

PH0274560

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 10 1975  
DATE ENTERED OCT 31 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME \*\***

HISTORIC

Peterson-Dumesnil House

AND/OR COMMON

Dumesnil House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

310 South Peterson Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

03

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

\_\_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

PRESENT USE

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jefferson County Board of Education

STREET & NUMBER

3332 Newburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth and Jefferson Streets

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

(continued)

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Peterson House was built after the Civil War, circa 1869-70, in the asymmetrical Italian villa style. The structure retains its architectural integrity with the exception of the front porch which replaced the original porch some time after 1898 according to information in a family scrapbook, and a few minor alterations and additions.

The residence is of brick on a limestone foundation, painted white, and is two stories in height. The building is asymmetrical and has two bays in the projection of the east side of the facade. The west side of the facade contains a double entrance door topped by a segmental-arched clear-glass transom and two bays. The west side of the facade has a columned stone porch which meanders around to the west side of the house. This deep porch, which dates after 1898, replaced a shallower porch with cut-out wooden spindle trim. There is also an entrance at the south end of the porch, whose western portion is now screened in.

The fenestration on the main portion of the house consists of tall, narrow, two-over-two-paned windows. The segmental arched windows are topped by decorative cast-iron hoods with a modified fleur-de-lis motif at the center. The windows on the east side of the structure are topped by a segmental arch of header bricks. The east side of the house is further marked by a large projecting chimney which has a balustrade at the second-story floor line. The second-story fenestration is analogous to the first story's with the exception of a double window over the entrance door. Over each window on the second floor is a cast-iron rosette, which actually functions as a ventilator in the attic -- still an effective equivalent of air-conditioning.

The structure is topped by an extended cornice which is underscored by pairs of elaborate brackets and by consoles and dentils. Situated at the center of the structure on the roof is an octagonal cupola with round-arched windows. The cupola also has a cornice underscored by brackets and dentils and is topped by a cast-iron finial. It, too, serves to provide ventilation, as well as light to the central stairwell.

The rear wing is two stories high but has shorter windows and therefore is not so tall as the main portion of the structure. There is a frame addition on the rear wing on the east side, as well as other minor additions and changes of fenestration.

The interior has been altered somewhat but still retains a nineteenth-century aura. A graceful semi-spiral staircase, at one point detached from the wall, rises from the main hallway and culminates in the cupola. The trim is standard mid-century Italianate.

Also on the well-treed three-acre lot is a two-story unpainted stucco structure which has both garage space and residential space. The building, which faces Peterson Avenue, has

(continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      *circa 1869-70*      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      *Henry Whitestone (attributed)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This residence, originally built as a country house about 1869-70, is in the Italian villa style. It is one of the very few remaining homes in this style in Louisville and one of the last two surviving villas in Crescent Hill, a residential area on the hills east of Louisville between the downtown and the later more fashionable suburbs farther east. Crescent Hill has been for more than a century an upper-middle- or middle-class area of mostly frame houses on streets perpendicular to the former commuter railway line along the old turnpike (now Frankfort Avenue) that led to Frankfort. In the mid- and late 19th-century, however, a number of ambitious villas on large garden lots were located south of Frankfort Avenue overlooking a shallow valley (now Grinstead Avenue). (See the details from the 1879 and 1884 atlases attached.) Of the two other such villas surviving, one was irreparably damaged in the 1974 tornado.

Appropriately, the Peterson-Dumesnil House was built for a prominent merchant, Joseph Peterson, active in the tobacco trade that still forms one of the bases of Louisville's-- and of course Kentucky's--economy. Moreover, Peterson was also associated with the construction of some of the most prominent and significant late 19th-century commercial structures in the city. Upon his death in October of 1889 the Louisville Leaf Tobacco Exchange passed a resolution which, in part, stated that "He was not only an important factor in the tobacco trade but was also one of the most prominent and enterprising citizens of Louisville...." According to his obituary Peterson, with his accumulated fortune, had "... built many of the handsome and best structures which adorn our streets." He was responsible for several structures which were built in the West Main Street Historic District (listed on the National Register in March 1974). He had the Carter Dry Goods Company Building built at 731 West Main Street. It was called "The Two Sisters" in honor of his granddaughters. The structure was designed by C. J. Clarke in 1878. Peterson also had the Fort Nelson Building, on the northwest corner of Eighth and Main Streets, built in circa 1888-89. In addition, Peterson, at his death, owned the structure on the northeast corner of Sixth and Market Streets which was then occupied by Philip Hollenbach. Peterson also owned a storehouse on Main Street between Fifth and Sixth which was purchased by C. C. Bickel in 1889. Peterson had stock in the Exposition Company which sponsored the 1883-87 Southern Exposition in Louisville, and in the Crescent Hill Railway Company. Thus, his career is an interesting illustration of the interrelationship between commerce, civic development, and architecture both urban and suburban in later 19-th century Louisville.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Jones, Elizabeth F. "Henry Whitestone: Nineteenth Century Louisville Architect." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Louisville, 1974.
- Morton, Douglas P. "The Buildings of the Louisville Architect Henry Whitestone." Unpublished Senior Thesis, University of Louisville, 1946.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

*UTM OK w/m  
12-5-76*

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,6 | | 6,1,4,0,8,0 | | 4,2,3,4 | <sup>230</sup> | 2,4,0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property on which the Peterson-Dumesnil House is located consists of five tax lots in the City of Louisville, Block 71-B, Lots 7, 8, 9, 11 and 33. The property line begins at the point of the northeast corner of Peterson Avenue and an alley running east to west between Peterson Ave. and Galt Avenue. Thence the line runs south for 401'5". At the northeast corner of Peterson Ave. and an alley the line runs east for 227'10". Thence it turns 90° and runs south for 90', thence it turns 90° and runs east for 217'10", thence makes another 90° turn and runs south for 100'

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth F. Jones, Jefferson County Representative

WEL:MC

ORGANIZATION

DATE

June 6, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

4012 Massie Avenue

TELEPHONE

895-5074 or 587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

SIGNATURE

*Eldred W. Melton*

10-7-75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 10/31/75

ATTEST

*Ronald D. Frenberg*

DATE 10/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*actg*

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Peterson-Dumesnil House

CONTINUATION SHEET

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a peaked gable porch, small windows and a scalloped barge board trim under the cornice. The rear of the structure has garage doors and an inset gallery on the south side of the second story. The wood trim is painted white. This structure may well antedate the main house, as its proportions and details seem early, but no date for it is known.

One of the interesting species of the many trees on the property is an extremely large ginkgo tree behind the main structure.

A barn structure and the formal gardens in the front and rear are no longer extant.

#6 (continued)

Metropolitan Preservation Plan, 1973 (county). Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency. Louisville, Kentucky.

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Peterson's only child, his daughter Carrie, became the second wife of Jacob H. Lindenberger (1824-1900) who owned a property adjacent to the Petersons' in Crescent Hill. Lindenberger was a prominent Louisvillian who was president of the Merchant's National Bank and was involved in many civic endeavors. Jacob and Carrie Lindenberger's two daughters, Carrie and Eliza, married Edward Roland and Harry Dumesnil, respectively. Harry Dumesnil (b. 1859), whose ancestors were from France, became president of the Carter Dry Goods Company. His mother was Mary Ormsby and his father, along with his brother-in-law Collis Ormsby, helped to develop Cedar Hill Farms into the Old Louisville area of today.

Oral tradition has attributed Peterson's country home to the well-known Louisville architect, Henry Whitestone (1819-1893). Whitestone designed other asymmetrical Italian villa residences both in Louisville and in the surrounding countryside. Peterson's home is the only remaining country residence in the Italian villa style which has been attributed to Whitestone. No direct sources link Whitestone to the Peterson home although Peterson was active in the tobacco business on Main Street and Whitestone designed a number of structures on Main Street. It is interesting to speculate whether C. J. Clarke (1836-1908), who designed the Carter Dry Goods Company structure for Peterson in 1878, could have been involved in the design of Peterson's home. Clarke, according to one source, worked with Whitestone prior to the Civil War. Clarke then worked with Bradshaw and Brothers in Louisville during the 1860's and is first listed with his own firm in the 1870 city directory. Peterson's residence was built circa 1869-1870. The architect for the Fort Nelson Building, unfortunately, is unknown at this time, but further speculation can be made as to Peterson's connection with architects in the area. Two of the other structures he owned in Louisville are attributed to D. X. Murphy (1854-1933) who worked as a draftsman in the office of Whitestone and later took over the firm. With these various connections the attribution of the house to Whitestone becomes plausible. The structure is definitely within the realm of the forms employed by Whitestone which included both the Barryesque Palazzo and the freer villa modes. The classicism of the Peterson residence is much closer to Whitestone's oeuvre than to Clarke's predominantly Gothic and later Richardsonian Romanesque works.

This fine structure has been well-maintained and remains in a gracious, maturely landscaped setting. It is an excellent example of the many fine country homes which once graced the area and is one of very few extant. The Italian villa style was very popular locally as well as nationally and this residence is a good example of its kind, whether designed by Whitestone or another local architect who, like him, continued the Italianate vogue of the 1850s until well after the Civil War.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Jefferson County Inventory and Settlement Book 55.

Obituaries of Joseph Peterson, The Courier-Journal (Louisville), October 23, 1889; The Louisville Commercial, October 22, 1889.

Bodley, Temple. History of Kentucky: The Bluegrass State. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928.

McCurdy, Mary Lucille, Field Study Report for Institute of Community Development, University of Louisville, 1958.

The School-Community Observer, Louisville Board of Education, v.2, No. 3 (November 1967).

The Voice-Jeffersonian (St. Matthews, Kentucky), October 18, 1973.

Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments. Metropolitan Preservation Plan. Text and selection by Walter E. Langsam. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1973.

Interview with Mrs. S.G. Miller (Jean Dumesnil), May 1975.

Dumesnil Family Scrapbook (in the possession of Mrs. S.G. Miller).

#10 Geographical Data (continued)

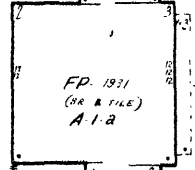
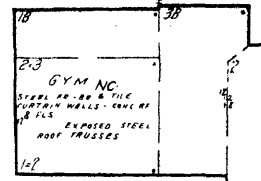
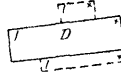
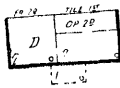
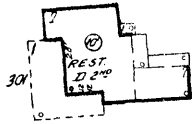
whereupon it again turns 90° and runs east for 130'. Thence it makes a 90° turn and runs north for 440' along Galt Ave. At Rowland Ave. the line makes a 90° turn and runs west for 170' on Rowland whereupon it makes a 90° turn and runs north again on Galt Ave. for 228'5" whereupon it makes a 90° turn and runs west for 405'8" to the beginning point.

758

791

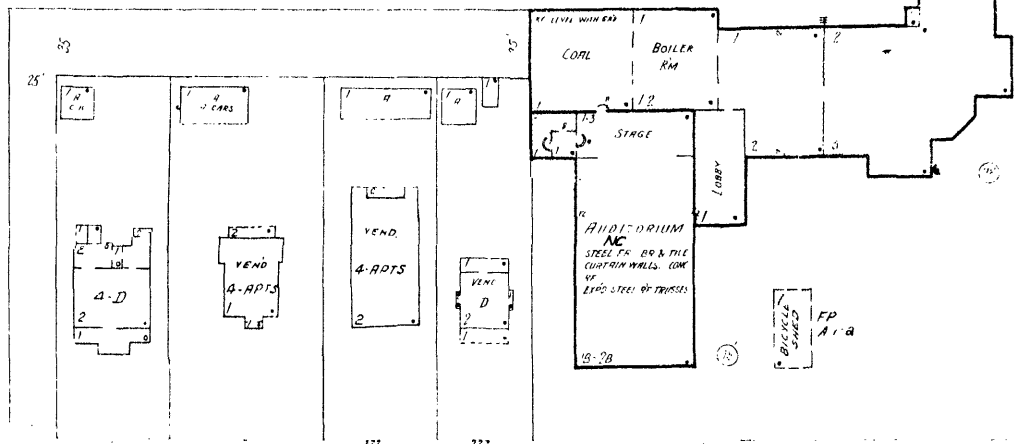
S GALT AV.

ROWLAND AV.



758

1857

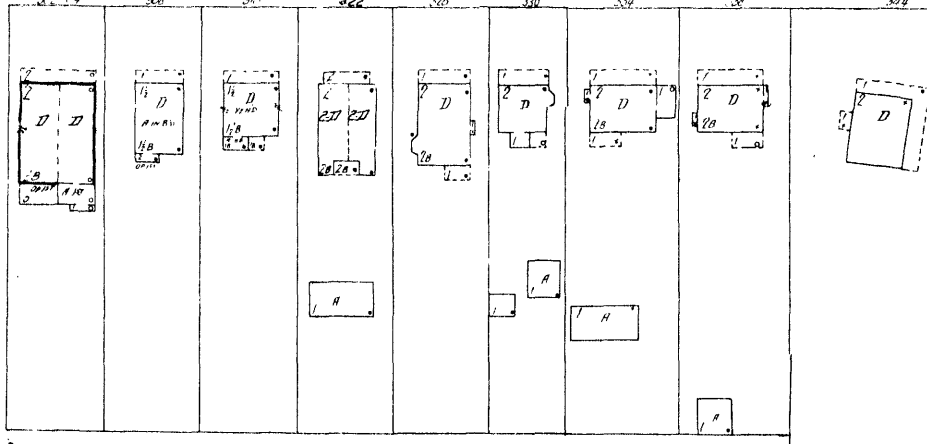


ALEX C. BARRIE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

S. PETERSON AV.

757

1856







10 feet to the Inch  
600 1000

NATION  
Stone Building  
Buildings  
and Sheds  
houses  
Types and size  
Water Pipe  
s.  
Abant.  
timbers - Large  
The Contiguous

Thomas S. Kennedy

George Birch

John I.

William Faust

Mrs Ellwanger

A. W.

V. Frank

J. Peterson

J. H. Lindenberg

Jos. Raymond

C. H. Faust

Jos. Rostetter

Thomas Raymond

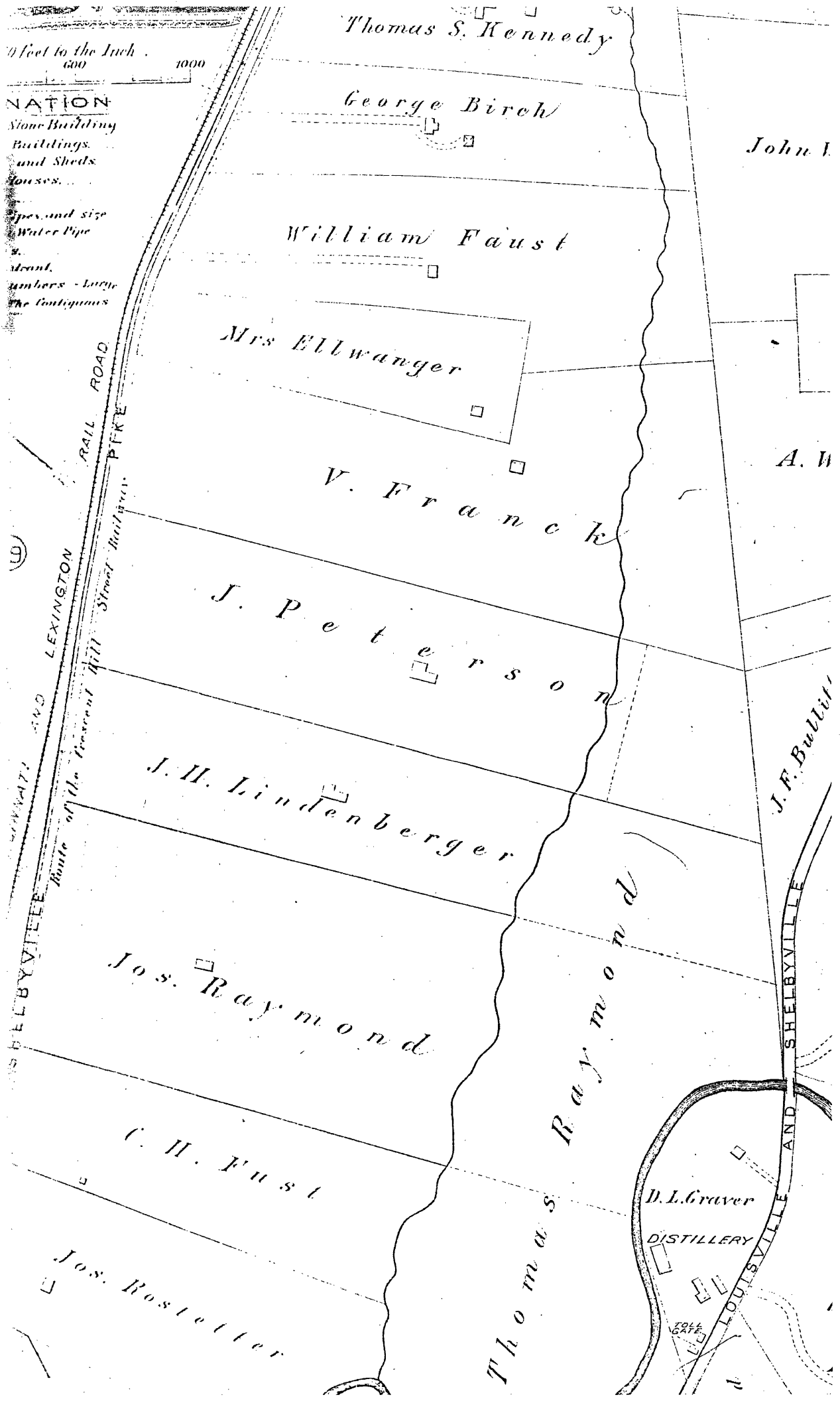
D. L. Graver

DISTILLERY

TOLL GATE

RAIL ROAD  
PIKE  
Street Railways  
LEXINGTON  
Route of the Present Hill  
SHELBYVILLE

J. F. Bullitt  
SHELBYVILLE AND SHELBYVILLE



JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COMM'R  
W. J. SCHRECK - CHIEF DRAFTSMAN  
DRAWN 6-24-44 R.L. V

71-B

ST. 60'

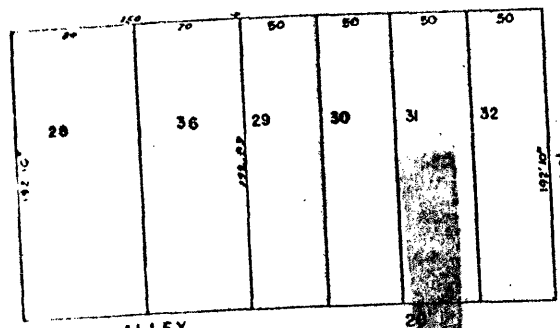
PAYNE

AVE. 60'

ROWLAND AVE. 60'

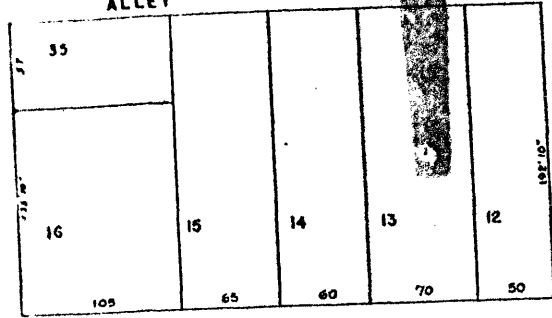
GALT

PETERSON



ALLEY

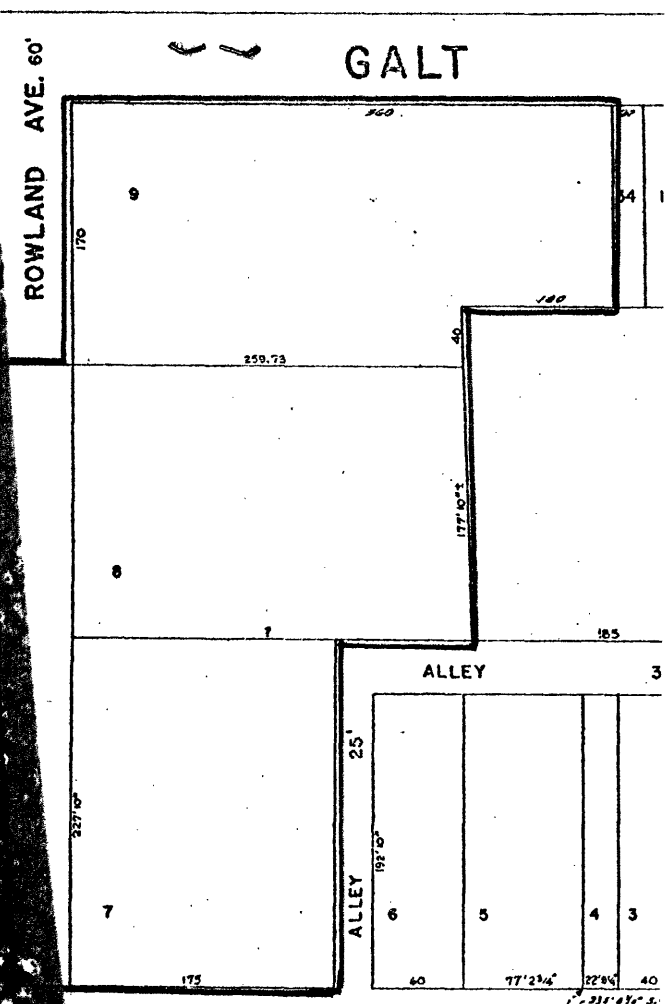
20'



ALLEY

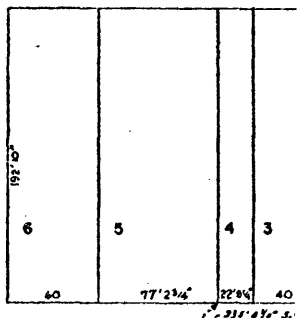
168.5

AVE. 60'



ALLEY

ALLEY 25'



2 ←

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Peterson-Dumesnil House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN  
Louisville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Jefferson

STATE  
Kentucky

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE Atlas of the City of Louisville and Environs, Kentucky (Louisville: G.M. Hopkins, 1884).

SCALE

DATE

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Detail showing property of J. Peterson, including outline of the Peterson-Dumesnil House, in center.

INT: 3464-75

