

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 29 1980  
DATE ENTERED MAR 19 1980

**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

Schuster Building

AND/OR COMMON

Schuster Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1500-12 Bardstown Road

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

STATE

Kentucky 40205

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Sonny Steinberg

STREET & NUMBER

1804 Tyler Lane

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40205

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

531 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky 40202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY 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 Schuster Building is situated at the corner of Eastern Parkway and Bardstown Road, just south of the Cherokee Triangle residential district (National Register- 1976). Bardstown Road is the main commercial artery of Louisville's Highlands. Eastern Parkway, part of Olmsted's original parkway system, is a vital transportation link between Louisville's south and east ends.

The Schuster Building is a U-shaped, commercial structure in the Colonial Revival style, chamfered at the corners, with a four-story central pavilion flanked by two-story wings. It is constructed of red brick in common bond, with wooden trim and a slate roof. The pavilion houses a movie theater; shops and offices with apartments above occupy the wings.

The theater entrance and the corner shop entry have been altered considerably, and several of the shops' facades have been modified to varying degrees. However, all original doorways and windows have been retained, and the two main entries to the second floor are unchanged. The more elaborate of these has a glass-paneled door, pilasters, and a pediment broken by a fanlight. Two multi-paned bay windows are situated on either side of this entry.

The second story remains virtually unchanged, consisting of a row of multi-light casement windows with wooden shutters. The steeply pitched, slate roof is punctuated by gables which are pierced by louvered bull's eyes with four keystones.

In the pavilion, both the second and third stories contain two tall, twenty-light windows. A curvilinear gable rises from the dentiled cornice above the third story. The pavilion's steep, hip roof is crowned by an octagonal, glass-enclosed cupola.

# 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

1927

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Nevin, Wischmeyer & Morgan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Schuster Building is a significant example of the Colonial Revival style applied to commercial architecture. Built in 1927, it anticipated the renovation of Williamsburg by two years. Located strategically at a major intersection, it was designed to provide a variety of commercial services to a growing suburban population.

The Schuster Building is one of the earlier uses of Colonial Revival architecture in the Louisville area. Other projects during this period in the Colonial Revival style include Norton Hall (1930) and Mullins Hall of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the old Kentucky Title Co. Building (1927), and the University of Louisville's Administration Building (1929).

The Schuster Building is the work of the prominent Louisville firm of Nevin, Wischmeyer & Morgan. A year later, the firm completed the Pendennis Club, a handsome Georgian Revival structure. Also at this time, Frederick Morgan was working with the Allied Architects team to develop a Master Plan for the University of Louisville. The Administration Building, based largely on Thomas Jefferson's Rotunda of the University of Virginia, is considered to be primarily Morgan's work.

Hugh Nevin designed many private residences during his long career, as well as seven buildings for the Centre College campus in Danville, Kentucky.

After 1929, Herman Wischmeyer was a partner in the firm of Wischmeyer and Arrasmith, whose designs include the Scottish Rite Temple, Duncan Memorial Chapel, and Greyhound Bus Terminals in Louisville, Fort Wayne, Washington, D.C., and other cities.

One of the earliest multi-use commercial buildings, The Schuster Building originally housed shops, professional offices, and apartments, as well as the Uptown Theater. According to a newspaper account of the day, the theater was "of palatial design and equipped with Vitaphone."<sup>1</sup> It was designed for both movies and live theater, complete with full stage, organ, and orchestra pit.

In spite of some first story alterations, the building retains its architectural character as a significant example of the Colonial Revival movement, both at the local and national levels. In addition, it remains an important part of the commercial vitality of the Highlands area.

1 "Another Link is Forged in Chain," Louisville Herald Post, 9 April 1928.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Another Link is Forged in the Chain." Louisville Herald Post, 9 April 1928.

"Architect Dies at 83." Louisville Courier-Journal, 31 July 1969.

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville, 1927-1930.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville East, Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	6	1	2	9	6	0	4	2	3	2	1	0	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

B 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

C 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

D 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

E 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

F 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

G 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

H 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION City of Louisville Block 76-F, Lot 57. Beginning at the intersection of Bardstown Road and Eastern Parkway, thence southeast along Bardstown Road 160 feet 9 inches, thence southwest 238 feet 9 inches, thence northwest 104 feet,

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 B. Foshee Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

July 20, 1979

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

*Edward W. Helton*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-9-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. Ray Lane*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
ATTEST: *Martin O'Connell*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/19/80  
DATE 3/18/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET Schuster Building ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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"University of Louisville Belknap Campus Historic District" National  
Register of Historic Places Inventory- Nomination Form, entered June, 1976.

Withey, Henry F. and Withey, Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American  
Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

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thence northeast 35 feet 8 inches, thence northwest 30 feet 5 inches, thence  
northeast along Eastern Parkway 135 feet 4 inches to the beginning,



Schuster Building            JAN 29 1980  
1500-12 Bardstown Road  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Sanborn Map Co. (1974)    MAR 19 1980  
Pelham, New York  
Map 2. Sanborn Map, Volume 6, p. 671.