

# **Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex**

## **Draft Report on the Proposal for Designation as an Individual Landmark (22-LANDMARK-0002)**



**Metro Historic Landmarks and  
Preservation Districts Commission  
November 23, 2022**

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## **Case Information**

### **Individual Landmark**

As defined by the Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances (LMCO) 32.250, an Individual Landmark is “a structure or site, including prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, designated as a local historic landmark by the Commission as provided in this subchapter or by action prior to the effect of this subchapter. A landmark structure or site is one of significant importance to the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and which represents irreplaceable distinctive architectural features or historical associations that represent the historic character of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.”

### **22-LANDMARK-0002**

This case was initiated by the Commission’s receipt of an application and petition containing the signatures of at least 200 residents of Louisville Metro with at least 101 of those signatures being of residents or property owners within one of the following boundaries: (1) a one-mile radius surrounding the structure or site proposed for landmark designation, (2) the Council district in which the proposed landmarks is located, or (3) the cumulative areas of (1) and (2). The petition was prepared and submitted in response to wrecking permit applications for 1467 S. Preston Street, 401, 402 ½, 403, 404, 405, 407, 408, and 415 Lawton Court. The application and petition were timely submitted within the 30-day notice period associated with the Wrecking Permit application.

On August 16, 2022, the petition requesting Individual Landmark Designation of the Lawton Court complex (1467 S. Preston Street, 401, 402, 402 ½, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, and 419 Lawton Court) was submitted to Planning and Design Services and assigned case number 22-LANDMARK-0002. The petition verification was completed on September 12, 2022 with 245 total verified signatures, 155 of which were from residents in Council District 6 or within in the 1-mile radius of where Lawton Court is located. While the addresses 416 and 418 Lawton Court do not appear to exist, this does not impact the petition validity.

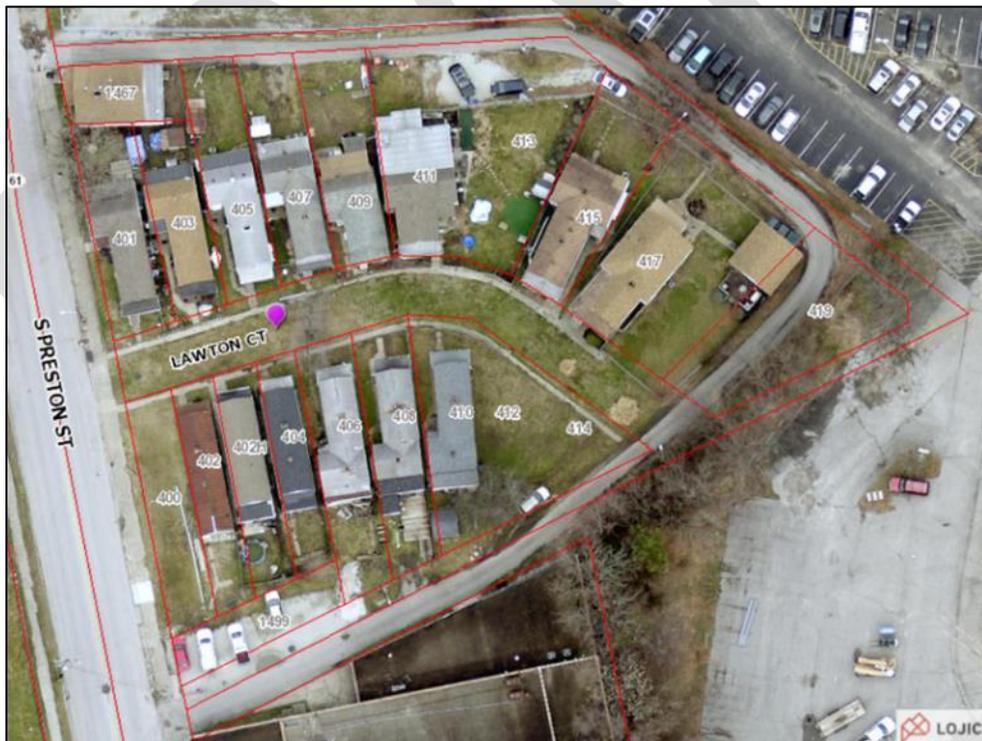
## **Property Description**

### **Location and Key Elements**

Lawton Court is located south of the intersection of E. Burnett Avenue and S. Preston Street. The property is situated in the Merriwether Neighborhood, east of I-65 and north of Gerner Court. The complex encompasses 16 parcels on which there are 14 primary structures (**Figure 1** and **Figure 2** and **Table 1**). 400 Lawton Court and 1499 S. Preston Street are not included in the designation request.



**Figure 1. Location of the Lawton Court Complex (LOJIC).**



**Figure 2. Aerial View of the Lawton Court Complex (LOJIC).**

***\*400 Lawton Court and 1499 S. Preston Street are not included in this designation review.***

**Table 1. Properties in Designation Request and Ownership.**

| Address                | Circa Construction Date | Current Owner           |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1467 S. Preston Street | 1914                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 401 Lawton Court       | 1916                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 402 Lawton Court       | Vacant lot              | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 402 ½ Lawton Court     | 1916                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 403 Lawton Court       | 1916                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 404 Lawton Court       | 1916                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 405 Lawton Court       | 1914                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 406 Lawton Court       | 1916                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 407 Lawton Court       | 1913                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 408 Lawton Court       | 1914                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 409 Lawton Court       | 1926                    | William T. Lewis, Jr.   |
| 410-414 Lawton Court   | 1914                    | Lisa R. Lewis           |
| 411-413 Lawton Court   | 1909                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 415 Lawton Court       | 1909                    | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |
| 417 Lawton Court       | 1914                    | Robert D. Marcum        |
| 419 Lawton Court       | Vacant lot              | CEPEDA Associates, Inc. |

### **Building Descriptions**

#### **1467 S. Preston Street:**

This is a one-and-a-half-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1914 in a vernacular style. The building features a front gable roof with vinyl lap siding and rusticated concrete block foundation. An internal brick chimney is located in the central roof ridgeline. The front (west) façade has a half width, concrete block porch with a front gable roof and square posts (**Figure 3**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the north (left) side and a window opening to the south. An additional window is situated further south. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. According to October 2022 Google Street view, both window openings contain a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. The south elevation of the building contains two window openings that have been boarded up; however, Google shows two 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. The east, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with an entry door and window opening to the south. The upper half story has a 6/6 double-hung window with a semicircular transom above. There are no outbuildings in the rear yard. The north elevation of the building contains a single boarded window opening (**Figure 4**). Google shows one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window.



**Figure 3. Front façade, or west elevation, of 1467 S. Preston Street, looking northeast.**



**Figure 4. North and west elevations of 1467 S. Preston Street, looking southeast.**

#### **401 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1916 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. The front (south) façade has a full width, rusticated concrete block porch with a hip roof and round columns (**Figure 5**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (left) side and a window opening to the east. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. According to October 2022 Google Street view, the window opening contains a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. There is a secondary entry that faces south and is inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a concrete porch, shed roof, and round column. The west elevation of the building contains two window openings that have been boarded up; however, Google shows two 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. The north, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with a sliding window and a boarded up entry door. There are no outbuildings in the rear yard. The east elevation contains two boarded window openings (**Figure 6**).



**Figure 5. Front façade, or south elevation, and west elevation of 401 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 6. South and east elevations of 401 Lawton Court, looking north.**

**402 Lawton Court:**

This is a vacant lot located between 400 Lawton Court and 402 ½ Lawton Court (**Figure 7**). The former shotgun style house was demolished December 2021. It was constructed circa 1916.



**Figure 7. Vacant lot at 402 Lawton Court, looking south.**

**402 ½ Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1916 in a vernacular style. It is a shotgun style building with a front gable roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. The front (south) façade has a full width, rusticated concrete block porch with a shed roof and round columns (**Figure 8**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (right) side and a window opening to the east. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. According to October 2022 Google Street view, the window opening contains a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window and the door is ¼ lite, fiberglass door. The west elevation of the building contains two window openings that have been boarded up; however, Google shows two 6/6 double-hung vinyl windows. The south, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with an entry and window to the east. Google shows these as a six-panel fiberglass door and a 6/6 double-hung vinyl window. There are no outbuildings in the rear yard. The east elevation contains one boarded window opening (**Figure 9**). There is also a smaller square opening that has been infilled with vinyl siding.



**Figure 8. Front façade, or north elevation, and west elevation of 402 ½ Lawton Court, looking southeast.**



**Figure 9. East and north elevations of 402 ½ Lawton Court, looking southwest.**

### **403 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 191 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. There is an internal, stucco clad chimney in the central ridge line of the rear portion of the building. The front (south) façade has a full width, rusticated concrete block porch with a hip roof and round columns (**Figure 10**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (left) side and a window opening to the east. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. According to October 2022 Google Street view, the window opening contains a 1/1 double-hung window. There is a secondary entry that faces south and is inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a concrete porch, shed roof, and metal support. The west elevation of the building contains two window openings that have been boarded up. The north, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with two boarded window openings and entry door. A prefabricated shed is located in the rear yard. The east elevation contains a small 1/1 double-hung window and one boarded window opening (**Figure 11**).



**Figure 10. Front façade, or south elevation, and west elevation of 403 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 11. South and east elevations of 403 Lawton Court, looking northwest.**

#### **404 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1916 in a vernacular style. It is a shotgun style building with a front gable roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. There is an internal brick chimney in the central roof ridgeline. Under the front gable, the vinyl siding has been removed showing original wood lap siding. The front (south) façade has a full width, rusticated concrete block porch with a shed roof and round columns (**Figure 12**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (right) side and a window opening to the east. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. According to October 2022 Google Street view, the window opening contains a sliding vinyl window and the door is six-panel, fiberglass door. The west elevation of the building contains two window openings that have been boarded up. The south, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with an entry and window to the east. Google shows these as a six-panel fiberglass door and a sliding vinyl window. There are no outbuildings in the rear yard. The east elevation contains one boarded window opening (**Figure 13**).



**Figure 12. Front façade, or north elevation, and west elevation of 404 Lawton Court, looking southeast.**



**Figure 13. East and north elevations of 404 Lawton Court, looking southwest.**

#### **405 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1914 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. There are two internal brick chimneys in the central ridge lines of the roofs. The front (south) façade has a full width, concrete block porch with a metal shed roof and metal supports (**Figure 14**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (left) side and a window opening to the east. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. According to October 2022 Google Street view, the window opening contains a 1/1 double-hung window and the door is a six-panel fiberglass door. There is a secondary entry that faces south and is inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a concrete stoop and metal awning overhead. The west elevation of the building contains two window openings that have been boarded up. The north, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition that is enclosed on the west side with one window opening. The east side of the addition is open as cover for the entry door. A prefabricated shed is located in the rear yard. The east elevation contains one boarded window opening (**Figure 15**).



**Figure 14. Front façade, or south elevation, and west elevation of 405 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 15. South and east elevations of 405 Lawton Court, looking north.**

#### **406 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1916 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. The front (north) façade has a full width, concrete block porch with a shed roof and wood posts and balusters (**Figure 16**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (right) side with a ¼ lite entry door and storm door. To the east, there is one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. There used to be a secondary entry that faced north and was inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a concrete porch, shed roof, and wooden post. The entry door has been replaced with a clerestory window. The west elevation of the building contains two 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. The south, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with one ½ lite window on the east side. There are no outbuildings in the rear yard. The east elevation contains one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window (**Figure 17**).



**Figure 16. Front façade, or north elevation, and west elevation of 406 Lawton Court, looking southeast.**



**Figure 17. East and north elevations of 406 Lawton Court, looking south.**

**407 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1913 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a foundation clad in stucco. There are two internal brick chimneys in the central ridge lines of the roofs. The front (south) façade has a full width, concrete porch with a hipped roof and rusticated concrete block columns (**Figure 18**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (left) side and a window opening to the east. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. According to October 2022 Google Street view, the window opening contains a 1/1 double-hung window and the door has a storm door. There is a secondary entry that faces south and is inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a concrete porch, hipped roof, and rusticated concrete block column. The west elevation of the building contains two window openings that have been boarded up. The north, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with an entry door on the east side and a sliding window on the west side. A prefabricated shed is located in the rear yard. The east elevation contains two boarded window openings (**Figure 19**).



**Figure 18. Front façade, or south elevation, and west elevation of 407 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 19. South and east elevations of 407 Lawton Court, looking northwest.**

#### **408 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1914 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. There are two internal brick chimneys in the central ridge lines of the roofs. The front (north) façade has a full width, rusticated concrete block porch with a hipped roof and metal supports and balusters (**Figure 20**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door on the west (right) side and a window opening to the east. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. Petition photos show a storm door and one 6/6 double-hung vinyl window. There used to be a secondary entry that faced north and was inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a concrete stoop. The entry door has been removed and covered in vinyl siding. The west elevation of the building contains two boarded window openings. The south, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with an entry on the east side. The west side has a ½ width, second shed roof addition. There are no outbuildings in the rear yard. The east elevation contains one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window (**Figure 21**).



**Figure 20. Front façade, or north elevation, and east elevation of 408 Lawton Court, looking southwest.**



**Figure 21. North and west elevations of 408 Lawton Court, looking southeast.**

#### **409 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1926 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. There is one internal brick chimney in the central ridge line of the rear portion of the roof. The front (south) façade has a full width, concrete porch with a front gable roof and rusticated concrete block columns (**Figure 22**). Under the porch roof, there is a fiberglass entry door on the west (left) side and a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window with shutters. There is a secondary entry that faces south and is inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a rusticated concrete block porch, hipped roof, and rusticated concrete block column. There is a six-panel fiberglass entry door. The west elevation of the building contains one visible 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. The north, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with 6/6 double-hung vinyl on the west side. The west side has a ½ width, second shed roof addition for the entry. There are no outbuildings in the rear yard. The east elevation contains one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window (**Figure 23**).



**Figure 22. Front façade, or south elevation, and west elevation of 409 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 23. South and east elevations of 409 Lawton Court, looking north.**

#### **410-414 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1914 in a vernacular style. It is an L-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. There are two internal brick chimneys in the central ridge lines of the roofs. The front (north) façade has a full width, rusticated concrete block porch with a hipped roof and wood posts (**Figure 24**). Under the porch roof, there is a fiberglass entry door on the west (right) side and a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window on the east. There is a secondary entry that faces north and is inset on the west side of the house. This entry has a concrete stoop with a shed roof awning above. The entry door is a ½ lite door. The west elevation of the building contains one visible 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. The south, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition with an entry and fiberglass door on the east side. The west side has a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. There is a prefabricated shed in the rear yard. The east elevation contains four 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows (**Figure 25** and **Figure 26**). The house has a large side yard, which encompasses the lots formerly known as 412 and 414 Lawton Court. From aerial photographs, it does not appear that these lots were ever constructed on.



**Figure 24. Front façade, or north elevation, and west elevation of 410-414 Lawton Court, looking southeast.**



**Figure 25. East and north elevations of 410-414 Lawton Court, looking southwest.**



**Figure 26. East elevation of 410-414 Lawton Court and side yard, looking west.**

### 411-413 Lawton Court:

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1909 in a vernacular style. It is a T-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, aluminum siding, and a concrete foundation. The front (south) façade has a full width, concrete porch with a hipped roof and concrete block columns with wood Doric columns (**Figure 27**). Under the porch roof, there is a ½ lite fiberglass entry door on the east (right) side and a 1/1 double-hung window on the west side. Above the porch roof, there is one multi-lite casement window. There is a secondary entry that faces south and is inset on the east side of the house. The details of the entry are obscured by the corrugated metal fencing as is the rest of the east elevation. The north, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition. The west side has two smaller, shed roof additions. Each addition has one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. There are no visible outbuildings in the rear yard. The west elevation contains two 1/1 double-hung windows as well as one more window that faces south (**Figure 28** and **Figure 29**). The house has a large side yard, which encompasses the lot formerly known as 413 Lawton Court. From aerial photographs, it appears that the circa 1910 house was demolished between 1983 and 1992.



**Figure 27. Front façade, or south elevation, and west elevation of 411-413 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 28. South elevation of 411-413 Lawton Court, looking north.**



**Figure 29. South elevation of 411-413 Lawton Court, looking north.**

#### **415 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1909 in a vernacular style. It is a T-shaped, shotgun style building with a cross gabled roof, aluminum siding, and a concrete foundation. The front (southwest) façade has a full width, concrete porch with a hipped roof and round columns (**Figure 30**). Under the porch roof, there is an entry door with a transom window on the south (right) side and a window opening with a transom window on the north side. All of these openings are currently boarded up as the property is vacant. Petition photos show a ½ lite fiberglass door and one 1/1 double-hung window. There is a secondary entry that faces southwest and is inset on the southeast side of the house. There is a concrete porch with a hipped roof and round column. According to petition photos, there is a six-panel fiberglass door and transom window. The southeast elevation has a boarded window opening. The northeast, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition on the east side. The northwest side has the entry and is covered by a roof. There are no visible outbuildings in the rear yard. The northwest elevation contains an inset, southwest facing window opening that is boarded (**Figure 31**).



**Figure 30. Front façade, or southwest elevation, and northwest elevation of 415 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 31. Southwest and southeast elevations of 415 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**

### **417 Lawton Court:**

This is a one-story frame structure, originally constructed circa 1914 in a vernacular style. It is a shotgun style building with a gable on hip roof, vinyl siding, and a rusticated concrete block foundation. There are two internal brick chimneys located in the central roof ridgelines. The front (southwest) façade has a full width, rusticated concrete block porch with a hipped roof and round columns (**Figure 32** and **Figure 33**). The porch wraps to the northwest. Under the porch roof, there is a central ¼ lite fiberglass door with a storm door. To the southeast, there is one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. There is a secondary entry that faces southwest and is inset on the southeast side of the house covered by the main porch. The entry has a ¼ lite fiberglass door with a security door. The northwest elevation has two 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. The northeast, or rear, elevation features a one-story, shed roof addition on the west side. There is a central entry door with an awning and concrete stoop. To the west there are two 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. To the east, there is one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window and a casement window. To the east, next to the addition, there is one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. There is one large garage in side rear yard (**Figure 34**). The southeast elevation contains three 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows and one addition one that faces southwest.



**Figure 32. Front façade, or southwest elevation, of 417 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**



**Figure 33. Southwest and southeast elevations of 417 Lawton Court, looking north.**



**Figure 34. Southeast side yard and garage of 417 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**

**419 Lawton Court:**

419 Lawton Court is a vacant lot located southeast of 417 Lawton Court (**Figure 35**). According to aerial photographs, it does not appear this lot was ever constructed on. The alley, which runs the perimeter of the Court, is located in this lot.



**Figure 35. Vacant lot at 419 Lawton Court, looking northeast.**

**400 Lawton Court & 1499 S. Preston Street (not included in designation):**

400 Lawton Court is a vacant lot located between S. Preston Street and 402 Lawton Court (**Figure 36**). The former shotgun style house was demolished between 1983 and 1992 according to aerial photographs. It was constructed circa 1916. 1499 S. Preston Street is a vacant lot south of 400 Lawton Court, which is shown in the image below with two cars parked on it. The former two-story commercial building was demolished between 1993 and 1998 according to aerial photographs. These two properties were not included in the original petition and are currently vacant lots. They are not integral to the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex.

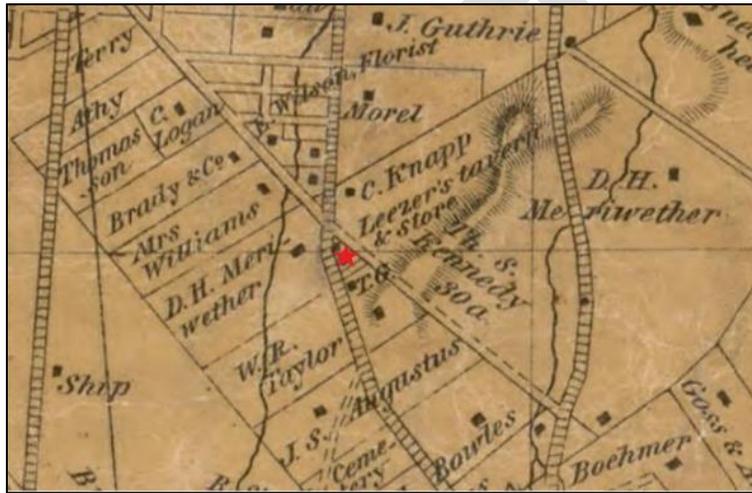


**Figure 36. Vacant lots known as 400 Lawton Court & 1499 S. Preston Street, looking south.**

## Historic Context

### **Development of Lawton Court**

The land on which Lawton Court is located was originally part of a large tract of land owned by speculator David H. Merriwether, for whom the neighborhood derives its name (**Figure 37**). Merriwether was a fur trader and politician serving in the Kentucky House of Representatives, US Senate, and as Governor of New Mexico Territory (Kleber 2001). According to the 1873 German & Bro map, the property was owned by Mr. Williams (**Figure 38**) and was then owned by J.W. Augustus. This entire area continued to be subdivided and developed over time, which is evident in the 1892 and 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (**Figure 39 and Figure 40**). However, Lawton Court was not yet developed.



**Figure 37. 1858 Map of Jefferson County, Kentucky showing the property of David H. Merriwether (red star is general location of requested designation) (Bergmann 1858).**



**Figure 38. 1873 Map of city of Louisville, Kentucky, New Albany & Jeffersonville, Indiana showing the property of Williams (red star is general location of requested designation) (German & Bro. 1873).**

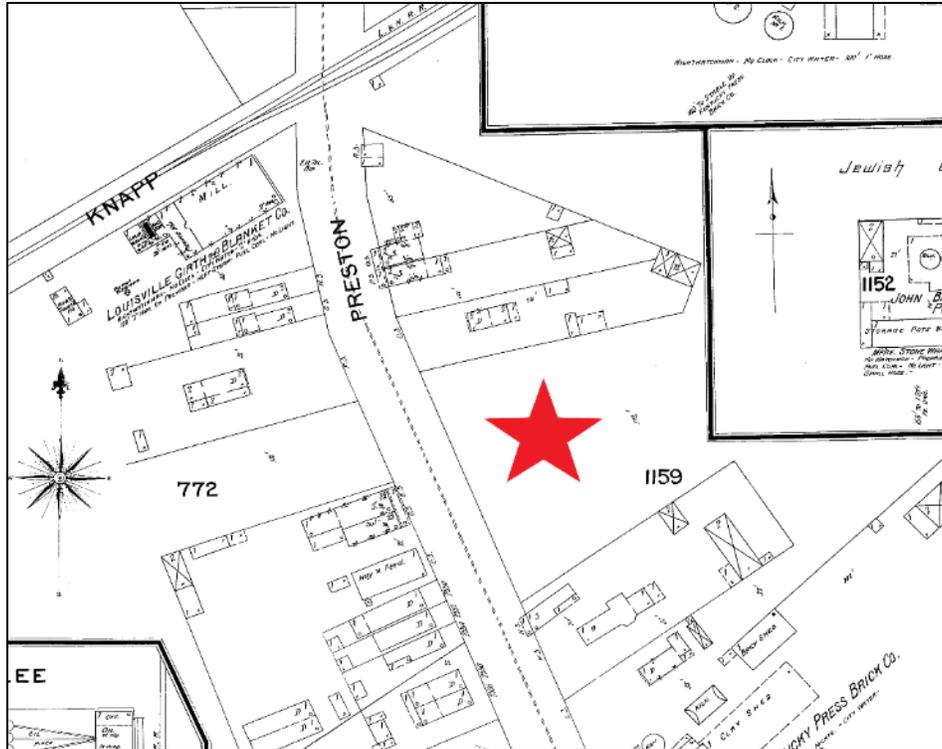


Figure 39. 1892 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, Volume 3, Sheet 214 (red star is general location of requested designation).

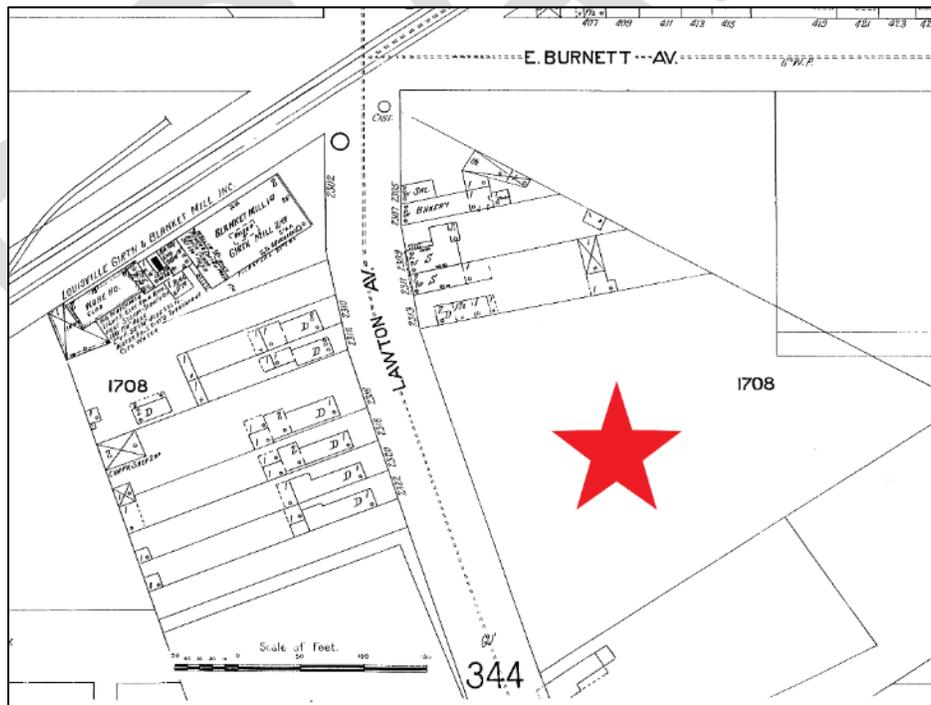
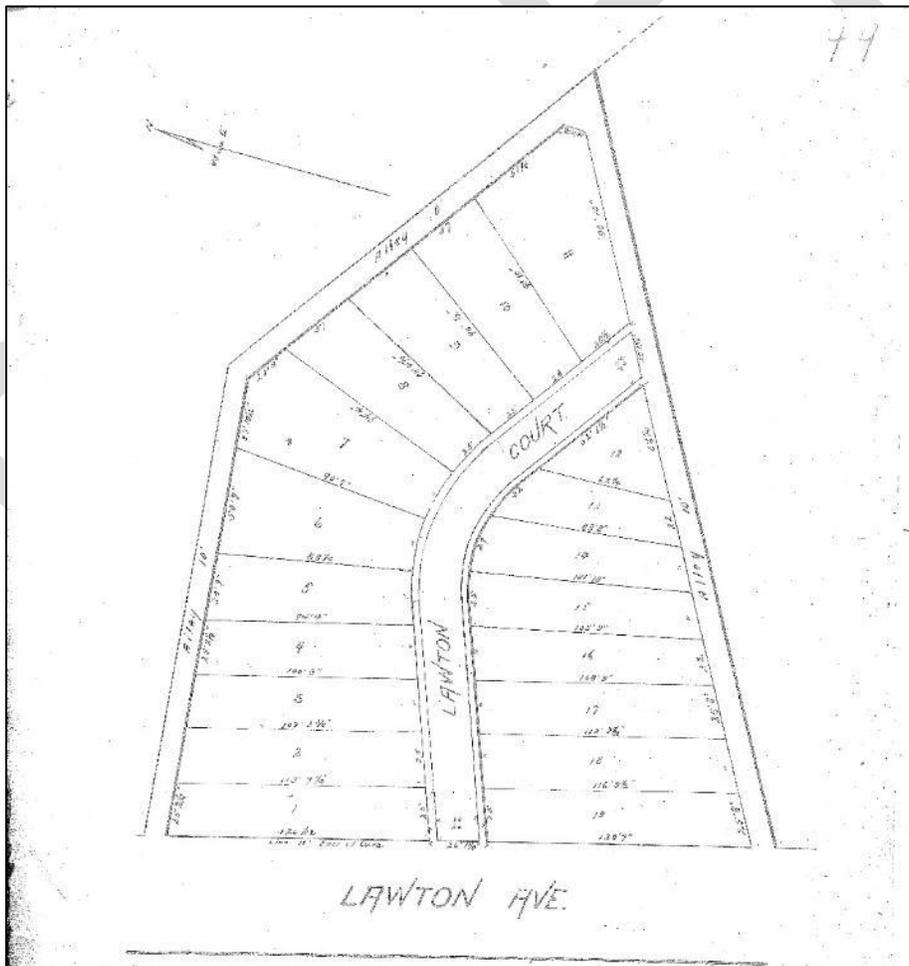
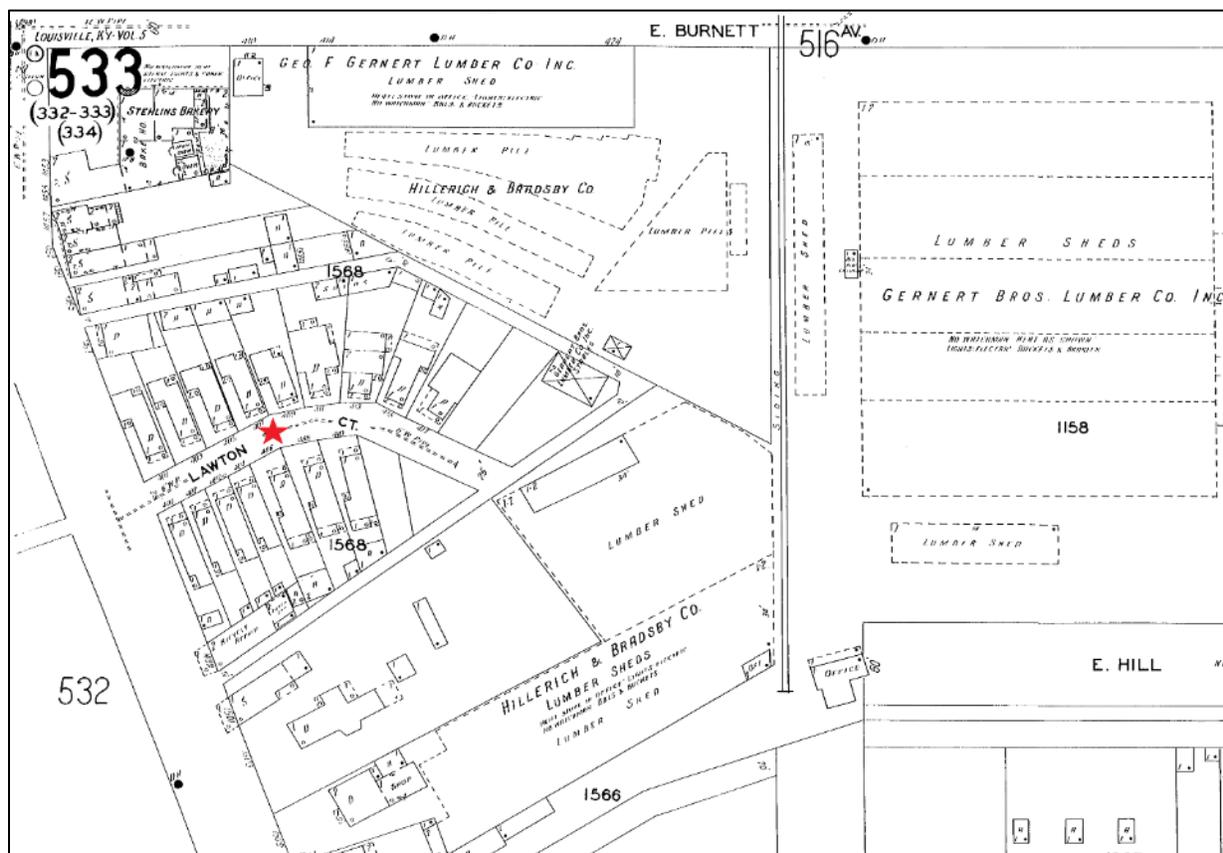


Figure 40. 1905 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, Volume 3, Sheet 214 (red star is general location of requested designation).

In 1902, the St. James Company filed a plat for the development of Lawton Court, a pedestrian court (**Figure 41**). The original plat showed 19 lots with an alley on either side of the court. The main entrance was located on Lawton Avenue, which became S. Preston Street. The *Courier-Journal* published an article on the development. It stated that the land was purchased by the St. James Company from J.W. Augustus. According to the article, “The court is to be twenty-six feet wide, with a grass plot, set in trees, and with granitoid sidewalks. ... On the lot there are now two or three old-time, tumble-down shanties, which will be wiped completely off. The new owners expect to make the property as handsome as Belgravia. ... The St. James Company expects to make the lots attractive to laboring men for homes. There will be restrictions as to colored people ever acquiring a lot in the court” (*Courier-Journal* 1902). Despite all of the planning that occurred in 1902, the first buildings were not constructed until 1909, and they were 411 and 415 Lawton Court. By 1910, the Court contained 411, 413, and 415 Lawton Court. In 1913, 407 Lawton Court was built. While not drawn on the original plat, 1467 S. Preston Street is located within the plat boundaries and was likely added for more real estate profit in 1913. By 1914, there were nine total houses on Lawton Court: 405, 407, 408, 410, 411, 412, 413, 415, and 417. By 1916, the Court was built out as seen in the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map except for 409 Lawton Court, which was not yet constructed (**Figure 42**).



**Figure 41. 1902 Plat of Lawton Court (Plat Book 2, Page 44).**



**Figure 42. 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Volume 3, Sheet 533 (red star shows location of Lawton Court).**

The development of Lawton Court was a real estate venture for the St. James Company. Each of the lots were sold for the construction of workforce housing. Following the real estate transactions as well as city directory and census information, it's clear some of these houses were rental and some were owner occupied (see **Table 2**). Many of the owners of houses on the Court did not occupy them. Rental listings were published in the newspaper. For example, 405 Lawton Court was advertised as a “practically new cottage” (**Figure 43**) (*Courier-Journal* 1915). Hardin Wilson, a director for the Transylvania Casualty Insurance Company who lived in the Old Louisville Neighborhood, purchased at least five lots in Lawton Court and 1467 S. Preston Street. According to building permits found in the newspaper, Wilson had at least two houses built on Lawton Court (410 and 412) as well as 1467 S. Preston Street in 1913 (*Courier-Journal* 1913a; *Courier-Journal* 1913c; *Courier-Journal* 1913d). As Wilson never lived in this area and sold the properties after the houses were constructed, it appears he was a real estate developer.

Rudolph Kummer was one the of the owner occupants on Lawton Court, 413 specifically. In 1909, he purchased the property from the St. James Company (*Courier-Journal* 1909). A Swiss Immigrant, Kummer worked for the L&N Railroad and lived on the court with his wife Anna and their four children. In 1910, Rhinehart Binder purchased his lot from the St. James Company, 411 Lawton Court (*Courier-Journal* 1910). Binder was a German immigrant working as a carpenter.

He lived in his home with his wife Rosa and their two sons. William T. Pinaire was also one of the owner occupants of 417 Lawton Court. In 1912, he purchased the property from the St. James Company, and in 1913, his building permit for the house was printed in the newspaper (*Courier-Journal* 1912; *Courier-Journal* 1913b). Pinaire was an insurance agent and lived on the court with his wife Mary and his step son Edson James.

**Table 2. List of Tenants for Lawton Court.**

| City Directory Year | Address             | Tenant Names                               | Occupation Listed                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| 1909                | 411                 | Rhinehart E. Binder*                       | Carpenter   |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                          | Driver for E.K. Mack                              |
| 1910                | 411                 | Rhinehart E. Binder*                       | Carpenter   |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                            | Conductor for L&N Railroad                        |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                          | Driver for E.K. Mack                              |
| 1912                | 411                 | Rhinehart E. Binder*                       | Carpenter   |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                            | Conductor for L&N Railroad                        |
|                     |                     | Fred Wiedmar                               | Helper for L&N Railroad                           |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                          | Car Repair for L&N Railroad                       |
| Bertha Bruckert     |                     | Operator for Louisville Home Telephone Co. |   |
| 1913                | 407                 | Joseph T. Edwards*                         | Painter for L&N Railroad                          |
|                     | 411                 | Rhinehart E. Binder*                       | Carpenter   |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                            | Conductor for L&N Railroad                        |
|                     |                     | Fred Wiedmar                               | Helper for L&N Railroad                           |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                          | Car Repair for L&N Railroad                       |
| 1914                | 1467                | Lester Hirschfield                         | Postal Carrier                                    |
|                     | 405                 | Dent S. Pash                               | Engineer for Kaufman-Straus Co.                   |
|                     | 407                 | Joseph T. Edwards*                         | Painter for L&N Railroad                          |
|                     | 408                 | Floedell D. Quick                          | Bookkeeper  |
|                     | 410                 | James W. Shrewsbury*                       | Shrewsbury & Devine, blacksmiths                  |
|                     | 411                 | Rhinehart E. Binder*                       | Carpenter   |
|                     | 412                 | Vacant                                     |   |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                            | Conductor for L&N Railroad                        |
|                     |                     | Fred Wiedmar                               | Laborer for L&N Railroad                          |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                          | Car Repair for L&N Railroad                       |
| 417                 | William T. Pinaire* | Agent for Southern Life Insurance Co.      |   |
| 1916                | 1467                | Lester Hirschfield                         | Postal Carrier                                    |
|                     | 400                 | W. Pierce Kelley                           | Decorator   |
|                     | 401                 | Edward M. Cheatham                         | Barber  |
|                     | 402                 | Harlan Miller                              | Agent for Prudential Insurance Co.                |
|                     | 402 ½               | William Kennedy                            | Driver for Belknap Hardware & Manufacturing Co.   |
|                     |                     | Harry Schnepf                              | Schnepf & Peters, agents for Moerlein Brewing Co. |

| City Directory Year | Address             | Tenant Names                          | Occupation Listed                       |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
|                     | 403                 | Vernon B. Quiggins                    | Salesman for Hunt, Russell & Co.        |
|                     | 404                 | Ferdinand Oehler                      | Driver for Hook & Ladder #3             |
|                     | 405                 | Charles O. Browning                   | Police Officer                          |
|                     | 406                 | Charles W. Mettling                   | Conductor for Louisville Railway Co.    |
|                     | 407                 | Joseph T. Edwards*                    | Conductor for Louisville Railway Co.    |
|                     | 408                 | Clarence B. Benningfield              | Telephone Operator for L&N Railroad     |
|                     | 410                 | Charles W. Johnston                   | Clerk for Taylor-Isaacs Drug Co.        |
|                     | 411                 | Peter J. Keenan                       | Foreman for Louisville Woolen Mills     |
|                     | 412                 | John Wick                             | Driver for Corey-Scheffel Lumber Co.    |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                       | Conductor for L&N Railroad              |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                     | Car Repair for L&N Railroad             |
|                     | 417                 | William T. Pinaire*                   | Agent for Southern Life Insurance Co.   |
| 1918                | 1467                | John F. Mininszek                     | US Army                                 |
|                     | 400                 | August F. Mueller                     | Fireman for L&N Railroad                |
|                     | 401                 | Talbot L. Daily                       | Plasterer                               |
|                     | 402                 | Henry T. Craven                       | Carpenter                               |
|                     | 402 ½               | Perey R. Krueger                      | Painter for Ford Motor Co.              |
|                     | 403                 | Ellen Davis                           | Widow of S.W. Davis                     |
|                     | 404                 | John Stirneman                        | Fireman for L&N Railroad                |
|                     | 405                 | Charles O. Browning                   | Police Officer                          |
|                     | 406                 | Charles W. Mettling                   | Conductor for Louisville Railway Co.    |
|                     | 407                 | Joseph T. Edwards*                    | Conductor for Louisville Railway Co.    |
|                     | 408                 | Harlan A. Miller                      | Agent for Prudential Insurance Co.      |
|                     | 410                 | Joshua M. Newman                      | Salesman                                |
|                     | 411                 | Frederick Kummer*                     | Car Repair for L&N Railroad             |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                       | Conductor for L&N Railroad              |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                     | Car Repair for L&N Railroad             |
| 417                 | William T. Pinaire* | Agent for Southern Life Insurance Co. |   |
| 1920                | 1467                | John F. Maize                         | US Army                                 |
|                     | 400                 | August F. Mueller                     | Fireman for L&N Railroad                |
|                     | 401                 | James R. Deshon                       | Motorman for Louisville Railway Co.     |
|                     | 402                 | Claude L. Lukenbill                   | Clerk for Louisville Gas & Electric Co. |
|                     | 402 ½               | Emil L. Rush                          | Carpenter                               |
|                     | 403                 | David F. Conway                       | Collector for Sternau's                 |
|                     | 404                 | John Stirneman                        | Fireman for L&N Railroad                |
|                     | 405                 | Julia C. Nold*                        | Widow of F.M. Nold                      |
|                     | 406                 | Charles W. Mettling                   | Conductor for Louisville Railway Co.    |
|                     | 407                 | Joseph T. Edwards*                    | Conductor for Louisville Railway Co.    |
|                     | 408                 | Harlan A. Miller                      | Agent for Prudential Insurance Co.      |
|                     | 410                 | Frank A. Bonenberger                  | None listed                             |

| City Directory Year | Address             | Tenant Names                          | Occupation Listed                           |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
|                     | 411                 | Frederick Kummer*                     | Car Repair for L&N Railroad                 |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                       | Conductor for L&N Railroad                  |
|                     | 415                 | Frederick Keller*                     | Car Repair for L&N Railroad                 |
|                     | 417                 | William T. Pinaire*                   | Agent for Southern Life Insurance Co.       |
| 1922                | 1467                | Stoddard M. Anderson                  | Paper Hanger                                |
|                     | 400                 | August F. Mueller                     | Fireman for L&N Railroad                    |
|                     | 401                 | Horace Elmore Thompson*               | Painter for Gulf Refining Co.               |
|                     | 402                 | Ira H. Chapman                        | Assistant Manager                           |
|                     | 402 ½               | Frank G. Trew                         | Salesman for D.H. Ewing's Sons              |
|                     | 403                 | David F. Conway                       | Collector for Sternau's                     |
|                     | 404                 | Coleman H. Whitlock                   | Electrician for Childers Electric Co.       |
|                     | 405                 | Julia C. Nold*                        | Widow of F.M. Nold                          |
|                     | 406                 | Mrs. Fannie Bleiweiss                 | None listed                                 |
|                     |                     | Irwin W. Bleiweiss                    | Printer for Evening Post                    |
|                     | 407                 | Joseph T. Edwards*                    | Conductor for Louisville Railway Co.        |
|                     | 408                 | Jesse M. Carman                       | Clerk for Kentucky Actuarial Bureau         |
|                     |                     | Julia M. Carman                       | Waitress                                    |
|                     | 410                 | Richard Ricketts                      | Flagman                                     |
|                     | 411                 | Frederick Kummer*                     | Car Repair for L&N Railroad                 |
|                     | 413                 | Rudolph Kummer*                       | Conductor for L&N Railroad                  |
| 415                 | Frederick Keller*   | Car Repair for L&N Railroad           |   |
| 417                 | William T. Pinaire* | Agent for Southern Life Insurance Co. |   |
| 1926                | 1467                | Stoddard M. Anderson                  | Paper Hanger                                |
|                     | 400                 | Edward F. Wright                      | Employee of N.M. Sanders                    |
|                     |                     | Carl L. Thameling                     | Bricklayer                                  |
|                     | 401                 | Horace Elmore Thompson*               | Watchman for Weir Motor Co.                 |
|                     | 402                 | William W. Bales                      | Policeman                                   |
|                     | 402 ½               | Herman Steinemann                     | Mechanic for Police Department              |
|                     | 403                 | Joseph F. Morrison                    | Park guard                                  |
|                     | 404                 | Dennis R. Freeman                     | Foreman for Struck Construction Co.         |
|                     | 405                 | Julia C. Nold*                        | Widow of F.M. Nold                          |
|                     |                     | George H. Nold                        | Proprietor Nord Transfer Co.                |
|                     | 406                 | Vacant                                |   |
|                     | 407                 | Evelyn Wheatley                       | Cutter for National Casket Co.              |
|                     | 408                 | Sidney M. Ferree                      | Credit man for Louisville Music & Radio Co. |
|                     | 409                 | Jesse Harris                          | Twister for Ryan-Hampton Tobacco Co.        |
|                     | 410                 | Milton L. Tinsely                     | Foreman for Atherton-Craig Furniture Co.    |
|                     | 411                 | Frederick Kummer*                     | Car Repair for L&N Railroad                 |
|                     | 413                 | Vacant                                |   |
|                     | 415                 | Frank C. Farris                       | Tailor for Novelty Cleaners & Dyers         |
| 417                 | William T. Pinaire* | Agent for Southern Life Insurance Co. |   |

| City Directory Year | Address             | Tenant Names        | Occupation Listed                              |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1930                | 1467                | Emmet Patterson     | Meter Tester for Louisville Gas & Electric Co. |
|                     | 400                 | Andrew Meade        | Railroad Switchman                             |
|                     | 401                 | Julius Lickteig     | Chauffeur                                      |
|                     | 402                 | William W. Bales    | Police Officer                                 |
|                     | 402 ½               | Kentucky Pollard    | Brass Finisher                                 |
|                     |                     | Joseph Morrison     | Police Officer                                 |
|                     | 403                 | Ina Belle Morrison  | Nurse  |
|                     |                     | Leonard Klemenz     | Brass Finisher                                 |
|                     | 404                 | Julia C. Nold*      | Widow of F.M. Nold                             |
|                     | 405                 | Joseph Walters      | Auto Assembler                                 |
|                     | 406                 | Not listed          |  |
|                     | 407                 | Elliott Larimore    | Window Washer                                  |
|                     | 408                 | James D. Adams      | Auto Painter                                   |
|                     | 409                 | Hannah Wright       | None listed                                    |
|                     | 410                 | Frederick Kummer*   | Brass Polisher                                 |
|                     | 411                 | Wallace Bruce       | Music Teacher                                  |
| 415                 | William T. Pinaire* | Furniture Collector |  |

\*Known to be owner occupied

FOR RENT—405 Lawton Court, practically new cottage, 4 rooms and bath, hot-water heater, electric lights; 2-story barn in rear; \$18 per month; keys at grocery. Call Shawnee 102.

Figure 43. January 20, 1915 rental ad in the *Courier-Journal* (*Courier-Journal* 1915).

### Pedestrian Courts

Pedestrian courts, also known as walking courts, are residential developments in which there is a central right-of-way with an exclusive pedestrian use. The houses are positioned along and oriented toward a pedestrian walkway instead traditional vehicular street. Vehicles usually accessed the properties from rear alleys or side streets. This orientation of the houses toward the pedestrian walkway is essential in identifying this type of development. According to Chapin, “This basic pattern with a number of variations, was repeated on infill lots in city after city... Small developers were attracted to the layout because the courts were highly profitable as rental properties. ... courts could easily be adapted to a larger residential lot, or a cluster of two to four lots, at a much higher density than the surrounding single-family homes” (Chapin 2011). As noted, pedestrian courts have a simple rule of houses oriented toward a pedestrian walkway; thus, this plan could be adapted in numerous ways to accommodate many different situations, which is evident across the country and here in Louisville.

Another common characteristic of pedestrian courts is the utilization of green space along the pedestrian right-of-way. Depending on the design of the court, the green space can be a simple landscaped walkway, a courtyard, or a designed garden. As the houses on pedestrian courts are oriented toward the central pedestrian walkway, they are also oriented toward this green space. With the houses facing inward, this is a stark contrast to the traditional neighborhood layouts in Louisville, which consist of houses facing the public street. By forcing the vehicles to be located on the outside of the courts, the design encourages the pedestrians to be inside the courts. The pedestrian court design fosters more relationships between neighbors by providing a shared, semi-private green space. Part of the popularity of pedestrian courts was this design and its communal nature, but also the ability for a small area to have a higher density while still blending in with surrounding single-family residences. Pedestrian courts provided more housing opportunities in predominately single-family neighborhoods (Chapin 2011).

There are numerous examples of pedestrian courts in Louisville with some dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, like Belgravia Court, and others constructed within the last two decades, like in Park DuValle. Some Pedestrian Courts in Louisville feature single-family houses like those on Lawton Court, while others feature duplexes, triplexes, or small apartment buildings like many in the Old Louisville Neighborhood. Some courts contain a combination of all of these options, but they all have buildings oriented toward a pedestrian court from which they draw their addresses. **Table 3** contains a list of all known historic pedestrian courts still existing in Jefferson County.

**Table 3. Known Extant Historic Pedestrian Courts in Jefferson County.**

| Neighborhood   | Street           | Architectural Details                              |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| Beechmont      | Hill Top Court   | Bungalow style houses                              |
|                | Maple Court      | Bungalow or Craftsman style houses                 |
| Bonnycastle    | Edgewood Place   | Bungalow or Craftsman style houses                 |
| Crescent Hill  | Marion Court     | Bungalow style houses                              |
| Deer Park      | Ivanhoe Court    | Bungalow or Craftsman style houses                 |
|                | Maplewood Place  | Bungalow style houses                              |
| Iroquois       | Iroquois Court   | Minimal Traditional style houses                   |
| Merriwether    | Lawton Court     | Shotgun style houses                               |
| Old Louisville | Rose Court       | Cottage style houses                               |
|                | Eutropia Court   | Cottage style houses                               |
|                | Reeser Place     | Apartment style buildings                          |
|                | Ouerbacker Court | Bungalow or Craftsman style houses                 |
|                | Ormsby Court     | Bungalow or Craftsman style houses                 |
|                | Fountain Court   | Victorian era townhomes                            |
|                | Belgravia Court  | Victorian era townhomes                            |
|                | Kensington Court | Apartment style buildings                          |
|                | Floral Terrace   | Victorian era townhomes and Craftsman style houses |
| Russell        | Prosperity Court | Bungalow style houses                              |
|                | Chase Court      | Bungalow style houses                              |
| Shawnee        | Sandra Court     | Minimal Traditional style houses                   |
|                | Boston Court     | Minimal Traditional style houses                   |
|                | Curry Court      | Minimal Traditional style houses                   |

Of the pedestrian courts listed in the table above, there is only one that contains a series of shotgun style houses—Lawton Court. Many of the courts feature bungalow or Craftsman style houses, which were constructed in the 1910s to 1930s. These styles of homes were thought to be modern replacements to the traditional Victorian era townhomes or the small shotgun style houses, which predate them. Minimal Traditional style homes became popular in the 1930s through 1950s as the modern replacement of the bungalow style home. Shotgun style homes, bungalows, and Minimal Traditional style homes were all considered easy to build so that multiples, even entire blocks, can be constructed at one time.

### **Shotgun Style Home Introduction**

According to the Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County:

In its most basic form, the shotgun cottage is a one-story, rectangular structure, only one room wide (usually 12' to 15' in width) and three or four rooms deep. Constructed without any hallways, the rooms are lined up, one behind the other. Typically, the living room is the first room at the front with a bedroom behind, followed by a kitchen. With all of the doors in a straight line, a person could stand at the front door and shoot a gun straight through the house and out the back door without hitting anything. That's one explanation of why they're called shotgun houses.

Camelback shotguns are those which have a second story at the back of the house, providing a bedroom over the kitchen. Other variations include the presence of a third entrance located on the side of the house and leading into the kitchen. In houses with this feature, it was customary for visitors to come to the side door, rather than to the front. Some shotguns have recessed side porches extending nearly the entire length of the house.

For economy's sake, chimneys were built in the interior. The front and middle rooms share a chimney with a fireplace opening in each room. The kitchen has its own chimney, and in the case of camelbacks, the second floor also captures the warmth of this chimney.

Shotgun houses were originally built without indoor plumbing. Later, a one-story addition was often constructed off the kitchen to accommodate a bathroom.

Most of Louisville's shotgun cottages were built in the period between the end of the Civil War and 1910. During this time Louisville experienced a rapid growth in population. It had taken ninety years for her population to top the 100,000 mark in 1870, but in just 30 years, by the turn of the century, that number had doubled, making the city the 15th largest in the country.

In the post-War period, Louisville was making a conscious effort to develop an industrial base; hitherto, she had been principally a mercantile center. Employment

in industry grew from 7,396 in 1860 to 10,813 in 1870 and 17,448 in 1880. The number of factories more than doubled from 436 in 1860 to 1,108 in 1880.

Among those attracted to the city in the post-War period of industrial expansion were laborers and skilled craftsmen, many of whom had immigrated from Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland, and Italy. They were ready to fill jobs in the burgeoning manufacturing enterprises. There came butchers, tanners, coopers, brewery workers, machinists, bricklayers, carpenters, railroad workers, printers and a legion of other working men.

With the influx of laborers came the need for ample and cheap housing. Prior to the Civil War, Louisville had primarily been a walking city with owners and employers living in close proximity to factories and mercantile establishments. The population expansion in the late 1870s put new pressures on city boundaries. The advent of the street railway system in the 1860s made possible the development for housing of new areas ringing downtown. The street railways reached out from the core into Portland, Butchertown, and to points in what are now Russell, Old Louisville and the Highlands. These areas, with the exception of Old Louisville, became home to the hordes of workers pouring into the city.

The shotgun houses were erected to provide shelter for the workers in a way that rowhouses were erected in eastern U.S. cities. The shotguns, however, afforded a greater sense of privacy and separateness than rowhouses and cut down on the wild spread of fires. ...

Shotguns are organized along a block in a delicate manner which allows maximum privacy despite the narrow lots. The side entrance of one cottage does not abut that of its neighbor and neither's windows are placed so as to encourage peering. In fact, typically, one side of a house will be windowless facing the windowed side of the next house.

A definite neighborhood image is created by a series of shotguns. Because the houses all have the same setback from the street, the same height at the front, and regular spacing down the block, a coherent "blockscape" is created. The cumulative effect of repetitive forms gives a pleasant, small-town sense to the block (Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County 1980).

### **Shotgun Style Home Origins**

According to the Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County:

Oral tradition has it that the name "shotgun" for the rectangular cottage is derived from the fact that a person could stand at the front door and shoot a gun the length of the building and out the back door without piercing a wall. University of Maryland faculty member and folklorist John Michael Vlach thinks a proper etymology lies elsewhere.

In “Shotgun Houses,” published in the February 1977 issue of *Natural History* magazine, Vlach postulates that the word originated with a Western African tribe whose word for house was to-gun, literally, “place of assembly.” The word may have been carried along with the cottage style into slavery with its builders. Many of these Africans were brought to Haiti in the early eighteenth century as a strong plantation economy began to develop there. ...

Transmittal of this style to what is now the United States apparently occurred in the early part of the nineteenth century. Vlach explains it in this way: “The origin of the shotgun house lies in the history of New Orleans’ black community. In 1803 there were 1,355 free blacks in the city many of whom were active and successful in a variety of trades. The size of the community was greatly increased in 1809 by the immigration of approximately 2,000 Haitian mulattoes, who first emigrated to Cuba but were later forced off the island by anti-French sentiment. At the same time a like number of slaves arrived from Haiti, including many who were relatives of free blacks. By 1810 blacks outnumbered whites in New Orleans, 10,500 to 4,500. Such a population expansion necessitated new housing. As many of the carpenters, masons, and inhabitants were Haitian, it was only natural that they modeled their new homes on those they had left behind.”

This influx of Haitians occurred at a time when the relationship between Louisville and what became Louisiana, with its key city New Orleans, was rapidly changing. In 1799, because of its frontier location, Louisville was made a port of entry to the United States by Congress, and a collector was appointed to prevent the smuggling of foreign goods into the country from this French colony. Four years later, with the stroke of a pen, this foreign territory was purchased by the U.S., and the free flow of goods and services from the former French colony into the country became a priority rather than an activity to be penalized. ...

Shippingport, as the name implies, was once a thriving port two miles downriver from Louisville. It was adjacent to Portland, then another river town, now one of Louisville's own proud neighborhoods. ... Shippingport's earliest settlers were French and much of its business was with French traders heading upriver. ... Contact with the architectural styles of French-dominated New Orleans would have had an enormous impact on Shippingport. From 1810 to 1820, the town's population soared from 98 to over 500 persons, and it is very likely that the design of the homes built to house New Orleans' expanding Haitian population could easily and naturally have found its way upriver to shelter Shipping port's new residents.

Hard evidence of this transmittal is not to be found as the town of Shippingport is no more. The most compelling evidence of the emergence of the shotgun cottage in Shippingport and its subsequent transmittal into Louisville's architectural heritage is the presence today of a large number of these structures in Louisville's Portland neighborhood, adjacent to Shippingport (Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County 1980).

However, some historians believe the origin of shotgun houses is more straightforward than that. According to Samuel W. Thomas,

When Louisville was laid out in a grid form, there were generally eight half-acre lots to the almost square block. The eight lots were rectangular, with the long siding running north-south. The short sides faced the east-west streets, and as the alleys all ran east-west, the front-to-back axis of most structures was north-south. So while the dimensions east to west could be modified at will and were, the north-south dimensions were kept more uniform because of the alleys. As the city expanded in the grid form, it was always the alleys that determined, especially in residential areas, on which streets the houses would front. So while housing continued to front east-west streets to about Broadway, the areas developed in Old Louisville mostly front north-south streets.

With this lot pattern in mind, there is nothing mysterious about the origin and evolution of shotgun houses. It was the most efficient use of spaces in providing the most inexpensive housing for the city's growing workforce of immigrants in the 1840s and 1850s. Instead of perhaps four old Beargrass Georgian or six to eight Federal residences to the block front, fifteen to twenty shotguns would fit on the same land. ...

Shotguns continued to be constructed until World War I, but with the addition of indoor plumbing, the need for more privacy and better circulation and a garage, they fell out of favor. However, thousands upon thousands have been built (Thomas 2009).

## Statement of Significance

### **Historic Significance**

The Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex is historically and architecturally significant for its association with the development of workforce housing, the shotgun style house forms, and its overall design as a pedestrian court. After the Civil War, Louisville experienced a rapid growth in population due to an industrial boom. With the influx of immigrants and laborers came the need for ample, inexpensive, and easy to build housing. Shotgun style homes fit the narrow lots on Louisville's grid pattern and fit the requirements for workforce housing. Furthermore, the history of the working class is underrepresented in Louisville. Mostly of Euro American descent, the working class who inhabited these houses were somewhat transient and did not occupy them long. While we have their names and occupations from city directories and census data, we do not know much more about these people. However, they are still an important part of the history of Louisville. The shotgun style homes themselves at Lawton are unique to Louisville's pedestrian courts. The overall pedestrian court design of Lawton Court is significant to Louisville's development and architectural history.

### **Archaeological Significance**

The Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex has the potential to contain archaeological resources. The remnants of domestic outbuildings and artifact middens associated with domestic activities are likely present on the properties, as has been demonstrated by excavations conducted at similar properties throughout Jefferson County (Bader 1997; DiBlasi 1997; Slider 1998; Stallings and Stallings 1999; Stottman 2000; Stottman 2001; Stottman and Watts-Roy 1995; Stottman et al. 2004). The property on which the Lawton Court complex was constructed contained some small houses before its development. Furthermore, complex also has the possibility of yielding valuable information on the history of this area.

### Integrity Assessment

As defined by the LMCO 32.250, integrity is "The authenticity of a structure or site's historic integrity evidenced by survival of physical characteristics that existed during the structure or site's historic or prehistoric period. To retain historic integrity a site must possess some of the following aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association." Note that the integrity as applied by the Landmarks Ordinance is for the exterior of the structure since that is the extent of regulation if designated.

The Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex retains its integrity in location, setting, feeling, and association to support its historic significance as it relates to its design as a pedestrian court and association with the working class. It is still located in the Merriwether Neighborhood in much of the same configuration as it did historically. When comparing the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (**Figure 44**) with a modern LOJIC map (**Figure 45**), the area around the Court has changed. Residential and commercial buildings that were once located immediately north and south of the court have been demolished, and the lumber yards that also once bordered the Court on the east have been demolished. Furthermore, I-65 was constructed across S. Preston Street from the Court. However, these changes are not enough to say that the Court has lost its integrity. New industrial

and commercial infill has taken the place of the former buildings that were once located nearby. Furthermore, the Court itself remains mostly unchanged. Three primary buildings (400, 402, and 413) have been demolished. Despite this, the Court retains its design and feeling as a historic pedestrian walking court.

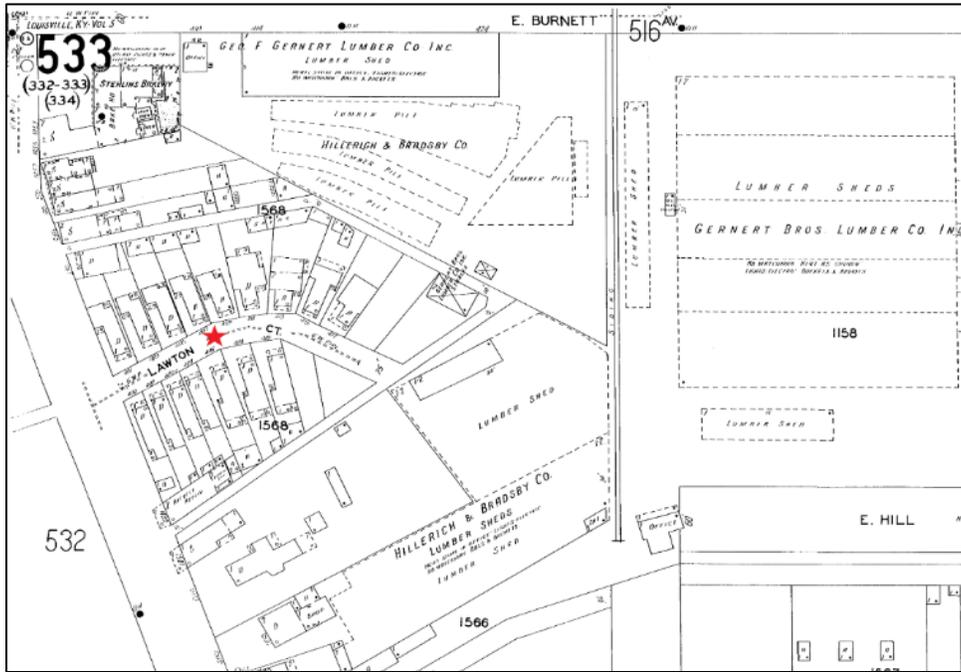


Figure 44. 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Volume 3, Sheet 533.



Figure 45. Aerial View of the Lawton Court Complex (LOJIC).

The Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex retains its integrity in design, materials, and workmanship to support its historic significance as it relates to its design as a pedestrian court and association with the working class. Despite the demolition of three buildings on the Court, the design of the pedestrian court is very much intact. The buildings in the Court are significant for their value as evidence of the history of the Court itself, not for their architectural design. The buildings in the Lawton Court Complex document economic status, culture, and heritages of a community that played a significant role in the development of Louisville. A building might have been altered over time, which happens frequently with buildings associated with the working class; however, those modifications can be just as important as the original historic fabric because they illustrate the cultural value and history of a property. Therefore, if the extant buildings retain enough historic features and form to convey their original construction and use, then they retain their integrity.

Lawton Court was designed with shotgun style house forms with similar height and massing. Each house has a front gable roof detail that remains intact as well as a front porch that also remains intact. The houses also contain door and window locations that are consistent among most of the buildings. While some materials have changed over time, like windows, siding, etc., the key design elements of each building are intact, which means that the integrity of the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex is also intact. Independently, the houses on Lawton Court do not convey the complex's historic significance, it is the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex that conveys the historic significance of the pedestrian court design and association with the history of the working class.

### **Designation Criteria Analysis**

In consideration of a potential designation of an Individual Landmark, LMCO 32.250 defines an Individual Landmark structure or site as “one of significant importance to the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and which represents irreplaceable distinctive architectural features or historical associations that represent the historic character of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.”

In accordance with LMCO 32.260(O), considering the designation of any area, site, or structure in Louisville Metro as an Individual Landmark, the Commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such structure, site, or area. An Individual Landmark shall possess sufficient integrity to meet criterion (a) and one or more of the other criteria (b) through (e).

#### **A) Its character, interest, or value as part of the development or heritage of the city, the Commonwealth, or the United States.**

After the Civil War, Louisville experienced a rapid growth in population due to an industrial boom. With the influx of immigrants and laborers came the need for ample, inexpensive, and easy to build housing. The advent of the street railway system also allowed for city growth and these new areas became home to the new influx of workers. Shotgun style homes fit the narrow lots on Louisville’s grid pattern and fit the requirements for workforce housing. While the eastern United States built attached rowhouses to accomplish this, Louisville built shotgun houses, which provided more privacy and separateness. This continued to be a distinct building pattern in Louisville until after World War I when the need for indoor plumbing, more privacy, and garages led to a different kind of workforce housing. Furthermore, this complex of shotgun style homes is located in a pedestrian court, which was specifically designed for workforce housing. The pedestrian court design fostered a stronger community with its inward facing houses and common green spaces when the complex was surrounded by a sea of lumber yards and single-family residences. The pedestrian court is a unique complex in the Merriwether Neighborhood and is the only one with shotgun style houses. Thus, the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex is an important part of the development and heritage of Louisville.

#### **B) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.**

There are no singularly significant historic events that give Lawton Court its historic significance.

#### **C) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city, the commonwealth, or the nation.**

In consideration of significance associated with a person or persons, the evaluation relates to whether an individual’s period of significant contribution or productivity occurred while residing or occupying a building, structure, or site. While noteworthy people are associated with Lawton Court, that is not why the complex is significant.

**D) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen; or its embodiment of a significant architectural innovation; or its identification as the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.**

Lawton Court is architecturally significant as a pedestrian court comprised mostly of shotgun style houses. While there are many shotgun style houses across Louisville Metro, there are no other such shotgun style houses grouped together in a pedestrian court like this. This development of a pedestrian court with shotgun style houses is unique to the city of Louisville. Thus, it is the embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.

Lawton Court does not represent a significant architectural innovation.

Lawton Court is not identified as the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.

**E) Its historic significance is based on its association with an underrepresented history within the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and broadens our understanding of these underrepresented histories.**

In consideration of significance associated with underrepresented histories, the evaluation relates to inclusion and telling a comprehensive history. Lawton Court is associated with the underrepresented history of the working class. Mostly of Euro American descent, the working class who inhabited these houses were somewhat transient and did not occupy them long, except for one tenant. While we have their names and occupations from city directories and census data, we do not know much more about these people. Comprised of carpenters, railroad workers, drivers, police officers, and more the working class in these homes are still an important part of the history of Louisville Metro. Furthermore, the histories of the working class are generally underrepresented. Thus, the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex is associated with the underrepresented history of the working class.

**Boundary Justification**

The proposed boundaries for the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex Individual Landmark designation area are represented on the LOJIC map (**Figure 46**). The designation boundary is outlined in blue and includes 1467 S. Preston Street, 401, 402 ½, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410-414, 411-413, 415, and 417 Lawton Court. The southwest corner of the parcel, which includes 400 Lawton Court and 1499 S. Preston Street, is not included in the designation boundary. 402 Lawton Court is not included as it is now a vacant lot. 419 Lawton Court is also left out of the designation boundary on the east side of the complex. While these lots are part of the original platted boundaries of the complex, they are all vacant of structures.



**Figure 46. LOJIC aerial showing location of the designation boundary for the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex in blue.**

### **Designation Option**

The proposed Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex Individual Landmark was originally designed and developed for working class citizens. The buildings located in the complex have been altered over time, which is a common occurrence in working class neighborhoods. As such, only the following should be subject to a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA):

- alterations to contributing features as outlined in the section below;
- significant exterior alteration that deviates from or alters the structure's original form and massing—for example additions to the structures;
- demolition; and
- new construction.

Ordinary maintenance and minor repairs/alterations that do not materially change the structure's exterior will not be subject to COA review.

### **Contributing Features**

As a result of designation, proposed alterations to the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex require submittal of a COA for the items outlined above. Because the properties have been altered over time, the following are the only features recommended for contributing status and therefore require a COA if alteration is proposed:

- the overall form, height, and massing of each structure as seen today;
- the size and location of the window openings and door openings on street and pedestrian court facing facades—the windows and doors themselves can be changed;
- the roof form—the roofing material can be changed; and
- the front porches—the materials can be changed but the porch will remain.

If a COA is required, the Standard Design Guidelines will be used. Alterations, modifications, repairs, and replacement of features not identified as contributing do not require a COA. This includes features like exterior windows and doors, roof material, and siding material.

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