

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 22 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 16 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

Doerhoefer-Hampton House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2422 West Chestnut Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: (vacant)

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Louisville

STREET & NUMBER

601 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville, — VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40202

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County (Ky) Court House

STREET & NUMBER

517 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville, Ky. 40202

STATE

Kentucky 40202

**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

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the western section of the city of Louisville, the Doerhoefer-Hampton House is the most architecturally prominent structure in the Russell neighborhood. The house is located in the center of the block of Chestnut Street between 24th and 26th Streets on the south side. At the time the house was built, there was little development west of 26th Street.

The residence is a three-story brick Italianate structure, with a two-story rear section of same construction date. The cornice is neatly bracketed with consoles on the front and sides of the house. The third floor windows have incised limestone lintels and banding on the facade. (The side windows on all three floors have undecorated limestone lintels and no banding) The second floor facade windows also have incised limestone lintels, but these contain more intricate detailing. A limestone band connects the three windows.

The main floor windows have elaborately incised limestone lintels with medallions and foliage motifs. The entry has a wooden lintel and fluted pilasters which rest on engaged blocks of geometric design.

The most striking feature of the Doerhoefer-Hampton House is the fanciful Italianate porch, probably added a short time after construction, in the 1890's (Photo 2 ). The porch has a bracketed cornice identical to that on the house, originally lined with consoles. Only a few remain in place. Beneath the cornice is a pressed metal garland of intricate design which bands the cornice. Arches spring from fluted columns with pressed metal Corinthian capitals. The spandrels of the arches are filled with medallions and foliage motifs, some of which match the lintel design on the house, and are made of pressed metal, painted to look like terra cotta. The ceiling of the porch, divided into five bays by the arches, is geometrically articulated with wooden cross beams. In the center of each ceiling bay is a metal light fixture, similar in design to the other metal features on the porch. This use of pressed metal, painted to resemble terra cotta is a unique feature (Photos 5&6). Although it is common to find pressed metal cornices throughout the city, the use of metal for detailing is rare. Terra cotta was commonly used in construction and manufactured in Louisville. The choice of painted, pressed metal rather than terra cotta, is curious. Whatever the reason, the metal has certainly survived the years in tact, where terra cotta would most likely have deteriorated.

The porch columns have been altered in the 1920's. The alteration was probably necessary due to deterioration of the base of the wooden columns. Rusticated concrete blocks have replaced the lower sections of the columns. The use of concrete block for this purpose was common and is evident on many porches in the area. An addition to the porch is a brick railing between the columns probably added in the 1950's.

There are two side porches to the house, each of cast iron (Photo 7 ). Very few cast iron porches remain in Louisville; most having been lost to the war effort. These are lovely examples of the typical cast iron porch once common in residential architecture. The beauty of the side porches is nearly overlooked, due

cont'd.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1887                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Doerhoefer-Hampton House, located in the Russell neighborhood of the western section of the city of Louisville, has been a landmark in that community for years. Built by Basil Doerhoefer in 1887, it was, at the date of construction, the grandest residence in the west end of Louisville. Doerhoefer was a highly successful tobacco merchant who invested his wealth in west end real estate and eventually subdivided and developed that property into what is now the Shawnee neighborhood. The house is a grand example of the residential Italianate style, spectacularized by a highly decorative Italianate porch (See Section 7). The history of Basil Doerhoefer plays an integral part in the history of the west end of Louisville, and in the tobacco industry in Louisville.

Basil Doerhoefer arrived in America with his parents at the age of two. The family of fourteen settled in New Albany, Indiana across the Ohio River from Louisville. As a young boy, Basil Doerhoefer began work as a stemmer in a Louisville tobacco factory. Two of his older brothers had also gone into the tobacco business and the three determined to begin a business of their own.

Their first plant was in the rear of their cottage home on Market Street near Twentieth, where they invested all of their limited capital. The business quickly grew and prospered. In the 1870's, Dr. Adolph Pfingst combined his knowledge of chemistry with the Doerhoefer's knowledge of tobacco, and the Pfingst-Doerhoefer Company emerged with the eventual construction of several warehouses in the west end. By 1880 Pfingst-Doerhoefer Company was the leading tobacco manufacturer in Louisville, with several nationally famous brands of smoking and chewing tobacco. In 1891, at the peak of success, the business was sold to a national consolidating firm, American Tobacco Company, and all three brothers retired from the tobacco business.

Basil Doerhoefer's leadership was recognized widely in the community, particularly in the financial world of Louisville. He was a member of the board of directors of the Kentucky Title Company, helped organize and was a member of the board of directors of the United States Trust Company, and was director of the First National Bank and of the Kentucky Title Savings Bank & Trust Company. Doerhoefer was one of the organizers of the Seelbach Realty Company, which built the Seelbach Hotel, and had big holdings in the Fountain Ferry Amusement Company. He was also vice president of the New Albany Veneering Company.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"B. Doerhoefer, Capitalist, Dies". Louisville Courier-Journal, April 10, 1923.

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville.

"Death Ends a Useful Career", Louisville Post, April 10, 1923.

Jefferson County Court House, Louisville, Kentucky

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1/3 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME New Albany Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

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

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 1B Lot 44 City of Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

DATE March 12, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main St.

TELEPHONE

502-587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

KY

# 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

*C. Simpson*  
*Edward W. Nelson*

TITLE

DATE

5-15-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Bill W. Birch  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

July 16, 1979

ATTEST: *Jann H. Guilmore*

DATE

7/11/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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to the splendid distraction of the front porch. The frame, one-story porch on the rear of the house is a later addition.

The interior of the Doerhoefer-Hampton house has been vandalized and neglected. All fireplace mantels have been stolen, as well as the bannister posts, and newel of the main staircase. However, the floors and trim work are in remarkably good condition in spite of recent abuse. None of the trim has been painted and the floors have been covered until recently. The architect in charge of the restoration of the house intends to fully restore the house, including the architectural details that are missing.

There are three outbuildings associated with the Doehoefer-Hampton house and on the same lot. A concrete block structure on the alley behind the house was probably built in the 1950's for a garage. A frame structure, also behind the house, is the original carriage house. The third is a gazebo-like structure of fanciful Victorian design, dating from the 1890's (Photo 8 ).

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CONTINUATION SHEET Doerhoefer-Hampton ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2  
House

In spite of these outstanding accomplishments, it was the development of sections of the west end, particularly Shawnee, that Basil Doerhoefer is most widely known. He bought large tracts of land on either side of Broadway west of 38th Street, subdivided, and developed it. Although Doerhoefer had sold most of his real estate holdings by his death in 1923, he reserved a large tract of land on the south side of Broadway between 44th and 45th Streets for his use. It was on this site, in 1902, that Doerhoefer built a magnificent Colonial Revival mansion, designed by local architect D. X. Murphy, for himself and his family. This frame residence at 4432 West Broadway was later the home of Loretto High School, and is currently owned by Christ Temple Apostolic Church.

In 1902, when the Doerhoefers moved from their home at 2422 West Chestnut, Dr. John P. Ferguson bought the Chestnut Street house and lived there until his death in 1934. Ferguson was a physician in the neighborhood. His office was nearby at 2408 West Market Street. In 1944, Belle Ferguson, his wife, sold the residence to Sarah C. Hampton, who lived in part of the house and rented part of it.

The property remained in the Hampton estate until July, 1978, when the city of Louisville purchased the Doerhoefer-Hampton House at auction. In conjunction with the Russell Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization and Development Corporation, the City of Louisville Community Development Cabinet purchased the house to help stabilize the neighborhood, and save the landmark from further deterioration. The plans for the house are currently undergoing review, but several proposals have been widely supported. The first floor will be completely restored and used for a Black history and culture museum. The second floor will be rehabilitated into office space for the Russell Neighborhood Corporation and meeting rooms for fraternal and civic groups. It is yet undecided what use the third floor will provide since fire codes limit the usage. The concrete block garage will perhaps be used to house a tool library for the Russell neighborhood, and the frame carriage house is to be used as an art workshop, or other developmental interests. The restoration of the gazebo-like structure is also being considered, due to its integral part in the architectural significance of the property.

Jasper Ward, architect, is in charge of the renovation of the Doerhoefer-Hampton House. Mr. Ward has been active in the renovation of many of Louisville's historic homes.

The house is an exceptional example of the residential Italianate style. The cornice is lined with elaborate consoles, and the limestone lintels are intricately detailed. Although the porch was added about ten years after the house was built, it is consistent

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Doerhofer-Hampton  
House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

with the Italianate style, and is by far the most elaborate, fanciful piece of architecture in the area. The use of pressed metal detailing in the porch, painted to look like terra cotta is very unique, and the cast iron side porches are rare.

The Doerhoefer-Hampton House has long been a landmark within the Russell neighborhood, and the community has worked diligently to preserve it. The house will soon serve as a community activity center, with the assistance of the City of Louisville Community Development Cabinet.





Doerhoefer-Hampton House  
2422 West Chestnut St.  
Louisville, Jefferson County  
Kentucky

Sanborn Map Co. 1972  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Map 2 - Sanborn Map

Scale: 1" = 200'

MAY 22 1979 JUL 16 1979