

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 22 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 16 1979

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 Kentucky National Bank

AND/OR COMMON

300 Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 300 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3&4

STATE

Kentucky 40202

VICINITY OF
CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson 111

CODE

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr & Mrs. James Fox

STREET & NUMBER 3304 Innes Trace Court

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

VICINITY OF

Kentucky 40222

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Court House

STREET & NUMBER 517 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

Kentucky

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites

DATE Metropolitan Preservation Plan FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Hud 1973

CITY, TOWN

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 old Kentucky National Bank is situated on the southwest corner of Third and Main Street. It is in the same block as the old Bank of Louisville (National Historic Landmark). Main Street, today, is Louisville's richest area of commercial nineteenth-century architecture. The old Kentucky National Bank is the finest Richardsonian Romanesque structure which remains on Main Street.

The Kentucky National Bank Building built at the opening of the last decade of the nineteenth century is a strong architectural statement in rusticated limestone highlighted by smooth courses and carved details on the Main Street and Third Street facades. The structure rises seven stories including a partially exposed basement. The basement has rectangular window openings on both main facades with a basement entrance in the easternmost opening on the Main Street facade. The first story, above the basement, has two large rectangular window openings with double-hung windows. The entrance is on the western side of the Main Street facade. It is a recessed entrance with a new doorway under a Romanesque round arch accented by bands of carved foliage at the spring of the arch and radiating voussoirs. A smooth stone course separates the first and second stories. The windows on the third level are pairs of rectangular windows above which is a smaller window.

The central opening on the third story is a large rectangular window surrounded by a band of foliage and separated by a column. On the Third Street facade the third-story windows are separated by a series of columns with foliated capitals. A smooth course ending in carved details separates the third and fourth floors. The fourth story has pairs of rectangular windows topped by smaller windows on both main facades. A band course underscored by dentils is between the fourth and fifth stories.

The upper three stories on both main facades are unified by a series of round-arched openings separated by pilasters. A highly plastic, foliated impost block accents the arches. Pairs of rectangular windows fill the arches on the top story. The cornice consists of a smooth frieze topped by dentils and a pierced parapet broken by small tourelles.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

McDonald Brothers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kentucky National Bank is significant as one of three large Richardsonian Romanesque buildings left in the central business district of Louisville. It was designed by one of Louisville's most prestigious architectural firms of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the McDonald Brothers. The organization had the most extensive regional practice of any Louisville firm, with commissions in the South and Midwest.

The city of Louisville was developed on the upper side of the Falls of the Ohio and the city of Portland on the lower. River traffic was forced to stop at Louisville to portage around the falls. The city prospered because of this in the last decades of the eighteenth century and became a well-established river town. This prosperity brought an increase in population and an expansion in building. The early city developed primarily in the vicinity of the central business district with Main Street being the most important commercial area in the city until the turn of the century.

The "Great Fire" of 1840 which, according to Casseday's History of Louisville, started in John Hawkins chair factory on Third Street between Main and Market Streets, completely destroyed what was likely the first group of commercial structures to be located at the southwest corner of Third and West Main Streets, the site of No. 300. References to the fire in Casseday's History and Louisville Past and Present note that the stores were quickly rebuilt "in less than six months".

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Casseday, Ben. The History of Louisville from the Earliest Settlement Till the Year 1852. Louisville: Hall Brothers, 1852.

Historic Landmarks and Preservation District Commission. West Main Street, 300 Block. Local Landmarks Designation Report typewritten, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/10 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME New Albany

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 116 608 9110 4234 7170

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Louisville Block 14E Lot 208. The boundry extends from a point at the corner of Third and Main Street 105 feet south;thence 42 feet west;thence 105 feet north to Main Street;thence 42 feet east to the beginning.

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

Marty Poynter Hedgepeth, Director of Research

4-6-79

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Landmarks and Preservation District Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

727 West Main Street

502-587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Louisville,

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. Gullett

TITLE

DATE 5-15-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Bill Leborich
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE July 16, 1979

ATTEST: *James H. Gilmore*

DATE July 12, 1979

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Kentucky National Bank ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1843, James Rudd purchased the corner site and structure from James Hughes. Rudd already owned a sizeable portion of the corner of the square, and had suffered the loss of five uninsured structures during the 1840 fire, which he rebuilt.

On June 13, 1889, John D. Rudd sold the current site of No. 300 West Main Street to the Kentucky National Bank for \$51,000. During the year 1890, the present, palatial, seven-story Richardsonian "skycraper" of rusticated white stone was under construction, at a cost of \$100,000. The monumental Kentucky National Bank Building is a product of the increased local building activity of the late 1880's and 1890's, and exemplified a period of unprecedented prosperity in Louisville's history.

The bank opened for business at its new home on January 12, 1891. The first floor was occupied by officers of the bank, and was the area where all banking business was transacted. The large main room was entered conveniently from Main Street, and was lined with tellers windows. The director's office was located at the rear of the first floor. According to an article in the Louisville Post, January 13, 1891, this room was equipped with electric bells and speaking tubes so that the director could communicate with the tellers, neither having to leave their respective places. The upper floors of the building were divided into suites of rooms for offices which could be rented.

The Kentucky National Bank, formerly located at Fifth and West Main Streets, was incorporated in 1871 with a capital of \$300,000, which increased by 1880 to 1,000,000. Bland Ballard, a Judge of the U.S. District Court, was the Bank's first president, and Logan C. Murray was its first cashier.

Only a few years later, in 1894, the new building was sold--with all its furnishings--to the American National Bank of Louisville, which owned the property until 1915.

During the twentieth century, No. 300 has been owned by several insurance and finance companies.

The McDonald Brothers, leading architects in Louisville during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, designed the Kentucky National Bank's new structure. The firm was established in 1871 by Harry P. McDonald (1848-1904). He had studied Civil Engineering at Washington and Lee University and began work as a railroad engineer. Harry P. McDonald joined his younger brother Kenneth (1852-1940) in partnership in 1878.

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By 1881, Donald McDonald also practiced with the firm. They gained recognition for their designs of public building and churches, among them: the Kentucky penitentiary, at Eddyville; buildings for the Southern Exposition of 1883, and the Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. In addition, the firm designed the Tennessee asylum at Bolivar, the state capitol of Kansas at Topeka and about one hundred jails in six states. After 1905, Kenneth McDonald was associated with Chicago-trained architect William J. Dodd. With Dodd, he completed a number of important Louisville structures including the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and the YMCA Building at the corner of Third and Broadway.

Buildings designed with elements of the Romanesque style were quite popular in residential areas of the city, especially the area known today as Old Louisville, (National Register, February, 1975). The style was also used in smaller scale commercial buildings. The Richardsonian Romanesque style was most fully displayed in three downtown buildings, the old Louisville Trust Building at Fifth and Market Streets (National Register, April, 1977), the old Medical School at First and Chestnut Streets. (National Register July 1975 and the old Kentucky National Bank. The old Kentucky National Bank is more graceful and less massive than the other two structures and elements of the French Romanesque are evident. The McDonald Brothers also employed a similar Romanesque style in the Washington County Court House in Salem, Indiana. The Norton Warehouse at 622 West Main (Main Street, National Register March 1974) and the Firehouse #2 (National Register, September, 1976) both exhibit similar stylistic elements in the firm's Louisville buildings of the period.

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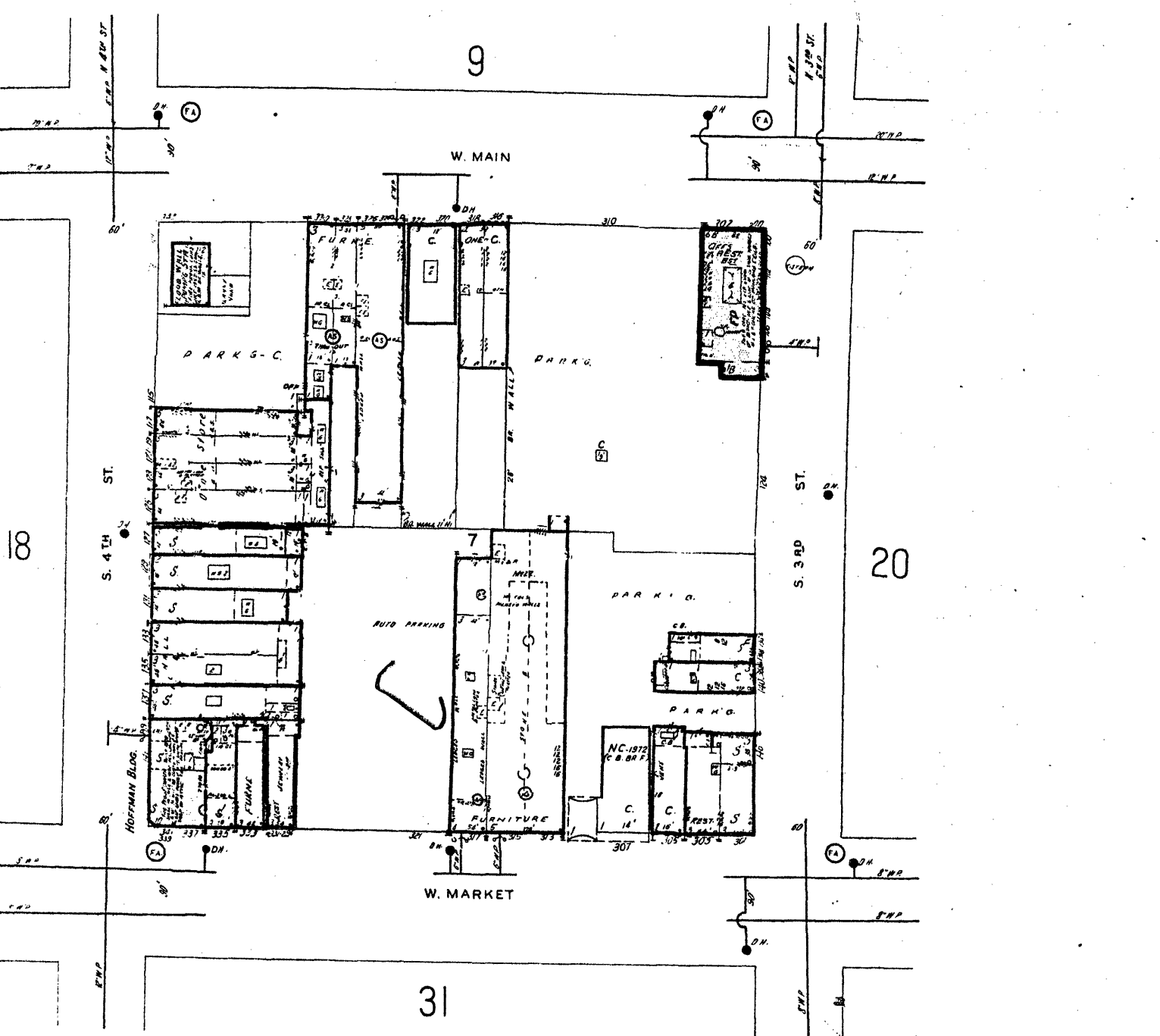
2

"Into Its New Home, " Louisville Post.
July 13, 1891

Jefferson County Kentucky Deed Books.

"Kentucky National Bank, " The
(Louisville) Courier Journal. 1 January, 1891.

Langsom, Walter, ed. Preservation Louisville Metropolitan
Preservation Plan. Louisville: Falls of the Ohio
Metropolitan Council Governments, May, 1973.



18

20

31

Kentucky National Bank
300 West Main MAY 22 1979
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
Sanborn Map Co. JUL 16 1979
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1972
Map **2** - Sanborn Map