

## **Louisville Gardens, 525 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd**

In 1893 Kentucky state legislators passed a law requiring 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class cities to provide an armory with a drill hall and ammunition repository for local state militia. Unlike other similar facilities, the Jefferson County Armory building was intended to provide space for community events as well.

The Jefferson County Armory was constructed in 1905 in Beaux Arts style. Designed by Brinton B. Davis of Caldwell & Drake.

Original cost: \$450,000

188,900 gross ft<sup>2</sup>

Originally included offices, a swimming pool, and a rifle range in the basement. The main floor included a large drill hall with 53,000 ft<sup>2</sup> and offices. The second floor included a gym (later a secondary auditorium), offices and bathrooms.

By 1923, public events were so common in the venue and taking away from military uses that a new cavalry drill hall was built.

Renovated in 1963 at a cost of \$1.95 million. Added air-conditioning, conversion of the drill hall to a 5,000 seat arena, and changes to the front façade.

Added to National Register of Historic Places on March 3, 1980.

Last concert: My Morning Jacket, Nov. 22, 2006

Current remediation efforts: Environmental consultants are removing hydraulic components of the two freight elevators due to PCB contamination from leaking hydraulic oil. The two passenger elevators will undergo surface decontamination and the lines will be flushed. This work is being done with a \$75,000 grant from the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection.