



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory Honors Location of First Baseball Bat

Historic Marker Unveiled by “Bud Hillerich” and “Pete Browning”

Louisville, KY- May 10th, 2017 - [Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory](#) wants the world to know exactly where the first Louisville Slugger baseball bat was made 133 years ago. The attraction has teamed up with the Kentucky Historical Society to place a marker honoring the spot in downtown Louisville where the Hillerich family’s woodworking shop once stood. The marker, located at 118 South First Street, near the corner of First and Main, was unveiled during a special ceremony on Wednesday, May 10th.

According to Hillerich & Bradsby Co. history, Bud Hillerich skipped work from his father’s carpentry shop one day in 1884 to attend a Louisville Eclipse baseball game. During the game, Louisville’s hometown hitting superstar, Pete “The Louisville Slugger” Browning, broke his bat. After the game, Bud offered to make Browning a new bat in the shop located at 118 South First. Browning got three hits with Hillerich’s bat in the next game, and the Louisville Slugger bat was born.

“Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory is proud to sponsor this historic marker where Bud Hillerich himself would have seen it every day as he came and went from the family’s woodworking shop,” said Anne Jewell, VP, Executive Director of Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory. “The legacy of that first bat lives on 133 years later. Just seven blocks away H&B still produces baseball bats for the game’s greatest players, and has made Louisville, Kentucky known worldwide for its connection to this iconic product,” she said.

To commemorate the special occasion, the historic marker was unveiled by none other than the legendary Bud Hillerich, and The Louisville Slugger himself, Pete Browning.

About Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory:

Experience history-in-the-making as you stroll through the factory where world-famous Louisville Slugger bats are created. Award-winning factory tour, newly renovated galleries with interactive exhibits, historic memorabilia, and more. Create a Louisville Slugger bat with your very own name on it, just like the pros. Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, 800 West Main Street, is open Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended summer hours. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$13 for seniors (60+), \$8 children (6-12), and free for children 5 and under. For more information, including holiday hours and extended summer hours, visit [sluggermuseum.com](#) or call 502-588-7228.

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