

OMN NO 1004-0018  
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received SEP 13 1984  
date entered OCT 1 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The German Bank Building

and/or common Louisville Home Federal Building

2. Location

street & number 150 S. Fifth Street na not for publication

city, town Louisville na vicinity of congressional district

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code

3. Classification

<u>na</u> district	<u>na</u> public	<u>na</u> occupied	<u>na</u> agriculture	<u>na</u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>x</u> private	<u>na</u> unoccupied	<u>x</u> commercial	<u>na</u> park
<u>na</u> structure	<u>na</u> both	<u>x</u> work in progress	<u>na</u> educational	<u>na</u> private residence
<u>na</u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>na</u> entertainment	<u>na</u> religious
<u>na</u> object	<u>na</u> in process	<u>na</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 Humana, Inc. (c/o Dave Medley)

street & number P. O. Box 1438

city, town Louisville na vicinity of state Kentucky 40201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson St.

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? na yes x no

date 1978 na federal x state na county na local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<del>na</del> excellent	<del>na</del> deteriorated	<del>na</del> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<del>na</del> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<del>na</del> moved date _____
<del>na</del> fair	<del>na</del> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Louisville Home Federal Building is located on the northwest corner of Fifth and Market Streets on the northern end of Louisville's central business district. It is across Market Street from the Old Louisville Trust Company Building (National Register, 1977 and Local Landmark, 1975) and Kentucky Title Company Building (National Register, 1983).

The Louisville Home Federal Building is a two-story, smooth finish limestone structure of Beaux Arts styling constructed in 1914. The grand entry faces Fifth Street. An addition was made to north side of the building on Fifth Street in 1924. This addition was designed to identically match the Market Street facade.

The massive pedimented portico is composed of paired fluted columns on raised pedestals flanking the entry. The Ionic capitals are stylized with foliate motifs and support an entablature lined with egg-and-dart molding and dentils. The pediment is embellished with anthemions and Greek fretwork with anthemion antefixes on the corners. The center of the pediment carries a large cartouche surrounded by dense foliate patterns in relief. The entrance has a simple stone frame with wide projecting hood supported by brackets with foliate stops. Garlands are also located on the upper portions of the frames. Small niches are located between the columns flanking the entrance. Within the portico on the second floor are paired windows with stone frames and a central bracket, flanked by single windows. The portico is then flanked by pedimented windows on the first floor.

The fenestration on the Market Street facade is identical to the north addition on Fifth Street, with seven bays on Market and five on Fifth. Each bay contains a large window with extended stone hood supported by block-like brackets and foliate stops, and wide eared frames on the first floor. The second floor windows are simply framed by the building surface with egg-and-dart molding forming engaged capitals. A keystone and stone sill further embellish the window. Fluted pilasters on raised pedestals rise two stories between each bay. The Ionic capitals are stylized. The pilasters carry an unbroken entablature along both street-facing facades and is embellished with egg-and-dart molding and dentils.

A parapet wall surmounts the entire structure. It is divided into segments which correspond to the bays below, divided by engaged vertical panels with anthemion antefixes atop. The panels between contain central cartouches and more anthemions.

A pedimented entrance is located on the west side of the Market Street facade, and the north side of the Fifth Street facade. A pedimented first floor window, located on the east side of the Market Street facade, matches the windows which flank the grand portico.

## 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** 1914;1924 **Builder/Architect** D. X. Murphy and Bros.

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Louisville Home Federal Building, the old German Bank Building, is one of Louisville's finest examples of the Beaux Arts Style. Designed by the prestigious local firm of D. X. Murphy and Brothers, the Building displays a multitude of historic architectural motifs, sensitively arranged in a classical design.

The German Bank Building, built in 1914, replaced an earlier bank on this same site. In 1918, the name of the bank was changed to Louisville National Bank. Many companies and institutions nominally associated with Germany changed their names during the first World War. In 1924, the north addition was made duplicating the Market Street fenestration. Federal Reserve Bank and Louisville Home Federal Savings and Loan Association were subsequent owners of the building. Humana, Inc., a hospital management firm, has recently purchased the building. They are renovating it for a conference and fitness center.

The German Bank was designed by D. X. Murphy and Brothers. D. X. Murphy succeeded Henry Whitestone in his practice in 1880 and was responsible for numerous designs city-wide. Examples of his work include the 1902 Jefferson County Jail (National Register, 1973), and the 1893 St. Boniface Church and Rectory (National Register, 1982). Murphy was also responsible for the 1924 addition to the German Bank Building.

Bank architecture historically incorporated classical motifs in its designs. Louisville's banks have supported this trend, ranging from the 1835 Greek Revival Bank of Louisville Building, to the 1926, Neo-Classical German Security Bank, to the 1953 miniature-Montacello, First National Bank. The Louisville Home Federal Building is one of the finest of all local examples, incorporating an abundance of classical elements, particularly Greek motifs, into its design but in a contemporary, stylized manner. Ionic capitals, for example, also contain garlands. Anthemions are used extensively in both the pedimented portico and in the parapet wall.

The old German Bank has survived in a rapidly developing section of the central business district of Louisville, as one of Louisville's best examples of the exuberant Beaux Arts Style. The monumental quality of the design, particularly the pedimented portico facing Fifth Street, is a hallmark not only of the style but of the architect, and is here displayed in a most impressive manner.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property .25

Quadrangle name New Albany, Indiana-Kentucky

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	6	0	8	6	2	0	4	2	3	4	7	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 and justification

City Of Louisville Block 14E Lot 114. The building occupies the entire lot.

### 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 M. A. Allgeier, Director of Research

organization Landmarks Commission

date March, 1984

street & number 727 W 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 David L. Magan

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date Sept. 4, 1984

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

John Allcross Byers Entered in the National Register date 10-11-84

Keeper of the National Register

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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The German Bank Building/Louisville Home Federal Building  
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

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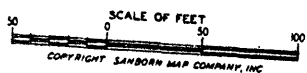
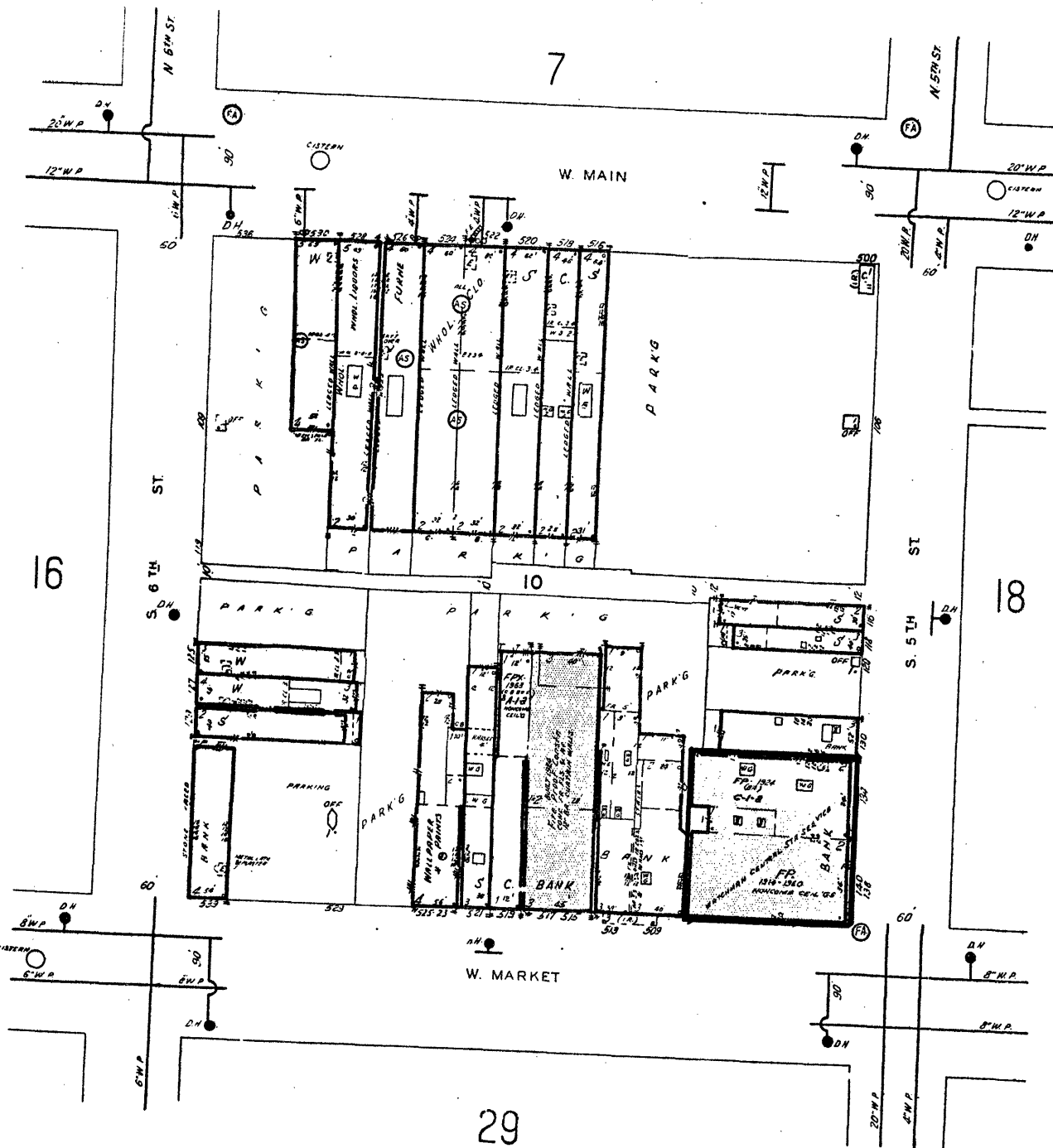
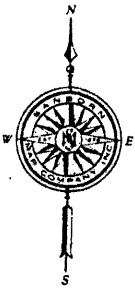
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Jones, Elizabeth F. Henry Whitestone; Nineteenth Century Louisville Architect  
Unpublished Master Thesis. University of Louisville, 1974.

Murphy, D. X. Ledger at Lockett and Farley Architects, Louisville.

"St. Louis Reserve Bank to Move to New Quarters." The (Louisville) Courier-Journal.  
15 June 1919.

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30 May 1941.



The German Bank Building  
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Louisville, Jefferson Co.,  
Kentucky  
Sanborn Map

Sanborn Map Company  
Pelham, New York 1974