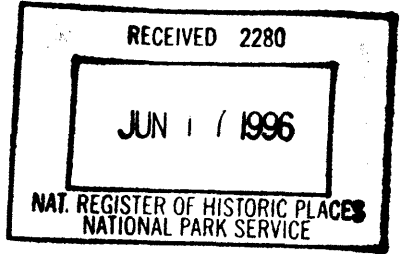


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historical name; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**
Other names/site number; **N/A**

2. Location

street & number; **Danny Thomas Blvd., Alabama Ave., Exchange Ave., Third St., and Winchester.**
not for publication; **N/A**
city or town; **Memphis** vicinity; **N/A** state; **Tennessee** code; **047**
county; **Shelby** code; **157** zip code; **38107**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays
Signature of certifying official

6/10/96
Date

Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other(explain): _____

Edson F. Beall
Signature of Keeper
for

7.25.96
Date of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 65 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 65 </u>	<u> 1 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

Public Housing Projects in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic** Sub: **Multiple Dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic** Sub: **Multiple Dwelling**

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation; **poured concrete**
- roof; **asphalt shingles**
- walls; **brick veneer**
- other; **decorative brick work & lintels**

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

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a grave.

___ D a cemetery.

___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ F a commemorative property.

___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions);

Social History; Government; Architecture

Period of Significance; 1937-1943

Significant Dates; 1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above);

N/A

Cultural Affiliation; N/A

Architect/Builder; **Harrison, E.L., Architect**

Smith, J. Frazer, Architect

Highberger, John F., Landscape Architect

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS) **N/A**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property; **26 acres** **NW Memphis 404NE**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	769540	3893580	3	16	768950	3893520
2	16	769380	3893420	4	16	769000	3893720

See continuation sheet.

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

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title; Judith Johnson, Historic Preservation Analyst
Julie Johnston, Intern
organization; Division of Housing and Community Development
date; January 22, 1996
street & number; 701 N. Main Street telephone; (901) 576-7310
city or town; Memphis state; TN zip code; 38107

=====
Additional Documentation

Owner Memphis Housing Authority
700 Adams Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103
Contact Person: Diane Mosby
(901) 544-1394 (Operations)

=====
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 1

Name of Property; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**
county and State; **Shelby County, Tennessee**

Name of Multiple Property Listing; **Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943**

Description

The complex of residential apartment structures that comprise the Lauderdale Courts Public Housing development is located in the northern section of downtown Memphis. The area surrounding Lauderdale Courts has an assortment of different land use types. The I-40 interstate as well as St. Jude Hospital lie along the housing developments northern boundary. The historic Pinch, North Main Commercial District (National Register 10/18/79), which has a variety of commercial and industrial buildings, lies to the west of the project. To the south of the project lie the various commercial, retail, office and residential structures that make up downtown Memphis. Lauderdale Courts is somewhat different from its surrounding environment because of its Depression-era public housing characteristics. The housing project is a dense pattern of development with one and two story row-type buildings. Housing projects built throughout the United States during the same period as Lauderdale Courts all have similar qualities: a formal site plan dictating a symmetrical placement of buildings, conformity of design and scale, and an overall appearance of uniformity.

The development of Lauderdale Courts began in May of 1936 and the cornerstone of the Administration Building was placed in April of 1937. By January of 1938, Lauderdale Courts opened for occupancy with 449 apartment units. The stylistic influence of the structures in Lauderdale Courts is a minimalist version of Colonial Revival. The design conformity and symmetrical placement of the buildings is characteristic of government housing projects of the time. The apartments are arranged in either row-style or U-shaped patterns along street ways or a court or mall. The entire complex features mostly one and two story brick structures with steel sash and casement windows. An effort was made to place more decorative detailing on structures that surround the perimeter of the complex. Wrought-iron porch supports were placed only on those buildings along the public thoroughfares.

Through the survey process of the project several different building types were identified within the complex. To the west of Lauderdale Street the size and design of the building types varies between six and eight-unit one and two-story apartments. These buildings have hip roofs, copper roofing and a full porch which is original construction. Two three-story apartment

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 2

Name of Property; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**
county and State; **Shelby County, Tennessee**

Name of Multiple Property Listing; **Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943**

buildings lie along the western boundary of North Third Street between Winchester and Exchange. To the east of Lauderdale Street a more wide array of building types are found. The eight-unit and six-unit apartments are also found here along with a thirteen-unit building that is comprised of one two-story six-plex along with two one-story five-unit and two-unit buildings. The one-story buildings are stepped to conform with the topography of the area. A ten-unit structure is also found in this area near Alabama Avenue. It consists of a center two-story six-plex flanked by two one-story two-unit sections. The one-story sections of these buildings predictably have full porches with hipped roofs, copper roofing and decorative porch supports. Also found in this area is a three-unit structure with the same characteristics.

The complex has maintained its architectural and historic integrity over the years. To date no major changes or alterations have been made to any of the buildings in the project. Window and door replacement over approximately 20% of the project is the extent of rehabilitation. Only one structure has been demolished since the projects development, to allow for a high-rise apartment complex on Lauderdale, leaving 65 remaining buildings.

The complex also contains several other building functions along with single-family housing. The Memphis Police Activities Gymnasium is located on Winchester at Lauderdale and the Memphis Housing Authority carpenter shop is on Lauderdale near Exchange. The carpenter shop building was the original use for this structure. However, the police gymnasium was a boiler room when the project was developed. Finally, the housing project's original Administration Building/Community Center, which is now a day care center, fronts Lauderdale Street.

Each apartment consists of two, three, four or five rooms, with every apartment having a depth of only two rooms to ensure plenty of light and air. The interior walls are of plaster and the ceilings of concrete with a hard plaster-like finish. At the time of its opening, modern bath and kitchen facilities were placed in each unit to enhance their appeal. Each unit also boasted a garden plot and clothesline for the inhabitants, which was part of the original development and is maintained today.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 3

Name of Property; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**
county and State; **Shelby County, Tennessee**

Name of Multiple Property Listing; **Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943**

One street was closed to through traffic during the construction of Lauderdale Courts. This was Market Street. This bisecting street was converted into a green space pedestrian mall renamed Market Mall. A fountain was placed in the mall on the eastern end of the project near Lauderdale Street. Although the fountain is now gone, the mall still serves as a recreational and transit area for the project residents.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Page 4

Name of Property; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**
county and State; **Shelby County, Tennessee**

Name of Multiple Property Listing; **Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943**

Statement of Significance

The Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project in Memphis, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its context in the social history of Memphis and the governments involvement in planning the project and providing employment. It is also significant under criterion C for its association to significant events and architecture. It is nominated under the registration requirements for public housing projects set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation form for Public Housing Projects in Memphis, Tennessee 1936-1943.

Lauderdale Courts was part of President Roosevelt's nation-wide slum clearance and Depression-era public housing projects. President Roosevelt's hope was to provide jobs and to also provide clean, safe, decent places to live for those who could not afford otherwise. According to the laws of the time, public housing projects were to be separated by race but equal in services and quality. The development of Lauderdale Courts was for low-income white families.

Lauderdale Courts is a prime example of Depression-era public housing projects. The architectural significance of the site lies in both the design of the individual buildings as well as their placement within the framework of the complex. Lauderdale Courts displays a formal site plan imposing a regular placement of 65 structures, of which 62 are multi-family Colonial Revival units, which characterizes government housing projects of the time.

Additional information regarding Lauderdale Courts can be found in the Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee MPDF.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 5

Name of Property; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**

county and State; **Shelby County, Tennessee**

Name of Multiple Property Listing; **Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943**

Bibliography

“A Chance for a Better Life.” Memphis, Tennessee: Memphis Housing Authority, 1946.

“A Survey of Public Housing Developments.” Memphis, Tennessee: Memphis Housing Authority, 1993.

Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tennessee, 21 January 1936.

Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tennessee, 5 July 1936.

Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tennessee, 11 November 1986.

“Lauderdale Courts Coverform.” Memphis, Tennessee: Memphis Heritage, Inc., 1988.

“Low-Rent Housing.” Department of Interior, United States Housing Authority, 1941.

Sanborn Map Company. “Insurance Maps of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee.” New York: Pelham, Vol. 3, 1952/1959.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10

Page 6

Name of Property; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**
county and State; **Shelby County, Tennessee**

Name of Multiple Property Listing; **Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943**

Verbal Boundary Description

The Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project encompasses an area of approximately 26 acres. The project area is bounded by Winchester Avenue to the north, Exchange Avenue to the south, Danny Thomas Blvd to the east, Alabama Avenue to the northeast and Third Street to the west.

Boundary Justification

These are the physical boundaries set by the Memphis Housing Authority when the public housing project was originally designed and constructed. These boundaries have not changed since that time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Photos

Page 7

Name of Property; **Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project**
county and State; **Shelby County, Tennessee**

Name of Multiple Property Listing; **Public Housing in Memphis, Tennessee, 1936-1943**

Photo Log

Lauderdale Courts Public Housing Project, Memphis, Tennessee

Photos By: Judith Johnson

Division of Housing and Community Development

Date: January 22, 1996

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee

489 Alabama, facing southwest, 1 of 13

461-469 Alabama, facing southeast, 2 of 13

441-449 Alabama, facing southwest, 3 of 13

290 Lauderdale, facing northeast, 4 of 13

245 Winchester - MHA Woodshop, facing west, 5 of 13

264 Lauderdale - Community Center, facing southeast, 6 of 13

274 Lauderdale, facing northeast, 7 of 13

234 Lauderdale, facing east, 8 of 13

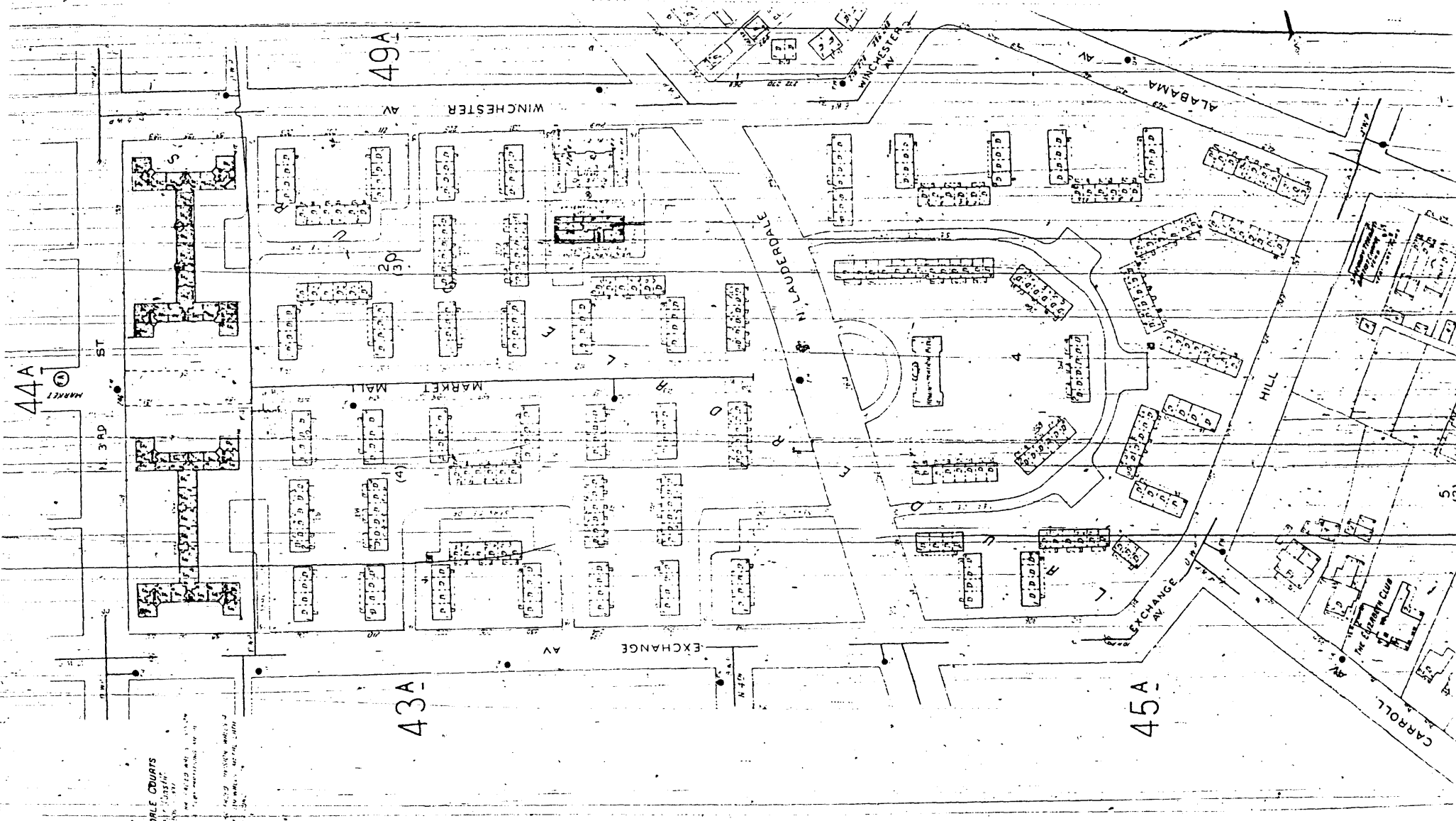
224 Lauderdale, facing northeast, 9 of 13

Semi-Circle Court (from Exchange), facing north, 10 of 13

182 Exchange, facing northeast, 11 of 13

Court Mall (from Third), facing east, 12 of 13

Elvis's Home (Third & I-40), facing southeast, 13 of 13



LAUDERDALE COURTS

1. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
 2. NO PART OF THIS MAP
 3. MAY BE REPRODUCED OR
 4. TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM
 5. OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC
 6. OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING
 7. PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR
 8. BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE
 9. AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT
 10. PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM
 11. THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
 12. AT COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
 13. 20740

Lauderdale Courts
 Public Housing Project
 Shelby Co. TN
 Historic Map



F
 I
 R
 S
 T
 R
 E
 E
 T
 S
 N
 O
 R
 T
 H

Census
 Tract
 22

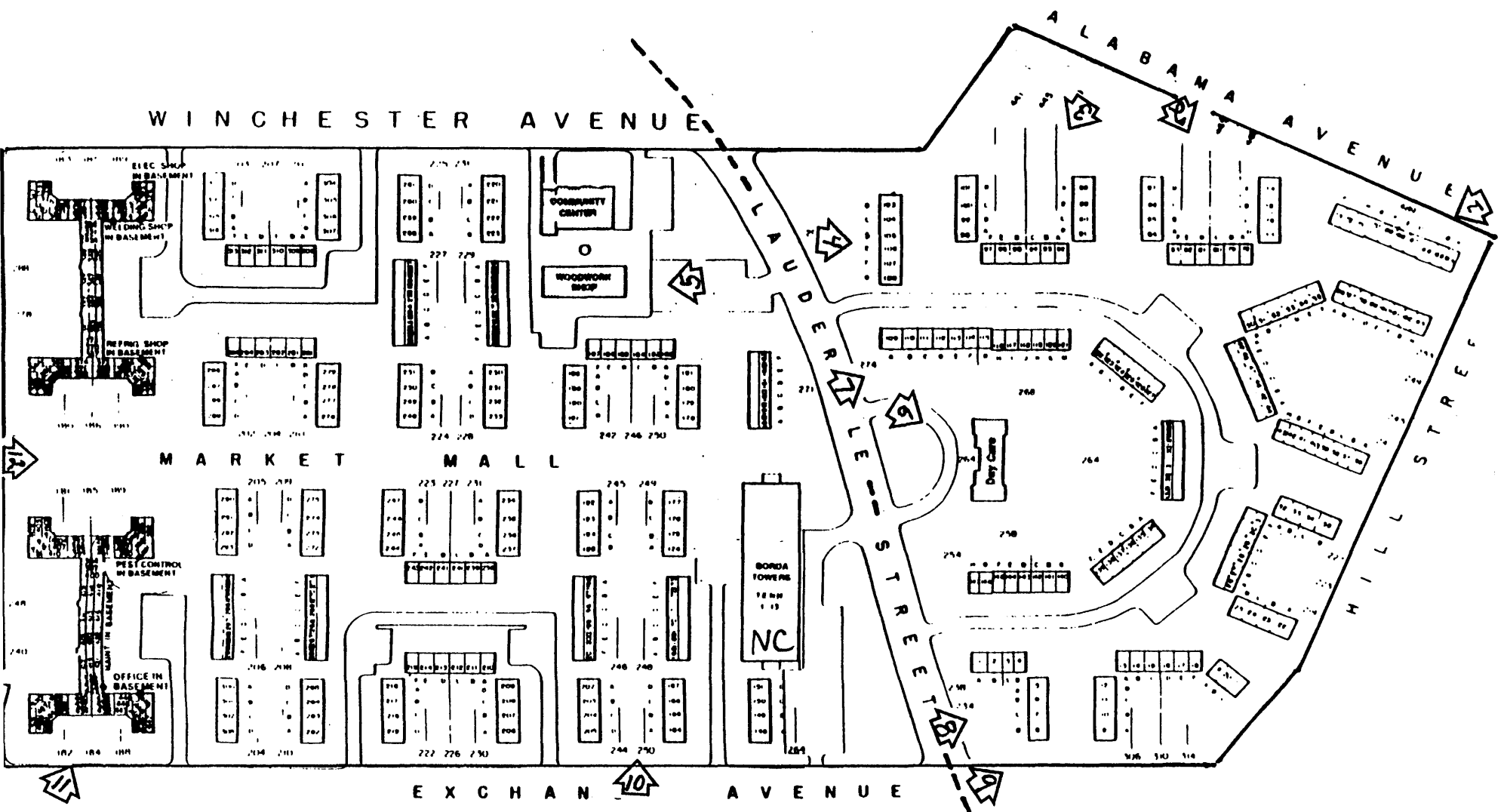
Census
 Tract
 23



LAUDERDALE COURTS

PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT

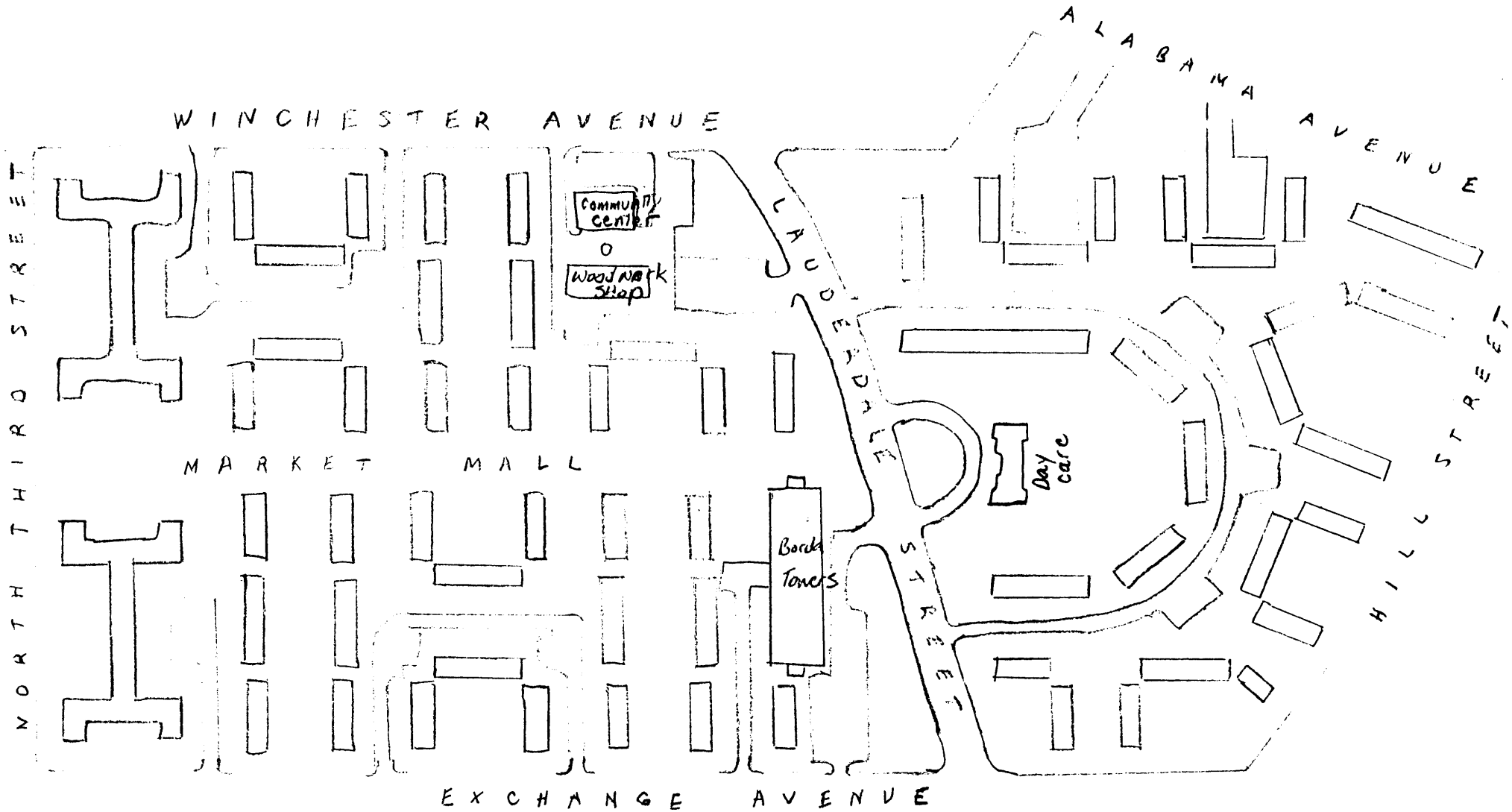
SUB BY CO PLAN



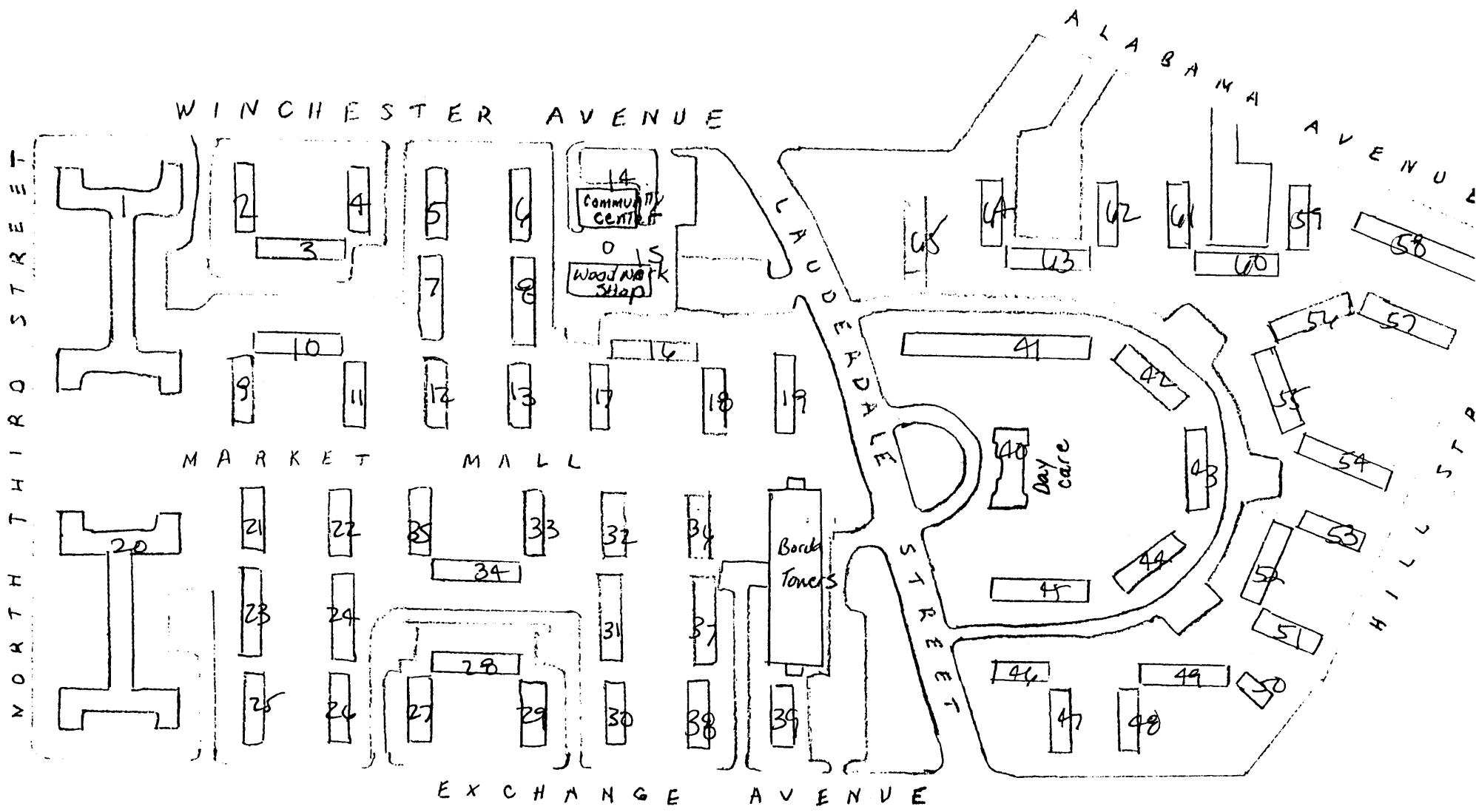
Census Tract 22
Census Tract 23



Photo Key Map
LAUDERDALE COURTS PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT



Lauderdale Courts Public Housing
Project Shelling Co. TN
Sketch man



Lauderdale Courts Public Housing
 Project Shelby Co. TN
 Sketch map