

Hertel Pharmacy (Schweitzer Pharmacy)  
Name of Property  
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

Jefferson, Kentucky  
County and State

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hertel Pharmacy

Other names/site number: Schweitzer Pharmacy

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2565-2567 Bank Street

City or town: Louisville State: KY County: Jefferson

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐☐

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Site

Structure

☐

Object

☐

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE: medical business/office

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Brick

Walls: Wood siding

Roof: Standing seam metal

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Hertel Pharmacy (JFWP-324) is a frame corner commercial building located at 2565 Bank Street in the Portland neighborhood of Louisville (Jefferson County). It has no setback and sits on the northeast corner of the intersection of 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Bank Street, on a narrow parcel that is approximately 0.053 acres of land. It is easily recognizable as a corner store with a diagonal entrance that addresses both 26<sup>th</sup> and Bank Streets, and the living quarters on the side are recessed with a separate entrance. The wood frame corner store is two-and-a-half stories with a brick foundation, wood siding, and a hipped, standing-seam metal roof with cross gables. A distinctive, Queen Anne-style, shingled corner turret with a conical roof is a design feature not commonly found on other corner commercial stores of this age in West Louisville, giving it local prominence. Likely built between 1897 and 1902, it maintains the same footprint that appears on the 1905 Sanborn fire insurance map. The architect is unknown.

It was built for pharmacist Louis Hertel, who operated a pharmacy there from 1902 to 1908. Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr. bought the pharmacy business (inventory and fixtures) from Hertel in 1909. This is the first year a Schweitzer started working at the location, and for nearly 60 years it would be known locally as the Schweitzer Pharmacy. The nomination text will refer to the building with this name.

The building has not been used for commercial purposes in many years. After the pharmacy businesses ended in the 1960s, various uses operated in the space, including a salon, barbershop, appliance store, and residences. The building is in fair condition with few major alterations since its construction. The doors and windows have been boarded with plywood, but the original interior and exterior trim, as well as storefront window frames, have been maintained. These mothballing actions are reversible and do not affect the building's integrity or identity. In the early 1900s, the building was one of four corner stores on this intersection; only two are extant, but the neighborhood and community gathering setting is retained.

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## Exterior Description

The two-and-a-half-story frame building faces southwest on the northeast corner of the Bank Street and 26<sup>th</sup> Street intersection, with the original diagonally-canted storefront entrance oriented toward the intersection. (Photo 1) The northernmost wall aligns with 26<sup>th</sup> Street, and the main display windows would have originally faced Bank Street. There is no yard; concrete sidewalks extend from the street up to the building foundation. An adjacent parcel is currently vacant and covered with grass. A large tree is present near the living quarter's entrance.

The four-bay wide façade of the storefront facing Bank Street is composed of a recessed, single door entrance that is oriented diagonally, with two large storefront windows and the residential entry. (Photo 2) According to historical photographs, the main, diagonal store entrance was originally supported by a single, cast-iron column which is no longer extant (see Figure 1). This column was not considered to be supportive or weight-bearing and has been replaced with a wooden post after multiple vehicle collisions. Flanking the single door were tall and narrow single-light windows. The original transom window is still present over the entrance door but has been painted over and broken. Wood weatherboard covers much of the exterior and all the windows have been boarded up to protect the building while it was vacant. No glass remains in the windows, but the majority of the historic window frames and trim are still present.

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Figure 1: Historical exterior photo showing the original storefront entrance (Courtesy Schweitzer family archives)

Figure 2: Schweitzer Pharmacy building in May 2019 (Photo by J. McCarron)

One of the defining architectural characteristics of the building is the corner turret with a conical roof that reaches from the second floor to the half story third floor. It is adorned with wooden fish-scale shingles. Bullseye block corners and pointed dentil mouldings are present on the exterior window frames. It is believed that all of these Queen Anne details are original to the building.

The exterior wall that faces Bank Street originally had two large plate glass window displays with a brick knee wall. (see Figure 3) The knee wall has since been covered with stucco and painted. Historically, the store would also have displayed an awning. The second-floor window on this side is larger than the other second-floor windows, with an elaborate head casing that mimics the design on the turret. The half story third-floor gable with its two paired windows is centered over the second-floor window and displays a decorative fan detail. More fish-scale shingles are on the highest gable facing Bank Street.



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Figure 3: Historical exterior photo showing brick knee wall, large storefront window display, and residential entrance to the side. These are the four children of Frank ("Jr.") and Nellie Schweitzer. (Courtesy Schweitzer family archives)

The northernmost exterior wall along 26<sup>th</sup> Street has one small window frame high above the ground surface, and four doorways into rear portions of the building that have been boarded up. On the second floor on this side, four windows overlook 26<sup>th</sup> Street plus three windows in the turret bay. No window glass remains. The half story third floor clipped gable has two paired windows and the turret has three similarly-sized windows. (Photo 3)

The recessed exterior entrance for the residential portion of the building is set back from the storefront approximately six feet and can be accessed via single-light double doors with transom into the stair hall. This entrance has arched corner brackets, portions of which have been removed, present over both the first-floor entrance (Photo 4) and on the second-floor porch (Photo 5).

The rear elevation is in poor condition, with a wood porch addition and two first floor rooms. This addition also has a standing-seam metal roof. Flashing around the brick chimney has failed, and caused significant water damage in the interior of the building. There are two windows on the second floor that look over the rear addition, both of which have been boarded up but in different ways. It appears the drip caps are still in place.

The southernmost wall has many window openings at different levels, some of which are located in the stairwells to provide light. The two highest windows on this side are located in each of the two bathroom spaces on the second floor. There is a half story third-floor gable facing this direction as well, but it has been rebuilt at some point in the past.

## Interior Description



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URBAN URBAN 1, LLC :: 815 W. MARKET STREET :: LOUISVILLE KY 40202

2565 BANK STREET :: LOUISVILLE, KY

Figure 4: Interior floor plans (Urban 1, LLC)

### First floor

The interior of the main commercial or retail area of the Schweitzer Pharmacy is now one large space; it was likely originally this way due to its previous life as a pharmacy. Few original historical architectural details remain in this space; however, some of the original hardwood flooring can be seen in areas where the later-installed linoleum floors have been pulled up. Archival photographs from Schweitzer family descendants show the large, storefront windows used to display wares along Bank Street (refer back to Figure 2). These spaces still generally exist and could be recreated when the building is rehabilitated. (Photo 6)

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Figures 5 & 6: Historical photos showing display cases inside the main pharmacy retail space  
(Courtesy Schweitzer family archives)

Three rear rooms – possibly a kitchen and dining area for the family in residence, plus a porch – exist, but these are in poor condition and could not be accurately photographed. (Photo 7) The original, tiled fireplace in one room was badly damaged, and a subsequent visit to the building over a few months showed that it had fallen through the floor to the basement.

The other spaces on the first floor include the stair hall and rear hall, plus a small utility closet and additional staircases both up and down. The rear hall maintains shallow, nearly floor-to-ceiling wall shelving that may have been used for the pharmacy. The front stair hall is well-lit with a dramatic, open staircase that wraps around to both upper floors. (Photo 8) All of the wood handrails and balusters had been removed at some point in the recent past, with only a few newel posts remaining. The rear stair provides additional access to the second floor. (Photo 9)



Figure 7: Historic interior photo showing pharmacy staff in the compounding area, which may have been located in what is now labeled as the kitchen. (Courtesy Schweitzer family archives)

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### Second floor

The second floor has three bedroom spaces that connect front-to-back as well as with entry from the hallway. Each room has two or more large windows. The front two rooms are separated by pocket doors which are still intact and operable; both of these rooms still have a picture hanging rail. The front room contains a three-window, rounded bay that is expressed in the turret on the exterior.

From front to back along the hallway, there are additional spaces: a small closet with a window to the outside porch (Photo 10), which is accessed via a single door in the hallway (Photo 11); two small but separate bathroom spaces; and what was previously a small kitchen plus pantry area in the back, but these non-historic kitchen fixtures have since been removed.

### Third floor

The third floor, accessed only by the front stair hall (Photo 12), contains one large room plus attic space. There are multiple windows.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1897-1902

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1909

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hertel Pharmacy (Schweitzer Pharmacy) meets National Register Criterion C and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction: a frame corner store with residential on upper floors. The building was constructed ca. 1897-1902, which corresponds to its period of significance, and maintains its diagonally-canted store entrance and storefront window area. It is locally significant to the Portland neighborhood with a distinguishing corner turret and other late Victorian / Queen Anne-style architectural details, many of which are original to the building. It is one of the only surviving frame corner store buildings of its age and type in Portland. The property is examined within the context **“Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study: 1860-1930,”** developed by Louisville Metro Planning & Design in 2012. A Schweitzer family member was a pharmacist in this building for nearly 60 years, beginning in 1909. Other Schweitzer pharmacists had locations in other areas of West Louisville, but this is the only building connected with the Schweitzer family of pharmacists that is still extant.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The **“Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study: 1860-1930,”** developed by Louisville Metro Planning & Design in 2012, relates to the Schweitzer Pharmacy building’s importance as a corner family-run pharmacy in a dense urban neighborhood.

The Schweitzer Pharmacy building stands out on its corner in Portland as a canted, commercial building with residential space on upper floors, and boasts architectural details that are original to its construction, including a distinctive corner turret and wood fish-scale shingles. It is still easily recognizable as a corner pharmacy, even with the front store windows boarded up for mothballing, and while the main retail space has been essentially stripped of original features, it has not been subdivided with partitions or otherwise severely altered. The exterior has also not been extensively remodeled. The second floor, in particular, maintains its living spaces with only minor changes.



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Figure 8: Schweitzer children in front of the pharmacy, Christmas 1938. Note the awning, corner post, canted entrance, and fish-scale shingles above the awning.  
(Courtesy Schweitzer family archives)

Portland is a densely populated community west of Louisville with small houses and other neighborhood-scale businesses. In the early nineteenth century, Portland developed along the river and was laid out as a town in 1811. "With the Falls of the Ohio creating a natural barrier, ships had no choice but to unload goods at the wharf and portage them around the falls to Louisville, where they could be shipped further up the Ohio. It was for this reason that Portland became a thriving river town and continued to be so until the late 1800s when the Portland Canal, originally built in 1830, was widened to allow even large steamboats to travel easily around the Falls."<sup>1</sup>

The "Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study: 1860-1930" prepared by Metro Louisville in 2012 provides a thoughtful summary of the history and decline of the neighborhood corner store. According to the study's research design, there were 183 corner commercial buildings on the 1892 Sanborn maps within the Portland boundaries; 97 existing structures were surveyed. The identified buildings were located on corner lots and had no setback and were indicated on Sanborn maps as stores, drugstores, barbers, saloons, and groceries. There were more stores on busier roads like Main, Market, and Portland Avenue. The 1890s and early 1900s were a big period of growth for Portland, and many of the surviving corner stores surveyed were built in these decades, including the Schweitzer Pharmacy building.

<sup>1</sup> Metro Louisville, "Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study"

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The study notes that the “sheer number of corner stores that still exist today hint at the energy that once pulsed through the neighborhood,” yet “many appear dilapidated and abandoned with boarded up windows and doors.” The Schweitzer Pharmacy building at 2565 Bank Street was listed in the companion spreadsheet as line 58 with its current condition indicated as “Poor – Integrity still there but delapidated [sic]”. The Schweitzer Pharmacy is over 120 years old with most of its original construction materials but is one of the only frame corner commercial stores that still stands in Portland. It should be noted that many of these corner stores in Portland may have been demolished since the study was completed, or some may have been insensitively rehabilitated to the point of no longer maintaining integrity. This will be discussed in more detail later.



(Fig. 9) This photograph was printed in the Courier-Journal book “A Place in Time” on page 97. Taken 1942 by photographer Art Abfier. Featured in a 2014 USA Today photo gallery on Portland.

### **Architectural Type: The Corner Store**

A publication from the National Building Museum states: “The term “the corner store” is most closely identified with grocery stores situated on street corners in residential neighborhoods. The grocer’s family usually lived above the store – an arrangement that reflected an economic and social system in which retail activity depended on small-scale family enterprises.” The same publication points out several aspects of this vernacular building type, besides the corner location: no setbacks from the sidewalk, awnings, large signs, storefront windows, and the public entrance was usually canted and easy to find. A kitchen on the first floor was practical and used for ease and flexibility.

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Many families ran businesses on the first floor of their buildings and raised families on the second floor. It was a convenient and economical way to live at the time. “The second floor was reserved for living quarters, but because the lives of the shopkeeper and the shopkeeper’s family totally revolved around the store, they did little more than sleep there.” Some corner stores, like the Schweitzer Pharmacy, had a separate entrance to the residential quarters, which might be located above, behind, or next to the storefront.

The Schweitzer Pharmacy building maintains all of the features mentioned in the National Building Museum publication – except for the awning – and is recognizable as a corner store today. Interestingly, modern pharmacy buildings for large chains such as CVS and Walgreens sometimes call back to this historical building type with canted corner entrances. The display windows are generally smaller or nonexistent. However, they are most often standalone buildings and located in strip malls or parking lots instead of within a neighborhood streetscape.



Figure 10: Frank, Jr. and his wife, Nellie, in front of the Schweitzer Pharmacy on Bank St.  
(Courtesy Schweitzer family archives)

### **Corner Store Subtype: The Family Pharmacy**

The family-run pharmacy could be considered a subtype of the corner store, and “the pharmacist at the corner drug store was a trusted source when sickness befell a city resident.”<sup>2</sup> In Louisville’s city directory for 1869, there were 80 druggists listed under “Drugs and Medicine;” 46 of those entries specifically stated that the stores were located on a corner.

The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the New York College of Pharmacy were some of the first pharmacy programs in the United States, established in the 1820s. It would be nearly 50 years before Louisville would start a similar institution. According to Kleber’s *The Encyclopedia of Louisville* entry for Pharmacy: “Local pharmacists, interested in establishing more formal education for their profession, founded the Louisville College of Pharmacy on August 16, 1870.”

<sup>2</sup> Metro Louisville, “Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study”

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Lectures began in September 1871 after fundraising, and the first graduating class in 1873 had 6 members. Popularity for the pharmacy program in Louisville continued:

*It soon outgrew its original quarters [in the Preston Pope Building on Third street between Walnut and Guthrie streets], and in 1878 moved to a larger and better adapted building on Green near Second street. In 1880-81 it had a class of 45 students, and at the end of that sessions had graduated 55 young men. In 1888-89 its 70 matriculates represented 8 States and 1 Territory, mainly in the South and West, and its graduating class of that year contained 17 members. Up to 1888, inclusive, it had had 129 graduates from 11 different States.<sup>3</sup>*

The Louisville College of Pharmacy continued to grow – and for a brief time admitted women in the 1890s – and eventually became part of the University of Kentucky system in 1947. Even though Louisville didn't have a school of pharmacy until 1870, drugs and medicine were still big business in the growing city:

*In Louisville's early days, medicines were dispensed by physicians as part of their practices. This was the norm throughout the United States as well. As the settlement at the Falls of the Ohio began to grow into a city, however, the purveying of medicines became a distinct business. Louisville became the headquarters for the supply of drugs and medicines to the surrounding settlements in Kentucky and Indiana in the early nineteenth century... By the 1830s, physicians had left the business, and pharmacists had emerged to compound and dispense prescriptions.<sup>4</sup>*

Kleber also notes that many of the early pharmacists in Louisville were educated Germans that emigrated in the late 1840s. There were also large wholesale pharmacy and dry goods businesses at the time in Louisville, and it was not uncommon for large families to go into business together. For a family pharmacist example that parallels the Schweitzer story, Mary Margaret Bell recounts in her chapter on Pharmacies in *Germans in Louisville: A History* about the Buschemeyer family: "Henry Buschemeyer left Germany in 1848 and settled in Louisville. All of his sons became pharmacists."

### **History of the Property**

On the 1884 Atlas of the City of Louisville, Kentucky and Environs (Plate 22), the northeast corner of 26<sup>th</sup> and Bank (blue star) is a large vacant parcel indicated with owner J. B. Mitchell.

<sup>3</sup> Lewis, Alfred Fayette. "History of Higher Education in Kentucky."

<sup>4</sup> Kleber. The Encyclopedia of Louisville, "Pharmacy"



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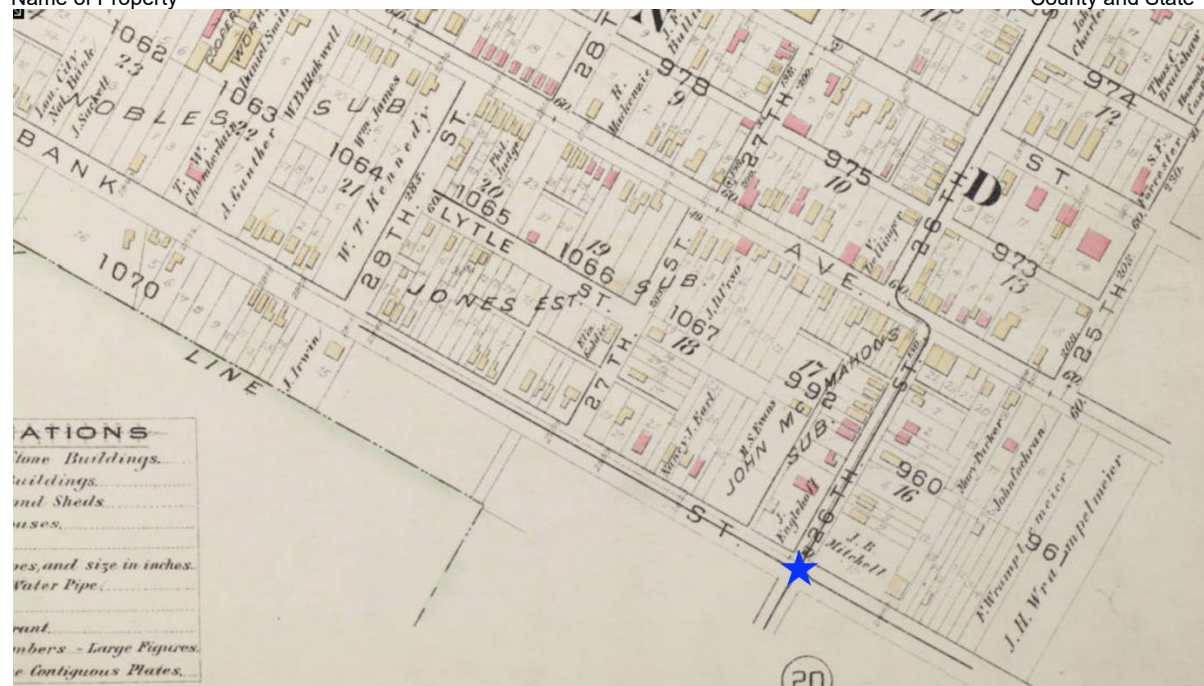


Figure 11: 1884 Atlas of the City of Louisville, KY, and Environs (University of Louisville Digital Collections)

The building does not appear on the 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance map either, but the same large parcel is still vacant. A news brief in a July 1897 journal called The Merck Report indicated druggist Louis Hertel had purchased part of the property at that time:

Louis Hertel, a young druggist in business at Twenty-sixth and Portland avenues in Louisville, has purchased a piece of property opposite his present location and will at once begin the erection of a handsome new store.

Figure 12: Excerpt from 1897 Merck Report

This news brief, however, does have an error. Hertel previously operated a pharmacy at 400 26<sup>th</sup> Street (no longer extant) caddy-corner from the current building on the corner of Twenty-sixth and Bank Street, not Portland Avenue. He was there in 1897. The composite map in Fig. 13 shows the intersection in 1892. Hertel's location at 400 26<sup>th</sup> Street is indicated with a red circle. He was working as a druggist there in 1897, according to the city directory, which gives credence to the timing of the news brief mentioned above. The future parcel of the Schweitzer Pharmacy building is shown by an approximate blue rectangle.

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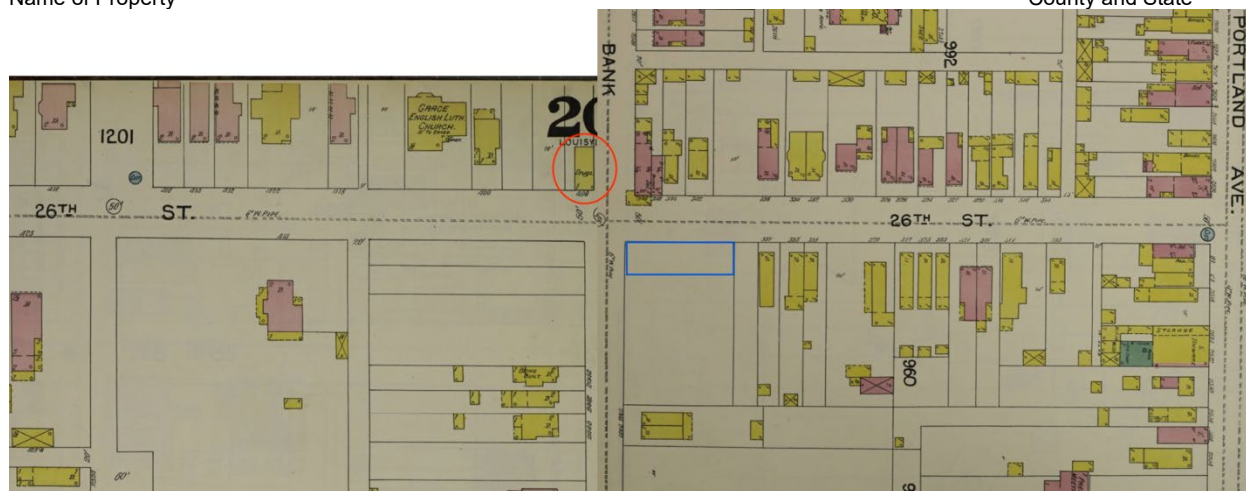


Figure 13: 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance map with 2 plates combined to show the full intersection  
Hertel property red circle; Future Bank St parcel blue rectangle (Library of Congress)

The first reference to the Schweitzer Pharmacy address location (2455 Bank Street before city-wide renumbering) was in the 1902 Louisville city directory as a drugstore operated by Louis Hertel. So it was likely that the building with its Queen Anne architectural detailing was constructed between 1897 and 1902, which corresponds to the period of significance for this building type. The current footprint of the building appears on the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map with the address of 2523 Bank Street.



Figure 14: 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map (Library of Congress)



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In between the mapping years of 1892 and 1905, this intersection is now complete with four corner buildings: 2 drug stores, a saloon, and another store. The neighborhood has also filled in with many more wood-frame houses. Only two of these corner stores shown in 1905 are still extant, one of which is the Schweitzer Pharmacy building.

The building has gone through many real estate transactions, which can be more easily referenced in bulleted timeline format (italicized lines are related, but have more to do with the Schweitzer family than the building itself). Some of these dates are based on the records of Tony Mathis, a Schweitzer family descendent. He referred to mortgages, leases, and other documents in his possession for part of the timeline. Others were confirmed from city directories, news articles and obituaries from the Courier-Journal historical archives, and other journals accessed electronically.

- 1873: Approximate start of Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr.'s 15<sup>th</sup> and Market St. pharmacy: he was listed as the druggist there in the 1873 city directory after clerking in 1872.*
- 1883: Brother Edward G. joins Frank, Sr. as a partner on Market St.*
- 1891: Edward G. begins business at his 2000 Portland Ave. location*
- 1897:** Merck Report mention of Louis Hertel purchasing the property "opposite his present property". The building was likely constructed between 1897 and 1902. Hertel was listed as the druggist at 400 26<sup>th</sup> St in 1897.
- 1902:** Louis Hertel is the first druggist at the location (2455 Bank St) after having worked caddy-corner for several years at 400 26<sup>th</sup> St. This is the first year it appears in the city directory when viewing the street-by-street listing.
- 1907: Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr. sells drugstore at 15<sup>th</sup> and Market to brother Henry, according to his 1912 obituary.*
- 1909:** Hertel sells pharmacy business (inventory and fixtures) to Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr., but leases the building (now 2565 Bank St) to him. This is the first year a Schweitzer started working at the present location.
- 1911: Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr.'s son, Frank J. Schweitzer, Jr. receives his diploma from the Louisville College of Pharmacy and becomes a licensed pharmacist after clerking for his father at the Bank St location.*
- 1912:** Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr. dies. His son, Frank J. Schweitzer, Jr., continues the pharmacy business on Bank St.
- 1916:** Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr.'s widow, Lulie, purchases the building outright from Hertel.
- 1924: Edward G. sells Portland Avenue business and retires.*
- 1937** Bank Street store damaged by floodwaters.
- 1950:** Frank J. Schweitzer, Jr. sells pharmacy business to William Hall and leases the building to him, but continues to work there.
- 1964:** Hall sells to William Neff, who assumes lease temporarily. Neff Pharmacy opens later on Portland Ave.
- 1965: Frank J. Schweitzer, Jr. renews pharmacist registration for the last time.*
- 1965:** Schweitzer's lease building to Hugh Rucker, DBA K & I Barber, and Lilly May Beauty Shop.
- 1969:** Frank J. Schweitzer, Jr. dies.

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- 1979: Frank J. Schweitzer, Jr.'s widow, Nellie, sells building to Mr. & Mrs. Stamp in a private agreement.
- 1981: Foreclosed sale to Mr. & Mrs. Stamp.
- 2001: Robert C. and Barbara A. Stamp sell to Urban Spirit KB Ministries, Inc.
- 2009: Urban Spirit KB Ministries, Inc. sells to Herbert Brodarick
- 2013: *Edward G.'s 2000 Portland Avenue building demolished*
- 2018: 2565 Bank St. placed on Metro Louisville demolition list for being "old, dilapidated, and so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, unsanitary, or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy"
- 2019: After negotiating liens and determining that the building was structurally sound, Creative Corners, LLC (an LLC of Louisville Preservation Fund, Inc DBA Vital Sites) purchases the building from Brodarick with the intent for rehabilitation. The building is cleaned out and stabilization work for the roof and foundation begins.

When Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr. purchased the pharmacy business from Hertel in 1909, he had recently sold his previous pharmacy at 15<sup>th</sup> and Market to his brother, Henry. Frank Schweitzer, Sr. had been in the pharmacy business since 1873. Several Schweitzer brothers and other relatives operated pharmacy locations elsewhere in the city. In the 1880s and 1890s, city directories sometimes listed four Schweitzer druggists. None of these other buildings are extant.

Schweitzer David, 2201 W. Market  
Schweitzer E. G., 2000 Portland av  
Schweitzer F. J., 1501 W. Market  
Schweitzer Henry, 1631 18th

Figure 15: 1898 city directory showing Schweitzer druggists – all brothers

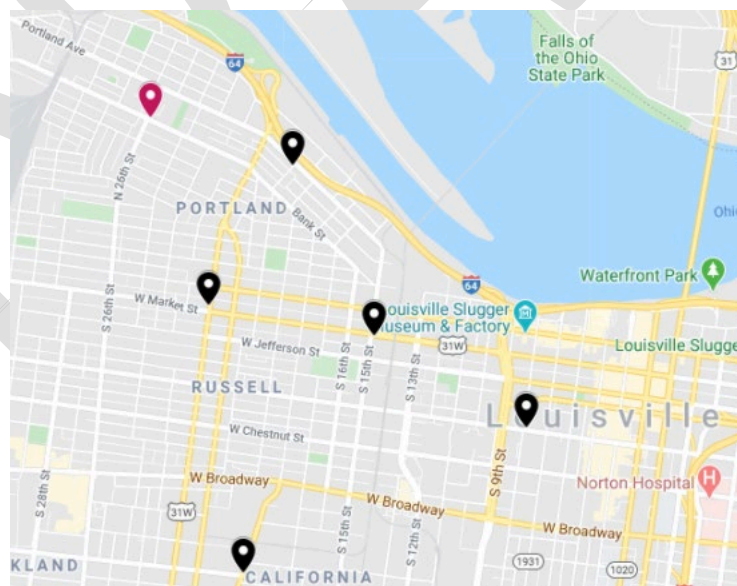


Figure 16: Mapped locations of previous Schweitzer pharmacies. The red flag is the 2565 Bank St location – and only one extant. The flag just east of S. 9<sup>th</sup> St. was the location of Fred Schweitzer's pharmacy at 8<sup>th</sup> & Walnut (now Muhammad Ali). Fred was the oldest son of Frank Schweitzer, Sr. by his first wife. (Created in Google My Maps)

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### **Schweitzer Family History & Schweitzer Pharmacists**

For nearly 60 years, the history of the property was tied to the history of the Schweitzer family.

Franz Jakob Schweitzer and his wife, Dorothea (Weis/Weise) Schweitzer, were both born in Germany, according to both the 1850 and 1860 census. Their first child, Luise Elisabetha or Louisa Elizabeth, was born in Kentucky in April 1847, so they had arrived in the United States sometime before then, possibly in the wave of German immigrants that came to settle in Louisville. "By 1850, Germans and their families represented one-third of Louisville's population."<sup>5</sup>

Franz (who later also went by the name Frank Jacob Schweitzer, but he is not the Sr. or Jr. already referenced in this document) reported baker and painter, respectively, as his occupation in the 1850 and 1860 census. There would be nine children born to the union: four daughters and five sons. By the 1880 census, Franz had died and his widow, Dorothea, was living with two of her adult daughters. Dorothea died in 1887.

Four of the Schweitzer sons would eventually work as druggists, or pharmacists, in West Louisville: in birth order, Frank (Sr.), David, Edward, and Henry. Two of Frank Sr.'s sons would also work as pharmacists: Fred by his first wife, Julia (Watson), and Frank Jr. by his second wife, Lulie (Loesch). Julia died in 1888, and Frank Sr. married Lulie in 1890. Frank Jr. was born in 1893, when his older half-brother and half-sister were 17 and 14, respectively.

The obituary for Frank, Sr. in 1912 stated that he "began the study of pharmacy as an apprentice drug clerk. Later, he attended a college of pharmacy and received a diploma." The 1870 and 1872 city directories list him as a clerk for Charles Bayer at 15<sup>th</sup> and Market; in 1873, only Frank, Sr. is listed as the druggist at that location. At that time, he was also the only Schweitzer druggist listed. It's unclear why so many of the Schweitzer family members went into pharmacy; perhaps this career development path came about at the right time for these young men.

By the early 1880s, brother David had a store at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Market, and brother Edward was working as a partner with Frank, Sr. at 15<sup>th</sup> and Market. Youngest brother Henry was clerking there in 1883 and would eventually have his store at 18<sup>th</sup> and Southgate (now this renamed intersection is known as Dixie at Garland) in the California neighborhood a few years later. In 1891, Edward moved to his location at 20<sup>th</sup> and Portland. Frank, Sr. sold the 15<sup>th</sup> and Market business to his brother Henry in 1909 and bought the 26<sup>th</sup> and Bank Street pharmacy business in Portland the same year.

Edward and Henry were listed in *Illustrated Louisville: Kentucky's Metropolis*, published in 1891. Both biographies provide an interesting glimpse into the life of a druggist at the time:

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<sup>5</sup> Ullrich. "German Influences in Louisville"

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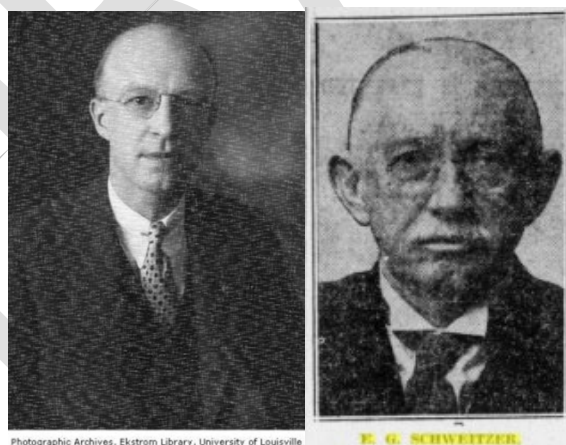
**E.** G. SCHWEITZER, Druggist, Corner Twentieth Street and Portland Avenue.—This business was established in 1870 by Mr. F. J. Schweitzer, and continued by him until 1888, when he admitted into partnership his brother, Mr. E. G. Schweitzer. In December, 1890, they dissolved partnership, Mr. E. G. Schweitzer having built an elegant and commodious store, which on January 1, 1891, he opened on his own account. The premises comprise a two-story frame building. The store is elegant in its appointments and fixtures, counters and cases, which are of polished oak. He carries a large and well selected stock of pure, fresh drugs, chemicals of all kinds, mineral waters, all the proprietary remedies of standard reputation, toilet and fancy articles, perfumery, etc.; also a fine and selected stock of cigars and tobaccos. Mr. Schweitzer is a graduate of the Louisville College Pharmacy, and a member of the Kentucky State Board of Pharmacy and of the Louisville College Alumni.

**H**ENRY SCHWEITZER, Druggist, Corner Eighteenth and Southgate Streets.—One seldom has the pleasure of entering a more complete or attractive store than that of Mr. Henry Schweitzer. Mr. Schweitzer, who is a native of Louisville, established the business in 1886, and has gradually built it up by his assiduous care, until to-day he can boast of one of the most prosperous drug stores in Louisville. He manufactures his own essences, tinctures, extracts, etc., so that purity and consistency is guaranteed, and being a thoroughly efficient chemist his establishment is specially suited for the compounding of physicians' prescriptions. His store is neatly fitted up with glass cases containing drugs and proprietary medicines, with pharmacy at the rear of the store. He carries a very full line of toilet articles, perfumes, soaps, sponges, and all the usual requisites of a first-class drug store, and his stock of fancy articles cannot be surpassed in any store of its size in the city. Mr. Schweitzer is a prominent member of the Botanical Club, and also of the Louisville Board of Pharmacy, and is generally popular among his associates.

(Fig. 17 & 18) Biographies of brothers E.G. Schweitzer and Henry Schweitzer  
(1891 *Illustrated Louisville: Kentucky Metropolis* from Archive.org Internet Archive)

Frank, Sr.'s oldest son, Fred, graduated from the Louisville College of Pharmacy in 1895 and worked as a pharmacist for several years at a store on 8<sup>th</sup> and Walnut (now Muhammad Ali Blvd). Unfortunately, Fred died in 1909 at the young age of 33 due to complications from typhoid fever.

Frank, Sr.'s younger son, Frank, Jr. (Fig. 19), literally grew up in the pharmacy business, with his father, several uncles, and his older half-brother working in the industry. At the age of 16, he was already clerking for his father at the Bank Street store. He received his diploma from the Louisville College of Pharmacy in April 1911. Sadly, another death in the family followed: Frank, Sr. collapsed and died of heart disease in January 1912. From that point on, Frank, Jr. would operate the Schweitzer Pharmacy at 26<sup>th</sup> and Bank. He renewed his pharmacist registration for the last time in 1965 and died in 1970.



(Left, Fig. 19) Frank Jacob Schweitzer, Jr. in 1936 (University of Louisville Digital Archives)  
(Right, Fig. 20) Edward G. Schweitzer in 1924 article about his retirement (Courier-Journal Archives)

Interestingly, a 1924 article about Edward's retirement from the pharmacy business mentioned the area when he moved to Portland Avenue in 1891: "As an "early settler" in the neighborhood he

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saw the streets made out of mudholes and houses gradually fill the interstices.” He stressed the importance and flexibility of working for himself “and never did he allow the business to master him.” The same article summarizes the changes in the pharmacy during Schweitzer’s career:

*During that time the drug business has swung from a matter of ninety per cent drugs with an unimportant soda fountain as adjunct, to a place where drugs, already compounded and frequently already boxed or bottled at the factory are practically a side issue to rubber goods, candy, lotions, beauty creams and chocolate malted milks.*

*Though he speaks a little regretfully of his erstwhile mortar and pestle and of the sticking plasters of his own concoction, Mr. Schweitzer is eager over the strides that have been made in drug manufacture and in their increasing variety and effectiveness.*

### **Corner Commercial Stores in Portland**

Taking a closer look at the corner stores in Portland, the “**Portland Corner Store Historical Context Study: 1860-1930**” prepared by Metro Louisville in 2012, is examined. At the time, as was stated earlier, there were 183 corner commercial buildings on the 1892 Sanborn maps within the Portland boundaries. 97 of the existing structures were surveyed at that time of the study. The study area boundaries were 10<sup>th</sup> street to the east, the Ohio River to the north, I-265 to the west, and Market Street to the south. Buildings on the south side of Market were also included, and the area north of Bank Street to the west of I-265 was as well.

Mapping the addresses from the Portland study in BatchGeo.com shows the locations of the corner stores surveyed in 2012 (Fig. 21). The Schweitzer Pharmacy building at 2565 Bank Street is near the center at the light blue flag immediately to the left of the words “Portland Museum” (underneath a darker blue flag for the other corner store at the same intersection). Note the residential blocks to the immediate southwest of the 26<sup>th</sup> and Bank Street intersection without any corner stores and the concentration of the corner stores along Market Street on the study area’s south boundary. On the map, the flag colors do not have any specific meaning.

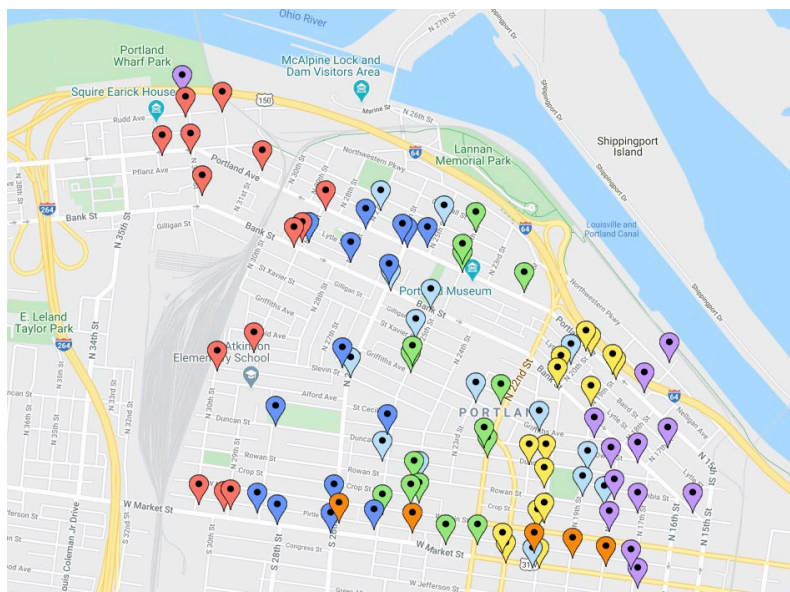


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(Fig. 21) Location of surveyed Portland corner stores (Map created June 2020 using BatchGeo.com)

The survey indicates 23 corner stores were built in the 1890s, and 28 were built in the first decade of 1900 (some of which may be older since “1900” was often used as a placeholder in Property Valuation records). With 51, this is just over half the remaining corner stores in Portland, so the Schweitzer Pharmacy is in good company on age. Many of these are listed in “fair” condition, but some are listed as having lost integrity due to structural changes or inappropriate additions. 38 of the 97 are listed as “commercial – retail” for the property class, including the Schweitzer Pharmacy. Brick and vinyl siding were often listed in the current conditions, with a few of the frame 2-story houses listed with notes that one-story additions were added on in front of the buildings for other retail purposes. The Schweitzer Pharmacy is unique in that its original construction materials are still present in fair condition and it has undergone no major exterior renovations to detract from its corner commercial appearance.

Looking at a quarter-mile radius around the Schweitzer Pharmacy building, there are 14 nearby corner stores, with an additional seven corner stores just outside this radius. In terms of this 21-store set, the Bank Street property is in the middle for the year built. The closest extant corner commercial store to the Schweitzer Pharmacy is immediately across Bank Street to the south. 463 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St. is listed in the survey as built in 1880, but interestingly, it does not appear on the 1892 Sanborn map (see Fig. 13). The 1905 Sanborn map (Fig. 14) shows this building as a store. This is a frame 2-story building in fair condition currently used as a dental office. It has vinyl siding and the centralized, storefront window and entrance area have been altered from its original orientation, most notably with much smaller front windows installed. Recessed residential quarters are also present on the south side of this building with a much greater setback than that of the Schweitzer Pharmacy.



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Figure 22: 463 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St. with Schweitzer Pharmacy shown across Bank St. (Google)

The two corner stores – a frame drugstore and a masonry building that was a later a bank – on the west side of 26<sup>th</sup> Street at this intersection, shown on the 1892 Sanborn (Fig. 13), are no longer extant. The drug store on 26<sup>th</sup> was operated by Louis Hertel, who is believed to have had the Bank Street building constructed after 1897. The Hertel drug store is shown on the 1905 Sanborn (Fig. 14) as having a large, round corner extension, perhaps a turret. No known photographs of this building exist, but one wonders if there was design inspiration there (however, the rounded extension is not shown on the 1892 map).

There are fewer examples of frame, two-story corner stores in Portland that address the corner, with a diagonally-canted retail entrance. Within the quarter-mile radius, only 2 have a canted entrance, but both are one-story buildings and both have lost integrity due to alterations (2501 and 2812 Portland Avenue).



Figures 23 & 24: (Left) 2501 Portland Ave.; (Right) 2812 Portland Ave. (Google)

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Interesting architectural features such as a wide bracketed cornice and stone lintels are found on a ca. 1890 brick 2-and-a-half--story building located within the quarter-mile radius at 2522 Portland Avenue (Fig. 25), but these details are more Italianate in style than Queen Anne. This was previously Neff's Pharmacy, and William Neff had temporarily assumed the lease of the Schweitzer Pharmacy (then Hall Pharmacy) in 1964 before opening his store at this location. Some of the ghost signs are present on the side façade, and an attached residential section is in the rear. The one-story addition in the front appears to be midcentury and detracts from a corner store appearance.



Figure 25: Formerly Neff's Pharmacy at 2522 Portland Ave. (Google)

Figure 26: E.G. Schweitzer's pharmacy at 2000 Portland Ave; Built in 1891; Demolished between 2012 and 2015.  
(Photo by Janie-Rice Brother, Gardens to Gables blog; cropped)

Edward G. Schweitzer, brother to Frank Schweitzer, Sr., began his pharmacy business in Portland at 2000 Portland Avenue in 1891. He retired in 1924, and it was later the Katzman Pharmacy. The building (Fig. 26) was demolished between 2012 and 2015, but the similarities to the 2565 Bank Street corner pharmacy are striking. This Portland Avenue store pre-dated the Bank Street pharmacy by approximately 6 to 10 years; they are just seven-tenths of a mile apart. The corner turret here may have been an inspiration for the later design of the Bank Street store. Janie-Rice Brother remembers this building in a 2015 blog entry: "Not only was it a lovely example of the whimsy and art that is the Queen Anne style, but it was a corner commercial building, a type that used to be ubiquitous in our towns, and too often now is preserved only in memories and black and white photos." The Schweitzer Pharmacy building at 2565 Bank Street needs updating but still maintains its historical architectural "whimsy" as a corner commercial store in Portland.

### **Evaluation of the architectural significance of the Schweitzer Pharmacy within the context of Corner Stores in Portland, 1860-1930**

The Schweitzer Pharmacy dates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and is one of the oldest surviving frame corner stores in Portland, possibly across the larger city of Louisville. It is locally significant, largely intact, and maintains some of its original construction materials. The

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diagonally-canted entrance and recessed residential quarters are easily identifiable characteristics for a corner store building, and the storefront window area could be rebuilt in its future use. Furthermore, its iconic Queen Anne corner turret stands out as a memorable architectural feature in the neighborhood. There are other corner stores in Portland built during the same period, but the Schweitzer Pharmacy building retains its original architectural character with few modern alterations and communicates its original use to observers.

Neighborhood stores such as the Schweitzer Pharmacy building were widespread in communities before the automobile and large shopping centers became more common. These small-scale retail and commercial buildings blended in seamlessly with one- and two-story residential buildings in dense blocks, often with four stores on one corner, such as the case with 26<sup>th</sup> and Bank Streets in the early 1900s. They would have been a place for neighbors to gather and easily grab necessary items. At the time the Schweitzer Pharmacy was built as a corner store, it was common, economical, and more convenient for store owners and/or operators to live above their workplace, with family members often helping in the business.

However, as time has passed, many of these functional, neighborhood spaces have been lost to neglect and demolition in cities across the country, not just in Louisville. The building type remains a flexible one in today's standards with great potential for adaptive reuse: it is the original live-work space. "Renovated corner stores are finding a second life as residences, other small businesses, and community spaces. These traditional buildings invite adaptation because of their flexible space, sense of place, and compatibility with the neighborhood."<sup>6</sup> The Schweitzer Pharmacy building, as a corner commercial store with iconic, Queen Anne architectural details, remains as a reminder of busier times in the neighborhood with potential for a new use in the future.

### **Evaluation of the Integrity of the Architectural Significance of the Schweitzer Pharmacy**

The former Schweitzer Pharmacy is a good example of a corner commercial store common to Louisville's urban neighborhoods in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Compared to similar structures in Portland, it maintains original architectural details and stands out on its intersection with its original use as a corner store evident. The distinctive, Queen Anne corner turret with a conical roof and wood fish-scale shingles still intact contribute to its architectural character. The Schweitzer Pharmacy building retains several aspects of integrity:

**Location and Setting:** The former Schweitzer Pharmacy building has not been moved and maintains its relationship to the setting as a corner store in a walkable neighborhood. The roads and sidewalks are similar to their historical orientation, and many of the surrounding residences are still present and exist on the same scale. Originally there were four corner stores at the intersection, but now only two remain. Infill commercial properties across the street have greater setbacks when compared to the early 1900s buildings.

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<sup>6</sup> "The Corner Store," National Building Museum.

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**Design, Materials, and Workmanship:** Many of the materials still intact on the Schweitzer Pharmacy building are original to its construction, including decorative exterior details like wood fish-scale shingles, pointed dentil mouldings, bullseye block window corner blocks, and arched porch brackets. Inside, the light-filled stair hall is still present in its original orientation (although missing balusters and newel posts) and the upstairs bedrooms maintain architectural details such as picture hanging rails, a bay window, and pocket doors. Very few of the upper story windows still have glass, but the original sashes are still present and could be rehabilitated. The late 1890s to early 1900s workmanship is evident in these late Victorian details and contributes to its design and striking appearance with its corner turret.

**Feeling and Association:** The Schweitzer Pharmacy building retains the feeling of a corner commercial store with a strong community presence in its association with the surrounding neighborhood. It was associated with a family of pharmacists for nearly 60 years.

The Schweitzer Pharmacy building and its proposed boundary are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant local example of a frame corner commercial store in the Portland neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Portland Historic District (NRIS 80001615; Jefferson County, KY). 1980.  
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- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.269432 | Longitude: -85.790749 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes the building and its entire parcel ID 004C00010000. It is particularly described in the deed as:

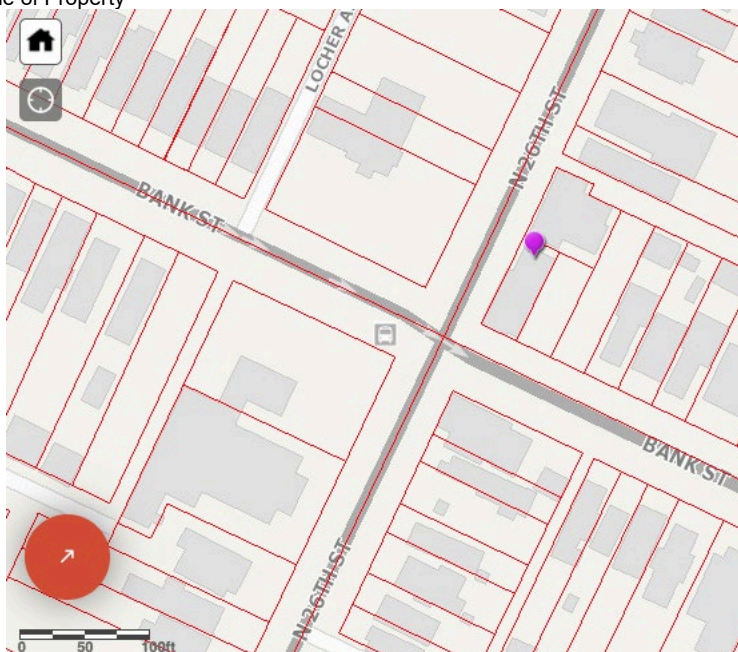
*Beginning at the Northeast corner of Twenty-Sixth and Bank Streets, as now improved; thence Eastwardly along the North side of Bank Street, thirty feet, and extending back Northwardly of that width throughout, seventy-four feet and nine inches, the Western line binding on Twenty-Sixth Street. (Jefferson County Deed Book 11386, Page 8)*

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LOJIC Reporting Tools	
<b>Parcel Report</b>	
Property Address:	2565 BANK ST
Owner:	CREATIVE, CORNERS LLC
Parcel ID:	004C00010000
Assessed Value:	\$21,940.00
Acres:	0.05310
Neighborhood:	18

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building takes up nearly its entire parcel, which serves as the boundary.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica McCarron, MHP / Nonprofit Coordinator  
organization: Louisville Preservation Fund, Inc. DBA Vital Sites  
street & number: 631 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
city or town: Louisville state: KY zip code: 40202  
e-mail: info@vitalsites.org  
telephone: 502-260-4488  
date: July 2020

## Additional Documentation

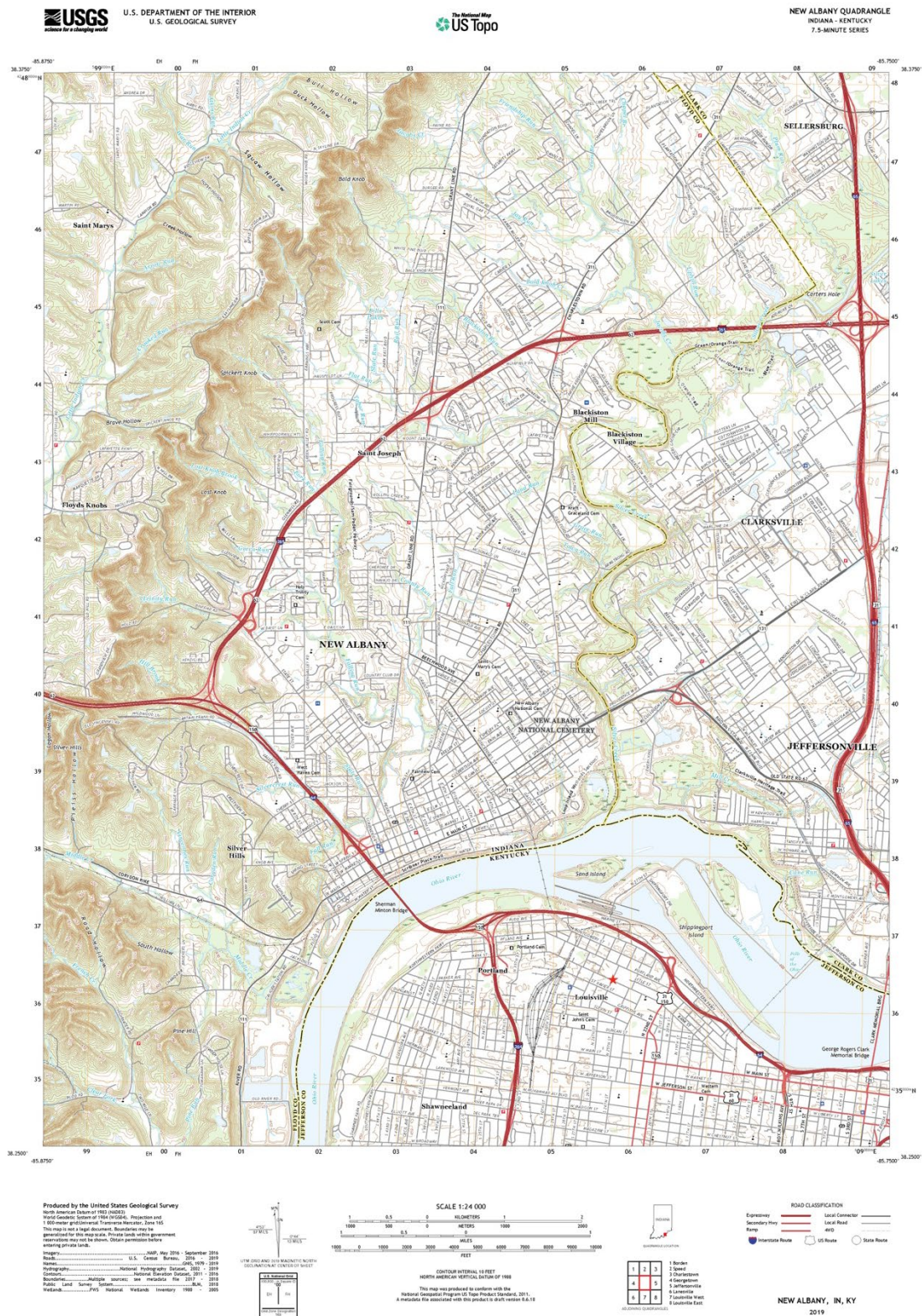
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



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## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Hertel Pharmacy (Schweitzer Pharmacy)  
City or Vicinity: Louisville  
County: Jefferson State: KY  
Photographer: Jessica McCarron  
Date Photographed: May 2019; February 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1: Exterior of building from across the intersection of 26<sup>th</sup> and Bank Streets; facing NE

Photo 2: Exterior, front façade, from across Bank St; facing NE

Photo 3: Exterior, details of turret windows from across intersection; facing NE

Photo 4: Exterior, residential entrance; facing NE

Photo 5: Exterior, details above residential entrance; looking UP at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor porch

Photo 6: Interior, main commercial area, looking towards front entrance and storefront window area; facing S

Photo 7: Interior, kitchen area looking towards porch; facing N/NE

Photo 8: Interior, front stair hall, looking towards front residential entrance; facing S/SW

Photo 9: Interior, rear stair looking UP from first floor, rear hall; facing E

Photo 10: Interior, window from small closet looking out to second floor porch; facing E

Photo 11: Interior, door to second floor porch in front stair hall on second floor; facing S

Photo 12: Interior, stairs to third floor, taken from second floor stair hallway; facing NE



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