

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 29 1980
DATE ENTERED MAR 24 1980

**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 Avenue Hill
AND/OR COMMON Peterson Avenue Hill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Peterson Avenue
CITY, TOWN Louisville
STATE Kentucky VICINITY OF CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3 & 4

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Louisville
STREET & NUMBER 601 West Jefferson St.
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 5th & Jefferson Sts.
CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Kentucky Historic Survey
DATE 1979
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Peterson Avenue Hill is one of the last brick streets (or carriage ways, as they were originally called) left in Louisville. The brick portion of Peterson Avenue begins 1200 feet south of the right-of-way line of Frankfort Avenue at the intersection with Peterson Avenue. The brick portion of the street covers a steep hill with a mean slope of 1 to 3,615 or approximately 15 degrees. The brick portion originally extended for approximately 740 feet to Grinstead Drive (originally Long Avenue). Asphalt paving has already been applied to about 137 feet at the top of the hill, leaving an area of brick paving 603 feet by 30 feet wide.

The hill is paved with vitrified bricks which are laid at angles in a sand base. The angling is not found in any other extant brick alley or street surface in the city. This method helps to create traction on the surface in wet weather. The hill is edged by a stone curb on the east and west sides. Lack of maintenance and several severe winters have damaged the 77 year old surface, and it is currently being restored by Community Development funds.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Today Peterson Avenue Hill serves as Louisville's most important reminder of earlier road-building techniques and craftsmanship. The importance of the preservation of historic neighborhood infrastructures, such as Peterson Avenue Hill gives a sense of time and place to the area. Peterson Avenue Hill is a rare streetscape element and Louisville's most well-known brick street with a rich history associated with the early days of the automobile in Louisville.

The Peterson Avenue Hill is located in Crescent Hill, a community which had grown to maturity by the close of the nineteenth century and was annexed to the city of Louisville in 1897. However, long before the fin de siècle, Crescent Hill was a developing entity. The School for the Blind was located in the area by 1855 and the Fair Grounds, near the present Field Avenue and Crescent Avenue, was active by 1857. An 1865 map delineates the Jefferson County Fair Ground as well as the Louisville and Lexington Turnpike Road and the Louisville and Lexington Road.

The Peterson-Dumesnil House was one of the original gracious homes from the mid-to-third quarter of the nineteenth century which typified Crescent Hill. The Peterson-Dumesnil home was built in the Italianate villa style by Joseph Peterson in c1869-70. Peterson had acquired 31 1/8 acres in 1859 on the Louisville and Shelbyville Pike from J. H. Colston. Joseph Peterson (1812-1889) came to Louisville from Philadelphia in 1836 and was active in the tobacco exchange until he retired in 1862. He owned numerous properties in downtown and owned stock in the Exposition Company and in the Crescent Hill Railroad Company. Peterson Avenue took its name from its first resident.

Peterson Avenue was laid out slightly to the west of the original driveway of the Peterson House. The increasing popularity of Crescent Hill as a sylvan residential area encouraged the subdivision and development of the land around the Peterson House. A handsome collection of frame and brick residences of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries line the street. The structures range from the late Victorian to the Colonial Revival in style. Several of these structures and an open-treed area line the brick portion of Peterson Avenue Hill on the west side. Barrett Jr. High School and four residences on the east side of the hill were built on part of the original Peterson estate.

The increased residential development and the annexation of Crescent Hill by the city of Louisville brought a demand for city services. The paving of streets was one service available to residents. The city of Louisville passed two ordinances in October of 1902 authorizing the pavement of Peterson Avenue. Ordinance number 220, series 1902, authorized

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

City of Louisville. Board of Public Works. Vitrified Brick of Block Streets, Letting number 175, December 19, 1902.

City of Louisville. General Ordinances, October, 1902.
 Number 220, Series 1902
 Number 221, Series 1902

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A

1,6	61,39,9,0	4,23,42,0,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 C

1,6	61,40,2,0	4,23,40,2,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

1,6	61,40,4,0	4,23,40,2,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 D

1,6	61,39,8,0	4,23,42,0,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the east right-of-way line of Peterson Avenue and the north right-of-way line of Grinstead Drive to a point 30 feet in the westerly direction along Grinstead Drive thence to a point 740 feet more or less in a northerly direction along the western right-of-way line of Peterson Avenue thence to a point 30 feet in an easterly direction thence to a point 740 feet more or less in a southerly direction along the eastern right-of-way line of Peterson Avenue to the point of beginning as delineated in the City of Louisville Ordinance Number 221, series 1902.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE November 1, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 727 West Main St.

TELEPHONE 502-587-3501

CITY OR TOWN Louisville

STATE Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward W. Tuller

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-8-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>W. Ray Jace</i>	DATE 3/24/80
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>Kristin O'Connell</i>	DATE 3/18/80
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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Peterson Avenue Hill

CONTINUATION SHEET

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the paving of Peterson Avenue from Frankfort Avenue to a point 1200 feet south of Frankfort Avenue with asphalt. Ordinance number 221, series 1902, authorized the paving of Peterson Avenue Hill, from a point 1200 feet south of Frankfort Avenue to the north line of Long Avenue (Grinstead Drive), with vitrified brick or paving blocks. Both ordinances called for the paving to be apportionately paid for by the property owners adjacent to the street by the amount of square footage owned abutting the street.

Brick street paving came into favor prior to the beginning of the twentieth century. The mass production of brick in this country made their use practical for paving. Louisville had a large number of brick manufactories and brickyards, thus brick was a plentiful source. Mechanical devices and methods of vitrification of the prepared clay blocks combined to reduce the brick cost and increase the production volume significantly. Vitrified bricks were heated in a kiln to such a temperature to fuse the grains and to close the pores of the brick to make it impervious to fluids. Thus brick streets were a vast improvement over previous paving materials such as clay, clay-sand, and gravel or macadam in terms of cleanliness, supportive strength and durability. Maintenance costs were low and the appearance was an improvement as well. Throughout the country brick became such a popular medium for paving, especially for city thoroughfares, that on many occasions paving brick was in short supply. The use of brick for street paving reached its peak in the early twenties when Portland cement and the technological advancements in the development of mechanical concrete mixers and pavers lead to the wide spread use of concrete as a paving material. Thus there have been few brick streets built in this country since the 1930s.

Peterson Avenue Hill is Louisville's best known brick street or alley. There is a rich oral tradition associating the hill with the early history of the automobile. Automobile dealers would boast that their cars could pull Peterson Hill in high gear, and many cars were put to just such a test. The fire department also used Peterson Hill to test its new fire engines.

In June 1979, Peterson Avenue Hill was designated a local landmark.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. "Peterson Avenue Hill." Landmark and Landmark Site Designation Report, typewritten, June, 1979.

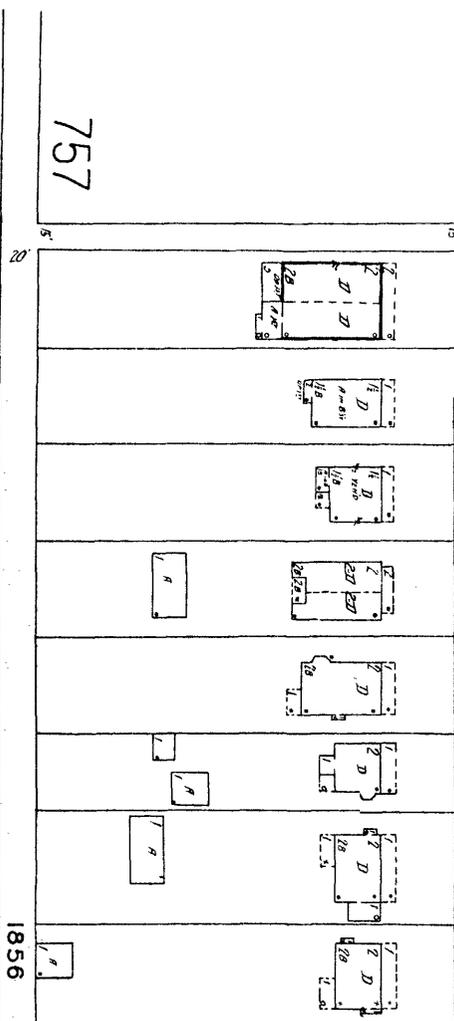
Kelso, Henry B. and Joy Dunn. "Preservation and Maintenance of Brick Streets." Southwest Prologue Series. Furnished by Oklahoma Historical Society. no date.

20" PIPE ROWL AT

758



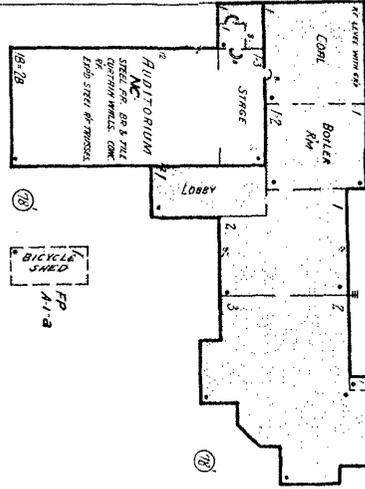
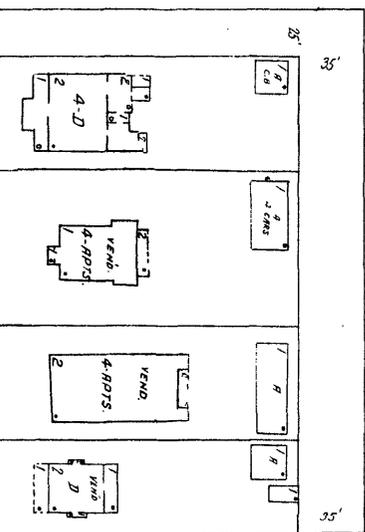
757



S. PETERSON AV.

1856

1857



HEAT STEAM & HOT AIR
DUCTS & DUCTWORK

GYMnasium
STEEL FR-UP
STEEL FR-WALLS-GRANITE
FLOOR
EXPOSED STEEL
RAMP TRUSSES

ALEX. G. BARRET JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



GRINSTEAD DRIVE

790

Peterson Avenue Hill
Peterson Avenue
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
Sanborn Map Co. 1972
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Map 3 - Sanborn Map

JAN 29 1980