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

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

# 1. Name

| historic            | Arlington Historic District      |         |  |  |   |           |  |               |  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------|--|--|---|-----------|--|---------------|--|
| and/or common       | N/A                              |         |  |  |   |           |  |               |  |
| 2. Loca             | ation                            |         |  |  |   |           |  |               |  |
| street & number     |                                  |         | Chester,   | Quintard,                              | Greenlee, and   |           | not for publ   | ication       |  |
| city, town          | Arlington                        |         | N/A vi   | cinity of                              | congrassional-dis   | triot     |  |               |  |
| state               | Tennessee                        | code    | 047  | county                                 | Shelby  |           | code   | 157           |  |
| 3. Clas             | sificatio                        | n       |  |  |   |           |  |               |  |
| Category  Ownership |                                  |         | Status<br>_X_ occupied<br>_X_ unoccupied<br>work in progress<br>Accessible<br>yes: restricted<br>_X_ yes: unrestricted<br>no |  | Present Use<br>agriculture<br>_X commercial<br>educational<br>entertainment<br>government<br>industrial<br>military |           | museum<br>park<br>X private residence<br>X religious<br>scientific<br>transportation<br>other: |               |  |
| 4. Own              | er of Pro                        | oper    | ty   |  |   | <u> </u>  |  |               |  |
| name                | Multiple (                       |         |  | ······································ |   |           |  |               |  |
| street & number     | N/A                              |         | • P  |  |   |           |  |               |  |
| city, town          | N/A                              |         | <u>N/A</u> vie   | cinity of                              | s   | tate N    | /A   |               |  |
| 5. Loca             | ation of                         | Lega    | I Des  | criptio                                | n   |           |  | -             |  |
| courthouse, regis   | stry of deeds, etc.              | She1by  | / County (   | Courthouse                             |   |           |  |               |  |
| street & number     | 160 No                           |         |  |  |   |           |  |               |  |
| city, town          |                                  | Memphi  | is   |  | s   | tate T    | ennessee (   | 38103         |  |
| 6. Repi             | resentat                         | ion i   | n Exis   | sting S                                | urveys  |           |  |               |  |
|                     | ectural Herita<br>ton, Tennessea | •       | vey of   | has this prop                          | erty been determin  | ed eligib | ole? ye  | s <u>X</u> no |  |
| date July-          | August 1981                      |         |  |  | federal   | state     | county   | <u> </u>      |  |
| depository for su   | rvey records                     | Arlingt | ton, Tenn  | essee and                              | Tennessee Hist  | orical    | Commissio  | on            |  |
| city, town          |                                  | Arlingt | con and/or   | r Nashville                            | e <b>s</b>  | tate Ter  | nnessee  |               |  |

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# 7. Description

| Condition |              | Check one         | Check one         |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| excellent | deteriorated | unaltered         | _X_ original site |
| X_ good   | ruins        | <u>X_</u> altered | moved da          |
| fair      | unexposed    |                   |                   |

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Arlington (population 1778) is located in east Shelby County, Tennessee. The town is located on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad line and is approximately two miles north of Interstate 40. The four block area comprising the Arlington Historic District, which has always been the commercial and residential center of the town, contains forty buildings built primarily between 1880 and 1920. Twenty-nine of the buildings are residential, three are churches, and eight are commercial. Most of the district's buildings are in good structural condition with little alteration. Nine buildings do not contribute to the character of the district.

date

A majority of the buildings are turn-of-the century residential vernacular structures of one to two stories built on large-size rural lots. Except for ornamental bracketing, on porches and under eaves, these typical rural residences of the period have little formal architectural detailing, but their simple proportions and ornamentation are appealing and representative of rural architecture in West Tennessee. Besides these vernacular buildings there are examples exhibiting the influence of more formal architectural styles such as Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Bungalow styles. Most of the buildings constructed during the period between 1880 and 1920 are frame. Six buildings are brick, and there is a fine example of an early twentieth century concrete church in the district.

The streets in the Arlington Historic District were small dirt roads until paved with asphalt in the 1930s. Board sidewalks were a turn of the century feature of Walker and Chester Streets. These have been replaced with concrete sidewalks. The streets are tree-lined and a strong visual sense of neighborhood exists.

The buildings are categorized into contributing and non-contributing groups. Contributing buildings (C) are significant in the historic and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use and texture of the district. Non-contributing buildings (N) disrupt the scale and texture of the district, have little or no historic or architectural significance, or have been considerably altered. They are listed below by street address, with the historic name in parenthesis. The current occupant of each commercial building is listed at the end of the description.

11963 Brown Street (Wilson House): ca. 1890, vernacular, one-story frame, return on gable, pilasters at corners, three chimneys with corbelled caps, recent front porch. (C)

11971 Brown Street: ca. 1890, Gothic Revival, one-and-one-half story frame, return on gable, dormer, ornamental molding on vergeboard, front porch, front bay window, transom over front door. (C)

12014 Brown Street (Cumberland Presbyterian Church): 1871, vernacular, one-story frame with return on gable, boxed cornice, pilaster cornerboards on E, N, and NW corners, stained glass windows, southwest extension is a later addition. (C)

12015 Brown Street (Marley House): ca. 1870, one-story frame, return on gable, boxed cornice with ornamental molding on vergeboards, cast iron attic vents, console cornice in places, bay window, additions to sides and rear, one story porch. (C)

12004 Campbell Street (Herron House): 1889, moved to present location 1912, rear additions 1912, vernacular, two-story frame, clipped gable, one-story front and side porch, fish-scales under dormers, transom over front door, three chimneys with corbelled caps. (C)

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12053 Campbell Street: ca. 1890, vernacular, one-story frame, saltbox roof, small front porch, transom over front door, central chimney, 4/4 windows, addition to rear. (C)

6115 Chester Street (Williams House): 1906, Queen Anne, two-story frame, semi-circular front porch, gable roof with full return, tower with flared conical roof, transom over front door, diamond window, originalkitchen has been connected to W side of house, all original outbuildings remain. (C)

6118 Chester Street: ca. 1900, Queen Anne cottage, one-story frame, gable roof with scrolls and ornamental panels under vergeboards, front window with hood and acorn pendants, transom over front door, turned porch posts. (C)

6131 Chester Street: 1892, vernacular, one-story frame, gable roof, front porch, side and rear additions, transom over front door, 4/4 original windows. (C)

6136 Chester Street: 1904, Craftsman, two-and-one-half-story brick, hip and gable roof with extended rafter ends, one-story front porch with brick railing and three post grouping, two gabled dormers and one hip dormer, sidelights and transom around front door, 6/1 windows. (C)

6143 Chester Street (McElree Manse): ca. 1880, vernacular, one-story brick with gable roof, original L-shape structure has been totally reworked, extensive additions along with brick veneer have been added. (N)

6146 Chester Street (Bond House): ca. 1880, Queen Anne cottage, one-story frame with gable roof, return on gables, full return in front, turned porch posts with knobs, spindle brackets and spindles along porch frieze on front porch, transom over front door, addition in rear. (C)

6155 Chester Street: ca. 1890, vernacular, one-story gable with aluminum siding, return on gable, concrete porch, brick veneer (new) around base, aluminum windows. (N)

6158 Chester Street (Marley House): ca. 1880, two-story frame, gable roof, shaped lintels over windows, wood window shutters, transom over front door, square porch posts with scroll brackets, cut-out pattern between porch balusters, rear addition. (C)

6165 Chester Street: ca. 1960, Ranch style, one-story gable, brick and frame construction, front porch. (N)

6166 Chester Street: ca. 1910, Bungalow, one-story frame with gable roof, 6/1 windows, wrap-around porch with double columns on pedestal. (C)

6176 Chester Street (Arlington Presbyterian Church): 1912, annex 1956, carillons 1978, steeple 1980, vernacular, one-story brick, arched and stained glass windows, brick quoins, clipped gable roof, octagonal steeple. (C)

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6184 Chester Street: ca. 1900, carport 1950, porch 1969, vernacular, one-story frame, hip roof with two full gables, 1/1 windows, round porch posts. (C)

6185 Chester: ca. 1945, vernacular, one-story gable, aluminum siding, pilasters and dentils around front door, 6/6 windows. (N)

6194 Chester Street: ca. 1900, addition 1980, vernacular, one-and-one-half-story frame with hip and gable roof, wrap-around porch with round columns and stick balustrade, hip dormer, transom over front door, 4/4 windows. (C)

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6199 Chester Street: ca. 1907, Bungalow, one-story frame with hip roof, wrap-around porch with weatherboarded square columns, extended rafters, transom over front door, 6/1 windows. (C)

6231 Chester Street (Grist Mill): ca. 1900, vernacular, one-story board and batten, recent addition on the east side. (C)

6231 Chester Street (Buckley Hotel): ca. 1900, vernacular, two-and-one-half-story frame, wrap-around porch with turned posts and spindle brackets, 2/2 windows. (C)

6235 Chester Street (Arlington Bank and Trust Company): 1905, vernacular, one-story frame with gable roof, turned porch posts, 1/1 windows. (C)

6125 Greenlee Street: ca. 1900, vernacular, one-story frame, gable roof, small front porch, additions to side and rear, front windows not original. (N)

6171 Greenlee Street: ca. 1900, vernacular, two-story frame with gable and roof, wraparound porch with round columns, two gable dormers, 6/6 windows, addition to side and rear. (C)

6121 Quintard Street: ca. 1872, vernacular, one-story frame, gable roof with return, pilaster corner boards, transom over front door, square porch posts with sawn brackets, four chimneys with corbelled caps, 1/1 and 6/6 windows, additions to rear. (C)

6145 Quintard Street (Arlington United Methodist Church): 1907, vernacular, one-story concrete block structure, gabled parapet, square tower with pyramid roof, stained glass windows, rear addition. (C)

6166 Quintard Street: ca. 1965, Ranch style, one-story brick and frame, gable roof, dentils under eaves, 6/6 windows. (N)

6203 Quintard Street: ca. 1900, vernacular, one-story frame with gable roof, turned porch posts, 1/1 windows. (C)

11965 Walker Street: ca. 1900, vernacular, one-and-one-half story frame with hip roof, two hipped dormers, wrap-around front porch with round posts, 1/1 windows, transom over front door. (C)

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11973 Walker Street (Beene House): ca. 1887, Queen Anne, one-story frame with gable roof, decorative panel in apex of gable, fish-scales and fan pattern under gables, exposed rafters, carved panels on front porch gable, square porch posts with knobs and fan bracket, bracketed gable or shed over windows, 4/4 windows, recent rear additions. (C)

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11985 Walker Street: ca. 1950, vernacular, one-and-one-half-story brick, gable roof, front porch, metal awnings. (N)

11991 Walker Street: ca. 1965, mobile home, one-story, flat roof, sheet metal and brick veneer siding. (N)

12005 Walker STreet: ca. 1900, vernacular, one-story frame with gable roof, square porch posts, 1/1 windows, chimney with corbelled cap, carport is a recent addition. (C)

12015 Walker Street: ca. 1900, commercial vernacular, one-story clapboard and board and batten, parapet gable roof, 6/6 windows, transom over front double doors, vacant. (C)

12019 Walker Street: ca. 1900, commercial vernacular, one-story frame, parapet gable roof, transom over front door and windows, vacant. (C)

12020 Walker Street (S. Y. Wilson & Company): 1912, west building 1920, rear shed 1946, commercial vernacular, two-story brick, cast iron pilasters flank plate glass windows on first floor, plain lintels on second story, second story windows bricked over, ornamental brickwork at top of building, interior unaltered with second story gallery, S. Y. Wilson & Company. (C)

12022 Walker Street: ca. 1900, moved 1950, commercial vernacular, one-story frame, gable roof, transom over front door, S. Y. Wilson & Company. (C)

12024 Walker Street: ca. 1947, commercial vernacular, one-story brick, gable roof, ornamental brickwork around base. (N)

# 8. Significance



#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This district is being nominated under Criteria A and C.

The Arlington Historic District contains the early buildings of the only town in Tennessee's most populated and urbanized county that still clearly shows the regionally important pattern of a small rural community developing around a general store, railroad, and cotton gin. With a collection of relatively unchanged commercial and residential buildings dating primarily from 1880 to 1920, the district retains a remarkable degree of its turn-of-the-century rural character, unlike the other surviving early incorporated towns in Shelby County, Collierville, Germantown, Millington, and Bartlett. The variety of building styles typifies the architectural character of the small towns of West Tennessee, a region which experienced its formative building period in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Within the district the S. Y. Wilson general store (est. 1893) is one of the oldest businesses of its type in Shelby County still owned by the founding family and operating basically as it did in the late nineteenth century.

The economic development of the area was given a boost in 1856 when the Withe Depot was established at the current site of Arlington on land donated by General Samuel Jackson Hays, a ward of Andrew Jackson, along the tracks of the then new Memphis and Ohio Railroad. General Hays owned the land surrounding the depot until 1868 when the executor of his estate laid out the town and sold lots at public auction. Appropriately named Haysville, the town as envisioned was slightly larger than the area comprising the proposed Arlington Historic District. The streets in the district follow the same pattern and retain the same names as they did when platted in 1868 (see attachment). The name of the town was changed to Arlington in 1883 at the patriotic suggestion of a local citizen Captain Henry Pitman after a visit to Arlington National Cemetery.

The establishment of the railroad depot, a cotton gin, and businesses catering to the needs of local farmers created the elements necessary for the growth of Arlington. This pattern of development was central to the settlement of small towns in the South during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and in now highly urbanized areas of the South such as Shelby County, which contains the City of Memphis, it is rare to find a rural community of this type relatively unchanged since the early twentieth century.

Although Arlington's railroad depot was demolished around 1972 and the current cotton gin was constructed in 1946, most of the town's early commercial buildings remain. In 1877 there were only seven businesses in Arlington, but by 1890 the number had increased to the historical peak of eighteen as the result of the area's expanding cotton production. The most important commercial building in the development of Arlington has been S. Y. Wilson and Co., General Merchandise. Established in 1893 and located in its current building since 1912, the general store originally sold groceries, dry goods, feed, seed, hardware and farm supplies, as well as offering funeral services including coffins for sale and hearses for hire. As in most of rural America before the Great Depression, the Wilson general store was the center of much of everyday life in Arlington. Relatively unaltered in its exterior and interior appearance, the store still provides hardware and

| ACR                                     | ease mot v                                      |  |               |                               | -   |  |             |
|---|---|--|---------------|-------------------------------|---|--|-------------|
| 9. M                                    | ajor Bib  | liographica  | l Refe        | rene                          | ces   |  |             |
| Burrow,<br>E. H.                        | Rachael H. K.<br>Clarke & Bro.                  | Arlington-A Shor   | t Historic    | al Wri                        | ting of the   | Town, Memphis:                                 |             |
| Business                                | and Professi                                    | onal Directory of<br>(Memphis, Tenness                   | Tennessee.    | Atla                          | nta: Young  | & Co. Publishers, 1                            | 1906        |
|   | ciciui Appeai                                   | The Holv Innocen   | ee). June     | 10, 19                        | 49.   | Plantation Press. 1                            |             |
| <u>10. (</u>                            | Geograp   | hical Data   |               |                               |   |  |             |
|   | e name <u>Arlingt</u>                           | ty Approx. 30 acres                                      |               |                               | Quadrang  | le scale <u>1:24000</u>                        |             |
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| state                                   | N/A   | code   | county        | N/A                           | -   | code   |             |
| state                                   | N/A   | code   | county        | N/A                           |   | code   |             |
| 11. F                                   | orm Pre   | pared By   |               |                               |   |  |             |
|   |   |  |               |                               | <u> </u>  |  |             |
| organization                            | Memphis Div                                     | vreservation Planne<br>vision of Housing a<br>velopment  |               | date                          |   | n Lorenz)<br>r 1, 1981                         |             |
| street & nur                            | mber 22 N. Sec                                  | cond Street  |               | tele                          | phone (901) 52  | 28-2834  | *****       |
| city or town                            | Memphis   |  |               | state                         | e Tennesse  | e 38103  |             |
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| Chief of                                | Registration                                    |  |               |                               |   |  |             |

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farm supplies to customers within a seven-mile radius of Arlington and is operated by the third and fourth generations of the company's founder.

Through the rapid twentieth-century annexation of surrounding communities, the City of Memphis has altered much of the once dominant rural character of Shelby County. All of the incorporated towns of the county, except Arlington, have lost most of their historical character because of considerable new construction within and around their historic core.

The western third of Tennessee developed later than the rest of the state and was in general not as economically prosperous as other sections of Tennessee. Consequently the rural architecture of West Tennessee tends to be turn-of-the-century vernacular, but at the same time shows the strong influence of the Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Bungalow styles. Among regionally typical examples of these more formally detailed buildings are two Queen Anne houses at 11973 Walker (1887) and 6115 Chester (1906), a large Craftsman house at 6136 Chester (1904), and a rustic bungalow at 6199 Chester (1907). The commercial buildings within the district are especially fine examples of turn-of-the-century vernacular frame architecture, including two stores, a bank, and a hotel.

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<u>Goodspeed's History of Tennessee</u>. Nashville: Charles and Randy Elder, 1974 (originally published 1887).

Tennessee State Gazeteer and Business Directory. Nashville, 1877.

Tennessee State Gazeteer and Business Directory. Nashville, 1890.

Personal Interviews

Rachael Burrows, interviewed about history of buildings in the district, interviewed by Karen Lorenz, Arlington, Tennessee, August 13, 1981.

Mayor Sam Wilson, interviewed about history of commercial buildings in the district, interviewed by Karen Lorenz, Arlington, Tennessee, September 8, 1981.

