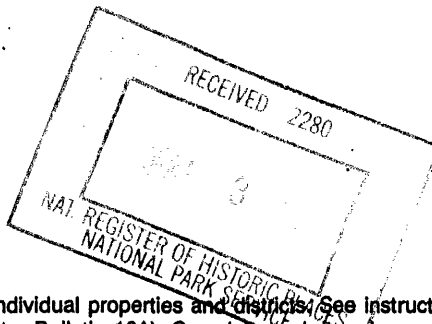


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



661

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smoketown Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Preston, Caldwell, & Jacob Streets, NA not for publication
and alley east of Shelby Street

city or town Louisville NA vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40203

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and

Executive Director

5-23-97

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

7-3-97

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
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
304	33	buildings
1	116	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
305	149	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/multiple dwelling
- Commerce/specialty store
- Religion/religious facility
- Education/school
- Recreation/theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/multiple dwelling
- Commerce/restaurant
- Commerce/specialty store
- Religion/religious facility
- Education/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Italianate
- Queen Anne
- Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation brick
- walls weatherboard
- brick
- roof asphalt
- other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Black Ethnic Heritage

Period of Significance

1865 - 1944

Significant Dates

1865

1929

1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Louisville Landmarks Commission

Smoketown Historic District
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 78 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Louisville East Quad

A 1 | 16 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 10 |
B Zone Easting Northing
2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
E 1 6 6 0 9 7 9 0 4 2 3 3 4 7 0

C 3 | 16 | 6 | 19 | 5 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 17 | 10 |
D Zone Easting Northing
4 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roy Hampton, Staff Helper

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission date November 10, 1993

street & number 600 West Main Street telephone (502) 574-3501

city or town Louisville, state Kentucky zip code 40202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Smoketown Historic District

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Narrative Description

Louisville's Smoketown Historic District is a compact and cohesive group of buildings that reflect the history of black community life in Louisville from 1865 to 1944.

The district contains 294 contributing buildings, 33 non-contributing buildings, 126 non-contributing sites and 1 contributing site. 159 of the district's properties are non-contributing (35.02%), while 295 properties (64.98%), are contributing.

The Smoketown neighborhood is located in the eastern part of central Louisville, and is bounded to the north by Broadway, to the west by Interstate 65, to the east by Beargrass Creek to the south by Kentucky Street. The neighborhood borders the Old Louisville National Register District to the west, the Phoenix Hill National Register District to the north, and its southern boundary is partially contiguous with a proposed Shelby Park National Register District. The Smoketown Historic District covers 78 acres, is located within the boundaries of the Smoketown neighborhood, and is bounded on the east by an alley east of Shelby street, on the west by portions of Preston and Shelby streets. On the south, the district runs an uneven course between Breckinridge and Kentucky Streets. The northern boundary runs an uneven course between the alley south of Broadway, and Roselane.

No buildings within the boundaries of the Smoketown National Register District have been listed on the National Register.

The major transportation routes included in the Smoketown National Register District include Shelby, Logan, Floyd and Preston streets, all important north-south arteries. Finzer, Roselane, and Lampton are east-west streets in the Smoketown neighborhood that end and begin within the boundaries of the neighborhood, are not primary thoroughfares, and have remained residential. Other east-west streets of the area such as Broadway, Jacob, Breckinridge, Caldwell and Kentucky connect with the western areas of Louisville, and have some significance as thoroughfares. The most prominent of these streets is Broadway, which forms the northern boundary of the neighborhood, and is one of Louisville's most important east-west arteries. While sections of Jacob, Lampton, Caldwell, Preston, Jackson, Hancock Clay, and Shelby Streets are included in the Smoketown National Register District, no parts of Broadway, Finzer, or Logan Streets are included in the district. The grid pattern of streets is very consistent in the Smoketown area, except for where it has been interrupted by the Sheppard Square housing development of the 1940's. The neighborhood today has no important topographical formations or any natural boundaries other than Beargrass Creek.

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BUILDING TYPES

Building types in Smoketown can be grouped into five major categories: A. residential, B. public housing C. commercial, D. ecclesiastical, and E. institutional. The area also contains one historical site, categorized under "F."

A. Residential Structures

Residential structures are the most common building type in the Smoketown National Register District. The earliest houses were probably built as farm dwellings between 1830 and 1855, when the area was still basically rural. No trace of these rural dwellings has survived in Smoketown, and therefore, the oldest surviving structures are ones that date from the early years of dense residential development in the area during the years 1855 to 1865. These houses, and houses built between 1865 and 1900 conform to land plats laid out at the time of the initial subdivision of the area, and in general have a consistency of size, building type and style, scale, setback, massing, and materials. Often, a single builder would construct a long, continuous series of identical or highly similar houses, producing a consistent spatial and architectural rhythm. Post-1900 houses were often built on wider lots, and were less uniform in scale than pre-1900 housing. Residential buildings can be found on most of the major and minor streets of the Smoketown area.

B. Public Housing

The Sheppard Square Housing Project was built as segregated war worker housing for African Americans by the Federal Housing Administration in 1942, according to the designs of architect A. Read Henry. The project covers about 3 1/2 to 4 city blocks and contains 36 two-story multi-family housing units. These units are very uniform in scale, design and materials. All Sheppard Square housing units are two stories tall, and are between six and twelve bays in length. They all have hipped roofs, and are constructed out of a tan colored glazed structural tile. The building materials used has made the Sheppard Square complex an easy to clean, low maintenance group of buildings, with an austere, unornamental design that emphasizes practicality. The units are spaced close together, usually in parallel groups of two. They have a larger setback from the street than the private residential units of the area. The entire complex is arranged in a campus-like configuration set around grass courts that are isolated from the street. Groupings of two units are combined into large contiguous blocks of between six and thirteen housing units. This arrangement has interrupted the grid of streets found in other areas of Smoketown, and produces a distinct pattern of rhythm and spacing that also contrasts with the rest of the neighborhood.

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C. Commercial Buildings

Commercial buildings in Smoketown exhibit a variety of stylistic characteristics and range in date from the 1850s up to the late 20th century. The earliest structures of this type that have survived are brick, two-to-three story storefront buildings dating from the period 1860-1885, with a few frame commercial buildings dating from the period 1880 to 1920. The earliest commercial structures have a very shallow setback from the street, and are often located on corners to allow the maximum amount of visibility from the street. After 1920, with the advent of the automobile, some commercial structures in the area were built further away from the street, while others continued to conform to the earlier pattern of shallow setbacks. Brick, structural glazed tile, and concrete block were the most common materials used in commercial buildings built in the period 1920 to 1943. Most of the commercial buildings of the Smoketown district do not exhibit very many high style architectural characteristics.

Some residential structures in the district were converted to commercial uses during the period between 1920 and 1970. These structures have had storefront facades applied onto the front of the original structure that deviate from the original setback pattern of the block. The materials used in these storefront additions generally conform to the architectural trends dominant in the periods of their construction.

D. Ecclesiastical Buildings.

Four historically significant churches lie within the boundaries of the Smoketown National Register District: Bates Memorial Baptist Church, Grace Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church, and the New Coke Methodist Church. Their dates of construction range from 1907 to 1944. Three of them are brick structures, while St. Peter Claver is a wood frame building. The three brick churches are in the Gothic Revival Style, while St. Peter Claver is a Classical Revival church. All four are relatively small in terms of scale.

E. Institutional Buildings

Three historically significant institutional buildings also lie inside the boundaries of the Smoketown National Register District. These include the Eastern Branch Louisville Free Public Library (1912), the Presbyterian Community Center (1929), and the Albert Meyzeek Elementary School (1938). All of these buildings are built of brick. The Meyzeek Elementary School is an example of the Art Deco style, while the other two institutional structures are Classical Revival in style.

F. Historic Site

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A historically significant site is located in the Smoketown Historic District. The site is Ballard Park, and is located at 505 to 537 Caldwell. The park is historically significant because it was dedicated in 1929 by Albert Meyzeek, a prominent black Louisville educator and civil rights activist, and principal of Jackson Junior High School in Smoketown (now Meyzeek Elementary). The land for the park was donated by the Ballard family, who owned a large flour mill in Smoketown, on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broadway and Beargrass Creek.

HISTORICAL INTEGRITY

Each building's contribution to the Smoketown National Register District has been evaluated in terms of its overall relationship to the general integrity standards of the area as a whole. The following integrity guidelines establish which factors are most important in conveying the importance of individual properties, and of the district as a whole. They should be used as a basis for decision making with regard to future Investment Tax Credit Rehabilitation projects or for other federally funded renovation or rehabilitation projects.

Integrity of Location and Setting

The terrain of the Smoketown National Register District once included topographical features such as ponds, depressions and small earth ridges, but these have long since been obliterated. The current topography of the Smoketown area is consistently flat, with only a few minor depressions and slightly elevated areas. The lack of natural obstructions has facilitated the consistency of the grid pattern of streets still evident in the neighborhood today. The only feature that constitutes a natural boundary of the area today is Beargrass Creek, which was, in the 1930's straightened and significantly altered from its original course.

The most distinctive feature of the area is the consistent grid pattern of streets, especially the fact that this grid is divided up into many small blocks by numerous alleys and minor streets. This pattern has led to a very dense pattern of settlement in the area, especially when compared to other parts of the city, where streets were more broadly spaced, resulting in larger block and lot sizes. Due to the importance of this dense version of the grid pattern to the historic character of the district, contributing buildings should have their original relationship to the street grid in terms of placement and setback, and should not have undergone any major demolition of facades or other integral parts of the structure that would change the structure's relationship with the pattern of Smoketown's streets and alleys. No contributing buildings in the district have been moved from their original location.

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Integrity of Design, Workmanship and Materials

Residential Buildings

In order for a residence to be considered a contributing element to the Smoketown Historic District, it must possess not only integrity of location, but must have a minimum level of material integrity in order to convey a sense of historic association. In order for a residence to be considered a contributing element to the Smoketown Historic District, it must possess these qualities: A. its original scale and massing, B. its original setback and orientation to the street conveyed by building placement and rhythm, and C. some retention of original material texture, especially in relationship to the overall appearance of buildings in the district. Architectural style and its relationship to integrity in the district will be discussed under D

A. Residences: Scale and Massing

Residential buildings in The Smoketown National Register District range in height from one to three stories. The basic building types in the district each convey distinct characteristics of scale and massing. The area's shotgun houses are three to four times as deep as they are wide, which makes them very narrow buildings, both in the case of the single story and camelback examples. The area also has a number of brick and frame houses that are usually two stories tall, and about three to four bays in width. Although in some cases wider than the shotguns, most of these houses still have fairly narrow overall proportions. A few examples of the American Foursquare type of house exist in the district. These are four cell, two story houses, often equipped with roof dormers, and possess boxy, massive qualities of proportion in contrast to the tall, narrow proportions of the shotgun and the two story houses. The area also contains a few houses of the Craftsman Bungalow style. These houses are usually one full story, with a half story space often provided in the attic area. These structures are similar to the Foursquare in the sense that their proportions are also massive and horizontal, often with broad overhanging eaves. Residential building styles in the Smoketown National Register District include the Italianate, Queen Anne, Princess Anne, Prairie (Foursquare) and Craftsman Bungalow. Most of these styles generally employ some form of asymmetrical massing, with a number of examples from the Italianate, Craftsman Bungalow, and Foursquare styles standing out as notable exceptions. Many houses in the area lack some or all of the ornamental elements generally associated with these styles, because of the area's long standing tradition as a working class area, but reflect the basic proportions and sense of massing inherent in the historic styles. In order for a building to be considered contributing, it must retain the overall characteristics of scale and massing that reflect the period, and/or style in which it was built. Buildings in which major additions, demolitions, drastic alterations of roof

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configuration, or severe changes in window proportions have occurred, especially examples that have been altered in more than one of these ways, often resemble modern residential buildings, and are difficult to identify as historic. Properties such as this that have lost most or all of their original sense of historic scale and massing will be assigned a non-contributing status.

B. Residences: Setback, Orientation to the Street, and Rhythm

Residential buildings in Smoketown are generally setback a small distance from the sidewalk adjacent to the street they face. This allows for a small yard in front of the house, while allowing the builder to utilize most of the often narrow lot for housing space. In many cases, when a single builder developed a large block of land at once, a long row of houses would be created with a consistent, often uniform setback from the street, creating a strong rhythm. In some cases, there are variations of setback within groups of adjacent houses, but these variations are usually subtle. In general, the overall setback pattern in the district is remarkably consistent. This consistency of setback is one of the major elements that gives the district its qualities of association essential in establishing historic integrity. Therefore, residential structures that compromised the setback patterns established in the area's period of historical significance, i.e. 1850-1944, were considered non-contributing, unless the inconsistency of setback was due to the addition of a historically significant commercial front. In the case of these contributing commercial facades, exceptions were made to the setback consistency rule, in the interest of preserving the fabric that reflects the historical development of commerce in the Smoketown area. Some vacant lots and parking lots dating to the period after 1944 are present in the Smoketown National Register District. Since they interrupt the typically dense, regular spacing of historic residential structures in the area, they were assigned a non-contributing status.

C. Residences: Material Texture

In each contributing block face in the Smoketown National Register District, a regular pattern can be identified by each building's basic components (doors, windows, rooflines, chimneys, porches, bays, etc.) and by the building materials present. The consistency of this pattern throughout the district is one of the primary qualities that gives Smoketown its sense of historic association. In order for a residence to be considered a contributing element to the Smoketown Historic District, it must add to, not detract from, this consistency of pattern. Residences whose integrity has been severely compromised due to alteration such as the complete replacement of historic windows, chimneys or cornices with ones whose proportions and materials are completely at odds with characteristics of houses built in the period of significance for the Smoketown area were considered to be non-contributing, especially if replacement of more than two of the elements listed had occurred. Non-contributing status was also

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assigned to buildings whose principal facades had been sheathed or rebuilt with non-historic materials that had no relationship to the original historic materials of the building, especially when the process severely compromised the original proportions of the building, or when the alterations appeared to be irreversible. In cases where sheathing had changed, but original windows, cornices, bargeboards and other materials were left unharmed or were preserved under non-historic sheathing, a status of contributing was assigned.

D. Residences: Architectural Styles

Many of the architectural styles characteristic of the period 1850 to 1943 are present in the residences of the Smoketown area. These include the Queen Anne, Princess Anne, Craftsman/Bungalow and Foursquare/Prairie styles to some extent, but the dominant architectural style in the district is undoubtedly the Italianate. However, many of the oldest structures of the neighborhood, and often the ones with the most historical significance, have few stylistic details or architectural embellishments. These buildings are very important as a reflection of the working class character of the area, and possess a simple dignity that reflects the values of the working class European immigrants and African-American freedmen and women that settled the neighborhood. Therefore, many buildings that were originally built without high style architectural details were considered to be contributing in this district for historic reasons. Since the area is being nominated for historical and not architectural reasons, buildings where removal of applied architectural ornament had occurred were considered contributing, as long as the original overall proportions and massing of the building were retained.

Integrity of Materials and Workmanship: Public Housing

The primary facades of public housing units in the Sheppard Square Housing Project should retain their original configuration and historic fabric, including retention of original doorways, window openings, and rooflines. Replacement of historic doors and windows, while not encouraged, is acceptable as long as the proportions of door and window openings remain the same. Sheathing of trim or gutters with non historic materials, while also not encouraged, will be tolerated.

Integrity of Materials and Workmanship: Commercial Buildings

The primary facades of commercial buildings in the district at the ground level should exhibit their original configuration and historic fabric, including entrances, commercial plate glass display windows, transoms and structural elements such as load bearing brick walls. Wholesale replacement and/or sheathing of the original ground level storefront in a non historic manner, while not particularly desirable, is acceptable of the alterations are easily distinguished from the original storefront (i.e. windows infilled)

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and if the majority of the upper stories of the facade retain integrity. Above the ground level, on the upper floors of the facade, each building must retain its original window placement and light configuration. Changes in light configuration or obstruction of

these windows, while not desirable, is acceptable if the change is easily identifiable and retains intact window surrounds including sill, fascia, lintels, hoods, pediment and other decorative details. Infill of the windows is acceptable only if this treatment is recessed so that it is easily distinguishable from the building's surface plane. Cornices and parapets should remain intact, although enveloping them in a non-historic material is acceptable if non-historic material duplicates historic ornamentation from the same time period, or if the historic material remains intact underneath the non-historic sheathing. Although secondary facade and alley facades will not be subjected to the same standard as the primary facades, their design, workmanship and materials are recognized to be important in assessing significance and should be honored. In those instances when later additions have been made to an earlier commercial building, those later additions shall be evaluated for their integrity as it relates to the larger period of significance, established in the district (up to the year 1944). In some instances, these later additions may have achieved significance in their own right. Building additions will result in an assignment of non-contributing if the addition was made after 1944 and it obscures more than half of the historic primary facade of the building.

Integrity of Materials and Workmanship: Ecclesiastical Buildings

Historic churches of the area must retain their original proportions and overall historic building materials if they are to be considered contributing elements to the district. Radical changes to roof pitch and configuration will result in a non-contributing status. Removal of part or all of historic towers or spires above the ground floor, while undesirable, is a condition that can be reversed without affecting the materials of the rest of the building, and will be accepted if the rest of the building retains its original proportions and massing. Churches must retain their original window and door openings if they are to be assigned a contributing status. The replacement of original windows or doors with non-historic ones is acceptable if the new windows and doors do not compromise the original proportions of the building. However, the filling in of part or all of window openings (i.e. bricking in), which radically changes the overall proportions of the building, will not be tolerated unless the fill is clearly distinguishable from the historic fabric of the building. Enlargement of historic exterior wall openings or the cutting of new wall openings, due to the fact that it is very difficult to reverse such changes, will result in a designation of non-contributing status if the change drastically affects a facade of the church that is visible from the street. Sheathing of exteriors with non-historic materials is acceptable as long as the original proportions of the building's wall openings (doors and windows) are maintained. Non-historic

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additions to churches will be tolerated as long as they do not infringe upon the primary facade of the historic church.

Integrity of Materials and Workmanship: Institutional Buildings

The area's institutional buildings must also retain their original window and door openings, roof configurations and overall proportions to be considered contributing elements to the district. Non-historic additions are acceptable as long as they do not prevent the primary facade of the historic building from being viewed from the street.

Integrity of Feeling and Association.

Retention of building placement and the conditions specified under the integrity discussion of design, workmanship and materials, will result in an integrity of feeling and association necessary for a National Register District from the defined period of significance.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION.

The boundaries proposed for the Smoketown Historic District are based on the original lots associated with these buildings which share a common architectural style, historic development and function. The boundaries proposed include the maximum concentration possible of buildings constructed during the period of significance that have the required qualities of historic integrity, and that had association with African Americans during the period of significance. The district's northern boundary mostly runs between Finzer street and Roselane, often following the boundary of the Sheppard Square Housing Project. This is due the presence of many vacant lots in the parts of Smoketown north of Finzer street. However, the northern boundary does extend northward to the alley south of Broadway in order to incorporate a group of seven contributing shotgun houses along Finzer street. The district's southern boundary runs an uneven course between Breckinridge and Kentucky Streets, because of the uneven level of integrity for buildings of that area. The eastern boundary of the district is the alley west of Shelby Street, the western boundary runs an uneven course between Preston and Shelby Streets, because of the presence in that area of large tracts of non-contributing properties. These boundaries were, in part, based on the maximum area of African American settlement in the neighborhood during the period of significance. Areas within the boundaries of the Smoketown Neighborhood that were not already nominated to the National Register before the commencement of this study, or that have not been nominated as part of this nomination are either vacant lots, parking areas, roads, interstate highways, or areas of buildings whose post-1944 date of construction or lack of overall integrity prevented them from being included as part of the district.

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Archaeological Potential.

Archaeological investigations that have been conducted in the urban area of Louisville have yielded little information of value to this nomination. Archaeological survey, excavation, and/or incidental discovery or monitoring occurred at the following urban sites: The Tarascon Mill at Shippingport Island, the cistern at the Louisville Museum of History and Science at 727 West Main Street, the site of the Will Sales Courier Journal Building at the 400 block of South Fourth Street, and the Lion Garden at 1015 South Preston. In each instance, the investigation yielded little information deemed to be important for historic archaeology. This was due largely to the disturbance of cultural resources by continuous urban modification. Of particularly high importance for this study was the excavation at the Lion Garden site, which is located near the southern border of the Smoketown Neighborhood. The site's topographical context had been disturbed by the installation of buried fuel tanks, and by other human activity, and the University of Louisville archaeological team determined that investigation of the site would not produce any useful evidence or information. Considering the densely developed urban nature of the Smoketown area, any archaeological investigations there could be expected to produce results similar to this, and to other archaeological digs conducted in Louisville's urban environment. However, at this time no investigation has been made to discover if significant remains exist in the district. However, archaeological remains should be considered in any development of this property. If, in the course of work, it becomes evident that the site might reveal archaeological information, it is recommended that work cease and the appropriate Kentucky Heritage Council staff members be notified.

Subjects for Future Study

A. German American Settlement in Smoketown

An area of German settlement centered around Logan Street on the east side of Smoketown was not included in the Smoketown Historic District due to its lack of significance to African Americans. The German area contains residential and industrial buildings eligible together as a National Register District. Plans for the nomination of this area as the Beargrass Creek Residential/Industrial District should be given a high priority in future plans for the area.

B. Individually Eligible Buildings

A number of industrial, buildings and warehouses, along with a few residences and a church, are outside both the Smoketown Historic District and the proposed Beargrass Creek Residential/Industrial District. Their nomination to the National Register should

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be an important goal for developing appreciation of the area's historic character, and in guiding rehabilitation efforts in the Smoketown Neighborhood.

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NR#	SITE #	ADDRESS	CNC	PLAN	STYLE	STORIES	ROOF FORM	PORCH	ORIG. CLADDING	ADDED CLADDING	TYPE OF ALTERATIONS	SABORN D.O.C	ESTIMATED D.O.C
126.	88	728 EAST JACOB	C	SI	I	I	H	0	B	0	D	1876	C1875
127.	27	729 EAST JACOB	C	SI	I	I	H	0	B	0	W/D	1892	C1880
128.	89	730 EAST JACOB	NC										VACANT LOT
129.	90	732 EAST JACOB	C	SI	I	I	H	H	WF	0	W/D	1876	C1875

CNC TABULATION
C-4 NC-0

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NPS SITE #	ADDRESS	CNC PLAN	STYLE		ASTORIES	ROOF FORM	PORCH	ORIG. CLADDING	ADDED CLADDING	TYPE OF ALTERATIONS	SABORN D.O.C.	ESTIMATED D.O.C.
			HOUSES	ALL								
	GLENN ALLEY											

CNC TABULATION
C-0 NC-0

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NPS SITE #	ADDRESS	CNC PLAN		STYLE		STORIES	ROOF FORM BUILDINGS	PORCH	ORIG. CLADDING	ADDED		TYPE OF ALTERATIONS	SANBORN	ESTIMATED
		NO	HOUSES	ALL	OUT					CLADDING	CLADDING		D.O.C.	D.O.C.
	PIERCE ALLEY													

CNC TABULATION
C-0 NC-0

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NR#	SITE #	ADDRESS	CNC	PLAN	STYLE	STORIES	ROOF FORM	PORCH	ORIG. CLADDING	ADDED CLADDING	TYPE OF ALTERATIONS	SANBORN D. O. C.	ESTIMATED D. O. C.
235.	46	419 ROSELANE COURT	C	NA	M	2	H	-0-	T	VW	W/C	1962	1942
236.	49	420 ROSELANE COURT	C	NA	M	2	H	-0-	T	VW	W/C	1962	1942
237.	48	429 ROSELANE COURT	C	NA	M	2	H	-0-	T	VW	W/C	1962	1942
238.	50	430 ROSELANE COURT	C	NA	M	2	H	-0-	T	VW	W/C	1962	1942
239.	59	521 ROSELANE COURT	C	NA	M	3	H	-0-	T	VW	W/C	1962	1942
240.	70	619 ROSELANE COURT	C	NA	M	3	H	-0-	T	VW	W/C	1962	1942
241.	71	620 ROSELANE COURT	C	NA	M	3	H	-0-	T	VW	W/C	1962	1942

CNC TABULATION
C-7
NC-0

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NPN	SITE #	ADDRESS	CNC	PLAN	STYLE	STORIES	ROOF FORM	PORCH	ORIG. CLADDING	ADDED CLADDING	TYPE OF ALTERATIONS	SANBORN D. O. G.	ESTIMATE	
													VACANT LOT	D. O. C.
262.	231	820 SOUTH CLAY	NC											
263.	242	821 SOUTH CLAY	NC											VACANT LOT
264.	243	823 SOUTH CLAY	NC											VACANT LOT

CNC TABULATION
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NRM SITE #	ADDRESS	CNC		PLAN	STYLE	STORIES	ROOF		FORM	PORCH	ORIG. CLADDING	ADDED GLADDING	TYPE OF ALTERATIONS	SABORN D.O.C.	ESTIMATED D.O.C.
		C	W				G	H							
307.	920 SOUTH HANCOCK	C		SI	I	I	G		H	WF	-	W.D.P	1892	C1880	
308.	921 SOUTH HANCOCK	C _W		SI	I	I	H		-	WF	-	W.D.P	1892	C1880	
309.	922 SOUTH HANCOCK	C		SI	I	I	G		H	WF	-	D.P	1892	C1880	

CNC TABULATION
C-3 NC-0

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NPS	SITE#	ADDRESS	CNC	PLAN	STYLE	STORIES	ROOF FORM	PORCH	ORIG. CLADDING	ADDED CLADDING	TYPE OF ALTERATIONS	SANBORN D.O.C.	ESTIMATED D.O.C.
365.	329	941 SOUTH PRESTON	C	NA	CL	1	BU	BU	B	VW			

CNC TABULATION
C-1 NC-0

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SMOKETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT Key to Inventory

1. NR# Counting mechanism for each building, structure, or site in the district.
2. Site # The prefix JFEG is assigned to every building in the Smoketown study area. The number that follows is used for computerization of the data.
3. Address Each address is assigned based on numbering system of Sanborn insurance maps.
4. C/NC Refers to contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC)
5. Plan Refers to the floor plan of each building. Each plan is coded as follows:

FLOOR PLAN

4 SQ = American Four Square
BC = Bungalow Craftsman
C = Commercial
CP = Center Passage
DU = Duplex
L = "L" Shaped
NA = Not Applicable
SP = Side Passage
SCB = Shotgun Camelback
S1 = Shotgun (1 Story)

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6. Style Refers to the architectural style of the building. Decisions concerning styles are based on Virginia & Lee McAlester's A Field Guide to American Houses. Each style is coded as follows:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

- B/C = Bungalow/Craftsman
- CL = Classical Revival
- CO = Colonial Revival
- TG = Gothic/Tudor
- I = Italianate
- M = Modern
- PA = Princess Anne
- QA = Queen Anne
- C = 20th C. Commercial
- V = Vernacular

7. # Stories Refers to the number of floors each building has. Most are 1, 1 1/2, 2, or 3.

8. Roof Form Decisions concerning roof forms are based on A Field Guide, pages 42-48. Each is coded as follows:

ROOF FORM

- BU = Built-Up
- G = Gabled
- GM = Gambrel
- H = Hipped
- M = Mansard
- P = Pyramidal
- R = Recessed
- S = Shed

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9. Porch Refers to the form of the porch's roof (See #8). Each is coded as follows:

- PORCH ROOF
- BU = Built-Up
 - G = Gabled
 - H = Hipped
 - O = No porch is present
 - P = Pyramid
 - R = Recessed
 - S = Shed

10. Original Cladding Refers to the material that originally sheathed the building. See A Field Guide, pages 33-42. Each is coded as follows:

- ORIGINAL CLADDING
- A/V = Aluminum/Vinyl
 - B = Brick
 - BV = Brick Veneer
 - CB = Concrete Block
 - S = Stone
 - T = Tile
 - WF = Wood Frame

11. Added Cladding Refers to coverings applied over the original cladding. Each is coded as follows:

- ADDED CLADDING
- A = Asbestos
 - A/V = Aluminum/Vinyl
 - BV = Brick Veneer
 - P/I = PermaStone/Insulbrick
 - ST = Stucco
 - SV = Stone Veneer
 - VW = Vertical Wood

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12. **Type of Alterations** Most older buildings have been altered or changed in some way. Usually (but not always), the more changes made to a building, the less architectural integrity that building will have. Alterations are coded as follows:

TYPE OF ALTERATIONS

- A = Addition
- C = Cladding
- D = Door
- P = Porch
- P = Porch Enclosed
- R = Roof
- W = Windows

13. **Sanborn D.O.C.** Refers to the Date of construction indicated for that building on the Sanborn Insurance Map. Maps for the Smoketown area are only available for the years 1892, 1905, 1938 and 1962. A Historic Atlas of Louisville dating from 1876 was also used to supplement the Sanborn Map documentation.
14. **Estimated D.O.C.** Refers to the author's best guess of when a building was constructed. It is based on architectural style, building shape and placement, materials, roof form, etc. Dates preceded by "C" (i.e., C1900) usually indicates an approximate date while a more exact date (i.e., 1927) usually indicates that the date was arrived at based on historic documentation.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Smoketown National Register District is locally significant under criterion A as the only residential neighborhood in the City of Louisville that reflects the continuous presence of African Americans between the years 1865 and 1944. The National Register District contains an intact and cohesive group of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and ecclesiastical buildings that have been associated with this distinct ethnic group for many years. The district's building stock reflects the social, economic, and political conditions of African American life in Louisville from the end of the Civil War until the middle of the Second World War.

Certainly Smoketown was not the only African American settlement in Louisville during the 19th century. African Americans lived in small alley enclaves or in isolated all black tenements before the Civil War. With the influx of African Americans into the city at the end of the war, two African American neighborhoods were settled: Smoketown, and an area around 1st and Magnolia Streets known as Browntown. Browntown was destroyed in the 1890's by a white suburban housing development, but another black settlement, known as Little Africa, was founded in the west end of Louisville in 1891. Little Africa has also not survived to the present day. Other current African American residential areas like Parkland, Russell, and California have been inhabited by African Americans only since the early to middle 20th century. This leaves Smoketown as the only existing African American neighborhood in Louisville that can trace its roots back to the end of the Civil War.

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SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In order to convey an understanding of the development of Smoketown as a residential neighborhood with a strong connection to the African American Community, the following issues were explored in this nomination:

1. The influx in the late 1860s of recently freed African Americans into the neighborhood, and the establishment of a thriving African American community in the neighborhood by 1870.
2. How the built environment of Smoketown reflects living conditions for African Americans in the neighborhood during the period of significance, related to housing conditions, employment opportunities, and the development of social and religious institutions.
3. The influence of the development of industry in the area, and the relationship that industry had to African Americans.

In preparation for this National Register nomination, the entire neighborhood, consisting of the area bounded by Broadway on the north, Kentucky Street on the south, Interstate -65 on the west and Beargrass Creek on the east, was evaluated under the integrity standards set forth in Part 7 of this nomination. Integrity judgments for this nomination were based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and upon accepted integrity standards for listing properties on the National Register for their historical significance. Large areas lacking integrity under the specified standards for significance associated with African Americans were excluded from the Smoketown National Register District. Within the newly defined boundaries, each building was evaluated and inventory forms were prepared. Notations were made with regard to building location, building style or type, actual or estimated date(s) of construction, and of the overall level of integrity for the structure. A status of historically contributing or non-contributing was assigned. Building styles were evaluated based on The Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester as well as other architectural style books. Information about settlement patterns in Smoketown was gathered from primary sources: census records, written histories, birdseye views of the city, historic maps, archival

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records and city directories. Maps of Louisville from 1876 and 1884 were used, as well as the more precise Sanborn Insurance Maps from 1892, 1905, 1938 and 1962, when available. Photographs of the area from the 1920s, 30s, and 40s were also used when available, as were contemporary USGS maps. Historical development was tracked using secondary resources, specifically Kramer's Louisville Survey Central and South Report, and the files of the Louisville Landmarks Commission.

Historic Context

This National Register nomination chronicles the development of the Smoketown Neighborhood by examining its development as an African American community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These stages in the evolution of the African American community in Smoketown will be examined:

1. The impact of the Civil War on African Americans, the resulting influx of members of this distinct ethnic group into Louisville in 1865, and their subsequent settlement in Smoketown
2. The growth of the African American settlement in Smoketown from 1870 to 1900, including the founding of churches and institutions in the area, and the relationship of Smoketown to other African American settlements in Louisville
3. Living conditions for African Americans in the neighborhood from 1900 to 1944, the effects of churches and civic institutions on the area in this period, and the effects of racial discrimination on the African American community in Smoketown.

1. Early Development of Smoketown in the Post Civil War Period

The beginning of residential development in Smoketown stretches back to the years just before the Civil War, when the area was sparsely settled by whites, many of German ancestry. With the great building boom in Louisville at the end of the Civil War came the first period of accelerated urban development in the Smoketown neighborhood. This period also brings the first evidence of African American settlers in Smoketown, found in the 1865 Caron's City Directory of Louisville. Before the Civil War the city directory labeled free blacks' names with the abbreviations "fmc" or "fwc" (free man or woman of color), and did not list slaves at all.

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After emancipation took effect in Kentucky in 1865 under provision of the Thirteenth Amendment, all African American men and women in the directory were listed with the abbreviation "col'd", or with a "c" in front of their names, indicating "colored". This practice continued in the Louisville city directories until 1927.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 had not freed slaves in states that stayed loyal to the Union, including Kentucky, and the state's slaves would not be free until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment on December 18, 1865. Louisville was the command post for the Union army in 1865, and the commander of the Union forces was General John Palmer, a noted abolitionist. Palmer granted freedom to any black man who joined the Union army, and later extended this freedom to the man's wife and children. He also began giving African Americans passes to the northern free states, and as a result of these actions, a rumor circulated that Palmer would emancipate all African Americans that were present in Louisville for the 4th of July, 1865. This caused many African Americans to flood into Louisville in 1865. When Palmer failed to grant emancipation, many of these African Americans left Louisville and went further north, but a large number of them chose to stay in Louisville and settle. Smoketown was the area most heavily settled by these African Americans that chose to stay

In 1865, many African Americans were clustered in the north central part of Smoketown, around Roselane, Jacob, and Laurel streets. The city directory indicates that most were laborers or unskilled workers, employed in menial jobs, although some of them were teamsters, barbers, or waiters, and therefore had a higher social status. An African American craftsman's site existed on Preston Street, near College Street, which had two blacksmiths and a wagon maker's shop. The site is important as evidence of the presence of skilled African American tradesmen in the neighborhood at the end of the Civil War, and as an early example of black entrepreneurship.

As Smoketown was being platted and subdivided in the late 1860s, the area began to take on a distinctive look, due to the presence of poor African American residents. In the 1860s and 70s, alleys and minor streets were the usually the types of streets African Americans were confined to living on in other parts of Louisville, such as Browntown. Smoketown has a higher concentration of these minor streets and residential alleys than any surviving neighborhood in Louisville. This dense street and alley pattern also allowed white landowners to create a more densely populated neighborhood, thus maximizing their rental profit potential.

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The lots of the neighborhood were exceptionally narrow, in many cases only 25 feet wide. This also allowed for maximum housing density, and maximum profits for rental property owners. Smoketown's whites, who had more access to better jobs than African Americans, built ornate brick dwellings for themselves, especially in the area around Logan street. In contrast, the African American areas of Smoketown were filled with tiny, plain wooden shotgun houses built by white landowners as rental property, or by blacks who had limited financial resources.

Weeden's History of the Colored People of Louisville, published in 1897 by Henry Clay Weeden, an African American minister and community leader, tells the story of a group of African Americans that built frame houses on lots they had leased from whites. The lots were located on the block in Smoketown bounded by Jackson, Breckinridge, Caldwell and Preston Streets. Weeden relates that the houses were simple and plain, but neat in appearance. Weeden went on to say that at the expiration of the leases, the people who built the houses were in worse condition than before, and had wasted hundreds of dollars, presumably because the African Americans could not pay off the leases for the lots, and lost the homes they had built to the white landowners. Numerous groups of frame houses appear in this area on an 1876 atlas of Louisville, and are shown as the property of white multiple property owners, corroborating Weeden's story. While similar losses may have been suffered by members of other ethnic groups, the financial limitations of African Americans in the late 19th century made them particularly vulnerable to this type of setback.

2. Settlement in Smoketown 1870-1900

African Americans continued to settle in Smoketown in the early 1870's. Enough black residents were in the area for a public school to be built in the neighborhood in 1874 (public schools were racially segregated). A lot on Roselane originally chosen for the school site was rejected by residents of the area for an unknown reason, and a second site was chosen at the corner of Breckinridge and Jackson. This was one of the earliest African American public schools in Louisville, and was later named after Booker T. Washington. The building, a three story brick Italianate style structure, has been demolished. A number of African American churches had also been founded in Smoketown during the late 1860s and early 70s, including Coke Methodist and the Jacob Street Temple A.M.E Church. None of the original 1870's buildings of any of Smoketown's earliest African American churches has survived. However,

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as institutions, the churches continued to serve the Smoketown neighborhood as centers of social and educational activity well into the 1900s.

The 1876 Atlas of Louisville reveals a number of important things about the Smoketown area at this time. While we know from the city directory that the area had a large concentration of African Americans, we know from the atlas that most of the property owners in the area had German last names, which were extremely uncommon names for African Americans. Tax records from 1875 and 1876, which indicate race of owner, also reveal that only a few of the African American residents of Smoketown actually owned their own homes. A large amount of property in Smoketown was owned by Washington Spradling Jr. Spradling was one of the most prominent African American citizens in Louisville in the 1870s, but he lived outside the Smoketown neighborhood on Chestnut Street. His ownership of property in the neighborhood is significant, since ownership of large amounts of property by African Americans in Louisville in the 1870s was uncommon, but this still does not change the fact that only a handful of Smoketown's African American residents of the 1870s owned their own homes. Thus, the most common housing pattern for African Americans in this period in Smoketown was clearly rental.

Beginning in 1885, street by street listings in the Louisville city directories offer a clear view of the geographical boundaries of African American settlement in Smoketown. Smoketown's African American settlement in 1885 occupied an area bounded by Preston Street on the west, Hancock Street on the east, an alley south of Broadway to the north, and stretched almost to Caldwell Street on the south, an area about 2 city blocks from east to west, and about 4 blocks north to south. Significant numbers of whites also lived within this area, and a few African Americans lived in the block between Hancock and Clay, although there were virtually no African Americans living east of Clay Street. This overall pattern of settlement was to remain fairly stable up to 1900. The only major changes to this pattern were the movement of more African Americans into the city block between Hancock and Clay, with a few African Americans settling in the block between Clay and Shelby by 1900.

As in the late 1860s, most African Americans living in Smoketown between 1870 and 1900 were unskilled workers. The most common job for African American women in the neighborhood at this time was laundress, the most common job for the men was still laborer. Also, by 1866 the installation of a streetcar line on Preston Street had caused the western edge of Smoketown to become a mecca for industries, especially tobacco factories. Most of these

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industries lie outside the National Register District boundaries. Many of the African Americans of Smoketown worked for the tobacco industry between 1870 and 1900. However, African Americans were not hired to do skilled jobs like rolling cigars, but had to do the low paying, strenuous labor of carrying and cutting the tobacco. Some of the more fortunate African American men worked as teamsters, hauling raw materials for the tobacco companies.

The year 1899 saw the founding of the Presbyterian Colored Mission in Smoketown, today known as the Presbyterian Community Center. A white ministerial student at Louisville's Presbyterian Seminary, John Little, had founded a mission for African Americans in 1898 north of Broadway on the east end of the city, in an area known then as Uptown, but now known as Phoenix Hill. While the Uptown mission had been founded as a temporary project by Little as part of his degree requirements, Little felt that the need for missions in this area was so great, that he opened a second mission in Smoketown, at the corner of Hancock and Roselane. Little stayed on for most of the rest of his career as director of the Smoketown mission, which moved to different locations in Smoketown repeatedly between 1899 and 1929. This Presbyterian mission would play a strong role in the history of the Smoketown Neighborhood in the 20th century.

3. African Americans in Smoketown 1900-1944

In 1909 the City of Louisville sponsored a tenement housing survey to investigate the living conditions of the city's poor. The study was conducted by Janet Kemp, a professional investigator who had completed several similar surveys in New York, Cleveland, and Baltimore. The study gives us a unique glimpse of urban working class life in Louisville in the early 1900s. While Smoketown was not a neighborhood dominated by the type of large-scale apartment buildings that are usually associated with the idea of tenements, part of Smoketown known as the Coke Alley District, an area near the intersection of Clay and Breckinridge Streets, was selected for study. The survey's results indicated that the Coke Alley residents took pride in their neighborhood, and tried to take care of the houses they lived in. The study remarked on how much neater the yards and houses of the Coke Alley District were kept than in other parts of the city that were studied in the survey. Still, conditions in many of the neighborhood's homes were still very unhealthy, even by the standards of American urban life in 1909. Most basements under the Coke Alley homes were cellars with dirt floors. These cellars were very damp, and often filled with stagnant water. According to

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the study, the area had been swampy before its development as a residential area, and inadequate drainage was still a problem. Almost no homes had indoor plumbing: most were still equipped with outside toilets and cisterns. The worst condition in the Coke Alley District was the fact that almost no houses in the area had running water. Many of the houses of the area had no water source at all, and those that did drank unsafe water out of polluted cisterns. Obviously, in 1909, there were perfect conditions in the neighborhood for the spread of disease. In summary, the report revealed that many of the residents took pride in the homes they lived in, but were simply in an area that had been left behind and forgotten in terms of sanitation and public works. Hence, while Smoketown's African American residents did not endure the severe conditions of filth and overcrowding suffered by some African Americans and European immigrants living in the tenements of other parts of the city, conditions in many parts of Smoketown in the early 20th century were far from ideal.

Given these living conditions, one can see why John Little thought that a mission in the Smoketown area was so important. After having housed the mission in an old organ factory for a number of years (now demolished), Little was able to collect enough donations to build a stately Colonial Revival building to house his mission in 1929. This building, located at Hancock and Lampton Streets, contained many classrooms where African American youth of the area could attend classes and learn skills, and also had a large, modern gymnasium for athletic activities. The athletic activities included boxing, and many of Louisville's most prominent African American boxers received their early training in the sport at the Presbyterian Mission. The mission encouraged African American youth to learn trades and to do skilled labor, but did not encourage them to seek higher education or high status professions. Despite this policy, which was a product of the racial prejudices typical of the time when the mission was founded, and of the condescending attitude toward African Americans held by John Little, the mission's white founder, the Presbyterian Community Center provided a much needed center of learning, recreation, and religious faith to the Smoketown community, and continues in this role today.

The boundaries of the African American settlement in Smoketown changed only slightly between 1900 and 1914. More African Americans were settling south of Caldwell at that time, but the area east of Clay street was still predominately white. This pattern would be frozen for a number of years by a segregationist housing ordinance passed by the City of Louisville in 1914. The ordinance prevented whites from moving into predominately African American blocks, but more importantly, it prevented African Americans from moving into a

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block where whites were in the majority. The ordinance is not only important as a factor in racial settlement patterns, but as an indicator of the racism prevalent in Louisville in the early 20th century. While many black entrepreneurs started businesses in the early 1900's, as a result of racism, many skilled black workers were pushed out of their jobs by whites. The 1910 census and city directories reveal that this situation was not advantageous for Smoketown. Unlike black settlements such as Parkland and Russell in the west end of Louisville, where black entrepreneurship was having reasonable success, most of the retail stores and businesses in Smoketown around 1910 were still owned by Germans or other whites. Smoketown was as much a neighborhood of low paid, unskilled workers as it had ever been, with African Americans still employed mainly in menial jobs like laborer, laundress, and janitor. Meanwhile, skilled jobs were constantly becoming harder for African Americans to find.

African Americans scored a victory in 1917 when the Supreme Court of the United States, ruling in the case of *Warley vs. Buchanan*, struck down the Louisville housing ordinance as unconstitutional. While this was a significant event historically, as one of the earliest victories for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP), it seems to have had little effect on settlement patterns in Smoketown. By 1920, the boundaries of the African American settlement in the neighborhood were as tight as they were in 1914.

On a somewhat brighter note, a new junior high school for African Americans was built on the Booker T. Washington site at Jackson and Breckinridge in 1928. A building in the art deco style, solidly constructed with structural tile and brick, the new Jackson Junior High School contained modern educational facilities, although they were, like many of the facilities at the Presbyterian Mission, were intended to direct African American youth toward jobs as craft workers or domestic servants, and not toward college and the opportunities it held for high status careers.

As the move by whites to suburban enclaves was in full swing by the 1920's, African Americans in Louisville were often able to move in to areas left behind by whites. This process was accelerated by the 1937 flood, which convinced many whites that it was worth the money to move to new suburban areas located on higher ground. Thus, the 1930's ushered in an era of change, during which traditional neighborhood boundaries based on race and ethnicity began to fade because of the mobility of the white population. This blurring of

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neighborhood boundaries surely had an effect upon Smoketown, where traditionally white areas such as the blocks east of Clay street became more open to African Americans.

The damage done to the neighborhood's housing stock by the flood, and the deterioration that resulted was likely one of the reasons that the Sheppard Square Housing Project was built in Smoketown by the Federal Housing Authority in 1942. While ostensibly meant to provide segregated, all-black war worker housing, the Sheppard Square project was also reflective of the government's preference at this time for clearing older, deteriorated residential areas for the construction of new housing units. An architecturally similar but geographically larger Federal Housing Administration project had been constructed in 1938 for whites about four blocks north of Sheppard Square, in the Uptown neighborhood (now Phoenix Hill). Located around Liberty Street, this project was known as Clarksdale. Its units were built of red brick, and had a practicality of design and a campus-like pattern of spacing very similar to that of Sheppard Square. Since segregation prevented African Americans from inhabiting Clarksdale, Sheppard Square was probably intended as the all-black counterpart to Clarksdale. While the Sheppard Square project displaced some older residents of the neighborhood who were not eligible to live in the multi-bedroom, family oriented apartments of the project, many younger families of the area moved into the complex. The modern plumbing facilities, low level of necessary maintenance, and status of the project as a group of brand new buildings in 1942 was seen as an improvement over the unsanitary conditions in the neighborhood characterized in the 1909 Tenement Housing Report, conditions that were probably worsened by the 1937 flood.

The building stock of the Smoketown Historic District forms a unique reflection of the many different patterns of development experienced by an African American residential community in Louisville during the 80 years between the close of the Civil war and the middle of the Second World War. The oldest parts of the neighborhood reveal the small lots, dense system of alleys and minor streets, and narrow wood frame shotgun houses that could be expected in a post-Civil War African American neighborhood in Louisville. The later buildings of the area reflect more modern techniques of design, construction, and planning, and show the development and growth of public and religious institutions in the neighborhood through the year 1944.

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A CHRONOLOGY OF ETHNIC SETTLEMENT PATTERNS FOR THE SMOKETOWN NEIGHBORHOOD 1855-1920

Sources: Caron's Directory of the City of Louisville, 1857-1920
Atlas of the City of Louisville, 1876
Weeden's History of the Colored People of Louisville, 1897.

- 1855 Birdseye view of Louisville shows little settlement south of Broadway; a few shotgun houses and a multi-story brick house shown on east side of area
- 1857 Caron's Louisville City Directory indicates residential settlement just south of Broadway, along Laurel Street and Rose Lane; area is ethnically mixed, with Germans predominating
- 1861 City directory shows continued settlement in blocks just south of Broadway; directory uses name "Smoketown" to identify area; Germans continue to predominate settlement
- 1865 Abolition of slavery and end of Civil War brings many African Americans to Louisville; first appearance of African Americans in Smoketown found in the City Directory.
- 1866 Weeden's History of the Colored People of Louisville states that in 1866 African Americans leased lots and built homes on block bounded by Preston, Jackson, Breckinridge and Caldwell Streets, but that African Americans eventually lost homes when leases expired
- 1870 Smoketown home to a growing African American community, largely centered in the northern portion of the neighborhood, around Laurel and Lampton Streets; still heavy German presence in most parts of neighborhood
- 1876 City directory reveals a large number of African Americans living in Smoketown, but comparisons between directory and 1876 City Atlas reveal that

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- most African Americans in Smoketown rented property owned by white German landowners; most areas of neighborhood still have strong German presence
- 1885 Strong areas of African American settlement in western 2/3 of area (from Preston street to Hancock, and from the alley behind Broadway south almost to Caldwell Street); racially mixed settlement occurs within this area as well; areas east of Clay and south of Caldwell predominately white, German; very few African Americans own their own homes
- 1900 Area east of Clay still predominantly German; pockets of white settlement still very common in predominately African American areas of neighborhood; African American area of settlement mainly between alley behind Broadway and Caldwell Street, and between Preston and Clay Streets, with a few African Americans between Shelby and Clay
- 1910 Areas east of Clay and south of Caldwell still primarily German, still large pockets of white settlement in predominately African American area; African American area of settlement more sharply defined (area defined by alley behind Broadway, Caldwell, Preston and Clay streets); most African Americans outside this block live in alley structures or on minor streets such as Speckert
- 1915 Boundaries of African American community similar to 1910, but with more settlement along and to the south of Caldwell; Kentucky Street and area east of Clay still white; racial housing boundaries temporarily frozen by segregationist housing ordinance of 1914
- 1917 Segregationist housing ordinance struck down by Supreme Court
- 1920 Boundaries similar to 1915

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A CHRONOLOGY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS SIGNIFICANT TO THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 1820-1920

Sources: George Wright's Life Behind a Veil: Blacks in Louisville, Kentucky, 1865-1930., and George Wilson's A Century of Negro Education in Louisville.

- 1829 First African Baptist founded as first African American church in Louisville.
- 1841 first recorded school for African Americans in Louisville opened by Rev. Henry Adams near Walnut and Ninth.
- 1857 Dred Scott Decision makes it legal for slave owners and their agents to enter the northern states and force escaped slaves back into servitude.
- 1861 Beginning of the American Civil War.
- 1863 Jan. 1: Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect, freeing slaves in the rebellious states of the south, but not in border states like Kentucky.
- 1864 March: Union Army in Kentucky begins the recruitment of black soldiers, offering them and their families freedom in exchange for military service. Many black men forced into service.
- 1865 General John Palmer, an abolitionist, is appointed commanding officer of Union forces in Kentucky, and is headquartered in Louisville. In April, 1865 he begins issuing passes to all blacks assuring safe passage into the northern states. Soon, a rumor starts that Palmer will free all African Americans present in Louisville on July 4th, 1865. As a result, about 20,000 to 50,000 African Americans come to Louisville in the summer of 1865.

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- 1865 December 18th: ratification of 13th Amendment finally puts an end to slavery in Kentucky.
- 1865 African American men and women, recently freed from slavery, begin to settle in Louisville's Smoketown Neighborhood.
- 1866 Passage of Fourteenth Amendment, intended to protect the civil and political rights of blacks from being violated by state and local laws. The principles of the amendment are enforced by the Federal Government until the late 1870's, when the old patterns of discrimination are allowed to reappear.
- 1866 January: U.S. Government establishes a Kentucky branch of the Freedman's Bureau, an agency intended to help recently freed blacks establish social and economic stability, because of white resentment in the state against efforts of religious missions and private aid societies to help blacks.
- 1866 Freedman's Bureau begins sponsoring educational opportunities for black Louisvillians in cooperation with local churches. Bureau also maintains a hospital, orphanage, a home for the destitute, and a branch of the Freedman's Bank for African Americans in Louisville.
- 1868 Freedmen's Bureau builds a central school for the education of African American teachers in Kentucky at the corner of Fourteenth and Broadway in Louisville.
- 1869 Freedman's Bureau pulls out of Kentucky and Louisville, leaving the Freedman's Bank Branch, and turning all of its other institutions over to the City of Louisville.
- 1870 October: First public schools for African Americans in Louisville open at Fifth Street African Baptist Church and at Center Street African Methodist Church.
- 1870 October 30th: African Americans begin court case to end racial discrimination on Louisville's streetcar system. A local court rules for segregation of the streetcars, but the U.S. District Court overturns the ruling, and awards the plaintiffs a small amount of money for damages. Black Louisvillians are able to sit where they

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choose to on the streetcars until the mid 1880's, when railways begin to re-introduce segregationist policies.

1871 September 4th: Three smaller public schools established for African Americans in Louisville are consolidated into one large school located at the Freedman's Bureau teachers' school site at Fourteenth and Broadway.

1872 Founding of a second public school for African Americans in the east end of Louisville, located near the intersection of Chestnut and Campbell Streets. School later moves to the corner of Jackson and Breckinridge and is named Booker T. Washington School.

1873 Founding of Central High School for African Americans in Louisville, located at 6th and Kentucky Streets.

1874 Although well managed and financially sound, Louisville branch of the Freedman's Bank closes, due to a national collapse of the bank caused by the panic of 1873.

1875 Congress passes a civil rights act intended to end discrimination in theaters, hotels and other public places. The Louisville municipal government, dominated by former confederates, refuses enforce the act, and encourages discriminatory policies.

1880's Increasing amounts of segregation laws exclude black Louisvillians from a large number of facilities and services.

1880's Some black brick makers, hod carriers and musicians are allowed to form union chapters under the Knights of Labor. Black and white members of the knights march together on May 1, 1886, in a demonstration for an 8 hour work day.

1891 Black settlement known as "Little Africa" is founded in the Parkland area

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- 1894 Dr. Henry Fitzbutler, first black physician in Kentucky, forms the R.B. Elliot Club as an organization to promote the political involvement of African Americans in Louisville.
- 1895 The Republican Party gains control of the Louisville City Government through the help of black voters, but does little to help African Americans while in power.
- 1898 Rev. John Little, a white minister studying at the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, establishes a mission for African Americans in the east end of Louisville, on Hancock Street north of Broadway. In 1899, he establishes a second mission in Smoketown at Roselane and Hancock Streets.
- C. 1900 White unions begin forcing some blacks out of skilled jobs. Blacks in six trades are able to form their own unions: waiters, cooks, coopers, hod carriers, hackmen and teamsters.
- C.1900 Louisville African Americans form the Negro Outlook Committee, in order to protect themselves from the police brutality of the Whallen dominated political machine of city government.
- 1908 Opening of the Western Branch Library, first public library in Louisville for African Americans. Opened largely through the efforts of black educator Albert Meyzeek.
- 1909 Founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP) in New York City.
- 1914 Mayor John Bushmeyer signs Louisville Housing Segregation Ordinance into effect, designating each city block as black or white, and making it illegal for blacks to move into designated white areas, and for whites to move into designated black areas.
- 1914 Rev. E.G. Harris founds the Plymouth Settlement House, a social service facility operated by African Americans.

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- 1914 Founding of an Eastern Branch Library for African Americans
- 1915 Founding of Mammoth Mutual in Louisville, a black owned insurance company. Beginning of a strong period of black entrepreneurship from 1915-1929.
- 1917 Louisville's Housing Segregation Ordinance struck down in court. Although whites find other ways of attaining discrimination in housing, decision is an important early legal victory for the NAACP.

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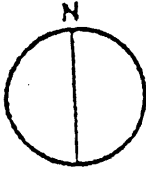
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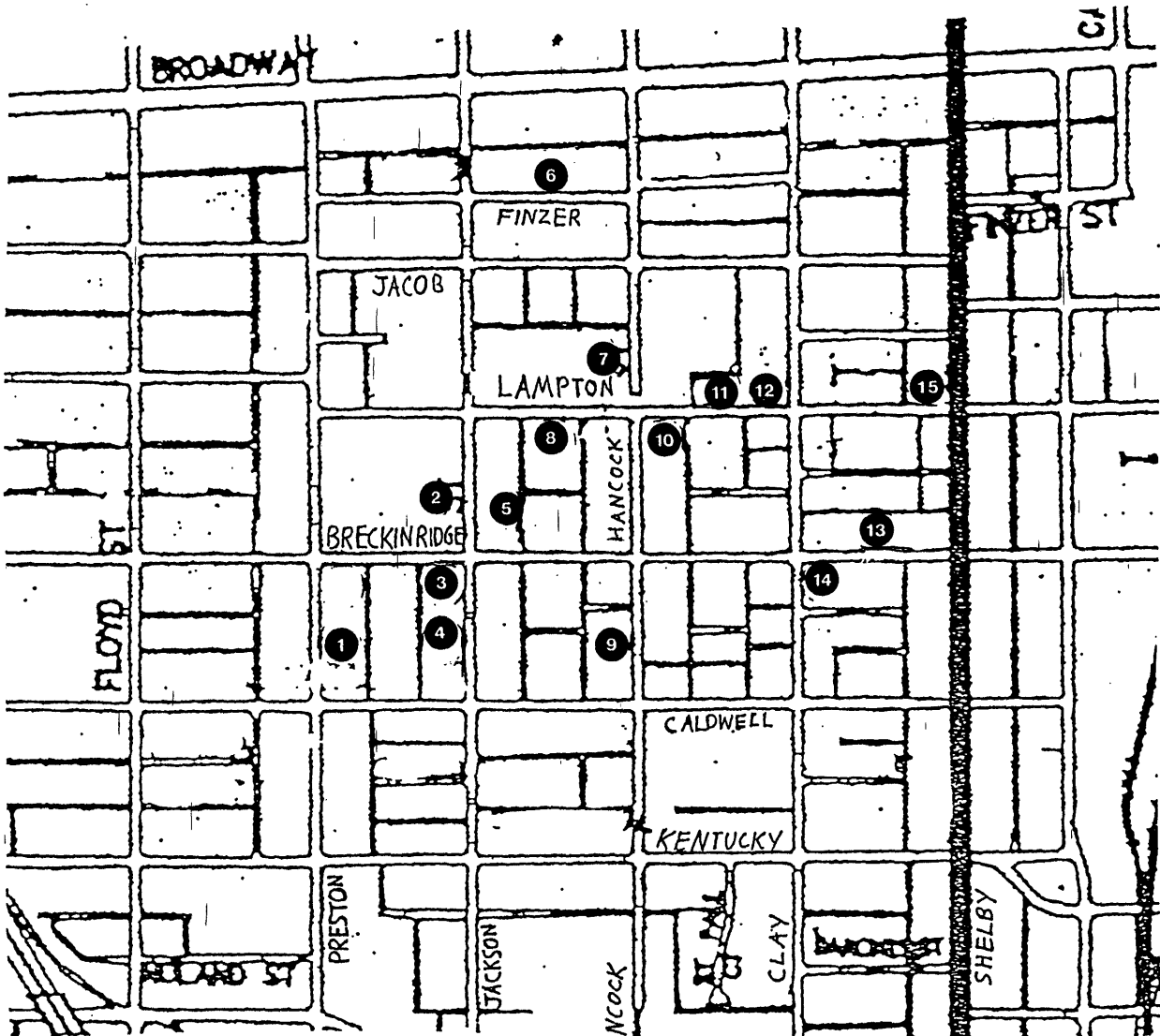
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- 9) 900 Block of South Hancock
West Side (Duplexes are a common rental housing form in Smoketown, and are often found in pairs such as these)
- 10.) Eastern Branch Free Public Library
600 Lampton Street
Primary Facade (Opened in 1913, it is the second oldest facility built for use by African Americans in Louisville's segregated library system. It is now a community clinic)
- 11.) Bates Memorial Baptist Church
619 Lampton Street
Primary Facade (Another historically significant African American church in Smoketown)
- 12.) 629 Lampton Street
Primary Facade (An example of one of the public housing units of Sheppard Square)
- 13.) 700 Block of East Breckinridge Street
North Side (Uniform brick shotgun houses built by German families in the 1870s, and inhabited by African Americans later in the period of significance)
- 14.) Grace Hope Presbyterian Church
700 East Breckinridge Street
- 15.) 700 Block of South Shelby Street
East Side (Combination of shotgun houses with a multi-story corner commercial structure)

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SEPT-29-1928
COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL - JACKSON & BRACK. STS.
SHOWING PROPERTY ADJOINING NORTH END
OF SCHOOL
PHOTO No 95554



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GRACE HOPE PRESBYTERIAN Church Collection,
HOUSE interior, SITE ADDRESS UNKNOWN
c. 1920

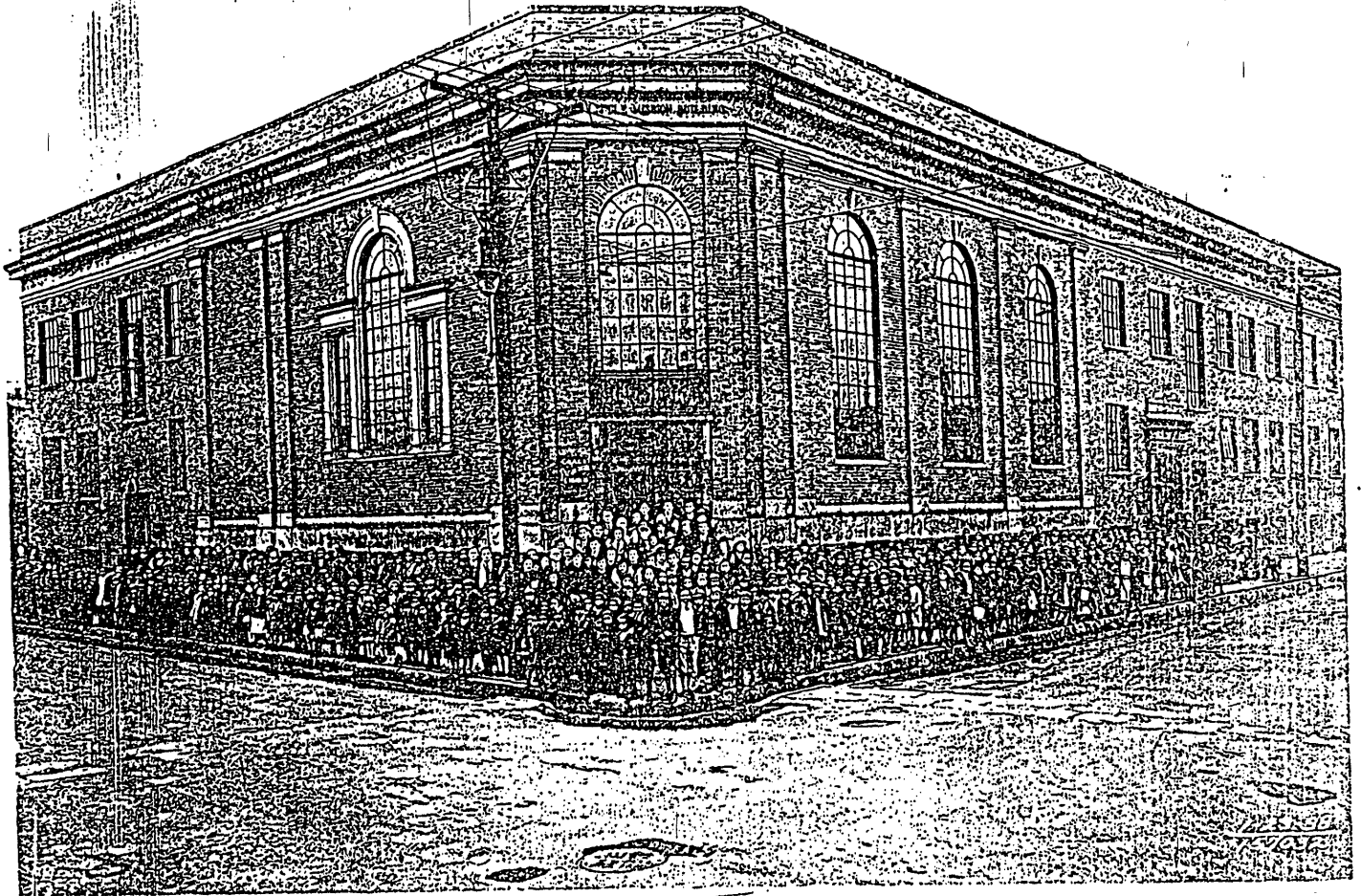


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1938

O.L. ARCHIVES

Presbyterian Community Center

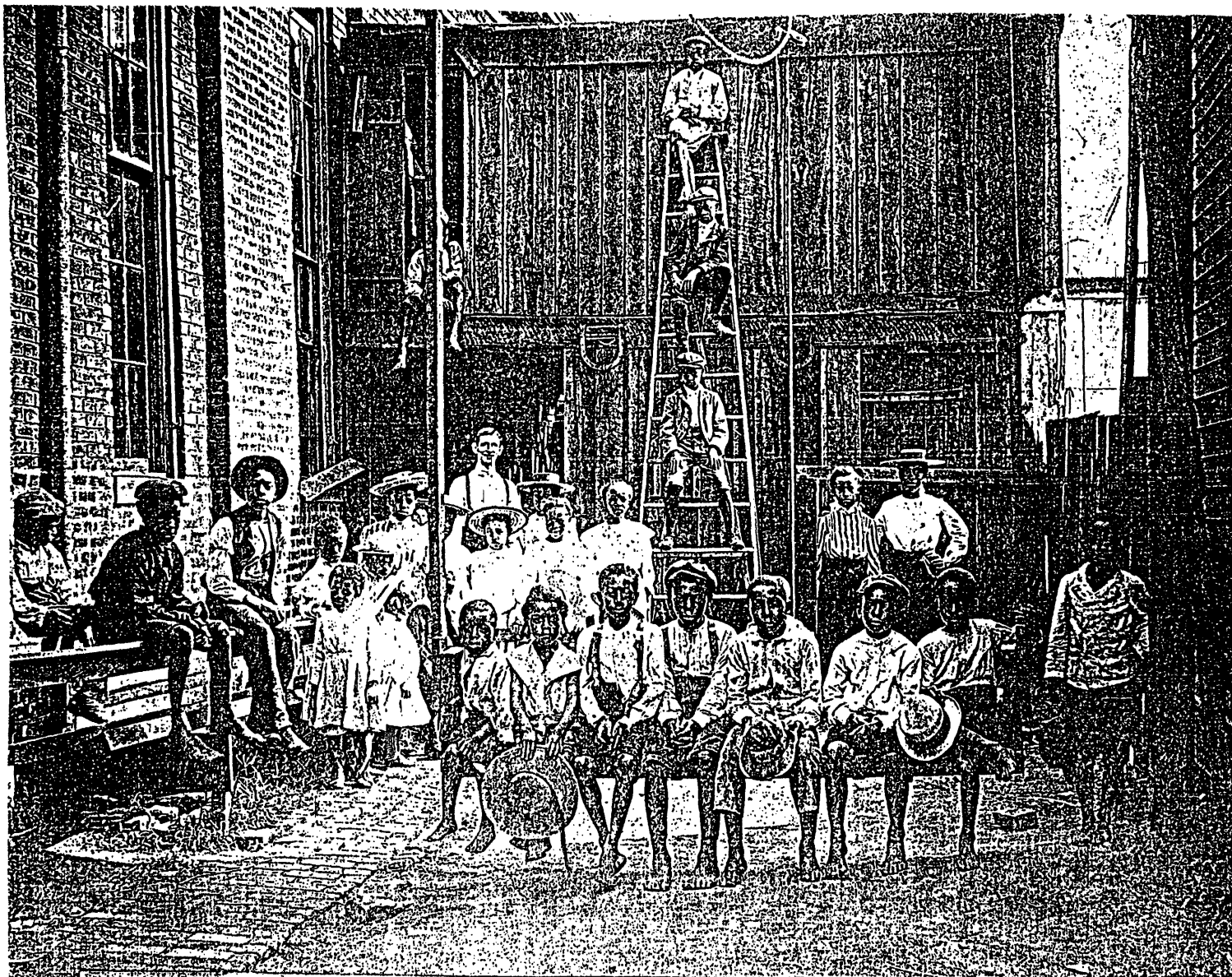
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University of Louisville Archives, Presbyterian Community Center Collection. Taken early 1900s.



The Play Ground at the Hanbeck St. Chapel.

First play ground for colored children opened in Louisville. The Presbyterian Church Mission.

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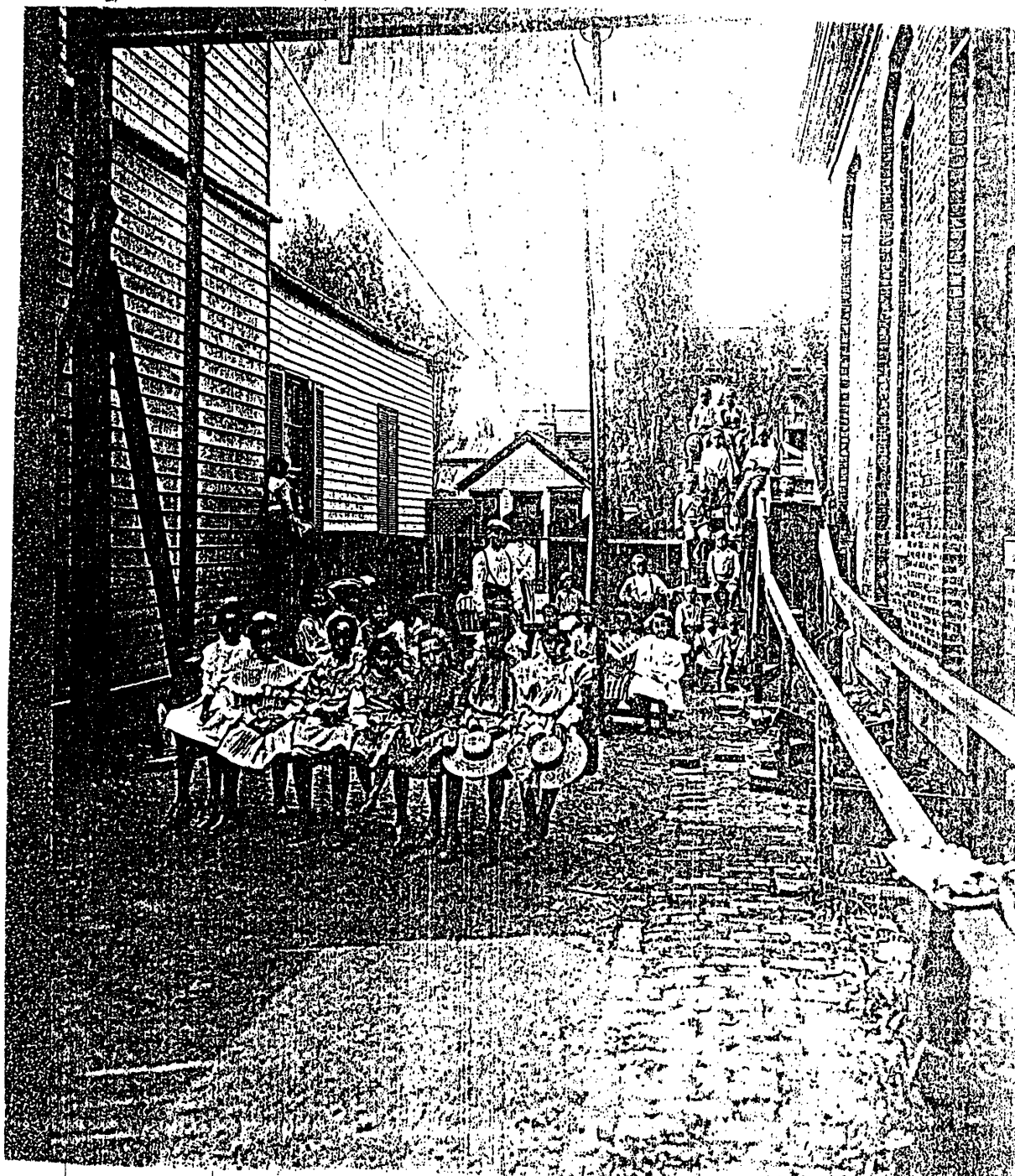
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University of Louisville Photo Archives Collection

The first playground for colored children in the East End was started in the side yard of the old church on the corner of Hancock and Roselane. This picture was taken with the camera facing north.



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GRACE HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLLECTION,
STREET SCENE (PROBABLY OF THE SITE DEMOLISHED TO
MAKE WAY FOR SHEPPARD'S SQUARE HOUSING PROJECT
c 1910-1920

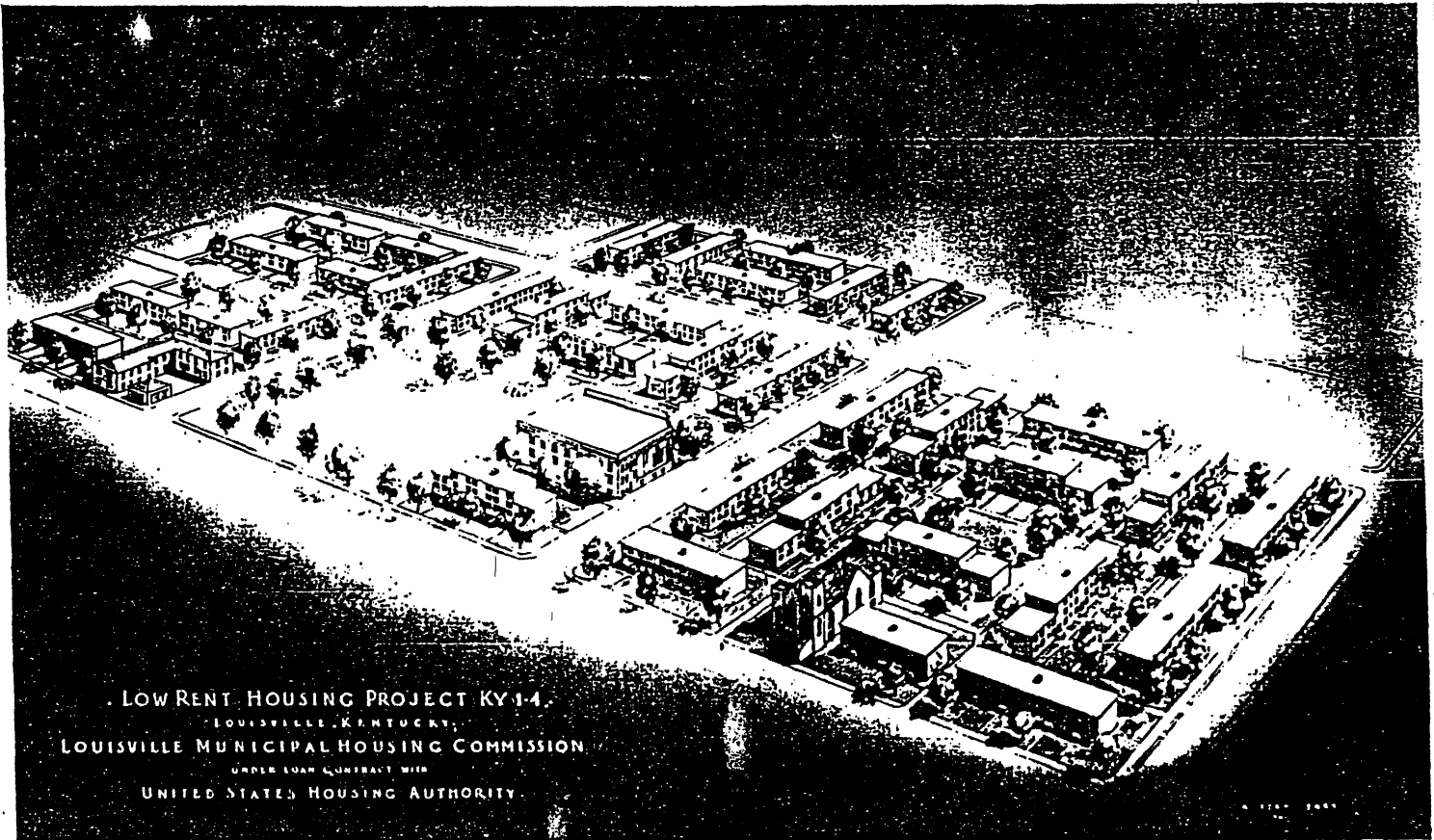


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1941
Builder/Architect
A. REED HENRY