

SG-2155

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

historic name LeCompte Saloon
other names/site number JFWP-540
Related Multiple Property NA

2. Location

street & number 3200 Rudd Avenue NA not for publication
city or town Louisville NA vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40208

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO

1-17-18

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

[Signature]

3-5-2018

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick

roof: _____

other: _____

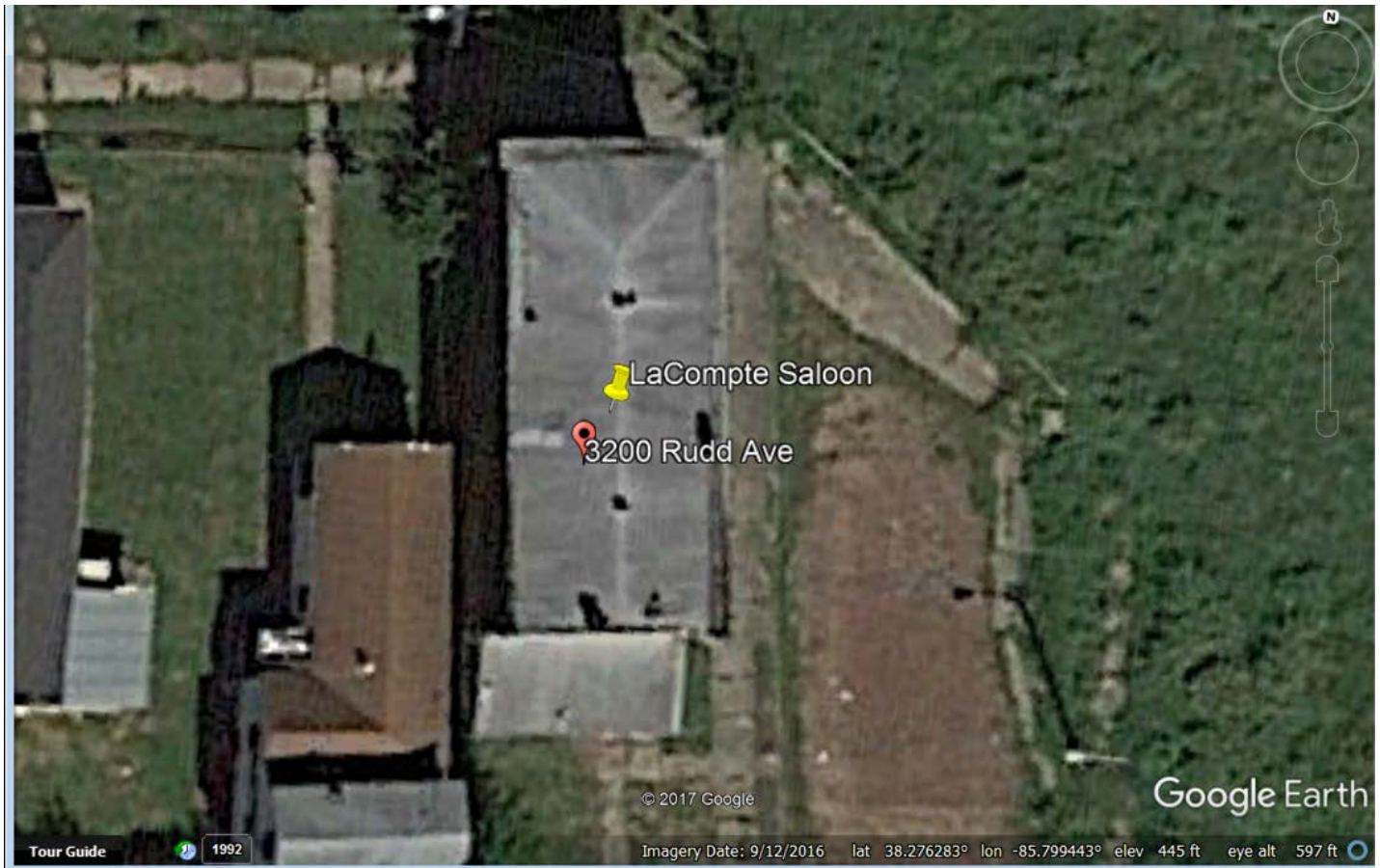
LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The LeCompte Saloon at 3200 Rudd Avenue (JFWP-540), Louisville is located in the Portland neighborhood, just one block from the northern boundary of the current Portland Historic District. The building sits on the southwest corner of the intersection of 32nd Street and Rudd Avenue, on a lot that is 25 feet and 9 inches by 148.5 feet, or approximately .09 acres of land. The area proposed for listing includes one contributing building.



LeCompte Saloon

Latitude: 38.276284° Longitude: -85.799443°

Character of the Lot and Previous Ownership

The building was constructed in the mid-1880s, two blocks from the Portland Wharf, which was a busy commercial area that grew up in response to the need to transport goods and people around the physical impediment of the Falls of the Ohio River. Until a lock and dam system was installed, and raised the water level sufficiently, those traveling up or down the Ohio River encountered rapids and shoals, the only such place between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the Ohio River begins, and where it empties into the Mississippi.

Louisville's largest flood on record occurred in 1937. Subsequently, a floodwall was constructed, and the LeCompte Saloon became a property on a dead end street, accessible by car only from 32nd Street, which is an

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

original brick road from the turn of the century. The building now remains as the northernmost commercial corner store in Portland. The remainder of the parcel is now vacant, though a stable and shed were previously located to the rear of the property.

The original brick road is exposed along 32nd street. The current footprint runs approximately one block. This road led to the approach of the 1886 *Walking and Carriage Bridge to Indiana*, which was the “first vehicular crossing of the river at the Falls Cities”ⁱ (See Figure 3). The approach to the bridge was located on the northwest corner of the intersection, directly across the street from the entrance to 3200 Rudd Avenue, linking the building to Portland Wharf commercial activity and suggesting that this was a major thoroughfare (see Figure 4). That bridge approach remained in its place until 1912, when a new bridge was built with its approach at 31st and High Street.ⁱⁱ ⁱⁱⁱDue to floodwall construction, 32nd Street now dead ends at Rudd Avenue.



Figure 3

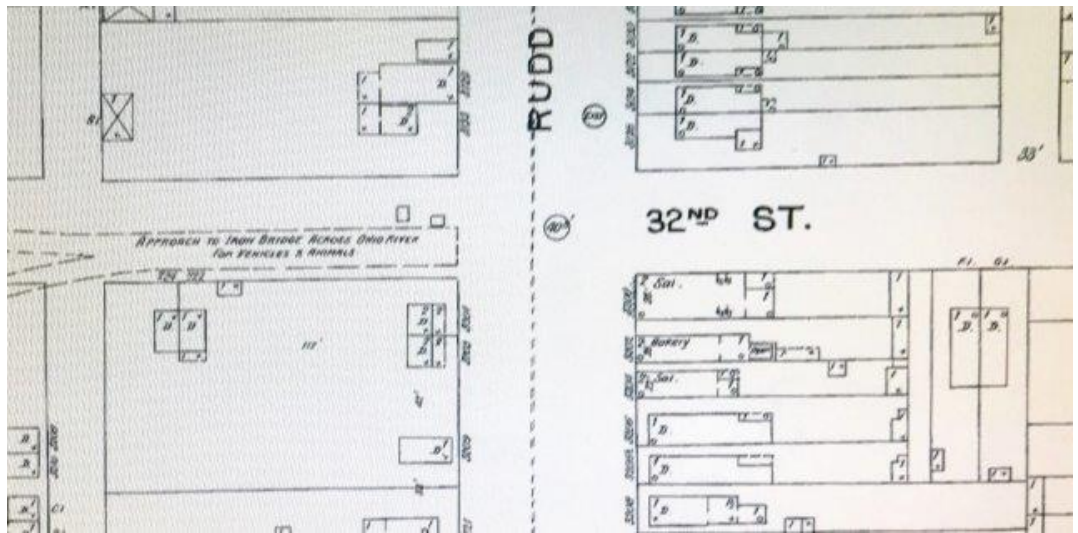


Figure 4

Exterior Description

LeCompte Saloon is a 2-story brick commercial building in a muted Italianate style. The main façade faces to the north, toward the floodwall. The east and north sides of the structure are crowned by the original continuous bracketed wooden cornice, and by a low-pitched hipped roof. Two ghost signs can be seen on the east wall. The west wall, separating the structure from the adjacent lot on Rudd Avenue, is an otherwise ordinary masonry partition wall.

The building’s north side has a four-bay façade articulated by five cut-limestone columns, carved from a fine-grained stone, likely sourced from the Oolitic quarries of southern Indiana. With a simple base about a foot in

ⁱCastner, Charles. "Kentucky & Indiana Terminal Railroad." In *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, John E Kleber, ed. 2015, pg 746.

ⁱⁱ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky*. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 2, 1905.

ⁱⁱⁱ "New K&I Bridge: Approach to be at foot of Thirty-first Street." *Courier-Journal* (1869-1922), Dec 18, 1910.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

height, each of the 14' columns features chamfered corners and is topped by a stylized Doric capital See Photos 6, 2, and 1).



North Side

East and North sides

The columns stand on 6' centers and frame four openings of equal dimension (6' x 14'). Of these four, the westernmost opening frames a doorway flush with the façade and leading to an upstairs apartment. The remaining three bays support a setback, which shelters the commercial entry and storefront. The setback is a volume 18' wide, 6' deep, and 14' high. The original 6-panel carpenter-made storefront has survived largely intact, surmounted by three 3' x 6' transom windows.

Carved stone lintels feature a stylized egg-and-dart band that are surmounted by a beaded stone cornice. The post-and-lintel serves as the base for a second story – a brick masonry wall punctuated at regular intervals by four window openings, 6' x 2½' each. Each of these four façade windows itself features a lesser stone lintel, ornamentally-incised. Meanwhile, the post-and-lintel composition that so defines the façade also defines the 32nd Street corner, allowing for side entry to the sheltered portico between the corner post and a sixth column, identical in style and in spacing to those fronting Rudd Avenue.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

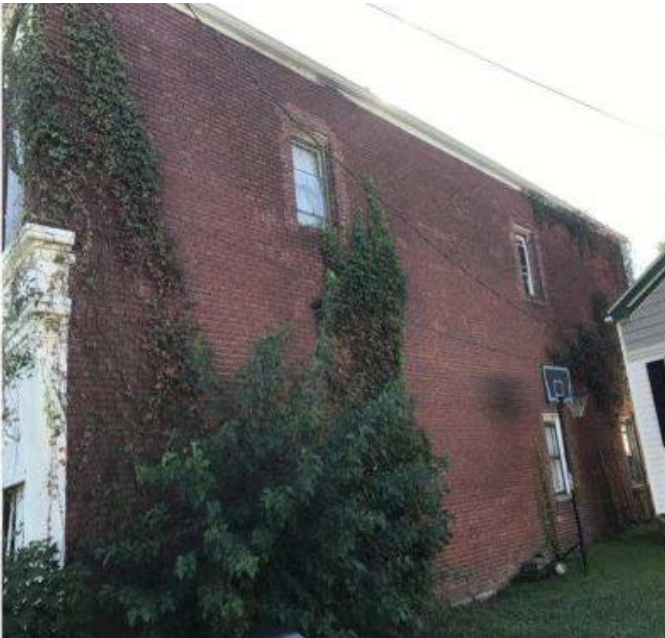


East Side



South and East sides

The eastern side wall, facing 32nd Street, has little detailing. It is a two-story load-bearing masonry structure without the incised window lintels. There are two identical ground-level door frames with original bracketed hoods. Two ghost signs are visible on the east side.



West side



Front columns

On the first floor of the north façade there are three sets of double doors (designed to open fully onto the recessed front porch for ventilation) with double transom windows above each set of double doors; the transom windows have not been replaced, but are in poor condition. The second floor features four elongated window

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

openings, each measuring 6' x 2½', with stone sills and ornamented lintels that project from the façade. The three easternmost North façade window openings are boarded up; the windows are gone in their entirety, and the encasements are in poor condition. The western-most North façade window opening does have its original upper sash. The West façade window openings have all been added; none of these are original (see Photo 5). The East façade window openings are original; they were made to hold double-hung two-over-two weighted windows, but the original windows do not exist anymore, and the openings are boarded up. The South façade has two large original window openings on the second floor; the openings are boarded up, however the westernmost South façade window opening contains a 9-over-9 double-hung window. The window in the now-enclosed back porch is not original (See Photo 4).

Interior Description

One picture of the interior of the LeCompte Saloon, in its iteration as the McMahon - La Paille Saloon, survives. It shows brass rails, ornate back bar, spittoons, and beer mugs; these were the quintessential features of the turn-of-the-century Portland corner saloon (See Figure 5). Russ Baker might as well have been describing the LeCompte Saloon when he recalled the interior of Bott's Saloon, just one block away, as featuring "the center section of the bar about 30 foot long with the usual brass rail and brass spittoons (OK, OK, cuspidors, if you must!) and lots of pictures [...]" So too with Cousin's description the interior of the nineteenth-century saloon, having a bar "lengthwise down the side as one entered, heavily hand-carved, done in oak, mahogany, cherry, or hollywood."^{iv}



Figure 5

^{iv}Cousins, Gerald. "The Swinging Door." Chapter 17 in *The Social History of Bourbon*, 1963, pgs 137-205.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Presently, the front room of the first floor, which was originally the saloon, is in extremely poor shape. The front entryway (the double doors and double transoms) still exists, but is in poor shape. The wainscoting still exists, but is falling off the walls. The plaster over brick and the plaster ceiling are in terrible shape. The original pine floors exist, but are damaged.

The middle rooms of the first floor, which were living quarters behind the saloon, have been partitioned and drywalled. The original interior doors and windows are missing. The ceilings have been dropped significantly, even below the tops of the windows.

The rear rooms of the front floor, which occupy the outdoor space that has been enclosed, are bath and laundry rooms. The floor was raised to accommodate plumbing for the laundry and bathroom; the plumbing and electric has been partially removed by vandals. A door and window were added.

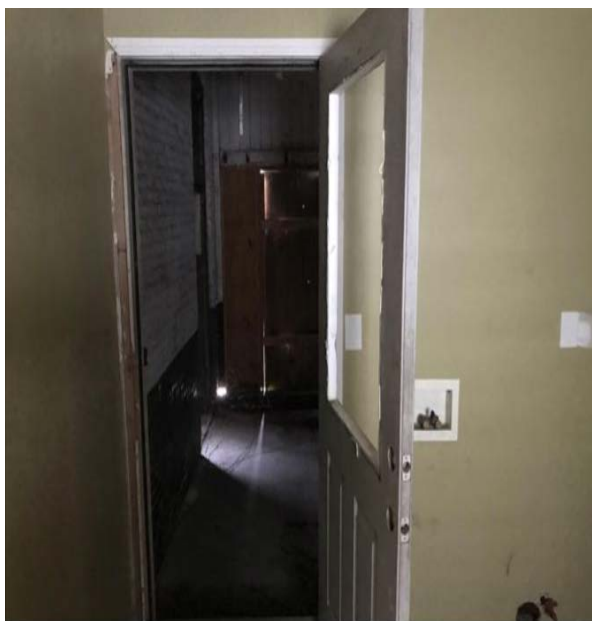


Photo 7



Photo 8

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State



Photo 9



Photo 10

The second floor has been partitioned and drywalled, with drop and tray ceilings. All fireplaces and radiators have been removed. The baseboards are partially gone. The majority of the windows have been removed; one sash of the original window in the northwest corner remains, as does a 9 by 9 window in the southwest corner. The brick is exposed along the west wall. The floors are largely original tongue and groove, but are in poor shape.



Photo 11



Photo 12

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State



Photo 13



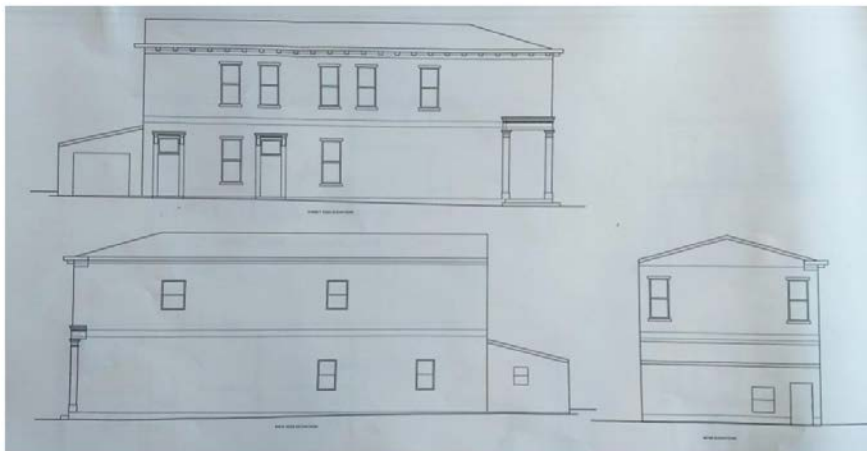
Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16

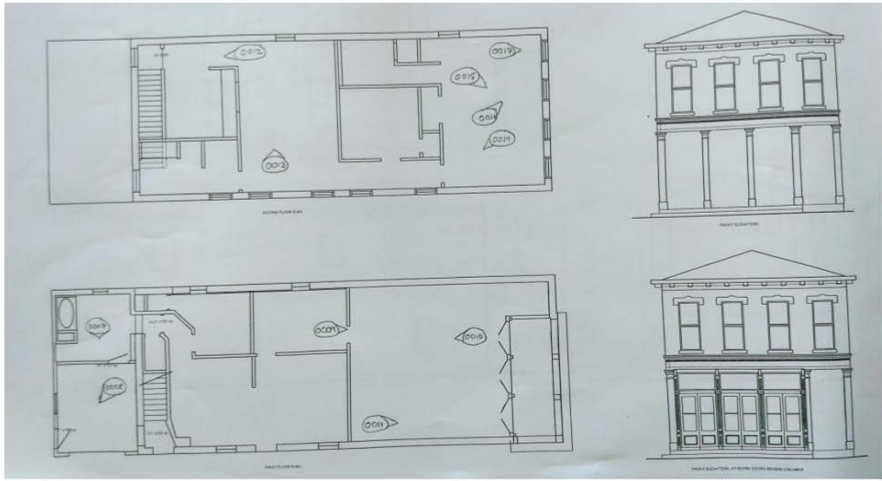


KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig1

Elevations

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig2

Floor plan and front elevation

Changes to the Property since the Period of Significance

The first floor back porch has been enclosed, and repurposed as a laundry and bath room. The stable and shed at the rear of the property have been torn down. Windows openings were added to the West façade.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | C | Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D | Property has yielded or is likely to yield, information in prehistory or history |

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1885

Significant Dates

Ca. 1885

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1885

Significant Dates

Ca. 1885

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the last 50 years.

Period of Significance: The Period of Significance is a single year, the year of construction, in concert with the National Register convention for a building significant for its design.

Criteria Considerations: NA

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The LeCompte Saloon at 3200 Rudd Avenue (JFWP-540), in Louisville, Kentucky, meets National Register criterion C, significant as a type of construction, a corner neighborhood saloon. The significance of the structure is evaluated within the historic context “Corner Saloons in the Portland Neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky, 1880-1919.” These buildings were common to Louisville’s first-tier urban neighborhoods during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Of the similar structures which have survived in the Portland neighborhood, 3200 Rudd may be said to be exemplary, owing to it having retained much of its original architectural detail and character, and to the corresponding absence of contemporary alterations.

Historic Context: Corner Saloons in the Portland Neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky, 1880-1919.

Local Awareness

LeCompte Saloon is well known to local preservationists, historians, and social scientists. Despite being located one block outside the current boundary of the Portland Historic District, the Portland Museum chose to include LeCompte Saloon in its review of the Portland Historic District, noting that “this brick building recalls a time when Portland was a lively river town and Rudd Avenue was a main thoroughfare instead of a dead end. This important building is not currently in the Portland Historic District.”^v

This building features in a number of other visual and oral narratives of historic Portland. Tom Owen, Ph.D., whose deep knowledge of local history and architecture has earned him the title of “Louisville’s Historian,” includes the building on his Walking Tour of Portland.^{vi} The anonymous author of the *Historic Photos of Louisville KY and Environs* website has included several images of 3200 Rudd Avenue in the “Portland” special feature page.^{vii} Clearly, even without official recognition of its historical significance and in its current run-down state, the architecture and style of the building speaks loudly to experts and laypersons alike.

Corner Commercial Buildings in the Portland Neighborhood of Louisville

^v“Highlights of the District.” In *Portland Historic District: A Closer Look*. A Portland Museum Supplement to the Portland Anchor. Portland Museum, 2012, pg 5.

^{vi}Owen, Tom. “Portland.” *Tom Owen’s Louisville*, KET, Series number 102. First aired May 9, 2010. Available from <https://www.ket.org/episode/KOWEN%20000102/>

^{vii}“Portland.” In *Historic Photos of Louisville KY and Environs*. Available from <https://historiclouisville.weebly.com/portland.html>

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Between 1860-1930, there were nearly 200 corner commercial buildings built in the Portland neighborhood; 15 of these were constructed in the 1880s. In a study of corner stores in Portland, authors utilized a basic set of criteria and multiple sources (including building use designations on Sanborn maps, the Property Value Administrator website, and LOJIC Interactive maps) to determine that there were 183 such properties in the area in 1892, with a large number concentrated along the commercial corridors of Market and Main Streets and Portland Avenue, and the rest located throughout the residential streets of the neighborhood. Of these, the authors find that only 97 have survived, of which the majority “have fallen into disrepair or have suffered alterations that have left them with little or no retention of their historic character” and others are at “a high risk for demolition in the future if they are not addressed.”^{viii} 3200 Rudd Avenue is included in this Portland corner store inventory, listed on row 56 with a “current condition” described as “Fair - boarded up, integrity still there.”

Additionally, a comparison of the address of the 66 saloons listed in the Smith’s Illustrated Business Directory to the Portland Corner Store Inventory reveals only 11 corner buildings operating saloons during the Period of Significance survive today.^{ix} The LeCompte Saloon at 3200 Rudd Avenue is one of these eleven, and one of only a few assessed as being in Fair or Good condition, and with few significant changes to the architecture.

Corner Store architecture and use

A corner commercial store became a classic element of urban landscapes because they easily advertised the business within due to their conspicuous location. The building is set flush with the sidewalk, with a bank of front wooden doors with glass panels and transoms above; the windows are designed to open to allow for ventilation and blur the lines between outdoors and indoors, while the large porch around the recessed entrance provides shelter. On the interior, the public commercial space occupies the front of the building, and private uses (a kitchen, bathroom, or living room) are located immediately behind it, allowing storekeepers and the families constant access and oversight of their business.^{xi}

The second floor functioned historically as residential space, which could be used by the storekeeper’s family or rented to other tenants. Entrance ways along the side of the building provide access for tenants of the residential areas on the first and second floors. As the National Building Museum notes, “few building types have nourished such a melding of public and private uses,” exemplifying “an

^{viii} *Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study*. Louisville Planning and Design Services’ Urban Design/Historic Preservation Team. (Year unknown). Pgs 6-7.

^{ix} *Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study*. Louisville Planning and Design Services’ Urban Design/Historic Preservation Team. (Year unknown). Portland Museum and Portland Preservation Alliance jointly inventoried Portland Corner Stores for the Portland Planning Task Force; this inventory was used in the Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study as the Portland Corner Store Inventory.

^x “Saloon Listing.” *Smith’s Illustrated Business Directory of Louisville, New Albany, and Jeffersonville, 1883-1894*.

^{xi} *The Corner Store*. National Building Museum. September 23, 1999-March 6, 2000.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

arrangement that reflected an economic and social system in which retail activity depended on small-scale family enterprise.”^{xii}

The neatly-proportioned brick-and-stone load-bearing masonry construction of the LeCompte Saloon evidences all of these classic corner store features. The side entrances provided access to the building’s second-floor residents, and to the family areas on the first floor. It’s likely that they also served as a place for women (who did not frequent saloons) to discreetly purchase carry-home tins of beer known as ‘growlers,’ as was common practice in the day. As Russ Baker recalls, the side and back doors to the Bott’s Saloon at 31st and Rudd Ave. were utilized by women who would knock to summon the saloonkeeper, and who usually carried “a scarf or small towel to cover the bucket, as it was not considered ladylike to buy a pail of beer and carry it home.”

The large, recessed front porch, set near the sidewalk, provided easy and inviting access. The face of the building, with bracketed door hoods and roof cornice, and banks of windows which opened to the river breezes, was distinctive. The structural stonework incorporated within 3200 Rudd reflects the best example of an artisanship that helped to define the character of the commercial structures that served as the cornerstones of Louisville’s Victorian-period neighborhoods.

The building’s architectural details allow even a casual observer to understand something about its historic character and function. Despite the presence of the floodwall, the building’s proximity to the river, its corner placement, and the original yellow brick road also communicate its role in the social and economic fabric of its time. These factors together support the historical significance of the structure as a rare and excellent example of the corner saloon in Portland.

Additional economic and social importance

3200 Rudd Avenue was uniquely designed and located to serve both riparian commercial interests and its surrounding neighborhood. On the latter account, it provided residential living space and a stable public gathering space, and the saloon proprietors and their families were part of the community fabric. Papers such as the *Kentucky Irish American* reported on the social activities of the families, as when Ms. Ethel La Paille returned from a trip to Memphis where she “formed one of a week’s House party.”^{xiii}

At times, the saloon was at the center for controversy and local political fighting. Newspapers reported instances of seeming political discrimination against the saloon owners, as when La Paille’s liquor license was revoked: the 1908 *Courier Journal* article “Because he is a Democrat” describes the license

^{xii} *The Corner Store*. National Building Museum. September 23, 1999-March 6, 2000, pg 1.

^{xiii} *KY Irish American*, August 18, 1910.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

revocation as a punitive act stemming from hostility towards La Paille because of his involvement in an altercation at a voting location during the 1905 election.^{xiv} Pre-prohibition temperance activism was high during these decades, with the Fusionist Party platform (against gambling, prostitution, and saloons) making headway in the 1905 elections and a 1908 state constitutional amendment allowing Kentucky's counties to vote themselves dry.^{xv} One unexpected outcome of the Temperance activism was that it "unwittingly promoted brewery control over corner saloons."^{xvi} As local government increased regulation and inspection activities in response to Temperance groups, local saloon owners were priced out of ownership; at the same time, breweries like Louisville's local giant, Frank Fehr Brewing Company (one of five breweries operating jointly as the Central Consumers Corp.), "sought to dominate the local beer market by owning or otherwise controlling the saloons, which in those days were the principal retail outlets for beer."^{xvii} Chain of title research indicates that 3200 Rudd Avenue was sold to a Fehr Brewery trust company in 1907; there is no evidence that Fehr Brewery exerted control over the saloon during its short tenure as owner, but the timing and other details of the sale do mirror the local political trends and outcomes.

In addition to its occasional role in divisive political wrangling, the saloon also took the lead on major community-building activities. In its iteration as the McMahan and La Paille saloon, the saloon owners also sponsored a baseball team known as M&L Portland (see Figure 6), and built the McMahan-La Paille Portland Ball Park (see Figure 7), located just 2 blocks north of the saloon, under the present-day K&I bridge.^{xviii} An estimated 4,000 people came to the opening game, and "the owners immediately made plans to build a new section of grandstand to hold another 600 people. Fast working carpenters finished the work in just one week. The owners also installed a telegraph wire to receive the scores of games played by the Louisville professional team [...] The scores were called out to the crowd after each inning."^{xix}

Baseball was a major source of entertainment and community-building during this era, with then-Mayor Lithgow in attendance at the first organized team game in Louisville in 1865 and the McMahan-La Paille Portland Ball Park grandstands filled with a mixture of men, women, and children^{xx} See

^{xiv} "Because he is a Democrat: John La Paille loses his liquor license." *Courier-Journal* (1869-1922), August 5, 1908.

^{xv} "Temperance." In *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, John E Kleber, ed. 2015, pg 874

^{xvi} "Temperance." In *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, John E Kleber, ed. 2015, pg 874

^{xvii} "Brewing Industry: The Frank Fehr Brewing Company." In *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, John E Kleber, ed. 2015, pg 118.

^{xviii} "The Saloon - A Community Institution Yesterday and Today Hall of Fame." *The Portland Anchor*, Anchor Publications, May 25, 1978.

^{xix} "Baseball Fever Comes to Portland." *Portland Museum*, 2011.

^{xx} "There's been baseball in Louisville since 1865." (Source Unknown. Original hard copy available from Portland Museum archives.)

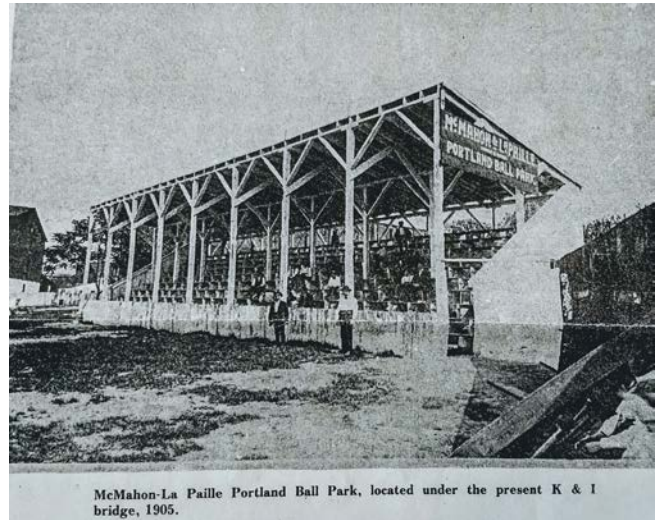
LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Figure 8). The Portland Museum’s 2017 exhibit “Neighborhood of Teams - Community of Champions” highlights the societal importance of the game in turn-of-the-century, and describes McMahon and La Paille, the “proprietors of this famed Portland watering hole,” as “early baseball entrepreneurs.”^{xxi}



Figure 6



McMahon-La Paille Portland Ball Park, located under the present K & I bridge, 1905.

Figure 7



Figure 8

^{xxi} *Neighborhood of Teams - Community of Champions*, Items 19 and 20. Portland Museum, 2017.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

In short, the LeCompte Saloon not only stabilized and served the neighborhood and housed locals, but its social importance extended well beyond its corner location, reaching out into the community in a variety of ways. In terms of key elements of architectural design and style, as well as intended use and significance to the fabric of the turn-of-the-century urban neighborhood in Portland, 3200 Rudd Avenue is a significant structure. It is a fine example of the corner neighborhood saloons that were common to Louisville's first-tier urban neighborhoods during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and of the similar structures which have survived in the Portland neighborhood. The LeCompte Saloon may be said to be exemplary, owing to having substantially retained its original architectural detail and character, and to the corresponding absence of contemporary alterations.

Portland History

Portland was part of a large land purchase by General Lytle in 1811. It was platted shortly thereafter, and by 1812, the first buildings were constructed in what would become Portland's central business district, an area at the foot of 34th Street and north of Bank Street known as the Portland Wharf. The growing concentration of commercial activity at the Wharf paralleled the significant increase in steamboat travel on the Ohio River in the 1800s; while the technological innovations of the Industrial Revolution allowed for ever-larger ships and increasing numbers of trips, the Falls of the Ohio remained an obstacle to travel until the 1870 widening of the Portland Canal provided a bypass opportunity. In the intervening half century, the solution was to unload goods and people, and port these from Portland to Louisville. The portage enterprise allowed for the creation and growth of a variety of businesses typical of river cities (warehouse, stores, and taverns), and attracted new residents (including waves of French, Irish, and German immigrants) to the area.^{xxii} Lot parceling and census data from 1820s forward show that working-class families and immigrants settled in Portland en masse, influencing the development patterns of the city and transforming it into an urban area.^{xxiii}

The footprint of Portland increased in 1817, and it received a charter in 1834. Although it was twice annexed by Louisville in the 1800s, and exists today as one of Louisville's oldest neighborhoods, the Portland of the 19th century identified as a river city both economically and socially. Portland's economic base was undermined by the widening of the Portland Canal in 1870, which allowed larger ships to bypass the Falls of the Ohio and avoid portage, and by a series of devastating floods. Although the Great Flood of 1937 and subsequent construction of the flood wall cut Portland's connection to the Ohio River, its history as a river city can still be seen in the architectural fabric of the area's remaining original structures and overall urban development pattern.

^{xxii}Jones, Elizabeth and Mary Jean Kinsman. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for Portland Historic District*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1980.

^{xxiii}*Cavalier Building Local Landmark Designation Report*. Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. November 3, 2012, pg 3.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Building History

Corner stores of the 1800s were typically situated in residential neighborhoods, allowing for proximity to customers, and featured a business (grocery, saloon, or household goods) on the first floor with residences above.^{xxiv} In these respects, 3200 Rudd Avenue is an archetypical corner store building. The first business to occupy the first floor was the LeCompte Saloon, which opened in 1887 and operated until 1895.^{xxv} The LeCompte family operated a couple of saloons in Portland and Louisville, including one nearby on Rudd Avenue between 27th and 28th streets in 1886. At least until Prohibition began in Kentucky in 1919, subsequent first floor businesses were also saloons: Caron's City Directory lists it as the Jones & Hoerni Saloon in 1896, the Schott Saloon in 1899, the Coon Saloon in 1905 (see Figure 9), the McMahon & La Paille Saloon in 1907 (see Figure 10) and the JJ La Paille Saloon in 1910 (see Figure 11).^{xxvi} While these saloons must have served as a gathering space for locals, it likely also served the travelers who utilized the Walking and Carriage Bridge to Indiana, constructed in 1886 with its approach directly across the street from 3200 Rudd Avenue.^{xxvii}



Figure 9

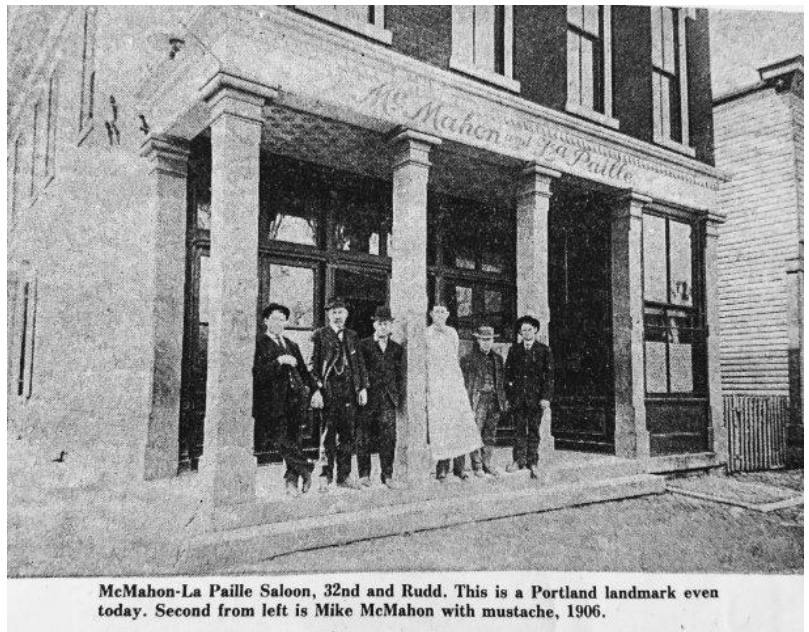


Figure 10

McMahon-La Paille Saloon, 32nd and Rudd. This is a Portland landmark even today. Second from left is Mike McMahon with mustache, 1906.

^{xxiv} *Cavalier Building Local Landmark Designation Report*. Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. November 3, 2012, pg 5.

^{xxv} *Caron's Louisville (Jefferson County, Ky.) City Directory for 1887, vol XVII*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Caron Directory Co, 1947. Print.

^{xxvi} *Caron's Louisville (Jefferson County, Ky.) City Directory, for years 1886-1947*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Caron Directory Co, 1947. Print.

^{xxvii} *K&I Wagon Way Ky. Side*. University of Louisville Photographic Archive, Collection K&I-2, Subject 130, Negative Number 90.06.113, "

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State



Figure 11

The residences on the second floor of the building were also fairly continuously occupied. Indicative of the larger patterns of the times, multiple generations shared the space. Such sharing helped laborers who found themselves in a variety of working-class circumstances. Often, the occupants were the families of the saloonkeeper; others were immigrants, like Cornelius Hasselback of Germany, who lived with 5 other family members on the second floor in 1900.^{xxviii}

Chain of title research from 1901 until 1949 shows the building under absentee ownership, functioning primarily as an investment property. A 1909 Deed book entry shows that 3200 Rudd Avenue was one of a large number of lots that were sold off by the Central Consumers Company (the stockholder company for Frank Fehr Brewing Company, a pre-Prohibition brewing company based in Louisville) to satisfy debts. The building changed ownership rather frequently, particularly during the early years of Prohibition.

Evaluation of the historic significance of the LeCompte Saloon within the context of Corner Saloons in the Portland Neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky, 1880-1919

Dating from the 1880s, LeCompte Saloon is one of the earliest corner stores constructions remaining in Portland. It is an archetypal example of the corner store architecture and design of its time and place, and is one of few such buildings to have survived largely intact.

^{xxviii}Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

In terms of these key elements of architectural design and style, as well as intended use and significance to the fabric of the turn-of-the-century urban neighborhood in Portland, 3200 Rudd Avenue is a significant structure. It is a fine example of the corner neighborhood saloons that were common to Louisville's first-tier urban neighborhoods during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. While similar structures have survived in the Portland neighborhood, the LeCompte Saloon can be said to be exemplary, owing to it having substantially retained its original architectural detail and character, and to the corresponding absence of contemporary alterations.

Evaluation of the Integrity between the LeCompte Saloon's significance and its current physical condition

3200 Rudd Avenue includes many of the features -- the post-and-lintel commercial façade; the neatly-proportioned brick-and-stone, load-bearing masonry construction; the second-floor residence with street-facing windows; the bracketed door hoods and roof cornice -- that were typical of so many of Louisville's neighborhood commercial buildings of the time, few of which survive in such complete original detail. Furthermore, the structural stonework incorporated within 3200 Rudd reflects the best example of an artisanship that helped to define the character of the commercial structures that served as the cornerstones of Louisville's Victorian-period neighborhoods.

These architectural details allow even a casual observer to understand something about the historic character and function of 3200 Rudd Avenue. Despite the presence of the floodwall, the building's proximity to the river, its corner placement, and the original yellow brick road also communicate its role in the social and economic fabric of its time. These factors together support the historical significance of the structure as a rare and excellent example of the corner saloon in Portland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

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Neighborhood of Teams - Community of Champions, Items 19 and 20. Portland Museum, 2017.

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 2, 1905.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

"Saloon Listing." *Smith's Illustrated Business Directory of Louisville, New Albany, and Jeffersonville, 1883-1894.*

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"The District and its Significance." In *Portland Historic District: A Closer Look*. A Portland Museum Supplement to the Portland Anchor. Portland Museum, 2012, pg 16.

"The Saloon - A Community Institution Yesterday and Today Hall of Fame." *The Portland Anchor*, Anchor Publications, May 25, 1978.

"There's been baseball in Louisville since 1865." (*Source Unknown. Original print copy available from the archives of the Portland Museum.*)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ JFWP-540 _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .0917 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Coordinate: Latitude: 38.276284° Longitude: -85.799443°

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Beginning at the Southwest corner of Thirty-second Street and Rudd Avenue; running westwardly with the south line of Rudd Avenue 35 feet and 9 inches, and extending back southwardly of that width throughout, the east line of said lot binding on the west line of Thirty-second Street, 148.5 feet. The building proposed for designation is located at 3200 Rudd Avenue. The proposed boundary for the Local Landmark designation is the exterior perimeter of the extant structure on the parcel. It is described by the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) as a lot of .0917 acres, under parcel number 012G00690000. The legal description is: 0.0878 AC +/-, SW CORNER RUDD AVE & 32ND ST, 25.75 X 148.5 TO 10' ALLEY.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries for 3200 Rudd Avenue are the historic parcel that the property has been since constructed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Isabella Christensen
organization _____ date _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____
e-mail _____

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: LeCompte Saloon
City or Vicinity: Louisville
County: Jefferson
State: Kentucky
Photographer: Bruce Cohen
Date Photographed: September 11, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #1 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0001)
North façade, closeup of porch, camera facing south.west

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Photo #2 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0002)
East and North façades, camera facing southwest.

Photo #3 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0003)
East façade, camera facing west.

Photo #4 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0004)
East and South façades, camera facing northwest.

Photo #5 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0005)
West façade, camera facing southeast.

Photo #6 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0006)
North façade, camera facing south.

Photo #7 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0007)
First floor, Interior, southwest corner room (within enclosed back porch)

Photo #8 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0008)
First floor, Interior, southeast corner room (within enclosed back porch)

Photo #9 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0009)
First floor, Interior, center-west room, looking north.

Photo #10 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0010)
First floor, Interior, north front room, looking south.

Photo #11 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0011)
First floor, Interior, north front room, looking north at double transom windows.

Photo #12 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0012)
Second floor, Interior, southwest-center room, looking south.

Photo #13 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0013)
Second floor, interior, center room, looking west.

Photo #14 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0014)
Second floor, Interior, north front room, looking southeast.

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Photo #15 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0015)
Second floor, Interior, north front room, looking northeast.

Photo #16 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0016)
Second floor, Interior, north front room, looking northwest.

Photo #17 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0017)
Second floor, Interior, north front room, looking north.

Index of Figures

Figure #1 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig1)
Architectural drawing of sides (East and West façades) and rear (South façade). Drawn by Ann Del Prince.

Figure #2 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig2)
Architectural drawing of front (North façade) and interior floor plan. Drawn by Ann Del Prince. Keyed for interior photos #7 – 17.

Figure #3 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig3)
Walking and Carriage Bridge to Indiana. University of Louisville Photographic Archives. Collection K&I-2.

Figure #4 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig4)
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Louisville, Jefferson County, 1905. Showing the approach to the K&I Walking Bridge.

Figure #5 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig5)
Interior of the Saloon. Copyright Portland Museum.

Figure #6 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig6)
M&L Portland Baseball Team.

Figure #7 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig7)
Portland Baseball Park. Copyright Portland Museum.

Figure #8 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig8)
Grandstand at Portland Park. Copyright Portland Museum.

Figure #9 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig9)
H. Coon Saloon. Portland Anchor, Anchor Publications.

Figure #10 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig10)
McMahon & La Paille Saloon. Copyright Portland Museum.

Figure #11 (KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_Fig11)

LeCompte Saloon
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

John J La Paille Saloon. University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Collection: Louisville Storefronts and Saloons.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0001



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0002



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0003



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0004



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0005



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0006



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0007



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0008



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0009



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0010



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0011



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0012



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0013



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0014



KY_JeffersonCounty_LeCompteSaloon_0015



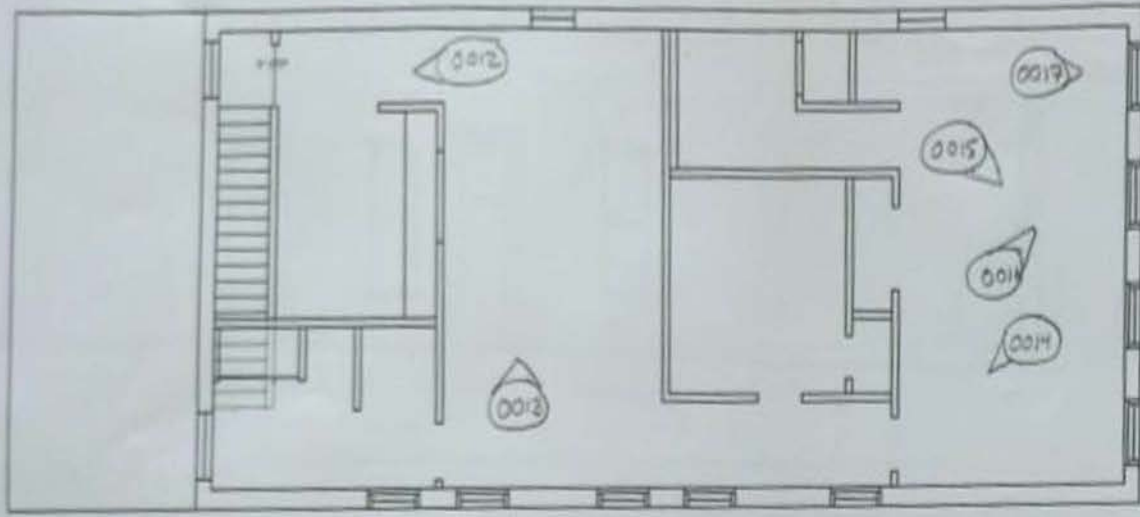
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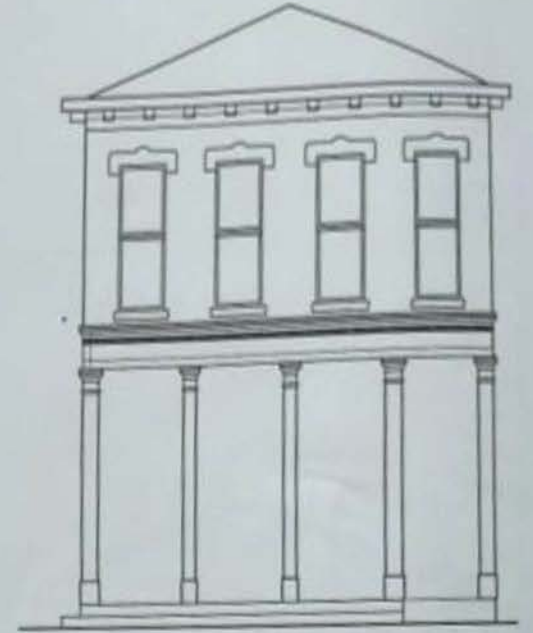
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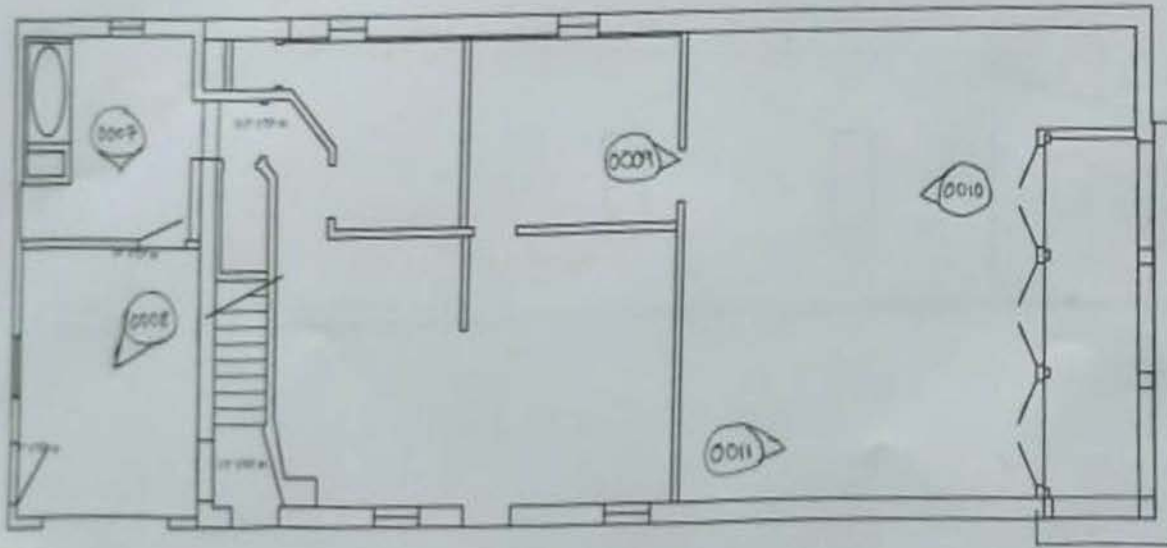
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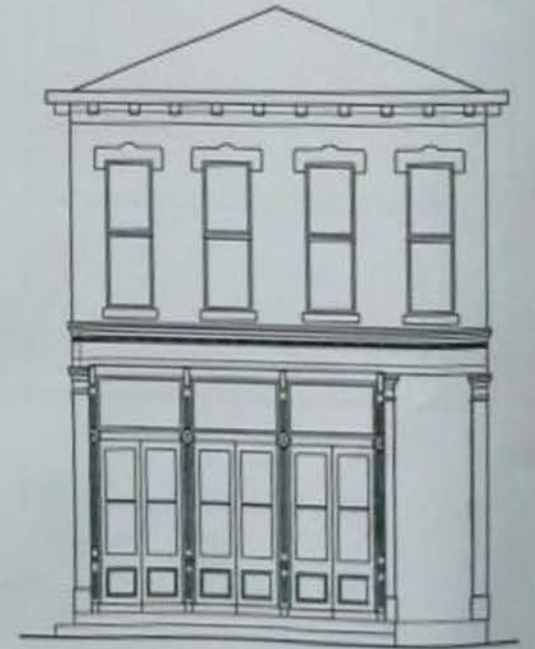
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION AT ENTRY DOORS REVEAL COLUMNS

Dalley. K & I wagon way Ky. side.

192 B

90.06.113



PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES
 STROM LIBRARY
 UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
 LOUISVILLE, KY 40292
 (502) 588-6752

COLLECTION: K&I-2

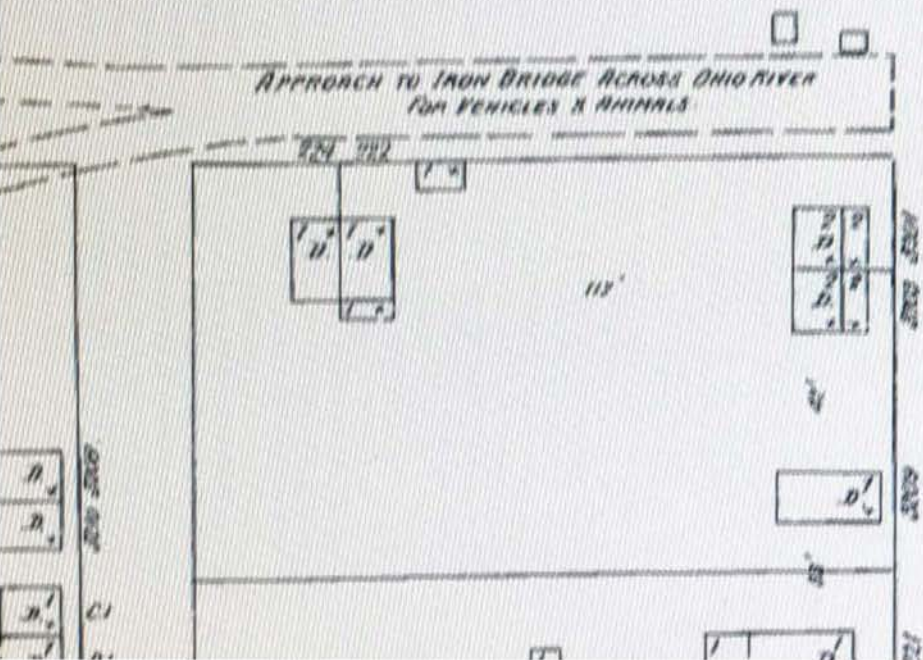
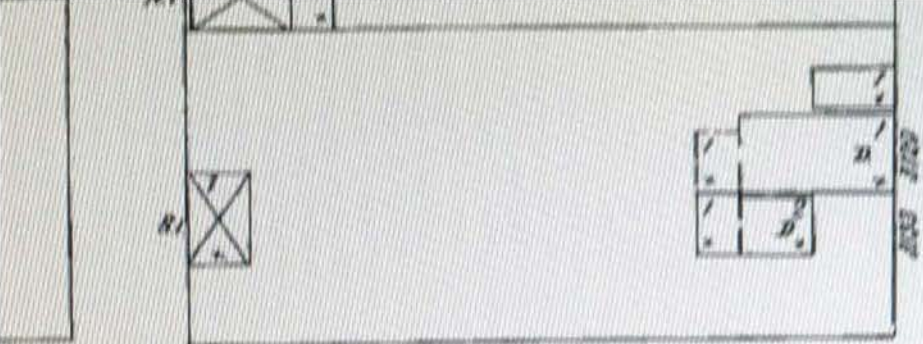
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 of K&I Bridge. Undated, but*

Subj: 130

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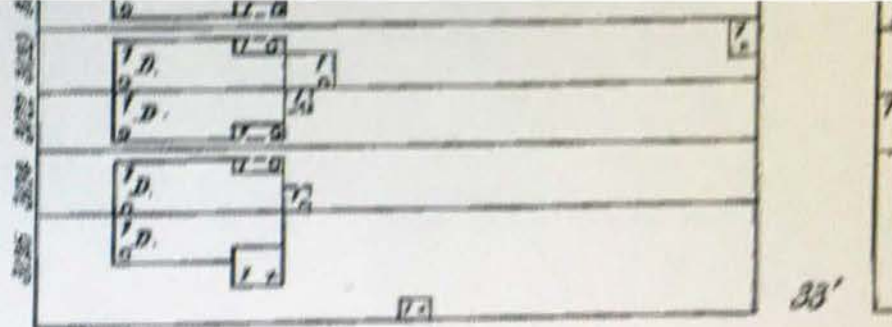
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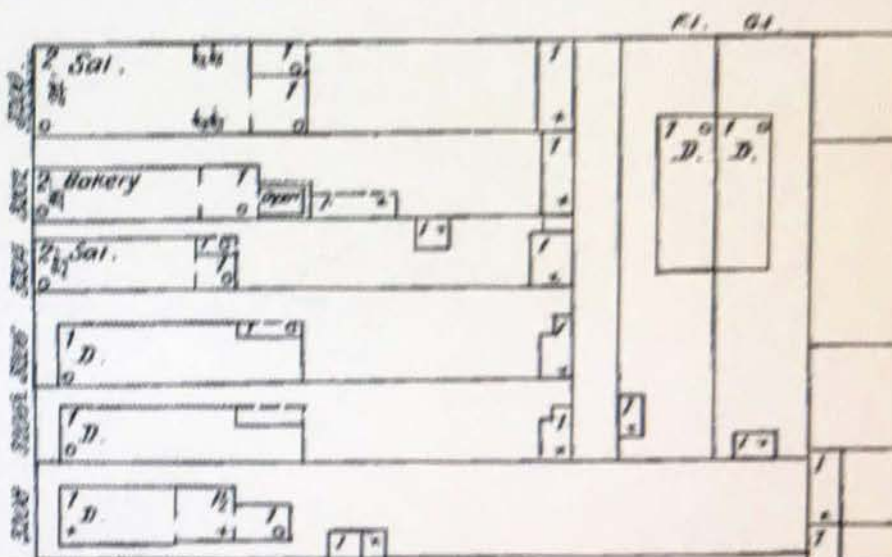


RUDD

Entr



32ND ST.





Companion picture shows interior of McMahon-La Paille Saloon. Notice brass rail, ornate back bar, spittoons, and beer mugs.



M & L
PORTLAND

M & L
PORTLAND

M & L
PORTLAND

M & L
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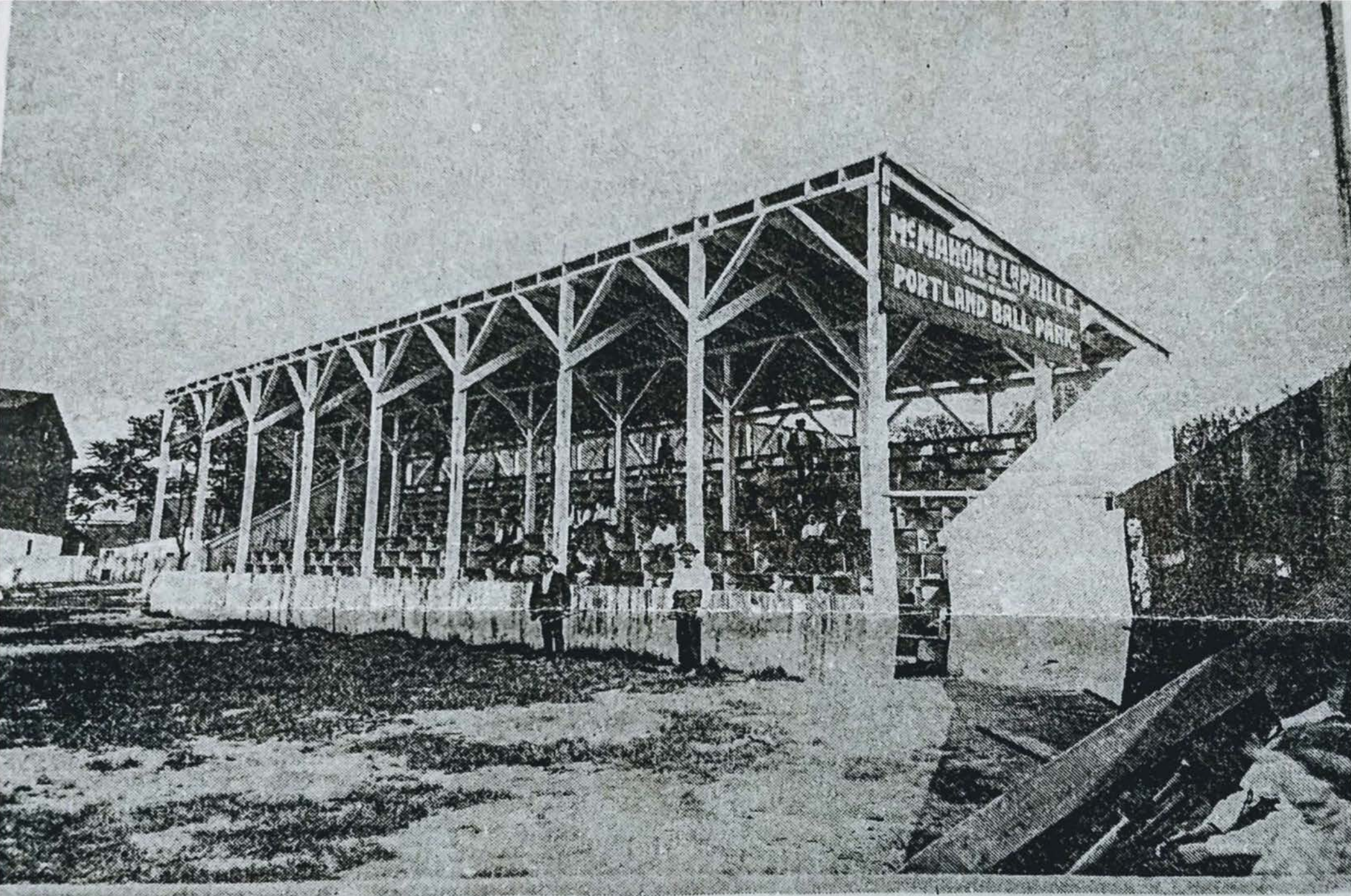
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PORTLAND



McMahon-La Paille Portland Ball Park, located under the present K & I bridge, 1905.



HARVEY COON'S SALOON





McMahon-La Paille Saloon, 32nd and Rudd. This is a Portland landmark even today. Second from left is Mike McMahon with mustache, 1906.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/19/2018 Date of Pending List: 2/21/2018 Date of 16th Day: 3/8/2018 Date of 45th Day: 3/5/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 3/5/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Kentucky Certified Local Government Report Form
Review of National Register Nomination by Local Authority

(Type and print your responses, then sign and return to the Kentucky Heritage Council, which is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The document has been set up as an electronic form for convenience.)

Name of Certified Local Government (CLG): Louisville Metro Government

Name of Property under Review: LeCompte Saloon

Initiation: *(Check one response. Enter this date, and all others, using the m/d/yy format).*

The nomination was submitted by the CLG to the Kentucky Heritage Council with this form and requests that the nomination be reviewed by KHC as soon as possible. Date submitted to KHC:

KHC submitted nomination to the CLG for review. The CLG has 60 days to review the nomination and return this report form to KHC. Date nomination was received by CLG: **11/9/17**

Date of Public Meeting in which Nomination was reviewed by the CLG: **11/16/17**

No. of public attendees in addition to commission members and staff: 4

Review Basis: *(Check at least one box of Resource Type/Criterion).*

Resource Type

- Historical
- Architectural
- Archaeological

Criterion Selected on Nomination Form

- National Register Criterion A or B
- National Register Criterion C
- National Register Criterion D

Name of Commission Member(s) with Expertise in Area of Significance *(Fill in if applicable to your commission).*

Historian (when property meets Criterion A or B):

Architectural Historian/Architect (for Criterion C): Chris Fuller

Archaeologist (when property meets Criterion D):

Recommendation: *(Please check the box that is appropriate to the nomination. Attach any relevant documentation, such as commission reports, staff reports/recommendations, public comments, and/or meeting minutes).*

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should *not* be listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

Commission Chair or Representative: Approved Not Approved

Print Name:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Chief Elected Official: Approved Not Approved

Print Name/Title:

Signature: _____ Date: _____



MATTHEW G. BEVIN
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

DON PARKINSON
SECRETARY

Regina Stivers
Deputy Secretary

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
300 WASHINGTON STREET
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
PHONE (502) 564-7005
FAX (502) 564-5820
www.heritage.ky.gov

CRAIG A. POTTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

January 10, 2018

J. Paul Loether, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Loether:

We enclose the following nominations, approved by the Review Board at their December 19, 2017 meeting, and asking that these Kentucky properties be listed in the National Register:

- Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.) Halcomb House, Allen County, Kentucky**
- Bonnie Leslie Historic District, Campbell County, Kentucky**
- Chalybeate Springs Hotel Springhouse, Edmonson County, Kentucky**
- LeCompte Saloon, Jefferson County, Kentucky**
- Queen Products Company, Inc. Complex, Jefferson County, Kentucky**
- May's Lick Negro School, Mason County, Kentucky**
- Richard Durrett House, Mason County, Kentucky**
- GAR Union Monument, Mason County, Kentucky**

We enclose the **Kentucky State Parks MPS**. The Review Board approved nomination of a related property: **Lake Cumberland State Resort Park**, Russell County, Kentucky. I have forwarded the nomination form for that property to its owners, the Army Corps of Engineers, for their consideration and submission for listing.

Finally, we submit a property for a Determination of Eligibility, due to owner objection: the **Louisville Railway Company High Street Power Station**, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

We thank you for your assistance in listing these properties.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Potts
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

