

RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD

Russell Urban Renewal Impact Area
Bounded by Congress Alley on the north,
Esquire Alley on the south, Fifteenth
Street on the east, and Twenty-first
Street on the west

Louisville
Jefferson County
Kentucky

HABS NO. KY-230

HABS
KY
56-LOUVI,
80-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HABS
KY
56-LOUVI,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD

HABS NO. KY-230

Location: Russell Urban Renewal Impact Area. Roughly bounded by 15th Street to the east, portions of 26th and 28th Street to the west, the alley north of Jefferson Street to the north, and the alley south of Magazine Street to the south.

U.S.G.S. Louisville West & New Albany, Indiana Quadrangle.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16.607170.4234770,
16.607090.4234000, 16.605030.4234000, 16.605070.4234480,
16.605470.4234440.

Present Owner: Multiple owners.

Present Occupants: Multiple occupants.

Present Use: Residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and ecclesiastical.

Significance: The significance of the Russell neighborhood lies in its rich history as an early residential enclave that developed in the second half of the 1800s. Initially, the area was populated predominantly by German and Irish immigrants. However, by the early 1900s the shift in home ownership and occupancy was to African Americans. The existing late Victorian building stock in the Russell Historic District, which ranges from modest to opulent in style and scale, is tangible evidence of the evolution of this area of western Louisville as it pertains to the settlement of these distinct ethnic groups.

Historical Information

The significance of the Russell Neighborhood lies in its rich history as an early residential enclave that developed in the second half of the 1800s. Initially the area was populated by German and Irish immigrants. However, by the early 1900s the shift in home ownership was to African Americans. The existing late Victorian residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and ecclesiastical building stock is tangible evidence of the evolution of this area of western Louisville as it pertains to settlement patterns of these distinct ethnic groups.

Historic District Boundaries

Although there is evidence that portions of the Russell neighborhood were settled as early as the 1850s, the major growth spurt in the area occurred after the Civil War. Most of the residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and ecclesiastical structures found in Russell were built between the years 1870 and 1890. The historic district boundaries, as established in 1980, were drawn to include as much of Russell's historic fabric as possible based on the area's architectural integrity and cohesiveness as it relates to the specified time period.

Although development in the Russell area originally extended west from Sixth Street, because of recent urban renewal mass demolition, the historic district begins at 15th Street. The northern boundary of the district is the alley north of Jefferson Street. Market Street, north of this boundary, is comprised of predominantly commercial, Victorian and Italianate structures, and the character of the area is different from that of the Russell district (portions are listed on the National Register as the Lower West Market Street National Register District which was listed in 1982). The southern boundary is the alley south of Magazine Street from 18th Street to 24th Street, and the alley south of Elliott Avenue from 24th Street to 28th Street. Broadway, south of this boundary, was, at one time, lined with fine Victorian residences, but commercial and industrial encroachment has diminished its character. The eastern and western boundaries vary according to the concentration of significant structures. Chestnut Street is a very solid strip of architecturally significant buildings. The boundary, therefore, was drawn east to 15th Street and west to 29th Street. East of 15th Street is an urban renewal area, and west of 29th Street is industrial development. Jefferson Street also extends east to 15th Street but a section between 15th Street and 18th Street, Madison Street and Cedar Street, was not included in the National Register nomination prepared in 1980 because the character of the district breaks down due to multiple demolitions and alterations. On the western side of the district, the 2500 block of Cedar Street, and everything west of 26th Street and north of Madison Street has been excluded from the district for the same reason. This section is also of later construction and lacks architectural significance (see attached National Register District map).

Historical Development

By the mid-1830s Louisville had established herself as a major western river port and by the 1850s she had become home to a substantial rail system. The 1850s also ushered in the extension of such municipal services as gas and water. Additionally, public schools were established, industry was flourishing, and the city's population was increasing with the influx of Europeans who were fleeing their homelands for a variety of social, political, and economic reasons. African Americans, both freedmen and slaves, were pouring in to Louisville as well (pg. D-5; LOUISVILLE SURVEY WEST REPORT). All of these factors would have an impact on West Louisville. In the span of just a few short years the character of the area that would eventually be called Russell would change substantially.

Prior to the Civil War, West Louisville was fertile farm land. Aside from the densely settled

town of Portland which was situated toward the north, next to the Portland Canal, West Louisville was characterized by dirt roads, fields, ponds, and scattered truck farms.

By 1856, although the street grid extended west as far as 19th Street, development was sporadic beyond that point (see attached 1856 map of Louisville, pg. 100-101, VIEWES OF LOUISVILLE SINCE 1776).

German and Irish Immigration

Perhaps the most significant factor in West Louisville's growth was the large increase in Louisville's immigrant population. As stated in the LOUISVILLE SURVEY WEST REPORT,

"In the middle of the nineteenth century, thousands of European working-class families came to America seeking relief from famine and political unrest. Many Irish and German families arrived in Louisville in the 1840s and 1850s, adding to the areas population... By 1852, of Louisville's 51,726 residents, 18,500 were of German extraction. There were several waves of German immigration, encompassing Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, peasant farmers, artisans, and small merchants".

Many of these immigrants, the LOUISVILLE SURVEY WEST REPORT continues,

"[p]opulated the flat, bottom land west of the city limits and engaged in truck farming...Irish construction workers had arrived in Louisville as early as the 1820s to work on the Louisville and Portland Canal but at mid-century there was a large influx of Irish fleeing the terrible potato famine of 1848-49 and seeking to work on the new railroad lines. Between 1850 and 1860 the Irish population more than doubled"(pg. D-13 & 14).

These European immigrants would serve as a major component of the population base for the expansion of Louisville toward the west.

African American Influx

Not all of those who settled West Louisville came to this country of their own free will. In addition to German and Irish immigrants, African Americans were a significant factor in the development of the area. Most of the African Americans who settled in West Louisville were either former slaves or the decedents of slaves. The LOUISVILLE SURVEY WEST REPORT notes that in the early to mid-1800s...

"[B]lacks, both slave and free, contributed a great deal to the Louisville economy. Slaves worked as draymen, on the docks, and in the hemp, iron, and tobacco industries...With the growth of the abolitionist movement, the percentage of whites owning slaves dropped between 1820 and 1840, and many blacks were sold to industry. Industrial slaves usually lived at or near their places of work. One hemp factory provided a tenement for its workers...Before emancipation the black population was dispersed throughout the city. Slaves lived in or behind their owners' residences, often in shacks facing the alleys. Black churches and other institutions were located on the city's edge." (pg.D-15 & 16).

West Louisville was well suited to industry and manufacturing because of its topography and natural resources, and as a result, many of the Blacks who worked in manufacturing and industry lived in the area. The majority lived in secondary housing, mostly modest

shotgun houses or cottages along Russell's alleyways, which was often poorly constructed. It would not be until much later that blacks would occupy the larger, more substantially built homes. The full impact of the increased number of African Americans moving into this part of Louisville would not be felt until after the turn-of-the-century when many blacks achieved some degree of financial autonomy and security and could afford to purchase homes originally built by and for those of German and Irish decent.

The Civil War Years

The State of Kentucky took advantage of its strategic location between north and south. As a border state, Kentucky and its citizens could, for the most part, stay out of most of the conflict while reaping substantial economic rewards as an important point for receiving and shipping of troops and war time supplies. For most of the war Louisville declared itself a neutral city which enabled her to trade with both the north and south. The rail lines were an especially important aspect of Louisville's economy. However, in July 1861, after the port director placed an embargo on all southern goods, Louisville traded only with those loyal to the union and in fact became a major supply depot for Union goods. Since no battles of substance occurred within the city's borders Louisville's building stock was spared from destruction. By war's end however, the L&N railroad suffered from deferred maintenance and needed to be substantially rebuilt. Despite deterioration of the city's infrastructure, the growth of industry spurred on by activity during the war years set the stage for the city's later physical expansion.

Post War Residential Expansion

A rapid population increase during the Civil War years lead to the need for residential expansion in Louisville. Although there was growth in almost every corner of Louisville after the war, western Louisville was particularly well suited to post-war expansion. In Russell the greatest suburban growth occurred in the 1870's and 1880's. The increasingly crowded conditions in the downtown core area, the general growth in Louisville's population, and the romantic idealization of rural life, all contributed to people's desire to move out of the center city toward the west.

From Truck Farms to Subdivisions

Most of the early immigrants who settled West Louisville in the mid-1800s had become truck farmers. However, by the late 1800s these truck farmers succumbed to development pressures and either sold their rural parcels to speculative developers or subdivided their farm land into smaller lots themselves. As indicated in the LOUISVILLE SURVEY WEST REPORT,...

"One problem arising from the multiplicity of western Louisville subdivisions was that each developer was responsible for laying out lots and streets within his own subdivision. Often little regard was given to adjoining tracts, so that the pattern of streets was not at all consistent... attempts at regulating the street grid were made as early as 1869, but it was not until 1930 that an ordinance was passed which enabled effective enforcement of the street layout" (pg. D-21).

Improved Modes of Transportation

The development of cheap transportation was a major factor in suburban growth in Russell and throughout the City. During the late 1860's several transit lines were established in Louisville, employing mule-drawn streetcars running on rails. Besides the old Portland line, there was a railway extending out Market Street to 18th Street. In the late 1870's and 1880's other lines were added, so that by 1887 there were one hundred twenty-five miles of track used annually by over twenty million passengers. The early trolley cars were cold and slow, averaging

five miles per hour, but they were inexpensive. For the first time people who could not afford carriages were no longer required to live within walking distance of their jobs. This transportation factor would have a major impact on Louisville's housing patterns.

Innovations in Real Estate Financing Practices

The new practice of buying land on credit put suburban living within the reach of the middle and working class. The LOUISVILLE SURVEY WEST REPORT notes that...

"building and loan companies offered 'long credit and low terms' (a six year note at 6 percent came into existence in the 1860's). By the mid-1870's there were thirteen building and loan associations in Louisville. The number had more than doubled by the early 1890's. Real estate development companies, which we tend to think of as a twentieth century phenomenon, were responsible for the surveying and platting of tracts for subdivisions before they were offered for sale... The number of real estate agents grew rapidly in the '70s and '80s. Developers were highly competitive, and advertisements described the various additions and subdivisions in glowing terms. The eastern suburbs offered snob appeal. The western suburbs offered convenience, transportation, and above all, economy. Land in Parkland [situated to the southwest of Russell] cost an average of \$260 an acre compared to \$1,000 an acre for Joshua Speed's tract in the (eastern) Highlands." (pg. D-20 & 21).

Subdivision of Land

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

Shawnee Park as a Western Amenity

The 1890s saw the development of a vast city-wide park system in Louisville with three major green spaces set aside by the city fathers for Fredrick Law Olmsted, father of American Landscape Architecture, to design. While south Louisville had its Iroquois Park and east Louisville had its Cherokee, west Louisville had Shawnee Park which stretched for miles along the north and west borders of the city as defined by the curve of the Ohio River. Especially designed by Olmsted as a passive game park, Shawnee was a popular picnic and recreation spot that real estate developers promoted in glowing terms in their advertisements for western lots and houses.

Ethnicity As Reflected In Area Churches

In Russell's early years the churches catered to the German heritage of the area's population. The Second German Methodist Church, constructed circa 1881-1882, was among the first in the area to be built. Many others would soon follow and would reflect the ethnicity and political make-up of their congregants. 1887 through 1888 saw the construction of two additional churches: 22nd and Walnut Street Baptist Church, located at 2200 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard (originally called Walnut Street) and built in 1887, and Jefferson Street Methodist Evangelical Church, built in 1888 at 1923 W. Jefferson Street. St. Peter's German Evangelical Church at 1231 W. Jefferson Street followed in 1894 as did Immanuel Presbyterian Church at 2324 West Chestnut Street. The 2nd English Lutheran Church was the last of the historic churches in the area to be built by those of European ancestry. It was constructed in 1902 at 2115 W. Jefferson Street. There were some early churches built by African American congregations as well, which reflected the presence of blacks in the

neighborhood early on. Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed at 2244 W. Jefferson Street in 1887 was the first, and was followed by the Covenant Presbyterian at 1901 W. Jefferson in 1894. Virtually all of the churches in the Russell neighborhood were high style, architect-designed buildings which reflected a scholarly approach to architectural design. Gothic Revival was by far the preferred ecclesiastic architectural style with a total of seven churches built in that tradition. Of the remainder, two are Romanesque Revival and one was designed based on the basilica plan. In later years, especially during the 1920s and 1930s, as whites moved out of the Russell neighborhood and more blacks moved in, the churches built for German and Irish congregations were purchased by churches with African American congregations.

Shift in Russell's Ethnic Mix From White Professionals To African American Professionals

The area today known as Russell continued to grow from the 1870's through the 1890's as a fashionable residential enclave for affluent whites. But residential areas south and east of Louisville increased in popularity in the 1890's and a change in population patterns began. The City's whites, who were generally more affluent than their black counterparts, could afford to let fashion dictate where they lived. As a result, the area's ethnic make-up evolved through a process of White abandonment and Black replacement. What makes this phenomenon significant to Louisville is that this change in racial make-up occurred early in the century, with the Black community well established in Russell as early as 1925. The major streets in Russell which contained large, expensive residences were purchased by Black professionals in these early years. From 1910 through 1930 the alternate streets, which contained the more modest, working-class residences, experienced a more gradual increase in Black occupancy. At that time, the quality of Russell's housing increased from east to west. This pattern remains the same today, as does the area's predominantly Black population.

Social Services For African Americans

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

Housing For African Americans In the Early Years

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

African American Professionals

As African Americans gained financial autonomy during the first half of the 20th century Russell became one of the most desirable neighborhoods in which aspiring Blacks chose to live. As such it was the home of several leaders in the Black community. Samuel Plato was one of Louisville's few Black architects. Simmons University (Limerick National Register District - 1978), the Virginia Avenue School, Zion AME Church, and numerous post office buildings throughout the nation are of Plato's design. He built his own home at No. 2509 West Chestnut Street about 1929. He used one his favorite building materials, yellow brick. The house is designed in a modified Tudor style.

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

Housing Characteristics

The Russell District can be generalized as a district with streets of alternating character. Predominantly large homes are found on Jefferson, Walnut, and Chestnut Streets. The alternating east-west streets of Cedar, Madison, Magazine and Elliott are representative of more modest dwellings.

Jefferson Street

Jefferson Street is a broad boulevard and was one of the first streets in the district to be developed. Besides a park and library as residential amenities, Jefferson Street also has six Gothic Revival style churches dating from the late 1870's to the early 1900's and a fine firehouse built in 1890.

Cedar Street

The type of architecture found on Cedar Street can be characterized as modest working-class housing. Residences along this street are generally shotgun houses with wood siding, although some brick construction is also interspersed. The dates of construction for the houses are early for the district, falling between 1870 and 1880.

Muhammad Ali Boulevard/Walnut Street

Muhammad Ali Boulevard began to develop as a residential area in the 1870's with a few commercial ventures located at major intersections. Some of the area's grandest structures are located in the western-most blocks of Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

Madison Street

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

Chestnut Street

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

Magazine Street

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

Street Amenities

In addition to the fine residences that line the streets of Russell there are a number of urban features which enhance the ambience of this western neighborhood. Russell has managed to retain, over the years, many amenities which add a special nineteenth century flavor to the streetscape, such as a wealth of brick alleys and sidewalks, stone and cast iron fences, and cast iron porches. The survival of cast iron in the quantities found in Russell is particularly rare and reflects the years that Louisville was a major producer of architectural cast iron wares. Most local cast iron was lost during World War I, when property owners donated it to the war effort.

Non-Contributing Structures and Sites

There are several intrusions in the district. Intrusions are those buildings recently constructed or older buildings which are grossly altered, which make them inconsistent or incompatible with the district. Parking lots are also indicated as intrusions. Vacant lots are not. The intrusions in the district are scattered and do not diminish the character of the district.

Current Development Climate

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

Conclusion

Russell is a cohesive community with a healthy balance of residential, commercial and public land use. It is a neighborhood which displays the evolution of German and Irish immigrant settlement patterns through its remarkably intact and cohesive late nineteenth century building stock. Additionally, Russell holds a very important place in the history of the Black community in Louisville as the cultural, social, residential and commercial hub of Black activity for over fifty years.

Descriptive Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The fifth style used in the Russell District, the shotgun, is the most common style, and the one which makes the greatest contribution to the cohesive architectural character of the district. The shotgun residence is common throughout the City of Louisville, but perhaps in no other section of the city are so very many types of the style found. The shotgun is basically one room wide and three rooms deep. Variations of the style include the camelback shotgun, with an additional one or two rooms above the rear, the L shaped camel back with a side entrance, and the single-story shotgun with a side entrance. Brick and clapboard are both used, with various roof pitches, porches, fenestration and decoration. The plan is generally the same, but rarely can two identical shotguns be found. This style was largely used by the working class, and is most frequently found on Cedar, Madison, Magazine, and the numbered cross streets. An example of the typical frame shotgun can be found at No. 2128 Madison Street. It is a single-story shotgun with low sloping roof, no porch addition, bracketed cornice and hooded doors and windows. No. 2123 Madison is a brick, single-story shotgun with the L plan. It has a low sloping pyramidal roof, and elaborate stone hoods. No. 2519 West Madison has a gabled roof and features which illustrate the diversity of shotgun design. Fish scale shingles, a Palladian window and a semi-elliptical stained glass transom are all elements which are used in the shotgun design to express the individuality of the owner or builder.

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

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

No. 2008 West Jefferson Street is a magnificent brick structure designed in a transitional style from Italianate to Victorian. An unusual cast iron porch with slender classical columns has other features which are repeated in the facade decoration. The first floor windows begin at the porch level and rise to full height, with very large leaded-glass transoms.

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The windows are hinged and can be opened onto the porch. The facade is articulated with engaged columns, recessed and protruding bays, curved brick corners and a pressed metal cornice. This house is an extraordinary architectural accomplishment and is currently in excellent condition.

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

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

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

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

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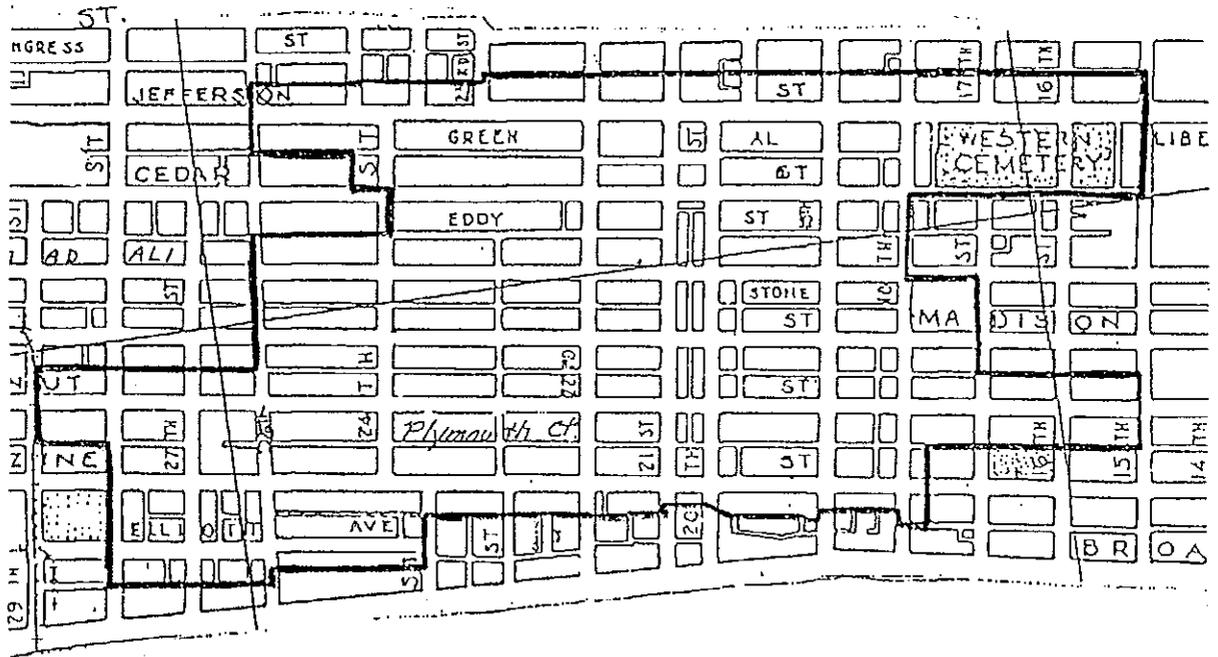
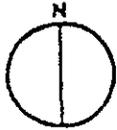
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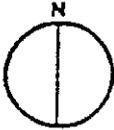
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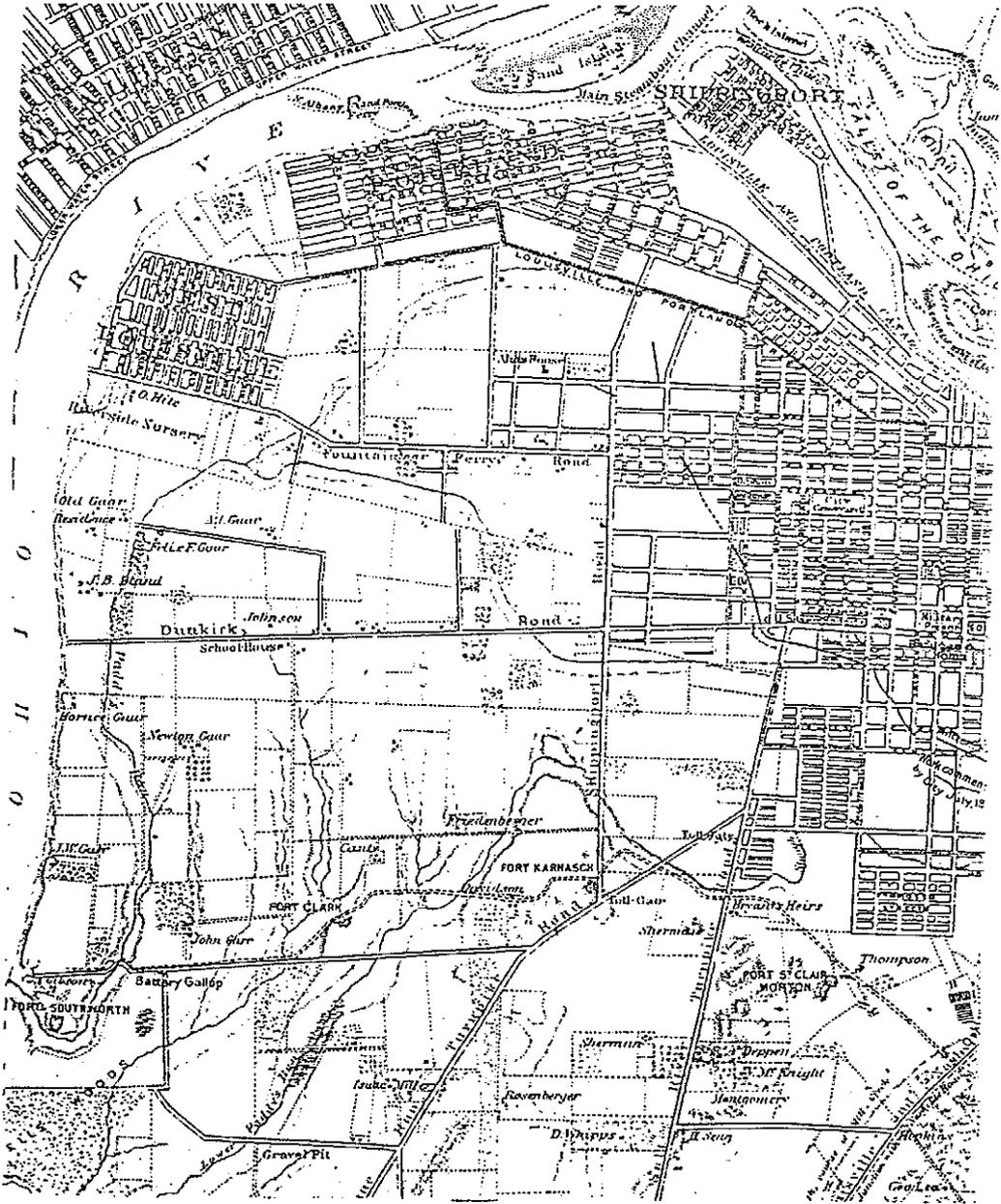
RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD
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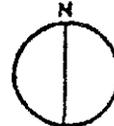


RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD
HABS No. KY - 230 (Page 16)

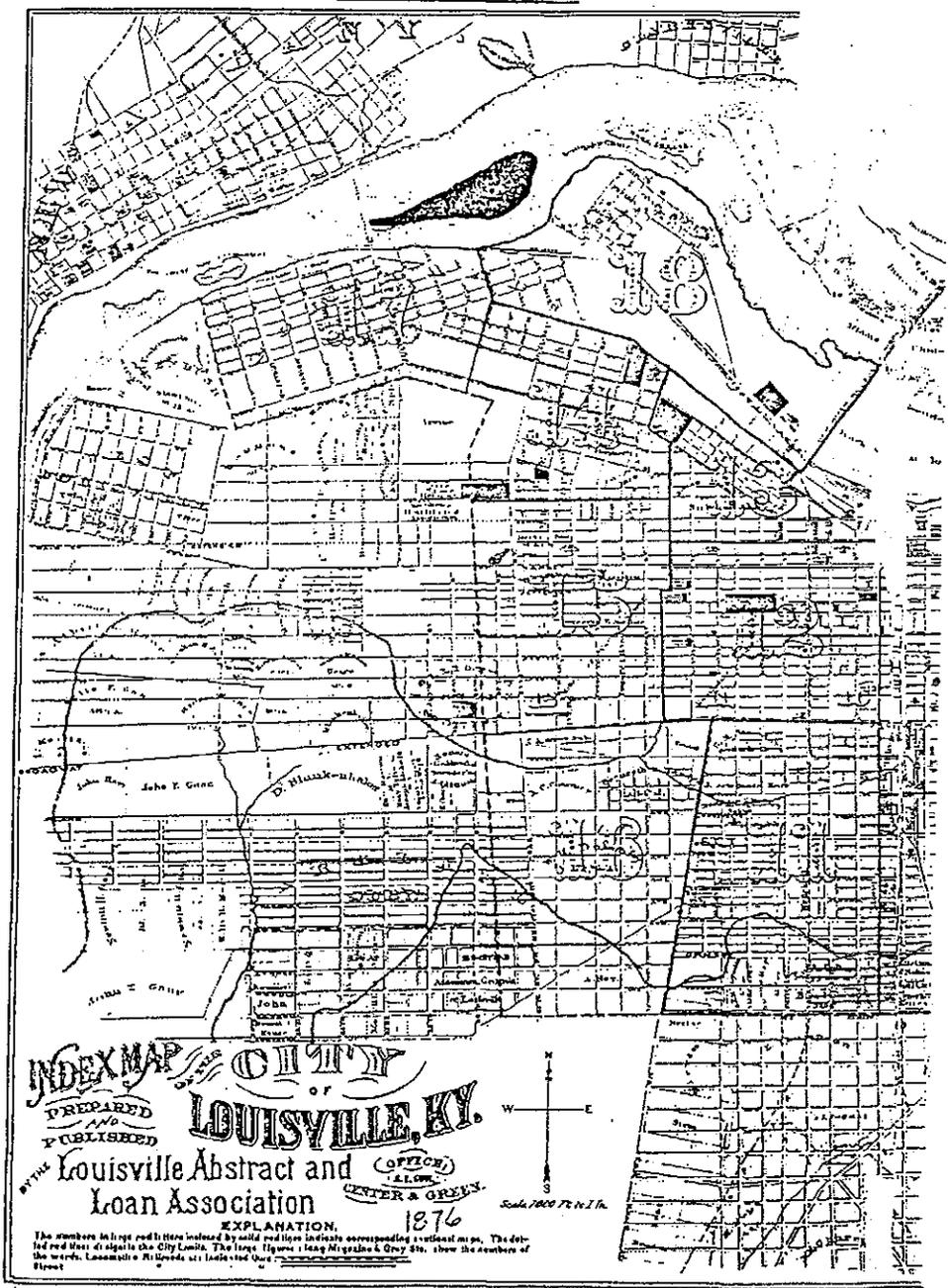


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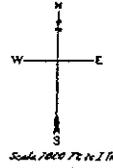


1876 Map of Louisville



INDEX MAP OF THE **CITY**
OF **LOUISVILLE, KY.**
PREPARED AND PUBLISHED
BY THE **Louisville Abstract and Loan Association**
OFFICE OF **JOHN W. CENTER & GREENY**
1876

EXPLANATION.
The numbers in large red letters indicate corresponding sectional maps. The dotted red lines designate the City limits. The large figures in map margins & City show the numbers of the wards. Lanes with a red line are indicated thus.



Scale 1/62500

