

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 17 1975  
DATE ENTERED OCT 10 1975

**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  
  Hikes-Hunsinger House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
2834 Hikes Lane  
CITY, TOWN  
Louisville  
STATE  
Kentucky  
VICINITY OF  
Third  
COUNTY  
Jefferson  
CODE  
021  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third  
CODE  
031

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Marjorie Hunsinger (Mrs. John L.) Weeks and Barbara Hunsinger (Mrs. C. E.)  
STREET & NUMBER  
8933 La Costa Road, Louisville; 2432 Merriwood Drive, Jeffersontown  
CITY, TOWN  
Louisville  
STATE  
Kentucky  
VICINITY OF  
Stephens, Jr.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
6th and Jefferson Streets  
CITY, TOWN  
Louisville  
STATE  
Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky  
DATE  
1971  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Kentucky Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN  
Frankfort  
STATE  
Kentucky  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Hikes-Hunsinger House is a two-story Federal farmhouse with extended kitchen and service ell. The house is presently situated at a bend in Hikes Lane, a portion of which follows the original driveway or lane that led to the front of the house. The house and farm were originally located near a branch of Beargrass Creek which meanders southward from the Ohio River from the original east end of Louisville. It was its location near the Creek to the northwest that permitted the early mill and distillery on the property.

The main block of the house, which faces southwest, is one-room deep. Somewhat unusually, there is a two-story rear ell off the northwest end of the main block, connected to it by means of a stairhall, which also opens to the side entrance (now facing Hikes Lane). Beyond are the original "dog-trot," always closed to the north, now boarded in at the other end as well, and the original kitchen with loft over. A series of modest galleries leads from the rear of the central hall of the main block along the ell to the kitchen. The surviving brick smokehouse is located a short distance to the east.

The foundations of the house consist of large ashlar blocks of local stone. The walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond on the two main (southwest and northwest) sides only; the other sides are in common bond. There is a header course at first-floor ceiling level throughout. The main front has five bays, fairly widely and evenly spaced. The openings have header-and-stretcher splayed voussoirs. The roof has a low slope. Chimneys are within the mass of the wall. There is a normal cornice returned before the ends of the walls. Characteristically for the period, the gable ends are absolutely flat.

There may well have been no front porch originally, only a stoop. A one-story porch of modest Greek Revival character, probably dating from the mid-19th century, appears in an old photograph dated about 1892; it consisted of four square piers in front of the entrance bay. It was replaced sometime before 1924 by the present porch of similar proportions with only two rough Perma-Stone piers and parapets at the sides. Over the side entrance, there is a delightful and delicate late Victorian porch which has a character of its own but barely disturbs the integrity of the wall. The gallery along the dining-room and side-hall portion of the rear ell has rather early chamfered posts and a low newel. This continues into a sort of boardwalk outside the original dogtrot. Steps lead down to a brick path under the extended roof of the kitchen wing.

The main entrance to the house has wide double doors with single panels below and three above set in a grooved frame with elliptical fanlight and, unusually, no sidelights. The fan has radiating muntins and an interesting and also unusual concave-sided diamond feature in the center; the same motif linked in series also occurs in vertical and horizontal panels on the living-room mantel (and perhaps once on the lost parlor mantel). The front entrance also has engaged quarter columns on the outside, a wooden "keystone,"

(continued)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Continuity of habitation.
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1823-24

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Hikes, Jr.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hikes-Hunsinger House was built in 1824 by George Hikes, Jr. The Hikes family was one of Louisville's distinguished early families who built a number of houses in the area, several of which survive. The house remains in the possession of members of the Hikes family, and has had a continuous span of habitation for 150 years.

The house itself is a typical Federal farmhouse of fine quality with a highly satisfying sense of moderation in proportions. Although the ornamental detail is relatively simple, there are subtle distinctions between the formal and informal parts of the residence and between individual rooms, reflecting their original domestic functions. Although now surrounded by fast-increasing suburban development, the house still retains the original kitchen and service wing, a smokehouse, and a portion of the original grounds. Although they are not integral to the house, it is of interest that the family furnishings, including some of the tools and molding templates used in the construction of the buildings, remain on the property.

Colonel George Hikes, Sr. (1762-1832), was a Revolutionary War soldier, originally from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He came to Louisville in 1785. His son George Hikes, Jr., the builder of the house, was born in 1788. George Hikes married Elizabeth Jones in 1813. She died in 1820 and he remarried Nancy Augustus in 1823. In 1824 Hikes, Sr., divided his farm and Hikes, Jr., constructed the house on his portion of the land. He built and operated a distillery and grist mill on the farm (where the Mansard Apartments now stand). George Hikes, Jr., served as the first Jefferson County Justice in 1833. On April 1845 he deeded to trustees of District #1 school, one acre of land on Bardstown to erect a school--Hikes Grade School.

The house was inherited by Hikes', Jr., son, Edward Jones Hikes (1817-1901). He married Paulina Keller in 1838. Their youngest daughter Lena Crawford (1861-1945) inherited the house. She married Charles Edward Hunsinger, an Alsatian, in 1881. Their second son, Claude Hobson Hunsinger (1898-1971), was next to inherit the house. He married Marguerite Wilder in 1921. Their daughters presently own the property.

Naturally, a family which has preserved and maintained their tangible heritage as sensitively and perseveringly as the Hikes - Hunsingers, have also accumulated intangible souvenirs of their life. Family records are well preserved, in addition to stories and legends, such as those concerning a ghost or two. Union soldiers are said to have camped in the pasture on their way to the battle at Perryville; for their officers, the

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Family records.

Langsam, Walter E. Metropolitan Preservation Plan (Louisville: Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1973) JD 8.

The Courier-Journal & Times (Louisville), articles.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

17 M. O. Co. R.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

42 29

A	1,6	61,84,9,0	4,218,915,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. Elizabeth F. (Mrs. Paul D.) Jones

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission, Jefferson Co. Representative

DATE

March 24, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

4012 Massie Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

St. Matthews, 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.

SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-14-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Greenberg  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/10/75

DATE

10/9/75

acg

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Hikes-Hunsinger House

and implied capitals below the arch, suggesting a retardataire Georgian quality. The main staircase is of exceptional beauty. It rises along one wall of the hall to a landing at the rear and turns forward in a short flight. The stairs to the third floor above follow the same pattern but are steeper and narrower. The stringers are extraordinarily fine: linear scrolls with filled-in centers rhythmically spaced. The rungs are plain and slender; their railing takes a graceful bend up to the first landing; the other angles have knobs above and dainty pendants below.

The formal parlor, which now has a mid-Victorian castiron mantel, has no chair-railing, but high baseboards, concentric circles in the corner blocks, and grooved frames. The parlor windows are recessed with shallow ovals in the panels below the windows, which are 9-over-6-pane sash throughout the house. Samples of early wallpapers and borders from parlor and stairhall have been preserved.

The less formal living room to the left of the entrance hall does have chair-railing. The woodwork is fine but simple, although the mantel combines the diamond motif with concentric corner blocks and grooving. The shelf projects triply over dramatically superimposed moldings. The side hall entrance has a plain square transom. The side stairs have knobs and pendants, but no trim on the stringers. The dining room mantel has only an oval panel in the center; there is also an original built-in cupboard and chair-railing. The dining-room is divided from the side hall by a thin partition, not a brick wall. The interior of the dogtrot has been somewhat modernized using old materials. The rear kitchen, no longer used except for the display of early utensils, is virtually intact. The upstairs bedrooms have similar woodwork, but progressively simpler. The mantels have the earlier type of separate shelves and frames around the openings. At the head of the stairs is a small chamber with a thin original partition.

There are many original window panes throughout. The attic burned a number of years ago, but Roman numerals used in matching the rafters during construction remain. There is a large chimney opening in the basement under the dining-room fireplace. There is some rot in the old beams supporting the floors, particularly under the dining room. In most respects, however, the house is extremely well-maintained, having suffered no gaps in maintenance during its history.

The smokehouse, which was used to cure ham until 1940, is of brick with the typical lozenge-like pattern of ventilator holes in the sides, a fairly low pyramidal roof, very graceful cornices, and a pineapple finial (said to symbolize Southern hospitality). The original door consists of vertical boards in a plain pegged frame.

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The property also includes a 25-acre farmed field to the east that is not included in the nomination, as it is surrounded by developed residential areas and a school. There is a contemporary two-car cinderblock garage behind the house. The old well is within the ell. A stone barn formerly across the lane has been torn down but is to be re-erected at Locust Grove, the Croghan House, also in eastern Louisville.

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girls of the family sang in the parlor--perhaps in front of the Victorian mantel said to be the result of one daughter's boarding school "airs" on her return home. It is stated in an 1880s history of the cities at the Falls of the Ohio that the family-produced whiskey was good only for medicinal purposes. Only affection and a sense of humor could have allowed a place to remain as vivid yet mellow a reminder of its inhabitants' past.