SECTION 106 CONSULTING
PARTIES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
FACILITATOR –
CYNTHIA ELMORE, LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT
PRESENTERS –
LAURA KINSELL-BAER/ASHLEY FOELL, MCCORMACK, BARON, SALAZAR
DARCY THOMPSON, LOUISVILLE STORY PROGRAM
ANNE BADER, CORN ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY
KATHLEEN O’NEIL/PAM BISCHOFF, LOUISVILLE METRO HOUSING AUTHORITY
Vision Russell
Project Overview

- People
- Housing
- Education
- Neighborhood
Area of Potential Effect
Beecher Terrace Historic District

Public Residential Units

Baxter Community Center
Known Impacts and Effects As of Jan. 1 2018
- Phase I of Project Design and Construction
- Phase I, II, and III of Demolition
- Phase I, II, and III of Section 106 Compliance
Stage I: Demolition Update

Beecher Terrace Demolition Plan - Revised 4-2-2019

- Phase 1 Demo
  - 121 Dwelling units
  - 9 Buildings
  - Demolition: Completed March 2019

- Phase 2 Demo
  - 384 Dwelling units
  - 8 Non-dwelling units
  - 30 Buildings in 3 Sub-Phases
    - Phase 2A - 11 Buildings (Buildings 32-42)
    - Phase 2B - 8 Buildings (Buildings 43-50)
    - Phase 2C - 11 Buildings (Buildings 22-31)
  - Demolition: February 2019 - February 2020
  - Twelve month duration

- Phase 3 Demo
  - 253 Dwelling units
  - 2 Non-dwelling units
  - 26 Buildings
  - Demolition: January 2020 - July 2020
  - Seven month duration
450 Roy Wilkins Ave. Update
Construction Progress
Feb. 2020

Phase 1
Senior Building

Phase 2

Phase 3
Beecher Phasing Site Plan

BEECHER TERRACE SITE PLAN — PHASING
THE BEECHER TERRACE STORY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFVvJIWE4uM

YOUTUBE= 8,027 Views
THE BEECHER TERRACE STORY: LOUISVILLE METRO TV

- The Beecher Terrace Story: Program Schedule with airdates.
- https://louisvilleky.gov/government/metrotv/metrotv-program-schedule
- The Beecher Terrace Story: Preview Interview
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ib8-yGHj8w
The documentary examines the history of the Beecher Terrace public housing community and the role it played in the development of the Russell neighborhood in Louisville.


Airdates:

Monday September 7, 2020 9:00 pm ET on KETKY
Thursday September 10, 2020 7:30 pm ET on KETKY
Friday September 25, 2020 8:00 pm ET on KETKY

The Beecher Terrace Story: Phase 2

- Things are moving quickly in the new Beecher Terrace community.
- There is a lot of conversation surrounding the Russell neighborhood and the revitalization efforts – both positive and negative, and potential unintended consequences.
- I would like to host community events and conversations when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides to inform the community.
- I have received a lot of interest in continuing the Beecher Terrace Story and discussing the Gentrification vs. Revitalization efforts since the Breonna Taylor case has come to light.
THE BEECHER TERRACE STORY

Contact Information

Lavel D. White
Blu Boi Entertainment, LLC.
President/CEO
502-472-7941
bluboient@hotmail.com
Cornerstones of Russell

Progress Report for
June 2020 Beecher Terrace Consulting Parties Meeting
Rev. A.D. King, brother of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking at a rally for open housing. Rev. King was pastor of Zion Baptist Church at 2200 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. from 1965 to 1968.
A gathering of beauticians and barbers.
The authors of *The Fights We Fought Have Brought Us Here*—all are Central High students or recent graduates (classes of 2020 & 2021). Publication date: Nov. 2020.
Work completed this past quarter

• Continued outreach to current Russell residents and people with deep historic ties to Russell
• Resumed photo scanning process after having to put that on hold for a few months
• Russell residents generated 55 pages of new writing
• Ready to launch social media project that will reunite some families with long-lost photographs and make meaningful connections and generate rich narratives from people who are not the “usual suspects” – still determining the timing, but soon
• The young authors in our Central High School class completed their book, *The Fights We Fought Have Brought Us Here*. Though their book does not focus on Russell history, it’s a compelling record of the lives of present-day Central students. This was our top priority during this past quarter and we spent a lot of time working with them to get to the finish line. Book design process has begun and we will publish in November.
Work slated for the upcoming quarter

- Much heavier outreach via phone and video than we have been doing over the past five months.
- Begin piloting and refining approaches to developing new content remotely – recording video interviews, soliciting input using social media and other technological tools, etc.
- Turn more attention to working with contributors to edit/shape more polished material from the material that has been generated so far.
- Conduct more historical/archival research.
- Launch social media photo-reunion project.
- Publish book by Central High School students in November.
BEECHER TERRACE ARCHAEOLOGY

Corn Island Archaeology LLC, a cultural resources consulting firm in Jeffersonville, is currently conducting archaeological investigations at Beecher Terrace. Their work is a necessary part of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant that was awarded to Louisville in December 2016. Grant dollars, along with additional funding, will be used to relocate Beecher households, raze the existing buildings and redevelop the site into a new energy-efficient, mixed-income housing community.

Archaeological work first began in January 2017 when preliminary excavations were done across the site. The burned objects (artifacts) found during Corn Island’s initial work demonstrated that Beecher is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. After a year-long consultation process, further study was approved for the site.

Before Beecher Terrace was developed in 1939, the 3.4 acre site contained more than 300 historic lots on its 12 blocks. A sample of these lots have been selected for further excavation. The majority of the work will occur within the archaeological site designated “J53F923”. Numerous buried structures, including privies, cisterns, and foundations from late 19th and early 20th century residential and commercial buildings, are located within this area.

Lots were chosen to sample segments of the population that once lived in the area. Extensive research through census and deed records have provided the names, occupations, and ethnicities of the former occupants, with included both eastern and western European immigrants, African American professionals, and native-born Americans.

A major objective of the current archeological project is to tell the story of specific individuals and families, especially of the multiple educated professional African Americans who contributed to this community. The stories of eastern European immigrants will also be examined. Together, information on these two groups will fill a gap in the data on Louisville’s historic population.

The artifacts recovered during this project will be washed, labeled, and stored at the University of Louisville to be available for future study. Some of the artifacts will go on display here at Beecher Terrace.

To learn more about this project, please go to www.FaisonBourree.org where regular updates will be provided.

Archaeology is a means of learning about how people lived long ago. It provides more detailed information on past day-to-day living than is usually found in history books or other written records. By examining the objects that people left behind as trash, archaeologists can piece together details of their activities at home, in the workplace, and other institutions like school and church. Because there was no regular trash collection service, items that could not be burned were often thrown into the privy (outhouse), where they remain preserved for archaeologists to find.

The object archaeologists find can help reveal a location’s past, the dates it was occupied, the income level of its occupants, along with the kinds of food they ate, and sometimes, even their religious affiliation and ethnicity. Artifacts collected from a site can also show where people bought the necessities for daily life, whether it locally or from big cities in the east. Recovered medicine bottles can tell us information about the types of ailments that plagued residents. Changes in artifact collection from one decade to another might show periods of economic hardship or prosperity. All of this and more can be learned from the study of recovered artifacts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot Number/ Historic Address</th>
<th>Privies Identified</th>
<th>Privies excavated</th>
<th>Other features</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lot 8/ 1225 W Walnut</td>
<td>2 (1 W-L, 1 Brick)</td>
<td>1 (W-L)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Brick privy destroyed, Euro-American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 9/ 1209 W. Walnut</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Heavily disturbed, Euro-American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 10/ 714-716 S 12th St</td>
<td>4 (1 W-L, 3 Brick)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Immigrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 11/ 712 S 12th St</td>
<td>2 (Brick)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Black Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 12/ 708 S 12th St</td>
<td>7 (6 W-L, 1 Brick)</td>
<td>7 (WL)/1 (Brick)</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Black Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 13/ 604 Clean Alley</td>
<td>4 (2 W-L, 2 Brick)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Black working Class – One privy destroyed (Brick)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 14/ 619 S. 13th St</td>
<td>3 (1 W-L, 2 Brick)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Black Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 15/ 627 S. 13th St</td>
<td>4 (3 W-L, 1 Brick)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Euro-American alternate for Lot 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 16/ 1204 W Jefferson St</td>
<td>2 (1 W-L, 1 Brick)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>71 (Still counting...)</td>
<td>Euro-American</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Findings to Date

• 28 privies found; 25 privies excavated
  – 15 were older wood-lined vaults
  – Two are in Block 10
• 244 other features photographed and mapped
  – Cisterns, sidewalks, posts, foundations, etc.
  – 71+ are in Block 10
• Of the 8 lots examined, 5 were related to the Black occupation
  – 3 professional African Americans
  – 2 working class Black
• 4 European immigrant lots
LOT 10-11A
LOT 12
Reverend Anora Martin - 419 (formerly 619) 13th Street

Anora/Annora/Anna or Ellenor Martin lived in the project area from 1910-1922. An African American woman, Anora was born in 1864 in Louisville to John and Davella (Ormsby) Ward. No record of her marriage could be located; she was widowed and without children by the time she lived on the 13th Street lot. According to the Christian Faith Band Tabernacle Church (http://elderckeeene.tripod.com/), Ellenor Martin founded the parish in 1889.

The earliest census record located for Reverend Martin is in 1910, where she is listed at 419 (formerly 619) 13th Street as a 45-year-old minister. Though she had no biological children, she had adopted at least three who were living with her at that time. Charles Curl, 30, is listed as Anora’s son, and worked as an embalmer. His wife, Elizabeth, was two years his elder and did the family’s housekeeping. The two youngest adoptees were Corine and Gertrude Simpson, ages ten and five, respectively. The household in 1920 consisted of Anora, Corine, and Gertrude (all under the last name Martin at that time), and a 35-year-old widow named Lilly Smith who roomed with the family and worked as a laundress.

At the time of her death in 1933, Anora was living on the 2100 block of Walnut Street. She died at the age of 69 of acute apoplexy contributed to by chronic nephritis. She was buried in Louisville Cemetery.
John Bernard “Ben” Nitzken - 619 13th Street

Ben Nitzken was the second of three John Bernard Nitzkens in his family. The first was his father and the third, his son. Ben I was a wood sawyer born in 1794. The family came from the Hanover region of Germany in 1859 and were living in Louisville Ward 2 by 1860. Although Ben Nitzken II registered for the Civil War draft in 1863 as “married”, his marriage record dates to the following year. He married Mary Mathes/Mathais. The family moved to the lot on 13th Street between 1870 and 1880. In 1880, Ben II worked as a laborer. The family lived at the site for over 20 years.

John Nitzken (b. 1960), grandson of Sylvester, great-grandson of Henry Sr., and great-great-grandson of Ben and Teresa Nitzken – St. Xavier High School yearbook photo, 1976 (Junior year)
We are currently working with the University of Louisville Department of Anthropology and the Department of Pan African Studies. We have a 400-level course offered this semester for college credit. We have invited students of Black and other cultural backgrounds to become involved in our research through this internship. They will be visiting the excavations, and viewing the artifacts at our offices, as well as preparing a story of the residents assigned to them to research.
• Inviting folks, by appointment, to come out to the excavations on Fridays in September. CDC guidelines will be followed, and the numbers limited.

• Inviting people to visit, by appointment, Corn Island’s office on Wednesdays in September, to look at some of the artifacts recovered from the investigations.

• YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO COME!
Inquiry Based Learning Curriculum
  - Elementary, Middle, High School
Artifact Learning Kits
Exhibit at Frazier History Museum
Permanent Installation at new Beecher Terrace
Summer Archaeology Camp at Frazier Museum
Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Future Quarterly Consulting Parties Meetings
First Thursday, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

• Early December 2020 – Thursday, December 3, 2020
• Early March 2021 – Thursday, March 4, 2021
• Early June 2020 – Thursday, June 3, 2021
• Early September 2020 – Thursday, September 2, 2020
Project CONTACTS

- RELOCATION BENEFITS - CATHY HEAD, (502) 569-3479
- CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS - KATHLEEN O’NEIL, (502) 569-3461
- EVENT CALENDAR – TINA WOODS, (502) 569-3460
- RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD – GRETCHEM MILLIKEN (502) 574-3158
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION – CYNTHIA ELMORE, (502) 574-2868

Write us at www.visionrussell.com