

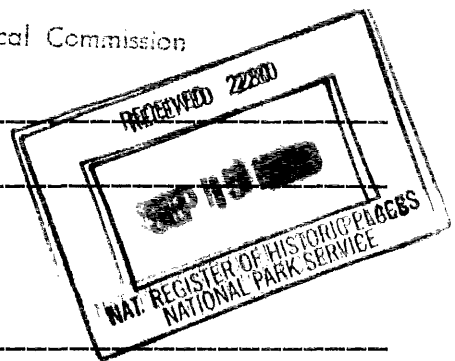
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Ala. Historical Commission

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Alabama State University Historic District

Other Names/Site Number: State Teachers College

2. Location

Street & Number 915 South Jackson Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City or Town: Montgomery Vicinity: N/A

State: Alabama Code: AL County: Montgomery Code: 101

Zip Code: 36101-0271

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

9-4-98  
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

See continuation Sheet.

*Edson H. Beall* 10.8.98

determined eligible for  
 the National Register

See continuation Sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
 National Register.

removed from the National

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**

(Check only One Box)

**Number of Resources**

**within Property**

Contributing

Noncontributing

private

building(s)

18

1 buildings

public-local

district

1

0 sites

public-State

site

0

0 structures

public-Federal

structure

0

0 objects

19

1 Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing**

**resources previously**

**listed in the National**

**Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category:

Subcategory:

Category:

Subcategory:

Education

Normal School

Education

University

College

University

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian Revival

foundation brick, concrete

No Style

roof asphalt

walls brick, concrete

other wood, glass

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) above):

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

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or a grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage: African American

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1920-1948

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked N/A)

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect/Builder:**

Warren, Knight, & Davis

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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### Bibliography

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual  
listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
\_\_\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark  
\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary Location of Additional Data:

\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local Government  
\_\_\_ University  
X Other  
Name of repository: Alabama State  
University

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property: 26

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>565840</u>		<u>3580940</u>	
2	<u>16</u>	<u>566330</u>		<u>3580940</u>	
3	<u>16</u>	<u>566470</u>		<u>3580690</u>	
4	<u>16</u>	<u>565640</u>		<u>3580760</u>	

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Gene A. Ford and Trina Binkley, AHC Reviewer

Organization: Private Consultant Date: January 20, 1998

Street & Number: #10 Lakeview Telephone: (205) 752-4599

City or Town: Tuscaloosa State: Alabama Zip Code: 35401

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Alabama State University Street & Number: 915 South Jackson Street

Telephone: (205) 293-4267

City or Town: Montgomery State: Alabama Zip Code: 36101-0271

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AUG 14 1998

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Ala. Historical Commission

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## Narrative Description

The Alabama State University Historic District contains twenty resources in Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama. The resources include nine brick buildings, eight wood frame buildings, a stadium, a combination maintenance and wood working shop, and a bus garage. These resources are an integral part of a 113.5 acre, thirty-one building university campus situated a short distance south of the Alabama capitol and Interstate 85. The Alabama State University campus features a blend of old and new with the focal point being Tullibody Drive. All of the historic resources in the historic district are positioned along Tullibody Drive. However, there are several historic buildings that are not included in the historic district as they are not contiguous with the district. The post 1950s buildings stand south, east, and northeast of the historic core of the campus. Among the more modern landscape additions are the Academic Mall, a T-shaped expanse of lawn enhanced by trees, shrubs, flowers, a criss-crossing of walks, and a massive outdoor sculpture dubbed the "Equinox," all of which are framed by major academic buildings. The Charles Johnson Dunn Tower, an eleven-story brick, Post-modern residential high rise erected in 1994, and the Joe L. Reed Acadome, a state-of-the-art, multipurpose facility built in 1992, represent ASU's ongoing building campaign.

Built between 1920 and 1948, the twenty resources that comprise the Alabama State University Historic District retain a high degree of integrity. However, none of the twenty resources of the historic district are part of the original campus. After Lincoln Normal School (an early incarnation of ASU) was relocated to Montgomery in 1887 and the State Normal School for Colored Students (another earlier manifestation of ASU) moved out of temporary quarters in the Beulah Baptist Church, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, and adjacent stores and homes, it began development of a six-acre site east of South Jackson Street between Tuscaloosa and Thurman Streets. Through the 1890s, State Normal utilized two wood frame structures, the first of which was

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named Tullibody Hall, on the site. Conflagration consumed Tullibody Hall on December 13, 1904 (Watkins 1994).

Like the proverbial phoenix, a new and improved Tullibody Hall rose out of the ashes of the previous building. In 1906, a two-story, brick building was erected. The building featured fourteen classrooms, a reception room, an office, and an auditorium. H-shaped, the academic edifice was designed in the collegiate, Georgian Revival style with clean symmetry, a simple cornice, quoins, and a double door with sidelights and semicircular transom. The academic building was listed in the National Register in 1980; however, it was razed in recent years to make way for the Tullibody Music Hall and Fine Arts Center.

A Sanborn Map documented the status of the State Normal School in 1910. In addition to Tullibody Hall, there were five, wood frame buildings, a basketball pavilion, and two sheds on the campus. Four of the five buildings housed classrooms for a grade school.

During an extensive building program in the 1920s, the campus began to gravitate south of Thurman Street (University Drive). Among the many buildings erected during this campaign was Stewart Hall (1919) (no longer extant). Initially housing classrooms, a library, and offices for the elementary school, Stewart Hall, which featured brick construction and a restrained Georgian Revival style, was remodeled to accommodate later uses. The President's residence (not included in the historic district as it is discontinuous with the district) was designed in the Craftsman fashion of the period with a wrap around pergola/porch and exposed timberwork. Dillard Hall, a two-story brick building erected in 1922, also sported Craftsman motifs. It was destroyed by fire in 1966. During the year 1922, Paterson Memorial Hall and Kilby Hall (not included in the historic district as it is discontinuous with the district) were added to the growing campus. Razed in the 1980s, Paterson Hall had three stories, a side gambrel roof with a front gambrel dormer, brick construction, and side porches. It served as a dormitory



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throughout its history. Kilby Hall features one-story, brick construction, a hip roof, and a Classical portico. It has functioned as a dining hall, dormitory, student union, and art department. It currently houses a radio station. Designed in the Georgian Revival style, Paterson Hall (Resource 1 CR) and Bibb Graves Hall (Resource 3 CR) rounded out ASU's construction campaign of the 1920s.

The 1930s witnessed a flurry of activity, albeit not on such a grand scale as the 1920s, but it was nonetheless an important period of growth for the State Normal School. Despite the economic hardships brought on by the Great Depression, the academic institution had two brick buildings and eight wood frame buildings erected during this decade. In 1936 eight wooden faculty houses (Resources 7-13 CR) rose upon the south side of Tullibody Drive. Three years later, the school added two fine brick buildings of the Georgian Revival vein, Beverly Hall (Resource 18 CR) and Lockhart Gymnasium (Resource 17 CR), to the campus scene. The gym was one of several Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects to be executed at ASU. Other WPA projects included landscaping, the construction of sidewalks, and general improvements.

Faced with deprivation brought on by World War II, ASU struggled to expand and improve its facilities. The African American college, however, was not without its success stories. In 1941, Deramus and Terrell Halls, one-story, wood frame, weatherboard clad buildings, were constructed near Tullibody Hall. They housed the music department. They were later razed. Hornet Stadium (Resource 14 CR) and a combination maintenance and woodworking shop (Resource 15 CR) were completed in 1942. A five year hiatus between 1942 and 1947 occurred during which a nationwide moratorium prohibited new construction on the ASU campus.

In 1947, construction resumed with renewed vigor. Abercrombie Hall (Resource 5 CR), a three-story, brick residence hall for women, was completed on Tullibody Drive. Govan Hall

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(Resource 19 CR) was also completed in 1947. It stands adjacent to the east side of the gymnasium. The Bus Garage (Resource 16 CR), Trenholm Hall (Resource 6 CR), and the North Dining Hall (Resource 2 CR) came to fruition in 1948. Additionally, a number of buildings, including the Veterans Barracks and Holloway Hall, became part of the school in the late 1940s. These buildings were assembled from war surplus materials but were later dismantled.

The decade of the 1950s represented quite a departure from previous years of activity as only two structures took their place among the other fixtures of Alabama State College. Councill Hall was built in 1955. A three-story, brick building with Georgian Revival detailing, Councill Hall has housed classrooms, laboratories, and administrative offices. Dunn Sports Arena was built by University Maintenance workers in 1956.

For Alabama State University, the decade of 1960s was not characterized by pronounced development. Simpson Hall (Resource 4 NCR) was one of three buildings to be erected on the campus during this period. The five-story, brick residence hall for women represented a departure from the Georgian Revival style that dominates the design of earlier buildings. The dormitory is remarkably free of detailing, relying on a rhythmic interplay of vertical brick strips and window bands and sleek look for its aesthetic appeal. Simpson Hall set the tone for McGehee and Trenholm Halls, both of which were constructed in 1967.

Major strides were taken to improve the physical plant at ASU in the following decade. During this era, the focus turned from individual buildings to complexes or centers. A new President's residence and adjoining guest quarters and entertainment facilities was one of two new-look complexes built in 1970. Benson Hall, a seven-story, brick residence facility erected in 1970, greatly expanded ASU's on-campus living quarters. The Zelia Stephens Early Childhood Center followed in 1971. In 1977, the Levi Watkins Learning Center was realized. The five-story facility houses the University Library, media

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center, College of Business Administration, and Archives and Special Collections. The Tullibody Music Hall became an addition to the old section of campus in 1974.

Large scale construction prevailed at ASU through the 1990s. In 1984, the Tullibody Fine Arts Center was constructed on the site of the original Tullibody Hall adjacent to the Tullibody Music Hall. The arts center contains classrooms, galleries, studios, and labs. During this period, three state-of-the-art residence halls took their place south of Tullibody Drive. One of the most prominent fixtures of the university, Dunn Tower was erected on the southeast corner of the campus in 1994. Post-modern in design, the eleven-story tower houses apartment units for 480 female residents. The ultra modern Acadome, constructed in 1992, symbolizes ASU's contemporary look.

### Inventory

**1. Paterson Hall Contributing Resource. 1928.** U-shaped in configuration, Paterson Hall represents the template for Councill Hall with some slight differences. The pediments of the central block and dependencies have an elliptical attic light. The second and first floors of the front facade each have ten fewer 12/12 double hung sash windows than their counterparts of Councill Hall. A historic photograph of Paterson Hall reveals that these twenty windows were once in place. They were removed and enclosed with brick. Like its antecedent, Paterson Hall has a full score of Georgian Revival embellishments, which include pediments, fluted pilasters, a wrap around cornice, and a symmetric facade bay arrangement.

**2. North Dining Hall. Contributing Resources. 1948 .** The T-shaped, brick building features a cross gable roof of asphalt shingles. It has two stories and a three part plan with a central block and flanking wings. The central block of the Georgian Revival building is fronted by a pediment with an

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entablature and two Doric columns and two pilasters. Three openings on the second floor front facade are fitted with twenty pane fixed windows. Beneath them on the first floor are three double wood and glass panel doors. The second floor front facades of each wing have eight voids filled with a 12/12 double hung sash window. The same is true of the first floor of the west wing while that of the east wing is below ground. On the interior, the floors are covered with linoleum tile. Acoustic tiles are suspended from the ceiling. An addition was added to the south in 1966. In addition to its capacity as a dining facility for 600 students, the North Dining Hall serves as student offices, a bookstore, post office, and reception rooms.

**3. Bibb Graves Hall. Contributing Resource. 1920.** Bibb Graves Hall is a three-story, brick education building that is configured in a U shape. The U shape configuration consists of a five part plan with a central block, hyphens, and dependencies. A cross gable roof of asphalt shingles crowns the building. The central block has an octagonal cupola. Beneath the cupola is the pediment with an elliptical light. An entablature adorns the bottom of the pediment and rests atop four stone pilasters. Each of the three floors of the central block has three openings on the front facade. Those on the upper two floors are fitted with pairs of 4/4 double hung sash windows with stone sills; a double wood and glass door with a transom and stone surrounds fills the void on the first floor and is flanked by pairs of windows designed in the fashion of those of the upper stories. Two eyebrow dormers with louvered ventilators cap the roofs of the two hyphens. Each of the three stories of the hyphens are marked by three piercings on the front facade. The two inner openings on all three stories have pairs of 4/4 double hung sash windows; the outer ones on the upper floors have 12 pane fixed windows; and those on the first floor have a wood and glass door with a transom and semicircular stone pediment. The roofs of the two dependencies feature eyebrow dormers with louvered ventilators. Five openings punctuate all three floors on the interior and exterior sides of the dependencies. The four piercings closest to the hyphens are fitted with pairs of the quintessential 4/4

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double hung sash windows. The openings at the end furthest away from the hyphens have a single 4/4 double hung sash window. Similar in look to the front facade of the central block, the front facade of the dependencies have a pediment with an elliptical light, entablature, pilasters, and three openings on each floor. Single 6/6 double hung sash windows fill all the voids with the exception of the central one on the first floor which has a door like that of the hyphens. The building has served as a dormitory for women throughout its history.

**4. *Simpson Hall. Noncontributing Resource. 1966.*** Simpson Hall, constructed of concrete block faced with brick, rises to a height of 4 and 1/2 stories. The roof is flat. The front facade bay arrangement is symmetric with aluminum frame windows organized in nineteen columns and five rows, which coincide with the four and a half stories. Two stairwells, which are demarcated by three pairs of aluminum frame windows and a double metal and glass door with a concrete hood, constitute the third bay column at either end of the building. A two-story section projects from the middle of the building. The bottom floor of the projection is open and serves as the main entrance to the hall. Simpson Hall functions as a dormitory for women and a health center.

**5. *Abercrombie Hall. Contributing Resource. 1946.*** Abercrombie Hall is one of the four U-shaped Georgian Revival edifices that represent the historic core of the ASU campus. Like the other three, Abercrombie Hall has a central block with flanking hyphens and dependencies. Crowning the building is a cross gable roof of asphalt shingles. The front facade of the central block features a pediment, elliptical attic light, and entablature, and three columns of bays. Three 4/4 double hung sash windows, one per floor, compose the outer bay columns. A light well with flanking stone pilasters and a double wood and glass door with a transom and projecting hood constitute the central column. The flanking front facade of the hyphens feature three rows with three pairs of 4/4 double hung sash windows. The windows have stone lintels with keystones and sills. Five openings pierce each of the three floors and basement of the dependencies. The four furthest from

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the hyphens are fitted with pairs of 4/4 double hung sash windows while the one closest to the hyphens have single sash windows. The ends of the dependencies and hyphens have three 6/6 double hung sash windows on each floor. A stone plinth wraps around the bottom of the building while a stone cornice does the same at the top. Linoleum tile covers the floor. Acoustic tiles are suspended from the ceiling. Abercrombie Hall is a dormitory for women.

**6. Trenholm Hall. Contributing Resource. 1948.** The academic building is configured in a T-shape and has two stories and a basement. Constructed of brick, it is crowned by a cross gable roof of asphalt shingles. Trenholm Hall is in keeping with the Georgian Revival style of the other historic buildings. A pediment caps the front facade of the central block. Below it is a stone entablature. It rests on four pilasters. An opening that rises from the ground floor to the entablature punctuates the facade. It is filled with sheets of glass and a double glass door. The front facade of the wings has two rows of ten openings fitted with single sheets of amber colored glass. All three ends of the building have two rows of three similar windows. An historic photograph of Trenholm Hall shows that the original 12/12 double hung sash windows were replaced by those of a more contemporary design. The hall served as a library until 1978 when it was converted to administrative offices.

**7. Faculty House. Contributing Resource. 1936.** The 1930s faculty house is constructed of wood. It has one-story with a hip roof of asphalt shingles; weatherboards sheath the exterior. The house is actually a duplex with two separate entrances on the front (north) facade. Each entrance consists of a wood and glass panel door with a transom. On either side by the doors are a pair of 6/6 double hung sash windows to the bottom sash of which is attached a metal security screen. A partial width porch with a hip roof and two brick columns fronts each of the doors. The whole affair rests atop a brick foundation. The floors on the interior are made of wood. An addition has been added to the rear.

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**8. Faculty House. Contributing Resource. 1936.** This one-story duplex is much like Resource 7 with a few minor differences. Gable roofs, rather than hip roofs, cap the porches. Six slender wood columns support the porches. The faculty duplex, now faculty offices, has a rear (south) addition. The sash windows have four panes instead of six.

**9. Faculty House. Contributing Resource. 1936.** Like the other 1930s faculty houses, this one-story house is constructed of wood and has an exterior covering of weatherboards. It has two interior chimneys and a hip with cross gable roof of asphalt shingles. The front facade consists of a wood panel door with a transom. Flanking it are three 4/4 double hung sash windows with metal security screens. A partial width porch with a gable roof and a rectangular louvered ventilator projects from the facade and rests on three brick columns. The building's substructure is composed of a brick foundation. The building, like the other faculty houses, has wooden floors.

**10. Faculty House. Contributing Resource. 1936.** The wooden, weatherboarded house features one story with a gable roof of asphalt shingles and an interior chimney. The front facade bay arrangement is composed of a central wood and glass panel door with sidelights and a transom and four flanking 6/6 double hung sash windows with metal security screens. Fronting the faculty residence is a full width porch with an engaged gable roof. Six Doric columns support the roof. A brick foundation supports the house.

**11. Faculty House. Contributing Resource. 1936.** The one-story, wood house has a cladding of weatherboards and a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The north facade has two openings, which are fitted with three 4/4 double hung sash windows. The west side, which faces a courtyard and Resource 14, has three single and one pair of 4/4 double hung sash windows, and a wood door. A partial width porch with a metal shed roof fronts the door.

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**12. Faculty House. Contributing Resource. 1936.** This faculty house is similar in design to Resources 11 and 13. It has one-story with a three-bay front facade. A wood panel door occupies the central opening. A metal stoop projects over the door. Flanking the door are two 12/12 double hung sash windows.

**13. Faculty House. Contributing Resource. 1936.** This faculty house is identical to Resource 11 with one exception: it has an enclosed porch on its west side.

**14. Hornet Stadium. Contributing Resource. 1942.** Hornet Stadium consists of a poured concrete wall that wraps around the perimeter of the facility. A concrete admission gate forms the northwest corner of the stadium wall. The gate is composed of three entrance portals and four ticket windows. The stadium holds within its confines a football field, eight lane track, a baseball diamond, and a concrete concession stand. Additionally, there are two sets of concrete grandstands, one each for the football field and baseball diamond.

**15. Maintenance and Woodwork Shop. Contributing Resource. 1942.** The Maintenance and Woodwork Shop is a one-story building constructed of hollow tile and concrete. It has a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The south side has fifteen 6/6 double hung sash windows. This side also has a garage door. The shop was erected by the National Youth Administration (NYA).

**16. Bus Garage. Contributing Resource. 1948.** The bus garage is constructed of concrete block. The building is crowned by a gable roof of asphalt shingles. Openings fitted with 4/4 double hung sash windows are featured on the north and south sides of the building. Garage doors are also fixtures of the south side.

**17. Lockhart Gymnasium. Contributing Resource. 1939.** Two stories in height, Lockhart Gymnasium is T-shaped and constructed of brick. Crowning the gym is a gable with cross hip roof. The front facade of the Georgian Revival style building has a stone parapet with decorative urns, and a wrap-around stone cornice.



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The cornice rests atop four stone pilasters. On the second floor, the two outer openings feature porthole windows while the three inner ones have six fixed panes of glass. On the first floor, the two outer openings have 6/6 double hung sash windows with stone lintels and sills. There are three recessed double wood and glass doors with transoms. Three brick portals front the doors. The north and south ends of the gables serve as pediments. The pediments feature a porthole window. Beneath the pediment is a stone cornice and two pilasters. There are three 6/6 double hung sash windows per floor. Beneath the hip roof and support systems of steel trusses is the basketball gym. Thirteen columns of 4/4 windows punctuate the north and south sides of the gym. The building has a basement. Lockhart Gymnasium was built by the WPA.

**18. Beverly Hall. Contributing Resource. Ca. 1939.** The Georgian Revival education building rises to a height of two stories and rests on a full basement. A side gable roof of asphalt shingles crowns the building. Five eyebrow dormers with lights and two sets of two end chimneys highlight the roof. A stone cornice wraps around the building. The bay arrangement of the symmetric front facade is composed of twelve 12/12 double hung sash windows on the second floor and a central door with five flanking similar windows. The central door is composed of two wood and glass roofs capped by a transom and flanked by stone surrounds. A broken Baroque pediment of stone tops off the door. Ten windows pierce the front facade of the basement. The north and south sides of the academic edifice feature an arch top attic light, a stone cornice, and four pilasters. In between the two inner pilasters, there is a vertical window band on the second floor and a double wood and glass door with a transom in the first. They are flanked by four 12/12 double hung sash windows on each floor. Beverly Hall is home to lecture rooms, classrooms, and faculty offices.

**19. Govan Hall. Contributing Resource. 1947.** Govan Hall is a one-story wood frame education building, the construction of which was funded by the Federal Works Administration (FWA). It

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features a gable roof of asphalt shingles and a cladding of weatherboards. Three openings are cut into the front facade. One is occupied by a wood and glass panel door; the other two by double hung sash windows. The hall was built to house art classes. It was covered by brick in the early 1950s.

**20. Identification Station. Contributing Resource. 1947.** Clad with brick, the building rises to a height of one story. It is capped by a gable and shed roof of asphalt shingles. The front facade is punctuated by three voids. A wood panel door fills the central opening. A stoop covers the door. Two nine pane windows flank the doorway. The building is used for the production of student identification badges.

#### Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this district area, the potential for subsurface remains is minimal. However, buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the area.

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### Significance

The Alabama State University Historic District in Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama is eligible for the National Register of Historic places based on Criterion A for its significant statewide association with African American educational history and ethnic heritage from 1920 to 1948. ASU was established in 1866 as the first state public African American institution of higher education in Alabama. The state normal school offered African Americans the opportunity for university and teaching preparation studies. ASU functioned as the only state supported normal school and university for African Americans for many years. The period of significance from 1920 to 1948 represents three decades of construction beginning with the construction of Bibb Graves Hall in 1920 and concluding in 1948 with the building of the North Dining Hall, Trenholm Hall, and the bus garage. The ASU Historic District represents African Americans' efforts to overcome segregation and the "separate but equal doctrine" resulting from the *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) decision and provide their people with an elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education. Despite limited funding from local, state, and federal agencies, ASU officials continued to expand the scope and mission of the educational institution throughout the 1920s, Great Depression, and World War II.

The Alabama State University Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on Criterion C in the area of architecture for its significant collection of early to mid twentieth-century academic buildings, structures, and facilities. Collectively, these historic resources represent the development and evolution of the campus through three critical decades in the twentieth century. They constitute the historic core of the Campus. The individual resources retain a high degree of architectural integrity as does the district as a whole. Represented in the historic district are collegiate Georgian Revival buildings and resources built by the federal relief programs of the Great Depression. Three of the campus buildings, Bibb Graves Hall (Resource 3), Beverly Hall (Resource

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18), and North Dining Hall (Resource 2) are the works of the noted Alabama architectural firm of Warren, Knight, and Davis.

The origins of Alabama State University, the state's first public African American institution for higher learning, date back to the late nineteenth century. The dissolution of the plantation system and the abolition of slavery after the Civil War resulted in a new chapter in African American history. For the first time since settlers began pouring into Alabama in the early part of the century, blacks were free to leave the plantation and pursue social, religious, economic, and educational endeavors. African Americans wasted no time in expressing their educational ambitions, publishing an appeal for schools and teachers in the *Selma Times* on December 30, 1865 (Bullock 1968). A month earlier, blacks from across Alabama converged in Mobile to discuss the advancement of their race (Caver 1982). Thus began the drive for educational opportunities for blacks in Alabama.

Federal and state legislation and agencies assisted the African American crusade. On March 3, 1865, Congress established The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. The Freedmen's Bureau encouraged aid societies and the people themselves to create schools and furnished buildings (Bethel 1948). By 1867, the Bureau's work had culminated in 175 schools, 14 permanent buildings, 150 teachers, and 9,799 pupils (Sherer 1971). The American Missionary Association (AMA) worked jointly with the Freedmen's Bureau to further the cause of black education in Alabama. The AMA established and operated the Trinity School in Athens and Talladega College at Talladega. In 1862, Congress passed the Morrill Act in order to provide public schools for educating white teachers. This act was later revised to include state schools for the education of black teachers (Anderson 1988). In 1868, the Alabama Legislature ratified a new Constitution, the Constitution of 1865 having been declared invalid. Of the many provisions included in the Constitution, one legislated a public school system for all Alabamians, black and white (Caver 1982). Through African Americans' own

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initiative and assistance from the Freedmen's Bureau, AMA, Morrill Act, and Constitution of 1868, the foundation for black education in Alabama was formed.

The Freedmen's Bureau and the AMA played a decisive role in the formation of the Lincoln School in Marion, Alabama, the forerunner of Alabama State University. In 1867, the AMA sent Thomas C. Steward, a teacher, to Marion for the purpose of starting a black college (Caver 1982). Classes were initially held in the Old Methodist Church. Two more teachers funded by the AMA joined Steward later in 1867. In the meantime, the Freedmen's Bureau was petitioned for funds to erect a building (Watkins 1994). African Americans donated money toward the cause; cleared the land on which the school was to be built; and erected the building. A nine man board of African Americans applied for a charter for the Lincoln School of Marion on July 1867 (Watkins 1994). Among the board members was Alexander H. Curtis, a barber and merchant, who is considered the titular founder of the Lincoln School. The school officially opened in November, 1867 with 113 students.

The State Board of Education, created by the Alabama Constitution of 1868, changed the status of the Lincoln School of Marion in 1868. It became one of nine normal schools in Alabama (Ownes 1941). Successful completion of a course of study at a normal school culminated in a teacher's certificate, rather than a high school diploma or a college degree. Thus, the Lincoln School was transformed into the Lincoln Normal School.

Several attempts were made to develop a university for Alabama African Americans. Peyton Finley, a black member of the State Board of Education, introduced a bill to create such an institution in 1871, but the bill failed; however, a bill to establish a "State Normal School and University for the Education of Colored Teachers and Students" passed in 1873 provided that ownership of the Lincoln Normal School be transferred to the state (ASU 1994). In 1874, the State Normal School and University at Marion became a state supported institution. It

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was the first public university for African Americans in the state.

The Lincoln Normal School and University experienced favorable growth through the 1870s and mid 1880s. The student population increased from 40 in 1874 to 404 in 1885 (Watkins 1994). Through persistent lobbying, school officials were able to secure more state support. Additional funding enabled the school to expand its faculty from one member in 1874 to ten in 1885 (Caver 1982). The physical plant was expanded as well. The campus moved to a new site in 1880. The original building was moved to the site and improved and a new edifice was constructed; the latter housed eight classrooms, a music room, office, and an auditorium (Watkins 1994).

That the Lincoln Normal School and University helped improve the lives of African Americans was quite apparent. At war's end, a very high percentage of blacks in Marion, Perry County, and the state in general were illiterate and uneducated. By the 1870s, many blacks had acquired land and built homes; literacy rates improved and many were subscribers to the local newspaper *Marion Commonwealth* (*Commonwealth* 1873). The school graduated hundreds of teachers who, like missionaries, spread the gospel of education throughout the state. John W. Beverly, an 1882 graduate of the university division, would become the first black faculty member and later president of the State Normal School and University.

Despite its many benefits to African Americans and the Marion community in general, the Lincoln Normal School and University did not remain in Marion. An incident between white students and Lincoln Normal students in 1886 brought issues to a head. A group of whites who long opposed the Lincoln School cited the incident as further cause to remove Lincoln from Marion (Watkins 1994). Unfortunately, this faction was successful in winning legislative favor. House Bill 902, calling for the abolition of the Lincoln Normal School and University, was introduced in the legislature on February 9, 1887 (Sherer 1977).

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Worse yet, the bill passed without a dissenting vote. Fortunately, House Bill 902 legislated the creation of the Alabama Colored People's University to be located elsewhere (Caver 1982). Thus came to an end the Lincoln Normal School and University at Marion and began the Alabama Colored People's University in Montgomery.

After the dissolution of the Lincoln School in 1887, Williams Burns Paterson, a Scottish immigrant and President of Lincoln School and University, and a contingent of African Americans and whites sought relocation to another site. Among the sites considered were Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Selma, Mobile, Brewton, and Montgomery. *The Tuscaloosa Times* adamantly opposed the Colored University's relocation in Tuscaloosa (*Tuscaloosa Times* 1887). The paper was successful in nixing the proposal. Mobile and Brewton were eliminated from the running due to their disadvantageous locations. A site in the central part of the state was considered preferable. Booker T. Washington opposed Montgomery; for he wanted no competition for funding for Tuskegee, as it was then a state-funded institution (Caver 1982). Birmingham citizens were ambivalent: some were in favor, others in opposition. A grassroots movement begun by Montgomery black educators developed into a well-organized, impressive, and influential coalition of both white and black citizens that seriously advocated Montgomery as the most fitting choice. Swayed by this advocacy and a promise of a start-up fund of \$5,000 and three acres of land, the Board of Trustees unanimously selected Montgomery for the location of the Colored People's University on July 23, 1887 (Watkins, 1994). The Alabama Legislature legally removed the State Normal School and University for Colored Students from Marion and changed the name to the State Normal School for Colored Students in 1889. However, the legislature denied the school in Montgomery university status (Caver 1982).

After the State Normal School moved out of temporary quarters in the Beulah Baptist Church, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, and adjacent stores and homes, it began development of a

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six acre site east of South Jackson Street between Tuscaloosa and Thurman Streets. The first structure to be erected on the site was a large wood frame structure named Tullibody Hall in honor of President Paterson's home town in Scotland (Watkins 1994). Another smaller wood frame building was later erected on the site. Conflagration consumed Tullibody Hall on December 13, 1904 (Watkins 1994). Like the proverbial phoenix, a new and improved brick Tullibody Hall rose out of the ashes of the previous building in 1906. By 1910, five wood frame buildings had been added to the campus (Sanborn 1910). Four of the five buildings housed classrooms for a grade school. The campus also featured a basketball pavilion and two sheds.

Although the official capacity of the State Normal School consisted of preparing students for elementary and secondary teaching, Paterson insisted that black leaders have the same training as their white counterparts. Consequently, he retained Latin and a limited number of other traditional collegiate courses as part of the Normal School curriculum against the wishes of a number of paternalistic trustees and legislators who preferred industrial training (Watkins 1994). These courses did not lead to a college degree, though. "Negro Industrial Education" as influenced by Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Plan held sway as the national archetype during this era (Valien 1958). Washington's philosophy was accepted by many white leaders since it educated African Americans within the framework of segregation (Stamm and West 1995). Paterson's unwillingness to adopt industrial training cost State Normal funding.

Upon Paterson's death in March, 1915, the leadership at the State Normal School passed to John W. Beverly, an African American faculty member and a graduate of the university division of the Lincoln Normal School and University. During Beverly's five year administration, State Normal was reorganized as a four year teacher training high school; additional land was purchased; and the legislature appropriated \$20,000 to match a \$30,000 grant from the General Education Board for the purpose of building dormitory and dining facilities (ASU 1994). State Normal's



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curriculum included a number of industrial offerings, courses in carpentry, wheelwrighting, and blacksmithing, that were introduced toward the end of Paterson's tenure and expanded by Beverly. Beverly did not abandon State Normal's stance on higher education for African Americans, retaining such classes as Latin and the classics as an integral part of the coursework. In 1920, Beverly's tenure ended when he stepped down to pursue other interests.

In 1920, the Trenholm era began and would last until 1962. The Trenholm administration was actually a joint effort by George Washington Trenholm, who reigned from 1920 to 1925, and his son Harper Councilll Trenholm, who served as president from 1925 to 1962. The resources in the Alabama State University Historic District came to fruition during the Trenholm presidency.

During an extensive building program in the 1920s, the campus began to gravitate south of Thurman Street (University Drive). Among the many buildings erected during this campaign was Stewart Hall (1919). Initially housing classrooms, library, and offices for the elementary school, Stewart Hall was remodeled to accommodate later uses. The President's residence was designed in the Craftsman fashion. During the year 1922, Dillard Hall, Paterson Memorial Hall, and Kilby Hall were added to the growing campus. Dillard Hall and Paterson Hall were later razed. Paterson Hall (Resource 1 CR) and Bibb Graves Hall (Resource 3 CR) rounded out ASU's construction campaign of the 1920s.

The Trenholm's made strides toward developing a curriculum more in line with the expressed wishes of Alabama African Americans who wanted a legitimate university course of study and the educational philosophy of such black leaders as W.E.B. DuBois. DuBois called for a liberal arts education in order to create the "new" Negro: one equal in all respects to white people (DuBois 1935). Toward this end, the State Normal School added a junior college division in 1920 (Watkins 1994). A year later, the State Board of Education granted State Normal Class "A" normal school status, the only such black institution to have

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that distinction in the state at that time. The State Normal School for Colored People functioned as the only high school for blacks in Montgomery County until 1936 when Booker T. Washington High School opened for classes. Many African Americans preferred state normal's "Laboratory High School" due to the excellent record of its students at the collegiate level (Watkins 1994). The Laboratory High School closed in 1969.

The 1930s witnessed a flurry of activity. Despite the economic hardships brought on by the Great Depression, the academic institution had two brick buildings and eight wood frame buildings erected during this decade. In 1936 eight wooden faculty houses (Resources 7-13 CR) rose upon the south side of Tullibody Drive. Three years later, the school added Beverly Hall (Resource 18 CR) and Lockhart Gymnasium (Resource 17 CR) to the campus. The gym was one of several WPA projects to be executed at ASU. Other WPA projects included landscaping, the construction of sidewalks, and general improvements.

Throughout President Harper Council Trenholm's long tenure, the academic program of state normal school continued to improve. The board of education approved the bachelor of science degree in education and changed the name of State Normal School to the State Teachers College at Montgomery (ASU 1994). A third and fourth year of collegiate study were added to the program in 1929 and 1930, respectively. In 1935, State Teachers College was added to the Approved List of Colleges and Universities for Negro Youths (Watkins 1994).

State Teachers College played a pivotal role as the central public higher education location for federal assistance programs of the 1930s that contributed to the improvement of African American education. The WPA utilized one of the campus homes for three years for the operation of the Government Nursery School and Dillard Hall for afternoon high school classes (Barlow 1959). The National Youth Administration (NYA) conducted female domestic service training on the campus (Watkins 1994).

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Faced with deprivation brought on by World War II, ASU struggled to expand and improve its facilities. The African American college, however, was not without its success stories. In 1941, Deramus and Terrell Halls, one-story, wood frame, weatherboard clad buildings, were constructed near Tullibody Hall. They housed the music department. Hornet Stadium (Resource 14 CR) and combination maintenance and woodworking shop (Resource 15 CR) were completed in 1942. The shop was built by the NYA.

In 1947, construction resumed with renewed vigor. Abercrombie Hall (Resource 5 CR) was completed on Tullibody Drive. Govan Hall (Resource 19 CR) was also completed in 1947. The Bus Garage (Resource 16 CR), Trenholm Hall (Resource 6 CR), and the North Dining Hall (Resource 2 CR) came to fruition in 1948. Additionally, a number of buildings, including the Veterans Barracks, and Holloway Hall, which were assembled from war surplus materials and later dismantled, became part of the school in the late 1940s.

Conditions at State Teachers College in the late 1940s reflected the war being waged over the "separate but equal" doctrine. In the 1930s, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) initiated two suits, one involving the University of Maryland Law School and *Gaines vs. University of Missouri*, on behalf of African Americans who were denied admission to graduate and professional training of state universities (Stamm and West 1995). The Gaines decision required that in states where all white universities offered graduate and professional degrees not available at state supported African American universities, the states would be required to open its doors or establish graduate and professional programs in state supported African American universities (Valien 1958). Rather than open the doors to white institutions of higher learning, Alabama legislated money for academic and construction advancement at State Teachers College. Whereas the state had only provided partial or no funds for earlier building projects, it financed in full the cost of Abercrombie Hall (Resource 5 CR),

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3/4 of the North Dining Hall (Resource 2 CR), and 3/5 of the then library, Trenholm Hall (Resource 6 CR).

Civil Rights legislation continued to have an impact on State Teachers College through the 1950s. In 1954, the United States Supreme Court in *Brown vs. Board of Education* declared the "separate but equal doctrine" unconstitutional. The Alabama State Board of Education changed the title of State Teachers College to Alabama State College to reflect the broader educational mission of the academic institution (Watkins 1994). Part of that mission included university status, a status that was denied the institution six decades earlier when it moved to Montgomery. Additionally, the Alabama Legislature authorized an appropriation of \$350,000 for construction of an administration and classroom building (Watkins 1994). Councill Hall resulted from the legislature's generosity. In reality, though, the legislature's generosity was a thinly veiled act of segregation. In 1956, the Alabama Legislature voted to nullify the United States Supreme Court's decisions in *Brown and Brown vs. Board of Education*, and openly opposed desegregation through the remainder of the 1950s and early 1960s until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Watkins 1994). Regardless of the motivation, ASU was the recipient of much needed office and class space.

Architecturally, the Alabama State University Historic District contains another area of distinction.

Three of the campus buildings, Bibb Graves Hall (Resource 3), Beverly Hall (Resource 18), and North Dining Hall (Resource 2) are the works of the noted Alabama architectural firm of Warren, Knight, and Davis.

William Tilman Warren founded the firm of Warren, Knight, and Davis with partners Eugene H. Knight and John Eayers Davis in 1922. Warren, senior partner of the firm, earned an engineering degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn) in 1897 and an architecture degree from Columbia in 1902 (*The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 1966). For five years, 1902-1907, Warren was employed as a draftsman with the nationally

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renowned firm of McKim, Mead & White. The young architect returned to his home state of Alabama in 1907. With William L. Welton, Warren established the firm of Warren and Welton, an association that would last until 1910 (*The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 1966). In 1914, Warren joined forces with Eugene H. Knight, adding John Eayers Davis to the roster in 1922.

The firm of Warren, Knight, and Davis contributed much to the architectural fabric of Alabama. The partnership designed schools, churches, residences, and civic buildings throughout the state. A short list of the commissions completed in Birmingham include the Alabama Power Company office building (1924), Birmingham Country Club (1925), Federal Reserve bank (1926), Veterans Administration Hospital (1950), and the Oscar Wells Memorial Art Museum (1956) (*The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 1966). In Montgomery, Warren, Knight, and Davis executed building designs for the state highway department (1936), state archives and history department (1938), and the Alabama Supreme Court (1938). Counted among college and university clients are Auburn University (chemistry building), University of Alabama (chemistry building), Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical Institute, University of the South, Judson College, Sewanee Military Academy, and the state teachers colleges at Jacksonville, Florence, Troy, Livingston, and Montgomery (ASU) (*The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 1966). Warren, Knight, and Davis received a gold medal for commercial architecture at the Southern Architectural and Industrial Exposition for the design of the Alabama Power Company office building.

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Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description.

The boundaries of the Alabama State University Historic District are recorded on Montgomery County Tax Map 03-10-04-18-02 featured in Figure 2. The scale is at 1 inch = 100 feet.

Boundary Justification

The above described boundaries were drawn to encompass the historic core of the ASU campus and include as many contributing resources historically associated with that core and exclude as many noncontributing resources as possible.

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### Photographic Log

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Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama  
Gene Ford, Photographer  
April 1998

Negatives maintained at the Alabama Historical Commission

1. Patterson Hall, facing east
2. North Dining Hall, facing northeast
3. Bibb Graves Hall, tower in central block, facing southeast
4. Bibb Graves Hall, facing south
5. Abercrombie Hall, facing southwest
6. Lockhart Gymnasium, facing southwest
7. Beverly Hall, facing southwest
8. Faculty House, facing southeast
9. Faculty House, facing southwest
10. Faculty House, facing south
11. Faculty House, facing southwest
12. Hornet Stadium, main entrance gate at northwest corner of boundaries, facing southeast
13. Hornet Stadium, football/track grandstand, facing west
14. Maintenance/Woodwork Shop and Bus Garage, facing north



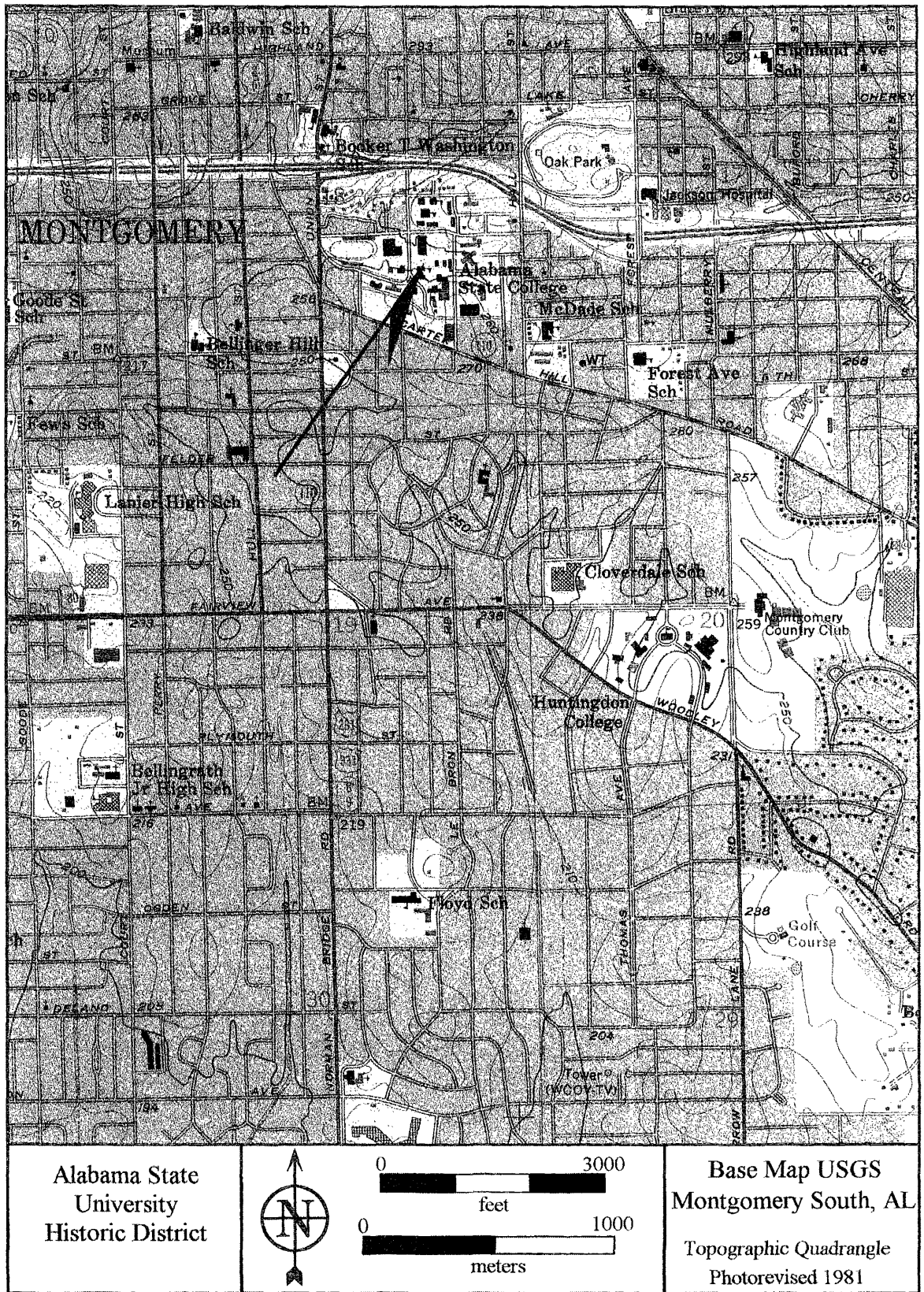


Figure 1. General Location of Alabama State University Historic District.