

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 29 1981
DATE ENTERED

**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 Adath Jeshurun Temple and School
AND/OR COMMON Unity of Louisville

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 749-757 South Brook
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF 3 & 4 NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111

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 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 checked="" 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 Unity of Louisville
STREET & NUMBER 749-757 South Brook
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF Kentucky STATE 40202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 521 West Jefferson Street
CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites
DATE 1980 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input 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

Adath Jeshurun Temple and School are located north of the Old Louisville Residential District (National Register, Feb., 1975) and just south of the central business district. The site is close to Male High School (National Register, April, 1970) and the old Presbyterian Seminary (National Register, March, 1978).

The Adath Jeshurun Temple is a unique example of the revival of Near-Eastern architectural styles with elements of Byzantine and Islamic architectural motifs and decoration. These stylistic tendencies were not used again for religious architecture in Louisville until the 1960s when the Byzantine style was employed for the St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Louisville's East End.

The Adath Jeshurun Temple is a centralized structure sheathed in yellow glazed brick. A one-story narthex protrudes on the exterior which has three entries. Each entry has a double door set in a brick arch. The tympanum over each doorway contains decorative glazed tiles in bright colors in geometric motifs. The central tympanum contains a stylized Star of David. The ends of the narthex are articulated by pilaster strips. A parapet caps the section with a stone band that arches over the center door. The parapet is adorned with patterned brick work.

Rising behind the narthex is the mass of the sanctuary. This section rests on a raised basement of smooth-coursed stone. The facade is divided into three bays with the central bay corresponding to the width of the narthex. The central bay has three arched openings. The central arch is the largest and contains three coupled windows set beneath a brightly colored tile tympanum. The two flanking openings are narrower with single width stained glass windows surmounted by a tile tympanum. A parapet matching the narthex caps this section. A large red tile sheathed dome dominates the structure and is Islamic in origin.

The interior of the narthex is simple in treatment with two flights of stairs leading down to the office area of the church and three flights ascending into the sanctuary. The sanctuary is entered from the narthex through three sets of doors. The interior of the sanctuary consists of a centralized domed space. The dome is supported by a series of smooth-shaft, tapered, Ionic columns. The capitals have a Star of David between the volutes. The columns support a classical entablature with triglyphs, metopes, guttae and dentils and an extended cornice with modillions. The dome is the most dramatic feature of the interior. Its structure is accented by heavy ribbing and cross-braces. The center of the dome contains a simple Star of David. The gray walls are pierced by handsome stained glass windows, with religious symbols of the Star of David, Torah, Ten Commandments, Dove of Peace and Menorahs surrounded by foliate forms. The window groups are articulated by the columns. The lower half of the chancel wall has wood paneling painted white

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input 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 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 1918, 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.J. Gaffney

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Louisville had a large and prosperous Jewish community which became highly visible during the late nineteenth century. A number of handsome synagogues were built and designed by the finest local architects of the day. The Adath Jeshurun Temple is unique for its use of Near-Eastern architectural motifs. The Adath Jeshurun Temple was designed by J.J. Gaffney, (1863-1946), one of Louisville's most creative architects.

The congregation of Adath Jeshurun began as the Beth Israel congregation in 1851. The temple was built in 1918 and the school in 1925. The Adath Jeshurun congregation occupied the building until 1957 when it was sold to Unity of Louisville. The Unity congregation was founded in the city in 1910.

The temple is a unique example of the use of Byzantine and Islamic compositional and decorative motifs. The temple's exterior massing and dominance of the single dome are Islamic in origin, which was influenced by the Byzantine tradition. The design by J.J. Gaffney is exemplary of his distinctive decorative style and wide range of stylistic influences employed in his work. His designs always display a rich and elegant variety of surface decoration. Gaffney was also responsible for several other outstanding religious structures in the city including, Holy Name Roman Catholic Church, St. James Roman Catholic Church and St. Philip Neri Roman Catholic Church.

The Adath Jeshurun Temple is a unique and exceptional ecclesiastical monument and an important element in Louisville's outstanding collection of religious architecture. The temple and school are also important as designs of J.J. Gaffney, one of Louisville's finest architects.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Bazaar to Be Given in Community House." Louisville Post. 8 January 1925.

"Beautiful Jewish Temple Formally Dedicated Yesterday." Louisville Post.
8 September 1919.

"J.J. Gaffney, Architect Dies at Age of 83." Louisville Courier-Journal.
1 December 1946.

ITEM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT IDENTIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre scale 1:24,000
UTM REFERENCES Louisville West Quadrangle

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|-------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1 6 | 6 0 9 2 2 0 | 4 2 3 3 2 0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Louisville Block 30 B Lot 1, which is approximately 115'x 190'.

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

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marty Hedgepeth Director of Research

ORGANIZATION Landmarks Commission October 29, ~~1985~~ 1980

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 Anne Armstrong Thompson

TITLE SHPO DATE 12-15-81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Delores Byers Entered in the National Register DATE 1/28/82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

AGENT:

for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Adath Jeshurun Temple and School
Louisville, Jefferson, KY

CONTINUATION SHEET

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with cross-brace motifs at the top. The center of the wall has a niche with Corinthian pilasters. The sanctuary still retains its original walnut pews.

Another important interior space is the study which contains an elaborate fireplace flanked by bookcases. The fireplace has fluted Ionic colonettes flanking the opening and a convex hood surmounted by a classical crown.

Next to the Temple is a school-community house building, built in 1925 and connects to the Temple in the front by a decorative iron gateway and structurally in the rear by an ell. The school is constructed in the same yellow glazed brick as the Temple but is more classical in style. The facade is divided into three bays. The end bays contain the doorways with simple porch hoods supported by iron braces. Classical stone cartouches are above the doors. The central bay has four double-hung windows of 15-over-15 lights with a fanlight above set in brick surrounds with keystones. The building is capped by a parapet which is decorated by a raised vertical course of brick and topped by a stone band. Panels of decorative patterned brick with stone lozenges are in the parapet above the windows. The most significant interior space of the school is the large meeting room which has a balcony and stage area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

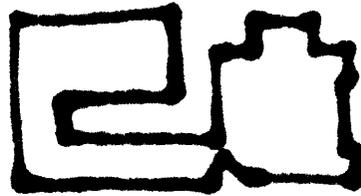
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PAGE

2

Louisville Unity Center. Louisville: Louisville Unity Center, 1939.

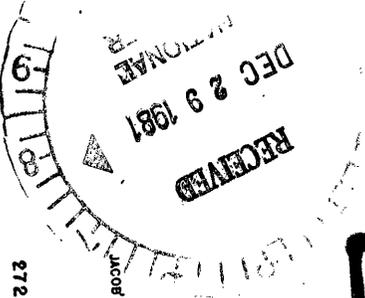


Adath Jeshurun Temple &
School 749-57 S. Brook St.
Louisville, Jefferson, KY
Sanborn Map Co., New York,
1972

Map 2 Sanborn Map

Nominated buildings shown in
red.

JAN 28 1982

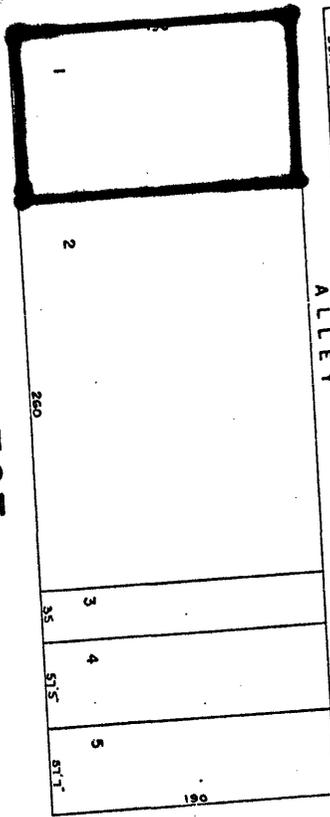


JACOB'S ENLARGEMENT (77)

272

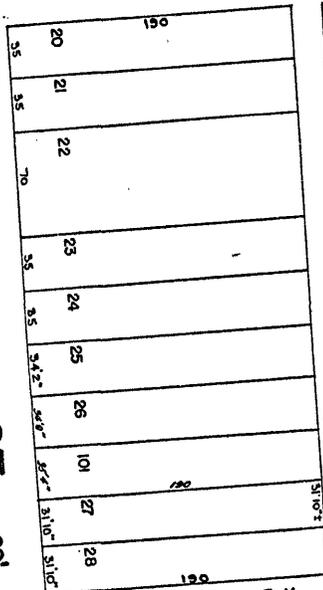
BROOK

COLLEGE



ALLEY

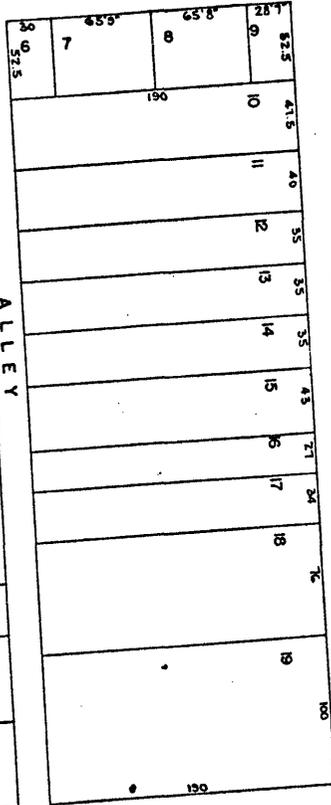
FLOYD



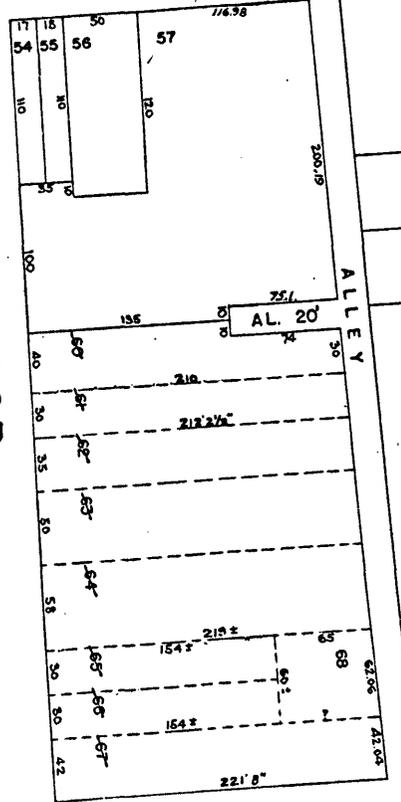
ALLEY

ST. 60'

JACOB

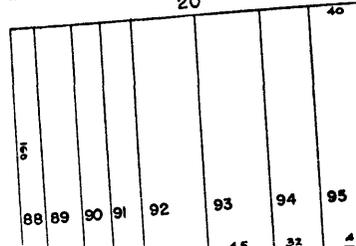
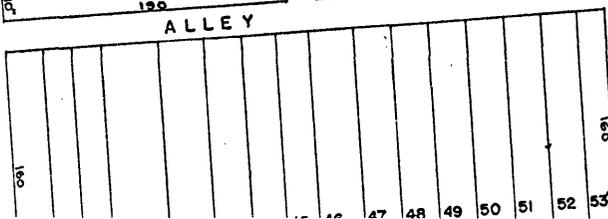
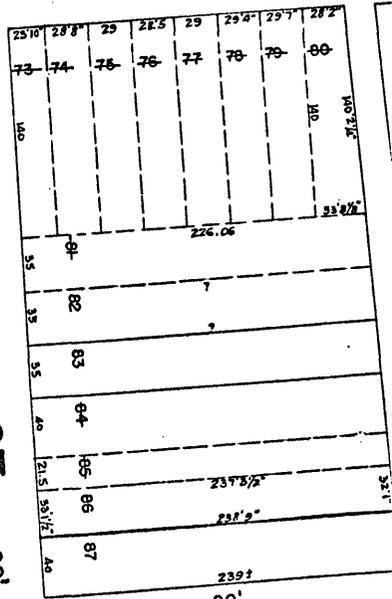


ST. 60'



ST. 60'

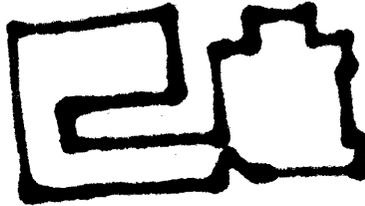
ST. 60'



Adath Jeshurun Temple and School
749-57 South Brook Street
Louisville, Jefferson, KY
Real Estate Atlas of Jefferson County, 4th Ed.
Miami: Real Estate Development Corp.,nd.
Map 3

Nominated area shown in red.



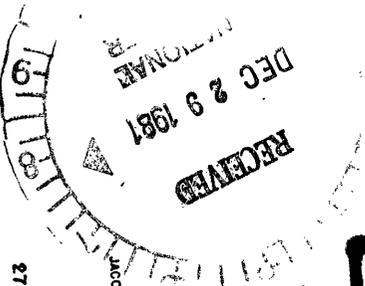


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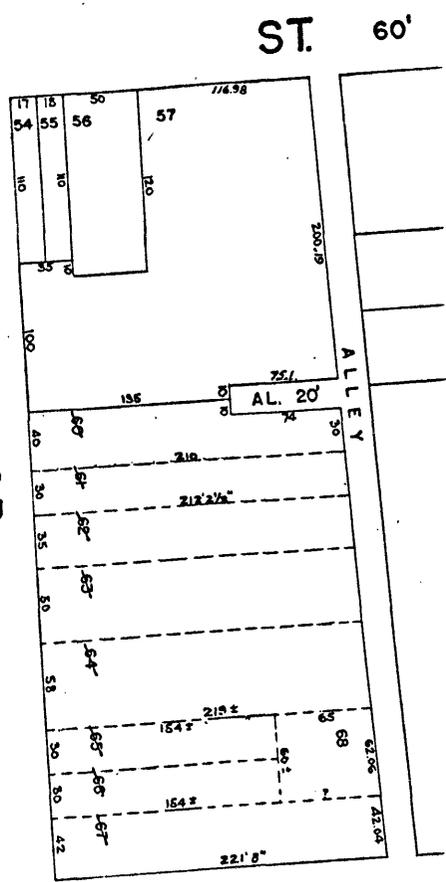
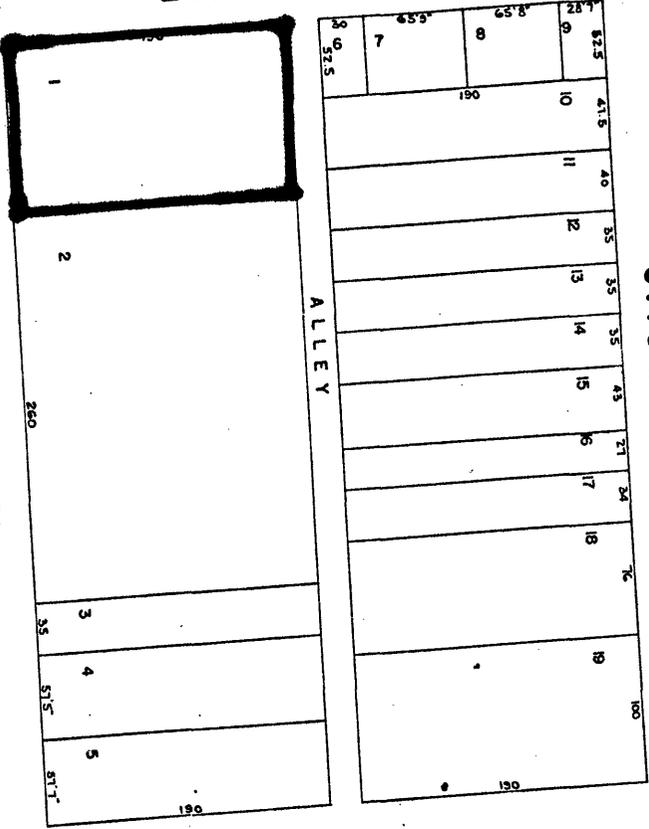


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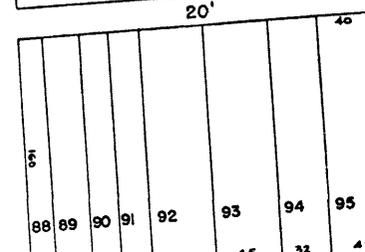
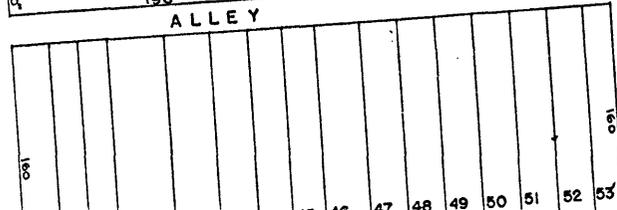
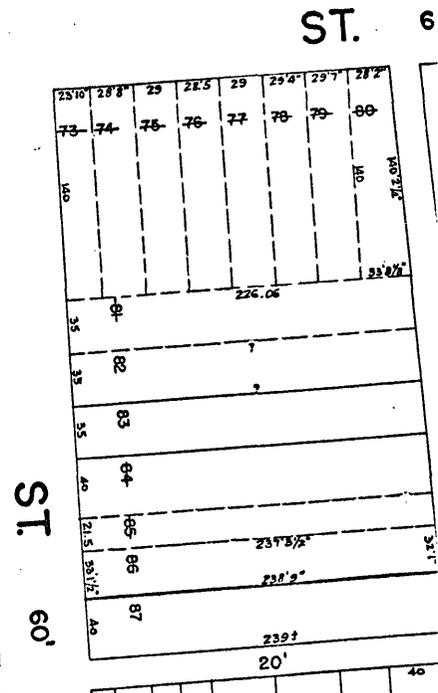
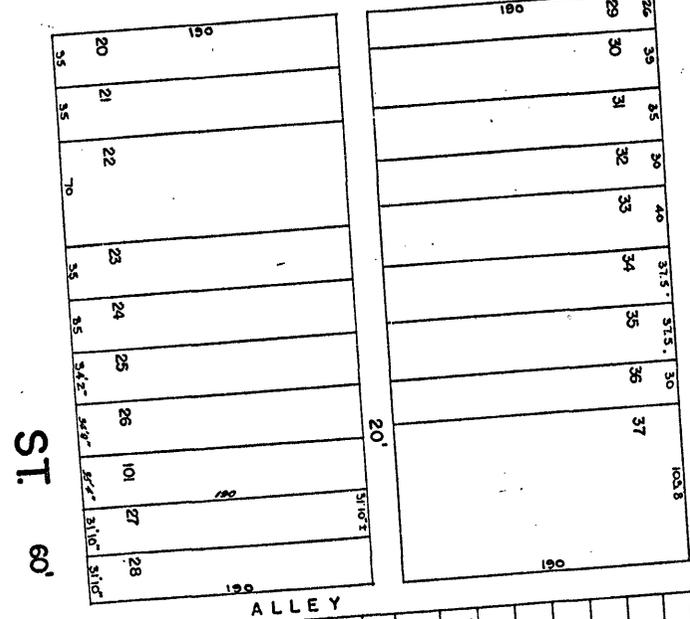
272

BROOK

COLLEGE



FLOYD





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Louisville, Jefferson, KY
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Miami: Real Estate Development Corp., nd.
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Nominated area shown in red.