

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number	Page		

#### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000935

Date Listed: 08/16/00

Property Name: Park Hill Historic District

County: Pulaski

State: AR

Multiple Name: N/A

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### **Amended Items in Nomination:**

An amendment is made to Section 6, Function and Use, to provide the proper historic and current functions and subfunctions, as given in the bulletin *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (16A):

Historic Function/Subfunction:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

GOVERNMENT/public works

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

Current Function/Subfunction:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional/financial/

institution/restaurant

GOVERNMENT/fire station

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property	
Historic Name: Park Hill Historic District	
Other Name/Site Number:	
2. Location	=======================================
Street & Number:	
City/Town: North Little Rock	Vicinity:
State: AR County: Pulaski C	ode: AR Zip Code: 72116
Not for Publication: N/A	
=======================================	=======================================
3. Classification	
Ownership of Property: Public & Private	
Category of Property: <u>Historic District</u>	
Number of Resources within Property:	
Contributing Noncontributing	
sites structures	
objects	
292 276 Total	

Park Hill Historic District  Name of Property	Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State			
Traine of Froperty	county and state			
Number of contributing resources previous Register: 8	ously listed in the National			
Name of related multiple property lis Rodriguez (NR 12-04-86)	sting: Concrete Structure by Donici			
4. State/Federal Agency Certification				
sheet	that this X nomination  ty meets the documentation  the National Register of  al and professional requirements  inion, the property X meets  er Criteria See continuation			
Signature of Sertifying official	6-14-88 Date			
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program				
State or Federal agency and bureau				
In my opinion, the property meets Register criteria See continuation	does not meet the National on sheet.			
Signature of commenting or other office	ial Date			
State or Federal agency and bureau				
5. National Park Service Certification				
I, hereby certify that this property is	s:			
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register	Sarah D. Pope 8/16/00			

Park Hill Historic District	Pulaski County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register	
other (explain):  Cox) Signature of Keeper	
C(w) Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
6. Function or Use	
Historic: Residential Public Utility Commercial	
Current: Residential Emergency Rescue Station Commercial	Sub:
7. Description	
Architectural Classification:	
Craftsman; Craftsman Bungalow; English Spanish Revival; Mediterranean; Plain/T Minimal Traditional; 20th Century Comme	Traditional
Materials: foundation _brick, concrete, walls _brick, weatherboard _novelty siding, fields _asbestos	other slate, tile

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

#### Boundaries

Boundary determinations of the Park Hill Historic District were based on a comprehensive two-year survey of every structure in a defined portion of the neighborhood sponsored by the City of North Little Rock and funded through matching Certified Local Government grants. Although the surveyed area reflects the majority of the historic Park Hill

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neighborhood, sections which were largely developed after 1950 were excluded from the survey and consequent historic district. The surveyed area is roughly bounded on the south by John F. Kennedy Boulevard and East "A" Street, on the north by West "H" Street, and East "D" Street, Ridge Road on the west, and Plainview Circle on the east.

Included within the Park Hill Historic District are 568 houses, buildings, and structures; nine of the buildings are in the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex (listed on National Register 11-19-93), two are concrete park structures designed by sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez (listed on the National Register 12-04-86), nineteen are commercial buildings, one is a public school, one is a public clubhouse, and the remaining 536 properties are residential. Boundaries of the district directly correspond to the surveyed area and although the ratio of non-contributing to contributing structures is 49% contributing to 51% non-contributing, it has been determined that these district boundaries contain the most significant portions of Park Hill first platted and developed as North Little Rock's first neighborhood. Of the 276 buildings considered non-contributing, overwhelming majority are frame historic houses constructed in the late 1930s and 1940s in the Minimal Tradition style of architecture. A large portion of these have been covered with artificial siding.

#### Summary

The area known as Park Hill is located on a steep hill north of what were the city limits of North Little Rock until 1946. Park Hill is largely residential in composition and is bisected by John F. Kennedy Boulevard (formerly the Arkansas-Missouri Highway), the historic commercial corridor through the area. Though the first sections of Park Hill were platted in 1921, other sections were opened piecemeal through the 1950s and the entire Park Hill area now encompasses more than 1600 acres.

In 1921, businessman Justin Matthews platted the first section of Park Hill and began offering lots for sale in early 1922. Growth in Park Hill was steady through the 1920s, then interrupted by the Great Depression in the 1930s. Due to Park Hill's proximity to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, and the demand for housing for soldiers and their families during the years of World War II, there was a considerable amount of construction in Park Hill in the early 1940s. The nationwide building boom in the immediate post war years also greatly effected Park Hill.

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Of the 568 properties included in the Park Hill Historic District, the overwhelming majority are residential. Construction of housing in Park Hill falls into two distinct periods- 1920s and the 1940s. There are nineteen buildings constructed for commercial use, a concrete pavilion and footbridge in a neighborhood park, one public school, one public clubhouse, and an historic fire station and water company complex.

#### Elaboration

The Park Hill Historic District is the earliest suburban development in the city of North Little Rock. The neighborhood is located on a hill overlooking the city's downtown, the Arkansas River, and downtown Little Rock. The Park Hill neighborhood is bisected by John F. Kennedy Boulevard (formerly the Arkansas-Missouri Highway), the commercial corridor through the area. The first lots in Park Hill were platted in 1921 and sales of property began in early 1922. Park Hill's developer, Justin Matthews headed the Park Hill Land Company which marketed, sold and developed the area. The Park Hill Land Company had a sizable staff which included an architect/designer, brick mason, horticulturist and landscape artist, a superintendent of road construction to name a few in addition to construction workers. The Park Hill Land Company also built and operated a complete wood working plant.

Within months of announcing the opening of Park Hill, there were some thirty houses constructed. These first few houses were followed by hundreds of others within a few years. Matthews was a cautious businessman and Park Hill was platted bit by bit as he waited for several houses to be built in one section before opening another section for development.

Streets in the Park Hill Historic District were generally laid out in a grid pattern. Derivation from the typical grid is found along the crests on the hill.

Growth and development of Park Hill were firmly established in the 1920s, interrupted by the Great Depression and begun again in 1940. Of the 481 structures constructed in Park Hill from 1922 to 1950, the number is almost equally divided in the two distinct periods of growth. During the 1920s and 1930s, the period when the first development began, there were 245 (43% of the district) houses and buildings constructed. Of these, 160 were constructed in the 1920s and 85 during the 1930s. The second period of intense growth in Park Hill began in 1940 and ended in 1950. In this decade, 236 (42% of the district) houses were built.

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#### CONSTRUCTION IN THE 1920s

The opening of Park Hill in early 1922 quickly proved to be successful. In the first eight years of development 159 houses and a school were constructed. Park Hill was designed to be an affordable neighborhood, and under the tight control of its developer, Justin Matthews, its early composition grew to be modest versions of architectural styles popular throughout the country in the 1920s-Craftsman, Craftsman Bungalow, and the priod Revivals.

The majority of houses built in Park Hill during the 1920s were constructed by Matthews' Park Hill Land Company. The company's architect/designer, Frank Carmean did not begin work with Matthews until 1927. The houses built in Park Hill prior to Carmean's association are largely of the Craftsman and Craftsman Bungalow style. Perhaps because the Park Hill Land Company had, among its ranks, a brick mason, the majority of these Craftsman influenced houses are brick veneered and their appearance remains much the same as originally. Early houses constructed in Park Hill were bricked in alternating colors, red and buff brick. There are sections where a glimpse of this deliberate brick pattern is still visible such as seen in the west sides of the 3200-3500 blocks of N. Olive Street. Since a number of the brick houses have been painted, particularly the buff colored ones, the sense of a brick color alternation is somewhat diffused.

The influence of the Craftsman style in Park Hill is most discernible with a total of sixteen Craftsman style houses and sixty-one Craftsman Bungalows. These seventy-seven Craftsman influenced houses display the style's key features such as a low pitched, gabled roof accentuated by a wide unenclosed eave overhang with exposed roof rafters, and tapered square columns on pedestal porch supports. There are no grand style or exaggerated versions of the Craftsman style in Park Hill, but the modest Craftsman style common to the neighborhood is exemplified in the houses found at 225 E. "A" Street (PU6249), 282 Plainview Circle (PU6354), 3307 Poplar (PU5488) and 3212 Magnolia (PU5417). A two-story brick version of Craftsman is commonly seen in Park Hill. With a front facing gable or clipped gable roof, this house form is seen in red brick at 143 Crestview (PU5353) and 3317 Olive (PU5453). Buff colored brick covers the same two-story Craftsman house plan and is seen at 276 Plainview Circle (PU6350) and 419 West "D" (PU5529).

The Craftsman Bungalow is the type of house most often built in Park Hill in the 1920s. The American Craftsman Bungalow became the "cottage" of the early decades of the Twentieth Century. A wide diversity of stylistic influences show links with many popular American architectural styles. The American Bungalow adapted itself to widely divergent environmental and climatic conditions, made use of numerous kinds of local building materials and ranged in size from rambling weekend retreats to small low-income residences. During the rapid growth of

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Park Hill in the 1920s, sixty-one small-scale Craftsman Bungalows were constructed. Although there are several different variations of 1920s Bungalows in Park Hill, a common theme in their design links them. The Bungalow is set low to the ground; it nestles into and becomes part of its environment. The house at 315 West "F" (PU6129) is an example of the compatibility of the Bungalow with its setting.

Inspired by the California architects Greene and Greene, Craftsman-type bungalow designs in the early part of the Twentieth Century were popularized by extensive publicity. The affordability of the Craftsman Bungalow led it to become the small house design of choice throughout the country. The Bungalows in Park Hill employ the same Craftsman characteristics such as the use of rustic materials on the exterior and low pitched roof with wide eaves and extended rafter tails as those being built all across the country in the 1920s.

Examples of the Craftsman Bungalow form common to Park Hill include those found at 119 West "G" (PU6145), 3318 Cypress (PU5413), and 3317 Poplar (PU5492). Employing a variety of Craftsman detail such as multiple roof planes and horizontal bands of windows, these houses feature clipped gable and gable roofs and combinations of rustic materials such as natural stone and rough-hewn timbers in their detailing. The houses located at 3401 and 3405 Olive (PU6020 & PU6021) are examples of the most commonly seen Bungalow form in Park Hill. These houses are brick veneered with front facing gable roofs and porches with cross gable roofs and utilize stucco on the walls of the prominent gable ends.

Another form of the cross-gabled roof type Bungalows is most often associated with "California Bungalows." These houses all incorporate multiple roof planes, Oriental-like flared roof lines, and prominent triangular knee braces supporting wide eaves with extended rafter tails. A variation of the "California Bungalow" features a single second-story room affording a panoramic view of the sky, hence the name "Airplane Bungalow." The houses at 3216 Poplar (PU5481) and 3614 Ridge Road (PU6091) display this characteristic hipped roof second story room with wide eaves and accentuated exposed rafter ends along with the typical porte cochere and short battered columns on brick piers.

Virtually unaltered since its construction in 1922, the John A. Rossi House at 201 West "D" Street (PU6110) is a textbook example of the Craftsman style bungalow, incorporating elements such as a trellised roof over side porch, multiple roof planes and extended rafter tails under wide eaves. Situated on a highly visible corner lot, the Rossi House was the second to be constructed in Park Hill.

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#### "Period Revival Styles"

Nationwide in the 1920s an eclectic flavor of design emerged. Building design began incorporating many of the "romantic" styles of the past. English and Spanish influences were some of the most common historic styles incorporated into these picturesque houses.

The largest group of "Period Revival" houses in the Park Hill Historic District falls into the English Revival category. In the 1920s more than fifty houses of English Revival style were constructed in Park Hill. As seen in the neighborhood's other styles, English Revival style houses in Park Hill were small versions best expressed as the "English Cottage." One-story brick homes with steeply pitched gable roofs and prominent front facing gable porches, tapered chimneys on front facades and a mix of materials such as stone and bricks are commonly seen in the Park Hill neighborhood.

An outstanding interpretation of the English Revival cottage is located at 135 Crestview (PU5361). This house features rough-face rubble stone on exterior walls and a gablet roof with a wrapped edge which was intended to give the impression of a thatched roof. Exemplary small versions of the English Revival cottage more typical to Park Hill are found at 127 West "F" (PU6129) and 236 West "B" (PU6265). These homes utilized the steep front facing gable and round arched openings as their primary design element. More elaborate versions of the English Revival style are seen in three houses located on Plainview Circle. Houses at 249 and 255 Plainview Circle (PU6323 & PU6324) are denoted by their clipped gable roofs covered with green tiles, fieldstone clad exterior walls and the use of round-arched openings. The one-story with rear basement brick and stone house at 211 Plainview Circle (PU6318) is a more horizontally emphasized English Revival design which features steep gable and clipped gable roofs on its facade. All three of the English Revival "period" houses on Plainview Circle feature elaborate fieldstone walls and site features in their sloping rear yards. At least two of these houses are known to have been designed by Justin Matthew's architect, Frank Carmean. Discretely written on the concrete sidewalk in front of 211 Plainview and 249 Plainview are the words "Carmean Did Tt."

There are eight "Spanish Revival" style houses in the Park Hill Historic District. Stucco walls, terraces and patios, flat roofs with raised tile ridged parapets, arcaded wing walls, and decorative use of ceramic tiles exemplify the 1920s period adaptation of the historic Spanish style. Examples of Spanish Revival influenced designs in Park Hill houses include 505 West "F" Street (PU6138), 501 West "F" (PU6139), 237 East "A" (PU6251) and 3617 Ridge Road (PU6081). After architect/designer Frank Carmean was brought into the Justin Matthews Co., this style house was offered to the buyer. However, most of the

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grand-scale Spanish Revival style homes in Park Hill were constructed in the more affluent Edgemont section of the neighborhood.

#### CONSTRUCTION IN THE 1930s

Construction in Park Hill during the 1930s mirrored the nationwide economic downturn. Only eighty-two houses were constructed in the Park Hill development in the 1930s. The styles of these houses included scaled down versions of the same Craftsman, Craftsman Bungalow and Period Revival styles which had been built there in the 1920s. The Colonial Revival style was introduced to Park Hill for the first time in the late 1930s. The six Colonial Revival style houses built in Park Hill in the 1930s are located in the western section of the neighborhood. The J. Wayne Pickens House at 3723 Ridge Road (PU6086) was constructed in the mid-1930s from a house plan in a national magazine. This two-story Colonial Revival style frame house with fieldstone foundation and detailing remains unaltered with the exception of a gable roof carport which was added in the 1950s.

Constructed in 1938, the house at 500 W. "F" Street (PU5543) is a version of the gambrel roof subtype of the Colonial Revival style. This house features a symmetrical facade (south) with first floor bay windows and two dormers extending from the side-facing gambrel roof. The houses at 3127 and 3131 Magnolia (PU5462 & PU5463) were constructed in 1939. They are one-story frame houses with a rear basement, and feature symmetrical facades with evenly spaced dormers and windows. A stylish Colonial Revival style entry on the house at 3127 Magnolia features a curved fanlight above the door and leaded glass sidelights. A larger, two-story version of 1930s Colonial Revival design is located at 3309 Poplar (PU5489).

The Solon Humphries House at 3100 Magnolia (PU5454) is an example of the "Garrison Colonial," a style popular in the United States from about 1935 to 1955. This subtype of the Colonial Revival style features a second story overhang on the facade of the house. Although the Humphries House has been covered in synthetic siding, the width matches the original wood boards.

Mediterranean style influence is seen in the design of the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Building built in 1938 at 3417-3421 Magnolia. The architectural firm of Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen was employed to design these facilities. Included in the complex which was listed on the National Register in 1993 are nine structures, six of which are historic and contribute to the district. The complex covers a large portion of the block on the west side of Park Hill and in addition to the fire station and water company office. There are two flat-roofed field stone pump houses and two 100 ft. by 44 ft. concrete water reservoirs. The project was constructed with the assistance of

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WPA labor and includes numerous fieldstone sidewalks, retaining walls, benches and other site features.

The McCord House at 3201 Magnolia (PU5464) was also designed by the Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen firm and built in the late 1930s. The house is similar in design to the Fire Station and Water Company buildings with fieldstone wall material, red tile roof, and cast concrete detailing. Arched openings on a side screened porches on the house feature whimsical simulated spider webs of wood with wooden spiders.

Also, constructed in Park Hill during the 1930s were a concrete pavilion and footbridge in Crestview Park on the southern edge of the neighborhood, and a Boy Scout Clubhouse in a triangular-shaped block on the northeastern edge of Park Hill.

#### CONSTRUCTION IN THE 1940s

In the late 1930s an architectural form emerged which was utilitarian and economy oriented. As a reflection of the economic crises of the 1930s, designs of this small home form attempted to reflect the various revival styles popular in the 1920s but lacked decorative detail. Roof pitches are generally low and eave rakes close. Houses of this type were built all over the country immediately preceding and following World War II. But unlike most American cities during the years of World War II, North Little Rock experienced a building boom due to demand for affordable housing near Camp Joseph T. Robinson. As a direct result of the dramatic increase in the need for housing for military families, between 1940 and 1943 there were 137 houses built in the nearby Park Hill neighborhood. The majority of these houses are of Minimal Traditional style. Typical examples of this type of house include those at 3316 Olive (PU5541), 3220 Poplar (5482), and 3317 N. Pine (PU6236).

With the end of World War II in 1945 and the return of veterans to their hometown with government assistance available for home purchase, construction, companies sprang up all over the country to take advantage of the great demand for housing. One such company called, Bralei Homes, Inc. began operation in North Little Rock in 1946, offering affordable homes which could be built within a matter of weeks. Bralei Homes were prefabricated in their local factory, then moved to the building site where assembly was completed. The Bralei Company advertised that their homes were "conventional in appearance, permanently built, with no indication of the production line methods used." On the building site reinforced concrete foundations were set on concrete footings. water lines laid at Bralei houses were mass produced by a local plumbing company. Bralei boasted that all foundation lumber including sills, joists and sub-floors were wolmanized lumber, guaranteed to be rot and termite resistant. Lumber for exterior siding was guaranteed to be kiln dried to proper moisture content.

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Of particular significance is the fact that Bralei Homes were designed by local architects of considerable experience and prominence. The firms of Frank Ginocchio & Edwin Cromwell, H. Ray Burks & Bruce Anderson, Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen, and Yandell Johnson designed the Bralei houses.

Located in the boundaries of the Park Hill Historic District are thirtynine houses which have been identified as Bralei constructed. All but
four of these houses have been covered with siding, some of which
appears to have been among the earliest applications of artificial
siding in Park Hill. Thirty-one of these Bralei homes, although
artificially sided retain their original appearance with similar width
of siding. Since the houses had little decorative detail, those which
have been sided appear much the same as their original appearance.
Despite the fact that Bralei Homes Inc. boasted of their superior
product, it was discovered early on that the exterior of the houses
would not hold paint. Although the majority of the Bralei houses within
the Park Hill Historic District are covered in artificial siding, their
collective significance is important to the architectural history of the
Greater Little Rock area.

#### MULTI-FAMILY

The Patricia Apartments at 3126 John F. Kennedy Blvd. (PU6222) is the only historic apartment building located in boundaries of the Park Hill Historic District. The two-story brick building with a hipped roof was designed by the Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen firm and constructed in 1941. Three other two-story brick apartment buildings were constructed on J.F.K. Blvd. in the early 1950s, but are not included in the historic district. Several duplexes are located in the district (some by Bralei Homes, Inc.) and were constructed in the late 1940s. Other sections of Park Hill, north of the historic district were opened in the 1950s and contain large numbers of duplex residential structures.

#### RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION AFTER 1950

Some of the early forms of the Ranch style house were constructed in Park Hill in the early 1950s. Popularity of the style continued well into the 1960s as evidenced by the thirty-six ranch houses included in the historic district that were built in the neighborhood in this period. Only a few homes have been built in Park Hill since 1970 since Justin Matthew's plan of filling every lot had been largely met. Those houses which have been built in recent years occupy portions of original two-lot or more properties which have gradually been divided and sold for development.

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#### SCHOOLS

Park Hill Elementary School at the corner of J.F.K. Blvd. and "H" Street was constructed in 1923-24. The original two-story brick building with flat roof and parapet, faced east and a grand fieldstone stairway led to the street below (Arkansas-Missouri Highway, now J.F.K. Blvd.). As the population of Park Hill grew, additions were made to the school in 1930, 1948, and 1953. Unsympathetic window replacement on the historic building renders the school non-contributing to the historic district.

#### COMMERCIAL

Of the nineteen buildings in the district constructed for commercial use, only one was constructed prior to 1950. The building at 3723 J.F.K. Blvd. (PU6108) was built to house two retail establishments. For many years a grocery store occupied the southern portion of the building. The entire building is now occupied by a dry-cleaning company who began business in a small space on the north side of this building in the 1950s. Most of the commercial structures, all located along J.F.K. Blvd. were constructed in the 1960s when fast-food restaurants became popular. Some of the largest picturesque Period Revival homes in Park Hill were demolished for construction of one of the first McDonald's Restaurants in Arkansas. Located at 3217 J.F.K. Blvd. (PU5375), construction of McDonald's was soon followed by a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant next door at 3101 J.F.K. Blvd. (PU5374). Other commercial buildings were built in the 1960s and 1970s to accommodate professional offices. Two branch banks were also constructed on J.F.K. Blvd. in this time period. A number of the original 1920s residences located along this thoroughfare have been converted to commercial use and now house professional offices and a variety of specialty retail shops.

The majority of the buildings and houses in the Park Hill Historic District are in good to excellent condition. The neighborhood has remained stable and is a popular residential area. Despite the changes to the historic fabric of the area's main thoroughfare, John F. Kennedy Blvd., the residential blocks of Park Hill remain intact. Some demolition has begun to occur in the blocks close to Park Hill Baptist Church as the city's largest congregation grows and has increased need for parking.

The 568 houses, buildings, and structures located within the Park Hill Historic District certainly convey a sense of the time and place in which the neighborhood grew and developed. An eclectic mix of 1920s and 1930s Craftsman and picturesque Period Revival architecture and 1940s Minimal Traditional style housing combine to effectively convey the sense of Park Hill's two periods of intense growth.

Park Hill Historic District	Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the signific	ance of this property in
relation to other properties:local	_•
Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A	
Areas of Significance: Community Planning & De Architecture	velopment
Period(s) of Significance: 1922-1950	
Significant Dates: 1922;1927;1938;1946;1947;19	48
Significant Person(s): <u>Justin Matthews</u>	_
Cultural Affiliation:	
Architect/Builder: Frank Carmean	<u> </u>
Brueggeman, Swaim & Allen	
Buford Bracy	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

#### Summary

The Park Hill Historic District is historically significant to the city of North Little Rock, Arkansas as that city's first planned suburban development. Development of Park Hill is attributed to the inspiration of local businessman Justin Matthews, whose contributions to the city were instrumental to the growth of North Little Rock and the Greater Little Rock area. The architectural significance of the Park Hill Historic District is diverse, yet typical of two distinct periods of development- 1922 to the early 1930s and the immediate post World War II years. An eclectic mix of 1920s Craftsman Bungalows and picturesque Period Revival styles combine with the simplicity of 1940s Minimal

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Traditional style housing to reflect distinct periods of intense growth in the neighborhood. The process by which Park Hill was platted and developed as an unincorporated area, and then in 1946 annexed to North Little Rock is typical of many early suburban developments throughout the United States.

#### Elaboration

Aside from a few farms and orchards, the earliest development in the neighborhood known as Park Hill was in 1922, when a local businessman, Justin Matthews acquired a large tract of heavily wooded property atop a steep hill about a mile north of the city limits of North Little Rock.

Development of Park Hill in 1922 was concurrent with suburban growth all across the United States, particularly with the larger capital city of Little Rock, just across the Arkansas River. However, North Little Rock had come a long way in keeping up with national growth, particularly in contemporaneous development with Little Rock. Although the city of Little Rock had been settled as early as 1819 and in 1821 was sizable enough that it was chosen as the capital city of Arkansas, the north bank of the Arkansas River had remained largely unsettled.

The land on the north side was far different from Little Rock in that it was, for the most part low-lying and swampy. It was not until the first railroad line through Arkansas was constructed- the Memphis-Little Rock that the north side of the river began to develop. The north side had a number of attempted identities such as Huntersville, DeCantillon, Quapaw, but in 1871 fifty blocks were platted and incorporated as the "Town of Argenta" and a federal post office was established. The name Argenta came from a Latin derivative of the word meaning silver since silver had been "discovered" about ten miles north of the river. Argenta was a railroad town, built around and centered on the railroad industry. As the only central Arkansas rail terminal, Argenta had a transient nature due to the constant activity surrounding the arrival and departure of trains. Restaurants, hotels and saloons developed to accommodate the numbers of travelers. Streets were unpaved and muddy much of the time and city services were minimal. Main Street, with its saloons was "off limits" to soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Roots Army Post (National Register 9-4-74; National Landmark 1975).

In December, 1880, the Arkansas Gazette newspaper called for the residents of the north side to "get control of the lawless conditions". Argenta applied to incorporate as a city of the First Class in 1890, but instead the government of Little Rock elected to annex the north side of the river. So in 1890, the town of Argenta Arkansas became the Eighth Ward of the City of little Rock. By the turn of the century, residents of Little Rock's Eighth Ward were ready to reclaim their town. As a result of some clever politics, a bill was manipulated through the

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Arkansas Legislature in 1903 called the Hoxie-Walnut Ridge Bill. This bill allowed for any city whose boundaries are contiguous to another to annex that city. Meanwhile on the north side of the river a city had been established and incorporated called North Little Rock. Its boundaries began just north of the Eighth Ward (Argenta) and extended to what is now 22nd Street. Less than a month after passage of the Walnut Ridge-Hoxie bill, the city of North Little Rock applied to annex Little Rock's Eighth Ward (formerly the Town of Argenta). Little Rock strongly objected to the annexation application and after many months of dispute the issue went to the Arkansas Supreme Court where it was upheld; North Little Rock could annex the Eighth Ward of Little Rock. In 1904 the City of North Little Rock annexed Argenta and once again the north side of the river was its own city.

Because of the turmoil over this dispute, little growth was seen on the north side of the Arkansas River until 1904. Businessmen and leaders of the united city in North Little Rock began to effect unprecedented growth. Prohibition eliminated the problem saloon establishments in the downtown and the city emerged as a growing industrial center in Arkansas.

One of the many people who took interest in the booming growth of North Little Rock at this time was Justin Matthews. The son of a circuit judge, Justin Matthews was born in 1876 near Monticello in southeast Arkansas. He was trained as a pharmacist over the strong objections of his father who wanted him to study law. In 1901 Justin Matthews married Agnes Somers, who proudly traced her lineage to George Washington and had a sizable inheritance. At the age of twenty-four Matthews sold the three drug stores he had acquired near Monticello and moved with his new bride to central Arkansas.

Matthews' first venture in Central Arkansas was the organization and establishment of the Rose City Cotton Oil Mill, which was built near the eastern edge of North Little Rock in 1902. He was president of this company for many years. Matthews showed an interest in real estate and within a few years had accumulated a considerable amount of property on both sides of the Arkansas River. One of his many purchases of land included six lots on Main Street in Argenta (North Little Rock). In 1910 Matthews built a two-story brick building with basement and steam heat which covered an entire city block. Known as the "Matthews Block", the construction of the building was the precursor for much growth in the business district on the city's Main Street. A year later, in 1914, a new city administration building was constructed (North Little Rock City Hall- listed on the National Register 8-6-75). Other substantial development in the city began in earnest at this time.

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In 1912 Justin Matthews turned his attention to public projects. The only thoroughfares which were surfaced in Argenta (North Little Rock) at that time were Main Street, running north an south, and Washington Avenue, running east from Main Street. Other thoroughfares in the city were so poorly drained that water stood on them for several days after each heavy rain. The unpaved streets were covered with a soil that was almost pure sand making automobile traffic difficult as their tires dug into the loose sand.

Justin Matthews conceived a plan for street paving and drainage and in 1913 persuaded the Argenta (North Little Rock City Council) to establish two street-paving improvement districts. One of the improvement districts was to pave the streets running north and south and the other was to pave those running east and west and to install underground drainage tiles to relieve the flat sections of the city from surface water. The proposed paving would make the sandy street usable for all types of vehicular travel. Matthews is given credit for the difficult job of obtaining signatures of the majority of land owners on petitions presented to the city. January of 1913 the Argenta (North Little Rock) City Council established two improvement districts. Matthews was appointed to the Board of Commissioners whose job was to oversee the projects. One-hundred fifty-two blocks of concrete pavement was laid in the city in 1913 by Street Paving District Nos.15 and 16. The street paving project was especially controversial because the technology was fairly new. This endeavor has been recognized as the world's first big concrete paving job, making Argenta (North Little Rock) the leader in the concrete pavement field. Much of the credit for this project is given to Justin Matthews, who as the organizer and a commissioner on both districts inspected construction with daily visits to the work site. An editorial in the North Little Rock Times in 1944 extolled the significance of the street paving stating.... "it lifted us out of the mud and water. A transformation of our city immediately began to take place.... "cheap shacks gave way to modern, attractive homes and our community rapidly changed from a gloomy, dusty, muddy backward town into a beautiful modern city". This 1944 Times editorial quoted from an article entitled "Every Community Needs a Justin Matthews" which had then recently been published in a "national construction publication".

Mayor William Faucette then asked Matthews to plan a Sewer District for the city. Formed in 1914 with Justin Matthews appointed a commissioner, the sanitary and storm water sewer system district provided a citywide system of storm and sanitary lines that emptied into an eight-foot diameter main to the Arkansas River. This drainage system was essential to the growth of a city which was largely below the high-water level.

Justin Matthews is also given credit for negotiating a contract with Merchants Lighting Co. (later Arkansas Power and Light Co.) in 1913. It was arranged for North Little Rock to purchase current from the

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Merchants Co. at a low rate to operate the North Little Rock owned electric plant. This contract was worded so the successors and assigns of the Merchants Lighting Co. would be forever bound by the contract. A few years later when Merchants Lighting Co. sold to Arkansas Power & Light Co. they tried to cancel the contract with North Little Rock. The issue was taken to court, but the contract was upheld and Arkansas Power & Light Co. was forced to continue delivering current to the north side at the low rate established in the 1913.

Of the most outstanding contributions to the growth and development of Central Arkansas by Justin Matthews was his role in obtaining the construction of two reinforced concrete bridges across the Arkansas River. The Broadway-Main Street Bridge Commission was established in 1917 to plan and construct two new bridges across the Arkansas River. Justin Matthews was appointed to the six member commission and served as its secretary. Completion of the Broadway Bridge in 1923 was heralded with celebrations, fireworks, speeches, and grand parade. The Broadway Bridge replaced a bridge which had been weakened during its many years of use and was not safe for more than one vehicle at a time. The bridge project was a joint effort of Little Rock and North Little Rock alleviated the longtime problems associated with crossing the river between the two cities. Four years later, in 1927, the commission directed construction of a second concrete bridge across the river, this time to connect the two cities' Main Streets. Also in 1927 a new concrete viaduct over the railroad tracks between Ninth and Thirteenth Street on Main Street in North Little Rock was opened.

Despite the improvements Justin Matthews had spearheaded, land was still cheap in the railroad town. Matthews began to buy land in the city, much of it from the Missouri Pacific Railroad for taxes. But as astute businessman, he recognized the potential for growth in the highlands north of the city limits and began purchasing large tracts there from land owners.

The first few blocks in the hilly regions north of the city limits was platted by Justin Matthews in 1921. Early in 1922 Matthews announced the opening of the residential subdivision he had named "Park Hill". One of Justin Matthews grandsons stated that his grandfather's view, as a speculator, of this "high country" was that he could sell the land cheap and make a profit on the home construction. The time was ripe for development north of the city limits in 1922. That same year the War Department ruled that Camp Pike (northwest of the city) be turned over to the state for its National Guard units. And not coincidentally, the Broadway Bridge was almost completed and ready for easy automobile access to the north side of the river.

Accessibility was key to residential development on the edges of the city. Unlike the contemporaneous residential development in Little Rock's Pulaski Heights which was reached by a streetcar line, Matthews

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worked toward making Park Hill accessible by automobile. As the second major suburban development in Central Arkansas, Park Hill was the first to rely solely on automobile transportation.

However, due to poor road conditions, it was still difficult to reach the Park Hill development. A favorite story about Matthews technique for early buyers visiting Park Hill was how he would greet perspective buyers. At the foot of the hill, he would jump on the running board to help give their wheels some traction and go into his sales pitch on the merits of living in Park Hill all the way up the hill.

After completion of the Main Street and Broadway bridges Justin Matthews was appointed by then Governor John Martineau to the state's first highway commission. Paving of the Arkansas-Missouri Highway (which coincidentally became the main thoroughfare through Matthews' Park Hill development) was one of the first projects undertaken by the new commission. It assured easy automobile access to Park Hill.

An article in the Arkansas Gazette in April 1922 reported that .... "streets are being laid out and arc lights are to be installed. Yesterday workmen were digging holes for street light poles and in a few weeks Park Hill will have all the modern conveniences of a regular suburb." Less than three months later the newspaper reported that the electric lines in Park Hill were almost complete and work had begun on the water system.

Early sales in Park Hill were geared to move the first 760 tract of land which had been subdivided into 2 ½, 5 and 10 acre tracts. Advertisements touting miniature country estates with city advantages appealed to the businessman whose work was in the city. Each tract had over 300 feet fronting a good road and was marked with white painted creosoted stakes at all four corners. Ten of the tracts were fenced and had a small orchard containing apple, peach, plum and cherry trees and three varieties of grapes planted on the rear of the properties. Prices were \$50.00 an acre, considerably cheaper than other developing areas such as Pulaski Heights. Matthews also pointed out in early advertisements that by purchasing large tracts of land in Park Hill, owners would get a desirable place to live with the potential to subdivide the land at a future date as its value increased.

Park Hill was advertised as a "second Pulaski Heights" but with many advantages over the Little Rock suburban development. Park Hill was nearer the business district of Little Rock and North Little Rock, had a greater elevation, and thus the cooler temperatures with added health benefits. Park Hill was more level than land in Pulaski Heights, with better views. It was also pointed out that in commuting to and from work from Park Hill to downtown, one would not have to face the sun in the morning and afternoon as they did west the east/west commute from Pulaski Heights.

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Some of the first advertisements for Matthews' development lured buyers to Park Hill through an almost unheard-of offer in the 1920s. The Park Hill Land Company, in an effort to erect the first ten homes in the development offered the potential buyer the chance to pay 10 percent of the cost of the home and the developers would furnish the lot and cash to cover the remaining 90 percent of the cost and pay out the remainder on a monthly basis as they would pay rent. The buyer could select plans for homes costing from \$3,000 to \$7,000 to suit their individual tastes. This offer, made for only the first ten buyers, was an ingenious way to "jump-start" the project and assure that the type of houses intended for the development would be built.

By June, 1922 six homes were under construction, seven more were sold and in the planning stage. The first houses constructed in Park Hill, as well as hundreds of subsequent others built in the 1920s were modest renditions of popular architectural styles being built all over the country. The Craftsman style and the Craftsman Bungalow were the predominant house style built in the early years of Park Hill development. Scattered throughout the area, though, are modest versions of the poplar Period Revival styles such as English Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival.

In April of 1923, barely one year after the official opening of the Park Hill Addition, thirty homes had been constructed and another six were under construction. Matthews announced the opening another 400 acre section of Park Hill. Eleven blocks in the western area of the new section comprised some of the most picturesque portions of Park Hill. These blocks, whose western edge was Ridge Road afforded the homeowner views of downtown and the mountain ranges to the west.

Also in April, 1923 the Park Hill Land Co. announced that a new "modern" bus line would be put into service within two weeks. The buses were seated eighteen and ran between Park Hill and downtown Little Rock on an every ten minute schedule. And to add to the desirability of Park Hill, pipes for gas lines were laid in 1923.

Justin Matthews had formed the "Park Hill Land Company" to exclusively market and sell home sites in that development. The "Justin Matthews Company" extended Matthews' land developments to other areas in Central Arkansas. In the mid 1920s the Justin Matthews Company was running advertisements for three separate residential suburban developments—Park Hill, Sylvan Hills and Westwood. Sylvan Hill (now included in the incorporated city of Sherwood) was a 10,000 acre development "on the highland" north of Park Hill, accessed by the paved Arkansas—Missouri Highway. Westwood was southwest of Little Rock city limits. "Matthews built" homes were advertised as quality construction with the best of materials and workmanship built to "endure the ravages of time". These homes featured such luxuries as built—in ironing boards, pantries,

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cedar-lined closets, tile baths with pedestal lavatories and built-in medicine cabinets, wall-heated towel bars, hardwood floors and French doors. A name plate was installed in each home which the company constructed, reading "Built By Justin Matthews, Real Estate and Investments, Builders of Homes That Endure The Ravages of Time". In Park Hill this claim has proven to be true.

Reflective of the professionalism of its founder, the Justin Matthews Company was a highly efficient and profitable operation. The company's close to 200 employees included an architect/builder- Frank Carmean, a brick mason- Julius Bender, a road construction engineer-Robert Massey and a horticulturist/landscape artist-Oscar Wilhelm. All of these professional members of the company resided within the Park Hill development.

Just two years after the Park Hill development opened, growth was so great that there was need for an elementary school. Justin Matthews, in his visionary way, felt the suburban development would be handicapped by lack of a school. So in early 1924 Matthews offered to build a school and give it to the North Little Rock School District if they would operate it. The school board and Matthews struck a deal and in 1924 at a cost of \$15,635 on land that Matthews donated valued \$5,000, Park Hill Elementary School was built. The school officially opened in February, 1925. Reflective of the steady growth in the area it was expanded in 1930, 1948 and 1953. The building is non-contributing to the historic district due to inappropriate replacement of windows in the main building in the early 1990s, nevertheless the construction of Park Hill Elementary School solidified the presence of this suburban development and it continues to be one of the strong assets of the neighborhood.

The success and growth of Park Hill steadily continued. Now with the added attraction of a school, bus service, and paved streets over twohundred homes had been built the middle of 1925. More than eighty percent of Matthews original Park Hill holdings had been sold by 1927 so after five years of steady home sales in Park Hill, Justin Matthews opened a restricted addition, known as "Edgemont in Park Hill". Matthews felt the time was right in 1927 to introduce a grander scale development that would compete for the upper-middle-class and upperincome residents of Central Arkansas. Most of these affluent buyers were purchasing homes in the restricted additions of Pulaski Heights. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 the Edgemont Multiple Property listing includes eleven of the sixteen picturesque grand-scale homes built by the Matthews Company between 1927 and 1931 for affluent residents. Matthews published a brochure advertising this restricted addition in the desirable Park Hill development. Unfortunately for Matthews and the Edgemont development, the Great Depression brought building in this area to a virtual halt. Construction did not begin in the area again until after World War II.

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Although "Edgemont" is not currently included in the boundaries of the Park Hill Historic District, one of the most important components of the physical character of the entire Park Hill neighborhood was brought into the Matthews Company as a result of Edgemont's opening. Frank Carmean, whose background was in building construction, was hired by Justin Matthews to design the large homes planned for this high-dollar area of Carmean was billed as the Justin Matthews Company's "architect". Matthews sent Carmean on a tour of several southwestern cities--Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso, Lose Angeles--"to obtain the very latest ideas in design and construction...." As a result, the Spanish Colonial design influence is prevalent in Park Hill. Although Carmean was brought into the company to work on houses Edgemont, his designs are found throughout the Park Hill neighborhood. Spanish Revival style examples designed by Carmean are Ridge Road, Olive, Magnolia. Other examples of found at his designs are located on Plainview Circle. Written in the sidewalk in front of these houses are the words "Carmean did it". The Plainview Circle houses designed by Carmean are renditions of the English Revival style and feature prominent gables, green tile roofs and elaborate stone walls and site features.

During the years of the Great Depression, there was little construction in Park Hill, but by the late 1930s several notable projects took place. Park Hill residents had needed a fire department for the obvious reasons and insurance purposes. Through a joint effort of the Park Hill Fire Department and the WPA, "modern" fire station and water company office buildings were constructed in 1938. Listed on the National Register in 1993, the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex includes six historic structures. It is dominated by a two-story fieldstone veneered fire station building and a similarly styled one-story building constructed to house the offices of the Park Hill Water Company.

The Fire Station and Water Company buildings were designed by the local architectural firm of Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen. The design of both buildings was strongly influenced by the Mediterranean style as seen by the red tile roofs, arched windows and decorative cast concrete detailing. Constructed at the same time were two 100 ft. by 44 ft. concrete water reservoirs and two field-stone pump houses. Located in the western region of Park Hill, this complex occupies ten lots in the middle of Block 33 of the Park Hill Addition. Now owned by the City of North Little Rock, this historic complex remains an important landmark in the Park Hill neighborhood.

Also designed by Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen in the late 1930s, and just one (extra long) block from the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex is the McCord House at 3300 Magnolia. This Mediterranean styled one-story home with rear basement is located on a corner lot. The McCord House is clad in native fieldstone and features a red tile roof and casement windows. The highlight of the house is a screened porch

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with arched openings on each side and a fanciful wood simulated spiderweb complete with wooden spiders.

The Park Hill Theater and Community Center in the 3400 block of F. Kennedy Blvd. (formerly the Arkansas Missouri Highway) was constructed in 1939-1940 was another design by architects Brueggeman, Swaim and The complex, often referred to as North Little Rock's first multiple store complex, originally housed a drug store, grocery, post office and movie theater. This local architectural firm which was responsible for the design of some of the most notable buildings in Park Hill was headed by Edward F. Brueggeman. They were well known for their work in the Central Arkansas area during the 1930s. Other examples of the firm's designs include the Monterey style Pruniski House (NR 2-09-90) in another section of Park Hill, the Knoop House (NR8-03-90) in Pulaski Heights' Hillcrest section and was best known for their designs for Malco theater buildings nationwide in the 1930s. In the early 1940s, the Brueggeman firm designed a large portion of the new construction at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, north of North Little Rock's city limits. One member of the Brueggeman firm, Guy W. Swaim, was a resident of Park Hill. The Minimal Traditional style house at 115 Cherry Hill (PU5364) was constructed in 1941 by Mr. Swaim and is still occupied by his widow.

Events in Europe in the summer of 1939 and the resulting preparation for impending war had a direct and immediate financial effect on the city of North Little Rock. President Franklin Roosevelt, in the fall of 1939, increased the size of the then small Regular Army and all combat units of the stateside army were ordered into the field for intensive training. Northwest of North Little Rock, Camp Pike-renamed Camp Joseph T. Robinson in honor of Arkansas' United States senator after his death in 1937- was selected to house a training division. In early 1940 Army engineer and quartermaster units started arriving at the camp to formulate plans to build the camp to house upwards of 50,000 troops.

Knowing that housing would soon become one of its most pressing needs, North Little Rock officials formed a housing authority to operate under the guidance of the United States Housing Authority. Demand for housing near Camp Robinson became so great that in 1940 North Little Rock Mayor O.W. Neely warned property owners in the city against charge exorbitant rents.

The impact the war effort brought a large increase in population. The need for housing in Little Rock and North Little Rock, specifically near Camp Robinson was tremendous. Despite war-time shortages of construction materials over one-hundred homes were constructed in Park Hill between 1939 and 1941 to meet the demand for housing.

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The close of the war saw veterans returning to North Little Rock, to find a housing shortage that continued through the end of the decade. With the end of war efforts, the federally mandated limitations on availability of construction materials was lifted. Post World War II entrepreneurs with high aspirations and a newly discovered belief in mass production emerged all across the country. Returning G.I.s' needs for housing and government backed loans for these veterans started a nationwide building boom. The demand was for affordable housing which could be cheaply and quickly produced.

Prefabrication of housing in the nineteenth century had been defined by the mass production of interchangeable building parts. The Great Depression intensified American resolve to mass-produce houses, much like Henry Ford manufactured automobiles. America had, in 1946, a new mind set toward mass produce items, having seen the benefits and efficiency of the manufacturing process first hand in the World War II effort.

Responding to the immense need for housing which could be quickly produced, a newly formed business located in North Little Rock announced their opening in early 1946. This company, Bralei Homes, Inc. advertised small, affordable houses which could be built in only a few weeks. The full-page advertisement in the North Little Rock Times on February 15, 1946 announcing formation of the company showed the first four house plans offered by Bralei Homes Inc. These homes ranging in price from \$3,988.00 to \$5,137.00. Sales of Bralei homes were targeted to returning veterans and FHA financial assistance was practically guaranteed. The ad stated:

"Here is the announcement that will thrill the heart of every home loving man or woman in Greater Little Rock. Right on schedule come the first BRALEI Homes form the drafting boards. Procurement of materials or these homes has started. Bralei Homes will be Precision Built to exacting specifications. Here are several designs from which to select. Several more will be offered soon. Bralei Homes will be built by factory production methods in the big BRALEI factory and removed to your own building lot for erection, where component parts will be assembled and lost motion and wasteful methods eliminated......BRALEI Homes are conventional in appearance, permanently built, with no indication of the production the methods used......"

The name "Bralei" was a combination of the president and vice-president of the company's names- Buford Bracy and Paul M. Leird. Secretary-Treasurer of the company was C.V. "Cotton" Barnes.

The Bracy family was well established in home construction business. In the late 1920s Bracy Real Estate and Building Company erected many of the houses in the Pulaski Heights neighborhoods, particularly Hillcrest

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(Hillcrest Historic District- NR 12-18-90). Bracy Real Estate's "designer" was Buford Bracy, son of the company's founder and president, Eugene D. Bracy. Buford Bracy was well known in the Greater Little Rock area for his design of picturesque brick and stone veneered homes in Little Rock's first suburban development. Paul Leird was owner of Leird Lumber Company in Little Rock. The combination of established design talents, experience in real estate development and the direct availability of building materials was of great value to the success of the Bralei Company.

Despite the fact that Buford Bracy was well known for his home designs, he did not design the Bralei houses. Instead, Bralei Company utilized some the most talented architects in Arkansas to design the Bralei The stature of the architects who designed the Bralei homes houses. were, no doubt, a great boost to the credibility of the company. Architects of such stature as Frank Ginocchio and Ed Cromwell (successor of the firm founded by architect Charles L. Thompson), H. Ray Burks & Bruce Anderson, Yandell Johnson, and the familiar to Park Hill firm of Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen. These architects were among the most prominent in the state and had among their ranks designed monumental structures such as courthouses, business buildings, and governmental buildings. The partnership of Frank Ginocchio and Edwin Cromwell was responsible for the design of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion (NR in 1949, only three years after the Bralei Company opened.

According to the North Little Rock Times in April, 1946, just three months after the company announced their opening, eight-four Bralei Homes had been constructed in Park Hill. Construction demand was huge in Park Hill and Justin Matthews provided plenty of new building sites Matthews by continuing to open more sections of his land holdings. Through the early 1950s many more Bralei Homes were constructed, comprising the majority of homes built in Park Hill in the immediate post war years.

Despite the fact that at the close of World War II Park Hill was a sizable development, it was not a part of the city of North Little Rock. The city had wanted to annex Park Hill for a number of years, but residents, led by Justin Matthews, had rejected the attempts. One of the reasons for Park Hill's rapid growth had been that it had all of the city services-school, paved streets, water and sewers- but no city taxes. Unlike other unincorporated areas outside of North Little Rock, such as Levy, Park Hill never formed any type of community government.

The North Little Rock City Council unanimously approved an ordinance providing for the annexation of the Park Hill area in February, 1946. A general election was held in April, 1946 and citizens of North Little

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Rock overwhelmingly approved the annexation. It was estimated that about 5,000 residents were added to the city with the annexation of Park Hill.Park Hill continued to grow through the 1950s as it expanded further north. Justin Matthews' newest residential development in the 1950s was the Lakewood area of North Little Rock. A part of his original plan for residential development, Matthews had in 1931 formed the "Lakewood Development" Co." to develop this area in the hills northeast of Park Hill. As part of the Lakewood project, eleven dams were constructed, creating recreational lakes. Included in the project was construction of Pugh's Mill (commonly known as the "Old Mill" and listed on the National Register in the Arkansas Sculptures of Dionicio Rodriguez on 12-04-86). It was built as a tourist attraction to lure potential buyers into the Lakewood area. However, the construction of homes in Lakewood did not begin in earnest until after World War II.

The Park Hill neighborhood did benefit from the proposed Lakewood development in the 1930s when Justin Matthews brought in Mexican-American fold sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez. He designed and created the Old Mill sculptures using his characteristic "rustico" style of work which was constructed of reinforced concrete. In addition to his artistic legacy at the Old Mill, Rodriguez also created sculptures for Crestview Park, at the foot of Park Hill. A rusticated shelter and a fallen tree bridge with bent tree limb railings and a plank floor are located in this small park which was immediately adjacent to the road leading to the top of Park Hill.

Though the majority of houses in the historic portions of Park Hill had been built by the mid 1950s, there continued to be sporadic new construction on the few unsold lots, or on large tracts which were divided.

The Park Hill area of North Little Rock continued to grow as the city grew northward. The 1960s brought about considerable commercial development on John F. Kennedy Blvd., which historically was mixed residential and commercial usage. In the 1960s a number of historic homes were demolished along this thoroughfare and replaced with "fast food" businesses. In fact, one of the first McDonald's in Arkansas was built at 3217 J.F.K. Blvd. (PU5375) Residents from all around Arkansas flocked to eat at the new restaurant. During the 1960s and 1970s other changes to Park Hill's commercial thoroughfare were made, with construction of small-scale doctor's office buildings, and service stations. A number of the historic residential properties on J.F.K. were converted to commercial use and remain today.

Despite the fact that time has not stood still in Park Hill, the neighborhood's visual character overwhelmingly derives from two distinct periods of intense growth- the early development period of the 1920s; and the immediate post World War II simplicity of affordable housing for an exploding housing market. Containing 563 houses and buildings, of

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which 481 were constructed during the years between 1922 and 1950, the composition of the Park Hill Historic parallels that of the country and popular domestic architecture in these periods. The product of one of the most ingenious businessmen in the Central Arkansas area, Park Hill is a legacy to developer Justin Matthews. Mr. Matthews, in the process of creating his suburban development, was responsible for some of the most important city improvements in North Little Rock. Park Hill remains a viable and much desired neighborhood, comprised of a wide cross-section of residents. Because of this Park Hill has remained a stable area since its creation in 1922, little demolition or construction of incompatible homes, other than along the neighborhoods' commercial thoroughfare J.F.K. Blvd.

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The Times. North Little Rock, A Pictorial History. North Little Rock: The Times, 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.	en
_ 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:	
<pre>x State historic preservation office Other state agency Federal agency Local government University</pre>	

## 10. Geographical Data

### \_\_\_\_\_\_

Acreage of Property: Approximately 172 acres

Other -- Specify Repository:

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 567190 3849890 B 15 567720 3849980  $\begin{array}{cccc} C & \overline{15} & \overline{568450} & \overline{3848970} \\ E & \overline{15} & \overline{566920} & \overline{3849420} \end{array}$ D 15 567200 3848780

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated Park Hill Historic District includes an area roughly bounded on the southwest by John F. Kennedy Boulevard and East "A" Avenue on the southeast; on the west, the boundary of the district begins at the point where the southwestern corner of Crestview Park and John F. Kennedy Blvd. intersect, then runs due north across Cherry Hill Drive and runs along the center line of Poplar Street to the southern edge of the property line at 3307 Poplar. At this point the western boundary runs behind (west) of the property lines on the west side of the 3300 block of Poplar, then turns and runs due west behind (south) the property lines of the south side of the 500-600 blocks of West "D" Avenue to the point of intersection with Ridge Road and West "D" Avenue. At Ridge Road and West "D" Avenue the boundary runs west to the rear (west) property line of 3401 Ridge Road and then runs northerly along the rear (west) property lines of Ridge Road through the west side of the 3700 block of Ridge Road. At the rear property line of 3729 Ridge Road, the boundary turns and runs east along the rear (north) property lines of West "H" Avenue, veering north to include the entire complex of Park Hill Elementary School at the northwest corner of West "H" and John F. Kennedy Blvd. The boundary then runs south along the center line of John F. Kennedy Blvd. to its intersection with "D" Avenue. At J.F.K. "D" Avenue, the boundary turns and runs east to the intersection of Pine and East "D". At this juncture the boundary runs south on Pine Street one block to its intersection with East "C" Avenue. The boundary runs east along the center line of East "C" to its intersection with Cedar Street. At East "C" and Cedar Street, the boundary turns and runs north along the center line of Cedar Street to the northern point of the triangular-shaped park property bounded by Goshen, Idlewild and Cedar Streets. At this point the boundary runs east along Goshen Avenue one block to its intersection with Idlewild. At the intersection of Idlewild Avenue and Goshen Avenue, the boundary runs along the center line of Idlewild, then turns and runs east along the northern property line of the house at 3410 Idlewild Ave. boundary continues to run east along the rear property lines of houses on Plainview Circle, following the curve of the Plainview Circle rear property lines. The boundary then turns and runs south behind (east) of the property located at 3108 Cedar Street, then runs south along the center line of Cedar Street to its intersection with East "A" Avenue. At East "A" Avenue the southern boundary line runs west to the remainder of the southern boundary along John F. Kennedy Boulevard to the point of beginning.

Pulaski County, Arkansas

Park Hill Historic District

Name of Property

County and State

Boundary Justification:

The nominated Park Hill Historic District boundaries were determined through an architectural resources survey of the entire historic development of the neighborhood. Areas platted and developed after 1950 were not included in the studied area. The district boundaries have been determined as the most concentrated collection of historic buildings constructed in the suburban development. Although there are historic properties scattered throughout the remainder of the neighborhood, the district boundaries represent the blocks densely developed prior to 1950. The district is surrounded by concentrations of nonhistoric residential properties on the east, west, and north. The convergence of Interstate-30 and Interstate-40 bounds the district on the south.

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#### 11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Sandra Taylor Smith, Director, North Little Rock
History Commission

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: June 13, 2000

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bld., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

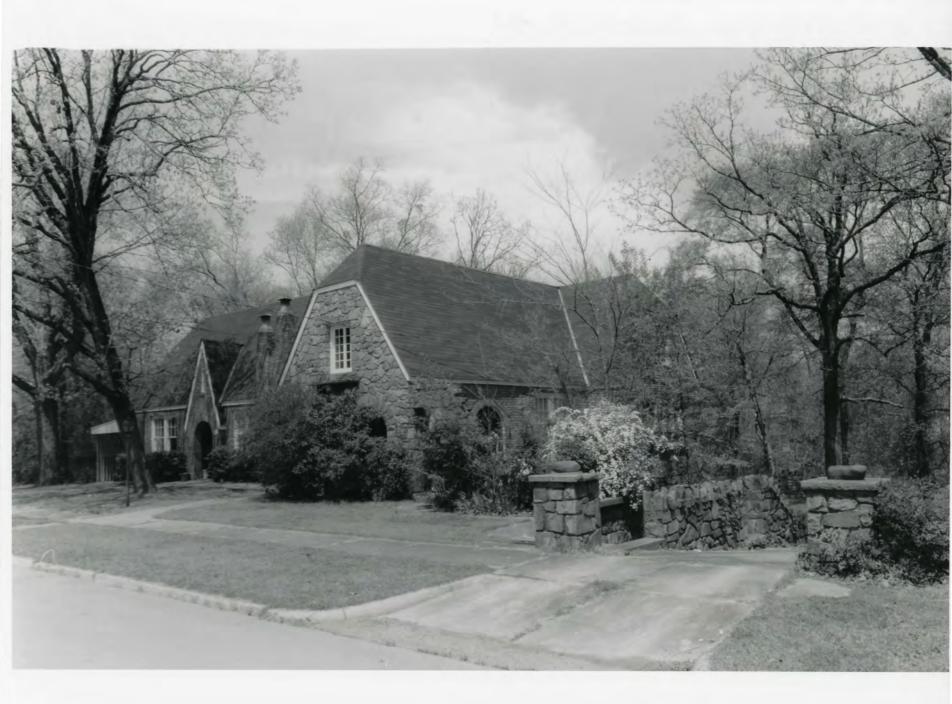
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

Under Significant Person, Justin Matthews is given and the statement of significance justifies Matthews' contributions to the development of North Little Rock and his direct association with the Park Hill Historic District. However, Criterion B has not been marked on the form. An amendment is made to Section 8, Statement of Significance, to add Criterion B.

This information was confirmed with Kara Mills of the Arkansas SHPO.

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



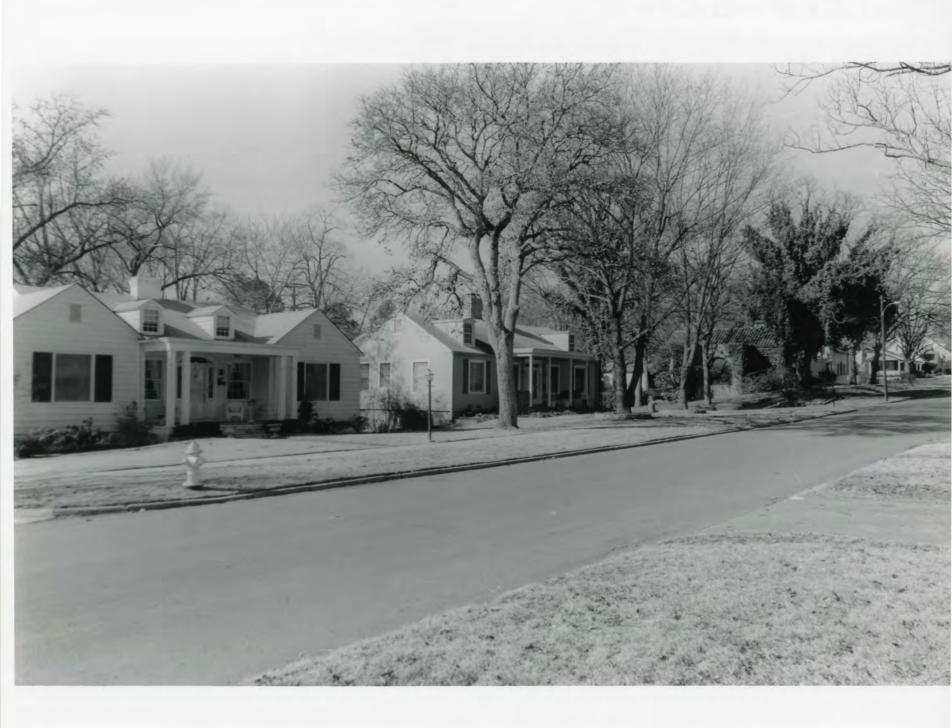
PARK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT 2 north Little Rock Pultslie Cty AR Photosiaph 34 Sandra Taylor Smith negative on file AHPP 6 view Looking northwest 7 211 PLAINVIEW Circle (PU6318)



1 PARK Hill Histour District 2 North Little Rock, Pulaski Cty. AR 3 photo By SANDIA TAYLOR SMITH 4 02-03-08 5 negotive onfilt AHPP 6 view Looking Northwest 7 3123 OLNE (PU 5419) 3127 OLNE (PU 5420) 3129 OLNE (PU 542)



Ark Hill Historic District Cty AR north Little Rock Pulaski Cty AR photo By Sand A Taylor Smith 1 288 PLAINVIEW CIRCLE (PU 6352) 280 PLAINVIEW CIRCLE (PU 6351) 276 PLAINVIEW (PU 6350)



1. PAILHIII HISTORE DISTRICT 2. North Little Rock Pul Asker Cty AR 3. photo By SANdiA TAylor Smith 4, 02-03-00 5, negative on File AHPP 6, view looking North WEST 7. 3127 MARNITUA (PU5462) 3131 MAGNITUA (PU5463)



1 PARK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT 2 north Little Rock, Pulaski Cty. AR 3 photo By SANDIA TAylor Smith 4 62-63-00 5 negative on file AHPP 6 View LOOKING WORTH WEST 7 3505 J.F.K. BIUD. (PUGO90) 3507 J.F.K, BLUD. (PUGO98)



PARK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT 2 north Little Rock Palasti Cty AR 3 photo By SANDIA TAy Cor Smith 4 02-03-00 5 necotive on file AHPP 6 VIEW LOOKING Northwest 7 33177 Poplar (PU5492) 3319 Poplar (PU5493) 3321 Poplar (PU5494)



1 PANCHILL HISTORIC DISTRICT 2 north Little Rock, Pulasticty, AR 3 photo By SANDIA THYLOR SMITH 5 negative in file AHPP View Looking Northeast 7 229 E. B Ave. (PU6273) 233 E. B Ave. (PU6294) 237 E. B Ave. (PU6275)



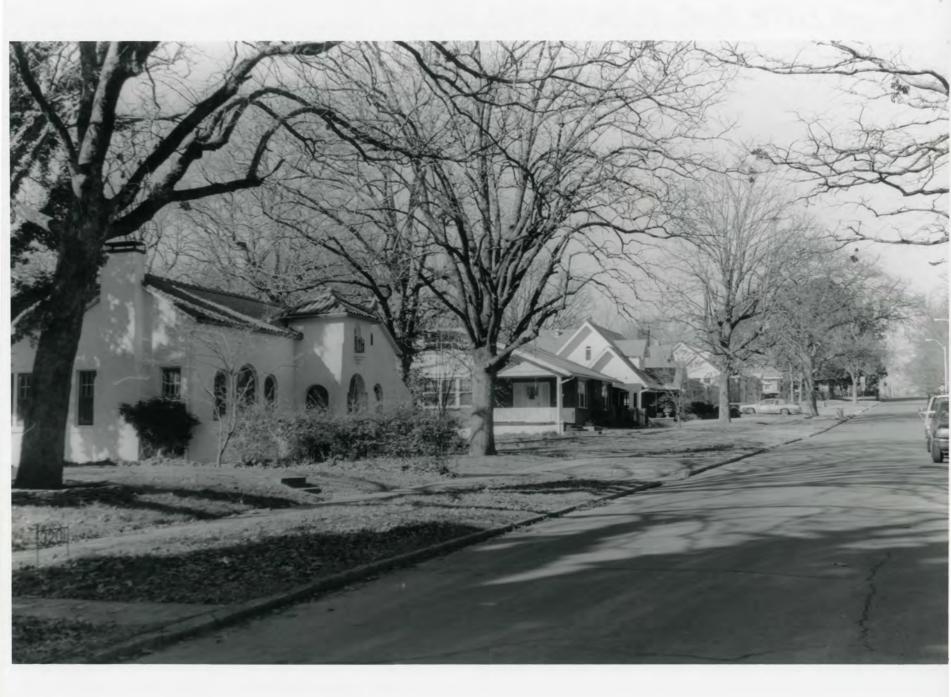
I PAIL HILL HISTORIC DRIVICT 2 north Little Bock Pultski dy AR 3 photo By SANDIA TAylor Smith 5 neoffice on file Attop 7 255 PLAINDIEW Circle (PU 6324) 249 PLAINDIEW CIRCLE (PU 6323)



2 North Little ROCE Pulaski Cty AR 3 Photo By Sandia Taylor Smith 402-63-00 5 negative on file AHPP 6 view Lookans southwest h interection W. B & OLIVE view of west side 3100 Black Olive



1 PAIR HILL HIStour District 2 North Little Bock Pulashi dy AR Photo By SANDA TAGGER SMITH 02-03-80 5 negative on file AHOP 6 view Looking Northwest 7 3201 MAGNOCIA (PU5464) 3217 MAGNOCIA (PU5465)



2 PARK HISTORIC DISTURCE
2 north Little Book Pulashi Cty AR
3 Photo by SAND/A Toylor Smith 5 negative on file AHPP 6 view Looking Northwest 7 3217 MAZNOLIA (PUS465) 3221 MAZNOVA (PUS466) 3223 MAZNOLIA (PUS467)



PAVE Hill Historic District 2 north Little Rock Pulashi Cty AR 3 photo By SANDA TAy Cor Smith 02-03-00 5 megative on file AHPP View Looking Southwest 1 3723 J.F.K. BLUD. (P46108) 3715 J.F.K. BLUD. (P46107)



1 PANKHALL HISTORY DISTORT photo 34 SANDIA THYLOR SMITH 5 negative on file AHDP 6 VIEW LOOKING NORTH WEST 



2 north Little Bork, Pulashi Cty AR 3 photo By SANDIA TAylor Smith 02-03-00 5 negative on File AHPP NIEW Looking Northwest 7 123 E. C Ave. (PU 6280) 3307 Pine St. (PU 6234) 3311 PINEST. (PU6235)



2 north little Rock Pulashi Cty AR 3 photo By SANDIA TAYLOT SMITH 4 02-03-00 5 hesative on file AHBP View Looking North west n PAIK HILL Fire Station & Water Co. Compley 3410-3420 Magnotia



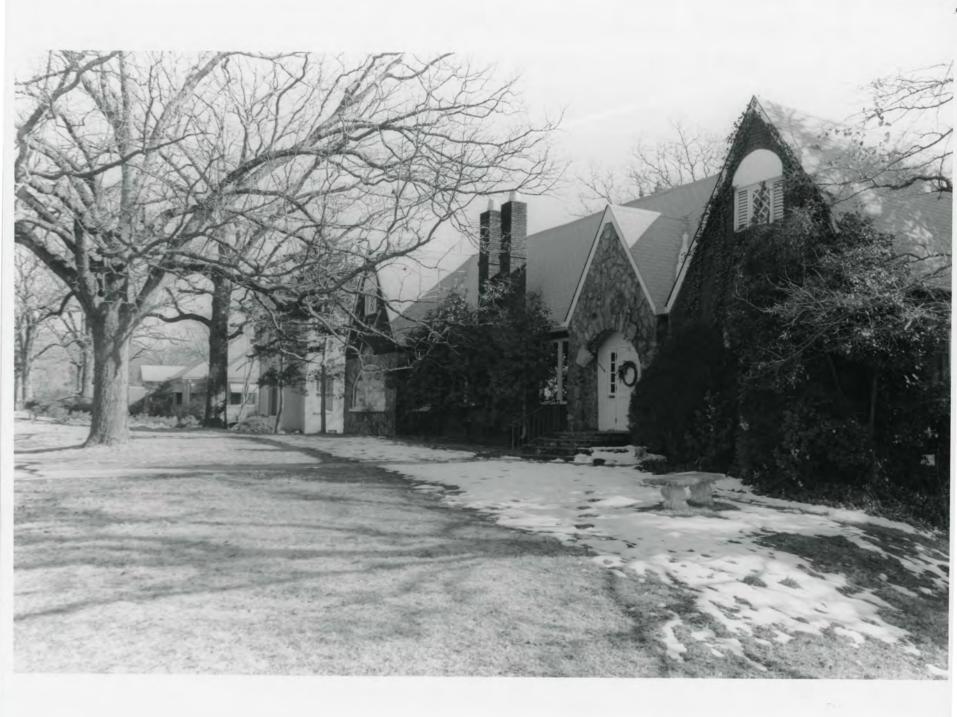
negative on file AHPP view Lookon6 west 12 3209 PME St. (PU 6231)



2 north Little Rock Pulashi Cty AR 3 photo By Sandia Taylor Smith 4 02-03-00 5 nesAtronfile AHPP 6 view Looking North west 1 300 Block of W. G Ave. northside to intersection of W. G & Mitegiolia



north Little Rose Pulaski Cty, AR photo By SANDIA TAYON SMITH negative on file AHBP Jiew Looking (PU5488) 3309 Pop LAN (PU5489)



DANK Hill Historic District 2 north Little Rock Pulaski Cty. AR photo By SANDIA TAylor Smith 02-03-00 negative on file AHOP VICW LOOKING SOUTHEAST 130 Crest WIEW Blod. (PU5356) 128 Crest View Blod. (PU5355)



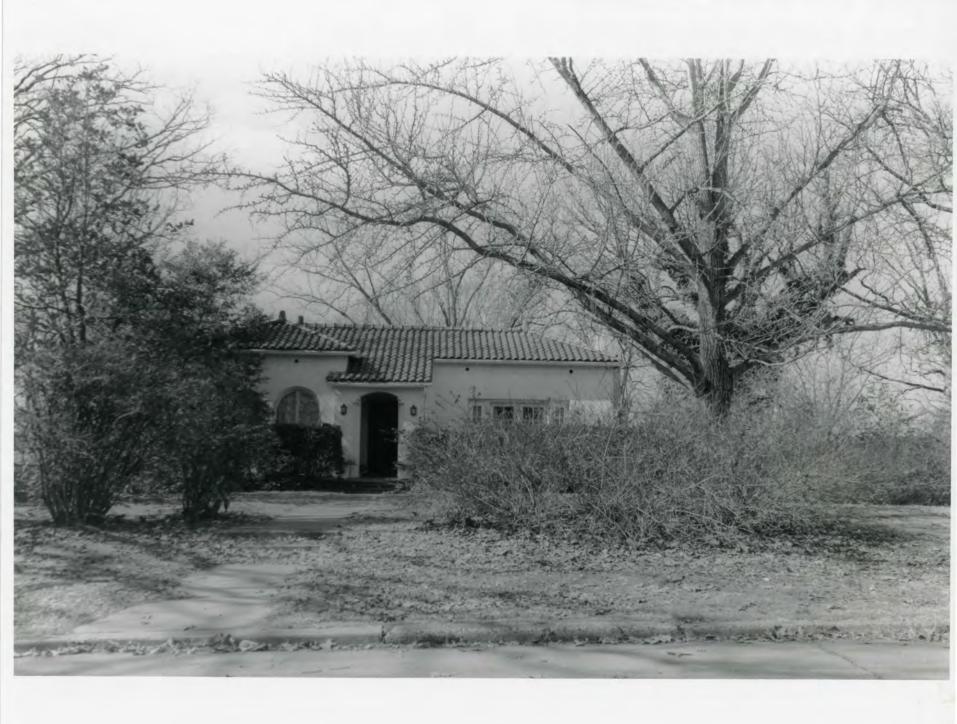
1. PAIR HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT 2. North Little Rock Pulaski cty AR 3, Photosiaph By SANDIA TAylor Smith 4. 02-03-00 5. negative of file AHOP 6. VIEW LOOKING Worth West 7. 3109 Cypress (PU5381) 3115 Cypress (PU5382) 3117 Cypress (PU5383)



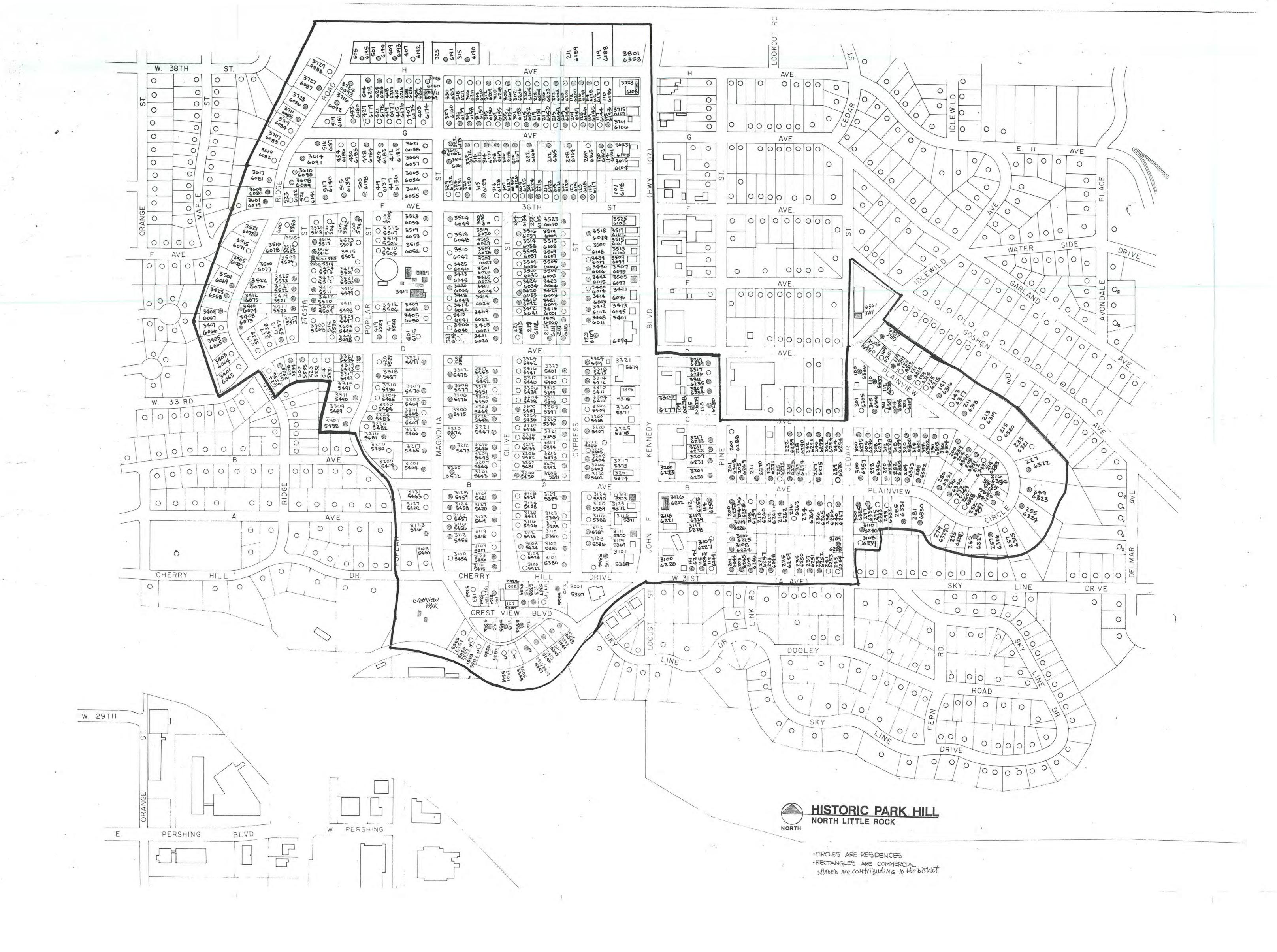
1. BANK HIT HISTORY DISTRICT
2. North Little Rock Pulaski Oly. AR
3. Photosingh By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 02-03-00
5. Repatric on Filz AHPP
6. VIEW Looking northwest
7. 123 W. F (PU 6117), 125 W. F (PU 6118) 127 W. F (PU 6119)



2 north Little Rock Pulaski Cty. AR
3 photosiaph By Sandra Thylor Smith
4 02-03-00
5 negative on file AHPP
6 VIEW LOOKING South
7 from intersection of Crestview & J.F.K. Blud,



1 PANK HIT HISTORIC DISTRICT
2 horth Little Rock Dulyslii Ctg. AR
3 photo By SANDA TAGLOR SMITS
4 02-03-00
5 negalive on File AHPP
6 view Looking West
7 3617 Ridderoad (PU 6081)



## National Register of Historic Places

#### Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2015

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION PROPERTY Park Hill Historic District NAME: MULTIPLE NAME: STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 45TH DAY: DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/29/15 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000935 REASONS FOR REVIEW: APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPT RETURN ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM. / CRITERIA CON	10000
REVIEWER Colson Blall	DISCIPLINE Outlong
TELEPHONE	DATE 9-29.15 8

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Park	Hill	Historic	District -	Additional	Documentation	
A.T.	-CD-					

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State

#### United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number	5	Page
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AUG 1 4 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

The revised resource count for the Park Hill Historic District is:

	Contributing	Non-contributing		
Buildings Sites	291	275		
Structures Objects	2			
Totals	293	275		

Park Hill Histori	District - Addition	al Documentation
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Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

#### United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number	7	Page	

In the original nomination for the Park Hill Historic District, the Maxwell Galt House at 320 West D Avenue (AHPP Resource Number PU5526) was considered to be non-contributing to the District, due to the enclosing of the side sun porch. However, the property at 320 West D Avenue should now be considered to be a contributing resource. In a recent tax credit project in 2015, the owner restored the side porch to a screened-in sun porch. As a result, the building is considered to be a contributing resource in the Park Hill Historic District.

Park	Hill	Historic	District -	Additional	Documentation

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State

#### United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

Additional Documentation Page

1

#### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

#### Photo Log

Name of Property: Maxwell Galt House at 320 West D Avenue

City or Vicinity: North Little Rock

County: Pulaski County State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: July 23, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 4. View of the north and west façades of the Galt House, looking southeast.

2 of 4. View of the north and east façades of the Galt House, looking southwest.

3 of 4. View of the west façade of the Galt House, looking east.

4 of 4. View of the south façade of the Galt House, looking northeast.



MAXWELL GALT HOUSE AT 320 WEST D AVENUE
PARK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
PULASKI COUNTY, AR
PHOTO 1 OF 4



MAXWELL GALT HOUSE AT 320 WEST D AVENUE
PARK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
PULASKI COUNTY, AR
PHOTO Z OF 4



MAXWELL GALT HOUSE AT 320 WEST DAVENUE PARK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
PULASKI COUNTY, AR
PHOTO 3 OF 4



PARK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
PULASKI COUNTY, AR
PHOTO 4 OF 4









#### National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Park Hill Historic District NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski
DATE RECEIVED: 7/10/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/25/00 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/24/00 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000935
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPTRETURNREJECT 8/16/00 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
The Park Hill Historic District is significant as the first
suburban development in North Little Rock. Beveloped by influential businessman Justin Marthews, who also developed influential businessman Justin Marthews, who also developed
influential businessman Justin Matthews, who also developed
influential businessman justin Medital Rock, the Park Hill two other subdivisions in North Little Rock, the Park Hill
two other subdivisions in Novice atthe rect; the outward growth of cities with the thistoric District reflects the outward growth of cities with the
Historic District reflects the outward growth of cities with the Historic District reflects the outward growth of cities willing boom after WWII.
RECOM./CRITERIA A, C, B
REVIEWER Sauch Pope DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE 300/343-9534 DATE 8/16/00
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y N see attached SLR Y N





June 13, 2000

Mike Huckabee Governor

Matthewe

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Arkansas Territorial Restoration

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

Carol D. Shull

Chief of Registration

United State Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places

National Park Service

800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250

Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Park Hill Historic District - North Little Rock, Pulaski County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced district. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Slate

Deputy Director, Heritage Resources

**SHPO** 

CBS: km

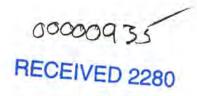
**Enclosures** 



1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)324-9150 fax: (501)324-9154 tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail: info@dah.state.ar.us website: www.heritage.state.ar.us An Equal Opportunity Employer





AUG 1 4 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

August 5, 2015

Asa Hutchinson Governor

> Stacy Hurst Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs National Register of Historic Places 1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl. Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Park Hill Historic District Additional Documentation – North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program



323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Little Rock, AR 72201

> (501) 324-9880 fax: (501) 324-9184 tdd: 711

> > e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Stacy Hurst

Sincerely

State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure