

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 29 1980
DATE ENTERED MAR 24 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 Jefferson County Armory
AND/OR COMMON Louisville Gardens

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 525 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3 \$ 4

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input 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 checked="" 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 Jefferson County Public Property Corporation
STREET & NUMBER 531 West Jefferson Street
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF Kentucky STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 531 West Jefferson Street
CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory
DATE June 29, 1978 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 | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in downtown Louisville, the Jefferson County Armory fills the entire block of Walnut Street from Armory Place to Sixth Street. Just to the rear of the Armory, in the same block, is the Jefferson County Jail (National Register-July 1973). The Cathedral of the Assumption (National Register-September 1977) is less than two blocks away.

The Armory was constructed in 1905 in the Beaux Arts style. The structure's main facade, consisting of a central block flanked by projecting pavilions, rises three stories from a raised basement. The basement and ground stories are constructed of massive, rusticated, rough-faced limestone blocks, while the upper stories are finished in buff brick with limestone trim. The recessed central portion has six, smooth stone columns with Ionic capitals which rise through the upper two stories to the cornice. The wings have rough-faced limestone quoins. First-story windows are round-arched, with prominent keystones. In the other stories, the windows are rectangular, with limestone sills and lintels. The third floor openings have been made smaller. A stone and brick parapet tops the facade over a cornice underscored by dentils. Pediments, formerly bearing cartouches and topped by sculpted eagles, surmount the pavilions. A round, central pediment, which has also lost its decoration, once echoed the original round-arched portal. The ground story of the central block has been altered by applying brown marble over the stone and by adding a large marquee.

The auditorium section extends northward and is also of buff brick and limestone construction. Arched entries, pilasters, and pairs of small, rectangular windows break the long expanses of the Armory Place and Sixth Street facades. The auditorium roof extends well above the main lobby portion. The roof was originally semi-elliptical (see photo 1), but now rises through a series of steps. The building's interior has been reworked.

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 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Brinton B. Davis, architect
Caldwell & Drake, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jefferson County Armory is a significant example of the Beaux Arts style as applied to an early twentieth century public building. It was the most ambitious public design of Brinton B. Davis, a prominent and prolific Louisville architect. At its completion, the Armory was certainly the largest public building ever constructed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In 1904, the Kentucky legislature ordered Jefferson Fiscal Court to erect an armory. The county allocated \$450,000 for the project, which resulted a year later in the construction of the Jefferson County Armory. From the outset, the building was intended to serve civilian as well as military purposes. Indeed, in 1906, it was headquarters during Homecoming Week in Louisville, which attracted tens of thousands of native Kentuckians to the city. By 1923, community activities so interfered with its military functions that the county was obliged to purchase land at Sixth and Liberty Streets to build a cavalry drill hall to be used exclusively by the military. In 1938, an architect named Walter C. Wagner was employed under a Works Progress Administration contract to improve the convention and athletic facilities of the Armory. New seating and a concrete floor were added at a cost of \$25,000. It is possible that the roof was also rebuilt at this time. The Armory was said at this time to have the greatest floor space under a permanent roof of any convention hall in the world. Under its present name Louisville Gardens, the Armory continues to provide a public center for conventions, concerts, and athletic events.

The ideas of Brinton B. Davis (1862-1952) are reflected in the numerous commercial and public buildings that he designed during more than fifty years of practice in Louisville. These structures display the same tendency toward classical motifs that is evident in the Armory's design. Among Davis' other local works are the Inter-Southern Life Insurance Company (Kentucky Home Life Building-passed Kentucky State Review Board, September, 1979), the Kentucky and Watterson Hotels, and the Methodist Board of Church Extension. Outside Louisville, he was responsible for the design of the Western Kentucky University campus at Bowling Green and the Ansley Hotel in Atlanta. Davis was born in 1862 in Natchez, Mississippi. The son of an architect, he served his apprenticeship in New York City, and later worked in Chicago, St. Louis, and Paducah, Kentucky before coming to Louisville in 1900.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Armory Work Starts Tomorrow." The Courier-Journal, 12 August 1938.
- Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. Louisville Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission, 29 June 1978.
- Military History of Kentucky. Written by workers of the Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration. Frankfort: 1939.
- "Property for New Armory Purchased." Louisville Herald, 15 February 1923.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1 3/4 acres.

QUADRANGLE NAME New Albany, Ind.-Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 6084710 42314320
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Louisville
Block 14-K Lot 35

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

| | | | |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Hugh B. Foshee, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

November 8, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

502/587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

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. Fulton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-8-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Duce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: *Kristin J. O'Connell*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/24/80

DATE 3/18/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

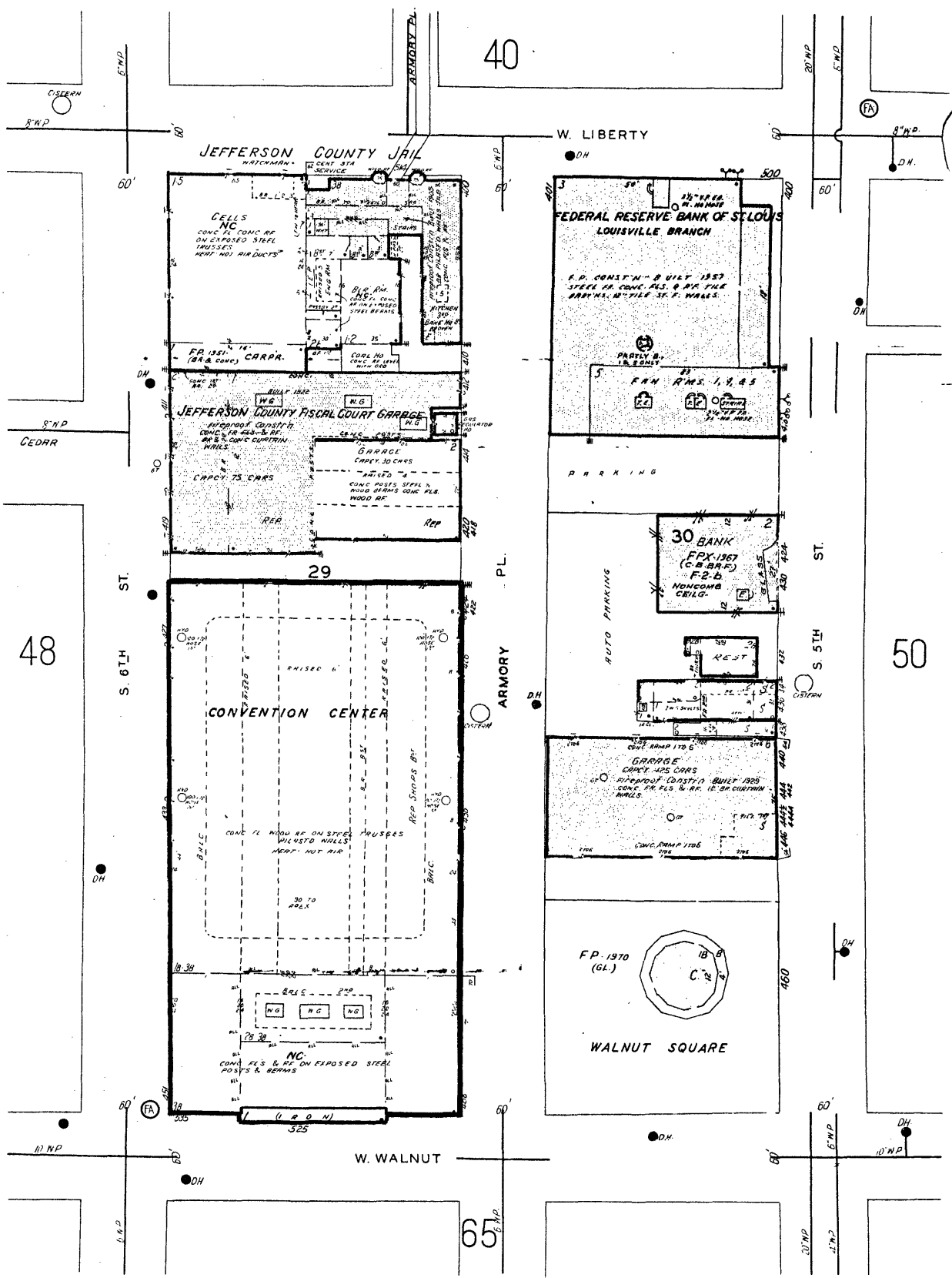
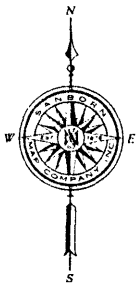
| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | JAN 29 1980 |
| DATE ENTERED | MAR 24 1980 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The Jefferson County Armory is an important public structure designed in the Beaux Arts style by a well-known Louisville architect.



COPYRIGHT SANBORN MAP COMPANY, INC.

Jefferson County Armory
525 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

Sanborn Map Co. (1974)
Pelham, New York

MAR 24 1980

JAN 29 1980

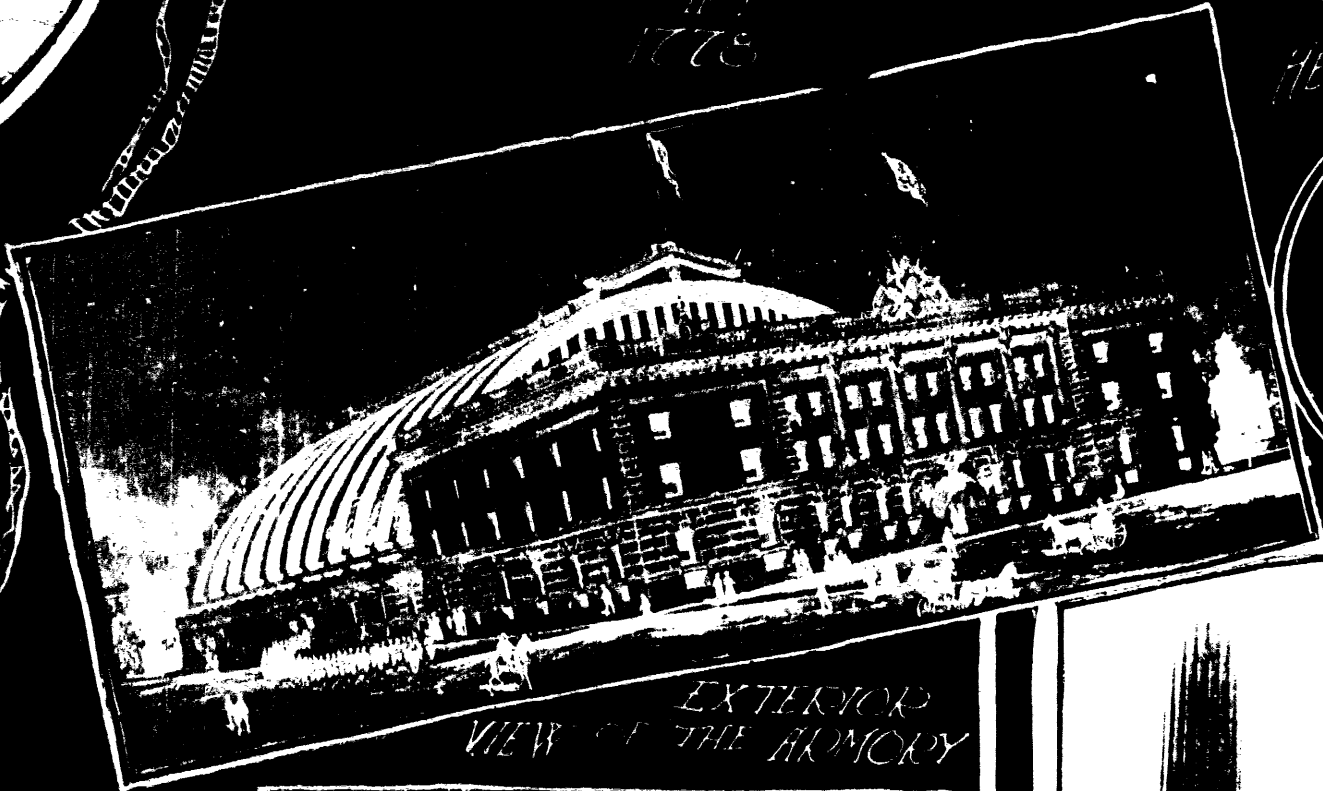
Map 1. Sanborn Map, volume 1, p.49.



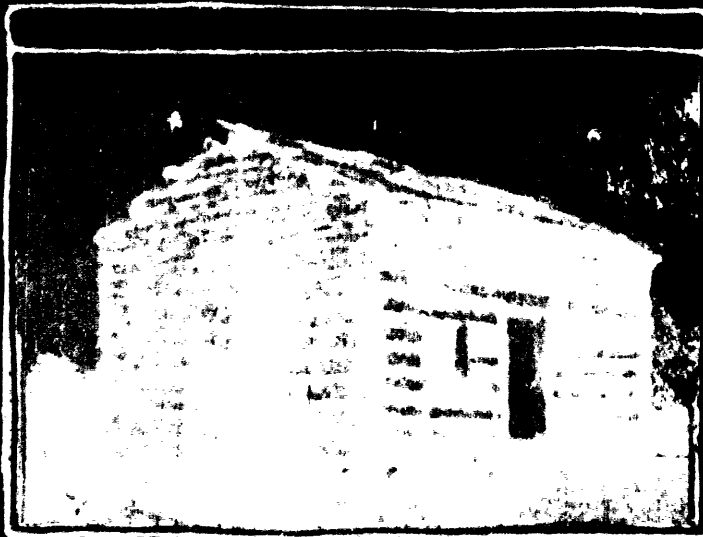
LOUISVILLE
1778



HENRY



EXTERIOR
VIEW OF THE ARMORY



THE LINCOLN
CABIN



STATUE OF HENRY CLAY



J. HOOP
SCULPTOR

Jefferson County Armory
525 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

Courier-Journal

June 10, 1906

JAN 29 1980

MAR 24 1980

Photo 1. Exterior view- 1906.