

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED *3/27/80*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Main Street Historic District, Expanded

AND/OR COMMON

West Main Street Historic District, Expanded

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Side 500 block, 600, 700, 800 blocks, both sides, West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

384

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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

(See Continuation Sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

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

National Register of Historic Place

DATE

March, 1974

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

West Main Street grew to be the principal street in Louisville early in the nineteenth century. Main Street runs parallel to the Ohio River. The 600, 700 and 800 blocks of West Main are already listed on the National Register (March, 1974). The south side of the 500 block of West Main should be added to the district, since it is contiguous and contains architectural elements.

The structures in the district represent fine intact warehouse buildings from the second half of the nineteenth century. The combination of cast iron on the first floor with masonry, either limestone or brick, was used extensively. Structure which are exemplary of this treatment include Nos. 516, 520, 522, 623, 627, 629, 631, 710, and 712.

A number of pure cast-iron facades exist in the district including Nos. 607, 635, 637, 639, 641, 713-717, 720, 722 and 724. The Hart Block building at nos. 726, 730 is one of the most outstanding cast-iron facades remaining in the country.

The four blocks of Victorian warehouses are rich in architectural details ranging from Renaissance Revival, Romanesque, classical and rich eclectic treatments. Main Street is one of the largest and finest cast-iron districts left in the country.

Seven warehouses remain on the south side of the 500 block. No. 516, in the eastern-most section of the block is a four-story brick structure with a cast-iron first floor. The structure is richly ornamental with terra-cotta in classical motifs and dates from the 1890's.

No. 520 consists of four brick stories with a cast-iron first floor. Three unornamented windows on each floor rise to a projecting cornice. The cornice is noteworthy for its rather free combination of various period detailing including classical dentils and Victorian brackets.

Nos. 522-524 is a four-story composition of cast-iron with limestone facing and is of double width. The structure is marked by severe classical trim and capped by a projecting cornice.

No. 526 is very similar to 520-524 except that the windows of the upper floors are segmentally arched.

With the exception of the parking lot at the southwest corner of 6th and Main, there are no intrusions within the expanded district boundary.

## 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The West Main Street District is significant as one of the finest collections of Victorian commercial architecture in the country. Main Street was also the major commercial district of the city and the site of the most dramatic revitalization in the central business district of Louisville.

The structures which remain today in the 500, 600, 700, and 800 blocks of West Main Street are on the whole the third or fourth buildings to be built on those sites. Fires, a tornado and commercial expansion shaped the development of the area.

Main Street originally was lined with simple residences and then a comfortable mix of commercial and residential structures. The proximity of the street to the wharf area shifted the emphasis to a wholesale district and the retailing area moved one street south to Market before the Civil War.

Postwar Louisville, strengthened by wartime commerce, was financially sound and larger for new construction. Some of the most prominent architects in Louisville were commissioned to design structures for a burgeoning Main Street. Works representing such locally prominent architects as Henry Whitestone, Henry Wolters, the McDonald Brother, D.X. Murphy, Charles Meyer and Charles J. Clark line the district in a rich array of styles from the Renaissance Revival to the Richardsonian Romanesque and the classicism as made popular by the Columbian Exposition.

West Main Street remains today as one of Louisville's richest architectural treasures and one of the city's most important assets in downtown revitalization.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville

City of Louisville. Louisville Survey Central and South  
Louisville: City of Louisville, 1978.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Historic Landmarks and Preservation District Commission. "West  
Main Street Preservation District Designation". Unpublished report, 1974.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1/3 acre.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 6 6 0 8 6 0 0 4 2 3 4 8 3 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1 1 6 6 0 8 5 9 0 4 2 3 4 7 6 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1 1 6 6 0 8 4 8 0 4 2 3 4 7 8 0

D 1 1 6 6 0 8 5 0 0 4 2 3 4 8 4 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See attach sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marty Poynter Hedgepeth

7/17/79

ORGANIZATION Historic Landmarks and Preservation District Commission

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 X

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 Luce*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Kristen O'Connell*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/27/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/14/80

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West Main Street Historic District, Expanded

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

516 West Main Street	Charles Kaster 1825 Overbrook Louisville, Kentucky 40205
518 West Main Street	Beverly Rubin P.O. Box 308 Tunica, Miss, 38676
520 West Main Street	Mann Realty 520 West Main Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202
522-524 West Main Street	Arthur & Robert Lerman 522 West Main Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202
526 West Main Street	Edacra Realty 929 Kentucky Home Life Bldg Louisville, Kentucky 40202
528 West Main Street	Max Shapiro & Sons 641 West Main Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202
530 West Main Street	Martin Twist Kentucky Pioneer Coal Co. Suite 1215 Citizens Plaza Louisville, Kentucky 40202

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Kentucky Survey of Historic Places  
1978

Kentucky Heritage Commission  
104 Bridge Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky

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No. 528 is constructed of white enamel glazed brick and rises to a height of five stories. The structure has retained its original, cast-iron ground floor. The upper floors contain three windows each surrounded by a laurel molding. The building is capped by a extended cornice.

No. 530 is a five-story building of masonry and cast-iron. The lower story is a cast-iron store front. Above this, the cornice bends to accept a pair of pilasters which flank the center bay from that point to the top of the fifth floor. Pilasters also rise on the sides the facade, dividing it into thirds and adding verticality to this already slender structure. Engaged Corinthian columns flank the windows on the second and third floors. Panels above the second floor windows contain festoons and above the third, a foliage motif is evident. The fourth floor consists of shorter, round-arched windows decorated by egg and dart mold and large keys. Foliated spandrels supply transition to the horizontal entablature above this story. The fenestration on the fifth floor consists of six round-headed windows articulated vertically by smooth, squat columns. Further division is furnished by pilasters and wide arches. A spray of foliage provides decoration for the space between the windows and the entablature. A parapet with the name and address of the structure crowns the building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET West Main Street Historic  
District, Expanded ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Beginning at the southwest corner of Sixth and West Main Streets, the boundary proceeds east along the south side of West Main to the point where it intersects the east property line of Lot 130, Block 14-E (516 West Main), thence south along said property line to its intersection with the alley paralleling West Main to the south, thence west along the north side of said alley, crossing Sixth Street, to adjoin the West Main Street Historic District.

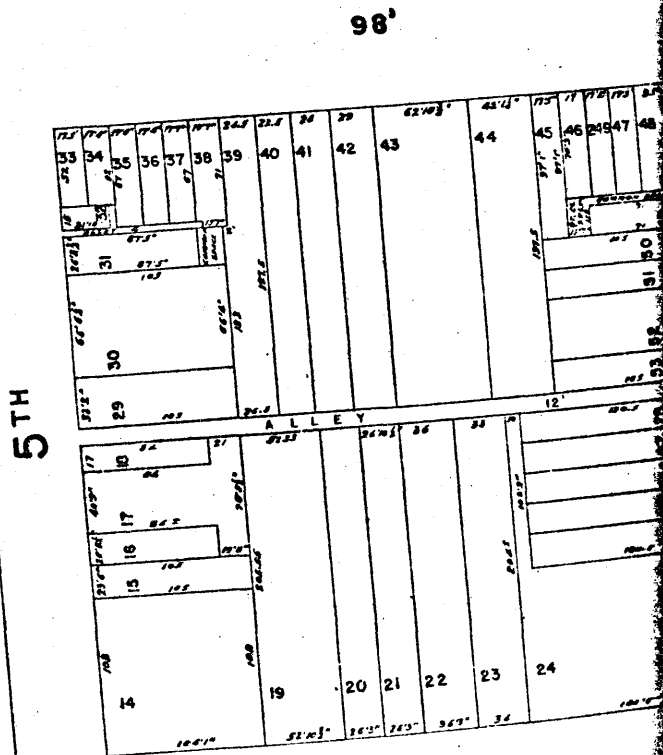
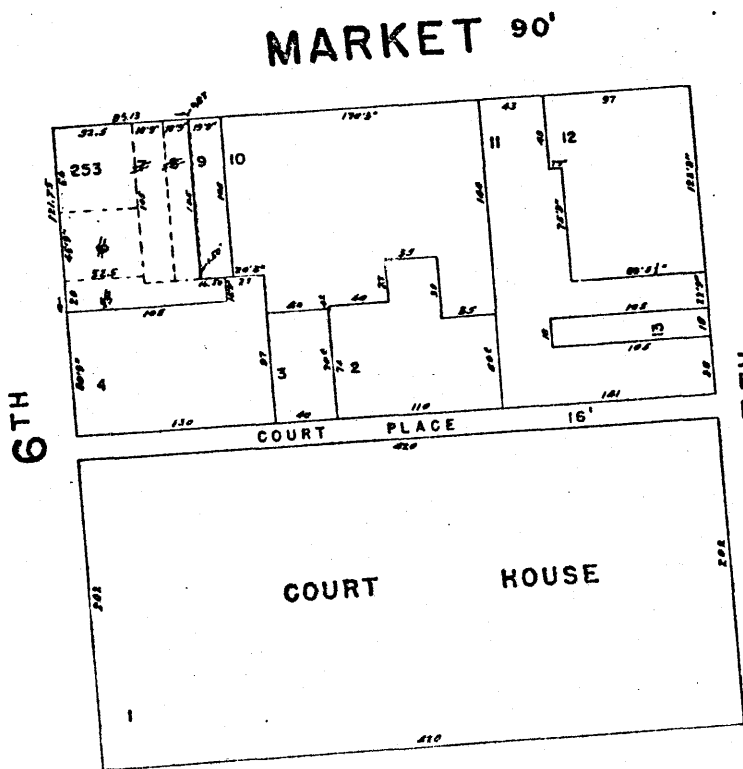
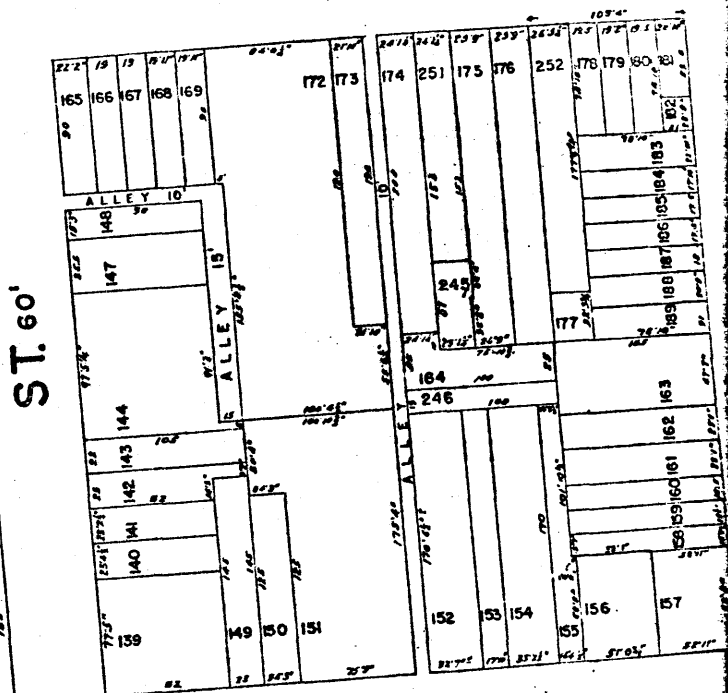
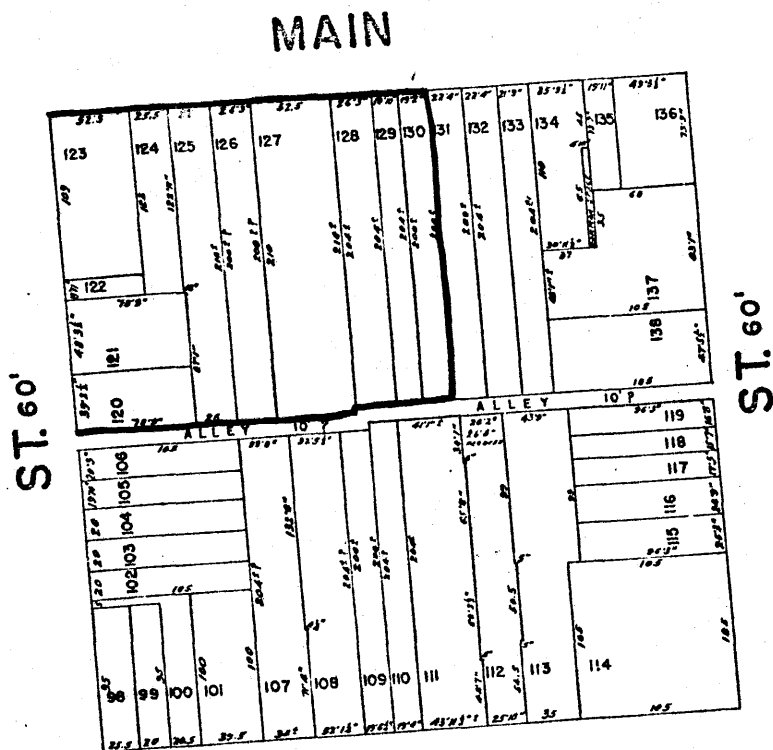
(Block and lot references are to the Jefferson County, Kentucky Property Valuation Administrator's plat records).



SCALE, 1" = 60'

SCALE, 1" = 60'

THOS. F. BURKE  
JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COMM'R  
R. J. TAPPEHORN - CHIEF DRAFTSMAN  
DRAWN 1-5-39



JEFFERSON

West Main Street Historic  
District, Expanded  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Jefferson County Real Estate Atlas  
Map 3.

JAN 29 1980