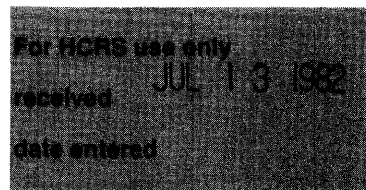


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Rauchfuss Houses

and/or common na

**2. Location**

street & number <sup>837-847</sup> 837, 839, 843, 847 S. Brook Street na not for publication

city, town Louisville na vicinity of na congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
na district	na public	na occupied	na agriculture	na museum
xx building(s) <sup>4</sup>	xx private	na unoccupied	na commercial	na park
na structure	na both	xx work in progress	na educational	na private residence
na site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	na entertainment	na religious
na object	na in process	xx yes: restricted	na government	na scientific
	na being considered	na yes: unrestricted	na industrial	na transportation
		na no	na military	xx other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Floyd Miller

street & number Box 96

city, town Depaw na vicinity of na state Indiana 47115

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 527 W Jefferson

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Ky Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? na yes xx no

date 1981 na federal xx state na county na local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Commission

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<u>na</u> excellent	<u>na</u> deteriorated	<u>na</u> unaltered	<u>xx</u> original site	
<u>na</u> good	<u>na</u> ruins	<u>xx</u> altered	<u>na</u> moved	date <u>na</u>
<u>xx</u> fair	<u>na</u> unexposed			

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

The Rauchfuss houses are located to the east of Interstate 65 and the Old Louisville National Register District (1975). The buildings are across the street from Male High School (National Register, 1979) and close to the Temple Adath Jeshurum (National Register 1982).

The Rauchfuss houses are a cluster of four identical, two-and-a-half story brick, Italianate residences. These houses are the epitome of the style utilizing the major elements associated with Italianate townhouses.

Each structure has a recessed entry on the left of the facade. The doorway is set behind a small open vestibule which is entered through an opening with a classical wood surround. The jamb is surmounted by an enriched overdoor supported by ancones which rise with floral decorative motifs. A cluster of flowers takes the place of a keystone on the hood. A row of dentils also adorns the hood. Number 837 retains its original door which has a classical surround with crossettes. The entries of the other three buildings now have double doors with plain surrounds. The right side of each facade has two long segmentally arched windows with divided lights. The windows have extended hoods which echo the shape of the entry hood. A carved motif in the center of the hood is on alternating houses. The second floor of each house is pierced by three windows of the same design as the first floor. The attic story has three, small, arched windows with a brick stringcourse connecting the windows and forming the lintels. Each building has an extended cornice with dentils. Paired brackets are placed between the attic windows and extend to the stringcourse.

Numbers 843 and 847 have a rear brick addition which does not detract from the major features of the buildings.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1865–1876      **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rauchfuss houses are one of the finest clusters of Italianate townhouses which remain in the city. These four residences are outstanding examples of the Italianate style and their visual impact is enhanced by the repeated motifs and rhythm of the identical facades. They are also interesting examples of the quality of structures built as rental housing of this period.

The Rauchfuss houses were built between 1865 and 1876 by Charles Fredrick Rauchfuss, an Illinois farmer. The properties were rented to persons of middle class occupations such as bookkeepers and clerks. These houses are among the earliest Italianate dwellings to survive in the city.

The area between Broadway and the Old Louisville National Register district where the Rauchfuss houses are located was developed as a residential area about ten years earlier than what today constitutes the Old Louisville neighborhood. Proportionally, Old Louisville has very few Italianate dwellings. This northern area no longer retains its overall residential character, but a few outstanding clusters of Victorian homes remain. The Rauchfuss houses are architecturally an exceptional example of the Italianate style executed in brick, a popular local building material. The structures portray the quality of design and craftsmanship found in the building trade of this period.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Caron Directory of the City of Louisville. Louisville: C.K. Caron, 1865-1885.

1876 Atlas of Louisville.

Jefferson County (KY) Deed and Will Books. Jefferson County Courthouse.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .27 acres

Quadrangle name Louisville West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	6	0	7	2	0	0	0
Zone			Easting			Northing		

B 

Zone			Easting			Northing		

C 

Zone			Easting			Northing		

D 

Zone			Easting			Northing		

E 

Zone			Easting			Northing		

F 

Zone			Easting			Northing		

G 

Zone			Easting			Northing		

H 

Zone			Easting			Northing		

Verbal boundary description and justification (See Map 2.) See Continuation Sheet for description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state na code na county na code na  
state na code na county na code na

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marty Poynter Hedgepeth Director of Research

organization Landmarks Commission date April 8, 1982

street & number 727 W. Main telephone 502/587-3501

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Corman Spel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/9/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Jelena Byers Entered in the National Register date 7/12/82  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Rauchfuss Houses - Jefferson County, Louisville, Kentucky  
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Nominated is an area 110' x 110' along S. Brook and E. Breckinridge containing the following Lots:

- 837 S. Brook - Block 30D - Lot 1
- 839 S. Brook - Block 30D - Lot 2
- 843 S. Brook - Block 30D - Lot 84
- 847 S. Brook - Block 30D - Lot 3

The only buildings on the lots are the main residences. Each building occupies almost the entire lot area, with a small yard at the front and rear.



Rauchfuss Houses  
837-847 S. Brook  
Louisville, Jefferson Cty., KY.  
Sanborn Map Co. Pelham, N. Y. c.1974

Map 2 Sanborn Map  
Nominated area shown in green.

1" = 100'