

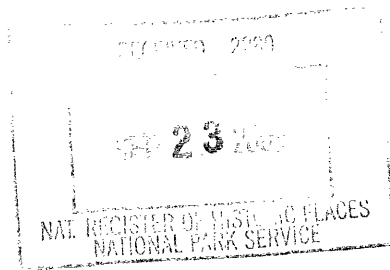
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

☒ New Submission ☐ Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area Lustron Homes



**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

Post World War II Response to Housing Shortage in Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area 1946-1950

**C. Form Prepared by**

name/title Del Marie Vaccaro  
street & number 8309 Dravo Circle telephone 502-671-0405  
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40220

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan  
Signature and title of certifying official **David L. Morgan, SHPO**

6-13-03  
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

### **Post World War II Response to Housing Shortage in Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area 1946-1950**

The Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area Lustron Homes meet criterion C and are significant during the period of 1946-1950 within the historic context of "Post World War II Response to Housing Shortage in Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area, 1946-1950". The housing scarcity that resulted from conditions after World War II laid the groundwork for the subsequent acceptance of prefabrication as an alternative to on-site construction of houses. The federal government intervened with programs and federal dollars to maximize the possibility of successful endeavors. It is unlikely that the Lustron Corporation, one of the companies to most benefit from this program and one that had a presence in Louisville, would have ever been created without the influx of this federal money.

### **National Post War Response to Housing Crisis**

After World War II, the housing industry in the United States had trouble providing housing for a large percentage of its population. During the war, large portions of the nation's population had moved to already crowded urban areas for manufacturing jobs to support the war efforts. After the war, the veterans, who had just been discharged from service, came home by the thousands. There was a great need for something to be done, and quickly, to alleviate the urban housing shortage situation that resulted from these circumstances. (Hennessey, p. 7)

In response to this crisis, Congress enacted the Veterans' Emergency Housing Act and a program was begun to increase production of homes by several methods, including initially guaranteeing markets (the guarantee program was eventually dropped) for new types of materials and prefabricated houses and by financing new enterprises through loans from the RFC-the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. (Owen, p. 95-96) To deal with the postwar housing economy, President Truman appointed Wilson Wyatt to be the administrator of the National Housing Agency. This agency included the Federal Home Loan Bank System, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Federal Public Housing Authority. (Wyatt, p. 59-60) Wyatt, in his new position, never imagined that any companies would continue to plan prototype houses after the cancellation of the guaranteed markets. (Hendricks p.27 )

Smaller houses, better suited to the postwar financial climate than the larger early twentieth century homes, became the logical solution. At that point in history, the one-story ranch home with no basement became the popular choice of many who were building new homes. The emphasis was, increasingly, on ease of maintenance and elimination of stairs. The rationale for ranch houses also included elimination of longer plumbing lines, electric lines, and heat ducts. Additionally, many newer homes featured built-in cabinets, furniture, and equipment. The Depression and World War II had set the stage for the ranch house's popularity. It symbolized a fresh beginning for a country wracked first by economic collapse and then by war. (Jakle, et.al, p. 182-184)

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Because of the need for expediency and efficiency, mass production and prefabrication of these smaller dwellings were looked upon as possible resolutions for the problem. In the United States there was already a legacy of success stories from several mail-order house companies such as Sears, Roebuck & Company and Montgomery Ward. By 1930 Sears had sold 50,000 homes, more than any other mail-order company. Sears provided precut lumber at a time when power tools were almost unknown, plus a complete set of specifications and instructions to aid in construction. All shipping was done by rail; therefore, the largest concentrations of Sears homes are in the Northeast and Midwest where there were more rail lines. By 1940, despite these earlier accomplishments, Sears had exited the housing business. (Stevenson and Jandl, p. 19-30)

In 1948 The Housing Institute, in its Prefabs on Parade, lists ninety-two prefabricators of houses. (Over two hundred had been listed in 1946.) Included in the book are companies such as Lustron Corporation of Columbus, Ohio; Gunnison Homes of New Albany, Indiana; and General Plywood Corporation, Louisville, Kentucky. The Lustron home was of steel construction while the houses constructed by the other two were of typical wood frame. The book's purpose was to illustrate to the prospective home owner the range of ideas that myriad manufacturers of prefabricated homes had on the market in 1948. The following quote comes from the book's preface: "At this writing, many thinking people believe that by building more of a small house in a factory under favorable conditions, and less of it by archaic methods and despite inclement weather on the job, that substantial economy will result. This sounds reasonable and undoubtedly is true. But details are debatable." (Prefabs on Parade)

In retrospect we now know that the rise and fall of the prefabricating industry was astounding. The percentage of the total housing market during the war years was over 12 per cent. By 1948, it had dropped to 3.9 per cent. In reflection, it is wondered if any prefabricated house that was not substantially cheaper than its traditional competitor had any chance of capturing a significant segment of the middle-class housing market. It was difficult to overcome the psychological stigma of the "prefab" tag, for it was perceived as being standardized and stereotyped. (Dream of the Factory Made House p. 311-313)

### **Post War Response to Housing Crisis in Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area**

At about the same time in January of 1946 that President Truman announced Wilson Wyatt's appointment as administrator of the National Housing Agency, the agency released a Louisville housing market analysis prepared by the Agency's Chicago regional office, with the Louisville Area Development Association's cooperation. Wyatt, former mayor of Louisville, was one of the founders of this association and its president.

The analysis focused attention on five major problems, one of which was producing more than 19,000 dwelling units before 1950 due primarily to the influx of discharged veterans with urgent housing needs. In the Louisville area alone, 47,000 members of the armed forces were due to be discharged between November 1, 1945 and the end of 1946. (Schulman, Courier Journal. 1/27/46) Louisvillians were encouraged to take in boarders or to remodel their homes to accommodate renters. Two public housing "projects" had been built during the war to address the housing crisis. Even with all of these creative approaches, the housing shortage persisted. (Hendricks, p. 15)

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Costs for standardized wooden frame construction had risen steadily in Louisville since before the war. A small standardized house in February, 1940 was approximately \$5,408. By February, 1945, it had risen to \$7,586. (Schulman 1/27/46) The returning veteran was typically in a job that allowed a monthly housing budget of \$30 to \$50 per month. Knowing this was the trend across the United States, President Truman had challenged Wyatt and the National Housing Agency to keep the costs of housing as affordable as possible. The goal was to keep the price at approximately \$6,000 for a 600 square foot house. (Hendricks, p. 22) Grady Clay, in his article in the Courier Journal Magazine of September 11, 1949, reported that, in Louisville, "Most of the one-family houses have cost not far from \$10.00 a square foot since World War II". (Clay, Courier Journal (9/11/49))

Since old style building methods were resulting in prices beyond the reach of the average home buyer, mass production seemed a logical solution. Prefabrication, therefore, assumed greater importance. (Hennessey, p. 7) Wyatt exhibited confidence that the factory-built house was a viable alternative to traditional on-site frame construction. (Hendricks, p. 26) In January of 1949 a sample factory-built wooden home with two bedrooms was erected in Louisville by the Lafayette Homes Corporation. Cost cutting methods (such as replacing a utility room for a basement, leaving out steel joists, using wooden window frames instead of aluminum window frames) allowed the company to offer this home to the prospective buyer for \$6000. Usual financing called for a \$700 down payment and payments of \$39 per month. (Courier Journal 1/9/49)

### Postwar Response from Lustron Corporation

Of the prefabricated housing companies to enter the postwar market, the Lustron Corporation was one of the most spectacular. Its impressive history is striking both because of its ambitious development and its resounding failure. When the final accounting was made it had cost well over thirty million dollars, almost all of it in public money advanced by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. (Fetters, p. 79)

Chicago Viteous, original parent company of Lustron, had been manufacturing durable easy-to-clean porcelain-enameled steel panels for gas stations and restaurants during the war years. In 1946, Carl Strandlund, vice president and general manager of the company, visited Washington D.C. in search of government controlled steel to build additional gas stations for Standard Oil. He found that the government was not interested in allocating steel for gas stations but was interested in using steel for home production. In response to this possibility, Strandlund later presented preliminary drawings and plans produced by architects Morris H. Beckman and Roy B. Blass of an all-metal, approximately 1000 square foot house constructed of porcelain-enameled steel panels. He promised production of one hundred houses a day within nine months, each with a retail price of \$7,000 (shipping and lot price would be additional) if allotted the necessary steel. He hoped to bring the efficiency found in the automobile assembly line factories to the home construction industry.

Wilson Wyatt, of the National Housing Agency, was so impressed with the Lustron proposal that he used his influence to help Strandlund obtain steel, money, and a factory. The owners of Chicago Viteous declined to sign the necessary government paperwork but they allowed Strandlund to trade his stock in their company for the copyright to the Lustron home.

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Lustron, early on, started nationwide marketing campaigns. The first campaign targeted builders so that Lustron could establish a network of qualified builder-dealers. The company received thousands of requests for dealership franchises. Another campaign focused on the buying public. Extensive advertising in magazines such as Life, McCalls, and Architectural Forum generated a significant level of interest in the houses. (Nabors) Between 1946 and 1948 Lustron received orders for 20,000 homes, but not until March of 1948 did the first home roll off the assembly line. Approximately 2500 of the orders were filled before the Lustron Corporation faltered and declared bankruptcy in 1950. (Reickert)

The company had faced intense financial difficulties from the beginning. The initial RFC loan of \$15.5 million was not enough to cover start-up expenses. This resulted in a delay in equipping the plant and initiating production. Dealers found it more expensive to participate than they had originally budgeted. The homes took 350 hours to build instead of the 130-150 hours first estimated. Sixteen hundred man-hours were required for a similar wood frame house. (Hendricks, p. 40) Because of many unforeseen complications, the retail price grew well beyond the original \$7000 projected price. On a typical day at the factory, 26 houses were actually fabricated rather than the 100 projection. Back orders accumulated and buyers faced long delays. (Nabors)

Factors outside the Lustron factory also presented problems. Labor unions opposed the home, for it eliminated traditional laborers. Cities were slow to adapt to this building type. (Dream of the Factory Made House, p. 313) The use of the Fruehauf trailer truck, with the weight range Lustron needed to transport the house package, was forbidden on federal highways in some states. The area west of the Rockies could not be tapped because of transportation complications. (Fetters, p.77-83) Prospective owners encountered difficulty with banks as it was not easy to arrange mortgage financing for a house that was still at the factory. (Fetters interview) Eventually the project lost FHA and VA financing underwriting. Since the typical returning veteran and the depression-weary civilian had little money for down payments, this simply put the houses out of reach for first-time homebuyers for whom the house was actually designed. (Hendricks p.53)

Strandlund's failure to keep his promises of production numbers and pricing was ultimately his undoing. Lustron had been slow to get its house into production and had missed the peak of the housing shortage and prefabrication popularity. In addition it was generally more expensive than its competitors. In February, 1950 the RFC ordered foreclosure against Lustron. Because of the extent of the governmental administration's support of Lustron, its misfortune was noticeably dramatic.

### **The Lustron Presence in Louisville, Kentucky**

The Lustron Corporation divided the nationwide marketing area into regions of responsibility. R. W. Hein was sales manager for southern Ohio, the state of Kentucky, and ultimately the southern Indiana region. The Louisville Lustron dealership opened in 1947. It was owned by Gil Cross who had little to do with daily operations. Jack Redding, a vice-president, wrote real estate contracts, signed purchase agreements, obtained mortgages, and arranged for the concrete slab to be poured before delivery of the house. Stewart Deisenroth, also a vice president, actually supervised the erection of the house once the delivery truck arrived in Louisville from the Columbus, Ohio factory. (Hendricks, p.47)

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The Lustron had more square footage than its typical competitors and certainly more than the minimum 600 that was suggested by Wyatt for his \$6000 prototype house. It also had more closets, storage, and built-in features than was typically found in a house of that size. However, the price rose to be significantly more than the original projected \$7000 placing it in the high range of moderately priced houses in the Louisville area.

Promotional material from the Cross dealership stated that the Lustron was a spacious five room, 1000 square foot house that had special built-in features. It was easy and economical to heat with its radiant heat system and simple to clean and maintain. The brochure claimed that the design followed the growing trend toward ranch-style architecture. The surfaces were fireproof, decay-proof, termite-proof, and rat-proof. Included in the price were the following: combination dishwasher-clothes washer, automatic water heater, exhaust fan, built-in cabinets, cupboards, bookcase, and dressing table. The home buyer had a choice of several colors for both interior and exterior steel panels. (Hendricks)

The first and most common model produced by Lustron was the Westchester, manufactured in both two and three bedroom versions, W02 and W03. The two bedroom Westchester was, by far, the most popular of the two versions, measuring 31 feet in width by 35 feet in length on the exterior with a 6 foot by 12 foot corner recess for an entrance porch. It differed slightly from the original Beckman and Blass prototype, as an indentation in the rear wall of their design was eliminated from the production model, creating approximately 34 extra square feet for the occupants. The three bedroom Westchester measured 31 feet by 39 feet with no corner cutout and was entered directly from the gable end under an attached canopy. There were other less-popular models, but none are found in the Louisville area. The low-maintenance homes never had to be repainted or re-roofed. The outside could be hosed down and the inside walls could be wiped clean with a damp cloth. (Reickert)

To date, records indicate that the Cross dealership in Louisville had assembled fifteen homes by February, 1950 when the Lustron Corporation folded. The model home had attracted an estimated 96,000 visitors during its open house days. (Hendricks) Apparently enthusiasm in Louisville was high during the life of the company and for the home buyers who actually purchased the homes, their devotion remained enthusiastically positive after the company ceased to exist. Early in 1953 an article in the Courier Journal related primarily positive quotes from satisfied owners such as "If I had to do it over again, I'd do it", "We've no complaints at all; We've been utterly happy with our house", and "It's the nearest thing to perfect that you can get". Minor dissatisfaction centered around lack of sufficient storage space, cold windows, and occasional doors that stuck. Even those who mentioned small problems considered them secondary compared with the over-all qualities of the house. (Clay, Courier Journal 3/22/53)

Of the fifteen believed to be built, fourteen have been identified. The model home on South Western Parkway has been razed. The remaining fourteen are in various conditions ranging from very little visible exterior alteration to complete and total modification. (See attached chart) Three are unrecognizable as original Lustron homes because of extreme alterations. Some are in poor physical condition surrounded by overgrown shrubs while others have apparently been regularly maintained and not altered significantly.

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**ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES****Name:** Lustron House**Property Type Description**

Architectural construction type is the eligibility term of Criterion C met by the Louisville Lustron homes built during the period of 1948-1950. In this historic context of post war housing of 1946-1950, residences were built to fulfill a need for inexpensive smaller homes. The Lustrons were unpretentiously styled houses, built for the average middle class budget-conscious homebuyers who had postponed their home purchase because of the war.

The shiny Lustrons never aspired to distinction because of opulence. Rather, they offered a sturdy, low-maintenance, efficient house with numerous built-in features within a framework of porcelain enameled steel panels, a construction material that was quite different from the construction standard of the day. Strandlund's original thinking was that the Lustron could be assembled by a person with basic carpentry skills. His desire was directed toward an inexpensive, mass-produced house for the ordinary "man". (Fetters, p. 74)

To date, research has indicated that there were originally fifteen total Lustron homes in the metropolitan area. All were Westchester two bedroom models with the exception of the home at 325 N Hubbards Lane. It is a combination of a Westchester two bedroom plus a Westchester three bedroom. This was the home of E. D. Cross, the owner of the Louisville Lustron dealership. Most of the Louisville Lustrons are oriented with the 35 foot wall with two windows parallel to the street. However, two homes (2408 Burwell Avenue and 547 Dover Road) are oriented to the street differently, with the 31 foot wall with one window parallel to the street.

The Kentucky portion of the Louisville Metropolitan Area is comprised of Jefferson, Oldham, and Bullitt Counties. Thirteen Lustron homes were built in Jefferson County. Four of the homes were constructed in the western part of the Kentucky metropolitan area, one in the southern, six in the central, two in the eastern, and two in the far eastern area (Oldham County). One of the homes was razed (1005 S. Western Parkway). Three are unrecognizable now as Lustrons ( 4615 Greenwood Avenue, 125 Fifth Avenue in LaGrange, Kentucky and 122 Old Forest Road in Pewee Valley, Kentucky). The remaining eleven are easy to identify, as their steel panels are still intact and discernible from the street.

A Lustron Westchester two bedroom model home, if built in a neighborhood of similarly-sized houses, would not be an awkward anomaly. The colors that Lustron used on the exterior blend unobtrusively with standard paint colors. Large paned fixed-glass windows with side casements, characteristic of the Lustron, are also commonly used in traditional construction. The Lustron low gabled roofline, for the one-story ranch home, is very familiar. To recognize the home as a Lustron, an observer would need to pay particular attention to the composition of the exterior walls and roof. The exterior skin is of square steel panels that have a luster as a result of their porcelain enamel surface. A three-dimensional steel Lustron roof with ridges is quite unlike a flat traditionally shingled roof. Unless altered, a Westchester two bedroom house would have a small porch inset. Once familiar with the appearance of the Lustron , they become easily distinguishable.

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### Property Type Significance

The Louisville Lustrons meet National Register Criterion C and are significant within the area of Architecture Style because they are associated with a type of prefabricated mass-produced construction that gained limited popularity during the post World War II housing shortage in the Louisville Metropolitan Area of 1946-1950. At that particular time in history the smaller home was playing a pivotal role in architectural history because it was filling a need for first time homebuyers whose funds were limited. The Lustron could adequately fulfill that expectation for a smaller ranch style home with low maintenance costs. The steel constructed Lustrons are of exceptional architectural importance at the local level as a rare example of a factory produced prefabricated housing type using an unusual building material and methodology. So what makes these small ranch houses significant? Plainly spoken, it's the way they were built and the materials that were used to build them.

In 1994, when the original Louisville Lustron Survey was completed by Hays Birkhead Hendricks (see Summary of Evaluation Methods), there was only one original owner found to be living in the same location as when the Lustron was built. She was Mrs. Thomas Manby who lived at that time in a traditionally constructed home at the site of the 1949 Lustron at 125 Fifth Avenue, LaGrange, Kentucky. Upon being interviewed, Mrs. Manby remembered that she and her husband (who had been released from the armed services in 1945) had decided upon a Lustron because it was the "most house for the money" at the time. (Hendricks)

Lustrons are additionally significant for Louisville's architectural history because of the notable association of the former mayor of Louisville, Wilson Wyatt, and his influence on the early development of the Lustron Corporation as a fledgling company in the late 1940's.

### Property Type Registration Requirements

Any Lustron Home is eligible if it meets Criterion C. To meet Criterion C it must possess the following integrity factors: materials, workmanship, and feeling. The understanding of these terms used within this nomination is that integrity of materials and workmanship together produce an integrity of feeling.

A secondary integrity factor that is highly desirable, but not absolutely required, is integrity of location. Location is not seen as a primary integrity factor, as these buildings were mobile in the sense that they were fabricated off-site. Their design and erection had little relationship to the site, as long as the required concrete slab and utilities were provided at the site. Thus, a moved Lustron House in Louisville still can be considered for listing, as long as the move did not disturb the character-defining elements that produce an integrity of feeling.



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**Integrity of design** means that the Lustron house was constructed under the supervision of the Lustron Corporation during the time period 1948-1950. The features by which the Lustron House in Louisville is recognizable must be retained. This includes the bulk of the character-defining features must remain, such as the metal wall panels, the distinctive metal roof, interior walls, and any related outbuildings. Minor changes can have occurred, such as the replacement of deteriorated/rusted parts such as windows, soffits, and guttering, crucial parts such as roofs, and most of the interior furnishings. Since the Lustron Company no longer fabricates the buildings, obtaining exact replacement parts is seen as relatively unfeasible. This difficulty in obtaining replacement parts requires that the question of retention of integrity of design must be answered on a case-by-case basis.

Because the exterior walls, roof, and overall configuration of the Lustron house are the features that make these house so recognizable, elimination of all secondary features, such as windows, soffits, and gutters might not render a particular Lustron house to have lost the critical mass of its design integrity. For a particular Lustron that has sustained that much loss of design, the house's nomination form must argue how the remaining features provide an integrity of design. A Lustron House can be said to retain integrity of design if new materials are obtained to replace deteriorated and un-reparable features of the house when those replacement materials are exact reproductions of the deteriorated features in their new condition.

**Integrity of materials** refers to the parts that collectively comprise the design. A Lustron House can be said to have integrity of materials even though it has lost as much as 25% of its materials. It is expected that if any Louisville area Lustron house approaches that percentage of loss, to maintain that the house has integrity of materials, the loss of materials must be greater on the inside than on the outside of the house. The consideration of the loss of materials on the integrity of materials requires a comparable consideration of the loss of materials on the integrity of design. Replacement of worn-out or deteriorated historic Lustron house materials with exact reproductions of the deteriorated materials will not be said to be a retention of integrity of historic materials.

This would supply the integrity of workmanship. It must have integrity of design, integrity of materials, and integrity of feeling. For integrity of design and materials, a Lustron house would consist of the building components designed by the Lustron Corporation and retain a major portion of its original materials on the interior and exterior, maintain the original floor plan layout, and have no additions.

**Integrity of feeling** is preserved if the building retains its integrity of design and materials. This feeling will be said to exist if the major portion of its design and materials are intact and not obscured by an overlay of non-original materials. The integrity of feeling will be compromised through changes to the house's original floor plan and/or through the construction of non-original additions. The nomination author must consider the effect on the overall integrity of feeling if floor plan and/or additions have been completed and argue how an integrity of feeling can be said to exist when these changes have been made. A few of Louisville's Lustron houses have been totally covered with construction materials after the initial construction. These buildings obviously do not "read" as Lustron houses, so they have lost their integrity of feeling. Others, for instance, which might have non-historic garages attached by a breezeway, retain integrity of feeling as long as the basic identity of the Lustron, as conveyed by materials and design, is not severely compromised.

**Integrity of location** is preserved if the building has not been moved.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area Lustron Homes  
Jefferson County and Oldham County, Kentucky

Map ID #	Address of Home	Model #	Exterior Integrity Issues as reported in 1994 (Exterior Integrity Issues as noted in 2002)	County All Kentucky
No 1	121 Cambridge Drive 40214	W02	Gutters replaced; Replacement wood fascia	Jefferson
No 2	2408 Burwell Avenue 40210	W02	Large section of soffit fallen (Wrought iron security window installed)	Jefferson
No 3	4615 Greenwood Avenue 40211	W02	Unknown-1994 research reports house was bricked (House at 4615 Greenwood looks nothing like a Lustron House)	Jefferson
No 4	7238 Southside Dr 40214	W02	Gutters replaced; Windows replaced	
No 5	2423 Clarendon Avenue 40205	W02	None visible (AC unit installed in front window; rust stains; vegetation surrounds exterior)	Jefferson
No 6	2827 Eleanor Avenue 40205	W02	Gutters replaced (AC unit installed in side window)	Jefferson
No 7	1920 Winston Avenue 40205	W02	Gutters replaced; Exterior trim painted One window replaced; Tile installed on concrete porch floor; (AC unit in side window)	Jefferson
No 8	1922 Winston Avenue 40205	W02	None visible (Gutters replaced; vegetation surrounds much of exterior)	Jefferson
No 9	1911 Gladstone Avenue 40205	W02	Gutters replaced; Metal pilaster removed at entrance; porch screened (AC unit installed in side window; vegetation surrounds much of exterior)	Jefferson
No 10	547 Dover Road 40206	W02	None visible	Jefferson
No 11	319 Westport Drive 40207	W02	None visible	Jefferson
No 12	325 N Hubbards Lane 40207	W02 + W03	Exterior trim was painted; Windows replaced	Jefferson
No 13	125 Fifth Avenue La Grange Kentucky 40010	W02	A traditional construction house (vinyl-siding drywall/plaster) was built around Lustron shell Back porch and back wing added	Oldham
No 14	122 Old Forest Rd Pewee Valley, Kentucky 40056	W02	Completely altered-Lustron home is no longer discernable	Oldham
No 15	1005 S. Western Parkway		Razed	

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## SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The multiple property listing of Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area Lustron Homes is based primarily upon a 1994 thesis and survey entitled "Louisville's Lustrons - Houses With Magnetic Appeal" written by Hays Birkhead Hendricks for a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. This project was developed under the auspices of the Landmarks Commission of the Louisville Development Authority. Joanne Weeter, research director at the commission, made a general inquiry and request, primarily through the Courier Journal newspaper, for any and all information regarding Lustron homes in Louisville. The response was surprising: there were over 300 responses from 10 states. As a result, locations for fourteen out of the original fifteen Lustron homes were determined. Exterior documentation was possible at 13 sites and further interior documentation was possible at 7. Integrity requirements for this project were based on that documentation. Ms. Hendricks was able to speak personally with Wilson Wyatt (administrator of post-war National Housing Agency) and R. W. Hein (regional Lustron sales manager) regarding their experiences with the Lustron Corporation. The texts of their remarks are included in the thesis. As both are now deceased, this was remarkably valuable in getting historic first hand views regarding Lustron. A short telephone conversation with Jack Redding, (vice-president in charge of real estate for the Cross Lustron Dealership) was additionally summarized in the text.

This author's research included revisiting a good portion of the bibliographical references from the thesis in order to gain personal perspective plus additional research into sources made available since 1994. Thirteen of the fourteen existing Lustron houses were photographed and an attempt was made to ascertain if exterior conditions had changed since the original 1994 survey. In early 2002 an extremely comprehensive book, the only book written entirely on the Lustron, was published titled The Lustron Home. This book by Thomas T. Fetters was very instrumental in providing insight into the history of the Lustron. It also provided an extensive bibliography to explore. A telephone interview with the author filled other gaps.

The properties are grouped under the historic context of Post World War II Response to Housing Shortage in Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area, 1946-1950. A multiple property documentation form was prepared for the Lustrons because they represent a notable government effort to assist in developing a new industry for mass production of assembly line, factory built, steel houses.

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