

Lane Seminary Project Area
Cincinnati
Hamilton County
Ohio

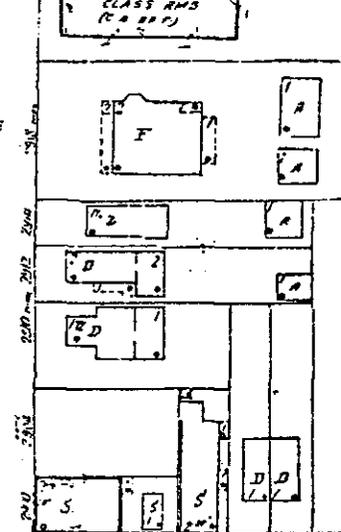
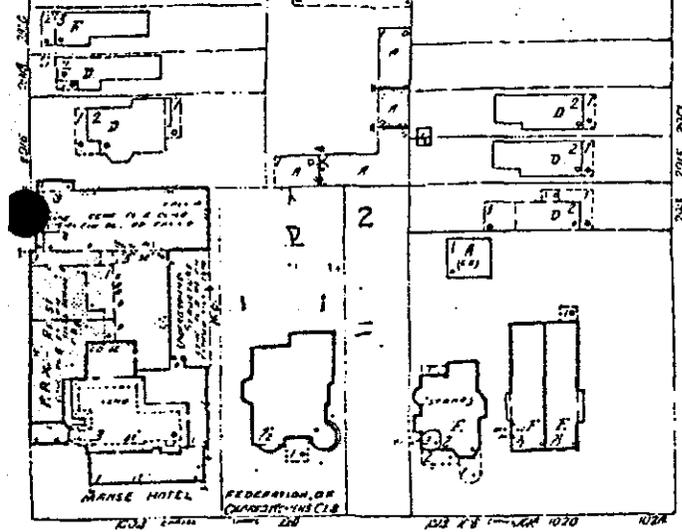
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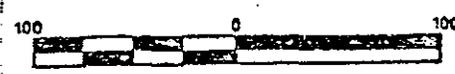
PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

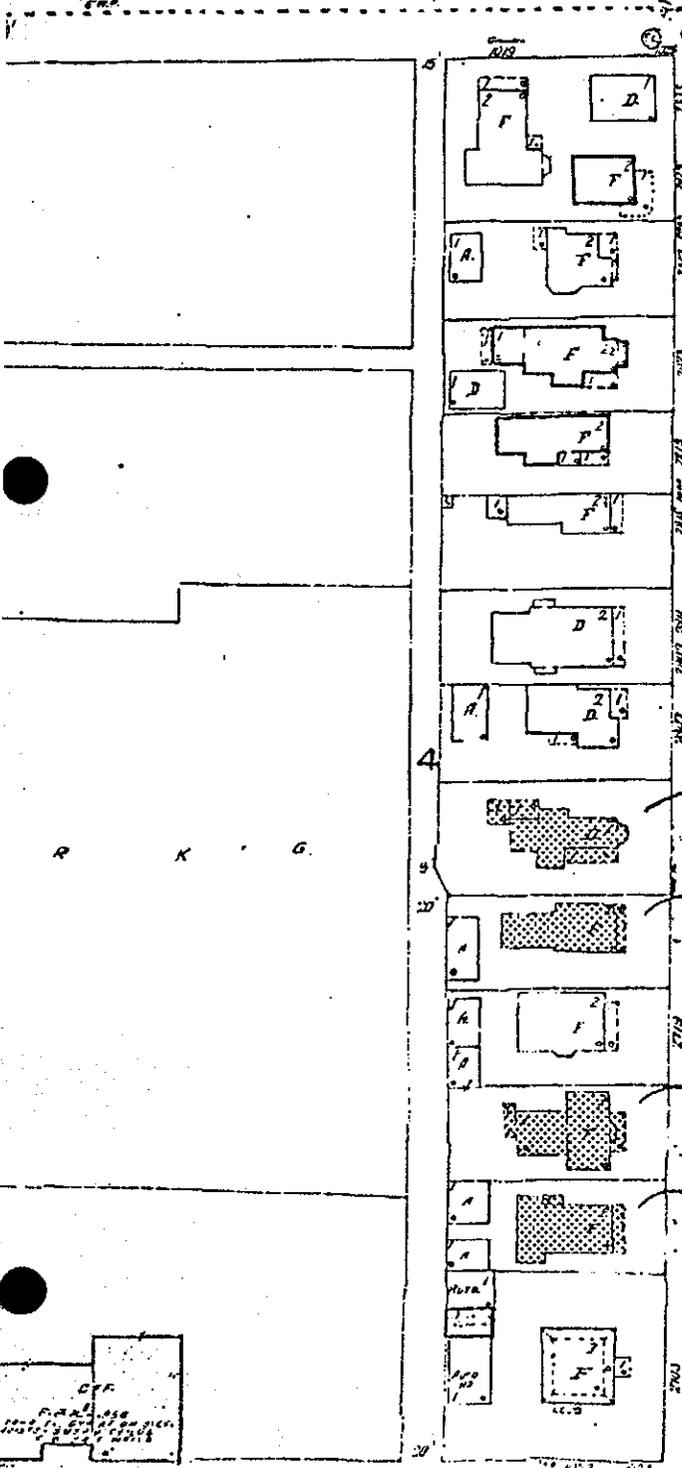


PHOTOGRAPHED BUILDINGS

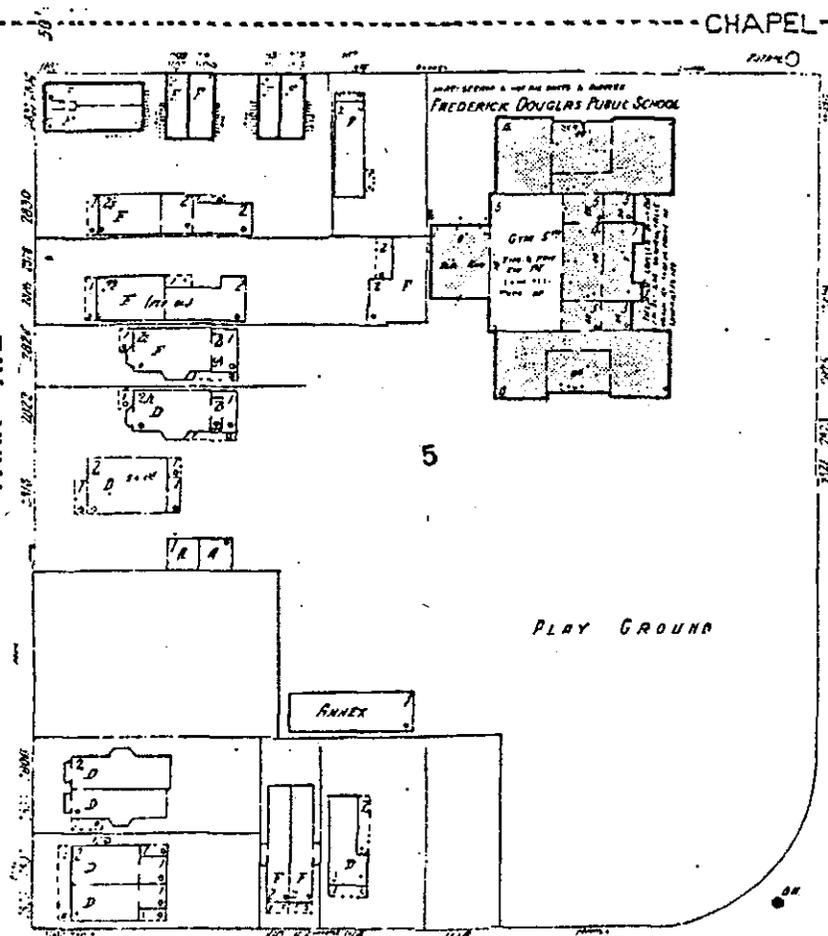


CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 1981



PARK AVE



CHAPEL

5

PLAY GROUND

ANEX

MYRTLE

2712-2718

2801

2715

2711

2723

YALE AVE

YALE AVE

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANE SEMINARY PROJECT AREA

The Lane Seminary project area in which the photographed buildings are located is part of the Walnut Hills neighborhood of Cincinnati. The area was owned from the early 1830s by the Lane Theological Seminary and by the 1880s had become a significant black neighborhood. Lyman Beecher, a national religious leader who opposed slavery, was the Seminary's first president, and his house stands to the northeast at Gilbert and Foraker Streets. Little is known concerning the early migration of blacks to Walnut Hills, but by 1859 a sufficient number had arrived to organize the first black church and black school on Willow Street, northeast of the subject buildings. Both were organized by the Rev. Dangerfield Early, a member of the sixth black family to arrive in Walnut Hills. A second black church, Brown's Chapel, was organized in the home of Peter Clark in 1862. In 1870, Walnut Hills was annexed to the City, and by 1880 this section of Walnut Hills had become an important black residential area containing the second highest concentration of blacks in the city. More importantly, this area contained a higher percent of black professionals than other areas of the city and was one of only two wards in the city in which the "average Negro middle class property owner's estate was \$1,000 above that of his white counterpart." Further description of the area and its population is supplied in Ellwain's thesis as follows: "Perhaps among the black areas of the city, Walnut Hills was a uniquely residential area, free from the noises, vices and overcrowded conditions of the central city." Blacks who lived in Walnut Hills were typically members of a family, who, according to Ellwain, has "a desire for stability and the pastoral quiet which Walnut Hills afforded."

Architecturally this area contained a significant cluster of frame buildings with Italianate elements and a variety of scroll-sawn porch detailing. Three of the buildings also had mansard roofs. These stylistic features articulated in wood were fairly uncommon, since the city's older building stock is largely brick. In addition, the Glassmeyer apartment building at 2712-2718 Park Avenue is considered to have been uniquely constructed with a pronounced wall undulation and window surrounds which appeared to have been purposely mitered so the lintels and sills were askew. At least two of the buildings appear to be shown on the Titus 1869 Atlas Map, and one, 2703 Park Avenue, served between 1884 and 1889 as the Protestant Episcopal Free Hospital for Children.