

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JAN 31 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Brandeis House

and/or common American Turners

## 2. Location

street & number 310 E. Broadway

NA not for publication

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

state Kentucky

code 021

county Jefferson

code 111

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
NA district	NA public	X occupied	NA agriculture	NA museum
X building(s)	X private	NA unoccupied	NA commercial	NA park
NA structure	NA both	NA work in progress	X educational	NA private residence
NA site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	X entertainment	NA religious
NA object	NA in process	X yes: restricted	NA government	NA scientific
	NA being considered	NA yes: unrestricted	NA industrial	NA transportation
		NA no	NA military	X other: PRIVATE CLUB

## 4. Owner of Property

name American Turners (German Gymnastic Association)

street & number 310 E. Broadway

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

state Kentucky

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson St.

city, town Louisville

state Kentucky

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? NA yes X no

date 1981

NA federal X state NA county NA local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort

state Kentucky

## 7. Description

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**Condition**

NA excellent

X good

NA fair

NA deteriorated

X ruins

NA unexposed

**Check one**

NA unaltered

X altered

**Check one**

X original site

NA moved

date NA \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Brandeis House is located in Central Louisville adjacent to the Central Business District.

310 E. Broadway is a three-story brick residence with a limestone facade. The central projecting bay is crowned by an arch at the cornice level which is lined with dentils. The remaining cornice is also dentilated and has paired brackets. The facade is five bays wide. The third floor central window is arched and the flanking windows are slightly arched with wide stone surrounds. The second floor central window is Palladian with decorative keystone and conforming stone surrounds. The flanking windows are arched and also have decorative keystones and stone surrounds. All windows on the second and third floors have stone sills supported by small brackets. The first floor windows are slightly arched with decorative keystones and stone surrounds. The large arched entry has a foliage motif in the center. The doorway has been altered. A huge stone porch projects from the house. The porch roof and posts, originally of iron, have long since been removed. On the east side of the house is a bay window and a cornice lined with small brackets. A large gymnasium was added to the rear of the structure ca. 1915. It does not affect the facade or sides of the residence. The gymnasium contains large multi-paned windows along all walls. A one-story concrete block addition to the east side of the gym was added in 1963.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<del>NA</del> prehistoric	<del>NA</del> archeology-prehistoric	<del>NA</del> community planning	<del>NA</del> landscape architecture	<del>NA</del> religion	
<del>NA</del> 1400–1499	<del>NA</del> archeology-historic	<del>NA</del> conservation	X law	<del>NA</del> science	
<del>NA</del> 1500–1599	<del>NA</del> agriculture	<del>NA</del> economics	<del>NA</del> literature	<del>NA</del> sculpture	
<del>NA</del> 1600–1699	<del>NA</del> architecture	<del>NA</del> education	<del>NA</del> military	X social/	
<del>NA</del> 1700–1799	<del>NA</del> art	<del>NA</del> engineering	<del>NA</del> music	humanitarian	
X 1800–1899	<del>NA</del> commerce	<del>NA</del> exploration/settlement	<del>NA</del> philosophy	<del>NA</del> theater	
X 1900–	<del>NA</del> communications	<del>NA</del> industry	<del>NA</del> politics/government	<del>NA</del> transportation	
		<del>NA</del> invention		<del>NA</del> other (specify)	

**Specific dates** 1864; 1915 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brandeis House is locally significant as the boyhood home of Louis E. Brandeis, esteemed United States Supreme Court Justice, the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice in the nation's history, and a zealous advocate of housing desegregation in the early twentieth century. Since 1913 it has been home to the Louisville Turners, a leading sociocultural organization in Louisville.

Louis Dembits Brandeis was born in Louisville, November 13, 1856, to Adolphus and Frederika Brandeis, immigrants from Bohemia who prospered in Louisville. He was born in a home on Armory Place which is no longer in existence. The residence at 310 E. Broadway was constructed in 1864 for the Brandeis family, when young Brandeis was eight years old. Biographer Alpheus Thomas states that he led a normal boyhood. "He played with dolls, burned himself with gunpowder, frightened maids with straw dummies, teased little girls and, as the youngest of the gang with which he played, fought the 'Little Lord Fauntleroy' of Louisville."

After a year of study in Germany, Brandeis entered Harvard Law School at age 18, without attending college. His scholastic record is still the highest in the history of Harvard. After graduation from Harvard, he practiced law for a year in St. Louis and then returned to Boston, where he and partner Samuel Warren, Jr. developed an impressive client list.

In 1890, Brandeis and Warren wrote an article for the Harvard Law Review entitled "The Right to Privacy," which has been considered ever since as a primary source of reference for discussions of the privacy issue. Thereafter, Brandeis became increasingly involved in issues of public interest, and frequently worked without a fee. He was known for his ability to mediate and arrive at mutually beneficial arrangements between foes.

Finally, in 1916, activist Brandeis was appointed to the Supreme Court by Woodrow Wilson, after vicious and bitter hearings. He was the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice and continued his activism through connections with Harvard and other sources.

Throughout his career, Brandeis continued to express his interest and devotion to Louisville, primarily through efforts to improve and stimulate the growth of the University of Louisville Law School. He donated money and personal papers, but his major contribution, according to A. C. Russell, a former dean of the Law School, was his influence. Although the high goals Brandeis set for the Law School were not completely attained, he was responsible for a significant improvement in the school. His interest in the school was so strong that he requested that after his death, he be cremated and the remains be placed at the Law School. The ashes of both he and his wife are buried under the porch of the University of Louisville Law School.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

Brandeis House  
310 E. Broadway  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

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In 1913, the German Gymnastic Association, now known as the American Turners, purchased the residence and added a gymnasium to the rear of the property. Although this addition greatly affected the architectural character of the building, great care was taken not to disturb the front and sides of the structure, which remain today nearly intact. The massive cast iron porch which originally graced the facade, and a small cast iron balcony/porch above the east first-floor bay window, may have been lost at this time.

The Louisville branch of the American Turners was organized in 1850, the fourth in the nation to be organized since its founding in 1848. The stated purpose of the Turner Societies is "to promote health and physical education, cultural education, and rational thinking" and it espouses "the harmonious education of the body and mind as the most important factor to preserve and protect (our) democracy."<sup>1</sup>

The American Turners have been and continue to be an important social, cultural and educational organization in Louisville. Rooted in a strong German ethic, this national organization has contributed to the ethnic heritage of Louisville in the past, and currently provides a strong and viable influence in the physical and cultural education of its members.

Architecturally, the house is an example of the transitional style used in this period. Both Italianate and Renaissance Revival Styles are identified in this design. Although it has undergone alteration, the window and cornice treatments and sheer massing of the building are impressive. This is the last of the grand mansions which once lined Broadway in the mid- to late-nineteenth century.

The Brandeis House is rich in history. Constructed by Aldolphus and Frederika Brandeis in 1864, it served as the boyhood home of Justice Louis D. Brandeis, the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, who contributed immensely to the University of Louisville Law School, and whose legal career has greatly influenced national issues of privacy and housing. The next owner of the house was a colorful character, and the richest man in Louisville for many years. "Dr." John Bull made his fortune from the invention of several cure-all potions from sarsaparilla roots. The German Gymnastic Association, which purchased the building in 1913 and is the current owner/occupant, is a long-standing and leading sociocultural association in Louisville.

<sup>1</sup>"American Turners National Festival", Brochure (Louisville), 1959.



Brandeis-Bull House  
310 E. Broadway  
Louisville, Jefferson, KY  
Sanborn Map- 1974  
Sanborn Map Co., Pelham, NY