

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 17 1979
DATE ENTERED SEP 10 1979

**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 Meek-Miller House
AND/OR COMMON 3123 North Western Parkway

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3123 North Western Parkway PKwy
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF 3 & 4
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Jerome Kruger
STREET & NUMBER 227 North 19th St.
CITY, TOWN Louisville, VICINITY OF Kentucky 40203 STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Court House
STREET & NUMBER 517 West Jefferson St.
CITY, TOWN Louisville, VICINITY OF Kentucky STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites
DATE 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort, STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Meek-Miller House is located in the Portland neighborhood, once a thriving river town in its own right. Portland is snuggled in the bend of the Ohio River just west of downtown Louisville. The area is predominantly residential, with interspersed commercial structures. The river traffic through the Portland Canal was the reason behind Portland's success as an independent town. Traffic patterns have changed through the years, but the modes of transportation have not. The Canal is still in constant daily use, but automobiles and trains share the same general traffic corridor. Interstate 64 runs east to west along the river at Portland, and the Kentucky and Indiana Railroad and Toll Bridge crosses the Ohio River at Portland.

The core residential district of Portland is a pending National Register District, submitted for designation in 1978, as the Portland Historic District. The Meek-Miller House is located one and one half blocks east of this district, on the north side of North Western Parkway.

The Meek-Miller House is a two-story, red brick Italianate residence, built in 1865. The hipped roof has a very low slope and is shingled. Two chimneys rise from the west side of the house, and one from the east.

The house is L-shaped with an original two-story frame section on the inside of the L. A later one-story frame addition was made to the full width of the rear of the house.

The facade is symmetrical, with five windows evenly spaced on the second floor, and matched on the first floor by four windows and a central door. The windows are all arched and carry arched incised metal hoods with pressed metal keystones. The windows flanking the entrance have been boarded over and do not have their hoods, but the window openings do remain. The tympanum of each window has been filled with metal sheeting to accommodate standardized storm windows. On the interior however, the arched panes and frames remain in tact. The exterior window sills are stone.

The entrance has been altered by the removal of its door hood. At some point, a large porch was added to the facade which covered the entrance and two flanking windows. The door and window hoods were removed at that time. The porch has been removed and the window and door openings remain in tact, with the exception of their hoods. The single door is flanked by narrow side lights and capped by a small transom. The windows on the side of the house have brick voussoirs.

The front entrance leads to a very small reception area, with the stair case directly ahead. A partition wall has been erected which divided the foyer from the stairhall and makes the foyer appear even smaller. The banister and balusters remain on the inside of the partition wall. Modestly proportioned rooms flank the foyer. The front windows, with their arched panes, provide the primary decorative element. The door and window trim is all simple and undecorated. The house is three rooms deep on the west and one room deep on the east, on the first floor. The floor plan is nearly the same for the second floor, with the west

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Meek-Miller House makes a significant architectural contribution to the Portland neighborhood. Nineteenth century brick Italianate dwellings are typical of the architecture found within the Portland Historic District (National Register, pending). Although the Meek-Miller House falls outside of the proposed district, it, like many of the houses in the district, is a two-story brick Italianate residence. Constructed in 1865 by a river boat pilot, the Meek-Miller House is the finest remaining residence in this area of North Western Parkway. Though neglected in past years it still reflects the larger scale and dignity of structures of Portland's more prosperous years as an important riverfront community. It is a vital part of the character of the greater Portland area outside of the Historic District.

Portland was chartered as a city in 1834 by the Kentucky General Assembly. It had developed as a result of its downstream location from the Falls of the Ohio. Except for times when the river was high, passengers and cargo had to be unloaded and transported overland to Louisville, around the falls. The building of the Louisville and Portland Canal allowed most river craft to pass without stopping, but larger boats were still unable to pass until the canal was widened in 1865. It was at that time in Portland's history that the death of Portland as a river port occurred. Portland was incorporated into the Louisville city limits in 1852, but has, to this day, retained an identity distinct from any other Louisville neighborhood.

The Meek-Miller House was built during a very prosperous period for Portland. Even with the declining river business, Portland was an established residential and commercial community. George Meek was a river boat pilot who built the house for his occupancy in 1865. In 1875, after several interim owners, John Miller, a carpenter in the Portland area, bought the property and made it his home for twenty-two years. The history of the residents of this house is varied, but most were working class individuals, just as its first owner and builder.

The most outstanding architecture in Portland is concentrated in the Portland Historic District. The Meek-Miller House is similar in style to many of the residences in that district, but designed in a more modest vein. The Portman House at 3431 North Western Parkway was built between 1865 and 1867 by Peter Portman, a native of Switzerland. This residence resembles, in many ways, the Meek-Miller House. The massing is the same, the dates of construction are the same, and even the number of bays across the facade are the same. The Portman House, however, has several features not affordable by George Meek, such as the recessed entrance and stone hoods.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville

Jefferson County (Ky) Deed Books

Johnston, J. Stoddard, ed., Memorial History of Louisville, Chicago & New York:
American Biographical Publishing Co., 1896

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME New Albany, Indiana

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 | 6, 0, 5, 0, 9, 0 | 4, 2, 3, 6, 8, 4, 0

B | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 12G, Lot 75

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.A. Allgeier, Researcher

March 26, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

STREET & NUMBER

727 W. Main

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

40202

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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. Tinsley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John A. Carol Shaul

DATE

9-10-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Seth Grovenda

DATE

9/10/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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side of the house two rooms deep instead of three.

The Meek-Miller House is an excellent example of the residential Italianate style as adapted by the working class. The grace and beauty of the style is incorporated into a very modest design, and the result is a practical, handsome residence.

The current owner of the house, Jerome Krueger, intends to renovate the house into a duplex, restoring the facade to its original grandeur. The cornice will be rebuilt, the incised metal hoods will be restored, and an appropriate door hood constructed. The porch will not be rebuilt.

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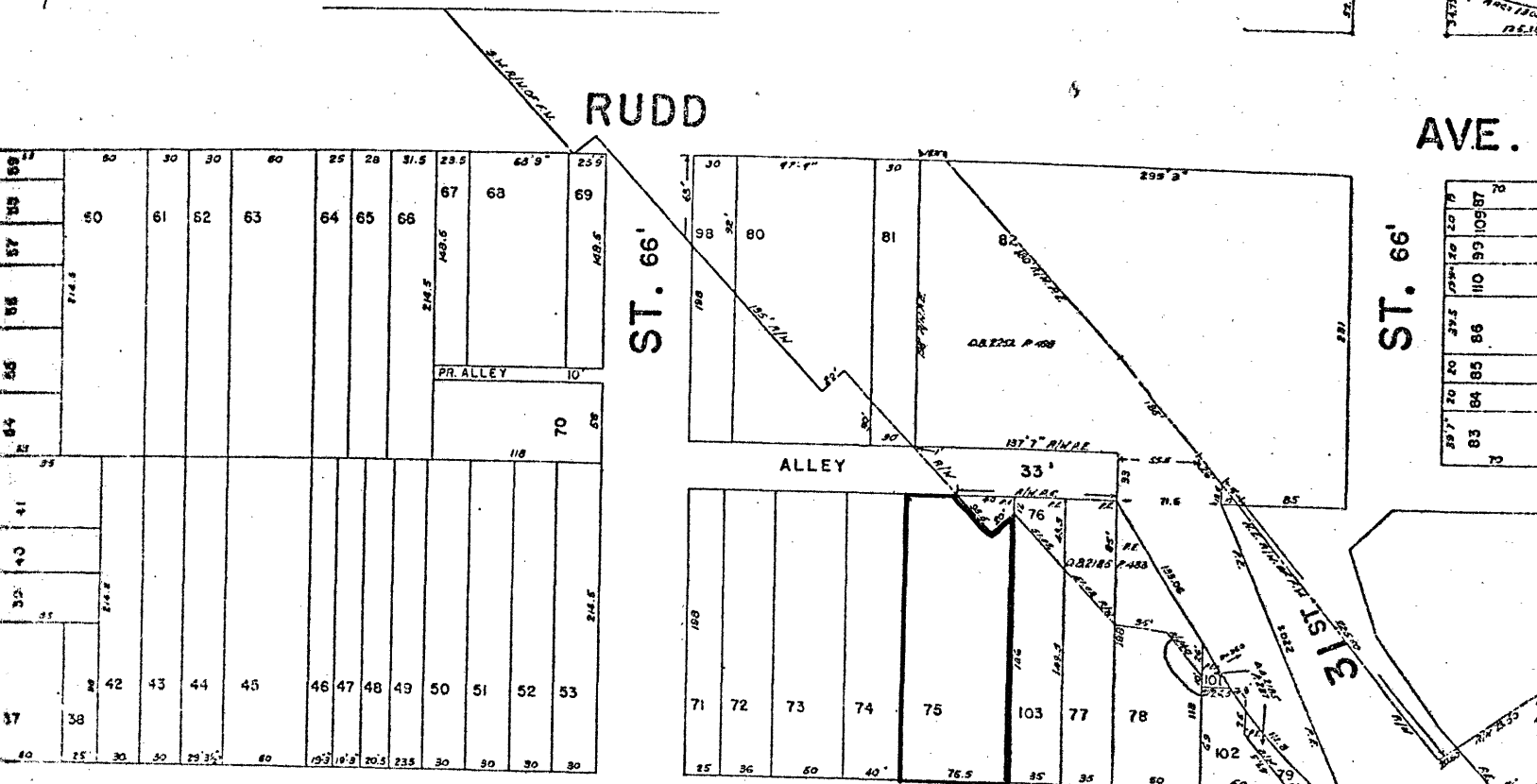
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Other examples are the three story Italianate residences in the Portland Historic District. The Mattingly House at 3613 North Western Parkway (1881-1883), and the residence at 3311 Rudd Avenue (1859), also built by a riverboat pilot, Frank Butterfield, are two of several three-story Italianate residences in Portland which are a variation on the Meek-Miller House design.

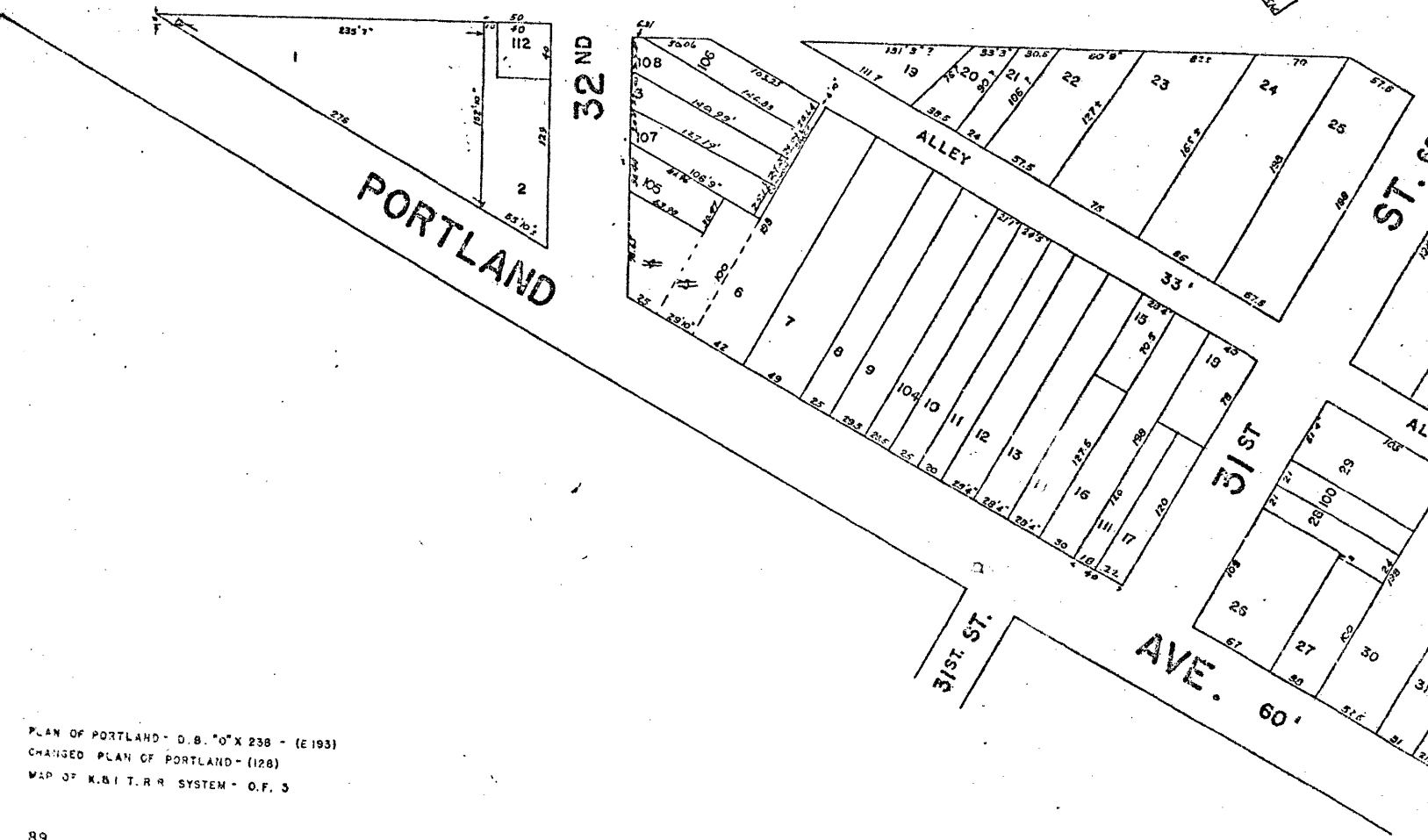
The architecture which is immediately adjacent to the Meek-Miller House is mixed. There is one three story brick Italianate and several frame Victorian residences, dating from 1880-1900. There are also several smaller brick vernacular homes dating c1870. Upon completion of the Meek-Miller House, it was certainly the finest house on the block commanding full attention due to its size and location. Even now, the Meek-Miller House has a large yard and is the most grand home on the block. Some early twentieth century structures are now situated directly to the east in this block.

The Meek-Miller House embodies the same strengths as the architecture and historic character in the Portland Historic District and is a vital link between that district and the surrounding neighborhood. Its significance lies predominantly in its architectural merit, but also in its contribution to the Portland community at large.



NORTH WESTERN

PKWY. 99'



PLAN OF PORTLAND - D. B. 107 X 238 - (E 1931)
CHANGED PLAN OF PORTLAND - (128)
MAP OF N.B.I. T.R.R. SYSTEM - O.F. 3

Meek-Miller House
3123 North Western Parkway
Louisville, Jefferson County
Kentucky
Sanborn Map Co. 1972
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Map 2 Sanborn Map

SEP 10 1973

JUL 17 1979