

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 28 1982
DATE ENTERED MAR 1 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

Almstedt Brothers Building

AND/OR COMMON

Almstedt Brothers Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

425 West Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson 111

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Almstedt Brothers

STREET & NUMBER

425 West Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

VICINITY OF

Kentucky 40202

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

517 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

Kentucky

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

Kentucky

STATE

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 Almstedt Brothers Building is located in Louisville's central business district. The structure is one block from the West Main Street Historic District (National Register) and the Levy Brothers Building (National Register) and next door to the Louisville Trust Company Building.

The Almstedt Brothers Building is a three-story, limestone sheathed structure in the Beaux-Arts style. The first and second floors are unified by a large arch. The arch is decorated by classical ornament and has a keystone. It is flanked by two fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals. The door is centered in the first floor of the arch with a classical surround and extended hood and crown. The door is original and is a large glass light set in a bronze frame. Flanking the door are two coupled windows. A stone entablature with dentils articulates this area from three coupled windows above. Three stone panels above have medallions and an urn in relief. The upper section of the arch is filled by a multi-paned window. The pilasters and the arch keystone visually support an entablature. The name "Almstedt Brothers" is carved in the frieze, with dentils and an extended cornice with modillions above. Over this entablature are three multi-paned windows articulated by paneled pilasters strips. The structure is capped by a plain stone parapet which is divided from the third story by an extended cornice with dentils.

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 1930-31

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph and Joseph

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Almstedt Brothers Building, designed by the architectural firm Joseph and Joseph, is an excellent example of the Beau*Arts style applied to a small-scale city structure. The outstanding detailing and well organized classical composition make it one of the finest classical revival commercial structures in downtown Louisville.

The Almstedt Brothers Building was constructed in 1930-31 during the first years of the depression during which little building was undertaken in the city. The firm was established in 1880 and still occupies the building.

The rich classical decoration and pristine condition of the exterior of the Almstedt Brothers Building make it one of the finest Classical Revival buildings to remain in Louisville's downtown. The large arch and the two-story pilasters give the structure a sense of monumentality for its relatively narrow dimensions. At the same time the articulation of the parts of the facade and the individual elements of the decoration relate the structure to the street and the pedestrian in a way which has been lost in most contemporary architecture.

The firm of Joseph and Joseph was founded in 1908. Alfred Joseph, Sr. had received his training with the firms of McDonald and Sheblessy and McDonald and Dodd. His brother, Oscar, received his formal training at the University of Michigan as a civil engineer. The firm's early works were stylistically related to those of McDonald and Dodd, such as the YMHA¹ building and the Republic Building. In the 1920s Joseph and Joseph's works continued in the classical vein but with a more pure adaptation of Renaissance composition. Spanish and English Tudor styles were also adapted by the firm. Outstanding structures designed by the firm include the Rialto Theatre (destroyed), the Commodore Apartments, the Willow Terrace and Dartmouth Apartments and the Kosair Hospital.

The Almstedt Brothers Building is an important element in the over-all flavor of downtown Louisville; it represents an ambience and scale which is to quickly disappearing in the city's heart. It is also significant as an important example of a major local architectural firm which did much to shape the architectural character of downtown Louisville and the city's eastern suburbs.

