

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAR 31 1980**
DATE ENTERED **MAY 7 1980**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME *Historic*
HISTORIC *Russell District*
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION *Roughly bounded by S. 15th, S. 26th, Congress*
STREET & NUMBER *and W. Broadway Sts.*
CITY, TOWN *Louisville* VICINITY OF *3 & 4*
STATE *Kentucky* CODE *021* COUNTY *Jefferson* CODE *111*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME *multiple - see print-out*

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Jefferson County Courthouse*
STREET & NUMBER *6th & Jefferson Sts.*
CITY, TOWN *Louisville,* STATE *Kentucky 40202*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE *Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory*
DATE *1979* FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *Kentucky Heritage Commission*
CITY, TOWN *Frankfort* STATE *Kentucky*

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Russell District lies to the west of the central business district of Louisville, with its boundaries being the alley north of Jefferson St. on the north, the alley south of Magazine St. and the alley south of Elliott Ave. on the south, 38th St., 29th St., 26th St. and 24th St. on the west, and the alley east of 18th St., 15th St., 17th St., 18th St., and 15th St. on the east (see boundary justification in #8). The area included in this nomination has various zoning classifications, but the major classification is R-6, residential. R-8, residential, is the second most predominant classification, with C-1, commercial, M-1, industrial, C-2, commercial, and R-7, residential comprising a much smaller portion of the area (Map 1). Approximately 1700 structures are included in the district.

As one of the earliest streets in the district to be developed, several residential amenities line Jefferson St. Western Cemetery between 15th and 18th Sts. is the city's oldest cemetery and was converted to a park in the 1890s. In the northwest corner of the park lies the Jefferson Branch Library (National Register, 1979), designed in the Beaux Arts style by local architect D. X. Murphy in 1913. Hook and Ladder Co. #4 is located on the northwest corner of 23rd and Jefferson Sts., and was built in 1890 during the height of the Russell development. It is a fine, brick utilitarian design.

Six of the district's twelve churches are found on Jefferson St. Central Christian Church, 1701 W. Jefferson St., is a modest Gothic revival structure built in 1882. Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1901 W. Jefferson St., is a magnificent Romanesque Revival church built in 1894, and now serves the congregation of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, the oldest black congregation in Louisville. (Photo 12) A lovely arcade on the Jefferson St. side of the church is balanced by a magnificent corner tower. Across the street is Corinthian Baptist Church, 1910 W. Jefferson St., built in 1882 in a Gothic Revival style, with an elliptical apse. Good Shephard Baptist Church, 1923 West Jefferson St. (Photo 14), and Wesley AME Evangelical Church, 2244 W. Jefferson St., were both built in 1888 in the Gothic Revival style. Wesley AME has remained in use by the same congregation since its founding. Fenner Memorial, 2115 W. Jefferson St., is one of the finest works of the architectural firm of McDonald & Sheblessey, a local firm. Built in 1902-03, it is also the most handsome of the Gothic Revival churches in Russell. (Photo 10)

22nd & Walnut St. Baptist Church (Walnut St. is now Muhammad Ali Blvd.) was built in the Romanesque Revival style. (Photo 11) C. A. Curtin designed this church in 1886. Curtin was also responsible for the design of St. Charles Borromeo Church at 2704 W. Chestnut St. (Photo 15) St. Charles is designed in the Early Basilica style, an unusual style in Louisville.

Plymouth Congregational Church, 1630 W. Chestnut St., was organized in 1882, and replaced a frame church building with the existing orange glazed brick church in 1929. It is a lovely Gothic Revival structure. Plymouth Congregational Church was also responsible for the establishment of the Plymouth Settlement in 1917, which provided a living quarters for working girls, children and adults, and a place for wholesome recreation and educational classes for adults and juveniles.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Russell District lies in its rich architectural heritage and its role in the history of the black community in Louisville. Russell has, since its birth in the late nineteenth century, been known for its large, beautiful residences. In the first quarter of this century, Russell became the center of black social and commercial activity, as well as the earliest local residential enclave for middle-class blacks, and continues to serve many of the same purposes for the black community.

Residential development began in the western section of Louisville with the end of the Civil War. The development originally extended west from Sixth St., but with recent urban renewal mass demolition, the historic district begins at 15th St. The northern boundary of the district is the alley north of Jefferson St. Market St., north of this boundary, is comprised of predominantly commercial, Victorian and Italianate structures, and the character of the area is different from that of the Russell district. The southern boundary is the alley south of Magazine St. from 18th St. to 24th St., and the alley south of Elliott Ave. from 24th St. to 28th St. Broadway, south of this boundary, was, at one time, lined with fine Victorian residences, but commercial and industrial encroachment has diminished its character. The eastern and western boundaries vary according to the concentration of significant structures. Chestnut St. is a very solid strip of architecturally significant buildings. The boundary, therefore, was drawn east to 15th St. and west to 29th St. East of 15th St. is an urban renewal area, and west of 29th St. is industrial development. Jefferson St. also extends east to 15th St. but a section between 15th St. and 18th St., Madison St. and Cedar St., has not been included in the nomination because the character of the district breaks down due to multiple demolitions and alterations. On the western side of the district, the 2500 block of Cedar St., and everything west of 26th St. and north of Madison St. has been excluded from the district for the same reason. This section is also of later construction and lacks architectural significance. (Map 2)

A rapid population increase during the Civil War years led to residential expansion in Louisville. The greatest suburban growth occurred in the 1870s and 1880s in the Russell area. The increasingly crowded conditions in the downtown area, the general growth in population, and the romantic idealization of rural life, all contributed to people's desire to move out.

The development of cheap transportation was a major factor in suburban growth. During the late 1860s several transit lines were established in Louisville, employing mule-drawn streetcars running on rails. Besides the old Portland line, there was a railway extending out Market St. to 18th St. In the 1870s and 1880s other lines

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas, 1876, Louisville Abstract and Loan Assn., Louisville,

Atlas, 1884, G. M. Hopkins, Philadelphia,

"Biographical Sketch of Harvey C. Russell" Landmarks Commission files, no date.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 320 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville West
New Albany, Ind.-Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 0 |

B | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

C | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

D | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 0 |

E | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. A. Allgeier

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 11, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main St.

TELEPHONE

502-587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky 40202

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward W. Shelton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-14-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Paul W. Ray
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/7/80

ATTEST: *Kristin J. O'Connell*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4/29/80

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The Doerhoefer-Hampton House, 2422 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, KY
National Register, 1979.

The Jefferson Branch Library, 1718 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, KY
National Register, 1979.

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Asbury Chapel, at 18th and W. Chestnut Sts., was built in 1880 as the Zion Church. It is a small, red brick Gothic Revival church with lovely stained glass windows. Third Presbyterian Church, now United Pentacostal Church of Holiness, 1604 W. Chestnut St., is another brick Gothic Revival church which dates from 1882. The last architecturally or historically significant church in the district is Hughlett Temple, at 2324 W. Chestnut St., an 1894 Gothic Revival structure.

Other buildings which contribute to the character of the district include the old Twelfth Ward School at 22nd and Magazine sts. It is a three-story brick Victorian structure built in 1889 to serve the Russell Community. It is currently used commercially.

Harvey C. Russell Junior High School, (Photo 20) is a fine Neo-Classical structure, built in 1922. Originally Western Departmental School, it was rededicated in 1961 to the educator who was so influential in the area, and for whom the neighborhood was named. The building, located at 18th and Madison sts, is currently vacant.

Russell is, however, primarily a residential district. Approximately 1700 residential structures comprise the district. These structures can generally be divided into six stylistic categories; Italianate, Victorian, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque and hotgun. There are also commercial interpretations of each.

The Italianate style is the most frequently used of the early styles, and is generally found on those streets where middle to upper income individuals chose to build. No. 1936 W. Jefferson, c1882, is an example of a three-story brick Italianate residence. It is three bays in width with a recessed entrance, stone window hoods and a bracketed cornice. No. 2510 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., 1873, is also three stories, but is an example of the larger Italianate dwelling, with an L shaped plan and five facade bays. (Photo 9) The architectural detail work is generally the same, but this residence also retains its cast iron porch. An example of a lower-to-middle class Italianate residence is No. 2212 W. Madison St., c1883. It is a two-story, three bay, brick structure with similar architectural detailing. The Italianate style, as used in the lower-to-middle income areas of Russell, is generally less decorative, with either incised lintels instead of elaborate window hoods, or simple hoods, and usually two instead of three stories in height. Nearly all of the Italianate residences are brick.

The Victorian style is by far the most predominant style used in Russell, in both lower and upper income areas. The style is flexible and can easily be applied to clapboard or masonry structures, narrow or wide lots. No. 2110 W. Chestnut St., 1898, is an example of the late Victorian style. It is a two-and-one-half-story brick residence with a lavish pink marble columned porch and sculpted terra cotta details. Also on Chestnut St., No. 2415, 1895, is a frame Victorian example of generally the same size, scale and quality. The door and window caps are decorated with Victorian gingerbread motifs, and the gabled porch contains a spindle-arched entrance. Similar Victorian residences can be found generally on Muhammad Ali Blvd. and Jefferson St.

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Russell District

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ITEM NUMBER

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More modest interpretations of this style are generally of frame construction and are found on the alternate east-west streets and the cross streets. As an example, No. 2410 Elliott is a two-story frame Victorian duplex, situated on a very narrow lot (Photo 28). The gable is filled with fish scale shingles and the windows and doors are all hooded with simple but elegant details. No. 628 22nd St. is similar. It is also a two-story frame structure on a very narrow lot, but has used different decorative features, such as bargeboards.

Along with the outstanding Victorian homes in Russell, there are several Queen Anne structures which are outstanding. No. 2100 W. Chestnut is an example of the Queen Anne style in Russell. Designed by McDonald Bros., the most prominent architectural firm locally of the period, this two-and-one-half-story brick residence has two horse-shoe shaped openings, a massive tower, and a cantilevered bay window (Photo 6). No. 2417 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. is another example of the Queen Anne style (Photo 8). It is a three-story brick residence with a four-bay facade filled with irregular openings and multiple decorative elements.

The Richardsonian Romanesque style is not as frequently used in Russell as it is in other areas of the city, but where the style was applied, it was mastered. The most outstanding is the Ouerbacher House, a massive three-and-one-half-story stone residence (Photo 1). Located at No. 1633 W. Jefferson St., it is located directly across from Western Cemetery. Two towers rise to full height, one with a third floor balcony. Clark and Loomis, a local architectural firm, designed this residence. Other fine examples of the Richardsonian Romanesque style are No. 2324 W. Jefferson, with the typically heavy arched entrance and No. 2343 W. Chestnut St. The latter has a particularly interesting interpretation of the style, with engaged paired columns between the first floor arched openings, and alternating rectangular and arched openings on the second floor.

The fifth style used in the Russell District, the shotgun, is the most common style, and the one which makes the greatest contribution to the adhesive architectural character of the district. The shotgun residence is common throughout the city of Louisville, but perhaps in no other section of the city are so very many varying types of the style found. The shotgun is basically one room wide and three rooms deep. Variations of the style include the camelback shotgun, with an additional one or two rooms above the rear, the L shaped camel back with a side entrance, and the single-story shotgun with a side entrance. Brick and clapboard are both used, with various roof pitches, porches, fenestration and decoration. The plan is generally the same, but rarely can two identical shotguns be found. This style was largely used by the working class, and is most frequently found on Cedar, Madison, Magazine and the numbered cross streets.

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An example of the typical frame shotgun can be found at No. 2128 Madison St. It is a single-story shotgun with low sloping roof, no porch addition, bracketed cornice and hooded doors and windows. No. 2123 Madison is a brick, single-story shotgun with the L plan. It has a low sloping pyramidal roof, and elaborate stone hoods. No. 2519 W. Madison has a gabled roof and features which illustrate the diversity of shotgun design. Fish scale shingles, a Palladian window and a semi-elliptical stained glass transom are all elements which are used in the shotgun design to express the individuality of the owner or builder.

Duplexes are common in the Russell District. Some are designed in the same styles used by adjacent properties, as seen at No. 2233 W. Chestnut St. It is a two-story brick Victorian duplex with stone lintels, a bracketed cornice and small frame porches to the recessed corner entrances. This type is the most common and is frequently found in the district. There are two duplexes on Jefferson St. designed by Drach and Thomas in the early 1890's. No. 2002-04 is a three-story brick, late Victorian structure with cantilevered bay windows on the second floor, horse-shoe shaped windows and stained-glass transoms on the first floor (Photo 18). No. 2243-45 W. Jefferson is a two-and-one-half-story structure with a Romanesque Revival flair. All the arched windows have brick voussoirs, and sandstone stringcourses articulate the facade divisions. Two gables rest in the center of the structure and contain fish scale shingles.

There are many structures in the Russell District which are exceptional examples of their particular styles, but to site them all is not feasible. These outstanding architectural examples do, however, play a major role in the character of the district and should be mentioned.

No. 2008 W. Jefferson St. is a magnificent brick structure designed in a transitional style from Italianate to Victorian (Photo 7). An unusual cast iron porch with slender classical columns has other features which are repeated in the facade decoration. The first floor windows begin at the porch level and rise to full height, with very large leaded-glass transoms. The windows are hinged and can be opened onto the porch. The facade is articulated with engaged columns, recessed and protruding bays, curved brick corners and a pressed metal cornice. This house is an extraordinary architectural accomplishment and is currently in excellent condition.

No. 2309 W. Chestnut is a modest frame residence designed in the Shingle Style. Although there has been a porch addition, this residence is a contributing structure to the district, and is one of few Shingle Style residences in the area. The asymmetrical design is highlighted by a gable, one side of which extends down through the second floor plane where a small balcony is formed. Fish scale shingles are used for the upper two-thirds of the facade.

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The shotgun residence is the most common building style in the area, but the Russell District contains the only row-shotguns known in the city. Nos. 2323-2329 W. Chestnut St., four camel-back shotguns, are all connected by the two-story rear sections of each (Photo 24). The protruding "shotgun" has a single bay on the facade with elaborate incised stone lintels. The entrances to all four residences are from the west side, with an additional entrance in the rear where the houses are connected. The facade gables of each are decorated with different features.

In several sections of the district, the consistency in architectural style reveals a speculative development, but this is usually found involving only three or four structures. In the 2800 block of Chestnut St., however, are twelve nearly identical brick structures built in 1898 by Wm. Bennett, a developer. They are all two-and-one-half-story brick Victorian residences. Different color brick and various differences in detailing keep the similarities from being monotonous.

The variety of architectural styles and building materials used in Russell combine to create a cohesive district with a predominance of residential structures, with commercial uses interspersed. Besides the high quality of architecture generally employed in the district, the use of consistent set-backs also contributes to the area's character. Most of the buildings are spaced evenly and fairly close to each other. The larger the lot the larger the building. The relationship, therefore, of buildings with each other is very compatible.

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were added, so that by 1887 there were one hundred twenty-five miles of track used annually by over twenty million passengers. The early trolley cars were cold and slow, averaging five miles per hour, but they were inexpensive. For the first time people who could not afford carriages were no longer required to live within walking distance of their jobs.

The new practice of buying land on credit put suburban living within the reach of the middle and working classes. Building and loan companies offered "long credit and low terms" (a six year note at 6 percent came into existence in the 1860s). By the mid-1870s there were thirteen building and loan associations in Louisville. The number had more than doubled by the early 1890s.

According to the Atlas of 1884, there were a number of subdivisions in what is now Russell. These included the Ferguson Subdivision, Carver, Bryants West End Addition, and Weyers Subdivision, just to mention a few. The bulk of the area was annexed in 1868, with the area west of 26th St. being annexed in 1894.

The area today known as Russell continued to grow from the 1870s through the 1890s as a fashionable residential enclave. But residential areas south and east of Louisville increased in popularity in the 1890s and a change in population patterns began. The area evolved through a normal process of white abandonment and black replacement. This phenomenon, however, occurred early in the century, with the black community well established in Russell as early as 1925. The major streets in Russell which contained large, expensive residences were purchased by black professionals in the early years. From 1910 through 1930 the alternate streets, which contained the more modest, working-class residences, experienced a more gradual increase in black occupancy. At that time, the quality of housing increased from east to west. This pattern remains the same today, as does the area's predominantly black population.

An indication of the rapid influx of black families can be found in the establishment of the Plymouth Settlement House. Plymouth Congregational Church was founded in 1880 and was located at 17th and Chestnut sts. In 1917, the church opened the Settlement House as living quarters for working girls, and as a place for wholesome entertainment for children and adults. The Settlement also provided classes for adults and juveniles. Rev. E. G. Harris, the founder of the Settlement, was a highly respected black minister, and solicited funds for the Settlement from the very influential families in Louisville, among them the Speed, Belknap and Brandeis families. With their assistance in financial and administrative matters, the Settlement became the area's most vital institution. Today, the name has been changed to Plymouth Urban Center, but it still provides the same services as when it was founded.

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Before Russell became a predominantly black community, the alleys were lined with small residences, usually in the shotgun style and frame construction. Oral history tells us that these were the dwellings of black families who worked for the white property owners. It is not certain whether the houses were rented or owned by the residents, or if the white land owners built the alley structures for their servants. Whatever the situation may have been, it has been said that the alleys were always full of activity, and were considered the real heart of the black community in those early years. Few of these structures have survived the years, but some can be found on Plymouth Alley, Green Alley, Esquire Alley and Eddy Alley. (Photos 37, 38, 39, 40)

Russell was the home of several leaders in the black community. Samuel Plato was one of Louisville's few black architects. Simmons University (Limerick National Register District - 1978), the The Virginia Avenue School, Zion AME Church, and numerous Post Office buildings throughout the nation are of Plato's design. He built his own home at No. 2509 W. Chestnut St. about 1929. He used one of his favorite building materials, yellow brick. The house is designed in a modified Tudor style.

Harvey Clarence Russell, for whom the area is named, built his home in the late 1920s at 2345 W. Chestnut. Russell studied at Kentucky State Normal School and received his A. B. from Simmons University and a M. A. from the University of Cincinnati. Education was an important part of his life and in 1961, the Madison Street Junior High School (originally Western Departmental School) was renamed Harvey C. Russell Junior High School. Russell had served as a teacher in the Bloomfield Public School, Frankfort State Normal, Louisville Normal and Simmons University. In addition, he was Dean of Kentucky State College, President of West Kentucky Industrial College, President of West Kentucky State Vocational School and a trustee and Business Manager of Simmons University. He was appointed a specialist in Negro education in the United States Office of Education and was elected President of the Kentucky Educational Association.

The Russell District can be generalized as a district with streets of alternating character. Predominantly large homes are found on Jefferson, Walnut and Chestnut Sts. The alternating east-west streets of Cedar, Madison, Magazine and Elliott are representative of more modest dwellings. (See detailed description in #7.)

Jefferson St. is a broad boulevard and one of the first streets in the district to be developed. Besides a park and library as residential amenities, Jefferson St. also has six churches dating from the late 1870s to the early 1900s in the Gothic Revival style, and a fine firehouse built in 1890. (Photos 10, 12, 13, 14, 19)

The type of architecture found on Cedar St. is modest working-class housing, generally clapboard shotgun residences, with some interspersed brick construction. The dates of construction are early, 1870-1880.

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Muhammad Ali Blvd. began to develop as a residential area in the 1870s with a few commercial ventures located at major intersections. Some of the area's grandest structures are located in the western-most blocks of Muhammad Ali Blvd. (Photos 8, 9, 26, 30)

On Madison St., working class housing can be found, but clapboard and brick construction are more mixed. Nearly every residence is a shotgun, with two or three Italianate residences interspersed. The period of construction is 1875-85. (Photo 27)

Chestnut St. is the most solid stretch of quality residential architecture in the Russell neighborhood, taking in thirteen full blocks. The styles vary from grand Queen Anne residences to modest frame shotguns. Some of the more unusual structures on Chestnut include: No. 2309 a Shingle Style residence, c1881; No. 2314, a lovely three-story Italianate home with limestone facade, 1895; No. 2411, a large frame Victorian residence with imaginative detailing, 1895; and Nos. 2323-29, the only row-shotgun houses in the city. (Photos 4, 5, 6, 15, 17, 23, 24, 29)

Magazine St. is comprised primarily of moderate to low income housing, predominantly in the shotgun style, built in the period between 1890-1900. Development progressed south and west, with some residences in the 2600 block of Elliott being constructed as late as 1910. A pocket of dwellings in the 2400 block of Elliott Ave. (originally Bainbridge St.) were constructed c1887-1895 and provide the only exception to this general development pattern. The structures on Elliott Ave. are working class dwellings built in shotgun, one-story cottage, and modest two-story Victorian styles. Many are duplex dwellings and most of the property was developed as rental property. (Photos 3, 28)

There are several intrusions in the district, all of which are indicated on the map enclosed. Intrusions are those buildings recently constructed or older buildings which are grossly altered, which are not consistent or compatible with the district. Parking lots are also indicated as intrusions, but not vacant lots. The intrusions in the district are scattered and do not diminish the character of the district. (Photos 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36)

Like many urban neighborhoods, Russell has suffered from some years of neglect. But a revitalization effort is well under way. The neighborhood organization is promoting rehabilitation, and much of the district is a local Community Development target area for low-cost financing for rehabilitation. Another important factor to the area's revitalization is the high percentage of owner occupants.

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Russell is a cohesive community with a healthy balance of residential, commercial and public land uses. It is a neighborhood which has a late nineteenth century character due to its extraordinary architecture. Russell has managed to retain, over the years, many amenities to this special nineteenth century flavor, such as a wealth of brick alleys and sidewalks, cast iron fences, and cast iron porches. The survival of cast iron in the quantities found in Russell is particularly rare. Most local cast iron was lost during World War I, when property owners donated it to the war effort.

Russell also holds a very important place in the history of the black community in Louisville. For over fifty years, it has been the cultural, social, residential and commercial hub of black activity.

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Beginning at a point on the southwest corner of 15th St. and the first alley north of Jefferson St., thence westwardly following the south right-of-way line of said alley, thence across 16th St., thence across 17th St., thence across 18th St., thence across 19th St., thence across 20th St., thence across 21st St., thence across 22nd St., thence to a point on the southeast corner of 23rd St. and said alley, thence southwardly 42'+/- along the east right-of-way line of 23rd St. to a point, thence westwardly across 23rd St., thence along the south right-of-way line of said alley, thence across 24th St., thence across 25th St., thence to the southeast corner of 26th St. and said alley, thence southwardly along the east right-of-way line of 26th St., thence across Jefferson St. to the northeast corner of 26th St. and the first alley south of Jefferson St., thence eastwardly along the north right-of-way line of said alley to a point in said line where it intersects the east right-of-way line of the extension of the first alley west of 24th St., thence southwardly along the east right-of-way line of said alley to a point on the northeast corner of said alley and Cedar St., thence eastwardly along the north right-of-way line of Cedar St., thence across 24th St. to a point on the northeast corner of Cedar St. and 24th St., thence southwardly across Cedar St., thence along the east right-of-way line of 24th St. to a point on the southeast corner of the first alley south of Cedar St. and 24th St., thence westwardly across 24th St., thence along the south right-of-way line of said alley to a point on the southeast corner of said alley and 26th St., thence southwardly along the east right-of-way line of 26th St., thence across Muhammad Ali Blvd., thence across Madison St., thence to a point on the southeast corner of 26th St. and the first alley south of Madison St., thence westwardly across 26th St., thence along the south right-of-way line of said alley, thence across 27th St., thence across 28th St., thence to a point on the southeast corner of 29th St. and said alley, thence southwardly along the east right-of-way line of 29th St., thence across Chestnut St., thence to a point on the northeast corner of 29th St. and the first alley south of Chestnut St., thence eastwardly along the north right-of-way line of said alley to a point in the east right-of-way line 28th St., thence southwardly along the east right-of-way line of 28th St., thence across Magazine St., thence across Elliott Ave., thence to a point on the northeast corner of 28th St. and the first alley south of Elliott Ave., thence eastwardly along the north right-of-way line of said alley, thence across 27th St., thence to a point on the northwest corner of said alley and 26th St., thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 26th St. 83'+/- to a point, thence across 26th St., thence along the north right-of-way line of the first alley south of Elliott Ave. to a point on the northwest corner of said alley and 24th St., thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 24th St., thence across Elliott Ave., thence to a point on the northwest corner of 24th St. and the first alley south of Magazine St., thence eastwardly across 24th St., thence along the north right-of-way line of said alley, thence across 23rd St., thence across 22nd St., thence to a point on the northwest corner of 21st St. and said alley, thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 21st St. 50'+/- to a point, thence eastwardly across 21st St., thence along the north right-of-way line of the first alley south of Magazine St., thence across 20th St. to a point in the east right-of-way line of 20th St., thence southwardly along the east right-of-way line of 20th St. to a point on the northeast

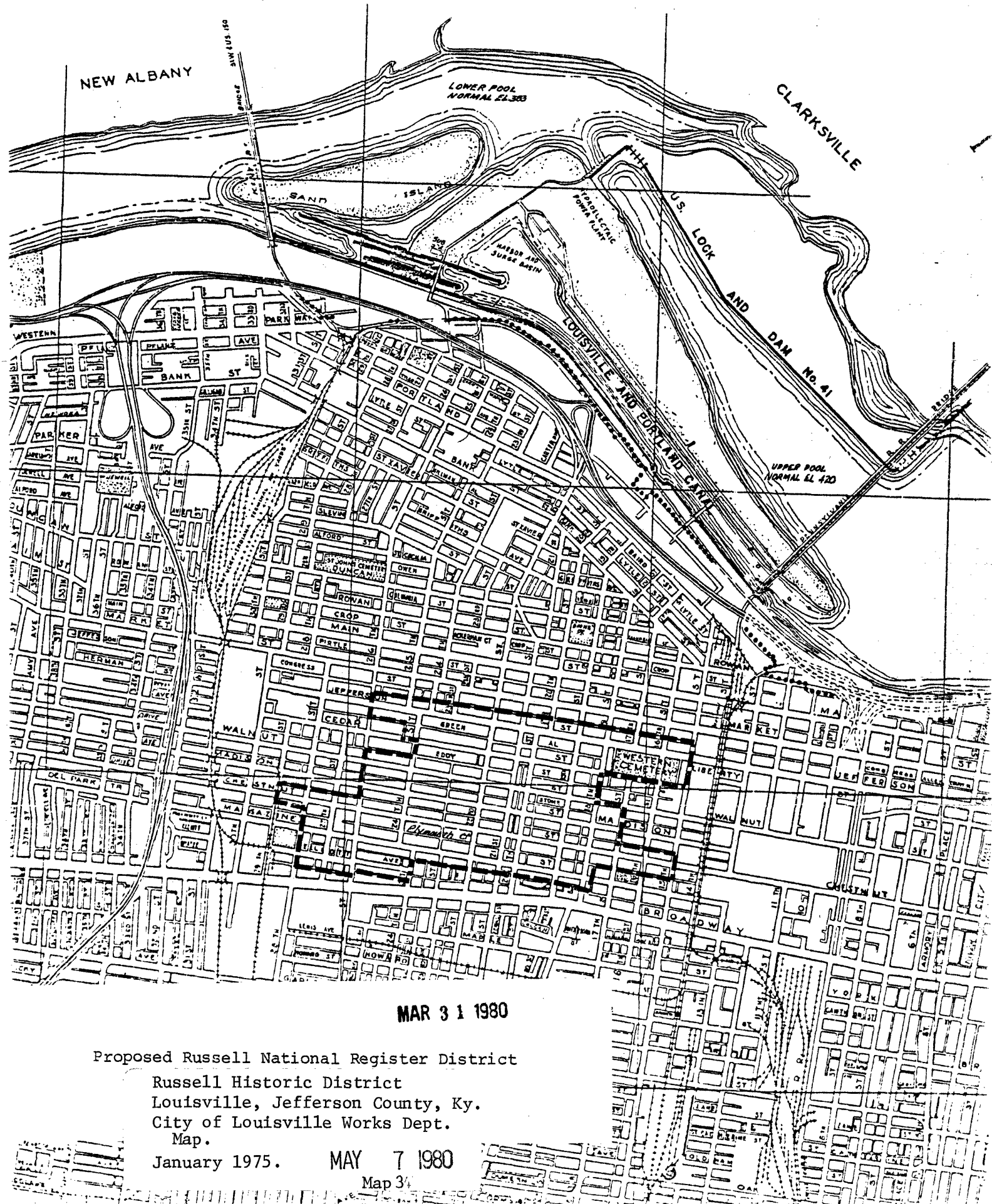
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corner of the first alley south of Magazine St. and 20th St., thence along the north right-of-way line of said alley to a point on the northwest corner of said alley and 19th St., thence 40'+/- northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 19th St., thence eastwardly across 19th St., thence along the north right-of-way line of the first alley south of Magazine St., thence across 18th St. to a point in the east right-of-way line of 18th St., thence southwardly along the east right-of-way line of 18th St. to a point on the northeast corner of the first alley south Magazine St. and 18th St., thence along the north right-of-way line of said alley to a point on the northwest corner of said alley and the first alley east of 18th St., thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of said alley, thence across Magazine St., thence to a point in the north right-of-way line of the first alley north of Magazine St., thence eastwardly along the north right-of-way line of said alley, thence across 17th St., thence across 16th St., thence to a point on the northwest corner of said alley and 15th St., thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 15th St., thence across Chestnut St., thence to a point on the southwest corner of 15th St. and the first alley north of Chestnut St., thence westwardly along the south right-of-way line of said alley, thence across 16th St., thence across 17th St. to the southwest corner of said alley and 17th St., thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 17th St., thence across Madison St., thence to a point on the southwest corner of Muhammad Ali Blvd. and 17th St., thence westwardly along the south right-of-way line of Muhammad Ali Blvd., thence across 18th St. to a point on the southwest corner of 18th St. and Muhammad Ali Blvd., thence across Muhammad Ali Blvd, thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 18th St., thence across Cedar St.) to a point on the northwest corner of 18th St. and Cedar St., thence across 18th St., thence eastwardly along the north right-of-way line of Cedar St., thence across 16th St., thence to the northwest corner of 15th St. and Cedar St., thence northwardly along the west right-of-way line of 15th St., thence across Jefferson St., thence to the point of beginning.



MAR 31 1980

Proposed Russell National Register District
Russell Historic District
Louisville, Jefferson County, Ky.
City of Louisville Works Dept.
Map.

January 1975. MAY 7 1980
Map 3