

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0678295

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 19 1979  
MAY 8 1979  
DATE ENTERED

**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

Nicholas Finzer House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1212 Hull Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

3 and 4

STATE

Kentucky

CODE  
021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Missy Kuhl

STREET & NUMBER

3000 Grade Lane

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40213

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County (Ky.) Court House

STREET & NUMBER

517 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky 40202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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

The Nicholas Finzer house is located on Hull Street in a neighborhood known as Irish Hill in the eastern section of the city. Irish Hill consists primarily of streets of shotgun houses and small residences. The Finzer house was probably the original structure in the area.

The Finzer house sets on top of a hill on a street lined with neat shotgun houses. The steep grade of the lot and the abundance of trees almost obscures the structure from view. The lot is retained at the sidewalk by a stone wall and the house is approached by a steep, limestone stairway.

The Finzer house is a two-story brick structure in the Renaissance Revival style. The brick has been coated with red oxide. The facade is symmetrical in design with a central entry flank by two windows on either side on the first floor. The door way has a classical surround with crossettes. The door is original with a large glass pane. The first floor windows are long with one-over-one panes and plain stone lintels.

The second floor has five windows which are capped by stone lintels in a pedimental form. The structure is topped by an extended cornice which has a row of dentils and a plain fascia. The cornice also has modillions. The structure also retains a metal roof which is not visible from the street level due to its slight slope, (a spectacular view of the city and river can be seen from the roof).

The most important feature of the house is its fine decorative cast iron work. The cast iron porch covers the entire length of the facade and has a balcony. The railings consist of a rinceau motif. Other ornamental iron work remains in the cellar and attic grates.

The interior of the house has been abused as it has been rental property for a number of years. Restoration of the interior is presently being undertaken. Fortunately, almost all the rooms retain their unpainted walnut woodwork in a severe classical style. Many of the cast iron mantels are intact as well as some of the interior shutters. The plaster ceiling decoration survives on the first floor. A few partitions have been put in the second floor rooms to make bath areas. On the whole, though neglected, the interior retains much of its original architectural character.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES      1870                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nicholas Finzer house is a handsome Renaissance Revival residence in what was the suburbs of Louisville. The structure was built for Nicholas Finzer, a prominent Louisville tobacco merchant and a founder of Louisville's night schools. The structure also retains one of the few fine cast iron decorative porches left on a residence in the city.

Nicholas Finzer (1848-1896), came to America with his parents from Kappeln, Switzerland in 1853. The family established their home in Louisville and Nicholas was the youngest of five brothers. The brothers attended public schools and then worked in the tobacco business. The tobacco industry was a growing concern in Louisville which by the 1880s was one of the largest tobacco markets in the world. The brothers were able to accumulate a small amount of capital and began the Five Brothers Tobacco Works in 1866. The initial operation was small but by the early 1870s the success of the firm necessitated a move to larger quarters. Nicholas Finzer succeeded to the presidency of the firm after his brother's death in 1889. Under Nicholas the operation was expanded and became one of the most celebrated manufacturers of plug and smoking tobaccos in the country. The plant had seven hundred employees.

Nicholas Finzer, who acquired a sizeable fortune, was engaged in various other business institutions in Louisville. He was a director of the German Insurance Bank, a director of the Newsboys' Home, and president of the Plug Tobacco Manufacturers' Association.

Nicholas Finzer also served on the board of the public schools and was a major force in the establishment of night schools. It was through his donation that the Third Ward School on East Broadway was used as a free night school for the benefit of his employees. He sought to give them an opportunity to become something better than tobacco strippers. Finzer kept in touch with the work by visiting the school frequently and gave prizes to encourage the students.

In his later years, he was greatly interested in horse racing and had a prominent breeding farm near Middletown, Kentucky.

Finzer appears to have built his Hull Street residence around 1869 and first appears in the City Directory at that location in 1870. The house once set on a large plat of land which was later subdivided and a neighborhood of

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky, Cincinnati: J. M. Ainstry, 1878.

Caron Directory of the City of Louisville, 1865-1920.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville East Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 6,1,0 | 2,5,0 | 4,2 | 3,3 | 8,7,0

B      |      |      |      |      |     

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C      | 6,1,1 |      |      |      |     

D      |      |      |      |      |     

E      |      |      |      |      |     

F      |      |      |      |      |     

G      |      |      |      |      |     

H      |      |      |      |      |     

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Louisville  
Block 68E Lot 61

## 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

Marty Poynter Hedgepeth - Research Director

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

10/18/78

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

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

*Donna C. Hopkins*

TITLE

*Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*3-13-79*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*5-8-79*

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

*5/3/79*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 19 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 8 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Finzer House    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

---

shotgun houses emerged around the house before the turn of the century. Finzer's mother and brother first lived with him until his marriage in 1872. Nicholas Finzer resided at the house with his five children until 1885. The house has had numerous owners and has been used most recently as rental units. It is currently undergoing restoration.

The Nicholas Finzer house has a rich historical heritage and has been a long over-looked resource in Louisville.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 18 1979 MAY 8 1979
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET Finzer House ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

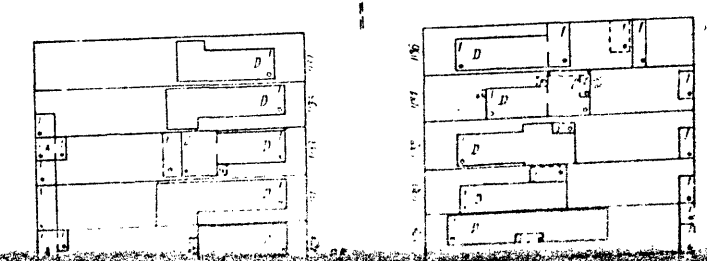
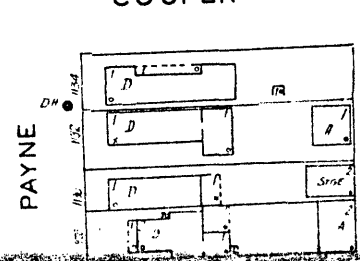
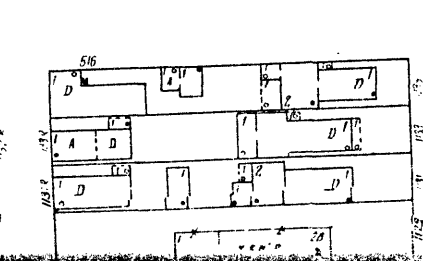
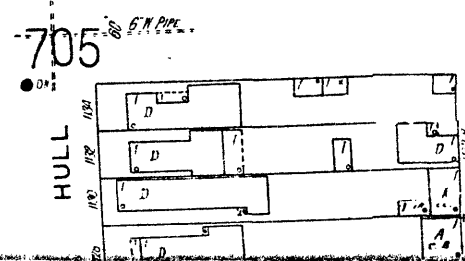
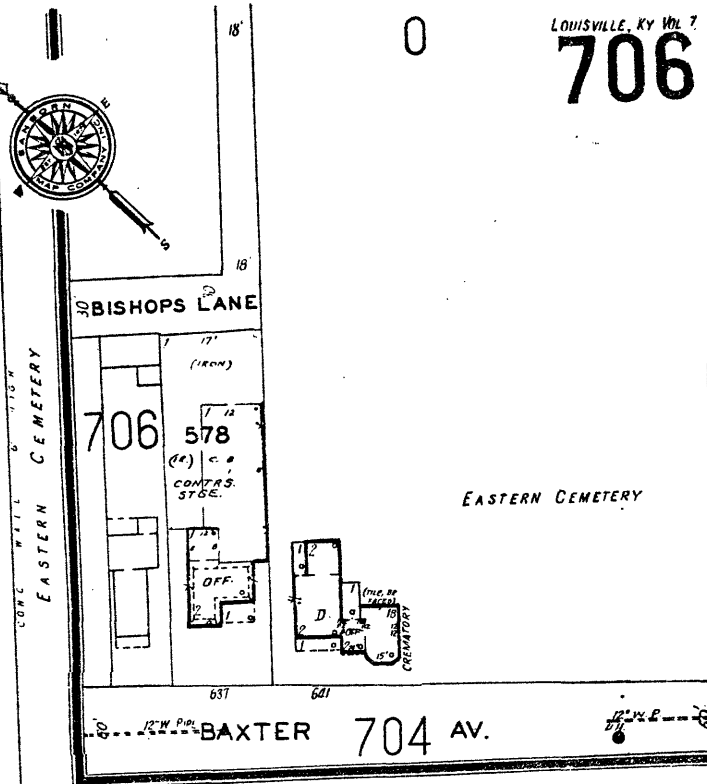
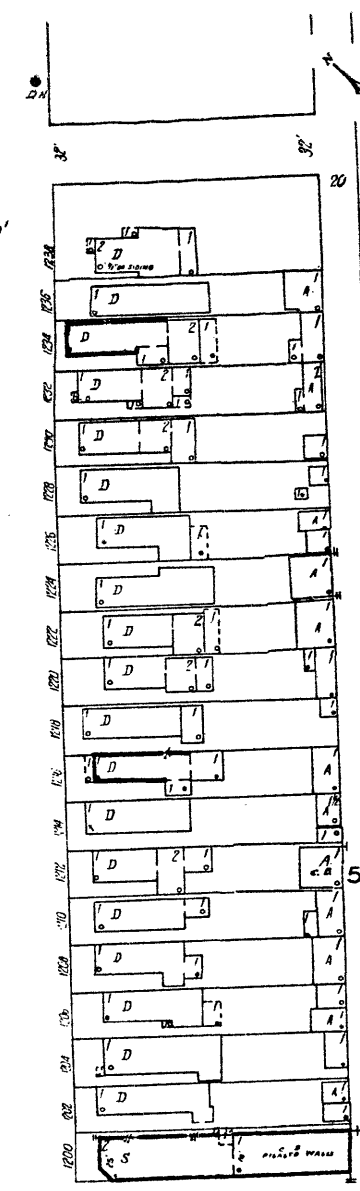
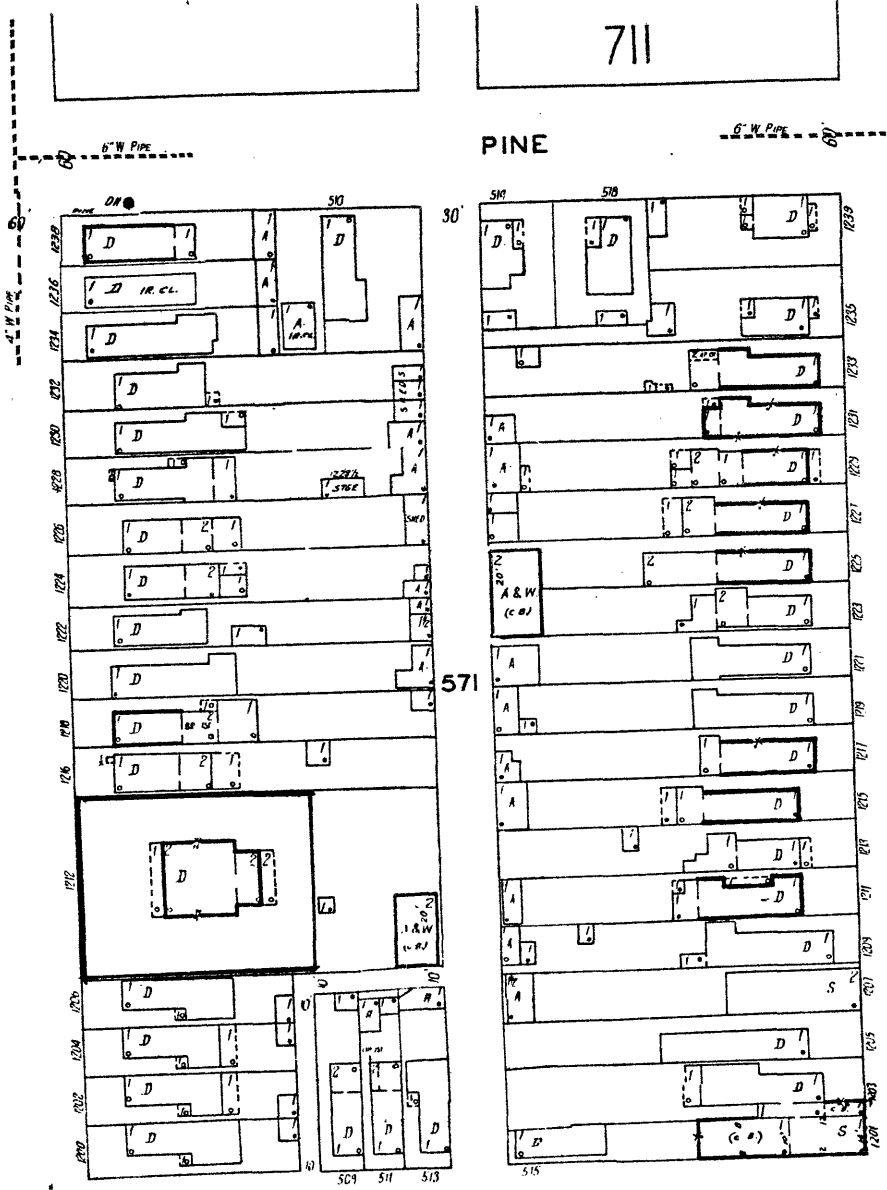
"Interesting History of Nicholas Finzer School," The Herald (Louisville)  
Post, 18 January 1923.

Jefferson County (Ky.) Deed Books.

Johnston, Josiah S. ed. Memorial History of Louisville from its First  
Settlement to the Year 1896. vol. 1. Chicago and New York: American  
Biographical Publishing Co., C. 1896.

Langsam, Walter, ed. Preservation: Louisville Metropolitan Architectural  
and Historic Preservation Plan, Louisville: Falls of the Ohio  
Metropolitan Council of Governments, May 1973.

0



Nicholas Finzer Residence  
1212 Hull Street  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Sanborn Map Co., Map 2.  
1972 MAR 19 1979 MAY 8 1979