



1006 Pine Street History

Legal Description: Lot 1 et al., Block C, Louisville

Year of Construction: 1904

Summary: This historic building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, has served Louisville as a saloon, billiard hall, grocery store, bar, and restaurant for nearly 110 years.

Lackner Family and Date of Construction

Joseph Lackner owned and operated this building as a saloon, then as a pool hall during Prohibition, for over thirty years between 1904 and 1937. He was in the saloon and pool hall business in Louisville for over fifty years.

Beginning in the early 1880s, he and his family were prominent members of the German-speaking population of Louisville. They were also related to other members of Louisville's leading German and Austrian families, including the Mayhoffer family, Daxacher, and the Eberharter families. The Lackner name has at times been spelled as "Lachner," "Lechner," and "Lochner" in the records.

Joseph Lackner was born in Zell am Ziller, Tyrol, Austria in about 1858. In 1876, he left Austria and immigrated to Pennsylvania to join his half-brother, John Schweiger. In 1878, they and John's wife moved to Gilpin County, Colorado, where Lackner filed his Declaration of Intention to become a US citizen. His descendants believe that he likely worked as a bartender in Central City. He then established a saloon in Louisville by 1884, six years after the town's founding. The 1884 business directory for Louisville lists this business as "Lachner and Co., saloon."

In 1884, Joseph Lackner married Rosina Eberharter in Louisville. She had been born in 1862 in Austria. The following photo shows them in their wedding photo (the bride and groom are on the left):



Wedding Picture of Joseph Lackner and Rosina Eberharter (left)
Best Man: Joseph Heim Maid of Honor: Elizabeth Eberharter (right)
8 July 1884, Louisville

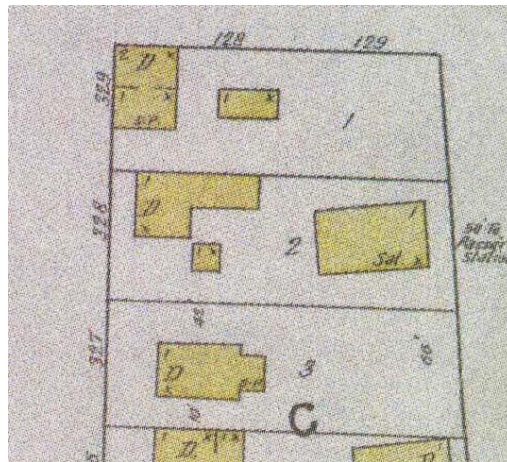
Joseph and Rosina had three sons, born in 1886, 1888, and 1889. Rosina died in 1889 at the time of the birth of their third son. In 1890, Joseph remarried to Sabina Heim. Sabina had been born in 1867 in Austria. His descendants have provided the information that Joseph had employed Sabina to look after his three young children while he went back to Austria in order to bring his parents to Louisville (presumably so that they could help raise his children, their grandchildren). He and Sabina married and had six children. The following photo shows Joseph, Sabina, Joseph, Jr., and baby Theresia in circa 1891-92:



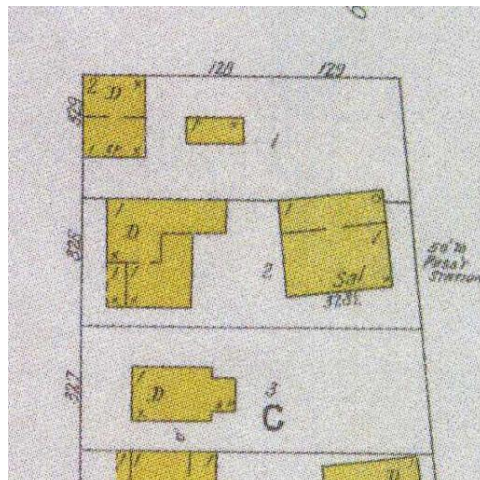
Only three of Joseph Lackner's nine children lived past the age of 21. His third child died at the age of only four months. Next, in a diphtheria epidemic in Louisville in 1892, Lackner's first child and fourth child died within a short time of one another. Boulder's *Daily Camera* newspaper reported this news and noted that "[t]he parents have the universal sympathy of their community." Others also died at young ages. The three children who lived to be adults were Joseph, Jr., Elfreda, and Marguerite.

Using the Boulder County property ownership records together with the Sanborn fire insurance maps for 1893 and 1900, it is clear that Lackner had an earlier saloon that was also by the tracks and near the railroad depot.

This detail from the 1893 Sanborn map shows the building behind (to the east of) the Lackner house on Lot 2 of Block C:



Similarly, the 1900 Sanborn map shows the earlier saloon behind the house, and shows that the tavern at 1006 Pine (which would be built on the east side of Lot 1) had not yet been constructed:



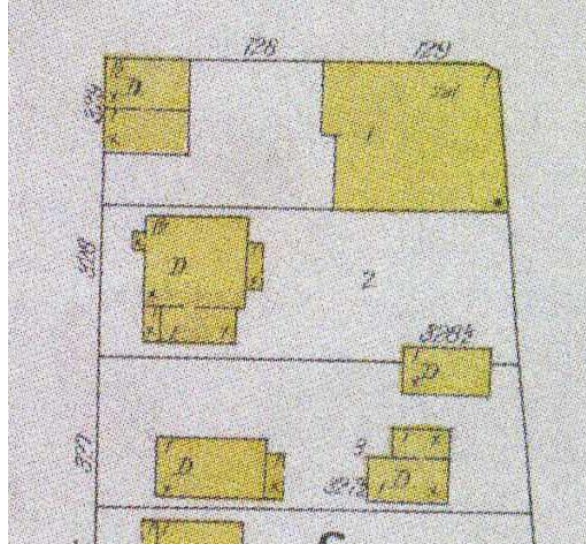
This earlier saloon was located behind the Lackner home on Lot 2 at what is today 630 Front Street. The following photo shows the Lackner family (Joseph, Joseph Jr., Sabina, and baby Mary) in front of their home at 630 Front in circa 1893; the building that is believed to have been the earlier Lackner saloon can be seen to the right and behind the house.



Joseph Lackner owned the south section of Lot 1 and all of Lot 2 of Block C by the year 1887, when the deed for his purchase was recorded with the County. He further acquired the northern section of Lot 3. In August 1903, the deed for his purchase of the remainder of Lot 1 was recorded with the County. It was this purchase of property, which extended his holdings all the way to Pine Street, that made it possible for him to build a new saloon at what is now 1006 Pine.

Although Boulder County gives the date of construction of 1006 Pine as 1900, this is believed to have been a rounded off figure that was an estimate. The building is identified in multiple sources as having been constructed by Herman H. Fischer, another German/Austrian businessman in Louisville. According to the Fischer family, this building was constructed in 1904. This fits with it having to have been constructed between 1900 (when it was not yet shown on Lot 1 on the Sanborn map) and 1908 (when it was shown on Lot 1 on the Sanborn map). It also fits with Lackner's purchase of the northern section of Lot 1 in about 1903.

The following excerpt from the 1908 Sanborn map shows the presence of the Lackner saloon on Lot 1 (now 1006 Pine) and shows the absence of the earlier Lackner saloon that had been on Lot 2, behind the Lackner home:



Also in 1908, Boulder photographer Edward Tangen photographed Lackner's Tavern. This photo is from the book *Ed Tangen, the Pictureman: A Photographic History of the Boulder Region* by Thomas J. Meier. The photo shows a sign on the building that indicates that the saloon was associated with Blatz Milwaukee Beer.



According to a Lackner family history, "Through the years Joseph Lackner managed the beer hall and also dealt in wholesale cigars, wines, beers, and ales. The merchandise was stored in the sawdust-lined attic of the building At one time Joseph utilized the damp dirt cellar to grow mushrooms."

Where there is now an empty lot on the corner of Pine and Front to the west of 1006 Pine, there used to be a two-story building that was constructed before 1893 (since it appeared on the 1893 Sanborn map). It is believed that this is the building referred to in Louisville directories as “Germania House,” a boarding house. The first appearance of this name is in the 1903 Louisville directory. Members of the Lackner family recall a time when the first floor was rented out to one family and the second floor to another family. Two of the photos below show this building, which is believed to have been demolished in the 1950s or 1960s.

According to a Lackner family history, “For a few years Joseph and Sabina Lackner operated a German style family beer garden on the lawn between the buildings on their property, as was the custom in their native homeland of the Tirol, Austria.” It is not known exactly where this beer garden was locatedⁱ, but it is clear that the Lackners ran what was essentially a complex of buildings. (This beer garden concept was later brought back in the 1990s by a later owner.)

Lackner’s saloon was situated to take advantage of the busy location by Louisville’s railroad depot. The Interurban Electric train stopped at the depot every day on its trips between Boulder and Denver. The following photo, believed to have been taken at the time of a major coal mining strike and labor tensions in 1914, shows the proximity of Lackner’s saloon (on the right) to the depot (in the middle of the photo). The silhouette of the Louisville Grain Elevator can be seen not far away on the left of the photo.



Evidence of Joseph Lackner’s civic involvement shows that he was a trusted businessman and member of the community. In 1895, according to the Daily Camera, he was appointed to a committee to examine options following the sinking of some lots in town due to mining subsidence. In 1898, he was elected to be Town Treasurer. According to the Lackner family, he also served as Town Treasurer in 1906-08. He was an active member of the Louisville Redmen Lodge.

In Colorado, Prohibition took effect on January 1, 1916 and lasted until 1933. This was a difficult time for saloon owners. (A wooden liquor crate addressed to Lackner and

shipped in October 1915 was found in the building's basement and donated to the Louisville Historical Museum; this date was not long before the advent of Prohibition.) Like some other saloon owners in Louisville, Lackner converted his building to a billiard hall. The Louisville directories from 1918 to 1933 show that the business was a billiard hall or pool hall during that time.

A granddaughter of Joseph and Rosina Lackner who was born in 1923 does not remember food being served in the establishment, and she recalls that beer was the main form of alcohol served following Prohibition. Cigars were sold in a cigar case that was a humidor, located near the door. It was the job of Marguerite Lackner to regularly clean the inside and outside of the humidor. She did this after hours, as women were not allowed in the saloon when it was open, according to the Lackner family.

She also recalls that Lackner used punch cards, presumably to keep his customers returning. A full punch card would win the customer a box of candy.

This Lackner granddaughter also remembers an outhouse for the house that she believes may have also been the outhouse for the Lackner saloon / billiard hall. Sabina Lackner would clean it every morning, using lye.

The following photo was taken in 1918 and shows the Lackner family by what is believed to be 1006 Pine. Shown are, at the back, their daughter-in-law Kathryn Lackner and daughter Elfreda Lackner, and in the front, daughter Carmelita Lackner, granddaughter Alma Lackner, and daughter Marguerite Lackner.



The following two photos donated to the Louisville Historical Museum by the Lackner family were taken in 1924 outside the building at 1006 Pine. The first shows, left to right, Joseph Lackner, their granddaughter Alma, Sabina Lackner, and their granddaughter Betty Lou.



In this one, Joseph Lackner is holding his granddaughter, Betty Lou, in 1924 by the building.



During the Depression in the 1930s, Sabina Lackner found work as a housekeeper in Denver and lived in Denver while Joseph Lackner continued to live in the corner building that had been known as Germania House. They rented out their home at 630 Front.

The following close-up from an aerial photo taken in the 1930s shows the tavern building at 1006 Pine, as well as the Lackner house at 630 Front and the two-story apartment building at the corner of Pine and Front.



Prohibition, the Depression, and poor health and the old age of the Lackners were problems for the business at 1006 Pine. Consequently, daughter Marguerite Lackner, who had been deeded the property, sold it in 1937 to Hugo Peltzer. Joseph Lackner died in 1939, and Sabina Lackner passed away in 1959.

Peltzer Ownership, 1937-1966

Hugo Peltzer did not previously have a relationship with Louisville, Colorado, but like Lackner, he was German speaking, having been born in Gelsenkirchen, Germany in 1875. He had immigrated to the United States and raised his family on a farm near La Junta, Colorado. He had four sons who were named Hugo, Ernest, Carl, and William. Each of them would end up having an ownership interest in 1006 Pine at one time or another during the period of 1937 to 1966.

Louisville directories and the 1940 federal census show that Hugo Peltzer was living in Louisville by 1940. The directories for 1943 and 1946 similarly show him living on Pine in a location that would suggest that it was the apartment building at Pine and Front. Meanwhile, Ernest Peltzer and his wife, Dorothy, in about 1940 began to operate the building that had been Lackner's saloon, this time as a grocery and meat store. They are also listed in the 1940 census as living in Louisville near Ernest's father, Hugo. Ernest was 34 and Dorothy was 21.

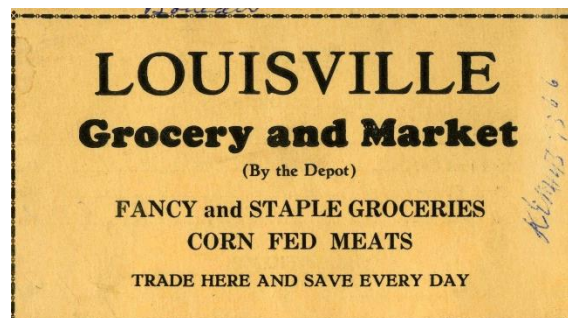
According to the son of Ernest and Dorothy Peltzer, his parents tried to make a go of the grocery store as a young couple. It is believed that they lived in living quarters of the building. A major challenge was the fact that the mines in the Louisville area would close every summer due to the poor quality of the coal, and many families relied on store

credit to get by in the summers. It was difficult for Ernest and Dorothy Peltzer's grocery business to survive. Also in part due to the advent of World War II, they gave up the business and moved to Portland, Oregon, where Ernest found work in the shipyards as part of the war effort.

The following photo shows Ernest Peltzer in an interior shot of the building at 1006 Pine when he had it as a store for groceries and meats in the early 1940s:

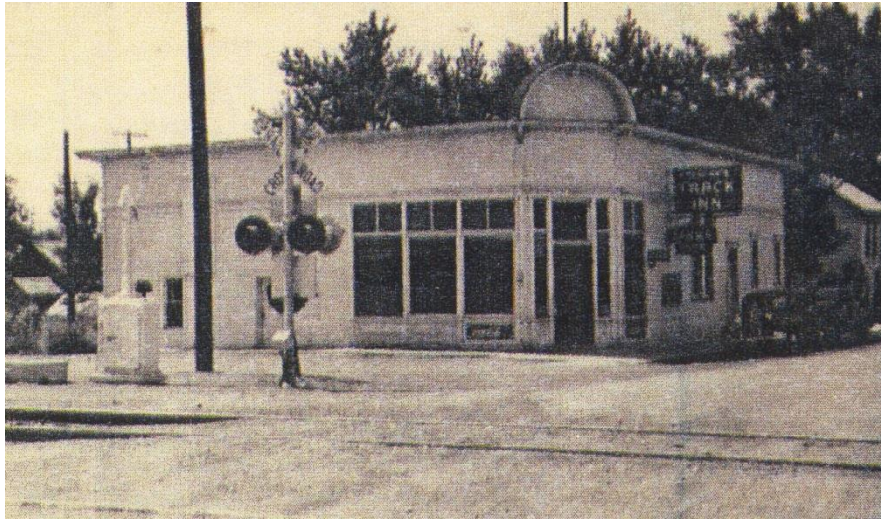


The Peltzers' "Louisville Grocery and Market" also advertised on the back of a Blue Parrot restaurant menu from circa 1940 given to the Historical Museum by the Peltzer family, as seen here:

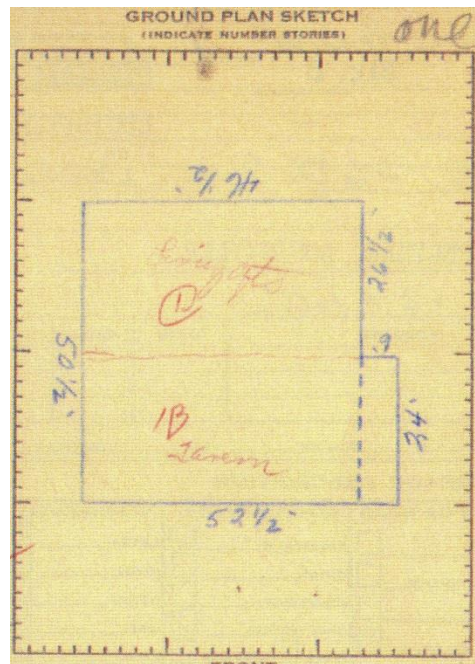


Over the next several years, ownership of the building by different members of the Peltzer family shifted, but the ownership stayed with members of the Peltzer family (none of whom still lived in Louisville) and was rented out to others. By 1948, it had become known as the Track Inn. This was the first of two names for the business that referenced the railroad next to it (the other being Pine Street Junction, starting in the early 1990s).

The following photo of the building is from the 1948 County Assessor Card:



The following image shows the building layout from the 1948 County Assessor Card. The layout shows living quarters ("living qts") for the south half of the building. Lackner family members are not known to have ever lived in the living quarters of the saloon, particularly since they owned the residence and the apartment house that were each located so close by, but later managers of the business did reside in the living quarters.



This photo from the Peltzer family shows the building in the late 1940s when it was "Frenchy's Track Inn," as seen on the sign:

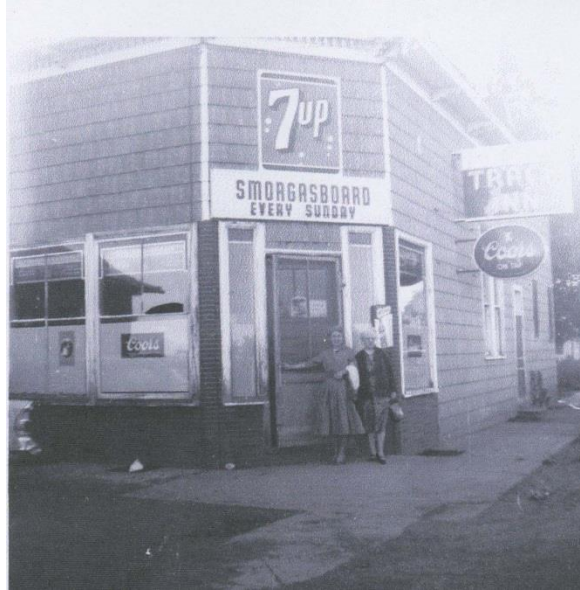


The “Frenchy” of “Frenchy’s Track Inn” was either Belgian-born Emile Beghin or his Canadian-born son, Ronald Beghin. Together, they operated the tavern and are listed in the 1949 directory.

Not all of the Louisville directories indicate who was operating the Track Inn, and there may have been additional managers over the years than those listed, but according to the 1951 directory, the Track Inn was operated by Susan T. Bathauer. Also living with her in the building were her husband, Peter J. Bathauer, and their daughter, Barbadean Bathauer.

In directories from 1955 to 1959, Anthony and Thelma Norwid are listed as managing the Track Inn. They lived in the living quarters of the building. In 1958, it was listed as being a “Tavern & Restaurant.”

The following photo from the Lackner family shows the Track Inn in 1959 and advertising “Smorgasboard Every Sunday.”



In 1960, Andrew J. and Mary Lang operated the Track Inn and lived on the premises.

In 1966, the Peltzer family sold 1006 Pine.

Thielen, Vasquez, Grosso, Wickline, and Flores Ownership

In 1966, after nearly thirty years of mostly long-distance ownership, the Peltzer family sold the property to Deloy and Pearl Thielen. After a brief ownership by Willard and Ruth Cone, the Thielens acquired it again, then sold it for good in 1972 to Max and Cora Vasquez.

The business continued to be known as the Track Inn under all of these owners and had an identity as a bar.

Charles Grosso purchased the property in 1977. In 1982, he platted the “Track Inn Beer Garden & Bocci Court.”

The following photo is dated 1984 in the Museum’s records:



Edward Wickline then joined Charles Grosso as co-owner. The following advertisement from the *Louisville Times* in June 1979 gives their names and an indication of some of the foods on the menu:



Edward Wickline's ownership interest was transferred back to Charles Grosso by 1991.

In 1993 or 1994, the focus changed and the establishment became a family restaurant with the new name of "Pine Street Junction." The outdoor beer garden and bocci court continued to be attractions.

The following photos from 1995 show the building as Pine Street Junction. It appears that the siding shown in the 1959 and 1984 photos, above, had been removed.



In 2002, Charles Grosso sold 1006 Pine to Angel A. Flores. Flores began to operate the restaurant as Casa Alegre, a Mexican restaurant. As of early 2013, the new owners are Louisville LLC and 1006 Pine LLC.

1982 Survey of 1006 Pine

In a 1982 inventory record, the "Special Features/Surroundings" section was written to include: "decorative cornice brackets; roof arch above entrance with sun-ray motif & drop filials; massive interior oak bar with leaded windows and Corinthian pilasters; corner entrance." The architectural style was stated to be "late 19th C. frame commercial." It should be noted that the 1982 inventory record for 740 Front Street, which is another historic saloon building (now the Old Louisville Inn), stated that it was one of only three existing commercial buildings with a corner entrance; the other two are 700 Main (the Huckleberry Restaurant today) and this building, 1006 Pine.

In the section on alterations, the record stated: "asphalt shingles applied over wood siding; outdoor beer garden presently being constructed adjacent to south."

The comments section stated: "Original wood siding is exposed on the south with severe weathering; cornice and arch above entrance also deteriorating."

The surveyor, Steve Whissen, recommended the following: "As a local landmark on the main S.E. entrance into town, the removal of the asphalt siding would help restore its visual and historical ties to the Front St. 'saloon' tradition."

The surveyor found the building to have historical significance in the categories of "Associated with significant persons" and "Contributes to the significance of a historic district" and wrote:

This structure reflects the typical turn of the century frame, single story saloon which Sanborn maps show as being so prevalent along Front Street. Although its location is somewhat isolated on the southeast corner of the old commercial district, its orientation near the tracks links it to Front Street. It also reflects the fact that as Louisville matured and began to assume "respectability," a town ordinance limited the saloon trade to Front Street.

The original owner, Joseph Lackner, was an Austrian immigrant whose business and financial skills also aided him in the capacity of town treasurer during the early 1900s.

The decorative arch above the entrance is an important design element and reflects an effort to give the building a more imposing appearance than its otherwise simple construction would provide.

In 1984, on the basis of this survey and under an earlier landmarking program spearheaded by the Louisville Historical Commission, 1006 Pine was selected as a local landmark.

1985 Survey of 1006 Pine; 1986 Listing of "Lackner's Tavern" on National Register

The architectural description in the brief 1985 survey of 1006 Pine stated: "This is a vernacular frame commercial building with false front facades. The building has an "L" footprint with low concrete (concrete over ?) [sic] foundation. The windows and doors are or appear to be in original locations. The false front façade is heavily decorated with sunburst over front door. The building has a flat or shed roof."

In 1986, 1006 Pine was listed on the National Register as "Lackner's Tavern." The History Colorado website today gives the following rationale for the listing: "The tavern is one of

the few historic commercial structures in the community retaining physical integrity. The tavern's location on Pine Street reflects early ordinances confining saloons to the area between the railroad tracks and Front Street."

2000 Survey of 1006 Pine

Additional information has been found since the 2000 survey. For example, the 2000 survey record gives 1900 as the "actual" date of construction, citing a landmarking plaque on the building and Sanborn maps (the 1900 map of which does not show the building). The date of construction is now believed to be 1904.

In addition, the 2000 survey states that the Lackner saloon was originally known as the Germania House. However, today it is strongly believed that the Germania House was a separate building located just to the west of the Lackner saloon. It was located on the corner of Front and Pine and was owned by Lackner.

The 2000 survey report for 1006 Pine included a lengthy architectural description.

With respect to significance, the 2000 survey designated the Area of Significance as being "Community Planning and Development; Commerce; Ethnic Heritage / European." The period of significance was stated to be 1900-1950. The only Level of Significance that was indicated was "Local" and the report does not appear to mention that the building had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The following is the Statement of Significance from 2000: "This property is historically significant for its association with early sustained commercial development in Louisville in support of the area's coal mining industry. It is also significant for its association with Joseph Lackner, an important individual who made important contributions to Louisville's socioeconomic development. The building is architecturally significant as one of the best local late nineteenth century / early twentieth century commercial buildings."

For its assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance, the report stated: "This building has had no additions following its original construction, and only minimal exterior alterations. It displays a remarkably high degree of historical integrity."

The 2000 inventory report indicated that this building was "[a]ssociated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history"; "[a]ssociated with the lives of persons significant in our past"; and "[e]mbodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."

The following photos accompanied the 2000 survey:





Sources

The preceding research is based on a review of relevant and available online County property records, census records, oral history interviews, and related resources, and Louisville directories, newspaper articles, maps, files, obituary records, survey records, and historical photographs from the collection of the Louisville Historical Museum.

ⁱ It has been speculated that the original beer garden was located on the empty lot to the west of 1006 Pine, but as explained in this report, even though it is now an empty lot, it was the location of a two-story building for many decades and would not have been an empty lot at the time of the existence of the original beer garden.