

Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Hall) Individual Landmark Draft Designation Report

**Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts
Commission**



February 29, 2020

Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Building) Individual Landmark Designation Report

20-LANDMARK-0001

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Case Information

Individual Landmark

As defined by the LMCO 32.250, an Individual Landmark is “a structure or site, including prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, designated as a local historic landmark by the Commission as provided in this subchapter or by action prior to the effect of this subchapter. A landmark structure or site is one of significant importance to the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and which represents irreplaceable distinctive architectural features or historical associations that represent the historic character of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.”

20-LANDMARK-0001

This case was initiated by a Metro Council Resolution to conduct a review of the property for designation consideration. With the revised Landmarks Ordinance effective on August 8, 2019, the processing of this request is now subject to the Individual Designation requirements in LMCO Section 32.260(J) through LMCO Section 32.260(R).

Location

Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Building) (Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory #JC-LC-147) is located at 211-215 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. (formerly 211-215 W. Walnut St.) in the central business district of Louisville. The structure was built in 1897 by the Liberty Hall Association, a social club, meetings and events, as well as commercial spaces. (While identified as Liberty Hall, the building is also commonly called Odd Fellows Hall). The site is on the north side of W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. approximately two lots west from the intersection with Second Street. The façade of the four-story, late-Victorian masonry structure fronts the north side of Muhammad Ali Blvd. (previously known as Walnut Street). The three-bay building historically encompassed three city lots known as 211-215 West Muhammad Ali Blvd. There are no other remaining buildings along this street frontage with the exception of the former mid-century gas station located at the corner of 2nd Street and W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. The remainder of the block to the north is occupied by the Omni Hotel complex.

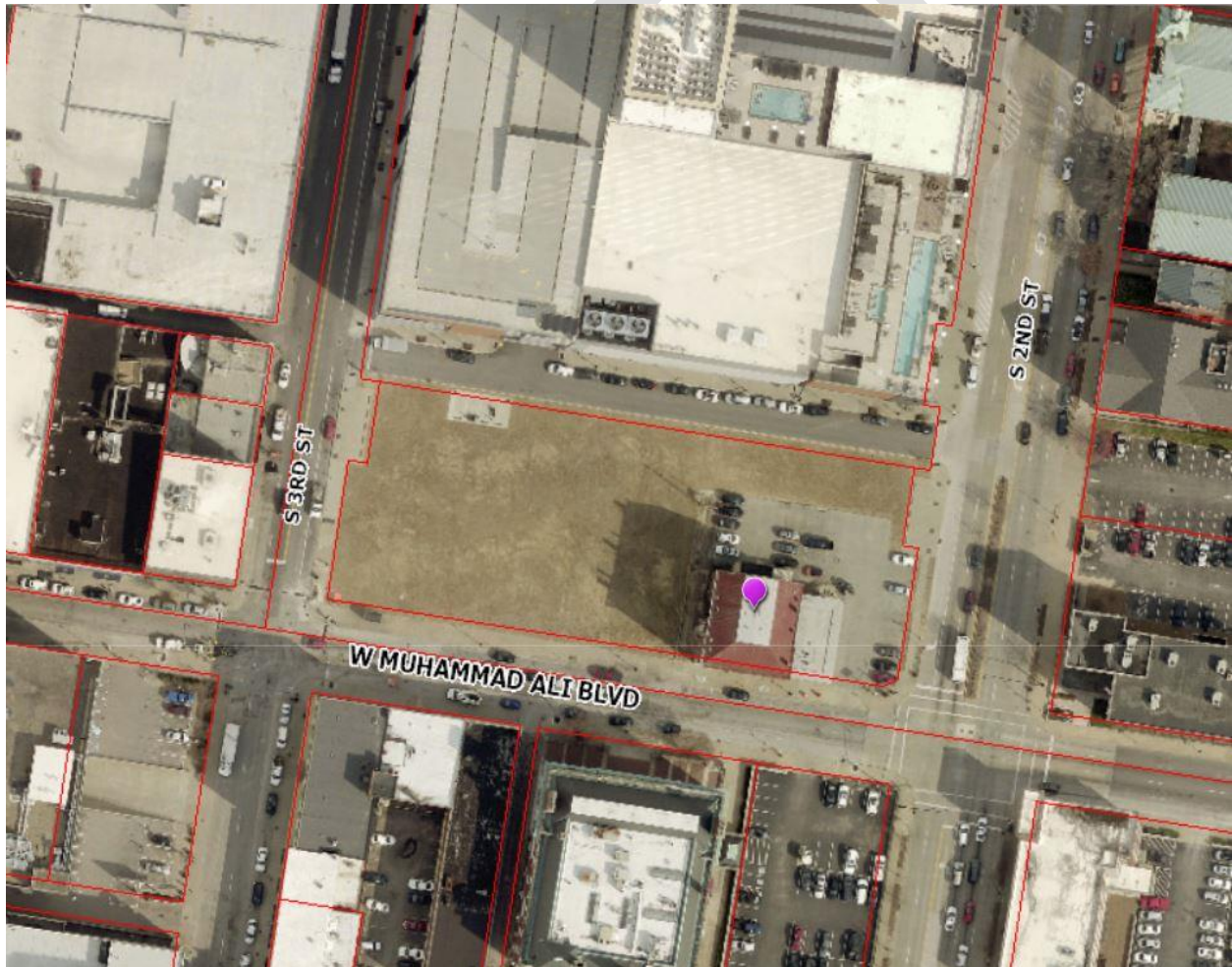


Figure 1. Aerial view of the subject property marked by the purple pin. (LOJIC).

Building Description, Current



Figure 2. View looking North at the primary (South) facade.

The front façade has a remodeled storefront level including a concrete veneer (non-original) covering on the first floor. A single one-over-one double-hung window flank the central bay which has non-historic aluminum double-doors and paired one-over-one double-hung windows on either side of the central doorway. All three of these openings in the central bay have arched transom windows over them to mimic the windows on the third floor. There are fewer alterations on the second and third floor of the primary façade. A single one-over-one, double-hung window is situated on each floor of the outside bays. The central bay on the second and third floors is recessed with three sets of one-over-one double-hung windows. Above the third-story windows are brick arches that rise from brick pilasters. In between the arches there are cartouches with bas relief ribbon and wreath trim. All of the windows with the exception of the oval windows are non-historic aluminum replacement windows. Brick is used to decoratively band the second and third floor of this elevation. Above the third floor windows there are ornate oval windows. The cornice line has brackets and dentil molding. The roof is a standing seam metal hipped roof with chimneys on either side of the building. Oriels with swag and wreath decorations are on each side of the building to add to the classical motifs.



Figure 3. View looking at East at the West elevation.

The West elevation features a projecting two-story bay window with decorative swags. The southern portion (first two-bays) features detailed brickwork and two original wood oval windows with limestone accents. This would have been the most visible portion of the west elevation before the surrounding buildings were demolished. The first floor only has two existing window openings with one-over-one double-hung sash aluminum windows. Two other openings were bricked in at some point after the original building campaign. The remainder of the façade has window openings with one-over-one double-hung sash aluminum replacement windows and limestone sills. There are two arched windows visible on the fourth floor in the central bay of the elevation. There are five chimney stacks visible on this side of the building. The fire escape is also located on this elevation.



Figure 4. View looking at west at the East elevation.

The East elevation features a projecting one-story bay window with decorative swags. The southern portion (first two-bays) features detailed brickwork and two original wood oval windows with limestone accents. The first floor has no window openings as it was always obscured by an adjacent building. The remainder of the façade has window openings with one-over-one double-hung sash aluminum-clad replacement windows and limestone sills. There are two arched wood windows visible on the fourth floor in the central bay of the elevation. There are four chimney stacks visible on this side of the building.



Figure 5. View looking at South at the North (rear) elevation.

The rear elevation is devoid of any architectural detailing. The common bond brick pattern, however, is visible from this elevation. The original window openings have primarily been concealed by a modern concrete three-story stair tower. The windows are one-over-one double hung sash aluminum replacement windows. A single chimney stack protrudes from the roof line on the west side.



Figure 6. View looking at southeast at the West and North elevations.



Figure 7. View looking at southwest at the East and North elevations.

Building Description, Original and Modifications

Based on the following three photographs, the exterior of Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Hall) has been somewhat altered since its original date of construction. A fire occurred in 1987 which led to a complete gutting of the interior, as well as replacement of most windows with aluminum clad units. The first floor storefront has changed significantly over time. The first floor was originally symmetrical with a set of double doors on the first bay, a display window, a set of double doors, and display window on the central bay, and a door on the third bay (**Figure 8**). Transom windows surmount the display windows and doors. It is unclear when the brick façade and open storefront was changed, or whether the E & S Distributors sign was a slipcover or a permanent change to the building (**Figure 9**). This this change, however removed the transom windows and changed the location of the display windows and doors. The second and third floors on the primary façade have remained relatively unchanged from 1928 to today. The most recent façade change removed the display windows and doors altogether on the storefront level which likely took place the post-fire renovations which changed the building into offices (**Figure 10**).



Figure 8. 1928 Metropolitan Sewer District Photograph of Liberty Hall.

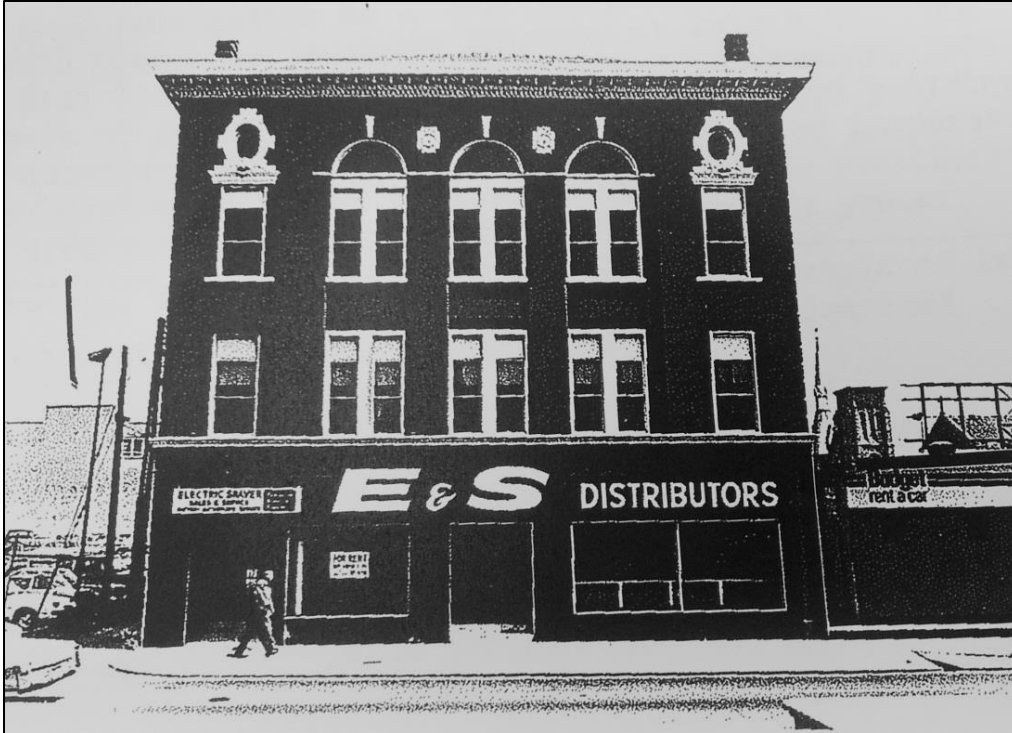


Figure 9. 1978 Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Hall).



Figure 10. Photograph of the south and east elevations of Liberty Hall.

Physical Context

There has been substantial change on this urban block between S. 2nd and S. 3rd Street. When originally constructed, Liberty Hall was situated in between two- and three-story buildings that flanked its east and west elevations. Only the front two bays on the side elevations were visible from the street. Subsequent demolition on this block left only Liberty Hall and the mid-century one-story gas station on the north side of W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. The Omni Hotel on the north side of this city block was constructed in 2015.



Figure 11. 1928 Metropolitan Sewer District Photograph of the intersection of S. Second St. and W. Walnut St. Liberty Hall is shown on the left side of the photo. A painted advertisement for the Pentecostal Publishing Co. was painted on the east elevation of the building (no longer extant).



Figure 12. Current day view looking at northwest at the East and South elevations at the corner of S. Second St. and W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. (formerly W. Walnut St.).



Figure 13. 1928 Metropolitan Sewer District Photograph of S. Third St and W. Walnut, looking east. Liberty Hall is on the far right side of the photograph.



Figure 14. Current view from S. Third St. looking east.

Archaeology

The site (Archaeological Site #15JF902) associated with the Louisville Water Company Block was archaeologically surveyed and documented by M. Jay Stottman in 2015 as a part of the adjacent Omni development. The conclusion of the report states “the archaeological investigations at the Omni site have contributed to a better understanding of history and life in Louisville during the early to mid-nineteenth century. Based on this work archaeological remains associated with the Louisville Water Company block have been documented per requirement of the Metro Downtown Development Overlay District.”

History of Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Building)

Prior to Liberty Hall’s construction, the lot was used for a residential purpose. The 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map depicts a stable known as 205 ½ associated with the large dwelling at 205 West Walnut Street (**Figure 15**). According to the city directories, this dwelling was home to Mary E. Hite, widow of W.C. Hite, and her son W.W. Hite, president of W.W. Hite & Co., a steamboat and railroad supply store. Joseph G. McCulloch also resided in that dwelling. He was the president and general manager of Southern Railway News Co. and vice president of the Louisville & Evansville Mail Co.

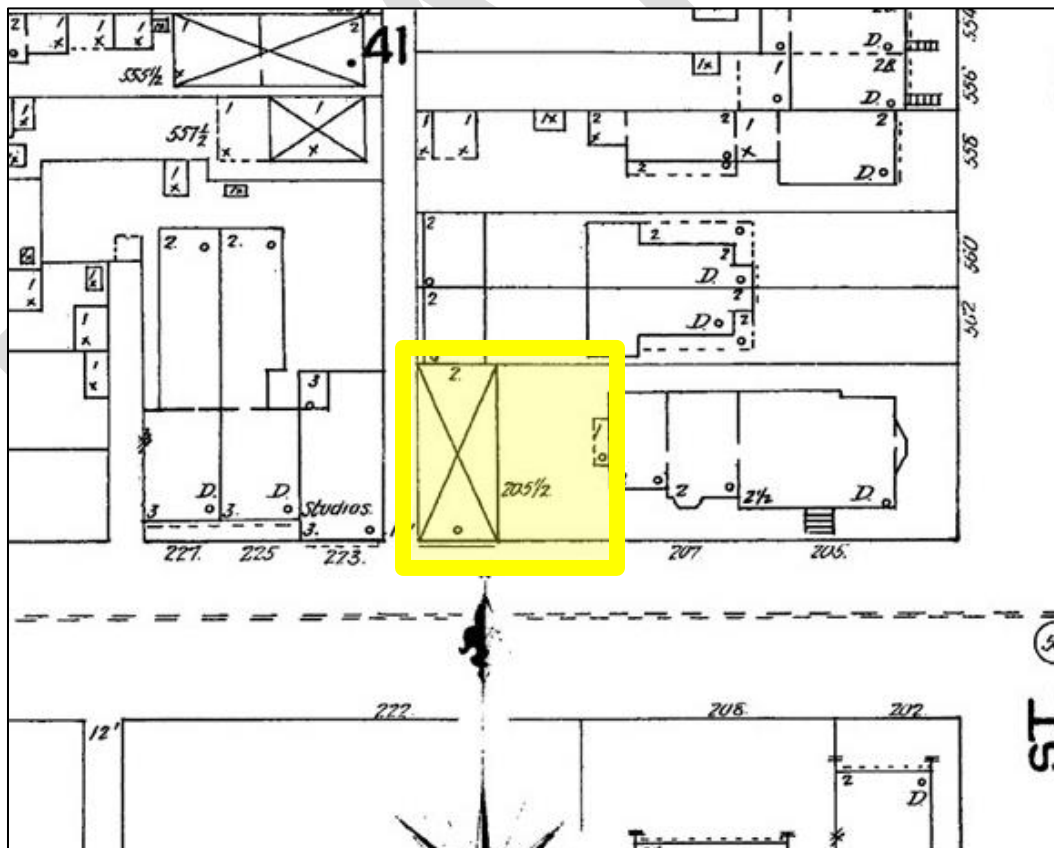


Figure 15. 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Yellow box indicates approximate location where Liberty Hall was eventually constructed.

The Liberty Hall Association whose members were primarily from different Odd Fellows lodges built the Liberty Hall building circa 1898. The building served as a meeting place for a consortium of lodges and social organizations including the Odd Fellows with addition commercial storefronts on the first floor. The Liberty Hall Association purchased the land November 16, 1896 from the estate of W.C. Hite, and constructed the building sometime before 1898. To date, there has been no evidence discovered to identify the designer of the building. The first reference to the building is in the 1898 City Directory and is listed as “Odd Fellows Hall”. By 1899, the city directory listed eight Odd Fellows lodges meeting at Liberty Hall. The 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map depicts Liberty Hall after its construction in 1897, which is the only building that changed in that time (**Figure 16**). The 1940 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows Liberty Hall and the changes in the surrounding buildings (**Figure 17**). For example, 205 West Walnut became a boarding house and a corner store was added to the Second Street façade (**Figure 18**).

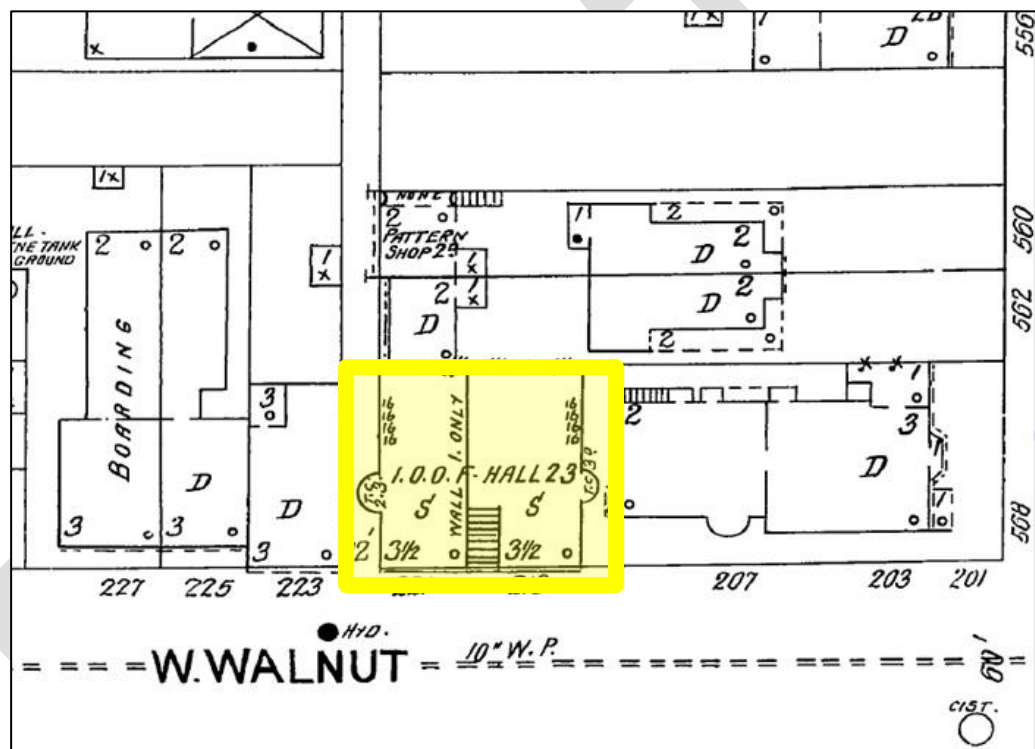


Figure 16. 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map . This image is the first map showing Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Hall).

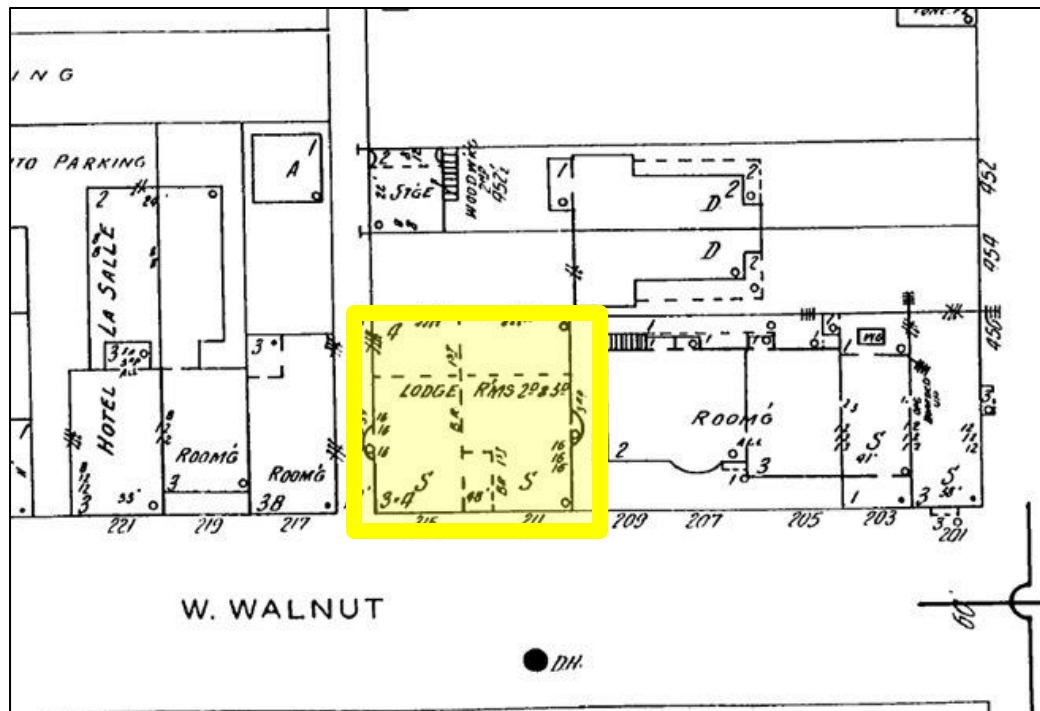


Figure 17. 1940 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The original residence on the corner has been replaced with commercial buildings.



Figure 18. Photo of View looking west at the intersection of W. Walnut St. and S. Second St. Liberty Hall is visible in the center of the photo.

The addresses of the two retail storefronts within the building changed frequently. The address 211 ½ was used to denote those groups that held meetings in the building. It appears over time that other fraternal and social organizations used the upper floor meeting spaces. The table below lists the tenants from 1903 through 1970 according to the Louisville city directories. By 1963, the entire building appeared to be a private luncheon club known as the Tavern Club into the 1970s.

In 1987, the building suffered fire which was confined to the interior. This resulted in a substantial loss of the interior spaces including the meeting spaces, as well as the commercial storefront appearance. The building underwent an extensive interior remodeling to convert it to offices after the fire. The offices for Parking Authority of River City occupied the building until it was transferred to Omni Hotels in 2015.

Table 1. Tenants of 211-215 W. Walnut St.

Date	211 West Walnut Street	211 ½ West Walnut Street	213 West Walnut Street	215 West Walnut Street
1903	S.C. McCoy, MD; P.A. Neff, MD; Liberty Hall, Odd Fellows Hall	(combined with 211)	not listed	Dalton Tailoring Co.
1906	Liberty Hall, Odd Fellows Hall, Gustav Adams	(combined with 211)	not listed	Dalton Tailoring Co.
1908	Liberty Hall, Gustav Adams	(combined with 211)	not listed	Dalton Tailoring Co.
1910	Liberty Hall, Liberty Hall Assn., Gustav Adams, Pentecostal Publishing Co.	(combined with 211)	Max Simons, mer tailor and McCaskey Register Co.	not listed
1915	Liberty Hall, Liberty Hall Assn., Gustav Adams, Pentecostal Publishing Co.	(combined with 211)	W.E. Conen Piano Co. and Caroline Conen, music teacher	not listed
1917	Liberty Hall, Liberty Hall Assn., Gustav Adams, Pentecostal Publishing Co., First Spiritualist Church	(combined with 211)	J.R. Johnson, pianos	not listed
1921	Liberty Hall, Liberty Hall Assn., Gustav Adams	(combined)	Johnson Piano Co.	not listed
1925	Pentecostal Publishing Co.	Liberty Hall Assn., Gustav Adams, Louisville Liederkranze Christadelphian Assn., Sons & Daughters of Liberty, Royal Arcanum-Louisville Council No. 242, F. & A.M. Hall	Johnson Piano Co.	not listed
1927	Pentecostal Publishing Co.	Liberty Hall Assn., Gustav Adams, Louisville Liederkranze Christadelphian Assn., Sons & Daughters of Liberty	Johnson Piano Co.	not listed
1930	Pentecostal Publishing Co.	Liberty Hall Assn., Gustav Adams, Christadelphian (Brethren of Christ), Sons & Daughters of Liberty, Louisville Railroad Benefit Assn., National Assn. of Letter Carriers, Louisville Liederkranze, Royal Arcanum- Louisville Council No. 242, IOOF Louisville Lodge No. 81, Improved Order of Redmen Hi-O-Ka-Too No. 5, Daughters of Pocahontas Afaretta Council No. 4, United Commercial Travelers, FC Council No. 348	Johnson Piano Co.	not listed

Date	211 West Walnut Street	211 ½ West Walnut Street	213 West Walnut Street	215 West Walnut Street
1933	Pentecostal Publishing Co.	Liberty Hall, Assn. of Royal Neighbors of America, United Commercial Travelers, FC Council No. 348, Sons & Daughters of Liberty, IOOF Louisville Lodge No. 81, Improved Order of Redmen Hi-O-Ka-Too No. 5, Louisville Liederkranze, National Assn. of Letter Carriers, Louisville Railroad Benefit Assn., Gustav Adams	Johnson Piano Co.	not listed
1937	Pentecostal Publishing Co.	Liberty Hall; Liberty Hall Assn.; Royal Neighbors of America; Sons & Daughters of Liberty; Modern Woodmen of America FC Camp No. 11, 544; Ben Hur Ky. Jr. Court No. 11; Knights of Maccabees Louisville Tent No. 44; Workmen's Sick & Death Benefit Fund of the USA; National Assn. of Letter Carriers; Louisville Railroad Benefit Assn.; International Assn. of the Amalgamated Lithogs of America; Gustav Adams; Order Railway Conductors (Ladies Auxiliary) Louisville Division No. 89; Brotherhood of Railway & Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express, and Station Employees (L&N); Daughters of American Revolution, Baxter Council No. 34; Order of Railway Conductors (Monon); National Assn. of Power Engineers; Aurora Lodge of Masons No. 633	vacant	not listed
1940	Pentecostal Publishing Co.	Liberty Hall; Liberty Hall Assn.; Royal Neighbors of America; Sons & Daughters of Liberty; Modern Woodsmen of America FC Camp No. 11, 544; Ben Hur Ky. Jr. Court No. 11; Workmen's Sick & Death Benefit Fund of the USA; National Assn. of Letter Carriers; International Assn. of the Amalgamated Lithogs of America; Gustav Adams; Order Railway Conductors (Ladies Auxiliary) Louisville Division No. 89; Daughters of American Revolution, Baxter Council No. 34; Order of Railway Conductors (Monon); National Assn. of Power Engineers; Aurora Lodge of Masons No. 633 F& AM; Woodmen of the World Maple Camp No. 12; Woodmen of the World Live Oak Camp No. 6	not listed	Toledo Scale Co.
1946-47	Not listed	Liberty Hall; Royal Neighbors of America; Sons & Daughters of Liberty; Modern Woodmen of America; Ben Hur Ky. Court No. 11; International Assn. of the Amalgamated Lithogs of America; Gustav Adams; Order Railway Conductors (Ladies Auxiliary) Louisville Division No. 89; Daughters of American Revolution, Baxter Council No. 34; Order of Railway Conductors (Monon); National Assn. of Power Engineers; Woodmen of the World Live Oak Camp No. 6; Christadelphian Church; IOOF Louisville Lodge No. 81	not listed	Toledo Scale Co. and U.S. Slicing Machine Co.
1953-54	Not listed	Liberty Hall; Royal Neighbors of America; Sons & Daughters of Liberty; Modern Woodmen of America; Ben Hur Ky. Court No.	not listed	Pentecostal Publishing Co.

Date	211 West Walnut Street	211 ½ West Walnut Street	213 West Walnut Street	215 West Walnut Street
		11; International Assn. of the Amalgamated Lithogs of America; Gustav Adams; Order Railway Conductors (Ladies Auxiliary) Louisville Division No. 89; Daughters of American Revolution, Baxter Council No. 34; Order of Railway Conductors (Monon); OES Naomi Chapter No. 14; Woodmen of the World Live Oak Camp No. 6; Christadelphian Church; IOOF Louisville Lodge No. 81; IOOF Boone Lodge No. 1; IOOF Chosen Friend No. 2		
1957	Liberty Hall, Benjamin T. Rubel, Sons & Daughters of Liberty, Christadelphian Church, Modern Woodmen of America, Daughters of Am-Orphans Committee, International Assn. of the Amalgamated Lithogs of America, IOOF Boone Lodge No. 1, Daughters of American Revolution, Baxter Council No. 34, IOOF Louisville Lodge No. 81, Order of Railway Conductors (Monon), Woodmen of the World Live Oak Camp	(combined with 211)	not listed	Pentecostal Publishing Co.
1960	Liberty Hall, Benjamin T. Rubel, Sons & Daughters of Liberty, Daughters of Am-Orphans Committee, IOOF Boone Lodge No. 1, Order of Railway Conductors (Monon), Sunset Rebecca Lodge No. 111, Daughters of Liberty (Freedom Ring), International Assn. of Mach (Lodge 1390)	(combined with 211)	not listed	Pentecostal Publishing Co.
1963	Tavern Club	(combined with 211)	(combined with 211)	(combined with 211)
1967	Tavern Club, private luncheon club	(combined with 211)	(combined with 211)	(combined with 211)
1970	Tavern Club	(combined with 211)	(combined with 211)	(combined with 211)

Historic Significance

Fraternal Organizations in Louisville

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fraternal organizations played a vital role in the social structure of Louisville. Originating from the Europe during the rise of the Industrial Revolution and associated with the Progressive Era of social reform, these organizations took several forms as benevolent, ethnic, fraternal, patriotic, and religious groups which met frequently. These groups included members from all economic and social backgrounds from laborers to professionals. There were organizations that served not only male members, but there were also female-associated groups such as the Order of Eastern Star, Rebekah Lodges, and Pocahontas Councils. Additionally, African-American organizations had parallel chapters from many of the prominent lodges including The Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows.

According to the *Louisville Encyclopedia*, “there were four Freemason lodges established by 1832. During the late-nineteenth century, the number of social organizations increased rapidly. These organizations not only participated in social activities with their associated groups, they also did charitable work for the needy including scholarships and funding cultural programs. These organizations also provided insurance policies and retirement homes for their members. The intellectual, social, and cultural life of Louisville was greatly enhanced by its number of fraternal organizations. Membership began to decline in the post-World War II era as other social activities, urbanization, greater mobility, and technology supplanted the need for fraternal organizations. As a result, many lodges closed while due to declines in membership and aging members”.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

According to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows website, “The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was founded in the United States on April 26, 1819 by Thomas Wildey in Baltimore, Maryland. It is believed that the American Odd Fellows evolved from the Order of Odd Fellows founded in England in the 1700s. Several unofficial Odd Fellows lodges were founded in New York around 1806-1818, but the Washington Lodge No. 1, founded by Wildey, is credited as the first because of its charter relationship. In 1842, the American Lodges separated from the English Order as they wanted their own authority, and in 1843, became the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On September 20, 1851, the IOOF became the first national fraternal organization to accept both men and women as members when it created the Daughters of Rebekah. However, women were still not admitted to the IOOF itself. Schuyler Colfax, who would become Vice President under President Ulysses S. Grant, is credited as the driving force behind this movement. During the Civil War, membership dwindled, and many lodges could not operate, especially in the southern states. However, after the war, large numbers of people returned to the IOOF”.

The I.O.O.F website further detailed that, “during the next half century, known as the American “golden age of fraternalism,” the IOOF became one of the largest fraternal organizations in the country. In Louisville, the Odd Fellows were noted to have over twenty lodges by the 1880s. By 1889, every state had an IOOF lodge, and by 1896, the World Almanac named the IOOF as the largest in America. It continued to grow to other countries including some in Europe and the

Americas. The Great Depression and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal led to a decline in IOOF membership as many could not afford membership fees. Furthermore, the New Deal's social reforms took place of much of the social work provided by the IOOF. In 1971, the organization removed its "whites only" clause. In additional progressive actions, some lodges of the IOOF have allowed women as members, which has led to the decline of the Daughters of Rebekah. Today, the Odd Fellows are a non-political and non-religious fraternal organization. They are often referred to as the Triple Link Fraternity because of their symbol of three interlocking rings representing friendship, love, and truth".

Public Halls

Benevolent, fraternal, political, and ethnic organizations played an important part in early Louisville's social life. These organizations promoted political and social causes, organized and hosted balls, concerts, holiday observances, and lectures. Fraternal organizations initially occupied available houses or community spaces. Eventually, lodges and social groups began to construct buildings with dedicated meeting spaces referred to as public halls.

The public hall property type was a familiar facility in Louisville during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The "golden age" of fraternal and social organizations gave rise to the need for meeting spaces. According to Caron's City Directories and Courier-Journal newspaper listings, numerous organizations were listed in association with various public halls (*See Appendix A*). Oftentimes, these groups would utilize the same building at different meeting times. Of the surviving examples, only one building has the insignia of the fraternal organization that constructed the building. The Parkland Masonic Temple has an embedded medallion on the second floor indicating that it was purpose-built for the Masons.

Public halls built across America during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries typically combined meeting hall and commercial functions. Commercial rents helped defray building and maintenance costs and generated income for the fraternal organization. This mixed-use approach, not only generated more income, but also helped to ensure that the building was a part of daily urban life.

Architecturally, public halls in Louisville seem to be two- to three- stories in height. A majority of the buildings are masonry construction. They typically have an open storefront for the commercial use on the first floor. Architectural detailing is evident on the upper stories with arched windows and decorative brickwork. Many of the surviving buildings have a pedimented gable-front which is evocative of classical architecture. The public hall is typically integrated into the urban blockface with no setbacks.

Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Hall) was built by the Liberty Hall Association comprised of members from various Odd Fellows lodges. The building was designed to serve as a public hall and commercial storefront. The listing in **Table 1** indicates that numerous organizations were using the space for lodge meetings. Though the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was one of the frequent users of the building, it was not the only fraternal organization or social club occupying the space. This indicates that Liberty Hall was not purpose built solely for I.O.O.F., but appears to have been

intended to serve numerous social organizations. The survey of Caron's City Directories also catalogues the various businesses that utilized the commercial spaces on the first floor.

Extant Public Halls in Louisville (1890 – 1910)



Figure 19. Chestnut Street Hall aka Dinwiddie's Hall, 2601 W. Chestnut St.



Figure 20. Highland Hall, 919 Baxter Ave.



Figure 21. Parkland Masonic Temple, 2801 Dumesnil St.



Figure 22. Shelby Market Hall, 216 S. Shelby St.

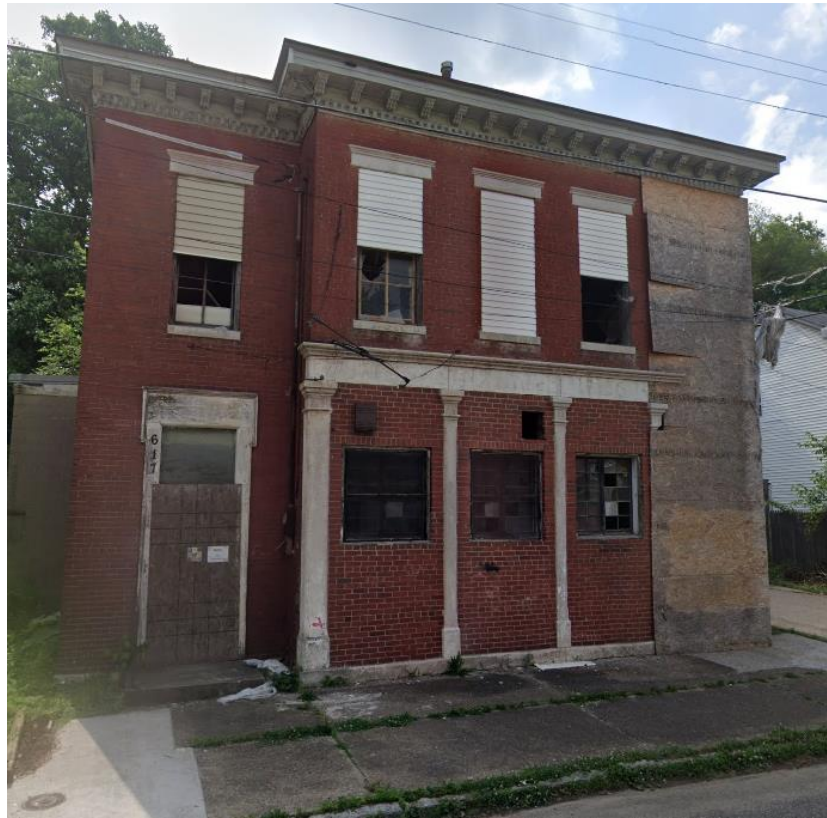


Figure 23. Shafer's Hall aka Odd Fellows' Hall, 617s N. 27th St.



Figure 24. Klondike Hall, 2201 Garland Ave.



Figure 25. Iroquois Hall, 3000 S. 3rd St.



Figure 26. Lewis Hall, 537 N. 26th St.



Figure 27. Rademaker Hall, 1207 Payne St.



Figure 28. Liberty Hall, 211-215 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.

Historic Integrity

The definition described in the Landmarks Ordinance is: “The authenticity of a structure or site’s historic integrity evidenced by survival of physical characteristics that existed during the structure or site’s historic or prehistoric period. To retain historic integrity a site must possess some of the following aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.” Note that the integrity as applied by the Landmarks Ordinance is for the exterior of the structure since that is the extent of regulation if designated.

Integrity Assessment

Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Building) was previously deemed to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the John Milner and Associates Downtown Survey Report in 2005. The determination did not specify the eligibility criteria; however, given the destructive fire and subsequent loss of interior fabric during a remodel in the 1980s, it is unlikely to qualify for an individual listing. This determination did not include a fully developed historic context, or integrity evaluation for the structure. The analysis was based on windshield survey, and the existing Kentucky Historic Resources Survey form from 1978. Since building and site conditions can change over time, it is important to reevaluate the building’s current integrity within a developed historic context.

Liberty Hall retains a high level integrity in **location** to support the historic significance of the contributing structure as it relates to its association with the development the central business district. The structure has not been moved from its original location and still has its historic orientation to W. Muhammad Ali Blvd (historically Walnut St.).

The structure has a moderate level of integrity in terms of **design**. The form of the building is readable as a product from the period of original construction. Key features such as the side bay windows and oriel windows are still intact, as is the standing seam metal roof and chimney stacks. Decorative brick work is still intact on the second and third floors. The building’s storefront was altered a couple of times with the current storefront dating to the post-fire era. The current configuration of the first floor elevation no longer retains the original storefront appearance. A rear stairwell addition also obscures a majority of the north elevation.

The building retains a low level of integrity in **setting** because of the surrounding urban redevelopment. The loss of surrounding buildings that originally fronted W. Walnut Street leaves the building without the original urban context from the period of construction.

The structure retains a low to moderate level of **feeling and association**. The building’s first floor storefront has been significantly altered with the loss of the display windows and doorways. The building still possesses identifiable exterior architectural features, however, that date to the original construction which make it recognizable. The surrounding urban setting in which the building was originally built, however, has been significantly altered which the loss of adjacent buildings.

The building possesses a moderate level of integrity in ***materials and workmanship*** to support the historic significance of the structure. The second and third story elevations are still retain the same window openings, bays, and decorative brickwork, ornamentation, cornice line and standing seam metal roof. A majority of the windows have been replaced and the loss of the storefront, as well as the removal of the related interior fabric, which results in diminished integrity.

Designation Criteria

In accordance with Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances Section 32.260(O), considering the designation of any area, site, or structure in Louisville Metro as an Individual Landmark, the Commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such structure, site, or area. An Individual Landmark shall possess sufficient integrity to meet criterion (a) and one or more of the other criteria (b) through (e).

In consideration of a potential designation as an Individual Landmark the Landmark Ordinance defines a landmark structure or site is one of significant importance to the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and which represents irreplaceable distinctive architectural features or historical associations that represent the historic character of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.

Designation Criteria Analysis

A) Its character, interest, or value as part of the development or heritage of the city, the Commonwealth, or the United States.

The significance of Liberty Hall is related to the “golden era” of fraternal organizations that were prevalent at the turn of the 20th-century. The building served as a public hall for multiple fraternal organizations which operated as an organizing social network for Louisville.

B) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.

There are no known significant historic events associated with this property.

C) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city, the commonwealth, or the nation.

In consideration of significance associated with a person or persons, the evaluation relates to whether an individual’s period of significant contribution or productivity occurred while residing or occupying a building, structure, or site. While many notable members were associated with the Odd Fellows and other fraternal organizations, there is no singular person identified directly with Liberty Hall.

D) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen; or its embodiment of a significant architectural innovation; or its identification as the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.

The building does not represent a significant architectural innovation. Liberty Hall is associated with the public hall property-type and is one of the surviving examples of this type of community gathering place. The eclectic late-Victorian building retains some of its architectural detailing which dates to the period of construction.

There is no identified history to connect this building with an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.

E) Its historic significance is based on its association with an underrepresented history within the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and broadens our understanding of these underrepresented histories.

In consideration of significance associated with underrepresented histories, the evaluation relates to inclusion and telling a comprehensive history of people and culture. Based on the current research, this building does not appear to be directly related to use by African American Lodges – the most commonly unrepresented history associated with social lodges at this time.

Boundary Justification

The property proposed for designation in the Resolution by Metro Council is located 211 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. According to the Jefferson County Property Evaluation Administrator (PVA), the property is identified as (parcel number 017F00210000). However, due to the loss of built context and environment, this would be unjustifiable. A more justifiable designation boundary, should be the building be deemed appropriate for designation as an Individual Landmark, would be immediately around the building such as indicated in blue in the image below. This boundary does not include the remaining portion of a brick alley on the west side of the building.



Figure 29. LOJIC aerial showing location of the designation boundary for the Liberty Hall (Odd Fellows Building).

Sources of Information

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University of Louisville Digital Photo Archives

Appendix A

Public Halls listed in Caron's 1880 City Directory.

Building Name	Location	Demolished?
Association Hall	5 th St., corner of Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Avenue Hall	Portland Ave., corner of 19 th St.	Yes
Avenue Market Hall	Portland Ave., near 26 th St.	Yes
Baldwin's Hall	80 4 th St., near Main St.	Yes
Batz Hall	Market, between 3 rd and 4 th Sts.	Yes
Beck's Hall	13 Jefferson St., near 1 st St.	Yes
Bowles' Hall	Jefferson St., near Preston St.	Yes
Broadway Hall	Broadway, southeast corner Hancock St.	Yes
Central Hall	Public Library Building (4 th St., between Green and Walnut)	Yes
Conservatory Hall	Public Library Building, north wing (4 th St., between Green and Walnut)	Yes
Darius Hall	346 Green St. (Liberty St.), near Shelby St.	Yes
Davis Hall	North side Green St. (Liberty St.), between 2 nd and 3 rd Sts.	Yes
Druids' Hall	Market St., northeast corner Preston St.	Yes
Eclipse Hall	Walnut St., corner 13 th St.	Yes
Ehrmann's Hall	Beargrass, above Ohio	Yes
Euclid Hall	Jefferson St., between 6 th and 7 th Sts.	Yes
Excelsior Hall	Market St., southeast corner 1 st St.	Yes
Falls City Hall	Market St., between 11 th and 12 th Sts.	Yes
Festival Hall	Public Library Building, Lower Hall (4 th St., between Green and Walnut)	Yes
Glover's Rink Hall	213 7 th St., near Chestnut St.	Yes
Graham Hall	Jefferson St., southwest corner 7 th St.	Yes
Hall over Farmers' and Drovers' Bank	115 Market St., near 4 th St.	Yes
Harugari Hall	South side Market St., between 1 st and Brook Sts.	Yes
Humboldt Hall	Market St., corner 11 th St.	Yes
Knights of Honor Hall	Main St., southeast corner 17 th St.	Yes
Knights of Pythias Central Hall	151 6 th St., between Green (Liberty) and Walnut (Muhammad Ali Blvd.) Sts.	Yes
Liederkrantz Hall	Market St., between 1 st and 2 nd Sts.	Yes
Lincoln Hall	Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.), corner 13 th St.	Yes
Masonic Temple	Jefferson St., corner 4 th St.	Yes
Odd Fellows' Hall	Jefferson St., near 1 st St.	Yes
Orpheus Hall	Jefferson St., northeast corner 2 nd St.	Yes

Preston Hall	Main St., above Shelby St.	Yes
Redmen's Hall	South side Market St., between 1 st and Brook Sts.	Yes
Robinson Hall	Main St., southeast corner Clay St.	Yes
St. John's Hall	East side Clay St., between Walnut (Muhammad Ali Blvd.) and Madison Sts.	Yes
Templars' Hall	115 Market St., near 4 th St.	Yes
Turner Hall	Jefferson St., above Preston St.	Yes
Wedekind Hall	Market St., between 6 th and 7 th Sts.	Yes
Woodside Hall	Market St., northwest corner 11 th St.	Yes

Public Halls listed in Caron's 1900 City Directory.

Building Name	Address (address after 1909 if found)	Demolished?
Adam's Hall	1530 12 th St.	Yes
Avenue Hall	1853 Portland Ave. (539 N. 19 th St.)	Yes
Avenue Market Hall	2615 Portland Ave.	Yes
Barbers' Aid Hall	406 ½ W. Jefferson St.	Yes
Beck's Hall	117 W. Jefferson St. (113 W. Jefferson St.)	Yes
Bowles Hall	336 E. Jefferson St.	No
Benevolent and Protective Order (BPO) of Elks Hall	404 W. Jefferson St.	Yes
Cardoni Hall	1239 E. Broadway	Yes
Colored Free Masons' Hall	703 Grayson	Yes
Dinwiddie's Hall	2601 W. Chestnut St. (2601 W. Chestnut St.)	No
Dixon Hall	2743 Dumesnil St.	Yes
Druid's Hall	401 E. Market St.	Yes
Elkhorn Hall	1805 Portland Ave. (1805 Portland Ave.)	Yes
Euclid Hall	652 W. Jefferson St. (630 W. Jefferson St.)	Yes
Excelsior Hall	307 1 st St. (205 S. 1 st St.)	Yes
Falls City Hall	1126 W. Market St. (1124-1126 W. Market St.)	Yes
Fehr's Hall	746 E. Jefferson St.	Yes
Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (GUOOF) Hall (Colored)	1228 W. Walnut St. (1228 W. Walnut St.) (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Hibernian Hall	331 W. Market St. (129 W. Market St.)	Yes
Highland Hall	1627 Baxter Ave. (919 Baxter Ave.)	No
Huber's Hall	600 E. Green St. (600 E. Green St.) (Liberty St.)	Yes
Klondike Hall	2201 Garland Ave. (2201 Garland Ave.)	No
Liberty Hall	211 W. Walnut St. (211 W. Walnut St.) (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	No

Library Hall	537-541 4 th St.	Yes
Liederkrantz Hall	6 th St., northwest corner Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Linton Hall	163 W. Jefferson St.	No
Marker's Hall	504 17 th St.	Yes
Masonic Temple	402 W. Jefferson St.	Yes
Music Hall	129-137 W. Market St.	Yes
New York Hall	821 5 th St. (729 S. 5 th St.)	Yes
Norton Hall	406 W. Broadway (416 W. Broadway)	Yes
Odd Fellows' Hall	107 W. Jefferson St.	Yes
Odd Fellows' Hall	311 27 th St. (617 N. 27 th St.)	No
Odd Fellows' Hall aka Liberty Hall (see above)	211 W. Walnut St. (211 W. Walnut St.) (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	No
Odd Fellows Temple	606 W. Walnut St. (606 W. Walnut St.) (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Ohmann's Hall	1733 18 th St.	Yes
Parkland Masonic Temple	2801 Dumesnil St. (2801 Dumesnil St.)	No
Pfister's Hall	2504 W. Market St. (2506 W. Market St.)	Yes
Reeb's Hall	516 5 th St. (414 S. 5 th St.)	Yes
Reisch's Hall	129 19 th St.	Yes
Royal Templar's Hall	1637 W. Main St. (1637 W. Main St.)	Yes
Schaefer's Hall	601 E. Broadway (601 E. Broadway)	Yes
Scholtes' Hall	1706 W. Market St. (1706 W. Market St.)	Yes
Schroeders' Hall	Jefferson St., northeast corner Hancock St. (601 E. Jefferson St.)	No
Scottish Rite Cathedral	620-628 6 th St. (434-442 S. 6 th St.)	Yes
Shelby Market Hall	516 Shelby St. (216 S. Shelby St.)	No
Shafer's Hall aka Odd Fellows' Hall (see above)	311 27 th St. (617 N. 27 th St.)	No
St. Columbia Hall	1121 Washington St. (1065 Washington St.)	Yes
St. Francis' Hall	547 5 th St. (441 S. 5 th St.)	No
St. John's Hall	East side Clay St., between Walnut (Muhammad Ali Blvd.) and Madison Sts. (511 S. Clay St.)	Yes
St. Martin's Hall	814 E. Gray St. (818 E. Gray St.)	No
Turner's Hall	419 E. Jefferson St. (417 E. Jefferson St.)	Yes
Washington Hall	1515 Frankfort Ave.	Yes
United Brothers of Friendship (UBF) and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten (SMT) Hall	828 Magazine St. (828 Magazine St.)	Yes
Zeller's Hall	1310 Shelby St. (766 S. Shelby St.)	Yes

Public Halls listed in Caron's 1910 City Directory.

Building Name	Address	Demolished?
Avenue Hall	539 N. 19 th St.	Yes
Baldwin's Hall	425 S. 4 th St.	Yes
Banner Hall	131 S. Preston St.	Yes
Beck's Hall	113 W. Jefferson St.	Yes
Brown's Hall	730 E. Jefferson St.	Yes
Canine Hall	Broadway, northwest corner Lincoln Ct.	
Chestnut St. Hall	2601 W. Chestnut St.	No
Concordia Hall	600 E. Jefferson St.	Yes
Delmont Hall	1575 Story Ave.	No
Elkhorn Hall	1805 Portland Ave.	No
Euclid Hall	630 W. Jefferson St.	Yes
Excelsior Hall	205 S. 1 st St.	Yes
Falls City Hall	1124-1126 W. Market St.	Yes
Fischer's Hall	926 Baxter Ave.	Yes
Fisel's Hall	900 E. Main St.	No
Fortuna Hall	1438 E. Breckinridge St.	No
Frontenac Hall (Colored)	916 W. Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Fruechtenicht's Hall	903 S. Jackson St.	Yes
Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (GUOOF) Hall (Colored)	1228 W. Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Germania Hall	105 W. Jefferson St.	Yes
Heptasoph's Hall	1635 W. Main St.	Yes
Hibernian Hall	129 W. Market St.	Yes
Highland Hall	919 Baxter Ave.	No
Holy Name Hall	2931 S. 4 th St.	No
Huber's Hall	600 E. Green St. (Liberty St.)	Yes
Iroquois Hall	3000 S. 3 rd St.	No
King's Hall	1276 Bardstown Rd.	Yes
Knights of Columbus Hall	816 S. 4 th St.	Yes
Lewis Hall	537 N. 26 th St.	No
Liberty Hall	211 W. Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	No
Liederkrantz Hall	6 th St., northwest corner Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Live Oak W.O.W. Hall	220 S. Clay St.	Yes
Masonic Hall (Colored)	715 W. Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Masonic Temple	316-318 W. Chestnut St.	Yes
Modern Woodmen of America Hall	Central Ave., southwest corner 8 th St.	Yes

New York Hall	729 S. 5 th St.	Yes
Norton Hall	416 W. Broadway	Yes
Norton's Hall	833 W. Broadway	Yes
Odd Fellows' Hall aka Liberty Hall (see above)	211 W. Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	No
Odd Fellows' Temple	606 W. Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Ostrader's Hall	622 S. 28 th St.	Yes
Pahler's Hall	965 S. 18 th St.	Yes
Parkland Hall	2757 Dumesnil St.	Yes
Parkland Masonic Temple	2801 Dumesnil St.	No
People's Hall	1549 S. 7 th St.	Yes
Pfister's Hall	2506 W. Market St.	Yes
Preston Hall	802 E. Main St.	Yes
Rademaker Hall	1207 Payne St.	No
Red Men's Hall	1232 W. Market St.	Yes
Reeb's Union Hall	414 S. 5 th St.	Yes
Robinson Hall	102 S. 17 th St.	Yes
Royal Templar's Hall	1637 W. Main St.	Yes
St. Columbia Hall	1065 Washington St.	Yes
St. Francis Hall	441 S. 5 th St.	No
St. John's Hall	511 S. Clay St.	Yes
St. Louis Bertrand Hall	1210 S. 6 th St.	No
St. Martin's Hall	818 E. Gray St.	No
Schaeffer's Hall	601 E. Broadway	Yes
Schrieber's Hall	2609 Bank St.	Yes
Scottish Rite Cathedral	434-442 S. 6 th St.	Yes
Shelby Market Hall	216 S. Shelby St.	No
Shafer's Hall	617 N. 27 th St.	No
South Louisville Bank Hall	Southwest corner 4 th St. and Central Ave.	Yes
True Reformers' Hall	822 W. Walnut St. (Muhammad Ali Blvd.)	Yes
Turner's Hall	417 E. Jefferson St.	Yes
Union Hall	204 S. 1 st St.	Yes
United Brothers of Friendship (UBF) and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten (SMT) Hall	828 Magazine St.	Yes
Williams' Hall	106 E. Green St. (Liberty St.)	Yes
Zeller's Hall	766 S. Shelby St.	Yes