United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Seventh Street School

other names/site number JFL-71, James Norton School, John Marshall School

Related Multiple Property NA

2. Location

street & number 1512 S. Seventh Street NA not for publication

city or town Louisville NA vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40208

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X__ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B _X__C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title **Craig Potts/SHPO** Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Seventh Street School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival
Late Victorian: Italianate
Late Victorian: Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone block
walls: Brick
roof: Asphalt Shingle
other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Seventh Street School (JFL-71) is a two story five-bay brick-and-wood school building in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, built in 1904. The building sits on a raised stone foundation and has a pyramidal roof. There are matching entrances in the center of the north and south facades and a smaller entrance in the center of the west façade. An addition was placed on the east side of the building in 1906, matching the style of the rest of the building. The addition is as wide as the original building, though shallower, two stories, with a pyramidal roof and a concrete raised foundation. The windows appear to be all double-hung, but are entirely boarded up currently.

Character of Site and Setting

The Seventh Street School is a two story, square, brick building, located at the triangular intersection of South Third Street, West Shipp Street, and South Ninth Street.

Exterior Description

The original building has a rough limestone block foundation, raised approximately five feet above street level. The rest of the building is brick, except the wood cornice and gables.

The building is composed on each facade of five bays, though the center bay on the north and south facades are approximately twice as wide as the side bays. Between each bay is a wide brick pilaster, which runs from the foundation to the brick cornice. Each bay on the north and south facades contain a single window at each level. On the east and west facades the bays each have a single set of double windows.

West Façade

South Facade

The entrances on the north and south facades have a shallow cornice with smaller scale pilasters on either side. The cornice is fairly simple, being a typical Victorian-era design, with additional horizontal spacing to give an Italianate effect. Narrow single windows are located to either side of the entrances on the north and south facades. On the second floor are matching narrow windows and two evenly-spaced larger windows. The entrance on the west facade has a simple stone surround only at the first floor. The entrances are all largely boarded up, but appear to have a single double door entrance, with windows completely surrounding them.

Above the second floor is a basic brick cornice and a wooden eave, which projects out beyond the facade. The cornice is Victorian Italianate and smooth, with no brackets, corbels, or dentils.

North Façade

North Façade

Above the entrances on each side is a facing gable. On the west facade the gable has a bottom cornice, which matches the gable and the rest of the eaves around the building. The gable is above the central bay, which protrudes slightly from the rest of the facade.

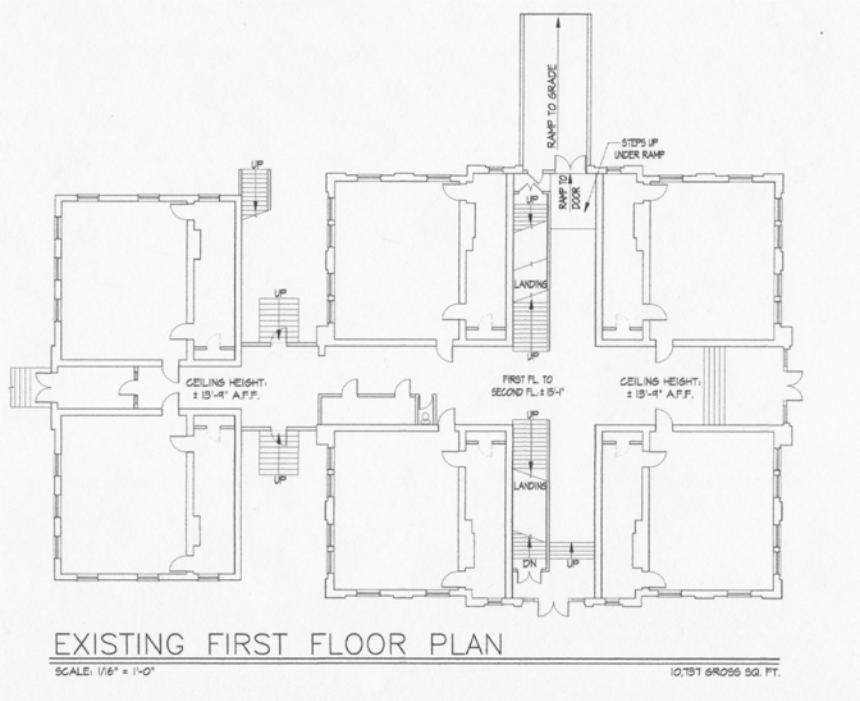
The north and south facades have much wider center bays, which protrude more clearly from the front of

the building. The gables are also significantly wider than on the west facade. The cornice and eaves match the rest of the building.

South Façade of 1906 addition

North Façade of 1906 addition

The 1906 addition, to the east of the main building, attaches by way of a two-story hallway, connecting to the protruding center bay. The effect is that the addition is clearly not original. The addition has pyramidal roof with a long ridge. The wooden eaves are simpler and project further out than on the original building. The north and south facades each contain three windows on the first and second floors and are all evenly spaced. The east facade is divided into three bays, with a much narrower central bay with a narrow entrance at the top of a simple set of concrete stairs. The two side bays each contain three windows on each floor. The corners have raised brick quoins. The foundation appears to be poured concrete.



Interior

The interior is a basic hallway crossing pattern on the first and second floors. On the second floor the hallway above the main entrance is consumed between the two west side classrooms. The hallways have a basic wood wainscoting and plaster above. The floors are hardwood and the ceilings are smooth plaster. The windows have been boarded up and leaks have occurred over the last several decades, resulting in significant moisture infiltration and deterioration, which has gone unrepaired.

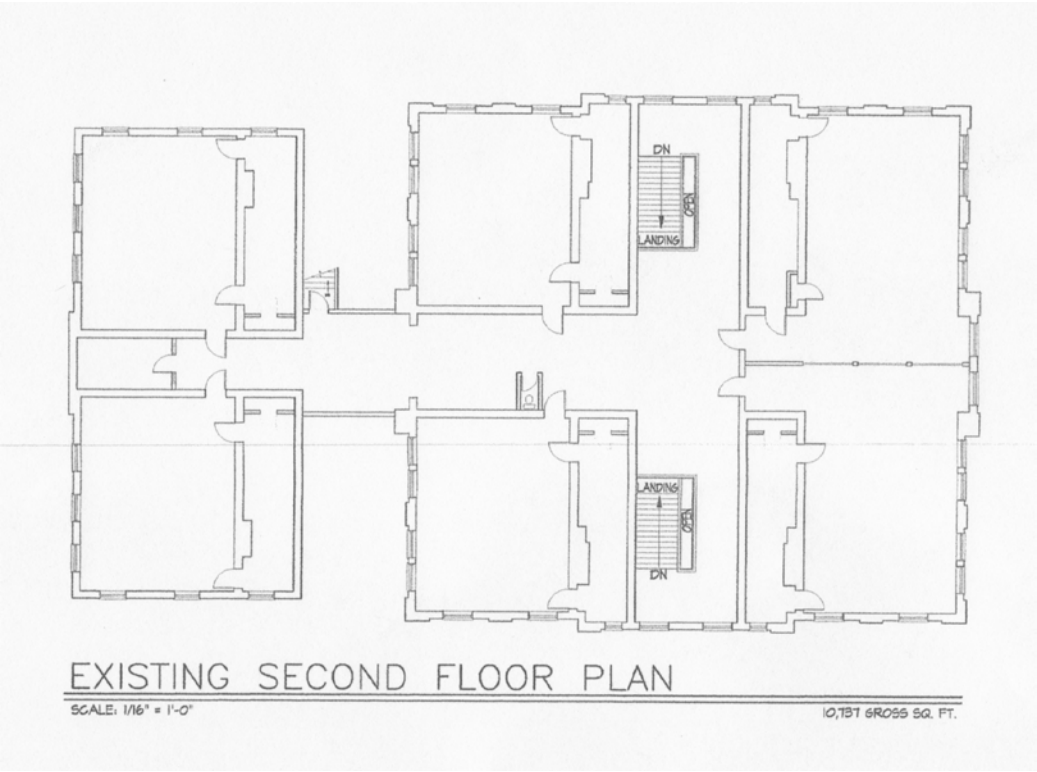
In keeping with the more basic design needs of a school there is little embellishment along the walls, even in the public areas.

Changes to the Property since the Period of Significance

Since the Period of Significance there has been little change to the property. The building continued to operate as a school until it was closed in 1975. When the building was initially constructed (along with the addition), a boiler house was located to the north, along West Shipp Street. By the time of the 1928 Sanborn Map, there were three annex buildings added to the site. One was immediately adjacent to the west of the boiler house, one was along the southwest corner of the school building, and the third was located along 7th Street, to the southeast of the school building. All of these buildings are now gone.

Non-Contributing Buildings

A non-historic non-contributing garage-type building has been constructed at the northeast corner of the site. The building has an asphalt shingle roof, wood siding, and two garage doors facing West Shipp Street. The building sits on a concrete block foundation.



Seventh Street School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904

Significant Dates

1904

1906

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Henry P. McDonald (Architect)

McDonald Brothers (architect)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance aligns with the year of construction, 1904, and 1906, the year of the addition.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Seventh Street School (JFL-71) meets the second term of Criterion C: it represents the work of a Master, Henry P. McDonald. His architectural career began with the transition in style after the Civil War and ended at the end of the 19th century as the flourishes of the Victorian-era design were beginning to fade. His firm, McDonald Bros., was responsible for dozens of public buildings around the state of Kentucky and the surrounding region. At least forty of their buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as contributors to National Register Districts. The Seventh Street School was his final commission before his death in 1904.

The History of the McDonald Brothers Architectural Firm

Understanding the significance of Henry McDonald and what he represents begins with his migration to Louisville from Virginia after the Civil War. The city was experiencing a significant shift in its political and business dynamic. While Louisville had largely supported the north in the Civil War, after the war's conclusion, the city found its leadership class largely dominated by confederate sympathizers and veterans. Henry McDonald was among this class, and a significant figure in Kentucky architecture, government, and also business, particularly in Louisville.

"Few names are better and more favorably written on the pages of the history of Kentucky than that of Harry McDonald."[1] Harry was born in Romney, Virginia (now in West Virginia) in 1848.[2] Along with his father and family, he moved to Lexington to avoid northern troops.[3] The move did not help, and Henry and his father, Colonel Angus McDonald, being "bitter Southerners," were forced to retreat to avoid capture.[4] Their retreat was short lived, as they were captured a short time later by Hunter's Brigade near Natural Bridge, Va.[5] Believing his commission would protect him, but not his son, who would be hanged, Angus encouraged Harry to escape.[6] The story continues that Harry overpowered his guard and escaped through the picket lines of the camp, down the mountain into the ravine below, and was able to make his way to Lexington, but not before capturing two Union soldiers, whom were locked away as prisoners of war.[7]

[1] A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians, p. 1479.
[2] Encyclopedia of Louisville, p. 599.
[3] Death Claims Representative Harry P. McDonald. Courier-Journal, Feb. 19, 1904; p. 5.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid.

After spending time with his mother in Lexington Harry enlisted in the Confederate army. He was sixteen at the time and he remained a Confederate soldier through the end of the war.[8]

After the close of the Civil War, Harry attended Washington & Lee University (Washington University at the time) and joined the Department of Engineering. He graduated with honors in 1869 and subsequently moved to Kentucky. Initially Harry worked under John McLeod, constructing the Elizabethtown and Paducah railroad.[9]

After the completion of the railroad, Harry was promoted to resident engineer. He did not remain in the position, instead resigning and moving to Louisville to practice architecture.[10] For his first year, he practiced under John Andrewartha, a prominent local architect.[11] Harry helped him to complete Louisville's City Hall (NRHP 9/1/1976, #76000905) and the Courier-Journal Building (demolished 1979). In 1873 Harry began his own architecture practice as H.P. McDonald. His first building of note was the City Workhouse, constructed under the administration of Mayor Charles D. Jacob.[12]

In 1878 Harry's younger brother Kenneth joined him in Louisville and the firm became H.P. McDonald and Brother.[13] Kenneth had been awarded a civil engineering degree from Virginia Military Institute in 1873 and joined his brother in Louisville immediately after graduation.[14] Initially, Kenneth taught math at the Rugby School and worked with his brother part time.[15]

Donald had graduated from Washington & Lee University and arrived in Louisville in 1876.[16] Donald did not immediately begin work with his brothers, instead working for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for five years.[17] In 1881, the firm became McDonald Brothers with the addition of their younger brother Donald. Donald served primarily as a traveling supervisor and administrator, finding new business and spreading the designs of the firm to surrounding counties and states. Donald resigned from the firm in 1892.

At some point later in the 1880s, another younger brother, Roy McDonald, joined the firm. Roy had graduated from Washington & Lee University with a degree in civil engineering.[18] He was the most junior member and was primarily responsible as a construction superintendent. He left the firm in the 1890s.[19]

Kentucky buildings designed by the McDonald Brothers (in order by construction date):

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[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] The Encyclopedia of Louisville, p. 599. For additional information on John Andrewartha and his influence on architecture in Louisville see *Hamilton Bros. Warehouse* nomination.
[12] Death Claims Representative Harry P. McDonald. Courier-Journal, Feb. 19, 1904; p. 5.
[13] A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians, p. 1480.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Encyclopedia of Louisville, p. 599.
[16] A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians, p. 1480.
[17] Ibid.
[18] Hedgepeth Thesis, p. 11.
[19] The Encyclopedia of Louisville, p. 599.

Reference Number	State	County	City	Building Name	Date Constructed
77000621	Kentucky	Henry	New Castle	Henry County Courthouse, Jail, and Warden's House	1875
Unlisted	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Louisville Medical College	1875
Unlisted	Kentucky	Simpson	Franklin	Simpson County Jail	1879
80001668	Kentucky	Simpson	Franklin	Simpson County Courthouse	1883
Unlisted	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Southern Exposition Building	1883
Unlisted	Kentucky	Montgomery	Mt. Sterling	Mt. Sterling Jail	1883
75000767	Kentucky	Hickman	Clinton	Hickman County Courthouse	1884
Unlisted	Kentucky	Trimble	Bedford	Trimble County Courthouse	1884
74000847	Kentucky	Adair	Columbia	Adair County Courthouse	1884
82001553	Kentucky	Carroll	Carrollton	Carroll County Courthouse	1885
Unlisted	Kentucky	Laurel	London	Laurel County Courthouse	1885
78001347	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Calvary Episcopal Church	1886
Unlisted	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	United States Post Office and Customs House	1886
75000772	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	T. Carson Residence	1887
76000900	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Third English Lutheran Society (Grace United Church of Christ)	1887
80001617	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	J. Owsley Residence	1887
80001617	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	J.W. Green Residence	1887
77000607	Kentucky	Casey	Liberty	Casey County Courthouse	1889
Unlisted	Kentucky	Boone		Boone County Courthouse	1889
Unlisted	Kentucky	Bell	Pineville	Bell County Courthouse	1889
Unlisted	Kentucky	Graves	Mayfield	Graves County Courthouse	1889
75000772	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	J. G. Barrett Residence	1889
Unlisted	Kentucky	Pike	Pikeville	Pike County Courthouse	1889
Unlisted	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	St. Andrews Episcopal Church	1890
Unlisted	Kentucky	Harlan		Harlan County Jail	1890
Unlisted	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Union Depot	1890
79001010	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Kentucky National Bank	1891

80001625	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Steam Engine Company No. 2	1891
74000884	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	Norton Warehouse	1891
Unlisted	Kentucky	Fayette	Lexington	Layette County Jail	1891
76000902	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	M.S. Barker Residence	1893
82001556	Kentucky	Jefferson	Louisville	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	1895
Unlisted	Kentucky	Whitley	Williamsburg	Whitley County Courthouse	Unknown
76000937	Kentucky	Owen	Owenton	Owen County Courthouse and Jail	
77000647	Kentucky	Simpson	Franklin	J.H. Goodnight House	
81000285	Kentucky	Lyon	Eddyville	Kentucky State Prison at Eddyville	

	Listed as part of a district
	Listed Individually

McDonald Brothers Buildings constructed outside of Kentucky:

Reference Number	State	County	City	Building Name	Date Constructed
84001038	Indiana	Gibson	Princeton	Gibson County Courthouse	1883
80000047	Indiana	Washington	Salem	Washington County Courthouse	1886
87001057	Tennessee	Hardeman	Bolivar	Western State Hospital Historic District	1886
96000288	Indiana	Dearborn	Aurora	Aurora City Hall	1887
81000220	Illinois	Cumberland	Toledo	Cumberland County Courthouse	1887
Unlisted	Kansas		Topeka	Kansas State Capitol	1887
Unlisted	Georgia	Chatham	Savannah	Chatham County Jail	1887
Unlisted	Indiana	Dearborn	Aurora	Odd Fellows Hall and Opera House	1887
93000476	Tennessee	Carroll	McKenzie	First Cumberland Presbyterian Church--McKenzie	1888
10000992	Illinois	Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Lawrence County Courthouse	1889
89001919	Virginia	Smyth	Marion	Southwestern Virginia Insane Asylum	1889
74000706	Georgia	Wilkes	Washington	Old Jail	1891
71000832	Tennessee	Sevier	Sevierville	Sevier County Courthouse	1895

Unlisted	Virginia		Charlottesville	Rotunda of the University of Virginia	1895
Unlisted	Indiana		New Albany	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	1896
Unlisted	Georgia	Gordon		Gordon County Jail	

Listed as part of a district

Listed Individually

McDonald Brothers' Early Buildings (Public)

The McDonald Bros. work falls into roughly two categories: significant individual buildings, and buildings created with a more value-oriented approach. The first category is distinguished by large buildings, not derivative of the McDonald Bros.' other designs, which reflected the business acumen of the firm and the ability to account for the unique needs or tastes of the client.

Southern Exposition

One of the first buildings design by the McDonald Bros. was the Southern Exposition buildings in what is now Old Louisville. The building no longer stands, but at the time it was one of the largest in Louisville and intended to show off the city's commercial enterprises. The project also showed the McDonald Bros. as a firm that could undertake a large project. The main building covered ten acres and used four million feet of lumber.[20] At the time of its construction it was described as "second to none in the history of the world," barring the London Exposition buildings of 1851 and 1852 and the Philadelphia Centennial exposition on 1876.[21]

Constructed originally in 1883, the building lasted until 1887, when it was demolished for residential development in the area. The contract to McDonald Bros. further cemented their reputation as an architectural firm capable of creative design on a lean budget with tight deadlines.

[20] Louisville's Southern Exposition, 1883-1887: The City of Progress, p. 23.
[21] A Dream Realized!: The Falls City's Great Southern Exposition Inaugurated, Courier-Journal, Aug. 2, 1883, p. 10.

Kentucky National Bank

Western State Hospital, Bolivar Tennessee

Kentucky National Bank[22] (NRHP 1979)

The Kentucky National Bank building is significant as one of the remaining Richardsonian-Romanesque buildings in Louisville Central Business District. The National Register Nomination describes it as designed by "one of Louisville's most prestigious architectural firms of the last quarter of the nineteenth century." The nomination further describes the firm as having "the most extensive regional practice of any Louisville firm, with commissions in the South and Midwest."

Western State Hospital Historic District (NRHP, 1987)[23]

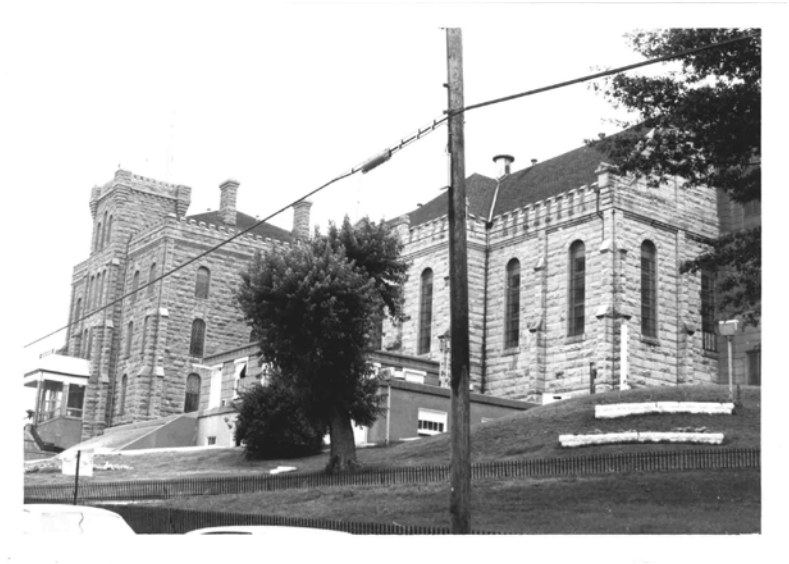
Western State Hospital in Bolivar, Tennessee, was constructed in 1889. The hospital consists of seven buildings grouped around a central administration building. The complex is in the gothic revival style and includes an apartment building and house, a clothing store, bakery, and carpenter shop.

The building complex is significant under criteria A, B, and C. The nomination notes that the hospital was designed by Henry P. McDonald of Louisville, Kentucky and that the firm was "responsible for many fine, large public buildings in the South."[24] The firm's knowledge of public building processes was particularly clear in this instance. As the nomination notes: "Following established procedures suggested by Kirkbride nearly fifty years earlier and practiced by Heiman, the commissioners, Dr. Jones, and the architect MacDonald visited existing

[22] Kentucky National Bank Nomination, p. 2.
[23] Western State Hospital National Register Nomination
[24] Western State Hospital Nomination, p. 7.

institutions in Mississippi (1855), Knoxville (1886), North Carolina (1856), and Tuscaloosa, Alabama (1861)."[25]

During the time of its construction the social view of mental institutions was undergoing a significant change and the architecture was intended to embrace the notion of work and rehabilitation at each turn. McDonald Brothers were able to embrace these changes and lead at the forefront of institutional design.



State Prison (81000285)

Fire Station #2 (80001625)

Kentucky State Prison at Eddyville (NRHP, 1981)[26]

The Kentucky State Penitentiary at Eddyville was constructed between 1884 and 1890. The Kentucky State Penitentiary is significant as a symbol of the penal reforms being sought so desperately at the state level. The addition of a new state penitentiary helped to relieve the inhumane overcrowding at the only other state penitentiary in Frankfort. After significant debate in the Kentucky General Assembly, further study by a state commission looking into the penal system along the east coast, the commission agreed to purchase an 80 acre farm along the Cumberland River and construct the prison proposed by the McDonald Bros. firm.

Fire Station No. 2 (NRHP, 1976)

Fire Station No. 2 was constructed in 1891 next to what is now the City Hall complex, after the completion of the City Hall Annex in 1909. At its completion the fire house was considered the "Pantheon of the fire department's Golden Age."[27] It was considered to complete the fire department, which had shifted from volunteer and lightly-subsidized service to a complete city agency. Of its architecture, "The new building is an ideal engine house, and

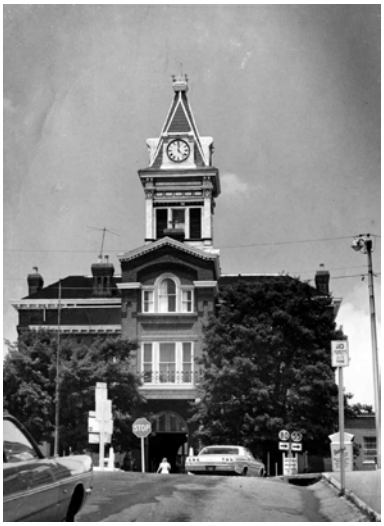
[25] Western State Hospital Nomination, p. 13.
[26] Old Eddyville Historic District
[27] Louisville City Hall Complex National Register Nomination, p. 18.

nothing could be added either to enhance the beauty of its appearance or to increase its conveniences. Every modern improvement to the fire station has been added—not the smallest detail being overlooked."[28]

The nomination credits the McDonald Brothers with the design and as the chief rivals of noted local firm Clarke and Loomis.[29] As it stands, Louisville has surrendered much of its Romanesque architecture and this particular building stands as an important example of their early embrace of the style and an important addition to the civic and architectural life of the city.

Courthouses

Outside of the larger commissions of the McDonald Bros. firm, numerous smaller ones helped to spread the firm's name and popularity. Most of the firm's courthouses and jails fell into this category. Most of the courthouses, constructed in Kentucky, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, and Texas were exceptionally similar and appeared to be altered only in small details. This likely allowed the buildings to be constructed on time and within budget, which would have been important to the small towns where they were built.



Adair County Courthouse

Casey County Courthouse

Henry County Courthouse

Typical Designs

The Adair County Courthouse (NRHP, 1974) represents the typical courthouse style employed by the McDonald Brothers. The building's eclecticism does not allow it to fit tidily into any stylistic category. Perhaps the style can be best described as a Victorian-era variation of the previous typical classical courthouse design.

[28] Ibid.
[29] Id. at 20.

The building carries a pyramidal massing, visible from all sides, which allows the mass to dominate the block and small town where it is located. The mix of styles was said to have a "striking urban effect."

Using this model around the region, the McDonald Bros. firm was able to imprint its architectural style on dozens of communities, guiding the county's most significant local monument, giving the local folk a reason to be proud of what they could accomplish. This impact can be attested to in the other courthouses, city halls, and churches built by the McDonald Bros. which have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register-Listed Projects

Casey County Courthouse (Kentucky), 1888-1889 (NRHP, 1977)[30]

The Louisville architectural firm chosen by the Casey County court, McDonald Brothers (which consisted at that time of H(arry) P. McDonald (1848-1904) and Kenneth McDonald, Sr. (1852-1940)), was one of the most prolific firms, not only in Kentucky, but in the entire Southeast, their important commissions including structures as far from Louisville as Savannah, Georgia, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Although they designed and supervised the construction of an enormous range of buildings from private residences and churches to factories and tobacco warehouses, they were best-known for their public buildings, especially the county courthouses that were replaced at unprecedented scale and enormous quantities during the last quarter of the 19th century.

Henry County Courthouse (Kentucky), 1875 (NRHP, 1977)[31]

The Henry County Courthouse, erected about 1875 and dominating the small rural county seat of New Castle, is not only the focal point of the community's life, but is also an architectural monument in its own right. It is the first known major work in Kentucky by H. P. McDonald, head of the prominent and prolific Louisville, Kentucky, architectural firm of McDonald Brothers. The Henry County Courthouse appears to represent an early working of the McDonald Brothers' standard formula for county courthouses which they provided for innumerable courts in Kentucky and the Southeast during the 1880s. Although not fully developed in terms of this standard type, the Henry County design perhaps has more visual appeal, with its vestigial Italianate and Second Empire features, than its more severe (and no doubt economical) successors.

[30] Casey County Courthouse National Register Nomination
[31] Henry County Courthouse National Register Nomination

Hickman County Courthouse (1908 postcard image) **Simpson County Courthouse** **Owen County Courthouse**

Hickman County Courthouse (Kentucky), 1884-1885 (NRHP, 1975)[32]

This firm, in its various transformations from the late 1870s until well into the twentieth century, was one of the most prolific in Kentucky, and indeed in the South, specializing in courthouses and other public buildings. An incomplete count indicates that they were responsible for the design of well over a dozen courthouses in Kentucky alone, many of them following exactly the same pattern.

Simpson County Courthouse (Kentucky), 1883 (NRHP, 1980)

The courthouse is the first of four structures in Franklin that are known to have been designed by the prestigious Louisville architectural firm of the McDonald Brothers. Other works of the McDonald Brothers in Franklin include the First Franklin Presbyterian Church (1886), the Franklin Female College (1889), and the 1893 Goodnight House (listed on the National Register August 12, 1977). The Simpson County Courthouse in Franklin, Kentucky, is the town's most handsome late-nineteenth century structure and ranks as one of the county's finest examples of Victorian-era architecture. The two-story brick structure serves as both the visual and physical focal point of the town as well as being the governmental center of the county.

Owen County Courthouse and Jail Nomination (Kentucky), 1874-1875 (NRHP, 1976)

A decade later, the surprisingly charming jail was erected on a corner just behind the courthouse. Modest in scale and treatment, it gains some significance as the first known work of one of nearby Louisville's, and the South's, most prominent and prolific turn-of-the century architects, best known for the numerous courthouses his firm designed. Ironically, it was the success of H. P. McDonald's vigorous High Victorian courthouses that definitively displaced the restrained and noble antebellum Grecian temple as the model Kentucky courthouse.

A. Courthouses and Jails Not Listed in the National Register

1. Whitely County Courthouse (Burned, 1930)

[32] Hickman County Courthouse National Register Nomination

2. Laurel County Courthouse (Burned, 1958)
3. Bell County Courthouse, 1889 (Burned, 1914)
4. Trimble County Courthouse, 1884 (Burned, 1952)
5. Graves County Courthouse, 1889
6. Mt. Sterling Jail, 1883
7. Harlan County Jail, 1890
8. Gordon County Jail (Georgia), 1886
9. Pike County Courthouse
10. Chatham County Jail (Georgia), 1886

Dissolution of the McDonald's Bros. Firm

In 1896, after brothers Donald and Roy had already left the firm, Harry and Kenneth decided to dissolve the partnership.[33] Kenneth continued on to other partnerships, notably with John Francis Sheblessy in 1901 and William James Dodd in 1906. Kenneth McDonald retired to San Francisco in 1913 and died in 1940.

Evaluation of the Architectural Significance of the McDonalds Bros. designs to Kentucky's architectural heritage

The list above demonstrates that the McDonald Brothers firm left a significant mark on the Kentucky landscape. Their architecture set the tone of design for dozens of small towns and the scale of their commissions, and the detail with which they were executed, has allowed many of these buildings to remain the architectural focal point. The sheer volume of their work indicates their high esteem and popularity and indicates that they were creating something that the people of Kentucky, and also Indiana, Georgia, and Illinois, strongly desired.

Their work encompasses the most significant stylistic expressions of the period. This was a period when commerce was again booming and the brothers stood at the crossroads of this new flow of commerce. Their designs were attached to this new flow and as the Midwest and South were renewed after the Civil War, they were renewed with the architecture of the McDonald Brothers.

As prolific as their designs were, it is as important to note what buildings they designed. While the firm had their share of residences, their most significant work was accomplished on a larger stage. The firm was given the job of creating buildings that would convey authority and justice.

The McDonald Brothers Style

The McDonald Brothers style was one of simplified transition. The antebellum period in Kentucky had clearly embraced classical designs that harken to Greece and Rome. Courthouses had large columns, projecting gables, and clean lines. The McDonald Brothers retained these large architectural gestures and merged them with the new Richardsonian and the Victorian-era

[33] McDonald Brothers Dissolve, Courier-Journal; Jun 2, 1896, p. 5.

styles. The large columns were narrowed and capped at a single story in height. Entry porticoes were pulled closer to the building and their prominence generally reduced. The large gables, which had announced the previous classical style, shrank considerably.

Smaller details, such as those around windows and doors, embraced Victorian-period elements, with more brackets and dentils. Entrances were often arched, with heavy surrounding stone and bricks. Materials also changed, with a stronger mix of stone, brick, and wood, breaking up the monochromatic styling of the classical revival period.

By merging these styles, which combined classical shapes with more modern details, the McDonald Brothers successfully created simplified and economically viable designs, while retaining the imposing mass that such buildings required. These designs were affordable for small communities and so were able to quickly spread across the state.

In this manner the McDonald Brothers were able to shift the language of public architecture from the classical revival of the antebellum period to an eclectic variation of Victorian, Richardsonian, Italianate, and even Second Empire.

The McDonald Brothers' Work as the Work of a Master
The Significant Architects

To describe the work of the McDonald Brothers firm as the Work of Masters one must first differentiate those within the firm that did design and those that did not. It is well known that both Donald and Roy did most of the business administration, engaging contracts and overseeing construction. Donald's most important role was establishing the business outside of Louisville, traveling to different cities and obtaining commissions.[34] Donald handled negotiations, presentations, and generally kept the business out of Louisville, which allowed the other brothers to spend more time working on actual designs.[35] Roy spent most of his time overseeing construction after designs and contracts were established. Notably Roy and Donald were the first to leave the firm after joining and neither became a senior partner at any point.

Harry and Kenneth were the senior partners and the primary architects within the firm. Harry had previously worked with John Andrewartha, with buildings listed under the criteria of Work of a Master. Kenneth, after the firm dissolved, continued a prolific career, partnering with leading architects and designing further significant buildings for the region until his retirement to California.

Establishing McDonald Brothers' Portfolio as the Work of Masters

There are a number of avenues through which to establish the McDonald Brothers as Master Architects. The first avenue is the prolific number of buildings constructed by the firm during their two decades of work. The second avenue would be the number of buildings still in

[34] Hedgepeth Thesis, p. 21.
[35] Id.

existence and operation. The third avenue would be the significance of their buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The firm, during two decades of work produced more than 100 churches, courthouses, residences, and city halls. Of these, at least a dozen would have been significant enough to establish the career of any architect, such as designing Tennessee's Western State Hospital, the Kentucky State Penitentiary at Eddyville, the Southern Exposition Buildings, or the U.S. Customs House and Post Office in Louisville. In addition to these buildings, the McDonald Brothers Jail Building Co. constructed more than 100 jail buildings across Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Georgia.

Though sheer volume is often not sufficient to establish the highly regarded nature of a career, it is of note that these commissions were mostly public in nature. This meant that very often the McDonald Bros.' designs were in direct competition with other architects. Their designs were regarded as superior to architects from the locale of the project as well as the region. Beyond just designing a building, the firm was able to construct the building in a way that promoted their reputation and gave others reason to hire them as well. The firm's reputation would continue to grow as the public absorbed their work in public settings every day.

Of the 100 non-jail buildings constructed, at least 50 are still standing a full century later. Of the twenty-seven known county courthouses constructed, twenty-one still stand and many are still in use as county courthouses. That this many buildings remain of their public works from this period is significant. Obsolescence in public buildings is frequently achieved before the century mark and such buildings occupy prominent public positions. Their continued existence, let alone continued use, is a testament to the value which communities have placed on the McDonald Brothers architectural design and construction.

The third avenue to evaluate significance of work would be the number of buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. At least twenty-four McDonald Brothers buildings are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. At least another twenty are listed through inclusion in National Register Historic Districts as contributing structures. In addition to the already-listed buildings, several dozen of the currently unlisted, but still standing, buildings would be eligible for listing under criteria A and/or C.

To have more than forty buildings deemed worthy of preservation, a century after construction, is a significant accomplishment by any metric and should identify the Work of a Master.

Career of Henry P. McDonald After the Firm's Dissolution

Harry continued on his own, submitting designs for several projects, but also branching out into other areas of interest. In 1900 he was elected to the General Assembly, taking up the cause of Confederate veterans.

Records of Harry's architectural work are scarce after the dissolution of the firm. He worked significantly on Kentucky's Confederate Veterans home in Pewee Valley, Oldham County. Around the turn of the century, he was involved in remodeling the interior and as a state representative he fought to approve additional funding to build an infirmary on the grounds. During his second term as a representative the additional funding was approved, but he was not present for the vote. He was sick in bed in Louisville and died of pneumonia four days later.

It appears that his last building was commissioned in 1902 and completed in 1904. It was the Seventh Street School, later renamed the James Norton School, and then renamed again the John Marshall School.

Significance of Seventh Street School to Henry McDonald's Career

The Seventh Street School building in Louisville is the final building of McDonald's career. It shows the simple and economical style that had come to define his courthouse work. It was an eclectic variation of the classical style, with Italianate and Victorian-era details, but none so overwhelming to drive up costs or distract from the substantial mass of the building.

It was commissioned by the Louisville School Board and approved in 1901,[36] but not constructed until funds became available in 1902.[37] During construction in 1902 an additional request was made to add sound deadening to the floor, which had been added to other buildings and was found to be a good investment.[38]

Being an elected representative took a toll on McDonald's work. The school board had significant trouble scheduling meetings with him to make alterations to his submitted plans. In February of 1902, a design meeting was "imperative, but as Mr. McDonald's legislative duties keep him almost constantly in Frankfort, this could not be conveniently arranged."[39] In the end, the meeting had to be scheduled for a Saturday night, when McDonald would actually be in Louisville.[40]

Design Analysis of Seventh Street School

The Seventh Street School, when constructed, was similar in many respects to McDonald's previous courthouse work. The building is eclectic in styling, mixing various pieces of recent styles together, to create a traditional appearance.

[36] For Two New Schools, Courier-Journal, February 4, 1901, p. 2.
[37] Three New Schools for Louisville, Courier-Journal, April 8, 1902, p. 10.
[38] Hope Dashed: No Kindergartens in Public Schools This Year, Courier-Journal, November 7, 1902, p. 6.
[39] Change Plans. Courier Journal, February 25, 1902, p. 5.
[40] Ibid.

The entire building is located on an elevated basement constructed with rough limestone blocks. The brick facades are divided into five bays, with a brick pilaster between each bay. The north and south facades have a wider central bay, which projects slightly from the rest of the facade. The east and west facades are flush, though they also have the brick pilasters. The north and south facades have a single window within each bay at each floor, while the east and west facades have sets of double windows in each bay and at each floor.

This design was typical of a number of McDonald Bros. courthouses, which suggests that Harry was using his original business model of finding a single working design and then slightly modifying it to the tastes of the client, while keeping the general structure the same. The Seventh Street School, with brick pilasters, projecting central bays on the main facade, and flush gables on the secondary facades, along with a pyramidal shaped roof is a simplified version of the Whitely, Adair, and Hickman County Courthouses. These courthouses typify the McDonald Bros. courthouse design program.

The level of ornamentation could be modified greatly depending on the client. In this case the level of detail was kept at a minimum, with no freestanding columns, no decorative capitols above the pilasters and only a fairly simple entrance on the north and south. The windows, in whatever form, were left as basic rectangles, with only a stone sill as decoration. This is similar to the treatment of the Cumberland County Courthouse in Illinois, where the windows are simple rectangles.

The roof is pyramidal, which is typical of the courthouses designed by McDonald Bros., which lacked bell towers. The secondary facades have gables flush with the eaves and the primary facades have projecting gables. The eaves, which wrap the entire building, have an Italianate Victorian style, though were simplified by eliminating any brackets, which were typically added to the courthouse designs.

The interior plan is fairly simple, with the main building having rooms in the corners and crossing hallways through the center. The second floor maintains this division of space with the trunk of the second floor being divided between the two west rooms. This division of interior space, with a large central hallway and a crossing hallway, is typical of many of the McDonald Bros. courthouses, where the first floor would have been open to the exterior during the summer and would have acted as a pass through.

Addition

In 1906, the Louisville School Board met for its shortest meeting to that point. The trustees met for fifteen minutes and approved plans from Neal Curtin for the addition of four rooms to the James Norton School, as the Seventh Street School was then known.[41]

[41] In Short Session, Courier-Journal, July 10, 1906, p. 8.

The new addition respected the original design of McDonald. The roof is a shallow rectangular pyramid shape with wide eaves that stand out beyond the facade, reinforcing the eclectic Italianate style. The addition is divided into seven bays, though is no wider than the original building, with a slightly projecting front entrance in the center bay, similar to the other entrances to the building as designed by McDonald. At the corners of the building and the front entrance bay the bricks are raised to create slim quoins. The impact is a more Italianate building, but other than some very basic brickwork, the addition respects and reinforces the original building in style and scale.

Place within McDonald portfolio

The Seventh Street School marks the end of Harry McDonald's architectural career. While McDonald died a bit young, his career in architecture appeared to be slowing as he pursued other callings.

The school building that Harry created is exactly the type of building that his previous work suggests he would have built. It encompasses a mix of styles, making it hard to shoehorn into any single style. The overall building contains the type of symmetry and the front gables that would be expected of a classical revival building and that would be the most appropriate to the function of a public building.

The details, such as the eaves and main entrances, hint at the Italianate Victorian style that was popular at the time and lent itself to the details of smaller scale buildings. At the same time, the details were kept fairly basic, helping to keep costs down and ensuring the project finished on time and within budget.

Evaluation of Integrity between the McDonald Bros. architectural significance and the Seventh Street School's physical condition today.

If a building designed by the McDonald Brothers firm possesses the following integrity factors—location, setting, materials, design, and workmanship—it will be said to have integrity of feeling. If the building has integrity of the feeling of the era in which the McDonalds worked, and conveys their specific design qualities, it will be said to be eligible.

Integrity of Location. The Seventh Street School retains its historic location.

Integrity of Design. The Seventh Street School retains excellent integrity of design. The original building retains its original floor plan, location of staircases, and all of its original openings. Though windows have been boarded over and there has been some deterioration of materials the overall impact is minimal.

Integrity of Setting. Though the surrounding neighborhood is gradually changing, it remains much the same as when the school was first built. The American Standard manufacturing building has been rehabilitated and is located directly across Seventh Street. The other surrounding blocks are still historic commercial buildings or small historic homes. The small margin of land surrounding the building, the interior site setting, is the same as when the building was completed with its addition.

Integrity of Materials. The Seventh Street School possesses good integrity of materials. The original building was constructed of brick with some minimal stone details and wood eaves, windows, and some additional woodwork on the interior. All of the brickwork has been retained and is in good condition. The woodwork has suffered considerably more, but has been sympathetically replaced in areas where deterioration was severe. In a number of locations the woodwork has been painted repeatedly and the actual condition cannot be assessed.

Integrity of Workmanship. The Seventh Street School possesses good integrity of workmanship. The original design and original materials are generally present, which has caused the original workmanship to be retained as well. While some surfaces may have changed, such as varnish, stain, or paint, the underlying workmanship is still present.

Integrity of Feeling. Because the Seventh Street School possesses strong integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, it is able to convey a strong sense of feeling. The interior and exterior convey the sense that the building is academic, but not at the college level. The simple design conveys the public nature of the building. The historic signs above the entrances also help to convey the feeling that the building is an historic school.

Integrity of Association. Not only does the building retain the essentials of design significance, it also maintains a strong association with Harry McDonald as an architect. The building conveys his typical designs for public buildings and can easily be associated with his other public work.

In light of the retention of these specific design-driven integrity factors, the building is eligible for the National Register as a good local instance of the work of McDonalds Brothers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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3 E. Polk Johnson, *A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians: The Leaders and Representative Men in Commerce, Industry and Modern Activities,* Lewis Publishing Company, Kentucky (1912).

National Register Nominations:

National Register of Historic Places, Kentucky National Bank, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #79001010.

National Register of Historic Places, Western State Hospital Historic District, Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tennessee, National Register #79001010.

National Register of Historic Places, Old Eddyville Historic District, Eddyville, Lyon County, Kentucky, National Register #81000285.

National Register of Historic Places, Louisville City Hall Complex, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #76000905.

National Register of Historic Places, Casey County Courthouse, Liberty, Casey County, Kentucky, National Register #76000905.

National Register of Historic Places, Henry County Courthouse, New Castle, Henry County, Kentucky, National Register #77000621.

National Register of Historic Places, Gibson County Courthouse, Princeton, Gibson County, Indiana, National Register #77000621.

National Register of Historic Places, Hickman County Courthouse, Clinton, Hickman County, Kentucky, National Register #75000767.

National Register of Historic Places, Simpson County Courthouse, Franklin, Simpson County, Kentucky, National Register #80001668.

National Register of Historic Places, Owen County Courthouse and Jail, Owenton, Owen County, Kentucky, National Register #76000937.

National Register of Historic Places, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Carroll, McKenzie County, Tennessee, National Register #93000476.

National Register of Historic Places, Goodnight House, Franklin, Simpson County, Kentucky, National Register #77000647.

National Register of Historic Places, Aurora City Hall, Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana, National Register #96000288.

National Register of Historic Places, Sevier County Courthouse, Sevierville, Sevier County, Tennessee, National Register #71000832.

National Register of Historic Places, Washington County Courthouse, Salem, Washington County, Indiana, National Register #80000047.

National Register of Historic Places, Old Jail, Wilkes, Washington County, Georgia, National Register #74000706.

National Register of Historic Places, Adair County Courthouse, Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky, National Register #74000847.

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Change Plans. *Courier Journal*, February 25, 1902

In Short Session, *Courier-Journal*, July 10, 1906

McDonald Brothers Dissolve, *Courier-Journal*; June 2, 1896

A Dream Realized!: The Falls City's Great Southern Exposition Inaugurated, *Courier-Journal*, Aug. 2, 1883,

Death Claims Representative Harry P. McDonald. *Courier-Journal*, Feb. 19, 1904

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____JFL-71_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.0934
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
Louisville West quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	85.770263	38.226308	3	16	85.769975	38.225436
2	16	85.769351	38.226207	4	16	85.770364	38.225453

Seventh Street School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY
County and State

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Beginning at the intersection of South 7th Street and West Shipp Avenue, following South 7th Street south approximately 330 feet, then west 100 feet to South 9th Street, then north along South 9th Street approximately 315 feet, then east, along the alley to the beginning point at the intersection of South 7th Street and West Shipp Avenue, approximately 220 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries are the area currently owned by the applicant.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph C. Pierson
organization Pinion Advisors date 2/10/2016
street & number 1501 Morton Avenue telephone (517) 862-7333
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40204
e-mail JPierson@PinionAdvisors.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Seventh Street School
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson **State:** Kentucky
Description of Photograph(s) and number: North façade facing West Shipp Avenue.
1 of 7.

Name of Property: Seventh Street School
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson **State:** Kentucky
Description of Photograph(s) and number: South façade facing intersection of South 7th Street and South 9th Street.

2 of 7.

Name of Property: Seventh Street School
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson **State:** Kentucky
Description of Photograph(s) and number: West façade facing South 9th Street.
3 of 7.

Name of Property: Seventh Street School
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson **State:** Kentucky
Description of Photograph(s) and number: South façade of 1906 addition, facing intersection of South 7th Street and South 9th Street.
4 of 7.

Name of Property: Seventh Street School
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson **State:** Kentucky
Description of Photograph(s) and number: North façade of 1906 addition, facing West Shipp Avenue.
5 of 7.

Name of Property: Seventh Street School
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson **State:** Kentucky
Description of Photograph(s) and number: North façade of 1904 building, facing West Shipp Avenue.
6 of 7.

Name of Property: Seventh Street School
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson **State:** Kentucky
Description of Photograph(s) and number: East façade of 1906 addition, facing South 7th Street.
7 of 7.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Matthew Rumpke

street & number 15495 Crystal Springs Way telephone

city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40245-5298