

3478

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Shafer's Hall
other names/site number Red Men's Hall; JFWP-483
Related Multiple Property NA

2. Location

street & number 617 N. 27th Street

NA	not for publication
NA	vicinity


city or town Louisville
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson Code 111 e 40212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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.

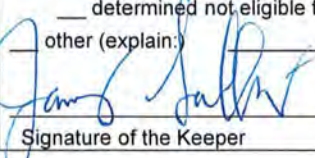
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

 1-25-19
Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO Date
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
other (explain): _____
 3-18-2019
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
Manufacturing facility

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick/Concrete/Concrete Block

roof: Standing Seam Metal

other:

Narrative Description

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Summary Paragraph

Shafer's Hall (JFWP-483) dates back to c. 1877 and is a two-story Italianate building located at 617 N. 27th St. on the northeast corner of N. 27th St and Tyler Avenue. The property proposed for listing is located six blocks east of Portland Historic District and includes approximately 0.0665 acres. The Period of Significance for Shafer's Hall begins in 1892, the first year it was listed as a hall and ends in 1968. The building is currently in fair condition and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. The building is in the process of being preserved, up to the Department of Interior's standards, and repaired to fully restore the building's functionality and material integrity.

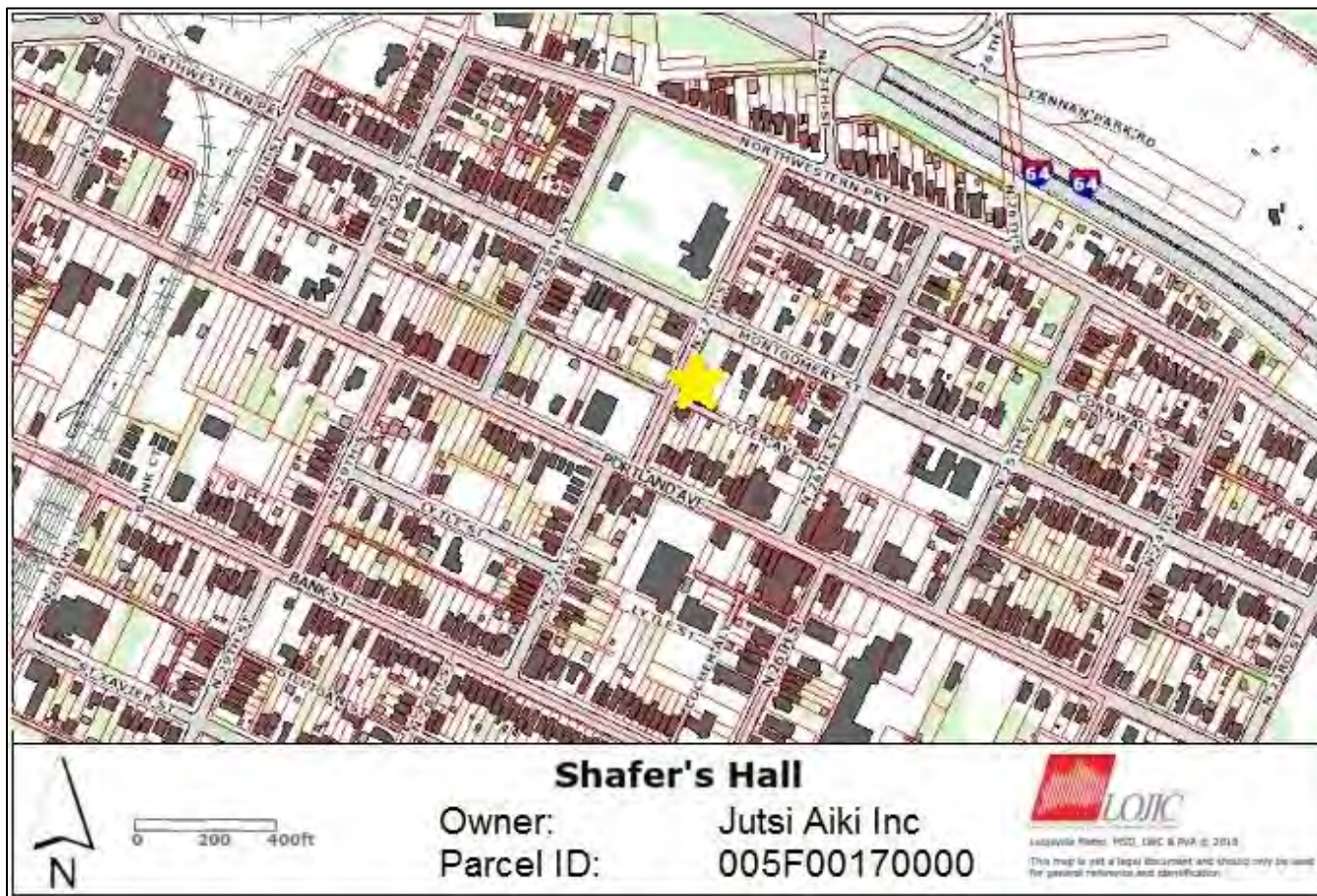


Character of the Lot and Surroundings

Shafer's Hall is located at the northwest corner of N. 27th Street and Tyler Avenue. The surrounding area is made up primarily of residential buildings, both single-family and multi-family dwellings. It is just north of Portland Avenue, one of the busy thoroughfares that passes through the area. Several commercial buildings line both sides of the street. Just northwest of Shafer's Hall there is a large park and community center that takes up an entire city block. Shafer's Hall is bounded on the west by N. 27th St., on the south by Tyler Avenue, and on the east and north by neighboring residential properties.

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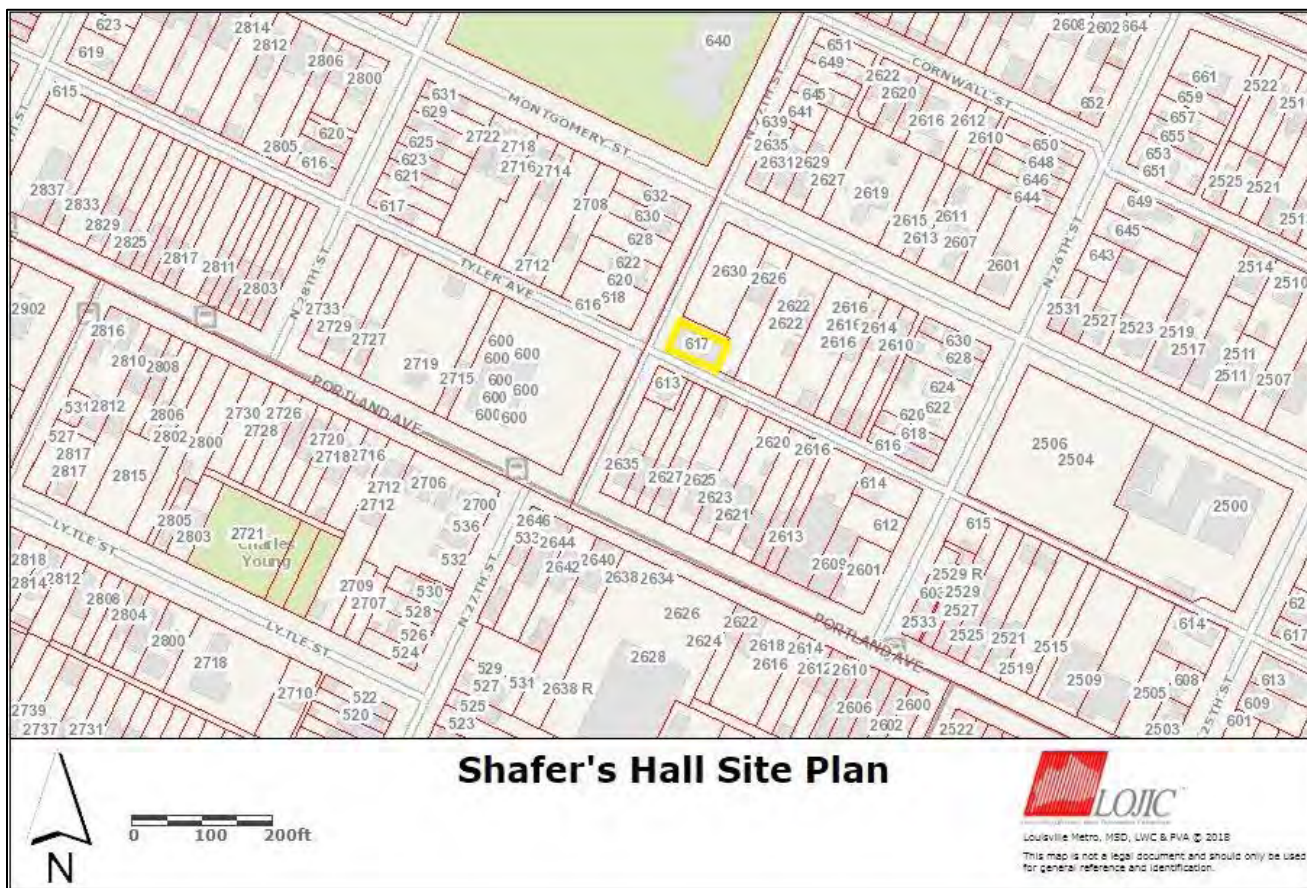


The area surrounding the building has not changed much over the years in terms of functionality and usage. From the city's establishment in the early decades of the nineteenth century, Portland was a prominent, independent neighborhood west of Louisville. The neighborhood's proximity to the Falls of the Ohio, the only navigational barrier along the Ohio River, and the subsequent construction of the Louisville and Portland Canal in 1830 allowed the area to thrive and grow as its own entity and it quickly became a popular commercial and residential community. Portland Avenue, which makes up the southern boundary of the city block on which Shafer's Hall is located, was historically and remains today, a major thoroughfare with shops and storefronts, although the area has declined economically in recent decades.

Shafer's Hall is contiguous with the sidewalk on both the west and south ends. The open lot to the north has been absorbed by the owner of the parcel to its east on Montgomery Street. The properties that bound Shafer's Hall are all single-family dwellings. Tyler Avenue, which runs east to west, just south of Shafer's Hall, is a seldom-used cross street that provides driveway and garage access to the rear of properties along Portland Avenue and Montgomery Street. Across N. 27th Street there are single-family residences, open lots where single-family houses once stood, and a multi-family apartment building located on the southwest corner of N. 27th Street and Tyler Avenue. Interstate 64, a major interstate in the eastern United States, runs along the river just north of Shafer's Hall.

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Exterior Description

West Elevation

The west-facing, 2-story Italianate commercial building has a continuous brick foundation with brick laid in the common-bond style covering the exterior walls on the main structure and concrete block walls on the north addition. The low-pitched hipped roof of the main portion of the building is covered in tin roofing while the northern addition has a standing seam metal lean-to roof. On the west (front) elevation, the front door is situated on the north end in a portion of the façade that is set back further than the rest of the building as a result of an addition to the building sometime between 1892 and 1905, according to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. The front door and transom have both been replaced, but the door frame is original, and the second level of this addition contains one, west-facing four-over-four double-hung window that has partially been covered by vinyl siding. The southern two-thirds of the first floor of the west elevation are made up of four wall openings, each of which has a set of two, inward swinging, eight-pane metal casement windows. Each wall opening is covered on the outside by protective metal screens. Also on the lower half of the southern portion of the west elevation, there are five columns set in the brick, separating the windows with the outer two making up the corners of the original building. The wall openings are surrounded by brick laid in common bond with a single rowlock course directly above the opening and vertical stretcher courses spanning most of the space in between the windows and the columns. Directly above the columns, there is a stringcourse with decorative molding that serves as a delineation between the first and second levels. The second level of the southern portion of the west elevation has four, large four-over-four double-hung wooden windows directly above the corresponding first level windows. Two of these windows have been partially covered from the outside with horizontal vinyl siding while the other two have been

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completely covered. All five windows on the second level have concrete sills and decorative concrete lintels. The roof's eaves have large extensions with decorative corbels supporting the overhang and horizontal vinyl siding fascia cover. Below the corbels, there is a denticulated cornice that spans the façade and wraps slightly on the north and south. One of the notable architectural details of the west elevation is the cast iron usage in the columns, corbels, and decorative sections. Using cast-iron in building construction was popular in the mid to late nineteenth century, especially in Louisville where the West Main Street district has the second largest collection of cast iron facades in the U.S., behind only the SoHo neighborhood in New York. Commercial and institutional Italianate buildings often contained cast iron elements since it was cheaper, more resilient, and allowed builders to display rich ornamentation through mass produced materials.

North Elevation

The north elevation primarily consists of the building's two additions. The first addition was the brick portion on the northwest corner that houses the front door. Building records indicate that the addition was constructed c. 1920, however, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show that it occurred sometime between 1892 and 1905. The second addition consists of a single-story concrete block lean-to. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that the addition occurred sometime between 1905 and 1928. The original addition was presumably of wooden construction because a building permit from 1943 indicates that the occupants replaced a wooden wall with concrete blocks.¹ The earlier addition's north elevation has a single, small opening on the second floor and the concrete block addition has five, north-facing windows and a single door, all of which have been covered in recent years by either wood, vinyl siding, or standing seam metal siding. The main building has four double-hung windows with slight arches, all of which have been boarded up.

East Elevation

The east elevation is mostly concealed due to overgrowth, but there is a single, second-floor window that has been boarded up, and a second-floor replacement door with a metal, louvered vent, and fire-escape on the northeast corner of the main building. On the first floor, there are three sets of metal casement windows.

South Elevation

The south elevation has five large windows on the first level and six on the second, all with the slight arches that match the windows on the north elevation. Although many of the windows have been altered, damaged, or covered up with vinyl siding, they were all presumably four-over-four, wooden double-hung windows, as some of them remain intact. All of the windows have a concrete sill. All of the windows on the second level have a corresponding window on the first level with the exception of the easternmost window which is directly above a single, wooden replacement pedestrian door. The door is located at the southeastern corner of the building and the original opening has since been bricked in. The door's alteration consisted of a severe reduction in the entryway's width and height, negatively impacting the architectural detail and beauty. The original opening was slightly arched to match the windows. There were originally three brick chimneys on the southern end of the roof but the westernmost has since mostly crumbled. The south elevation also has five decorative star bolts and three metal plates that were all presumably added for architectural support and to address bowing and mortar deterioration.

¹ "Building Permit," in *The Courier-Journal*. September 26, 1943.

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Aerial of the west (front) and south elevations of Shafer's Hall.



Front (west) elevation of Shafer's hall, facing east.

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North elevation of Shafer's Hall showing the two additions, facing south.



South and east elevations of Shafer's Hall, facing northwest.

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Interior Description

Ground Floor

The interior of the building has been changed throughout the years to suit the various tenants and to beautify the interior as problems arose, yet the open floorplan of the first floor has remained mostly the same visually and functionally. The original two-story portion of the building makes up the majority of the structure, although there are two small additions on the north end. The first floor of the building is primarily open as it was used as the meeting hall and subsequently as the training facility. The main room occupies the entirety of the original building's first level. There is also a small lavatory that extends north of the building and is now under the cover of the concrete block portion, although it appears to have been there prior to the addition. The northern, late twentieth century, concrete block addition is partitioned into two separate rooms, the easternmost of which appears to have been used as a locker room. There is a doorway that leads from the main room into the earlier, front entrance addition. In this addition, brick architectural detail of the original building remains and there is a small wooden doorway and narrow hallway with walls covered in plaster and wood paneling. The hall leads to the front door and there is a wooden, wrap-around staircase that leads to the second level. The materials used on the first floor are consistent with the uses as a social hall and a public gym and are largely utilitarian, with only minor superficial changes occurring throughout the years. The floors are hardwood, the walls are brick and have been covered in several places with wood paneling, and the ceiling is partially exposed, although there are remnants of the acoustic drop ceiling tiles that were added in the building's later years.

Second Floor

The second floor of Shafer's Hall is separated into two different areas. The western portion has been designed and partitioned for a living/office space while the eastern (rear) section, which makes up the majority of the building, has been left open for other activities. The western portion has been separated into various rooms and has divided closets as well as a bathroom. All of the rooms show signs of disrepair, however, their one-time use as a place of residence and subsequent office space is still apparent in the layout. The materials used on the second level consist of hardwood floors, vertical wood siding, wood paneling, wallpapered plaster, and exposed brick walls, and mostly plaster ceilings, although there have been acoustic drop ceiling tiles installed in recent decades in places.

Basement

Shafer's Hall has a partial-height, 624 sq. ft. unfinished basement with dirt floors, brick walls, and exposed floor joists from the first floor serving as the ceiling. There is damage to the southwest corner due to mistakes made by the City of Louisville in recent years. City workers pulled a grate that was originally used as a coal chute into the basement and thought that it needed to be remedied. In attempting to fix this non-issue, the workers laid rebar poured concrete in the opening. This added weight and detrimental strain was causing harm to the building's façade and its overall structural integrity. In the past year, efforts have been taken to reinforce the wall and provide the necessary support for the structure. The basement is used to house the building's furnace and has a simple set of wooden steps leading to a door in the floor of the main room near the northwestern corner of the building.

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View of the main room on the first floor, facing west.



View of the main room on the first floor, facing east.

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Concrete block addition, facing east.



Large room on the second floor, facing west.

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Alterations to the building include:

- Two additions on the north elevation of the building
- Change of material from wood to concrete block in northern addition
- Several windows boarded up.
- Infill in between exterior columns
- Infill and change to doorway on southeastern corner of the building
- Paneling on the interior walls
- Acoustic drop ceiling tiles installed
- Partitions erected to separate rooms inside
- Installation of overhead fluorescent lighting
- Infill of and change to interior walls and windows to accommodate the new entrance on the northwestern corner
- Routine maintenance, upkeep, and upgrades throughout the years

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1892-1968

Significant Dates

1892 – first year listed as a hall

Criteria Considerations

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance

The Period of Significance spans the historic period, starting with the first documented year that the building served as a social hall and running to the fifty-year point in the past. Throughout those years, the building was used primarily as a social meeting hall for the surrounding community and fraternal organizations until such organizations began to dwindle.

Criterion Considerations: NA

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Shafer's Hall (JFWP-483) meets National Register Criteria A and is significant due to its role locally as a neighborhood social hall throughout the end of the nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. Around the turn of the twentieth century, Portland was a self-sustaining community and although it was technically a neighborhood of Louisville, it had its own history and was physically separated from the central Downtown Louisville by the industrial hub that had developed. As such, community centers and social gathering places were crucial to the development and the maintenance of a cohesive community. Moreover, during this time, fraternal and social organizations were steadily growing throughout the country, and thus they needed places to hold meetings. Social halls, such as Shafer's Hall, were instrumental to communities, not only to provide places for organizations to meet but to provide a communal place for members of the community to socialize. Shafer's Hall served as the meeting place for many groups, such as the Odd Fellows, the Bandana Democratic Club, the International Coopers Union, and most notably, the Improved Order of the Red Men, to name a few. After the mid-twentieth century, as membership in fraternal organizations shrank and Louisville's west end experienced a substantial "white flight" and subsequent economic decline, Shafer's Hall continued to serve the community as a social gathering space and eventually a boxing gym. The space was converted to a boxing gym to provide a place to educate the area's youth, train boxers, and give the neighborhood access to the sport that had gained popularity throughout the city and the nation. Although its years as a boxing gym primarily fall outside of the Period of Significance, these years are still an important part of the building's history. During its time as a boxing gym, it was run by World Champion and native Louisvillian, Jimmy Ellis, and provided a hometown training facility for Muhammad Ali, a friend of Ellis', whenever he returned to town on visits. Shafer's Hall, which was at this point known as either the Portland Boxing Club or the Boxing Hall of Fame, remained a boxing facility until the year 2000. Throughout the twentieth-century, Shafer's Hall continuously served the Portland neighborhood, which is demonstrated by the building's transformation over time to correspond with the nature of the community as a whole.

Portland, Jefferson County, Kentucky

Portland was a distinct community from Louisville when it was settled in 1814.² It developed at the Falls of the Ohio, the only natural obstacle between Pittsburgh and New Orleans along the Ohio River.³ The surrounding area attracted German, French, and Irish immigrants. Though Louisville grew to be the larger city and very nearby, Portland developed the trades associated with river shipping due to the Louisville and Portland Canal, which was completed in 1830 and provided boats going up and down stream a viable way to avoid the falls.⁴

Portland formally incorporated in 1834, in expectation of a Lexington-Portland railway, as transportation had become a major factor in the development of the area.⁵ Those plans eventually changed, so that the railroad would end in Louisville, and as a result, in 1837, Portland became an annexed part of Louisville in exchange for a track

² George H. Yater, *Two Hundred Years at the Falls of the Ohio: A History of Louisville and Jefferson County* (Louisville: The Heritage Corporation, 1979), 37.

³ National Register of Historic Places, Historic Resources of West Louisville MRA, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register September 8, 1983.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Nina Walfoort, ed. *A Place in Time: The Story of Louisville's Neighborhoods* (Louisville: The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Co. 1989), 95.

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between them.⁶ Portland became an independent entity again in 1843; but in 1852, Louisville annexed Portland permanently. Thus, it developed as a neighborhood rather than an independent city.⁷ By the time of the final annexation, Portland's northern neighbor, Shippingport, had been mostly wiped out by the Louisville and Portland Canal, which made that town an island.⁸

In 1865, the locks system was put under federal control, which, along with other improvements throughout the 1870s, greatly improved the efficiency of the canal system.⁹ The result was a dramatic drop in Portland's wharf traffic and use of the portage system, which had previously brought many people through Portland on their way down the Ohio River. In addition to a more efficient canal, which reduced traffic and fees to Portland, the first railroad bridge across the Ohio River was finished in 1870. Suddenly, railroads were a direct threat to steamboat transportation of goods across the country. As the transportation industry diversified and began to bypass Portland, the city's identity began to shift, from a hub along the Ohio River to a Victorian neighborhood in west Louisville.¹⁰

Portland, and the west end as a whole continued to thrive into the twentieth century until the floods of 1937 and 1945 convinced many people to move to higher ground where they could live without the constant threat from the river. As a result, this area was no longer seen as a desirable neighborhood in Louisville and many of the damaged homes were left to decay as people did not have the resources to repair their homes and revitalize the area.¹¹ Around this same time, as World War II ended, Louisville experienced the same mass suburbanization that many US cities did. Since areas close to the river were deemed unsafe and unpredictable, and the west end was already established, the expansion branched to the east and the south of the city.¹² Between these two factors, the west end of Louisville was primarily economically disenfranchised and left to fall to neglect and disrepair. The demographics in Portland have similarly changed throughout the years, prompted by the economic developments in the city. The area was originally settled by western Europeans, such as French and Irish, and their descendants continued to live and work in the area for many decades. Around the mid-twentieth century, when mass suburbanization was occurring, many of Portland's citizens migrated to other areas in the city to find work. While today Portland shares many of the economic struggles of Louisville's West End, the demographics differ slightly with Portland being primarily white while the surrounding communities are primarily African American.

While Portland and Louisville were both changing into the mid-twentieth century, the independent character of Portland remained the same. This trend continued throughout the second half of the twentieth century after other factors, such as the construction of a flood wall, Interstate 64, and the isolation of the city's west end under the guise of Urban Renewal separated the western neighborhoods from the rest of the city. To this day, Portland is a diverse community that retains its own identity and is rife with individuals, organizations, and community groups that are pushing for the revitalization and preservation of the area

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Historic Resources of West Louisville MRA.

⁹ Natalie Taft Andrews, "Portland" in *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*, John E. Kleber ed. (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2001), 716-717.

¹⁰ Michael J. Stottman, "The Making and Remaking of Portland: The Archaeology of Identity and Landscape at the Portland Wharf, Louisville, Kentucky" PhD diss., University of Kentucky, (2016), 222-223.

¹¹ Marcia Dalton, "A History of Western Louisville" in *Louisville Survey West: Final Report*, Gary Watrous (Louisville: Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County Inc., 1977) D-37.

¹² Ibid.

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Importance of Social Halls

Social Halls have always been a necessary aspect of small communities. These local community halls were used for political meetings, educational activities, school programs, local organization meetings, recreational events, and countless other social activities.¹³ These communal spaces were necessary, especially in a time when many people belonged to social organizations and technology was not what it is today. Often, as was the case with Shafer's Hall, fraternal and social organizations not only held meetings, hosted events, and promoted their cause from these buildings, but they often either built or acquired these halls themselves to bolster the group's legitimacy and wealth.

The lodges and meeting halls that fraternal organizations used for their meetings were invaluable to their existence. These spaces were seen as a privilege and acted as "the people's forum and club."¹⁴ These halls were where "questions of importance to the community were discussed" and where "social affairs were events that called together all who desired entertainment and recreation."¹⁵ These groups would also often rent out a portion of their space to local groups in a way to supplement the organizations' finances. This provided a way for the organizations to increase community support, gain notoriety, and benefit the local residents, all while bettering the group itself. To this day, there are many social halls associated with fraternal organizations that are frequently rented out for social events that are not necessarily associated with the group itself. These buildings remain in nearly every city in the US, even when the organizations themselves are no longer active.

Portland especially benefited from the presence of such social halls. Portland, which originated as its own city, maintained its cultural independence long after being annexed by the City of Louisville. Further, as the area immediately west of downtown became heavily industrialized, Portland was geographically separated from the city, adding to its isolation and individuality. Thus, the community relied on local social halls that could directly serve the neighborhood itself. Throughout the years, however, there were not many social gathering spaces for the Portland community and transportation was not always readily available to bring the residents to halls in other neighborhoods. In fact, according to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the heavily populated area of Portland only had two social halls that were consistently active between 1892 and 1951: Shafer's Hall, also known as Red Men's Hall, and Lewis Hall, a building that was built by, and operated by, the Freemasons, the latter not being built until the first few years of the twentieth century. There was another hall on the far eastern boundary of Portland known around the turn of the century as Elkhorn Hall. Whereas Lewis Hall was constructed in a Classical Revival style, Elkhorn Hall was built in a similar style, yet not as detailed, as Shafer's Hall, which can probably be attributed to the fact that it was built around the same time. The only other community halls during this time period was a second-floor hall on Portland Ave. that was only listed in 1892 and 1905, an African American dance hall that was in operation in 1905, and meeting houses that were associated directly with local churches.¹⁶ The social halls that served the area tended to cater to specific communities, such as the associated churches, the local African Americans, or various community and fraternal organizations whose rosters tended to demographically mirror Portland, consisting primarily of white American men of western European descent. With so few spaces available

¹³ National Register of Historic Places, Sutton Community Hall, Sutton, Matanuska-Susitna County, Alaska, National Register #13000617; National Register of Historic Places, Vale Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall, Vale, Malheur County, Oregon, National Register #16000822; National Register of Historic Places, American Legion Hall, Post 32, Greybull, Big Horn County, Wyoming, National Register #14000386.

¹⁴ Felix John Vondracek, "The Rise of Fraternal Organizations in the United States, 1868-1900," in *Social Science*, Vol. 47, No. 1, pg. 26-33.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1892, 1905, 1928, 1951.

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to the neighborhood and the importance of such locations in maintaining a cohesive, productive community, especially in an isolated area, Shafer's Hall provided an instrumental service to Portland throughout its active years.



Locations of Portland Halls

9/29/2018, 12:31:18 PM

LOJIC
Louisville Metro, MSD, LWC & PVA © 2018
This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.



Elkhorn Hall (Jefferson County PVA)



Lewis Hall (Jefferson County PVA)

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Social Halls in Louisville

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century, social halls were an integral part of every small town, but they also played a key role in larger cities as well and Louisville was no exception. Social halls and lodges in the city ranged from large buildings owned by the major fraternal organizations, such as the Elks Lodge (listed on the NRHP in 1979), now known as the Henry Clay, to one-story structures used as small gathering places. Before the advent of the automobile and convenient public transportation, however, many of the small communities that surrounded the city centers, like Louisville, developed their own spaces to serve their local needs. According to the *Guide to Louisville: List of Hotels, Churches, Theatres and Other Valuable Information*, in 1907 there were a total of 57 “halls” in the City of Louisville and eleven “Lodges”.¹⁷ While many of these halls were associated with, and located on the same property as, churches, the majority served local clubs, communities, and fraternal organizations. Although the majority were located in the central downtown business district, surrounding neighborhoods such as Butchertown, Clifton, Germantown, Parkland, Phoenix Hill, and Portland, to name a few, had spaces of their own that catered to their specific communities.

Similar to the three halls that were present in and around Portland around the turn of the century, the other social halls around the city existed to serve the people of their respective communities. While all of these halls served their neighborhoods and communities as a whole, many of them had associations and affiliations that informed their civic activities. Three examples of such buildings are the Vernon Club in Butchertown, the Swiss Hall in Germantown, and the Preston Lodge in Phoenix Hill. Each of these three offer an example of a different community that utilized these spaces for social events and for developing a cohesive identity.

The Vernon Club was originally founded in the 1890s as the Delmont Club, who promoted “sociability and recreation in leisure hours.”¹⁸ Moving their club to the present location in the 1890s, the Delmont Club became the Vernon Club after 1898. The Vernon Club initially functioned as a “civic center for the men and women of the (St. Joseph’s) Parish and their friends of the East End.”¹⁹ The Vernon Club, which is still standing today and is a contributing resource to the NRHP listed Butchertown Historic District, is a 2.5-story converted side-passage dwelling. There is a large rear addition that was originally added around the turn of the century as a bowling alley and gymnasium but replaced again in 1944 to include a bowling alley, kitchen, a hall, and a dining room.²⁰

The Swiss Hall was built in 1926 in the Germantown/Schnitzelburg neighborhood south of downtown Louisville. Unlike the Vernon Club which primarily served the religious community of a neighborhood and Lewis Hall that chiefly served a fraternal organization, the Swiss Hall served an cultural/ethnic community. The Swiss Hall was built inside the Swiss Park that was created in 1925 by a Swiss association, the Gruetli Helvetia Society.²¹ The

¹⁷ Charles T. Dearing, *Guide to Louisville: List of Hotels, Churches, Theatres and Other Valuable Information* (Louisville: Charles T. Dearing Printing Company, 1907).

¹⁸ Reverend Father Diomedede Pohlkamp, *A History of the East End of Louisville, KY, including the Point, Butchertown, and the Vernon Club* (Louisville: Rogers Church Goods Co, 1946), 25; Janie-Rice Broder, Rachel Kennedy, Jennifer Ryall and Jay Stottman with contributions by Laura Everdale, Kim McBride, Christina Pappas and Eric Schlarb, *A Survey Update of Butchertown, Phoenix Hill, Downtown Louisville and River Road* (Lexington, KY: Kentucky Archaeological Survey, 2010), 276.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid, 276-277; National Register of Historic Places, Butchertown Historic District, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #76000900.

²¹ Martha Elson, “Author researches Louisville ties to Swiss Town,” in *The Courier Journal*. March 20, 2015.

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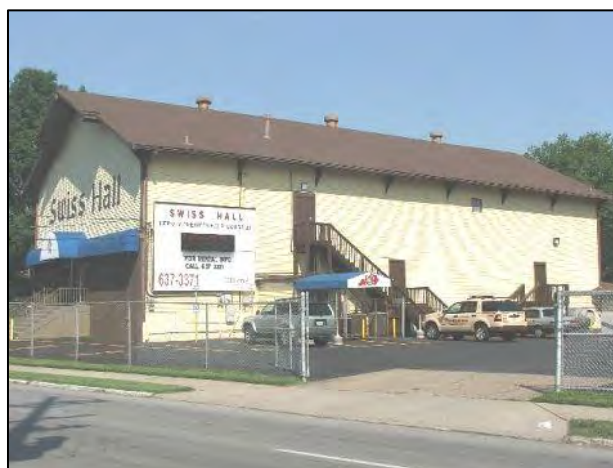
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hall, which was situated in over 2.5 acres of picnic grounds, was used to host dances, socials, cookouts, celebrations, and other community gatherings in the decades following its construction. The large, 2-story front-gable structure is still standing today and is currently owned by the Fraternal Order of Police who still occasionally rent the space out for both indoor and outdoor events.

The building in which the Preston Lodge is situated was built in 1893. This hall was located on the top floor of a three-story, brick structure in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood. Positioned on top of the engine house for Engine Company 3, the space consists mostly of a ballroom that was chiefly utilized by the Preston Lodge of the Order of Masons, was also utilized by the city for events continuing into the late twentieth century. Known as the Paul C. Barth Engine House No. 3 is located at 800 East Main Street and is a contributing resource in the NRHP listed Phoenix Hill Historic District.²²



The Vernon Club (Jefferson County PVA)



Swiss Hall (Jefferson County PVA)



Paul C. Barth Engine House No. 3 – Preston Lodge (Jefferson County PVA)

²² Brother et al, *A Survey Update*, 262; National Register of Historic Places, Phoenix Hill Historic District, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #83002721.

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Throughout the City of Louisville and the surrounding neighborhoods, social halls were instrumental to the various communities in the area. These halls served as locations for religious functions directly associated with local churches, they served as cultural centers for ethnic groups that often settled distinct communities around the city, and they served the many fraternal organizations and social clubs that were prevalent around the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most importantly, these buildings and communal spaces served the communities that were increasingly developing outside of Louisville's city center. These neighborhoods developed distinct personalities and charm that the halls and lodges enabled. They helped establish a sense of character while serving as a communal gathering place which greatly enhanced the communities' ability to form a cohesive identity.

Louisville Fraternal Organizations

From Louisville's early years, "benevolent, ethnic, fraternal, patriotic, and religious organizations" were a prominent aspect of the social structure in the city.²³ While the two most prominent organizations in the city were the Freemasons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), the number of other social organizations was drastically increasing in the late nineteenth century. Some of these other organizations were: "the United Order of Foresters, the Knights of American Brotherhood, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose, Benevolent Order of Buffaloes, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Knights of America, Knights of Honor, Knights of Pythias, Knights of St. John, Improved Order of Red Men, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Temples of Honor, Ancient Order of Hibernians (Irish, of Irish descent), and the Woodmen of the World."²⁴ In addition to these groups, whose membership was mostly made up of white men, there were fraternal groups for women and African Americans active in Louisville. Some groups "combined benevolent, fraternal, and social" by having a clear religious position, while others were formed out of similar backgrounds, such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars which were popular among military veterans in the city.²⁵

The Freemasons are one of the largest fraternal organizations in the world and the same goes for Louisville and Kentucky as a whole.²⁶ In addition to being one of the largest, the Freemasons are considered to be one of the oldest in the world, including prominence in America as early as 1730. In Kentucky, the first lodge in Kentucky was created in 1788 in Lexington while the first lodge in Louisville opened in 1801.²⁷ Unique among the Masons is the subdivision of orders within the larger fraternity. Some of the freemason bodies that have historically been active in Louisville are the Royal Arch Masons, the Royal and Select Masters, the Knights Templar, and the Scottish Rite. The Kentucky Masons have a long-standing tradition of taking care of its members establishing places such as the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home in Louisville (listed on the NRHP #02000916) which was the first of its kind in North America, and the Kosair Crippled Children's Hospital, which is now operated by the Kosair Charities.²⁸ Today, there are several Masonic lodges and associated buildings present in Louisville. Although, like other fraternal organizations, their membership has declined in recent decades, it still remains the most prominent fraternal organization of its kind in the city.

²³ Ron D. Bryant, "Fraternal Organizations," in *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*. John E. Kleber ed. (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2001), 319.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Roland T. Stayton, "Freemasons," in *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*. John E. Kleber ed. (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2001), 320.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*; National Register of Historic Places, Masonic Widows and Orphans Home, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #02000916.

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The IOOF in Kentucky dates to the mid-nineteenth century. An exact date of when the first IOOF lodge was established was not found, but research shows that there were lodges as early as 1856 in Covington, 1869 in Lexington and over twenty in Louisville by 1880.²⁹ Architects such as Cincinnatus Shyrock designed IOOF buildings, with Shyrock designing the former IOOF lodge on Main Street in Lexington.³⁰ The organization was very popular in the state and operated with strong numbers between the mid-nineteenth century to the 1930s with the introduction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.³¹ The combination of no money for membership and the New Deal programs providing services the IOOF did resulted in a decline in the organization's popularity. The IOOF in Kentucky provided the same services as promoted by the national organization, with a focus on the three tenets of friendship, love, and truth. At least four IOOF buildings in Kentucky have been listed on the NRHP in the cities of Covington, Lexington, Owensboro, and Pikeville.

All of these groups had agendas in one form or another but many of them "not only participated in social activities associated with their respective groups but also did a great deal of charitable work for the needy, providing scholarships for educational advancement and funding for cultural programs."³² There were many benefits of membership, such as comradery, contributing to one's community, and involvement in civic acts, but many groups also "provided insurance policies and retirement homes for their members" and "ethnic groups retained some of their Old World culture by becoming a part of an ethnic social organization."³³ As the twentieth century progressed, fraternal organizations saw a significant decrease in membership. Today, membership in fraternal organizations of any kind is drastically low compared to a century ago and many lodges have closed as the age of members increases and the number of new members decreases. Some of the lodges that have been listed on the NRHP in Louisville include the Knights of Pythias Temple, NRHP #78001358, at 928-932 W. Chestnut Street, the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Temple, NRHP #82002705, at 200 E. Gray, the Elks Athletic Club (The Henry Clay), NRHP #79001003, at 604 S. Third Street, the Pendennis Club, NRHP #03001225, at 218 W. Walnut, and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Building, NRHP #77000631, at 227 W. Broadway.³⁴

Improved Order of the Red Men

The Improved Order of Red Men consider themselves America's first fraternal organization, tracing their origins all the way back to the Boston Tea Party. In 1813, members of the Sons of Liberty, the Sons of St. Tammany, and others met in Philadelphia and united under the one organization, the Society of Red Men, later renamed, the Improved Order of Red Men. The goal of the Improved Order of Red Men is and presumably always was "to promote patriotism and the American Way of Life, to provide social activities for the members, and support

²⁹ Bryant, "Fraternal Organizations".

³⁰ Peter Brackney, "walkLex: Bellini's Anchors a Block of Restoration," 2011. Electronic Document, <http://www.kaintuckeean.com/2011/12/walklex-bellinis-anchors-block-of.html>, accessed September 24, 2018.

³¹ Peter Brackney, "NoD: Odd Fellows Still Active in Paintsville," 2012. Electronic Document, <http://www.kaintuckeean.com/2012/01/nod-odd-fellows-still-active-in.html#more>, accessed September 24, 2018.

³² *Ibid*, 320.

³³ *Ibid*.

³⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Knights of Pythias Temple, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #78001358; National Register of Historic Places, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Temple, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #82002705; National Register of Historic Places, Elks Athletic Club, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #79001003; National Register of Historic Places, Pendennis Club, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #03001225; National Register of Historic Places, YMCA Building, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #77000631.

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various charitable programs."³⁵ Originally patterned after early Native Americans, specifically the Iroquois Confederacy, the organization appropriated Native American customs and terminology in their rituals and their membership configuration. At the peak of the organization's membership, during the early twentieth century, the Improved Order of Red Men had over half a million members nationwide with tribes in 46 states and territories. Membership depended on being white until, in 1974, the Great Council got rid of the clause. In recent years, membership has declined and, according to their website, there is no longer an official tribe in the state of Kentucky.

Fraternal organizations, like the Improved Order of the Red Men, were a very important aspect of society throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During this time, as many as twenty percent of men in the United States belonged to one or more of these social clubs, and oftentimes, their wives and sisters belonged to female clubs that mirrored the men's.³⁶ These groups served a wide range of functions. Some were purely social clubs, some offered insurance and aid to those in need, some were dedicated to community service, and some were a means for networking.³⁷ Not only did these organizations prove to be of significance to the members, but they were also a valuable political tool for politicians. These groups represented a large number of voters who were invested in the community and local issues. These large groups of influential men were invaluable to local leaders and their support, or lack thereof could often change the direction of local politics.³⁸ In Kentucky in the year 1900, there were 18,790 Masons, nearly 10,000 members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and 6,465 Knights of Pythias.³⁹ The sheer number of active members in the social groups and the roles they played in society around the turn of the century spoke to the importance of the organizations and their respective gathering spaces.

In Louisville, the Improved Order of Red Men had a strong presence.⁴⁰ Louisville was the location of the original Kentucky Tribe that was established by the Great Council of the United States in 1852.⁴¹ Over the next century, there would be multiple tribes active in Louisville, such as the Tecumseh Tribe, Number 6, Wahoo, Number 10, Wabee, Number 13, Choctaw, Number 15, and Mohawk, Number 20 to name a few.⁴² The Hiokatoo, Number 5, the tribe who owned Shafer's Hall, was instituted in 1900, originally had 77 charter members, and were described as a prosperous tribe.⁴³ The Improved Order of Red Men who maintained their presence in Portland served the community in many ways by renting the space to local groups, honoring notable locals, and hosting fundraising events to benefit the neighborhood. Their hall, at 617 N. 27th St. (Shafer's Hall) gave the organization a centralized location to operate out of, meet, and a space to offer to the surrounding community.

Changes to the Area and Decline of Social Halls

As the twentieth century progressed, membership in fraternal organizations steadily declined. Around this same time, Louisville's west end experienced major demographic and economic shifts in the population. Fraternal organizations, such as the Improved Order of Red Men began to decline for a number of reasons, both externally

³⁵ "The Improved Order of Red Men," Electronic Document, www.redmen.org/redmen/info/, accessed August 30, 2018.

³⁶ Bill Loomis, "Clubbing in days past: When fraternal societies ruled," in *The Detroit News*, October 10, 2015.

³⁷ Julie Husband and Jim O'Loughlin, *Daily Life in the Industrial United States, 1870-1900* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2004).

³⁸ Vondracek, 33.

³⁹ Louis P. McCarty, publisher, *Statistician and Economist*, (San Francisco: Louis P. McCarty, 1901).

⁴⁰ "Knights of Pythias," in *The Courier-Journal*, March 25, 1913.

⁴¹ Frank L. Smith. *Redmanship in Kentucky for Fifty Great Suns*, Lexington, KY: Frank L. Smith, 2014.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

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and internally. Externally, changes such as the technological advances and rise of social justice made membership in fraternal organizations obsolete and outdated, while internal values and beliefs tended to change with the new generations.⁴⁴ Membership in the Improved Order of Red Men, for example, depended on being a white male until 1974 when the Great Council removed the clause.

Demographic and economic shifts occurred substantially in Louisville's west end during the latter half of the twentieth century. As the threat of flooding and marginalization plagued the area, people began to move south and east. Also during this time, severe redlining and discriminatory regulations made the west end one of the only areas in the city for African Americans to settle, which subsequently led to a drastic lack of investment and resulted in several disenfranchised communities. Even as the twentieth century progressed into the twenty-first, the initial problems were left unrectified.

Throughout these years, Shafer's Hall's unique transformation mirrored the changes that the neighborhood and community were facing. As membership in fraternal organizations dwindled, the relevance of communal social halls decreased, and locations for meeting places increased, Shafer's Hall and the Improved Order of Red Men who owned the property diversified by renting the property out for new uses. Thus, a social hall that once hosted readings from "Uncle Remus," a stereotypical African American character who has since been criticized for the overt racist characteristics, and that served as the meeting place for the Improved Order of Red Men, who did not extend membership to anyone but white men, became the home of the Portland Boxing Club, a boxing gym operated by an African American boxing champion that catered to a disenfranchised community.⁴⁵

History of Shafer's Hall

According to Louisville City Directories, Shafer's Hall was originally occupied by John Kerberg's tobacco manufacturing operation in 1877 and the address was listed as 48 27th St. (the east side of 27th between Portland and Montgomery). For the next twenty years, the building housed businesses associated with the Kerberg family. In 1880, it was home to the Kerberg and Ratterman Tobacco Manufacturing, followed by the tinning business of John C. and John L. Kerberg which was in operation throughout the rest of the 1880s, with the exception of 1887 and 1888 when the tobacco manufacturing business was enumerated there again. Throughout the building's early years, the second level was used as living quarters, something that would occur again in later years. During this time, the building's address had changed again to 311 27th St. The building officially became known as Shafer's Hall as early as 1892.⁴⁶

The building continued to be known as Shafer's Hall for a couple decades into the twentieth century. During this time, in 1909, Louisville underwent a large-scale, city-wide address change and 311 N. 27th became 617 N. 27th St. Also, during the years between 1892 and 1905, there was a small brick addition built on the northwest corner of the hall to enclose the staircase and add a front door to the main (west) façade. Shafer's Hall served the community in many ways, providing a meeting place and socializing event space to the neighborhood. During the period between 1892 and 1905, Shafer's Hall had to expand to meet the needs of the community as shown by the usage of just the second floor in 1892 expanding to include the first level as well in 1905.⁴⁷ Throughout much of the twentieth century, there was only one other comparable social hall in Portland, and Shafer's Hall hosted

⁴⁴ John Hinck, "Understanding the Decline in Participation in Fraternal Organizations: A Mixed Methods Approach," (PhD diss., University of San Diego, 2018).

⁴⁵ "Good Laugh Promised," in *The Courier-Journal*, May 6, 1898.

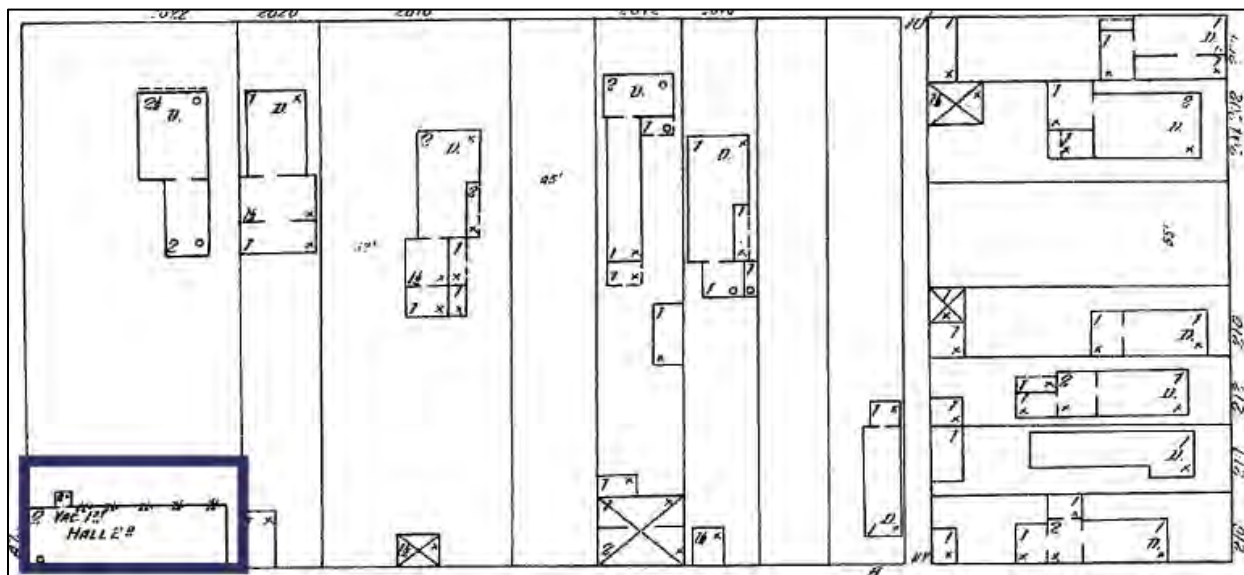
⁴⁶ "Swelling Hosts," *The Courier-Journal*, November 1, 1892; "Entertainments," in *The Courier-Journal*, October 27, 1895.

⁴⁷ "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps," *Sanborn Fire Insurance Company*, 1892 and 1905.

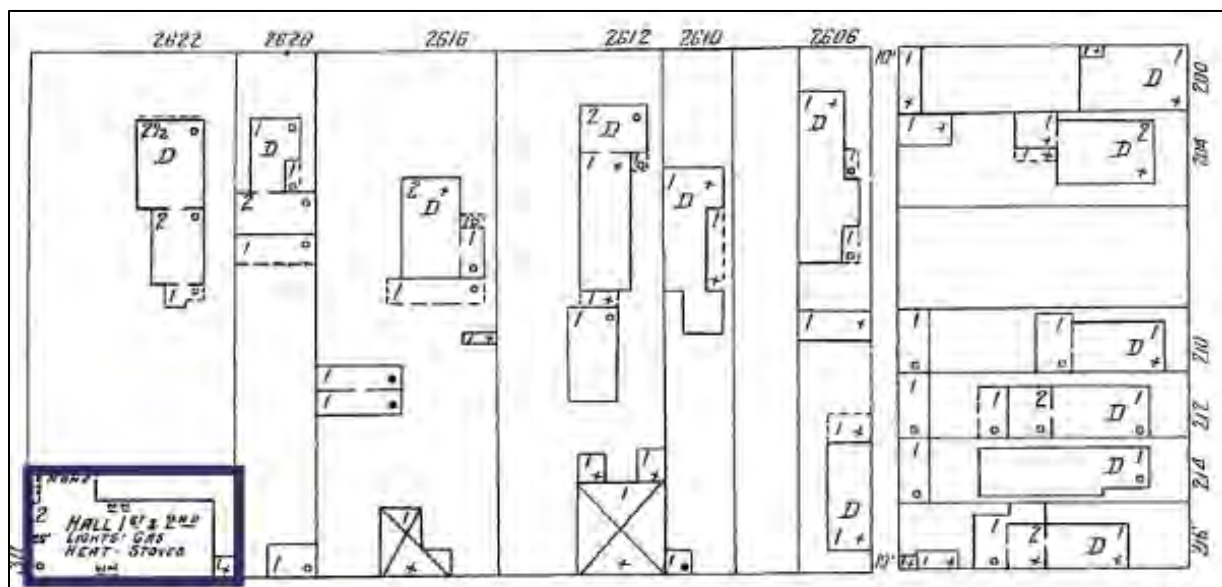
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the festivities celebrating the construction of the Masonic Lewis Lodge.⁴⁸ One of the main ways that Shafer's Hall served the area was providing local and regional groups a place to organize and meet when they did not have a space of their own. Several such groups were the Bandana Club, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Shepherds of Bethlehem, the circle of the King's Daughters, and numerous other religious groups with close association with local churches.⁴⁹



1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Shafer's Hall



1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Shafer's Hall. Note the presence of the addition on the northwest corner and the usage of both the first and second level as hall space.

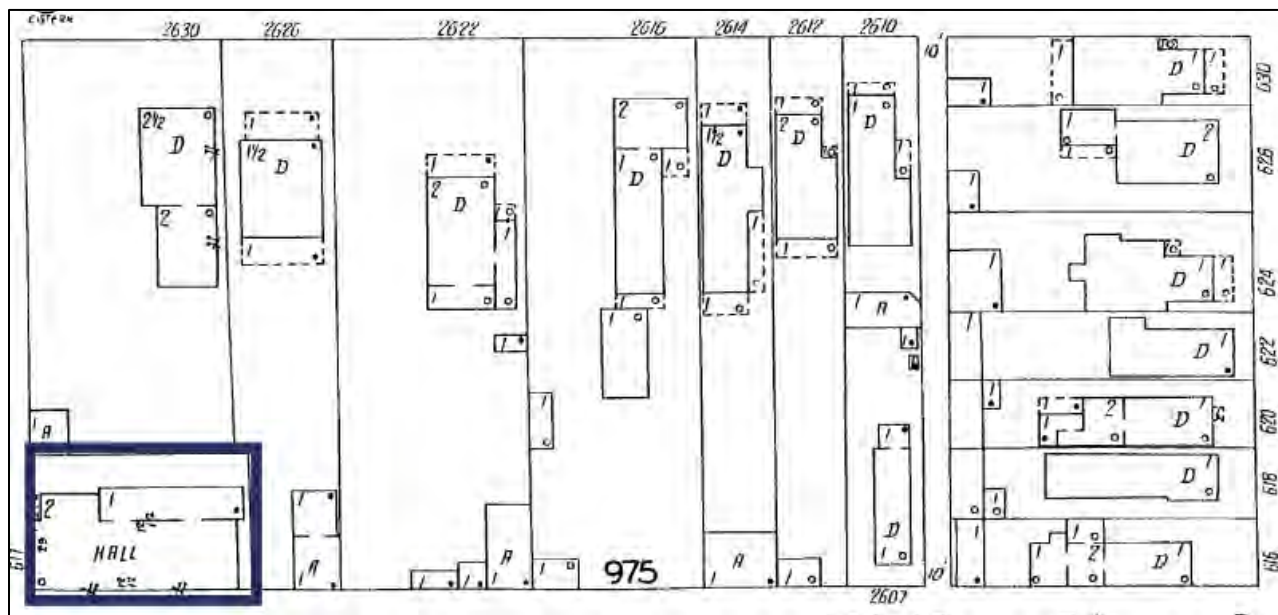
⁴⁸ "Services," in *The Courier-Journal*, October 28, 1903.

⁴⁹ Ibid; "Swelling Hosts;" "Entertainments;" "Good Laugh Promised," *The Courier-Journal*, May 6, 1898.

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As early as 1927, Shafer's Hall began being known as the Red Men's Hall once the Improved Order of Red Men bought the property and began to operate one of their local groups here. The building at 617 N. 27th Street was owned by this organization until 1993 and continued to serve the community throughout those years. The Hiokattoo Tribe was the primary group at this location and they were established in 1900. During their years of ownership and operation, the Red Men hosted numerous events such as neighborhood fundraising events, community game nights, and honorary events which served to recognize significant individuals and their accomplishments. One group who utilized the Red Men's Hall frequently and who had a close relationship with the Red Men was the Louisville Police Officers Association who on various occasions honored an individual for military prowess and held a Christmas party for children of deceased police officers.⁵⁰ The Red Men even held their own events to honor the local police department.⁵¹ Throughout the years that the Red Men owned the building, they frequently rented it out to other groups and organizations. Some of these include the International Coopers Union, the International Couch and Bed Spring Makers Union, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, the Cavalier Club, and the Portland Boxing Club. It is presumed that the first level of the hall was the rental space as this was common for such groups to utilize this space to support the organization's operation, while the second level was likely used for the organization's own meetings and events.



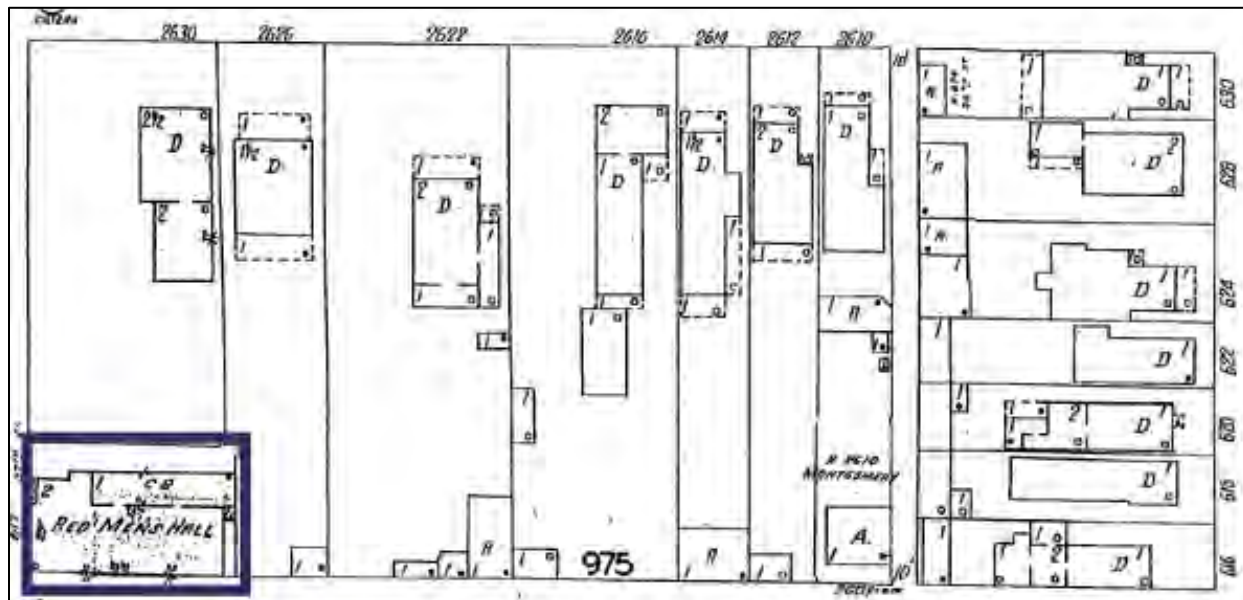
1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Shafer's Hall. Note the second addition on the north end of the building.

⁵⁰ "Ex-Marine Who Outfought Bircham Presented Watch by Police Association," in *The Courier-Journal*, October 6, 1949; "Students will Carol Patients Bedridden at Marine Hospital," in *The Courier-Journal*, December 22, 1953.

⁵¹ "Redmen Honor Night Court Judge," in *The Courier-Journal*, May 28, 1953.

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1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Shafer's Hall. Note that the map refers to it as the Red Men's Hall.

The Portland Boxing Club, who operated out of this building as early as the mid-1960s, was a locally owned boxing gym that taught boxing to the youth of the community, aspiring amateurs, and professionals. The Portland Boxing gym was run by World Heavyweight Champion and Louisville native, Jimmy Ellis, for a time as well as prominent Louisville boxing figure, and Ellis' trainer, Edgar L. "Bud" Bruner. Muhammad Ali, "the Louisville Lip" and possibly the greatest boxer of all time, also trained here when he was back in his hometown visiting. The gym would remain in sporadic use both as a training facility and as the location of the World Boxing Hall of Fame in Louisville until the year 2000 when local residents specifically recall removing the beloved ring from the building.⁵² Throughout the latter part of the twentieth century, the second level was used as a residence, either for someone associated with the building's activities, or by an outside renter. The space in the western portion of the building that overlooks North 27th Street served as the living quarters while the large room in the rear of the building continued to be used for other activities.

In recent years, the building at 617 N. 27th St. was slated for demolition by the city of Louisville due to safety concerns. It came to light that at some point, city employees poured concrete in an opening near the building's southwest corner incorrectly assuming that it was a hazard instead of a coal chute which caused unnecessary strain on the structure. As a result, the southwest corner was severely deteriorating and sinking. Concerned citizens saved the building and efforts were immediately taken to preserve the façade and halt the damage.

Assessment of Significance

Shafer's Hall is a significant example of the social hall that served the community of Portland within Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Although Portland, which is among the oldest communities in Jefferson County, was annexed by the Louisville, it never lost its sense of independence and individual character. As such, in many

⁵² Discussions with various, anonymous Portland residents.

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ways, it remained a separate entity that was isolated both geographically, culturally, and historically. It was this independent, small community that benefited immensely from the presence of Shafer's Hall. Buildings like Shafer's Hall have always accompanied the formation and success of small communities, serving as spaces with multiple uses. Shafer's Hall served Portland in this manner from its early years in the late nineteenth century through the twentieth, first as a community hall, independently owned and operated, then as a community hall owned by a large, well-known and very active fraternal organization, and eventually as a recreational facility.

The transformation of Shafer's Hall's uses throughout the years mirror the national and local trends. During a time when social organizations, like the Improved Order of the Red Men, enjoyed widespread membership, the halls and lodges that they occupied were instrumental to their mission to serve the community and their members. Also during this time, Portland was thriving as a successful community within Louisville, one that would understandably appeal to fraternal organizations, especially those whose membership consisted solely of white men. However, as Portland's demographics changed and the popularity and practicality of fraternal organizations dwindled, Shafer's Hall was repurposed to continue to serve the Portland community, only this time as a boxing facility. It was during this time that, in addition to the significant role that the building played in the community, local and national heroes became associated with the building, namely Jimmy Ellis and Muhammad Ali. Although the building is not considered eligible under Criterion B, and many of the events associated with the boxing gym are outside of the Period of Significance, it is still worth mentioning the impact and influence that the building possessed in its later years.

The building is in the process of being preserved, up to the Department of Interior's standards, and repaired to fully restore the building's functionality and material integrity.

Evaluation of the Integrity of Shafer's Hall and its Current Physical Condition

Shafer's Hall is in fair condition overall. Although the building has sustained damage and is in a state of disrepair, many of the original materials remain intact and both the interior and exterior are slated for preservation. The building has been structurally stabilized, and efforts have been taken to preserve materials and repair appropriately. The damage that has occurred to the building is a result of neglect over the last couple decades and the mishandling of the historic and structural well-being of the property by previous owners and the City of Louisville. A building which meets Criterion A under the aforementioned context, which also possesses integrity of **location, design, setting, materials, and association**, will be eligible.

Shafer's Hall retains integrity of **location**. The social and recreational facility, although periodically altered throughout the years, has remained in the same location since the original construction of the building in the late nineteenth century. Portland was once an independent city and the area immediately surrounding Shafer's Hall has remained mostly residential since the turn of the century. It was this community that Shafer's Hall catered to throughout its years of service.

This site also retains integrity of **design**. Shafer's Hall retains the Italianate style in which it was built. Although there have been alterations to the exterior of the building, architectural details, such as the eaves and cast iron embellishments, remain intact. Furthermore, the utilitarian nature of the building's interior remains the same as the large spaces that once served as meeting rooms and later athletic training facilities remain wide open.

The site also retains integrity of **setting**. Although the traffic around Portland Ave has decreased over the years with the community's decline, Shafer's Hall still sits in an area that is predominantly residential and slightly

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removed from a central, important thoroughfare. While the setting north of Shafer's Hall has changed over the years with the construction of the flood wall and Interstate 64, the character of the area has remained mostly the same.

Shafer's Hall also retains integrity of **materials**. Although there have been some alterations, namely the two additions, infill on the main façade, and the bricking in of the side entrance, since the building's construction it has undergone minimal changes, many of which can be relatively easily rectified. For example, while the windows have been covered in recent years due to the simplicity of quick fixes versus repair, the windows themselves remain original to the building and the vinyl siding that was used to cover the openings can be easily removed. Further, the cast iron façade is still intact and in good shape.

Because this site retains integrity of location, design, setting, and materials, it in turn supports the **associations** we have with social and recreational spaces that were historically significant to the city. Further, the space is going to be utilized as a recreational training facility for local residents and youth while supporting the surrounding community which parallels with the building's previous uses. As a whole, Shafer's Hall substantially retains its integrity of **associations**.

Overall, the Shafer's Hall retains integrity of **location, design, setting, materials, and associations**, thereby making it eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Stayton, Roland T. "Freemasons." In *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*. John E. Kleber ed. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2001.

Stottman, Michael J. "The Making and Remaking of Portland: The Archaeology of Identity and Landscape at the Portland Wharf, Louisville, Kentucky." PhD diss. University of Kentucky, 2016

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Shafer's Hall
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

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Vondracek, Felix John. "The Rise of Fraternal Organizations in the United States, 1868-1900." in *Social Science*, Vol. 47, No. 1, pg. 26-33.

Walfoort, Nina ed. *A Place in Time: The Story of Louisville's Neighborhoods*. Louisville: The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Co., 1989.

Yater, George H. *Two Hundred Years at the Falls of the Ohio: A History of Louisville and Jefferson County*. Louisville: The Heritage Corporation, 1979.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): JFWP-483

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.0665 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum WGS84

Latitude: 38.272375

Longitude: -85.791258

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point in the East line of Twenty-Seventh Street, 160 feet South of the Southeast corner of Montgomery and Twenty-Seventh Streets, thence Southwardly 40 feet, thence Eastwardly along the line of an alley, 75 feet, Northwardly 40 feet, thence Westwardly 75 feet to the beginning.

Boundary Justification

This nomination refers to the building that was historically known as Shafer's Hall and Red Men's Hall. This building has two small-scale additions on its northern end.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wes Cunningham, MA - Historian
organization Cunningham Consulting, LLC date September 29, 2018
street & number 2068 S. Shelby St. telephone 502-807-0575
city or town Louisville state Kentucky zip code 40217
e-mail wscunningham1@gmail.com

Shafer's Hall
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Photographs:

Photographs

Information for the following photographs:

Name of Property: Shafer's Hall

Location of Property: 617 N. 27th St.

Name of Photographers: Wes Cunningham

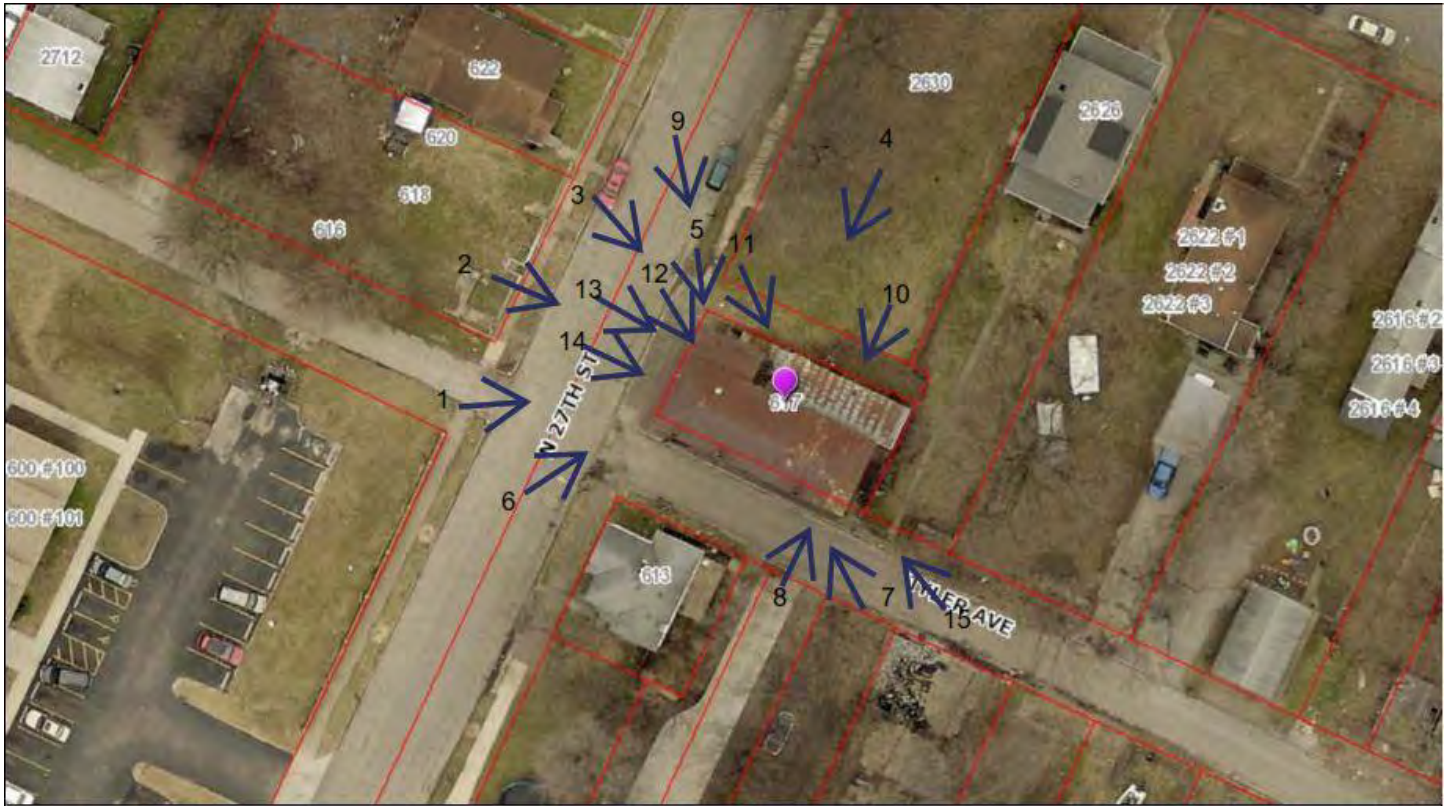
Date of Photographers: August 9, 2018

Location of Original Negatives: In the possession of the photographer

1. West and south elevations, facing northeast.
2. West elevation, facing east.
3. West and north elevations, facing east.
4. North elevation, facing south.
5. Detail of the eaves on the northwest corner of the building, facing southeast.
6. South and west elevations, facing northeast.
7. South elevation, facing northwest.
8. Altered entryway on the southeast corner of the building, facing north.
9. North and west elevations, facing southeast.
10. Detail of the northern addition and the boarded entryway, facing south.
11. Detail of the later northern addition, facing southeast.
12. View of the west façade with the recessed northern entryway, facing south.
13. Detail of the earlier northern addition and entryway, facing east.
14. Detail of the columns on the west elevation, facing east.
15. East elevation, facing northwest.

Shafer's Hall
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State



  **Photo Key**
9/29/2018, 11:47:26 AM


Louisville Metro, MSD, LWC & PVA © 2018
This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.

Property Owner:

name	<u>Jutsi Aiki Inc</u>	telephone	_____
street & number	<u>2509 Portland Ave</u>	State	<u>Kentucky</u>
city or town	<u>Louisville</u>	zip code	<u>40212</u>

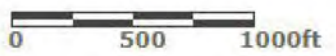


Shafer's Hall

Lewis Hall

Ellkhorn Hall

Locations of Portland Halls



9/29/2018, 12:31:18 PM



Louisville Metro, MSD, LWC & PVA © 2018

This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.

4/25/2016 4:10 pm



Shafer's Hall

Approximately 0.0665 acres
Latitude: 38.272375
Longitude: -85.791258

00 25th St

00 25th St

Northwestern Dr

Sonwall St

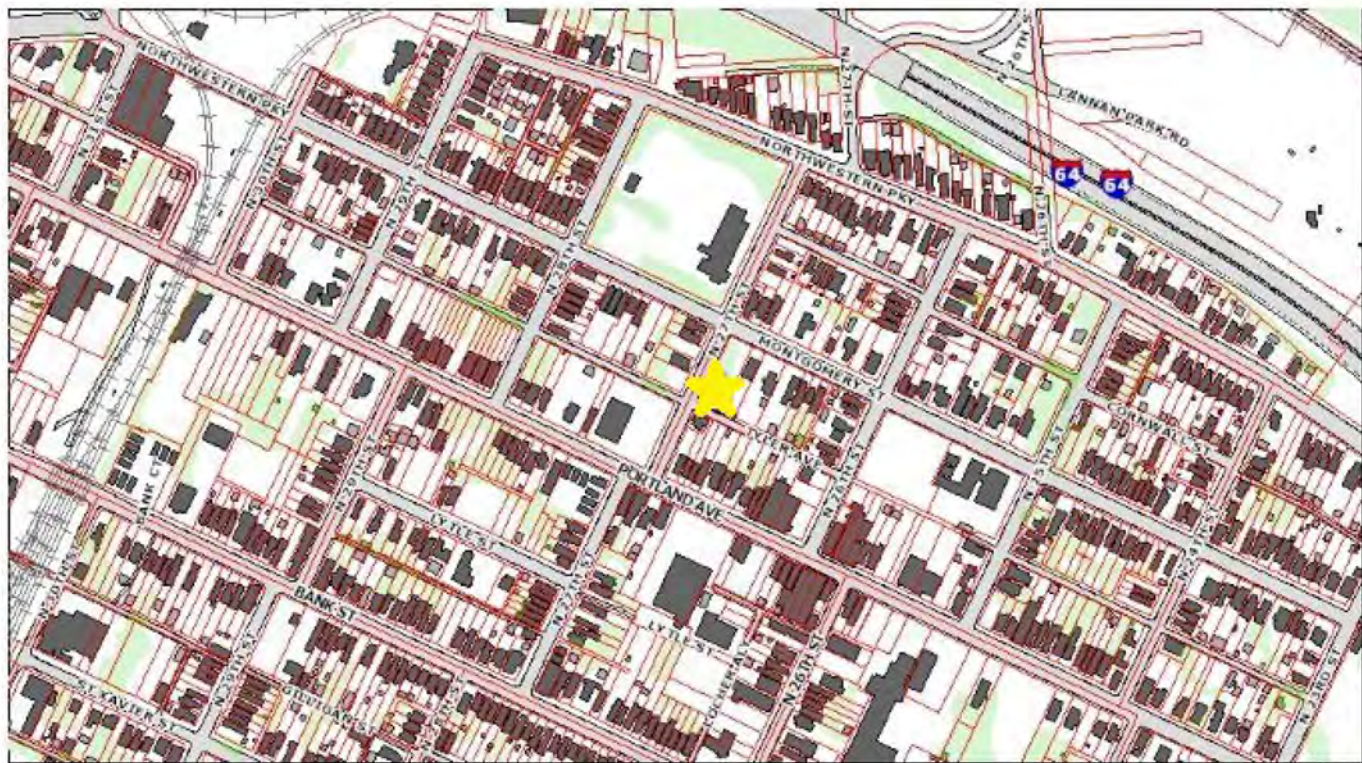
N 26th St

Tyler Ave

Portland Ave

Google Earth

© 2018 Google



0 200 400ft

Shafer's Hall

Owner:

Jutsi Aiki Inc

Parcel ID:

005F00170000



Louisville Metro, MSD, LIRC & PA 2018

This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.

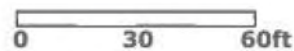
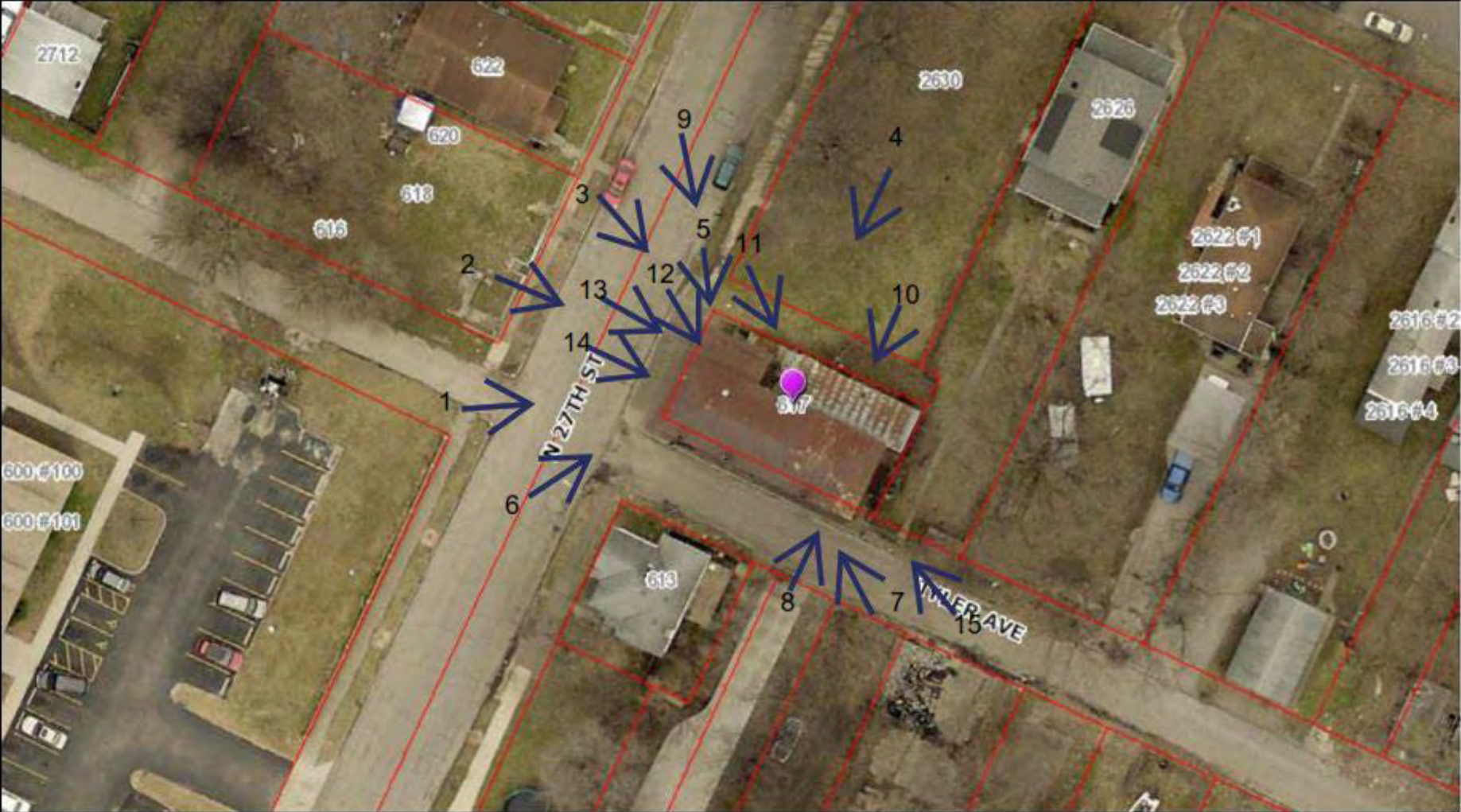


Photo Key

9/29/2018, 11:47:26 AM



Louisville Metro, MSD, LWC & PVA © 2018
This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.



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GRAFFITI: *ALPHA*, *ALPHA*, *ALPHA*, *ALPHA*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Shafer's Hall
Multiple Name: _____
State & County: KENTUCKY, Jefferson

Date Received: 1/31/2019 Date of Pending List: 2/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 2/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/18/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003478
Nominator: Other Agency, SHPO
Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 3/18/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Locally significant example of fraternal hall, most commonly associated with the Improved Order of Red Men. Later (after stated period of significance) served as a boxing gym, which included Muhammed Ali as a sometimes patron.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian
Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Kentucky Certified Local Government Report Form
Review of National Register Nomination by Local Authority

(Type and print your responses, then sign and return to the Kentucky Heritage Council, which is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The document has been set up as an electronic form for convenience.)

Name of Certified Local Government (CLG): Louisville Jefferson County Metro Government

Name of Property under Review: Schafer Hall

Initiation: *(Check one response. Enter this date, and all others, using the m/d/yy format).*

The nomination was submitted by the CLG to the Kentucky Heritage Council with this form and requests that the nomination be reviewed by KHC as soon as possible. Date submitted to KHC:

KHC submitted nomination to the CLG for review. The CLG has 60 days to review the nomination and return this report form to KHC. Date nomination was received by CLG: **10/8/18**

Date of Public Meeting in which Nomination was reviewed by the CLG: **12/6/18**

No. of public attendees in addition to commission members and staff: **2**

Review Basis: *(Check at least one box of Resource Type/Criterion).*

Resource Type

- Historical
 Architectural
 Archaeological

Criterion Selected on Nomination Form

- National Register Criterion A or B
 National Register Criterion C
 National Register Criterion D

Name of Commission Member(s) with Expertise in Area of Significance *(Fill in if applicable to your commission).*

Historian (when property meets Criterion A or B): Joanne Weeter
Architectural Historian/Architect (for Criterion C):
Archaeologist (when property meets Criterion D):

Recommendation: *(Please check the box that is appropriate to the nomination. Attach any relevant documentation, such as commission reports, staff reports/recommendations, public comments, and/or meeting minutes).*

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should *not* be listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

Commission Chair or Representative: Approved Not Approved

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

12-6-18

Chief Elected Official: Approved Not Approved

Print Name/Title:

Signature:

Date:

12/20/18

Jutsu Aiki Martial Arts
617 N. 27th Street
Louisville, KY 40212
502-553-4682
sensei.paul@jutsuaiki.org
www.jutsuaiki.org



Craig A. Potts
Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board
410 High Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Potts:

It is often said that Louisville the largest small town in the country. Everywhere you go, you recognize someone you know. Whether it's at the supermarket, the Waterfront, a stoplight on Bardstown Road, or even at the Yum! Center during a Cardinals basketball game, it's very likely you'll see a familiar face smiling back at you. It's because of that closeness that I believe everyone in Louisville and the Metro are considered neighbors. We live in the same beautiful city; we're neighbors.

This was one of the main concepts in the forefront of our minds when Jutsu Aiki Martial Arts (JAMA), a 501(c)(3), was founded in 2010. We want to help our neighbors, all of them, and especially teach sustainability to the underprivileged and disenfranchised members of our community. And we have had this concept at the forefront of our actions since. It is no coincidence that we chose this building for purchase, to rehab and retrofit for our future home. A building that has embodied community for the majority of its existence.

We are requesting historical status so that we can preserve that space and the energy that accompanied it. It is so closely tied to our mission and goals while also being rooted so deeply into the past.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter, and please do not hesitate to contact me at 502-553-4682 with any questions further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Coffey". The signature is stylized with long, sweeping strokes.

Paul Coffey
617 N. 27th Street
Louisville, KY 40212



MATTHEW G. BEVIN
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

REGINA STIVERS
DEPUTY SECRETARY

DON PARKINSON
SECRETARY

410 HIGH STREET
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
PHONE (502) 564-7005
FAX (502) 564-5820
www.heritage.ky.gov

CRAIG A. POTTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICER

January 29, 2019

Mr. James Gabbert
Historian
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: National Register Nomination

Dear Jim:

I am pleased to submit a National Register nomination to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register for:

Shafer's Hall, Jefferson County

The nomination was approved by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on December 17, 2018. The enclosed disk (1 of 2) contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Shafer's Hall to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please don't hesitate to call me at 502-892-3609 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mullins Thompson
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures: As stated