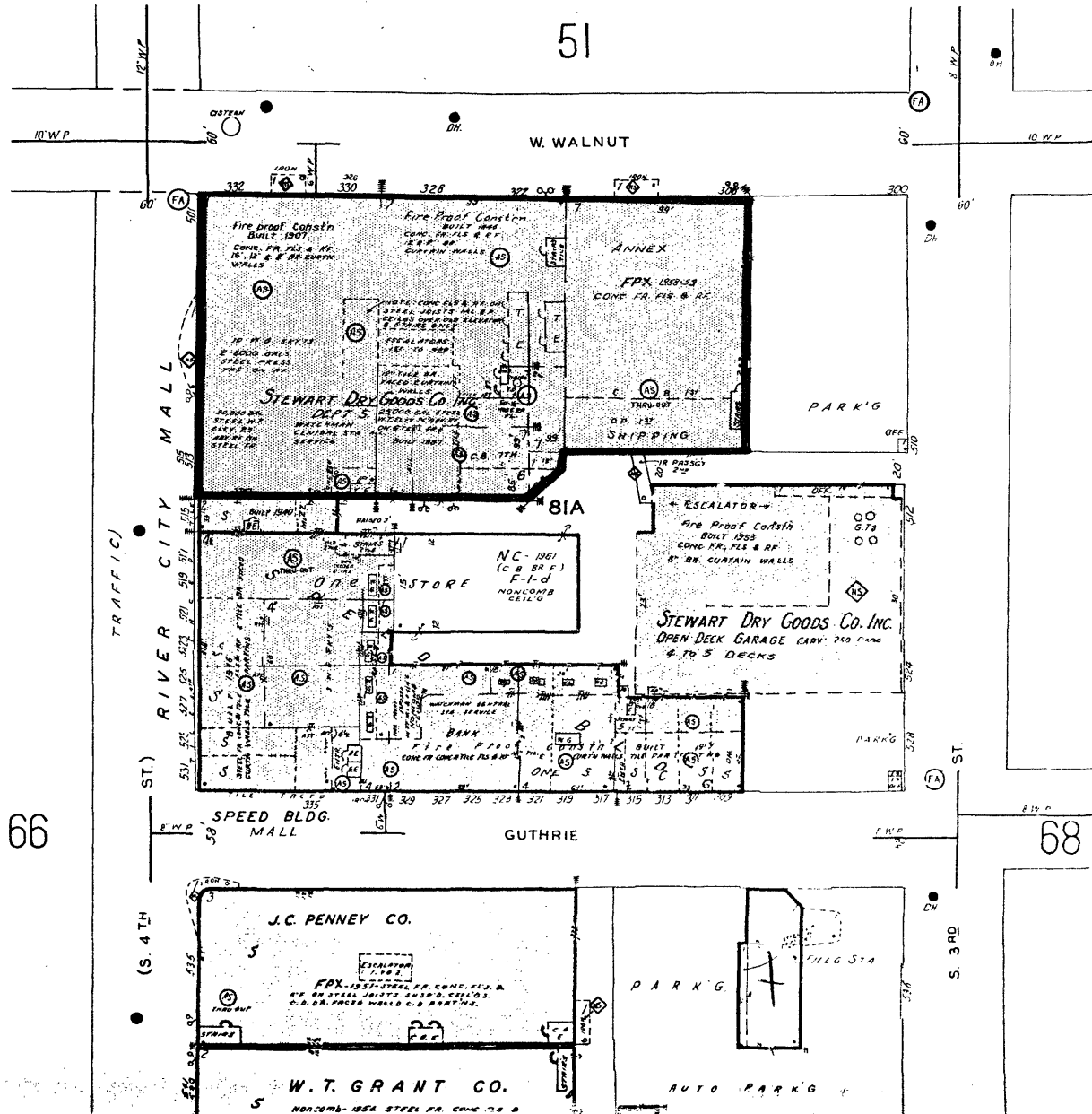
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The interior retains some of its major features. The open span of the first floor is supported by piers with Corinthian capitals. Recessed ceiling panels are adorned with classical molding.

Stewart's has three annexes. The earliest was built in 1937 and attached to the rear, south section of the main block and is no longer visible from any street. The 1946 addition is on the rear north of the main block and also adjacent to the 1937 annex. The facade of this annex utilizes the same materials and fenestration as the original but is simpler in detailing. A 1958 annex is to the rear of the 1946 addition. This addition has no windows and consists of a sheer, unadorned wall. The two main facades of the original building are not visually harmed by the annexes.



66

68

T

Stewarts Dry Goods Building
501 S. Fourth
Louisville, Jefferson Cty., Kentucky

Map 2 Sanborn Map, Sanborn Map Co.
Pelham, N. Y. c.1974.