

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100003357

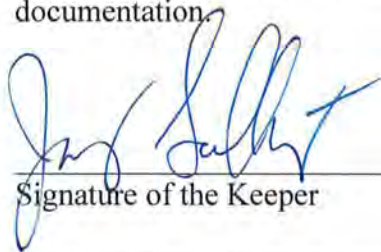
Date Listed: 1/28/2019

Property Name: Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

County: Phillips

State: AR

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

1-28-2019

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is hereby changed to **1935-1943**

The POS reflects the association with the Federal involvement with the program, from its inception and plan through the dissolution of the FSA resettlement programs in 1943. While the project area undoubtedly continued to be important within the local context, the nomination does not provide sufficient context beyond the 1943 end date to justify continuing the POS to 1968.

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SG 3357

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

Other names/site number: Lakeview Project, PH0234

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: near the intersection of Highways 85 and 44

City or town: Lake View State: AR County: Phillips

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

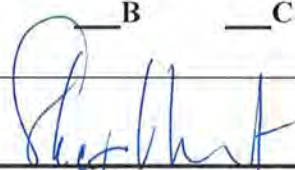
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

	December 5, 2018
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

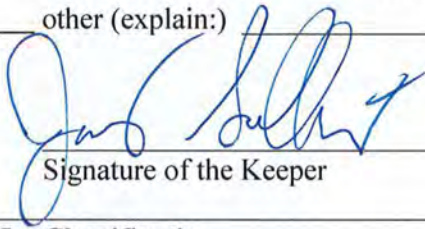
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

1.28.2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>16</u>	<u>132</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>18</u>	<u>137</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic: Single Dwelling
- Domestic: Secondary Structures: Dependencies
- Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
- Commerce/Trade: Department Store: General Store
- Commerce/Trade: Organizational
- Education: School
- Religion: Religious Facility: Church
- Recreation and Culture: Auditorium: Hall
- Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural Field

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Agriculture/Subsistence: Animal Facility
Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural Outbuildings
Transportation: Rail-Related: Railroad
Transportation: Road-Related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
Domestic: Multiple Dwelling
Domestic: Secondary Structures: Dependencies
Government: City Hall
Health Care: Clinic
Religion: Religious Facility: Church
Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural Field
Transportation: Road-Related
Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation: Hiking/Biking Trail
Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Plain Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Concrete, Brick. Walls: Wood, Brick, Synthetics, Metal. Roof: Asphalt, Metal.

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lakeview Resettlement Project, which is in part today known as the city of Lake View, is located 15 miles southwest of Helena, Arkansas, along the shores of Old Town Lake, a remnant lake of an oxbow of the nearby Mississippi River. The modern incorporated city of Lake View encompasses about 2/3rds of the original resettlement project acreage. The Lakeview Resettlement Project was initially planned as 97 parcels of roughly similar acreage to the east and west of State Highway 85 and near to the shore of Old Town Lake. The Lakeview Resettlement Project was the first project in Arkansas specifically dedicated to combat the problems of landlessness for black farmers in the rural south and helped to establish a legacy of black land ownership in Phillips County, Arkansas, that continues today.

Narrative Description

Elaboration

The Lakeview Resettlement Project is located in central Phillips County, Arkansas, within Township 3 South, Ranges 2 and 3 East. In Range 2 East, the project is located within the boundaries of Section 25. In Range 3 East, the project is located within the boundaries of Sections 10 – 11, 14 – 21, and 29 – 30. The area being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places is a contiguous group of farm lots, just under 4400 acres in size and includes the vast majority of the 91 family farms developed for resettlement clients within the planned agricultural community of the Lakeview Project. Today, much of this land is part of the city of Lake View, located along the northwestern shore of Old Town Lake. The area being nominated is located to the east and west of Arkansas state Highway 85 and north of Arkansas state Highway 44. East of Highway 85, several farm lots line the route of Phillips County Road 354 (also known as Wallace Drive), which is a gravel road that runs east and west, and Phillips County Road 347, also a gravel road that runs north and south. Both of these county roads were initially constructed as part of the resettlement project to provide access to the farm homes located on lots 33 – 40, and 46 – 58.

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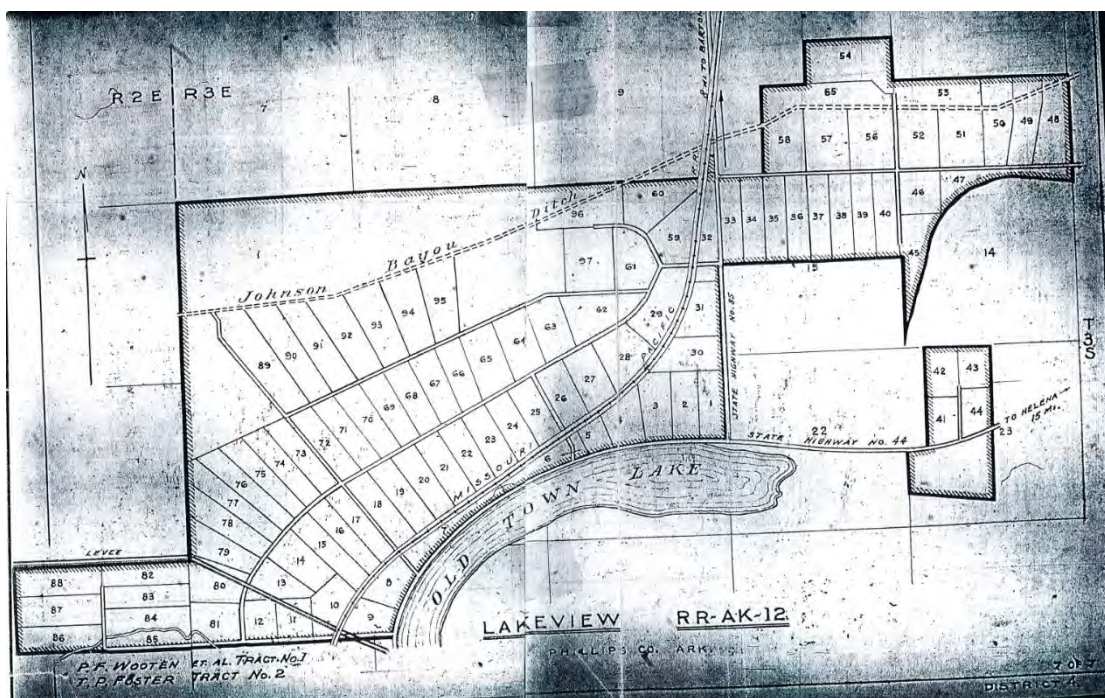


Figure 1

Lakeview Resettlement Project, development plan, c. 1935-1936, USDA, Farm Security Administration, Arkansas Resettlement Projects: 1941-1946, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas (MG03151 AHC).

To the east of Highway 85 and northwest of the intersection of Highway 85 and Highway 44 along the shore of Old Town Lake are the remainders of the 91 originally settled farms. This also includes several roads also constructed by the Resettlement Administration and the later Farm Security Administration for access to each of the developed properties. The main gravel road that runs down the center of the project is now known as Martin Luther King Drive (also known as Phillips County Road 429), which is accessed from Highway 85 by a short gravel road, known as Maple Street, which runs across the former St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad tracks. A short gravel road, known as Market Street, stretches from Martin Luther King Drive across the former St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad tracks to Highway 44, which runs adjacent to the shore of Old Town Lake. Market Street is aptly named as it follows the western edge of the Lakeview Cooperative Association property that was the location of the community owned cotton gin, a gas station, a machinery repair shop, a store, a farm supply service, a feed mill, syrup mill, heavy machinery services, and a couple of co-op owned homes. To the west of Market Street is another roughly north to south running gravel road that connects Martin Luther King Drive to Highway 44, known as Woodland Street (also known as Phillips

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County Road 361). Woodland Street also intersects the northern most gravel road included within the boundary area, known as Wall Street. Wall Street also intersects with Center Street, which provides a link between the eastern part of Wall Street and the main Martin Luther King Drive that runs down the center of the project site. A gravel road also runs along the top of the levee in the western section of the Lakeview Project site and is known as Levy Road [sic.] and starts just south of the spillway and flood control structure along Highway 44, intersects with Martin Luther King Drive and then continues to the northwest and west.

The far western section of the nominated area is bounded to the south by the gravel Phillips County Road 438, which intersects with Levy Road to the east and runs to the west. The final gravel road included within the nomination boundary is Phillips County Road 435 which runs north and south from Phillips County Road 438 to Levy Road. Wall Street, Center Street, Martin Luther King Drive, Maple Street, Market Street, Phillips County Road 435, Phillips County Road 347, and portions of Phillips County Road 354, Levy Road, and Woodland Street were originally planned and built by the Resettlement Administration and later finished under the Farm Security Administration as access roads for the newly developed agricultural community. Highway 85 and Highway 44 had been constructed previous to the development of the Lakeview Resettlement Project. Overall, 6 miles of road with bridges and culverts were initially planned for the community, much of which was constructed from 1936 to 1937.

Some of the initially developed lots were devoted to community use, with lot 5 as well as a portion of lot 26 given over to the Lakeview Cooperative Association and lot 6 used as the site of the local school/community hall. The Lake View Baptist Church was built on land near lot 6 that was owned by the Fort family who lived on farm lot 24. A portion of farm 24 stretched across the railroad tracks to the edge of the lake once the final lots were developed. Lot 7 was reserved for use of the project's manager and also used as an early area to house the cooperatively-owned livestock and equipment. One of the original 97 parcels was removed from the plan due to the realignment of Johnson Bayou along the northern edge of the project. A few other early planned farm lots were later determined too small for productive family use after the construction of a flood gate and ditch in the western section of the project, so lots 10 and 11 were eventually merged into larger combined fields. The community lot 5 and a portion of lot 26 included the community association offices, large community gin and other co-op facilities. Only a small portion of the original gin building remains, mostly as a ruin, but the large field still includes foundational remnants of the several buildings that were on the site.

The landscape of the Lakeview Resettlement Project is predominantly flat and composed of fertile delta soil. The property was developed to include lots averaging roughly 40 acres each that are bounded on at least one edge by an access road. Most of the lots are rectangular in shape and they were all developed to fit within the land purchases, this resulted in some irregularity in the shape of some lots. Pre-existing creeks and bayous to the north of the property, the tracks of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and the ox-bow lake to the south also impacted the layout of farm lots.¹ Today, each of the remaining lots is bounded by vegetation creating readily apparent

¹ Originally known as the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Company. "Chronological List of Events In the History of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway," *Missouri Pacific*

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outlines throughout the landscape. Some lots are also bounded by roads and modern irrigation ditches that follow the original property lines through the community. The boundaries of the original resettlement project are also readily apparent against the more rectilinear development of fields within the older Jefferson Grid that surround the project. The community was developed over the top of an existing farming community known as Lakeview and Lakeview Plantation. This area was based mostly around local plantations as evidenced by an early press report of a 1935 land purchase in Phillips County for a new resettlement project.² The plantations are noted as The Key Planation, Keese Plantation, Wooten Plantation, Thompson Plantation and the Higgins Plantation, ranging in size from 1222 acres to 358 acres. These plantations were located between the communities of Oneida to the north and Wabash to the southwest. The community of Wabash was also noted as the mailing address for the Lakeview Resettlement Project headquarters.

Ninety-Seven family farm lots were initially planned, however, only 91 farms were eventually settled by resettlement clients as a few of the originally planned lots were combined due to their small size and some were reserved for community use. In total, 1375 acres of the total purchased property were not developed for agricultural or residential use due to the introduction of new drainage work, the unsuitability of some purchased land for continued farming and the proposed use of some planned lots for community use. Some of this initial 1375 undeveloped acreage reported in the description of the property developed by the Farm Security Administration during the 1940s was identified as community space and included the area where the cooperative buildings were built after 1936.³

The original outline of the large conglomeration of family farms that made up the majority of the Lakeview resettlement community is included within the submitted boundary for the Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District. This nomination focuses mainly on the surviving landscape of the resettlement project that is clearly evident in the landscape of the surviving community. Unfortunately, many of the original houses and outbuildings constructed by the Resettlement Administration and later the Farm Security Administration have not survived. A few scattered examples of the early home types, with various alterations, do survive.

Resource Number	Property Name	Location	C / NC
PH0234	Lakeview Project Landscape	Lake View, Arkansas	C
PH0540	Lakeview Gin	Market Street	NC
PH0541	Farm 28 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0542	Farm 86 House Ruins	Phillips Ct. Rd. 435	NC
PH0545	Lake View School	AR Hwy 44	NC
PH0546	Lake View Baptist Church	AR Hwy 44	NC
PH0547	Farm 80 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0549	Farm 1 House	AR Hwy 85	C
PH0550	Farm 53 House and Barn	Phillips Ct. Rd. 347	C

Historical Society, 5 August 2012, <http://www.mopac.org/corporate-history/57-st-louis-iron-mountain-southern-railway>, Accessed 1 October 2018.

² “RA Will Buy 5400 Acres Near Helena,” *Arkansas Democrat*, Nov 4, 1935, p 12.

³ U.S. Department of Agriculture: Farm Security Administration, Arkansas Resettlement Projects, 1941-1946, MG03151 AHC, Arkansas State Archives. Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Name of Property		County and State	
PH0551	Farm 38 House	Phillips Ct. Rd. 354	C
PH0552	Farm 32 Ruins	AR Hwy 85	NC
PH0553	Farm 79 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0554	Farm 14 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0555	Farm 77 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0556	Farm 75 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0557	Farm 16 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0558	Farm 70 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0559	Farm 69 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0560	Farm 68 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0561	House on Farm 67	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0562	Farm 66 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0563	Farm 27 House	Martin Luther King Drive	C
PH0564	Lakeview Project Roads	Lake View, Arkansas	C
PH0565	Project Manager House	Highway 44	NC

In total there are 18 contributing properties, including the overall landscape and the road system constructed by Works Progress Administration workers under the direction of the Construction Division of the Resettlement Administration and later the Farm Security Administration.⁴ Buildings constructed after 1968 and some residence and commercial structures that were built before 1968 but have no connection to the original project development have been counted as Non-Contributing. The total number of non-contributing properties is 137. Some non-contributing properties have associated ancillary structures. In all there are 131 non-contributing properties that are not associated with the original project development and 6 non-contributing properties that are associated with the original project development. The 6 project related non-contributing properties include the Lakeview Gin, which is now in a ruined state; Farm 32 House Ruins, which includes ruins and foundational remnants of an original home site; Farm 86 House Ruins, which was recently demolished leaving only foundational ruins; the Project Manager House, which has been significantly altered; the Lake View Baptist Church, which was significantly remodeled in 1972; and the Lakeview School site, which now includes building constructed after original buildings on the site were burned in 1954. A second fire in 1988 destroyed any remaining original buildings on the school site.

Those houses that are still recognizable as original project houses are considered eligible as many of the additions and siding changes happened shortly after the Farm Security Administration stopped direct oversight of the project during the mid-1940s. Early additions to the smaller farm houses were common and allowed by the Farm Security Administration during their years of oversight as families had additional children. Also, as soon as sanitary systems such as septic tanks were introduced by families on their property, bathroom additions were often added to the farm houses.⁵ One house, the House on Farm 67 (PH0561), is known to have been moved from its original location on farm lot 43. However, this move occurred within the

⁴ "87 of State's Best Negro Farm Families Will Reside Soon in Utopia Near Helena." *Arkansas Democrat*. Little Rock, Arkansas. 26 December 1937. p. 8

⁵ Interviews with Blanche Washington-James, Leon Phillips, Jr., and Spencer Ann Johnson-Mansfield, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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period of significance of the property and it was moved to a lot that already had a project house on it in order for the owner to be nearer to a group of neighbors. Another home was moved outside the community by the Hayes family and still exists in the community of Oneida. The Lake View Baptist Church is included as a non-contributing property since it underwent a major renovation and remodeling of the original building in 1972, outside the period of significance of the property. The original church building was constructed in c. 1939 by members of the community.

A typical farm unit included a five or six room wood-framed house, a barn, and a chicken coop.⁶ Individual wells were drilled for each house site with an indoor kitchen pump installed. The units also included a wood-framed smoke-house and outhouse. The houses were designed for the eventual installation of indoor plumbing, but this would only be installed as the property owners invested in sewage systems themselves.⁷ The houses and barns were built near the closest access road to the property. A survey of the area in the 1970s noted that most of the surviving original homes from the project existed along Martin Luther King Drive. Today, a few scattered examples of original homes remain; examples include but are not limited to the William King House on Farm #14 (PH0554), the Jessie Carter Family House on Farm #1 (PH0549), and the Archie Steele Family House on Farm #80 (PH0547), and the Frank Washington Family House on Farm #27 (PH0563).

The best surviving examples are the King Family House located on Farm #14 Luther King Street and the Steele Family House on Farm #80, both located along Martin Luther King Drive. The King Family property has been vacant for several years and shows significant evidence of weathering. As was common throughout the community, the house was sheathed in a later siding and a front porch space was enclosed to provide more interior space. The Roy Family House on Farm #86 included another common alteration to the original homes, the addition of a carport/garage to one side of the house. The Carter Family House on Farm #1 is located near the intersection of Highways 85 and 44 and has added vinyl siding and a new metal roof. The Steele Family House on Farm #80 is also a good example of the typical resettlement house with later exterior siding and surviving chimneys. The Washington Family House on Farm #27 is also a good example of a typical surviving project house.

Most of the residences constructed in the area in the last several decades have occurred on the sites of former resettlement homes, either through renovation of the wood-framed structure or through replacement on or nearby the original home sites. The pattern established by the resettlement administration has been retained, with homes lining the streets and farmland behind. The only other residential construction projects in the area have been along Highway 44 and adjacent to the Old Town Lake shore where two newer small-scale housing developments have been constructed. The original school was expanded several times and several large school/community hall buildings were constructed along original lot 6, which was reserved for development of a local school. The various original school buildings burned, and replacement

⁶ Noted as a "poultry house". U.S. Department of Agriculture: Farm Security Administration. Arkansas Resettlement Projects. 1941-1946, MG03151 AHC. Arkansas State Archives. Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁷ Interview with Blanche Washington-James, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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buildings also burned. The original home for the project manager still exists along Highway 44, but has been significantly altered, including the addition of brick along the exterior. This property was also originally used for the storage of cooperatively held animals and machinery. Some homes throughout the area are abandoned and some home sites have been completely demolished.

The overall agricultural landscape of the Lakeview Project has not changed in any significant way since it was originally divided into plots by the Resettlement Administration in 1936. Most of the original farm units as settled between 1937 and 1940 are still discernable in the landscape as farm boundaries have been retained, even though they are mostly now worked by larger farm groups. Today, the agricultural output of the area includes soybeans, winter wheat, sorghum, rice, and corn. While this differs from the predominant crop of cotton that was farmed in the early years of the community, changes in the agricultural economy of the south meant that cotton was no longer the prized cash crop of the region beginning in the mid-20th century. In the last few years, cotton cultivation has reemerged in the area. The changing commercially viable crops utilized in the area have not impacted the original Resettlement Administration layout of the community or the individual lots. The original concept of the community owned and utilized lots along the lake front areas of the project actually helped the community retain its original layout. Areas that attracted newer residential, commercial, and civic buildings were along the lake front, nearby to the original co-op owned property, but on privately owned land.

A small area to the south of the main contiguous farm lots of the Lakeview Project was initially developed as 4 family farms noted as lots 41 through 44 in the original community layout (see Figure 1). The outlines of these 4 small farm lots are no longer evident in the overall landscape due to the expansion of nearby fields. Since these farms were not adjacent to the larger conglomerate of farms and since they are no longer visible in the landscape, they have not been included in this nomination.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Agriculture

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Social History

Period of Significance

1935 - 1968

Significant Dates

1 January 1938

8 November 1938

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Resettlement Administration

Works Progress Administration

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Lakeview Resettlement Project is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, under community planning and development and agriculture as a landscape designed to be used by a community of small independently owned and operated family farms with associated cooperative association properties. This resettlement project is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, under Ethnic Heritage: Black and Social History for its role as the earliest resettlement community specifically designated and planned for African-American resettlement clients in Region VI, which encompassed Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, of the Resettlement Administration which later evolved into the Farm Security Administration.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Lakeview Resettlement Project, today known as the city of Lake View, is located 15 miles southwest of Helena, Arkansas, along the shores of Old Town Lake, a remnant oxbow lake of the nearby Mississippi River. Today, the modern incorporated city of Lake View encompasses about 2/3rds of the original resettlement project acreage. The Lakeview Resettlement Project was initially planned as 97 parcels of roughly similar acreage to the east and west of State Highway 85 and along Highway 44 near the shore of Old Town Lake. This Project was the first developed by the Resettlement Administration (RA) in Region VI, which included Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and was likely the first rural resettlement project in the entire United States specifically designed and dedicated to combat the problems of landlessness for black farmers in the rural South. This project also helped to establish a legacy of black land ownership in Phillips County, Arkansas, that continues today.

The entire property eventually purchased for the Lakeview Project originally encompassed 5,612 acres in Phillips County.⁸ The new Lakeview Project would be located in the area of an existing small farming community, known as Lake View or Lakeview Plantation due to its location near the shores of Old Town Lake.⁹ This farming community was referenced in early newspapers of the era in articles and notices from the 1910s through the 1930s and in several World War I - era military discharges for men from the area. There was also a small wood-framed train depot, known as the Lakeview station, located adjacent to the Missouri Pacific Railroad (St. Louis, Iron

⁸ U.S. Department of Agriculture: Farm Security Administration, Arkansas Resettlement Projects, 1941-1946, MG03151 AHC, Arkansas State Archives. Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁹ The name Lakeview and Lake View seems to have been used interchangeably for the historic community that predated the Resettlement Administration project in the area. The formal name for the resettlement project was the Lakeview Project. I have used Lakeview to refer to the Lakeview Project throughout this nomination. The community is now known as the city of Lake View, which was incorporated as a small town on 11 September 1972.

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Mountain and Southern Railway Co.) that ran through the area, near to Old Town Lake on its way between Helena and McGehee Arkansas. The rail-line that ran through what would become the community of Lakeview also served as one of the main property lines through the center of the projects lots.

The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, which bisected the project property, was formed in the 1850s as the Iron Mountain Railway with the first tracks reaching Arkansas by the 1870s from St. Louis, Missouri.¹⁰ By 1874, after reorganizing as the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Company, trains were running between St. Louis and Texarkana, Arkansas. By the early 20th century, the railway opens lines to Helena and from Helena south to McGehee, Arkansas. In 1917, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway was merged with the Missouri Pacific Railroad after years of financial trouble. The Missouri Pacific would continue to run trains from Memphis, through Helena and on to McGehee through the 1950s, including the well-known *Delta Eagle* train that ran the route from Memphis, Tennessee, to McGehee for over a decade.¹¹ By the 1960s, Missouri Pacific ran the line as a freight-only line which continued through the 1980s. In 1982, the Missouri Pacific Railroad merged into the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1992 the Union Pacific Corporation donated its 73-mile right-of-way between Helena and McGehee to the State of Arkansas for use as a public park in a program to convert un-used rail-line into biking and walking trails. An interpretive panel, describing the development and early history of the Lakeview Resettlement Project was added alongside the new trail, where the original Lakeview Depot sat, in 2013. Also in 2013, the Lake View Ladies Fire Auxiliary installed a historic plaque for the community near the area's health clinic on Highway 44.

The first mentions of the Lakeview Project found to date are from November of 1935. In early November of 1935, E. B. Whitaker, the assistant regional director of a division of the Resettlement Administration, announced that:

“Purchase of 4,500 acres of fertile farm land in Phillips county for the first resettlement project actually to get underway in the Sixth Region, was announced yesterday... The project will be known as the Lake View Resettlement project, and the land will be divided into farms of 40 or 50 acres, upon which eligible families will be resettled in a community group.”¹²

In the local *Helena World* newspaper it was noted that:

“Phillips County is to have a Rural Resettlement Project, it was definitely announced yesterday from Little Rock by the Resettlement Administration, with the purchase of 5,400 acres approved on which to settle 100 families or more on 40-acre tracts of land.”¹³

¹⁰ “Chronological List of Events In the History of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway,” *Missouri Pacific Historical Society*, 5 August 2012, <http://www.mopac.org/corporate-history/57-st-louis-iron-mountain-southern-railway>, Accessed 1 October 2018.

¹¹ Rusty Porter, “Railroads of Phillips County,” *Phillips County Historical Quarterly* 26 (June and September 1988): pp. 1–26.

¹² “First Tract for Actual RA Work In State Bought,” *Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 5 November 1935, p. 1.

¹³ “The Resettlement Project,” *Helena World*, Helena, Arkansas, 5 November 1935.

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On November 10 of 1935 it was also reported in the *Helena World* newspaper that officials from Washington were in the area to inspect lands that were to be included in the newly planned project.¹⁴ Most of the early articles concerning the Lakeview Project didn't mention that the project would be devoted to African-American farming families. However, one report from *The Record* of Helena, Arkansas, noted that "The Rural Resettlement Administration plans to place colored families on the farms, allotting each family sufficient land to make a living, the purchase price to be repaid over a long period of years."¹⁵ Although land purchases were approved for the project in Phillips County by the Washington, D.C., offices of the Resettlement Administration in late 1935, it appears from the surviving historical record that the land purchases were not completed until 1936. Official approval of the Lakeview Project had been given by the head of the Resettlement Administration, Rexford Tugwell, along with approval of other Arkansas projects including Plum Bayou in 1935.¹⁶ From 1935 to 1936, when the land purchases were finalized, the local offices of the Resettlement Administration in Little Rock were busy preparing work documents for the planned area including farm layouts, the road network, drainage and irrigation improvements, plans for farm houses and associated buildings, and plans for the community buildings. In a later article from August of 1936, more land purchases in Phillips County were reported: "The 5,612 acres at Lake View will be used for the resettlement of 91 negro families, Mr. Whitaker said. Construction of the houses and development of the individual farms will begin as soon as all titles are cleared,"¹⁷

Those who were previous tenants at the Lakeview Project site and who had worked on plantations that were purchased for the new project faced eviction as the new project was under development. Some of those tenants believed that the Regional Director T. Roy Reid was against them for racial reasons, as they were African-American but had not been allowed to remain. In a letter to Director Reid they wrote: "We want to remain here, their [sic] are some who have been deliberately refused, RA Director, to be set up, though well recommended ... This was done because we were Negroes..."¹⁸ These requests may have been the impetus for the FSA to create a "special selection criteria" for previous residents of the Lakeview Project area. Although the Lakeview Project was planned for an area with no previous large white settlements, there was a backlash to the project, including from members of Congress.¹⁹ Also, according to

¹⁴ "Officials from Washington," *Helena World*, Helena, Arkansas, 10 November 1935.

¹⁵ "Resettlement Project Gets U.S. Approval," *The Record*, Helena, Arkansas, 3 November 1935.

Although this is the earliest known article to mention that this project was being designated for African-American farm families, the article also notes several "facts" regarding the project that would turn out to be incorrect, including the acreage to be purchased and the idea that the farming families would include those who had left the Helena area for northern cities after the 1929 stock market crash.

¹⁶ James Donald Holley, "The New Deal and Farm Tenancy: Rural Resettlement in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi," (1969), LSU Historical Dissertations and Theses, 1664, http://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_disstheses/1664, p. 57.

¹⁷ "RA Buys Site At Lake View," *Fayetteville (ARK.) Daily Democrat*, 5 August 1936, p. 3.

¹⁸ Jane Adams and D. Gorton, "This Land Ain't My Land: The Eviction of Sharecroppers by the Farm Security Administration," *Agricultural History*, Summer 2009, The Agricultural History Society, p. 336.

¹⁹ Adams, "This Land Ain't My Land," p. 339.

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local historians there were lawsuits and official protests that were lodged against the new project.²⁰

It appears that the Lakeview Project was one of the earliest resettlement projects in planning, after the earlier Dyess project, since plans were far enough along to be submitted to the newly established Resettlement Administration office for approval in 1935. Although the Lakeview Project met with early delays, the farming community was declared officially open by January of 1938 after 87 homes were completed and over 33 families had already been selected.²¹ After celebrating the first full harvest in the community, the Lakeview Project was formally dedicated on 8 November 1938, with an estimated 3,000 people in attendance to celebrate the community and to hear the two main speakers; Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, the president of the Tuskegee Institute, and Dr. Will Alexander, the head of the Farm Security Administration.²²

The Arkansas Rural Rehabilitation Corporation began construction on only one project under the tenure of the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA). In 1934, the Dyess resettlement community was conceived of as an agricultural community in eastern Arkansas to return relief clients “back to the soil”, the first of its kind resettlement colony in the nation.²³ Dyess would be home to over 500 families and was hailed as an important experiment in government relief and agricultural resettlement, importantly it was developed for white families only.²⁴ After 1935, the Resettlement Administration took control of Dyess as well as took over the planning and development of the other resettlement projects in progress across the nation. The Dyess community would serve as an important example for the development of new farm community resettlement projects. The Lakeview Project was similar in many respects to the Dyess project although smaller in scale. Importantly, however, the Lakeview Project was devoted to the resettlement of black farmers.

Resettlement Relief Efforts in Arkansas

Following the severe droughts of the early 1930s, Arkansas civic and political leaders continually asked for assistance from the Federal Government for the state’s growing population of distressed agricultural workers. The federal government under the direction of President Hoover responded by following a hands-off approach. President Herbert Hoover saw the issues of local farmers as the responsibility of local regions and states.²⁵ By 1932, the effects of the Depression were so severe that President Hoover was forced to act by establishing the

²⁰ Interview with Mable Washington-Bynum, born on the Lakeview Project, in September 2018.

²¹ “87 of State’s Best Negro Farm Families Will Reside Soon in Utopia Near Helena,” *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 26 December 1937, p. 8.

²² “3,000 Attend Resettlement Dedication,” *Atlanta Daily World*, Atlanta, Georgia, 14 November 1938, p. 1.

²³ Hawkins, Van. *A New Deal In Dyess: The Depression Era Agricultural Resettlement Colony in Arkansas*. Jonesboro, AR: Writers Bloc, 2015.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Marjorie Jo Hunter, “Hope and Despair: The Farm Security Administration Photographers in Eastern Arkansas During the Great Depression,” (2011), Thesis, Arkansas State University. Jonesboro, Arkansas. pp. 144-145.

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Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), a government corporation that provided financial support to state and local governments, banks, and other economically important businesses mostly through loans.²⁶ This organization also helped to lend money that would be used to start state sponsored relief programs that would eventually be taken over by New Deal programs in 1933. Also in 1932, Arkansas Governor Harvey Parnell quickly established an emergency relief commission in order to obtain money from the RFC to help with their “urgent need of financial assistance”.²⁷

In early 1933, the Arkansas political landscape changed dramatically with the inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the election of Arkansas Governor J. M. Futrell, and the disbanding of the RFC. The RFC was soon replaced with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and Governor Futrell created the Arkansas Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (ARRC) to provide aid to the state’s farmers.²⁸ Also in 1933, Governor Futrell appointed W. R. Dyess to lead the Arkansas Relief Committee, a position he would serve in until his death in January of 1936.

The Resettlement Administration, which ultimately was responsible for the completion of the Lakeview Project in Phillips County, grew out of previously created relief organizations under the control of the Department of Agriculture. In 1933 the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) was created as a sub-agency of the USDA in an effort to help farmers through various programs such as subsidies and payment for unplanted crops to decrease yields and prop-up prices. Many of these early programs met with little success in regards to the sharecropper/tenant system in the South. Landowners would benefit from any government payments, while sharecroppers/tenants would be forced off of land that was now taken out of service. During a hearing held by the AAA in Memphis, H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union testified that:

“We speak for the real producers of cotton, the people who did the work, sharecroppers, tenants and farm laborers ... Landlords were paid to plow up cotton, to reduce cotton acreage, our crops were reduced ... several thousands of tenants and sharecroppers were driven from the land. The government paid the landlord \$8 and the sharecropper was supposed to get \$1. This was called a parity payment. The landlord got all the rental checks. The AAA has refused to enforce their contracts in so far as they affect the sharecroppers or tenant. We secured an investigation into conditions in Northeast Arkansas. Wholesale violations of

²⁶ This new government entity was created by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act of 1932 which was passed by congress with broad bipartisan support.

https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/banking_acts_of_1932.

²⁷ Hunter, “Hope and Despair: The Farm Security Administration Photographers in Eastern Arkansas During the Great Depression,” p. 146.

²⁸ Michael B. Dougan, “Junius Marion Futrell (1870-1955),” *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, updated 2 January 2018, Web, www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net, Accessed 1 October 2018.

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contracts were found, the AAA suppressed the report because it was ‘too hot to print.’”²⁹

Eventually, Rexford Tugwell, a confidant of President Franklin Roosevelt, was placed in charge of reorganizing existing programs within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve efficiency and provide more substantial relief to all farmers.³⁰ By early 1934, Tugwell realized that the multiple agencies responsible for land management and farmer relief needed a single coordinating office that could direct the desperately needed support more effectively. In May of 1935, President Roosevelt issued a series of executive orders that established the Resettlement Administration, appointed Tugwell as its head, and transferred all records, property and services from the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA) to the new division.³¹ After assuming command of the newly established Resettlement Administration, Tugwell set up eleven regional offices that would direct the activities of the RA at a local level. Region Six (VI) encompassed Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi and included the lower Mississippi River Delta, an area with similar issues and existing farming practices in multiple states.³² As stated by local officials and state and federal leaders, a large problem in the area was the “prevalency of tenancy, an excessive reliance on cotton, a large number of Negroes at the bottom of the economic ladder, and extensive absentee ownership of farm land.”³³

Prior to the Civil War, there were very few “free blacks” in the state of Arkansas, especially after the state government actively discouraged any immigration or even residence by any non-enslaved blacks from the 1840s through the Civil War.³⁴ The slave population of Arkansas, on the other hand, had grown from 2,000 in 1820 to over 111,000 by 1860. In 1860, this large number of enslaved individuals represented a quarter of the population of the state. The passage of the 13th amendment and the end of the Civil War created a large population of blacks who now had freedom of movement, a right that had previously been denied them. However, in Arkansas immediately after the Civil War, the state government left the newly freed population in legal limbo, free to own property and marry, but unable to vote or hold any political office. Eventually, the United States Congress stepped in and passed the Reconstruction Acts of 1867 that reformed southern state governments and led in part to the relatively progressive gains for

²⁹ “Tenant Union Accuses AAA of Partiality,” *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 11 October 1935.

³⁰ Hunter, “Hope and Despair: The Farm Security Administration Photographers in Eastern Arkansas During the Great Depression,” p. 115.

³¹ The executive order (7027) that created the RA set forth three specific tasks to be pursued by the division: 1) relocated tenant and family farmers to better lands, 2) provide temporary housing for migrant labor, and 3) make loans available to farmers in need of additional land or machinery. Hunter, “Hope and Despair: The Farm Security Administration Photographers in Eastern Arkansas During the Great Depression,” p. 117.

³² Holley, “The New Deal and Farm Tenancy,” p. 28.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ Ashlie Perry, “Free Blacks,” *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 3 May 2012, www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net, Accessed 1 June 2018.

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Arkansas's African-Americans in terms of political and business opportunities.³⁵

In the Deep South, especially along the eastern coast, racial violence and economic and agricultural turmoil in the decades following the Civil War soon led to large migrations of black families and individuals from east coast Deep South states to the west.³⁶ Most simply wanted to escape to anywhere; away from the economic, racial, and political hardships of the post-Civil War Deep South. These immigrants settled where land was cheap and labor needed. In fact, Arkansas saw more black people moving into the state between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of World War I than any other state.³⁷ This was sustainable as long as the agricultural markets remained stable, but as soon as the Great Depression rocked the agricultural markets of the United States the simmering issues of tenancy, landlessness, debt, poverty, and a myriad of other issues in both the white and black rural farming populations became a general crisis.

In Arkansas, cotton was the major cash crop in 62 out of the 75 counties in the early 1930s. In the Mississippi River Delta of Arkansas, cotton was the primary source of income for nearly 90% of all farms.³⁸ In the southern Mississippi River Delta in Arkansas, black farmers made up as high as 70 to 90 percent of the tenant farmers. Also, about sixty percent of all farms in Arkansas were operated by tenant farmers.³⁹ Resettlement Administration experts noted in bulletins produced in Region VI that the total investment needed to start a family farm would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 dollars, a price far above what many if not all of the sharecroppers of the region could afford.⁴⁰

In 1935, T. Roy Reid was appointed regional director of Region VI and he selected the Donaghey Trust Building in Little Rock, Arkansas, to serve as the main regional office headquarters.⁴¹ This regional office would oversee the various regional, state and county offices established by the Resettlement Administration across Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.⁴² The new Region IV Resettlement Administration officials worked to establish general goals for the new government agency. Director Reid succinctly and cautiously described the new programs of the agency as follows:

“The new program has five points, which Mr. Reid stated as follows: Loans to rehabilitate a family where it is now, to be made to land owners, renters and sharecroppers. Purchase of land for resettlement. Loans to resettle families on the

³⁵ John Williams Graves, “African Americans,” *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 9 May 2018, www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net, Accessed 1 June 2018.

³⁶ Story Matkin-Rawn, “‘The Great Negro State of the Country’: Arkansas’s Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 72 (Spring 2013): 1-41.

³⁷ Matkin-Rawn, “‘The Great Negro State of the Country’: Arkansas’s Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration,” pp. 3, 34.

³⁸ Holley, “The New Deal and Farm Tenancy,” p. 31.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* p. 34.

⁴¹ Donald Holley, *Uncle Sam’s Farmers: the New Deal communities in the Lower Mississippi Valley*, Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1975, p. 77.

⁴² Holley, “The New Deal and Farm Tenancy,” pp. 40-41. There would also be state, district, county and project level offices throughout Region VI. Holley, “The New Deal and Farm Tenancy,” pp. 46, 49

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purchased land. Construction work on resettlement areas. And carrying on useful work projects to provide families with additional income. Details are not yet all worked out...”⁴³

Throughout the year, the agency became more organized in its approach and through press releases and interviews in Arkansas newspapers, the role of the new agency was more fully described:

“The newly formed Governmental Agency known as the Resettlement Administration is composed of four major branches, namely:

1. Resettlement which deals with the purchase of tracts of land highly desirable for agricultural uses and developing them into model farming communities with each individual farmer eventually becoming an owner of his own home and land equipment.
2. Rural Resettlement which deals with the rehabilitation of farm families “in place”
3. Land Utilization which deals with the purchase of land unsuitable for farming use and converting it to its most suitable use.
4. Farm Debt Adjustment which deals with unjustifiable foreclosures on farms and farm lands.⁴⁴

Much like the farming colony developed at Dyess, the new Resettlement Administration projects were described to the state’s media as experiments that would illustrate what could be accomplished if the ideas represented on a small scale could be duplicated at a national scale.⁴⁵

In 1935, Tugwell gave official approval for work to commence immediately at five Region VI projects: Plum Bayou, Lakeview, and three farm tenant security projects.⁴⁶ Two other African-American focused resettlement projects were eventually completed in Arkansas; Desha Farms in Desha and Drew Counties and Townes Farms in Crittenden County. Two additional projects were planned for African-American farmers in Arkansas, but never left the planning stages.⁴⁷ These two projects were to be located at Camden and West Helena. Each resettlement project took months of planning from various sections and division within the Resettlement Administration structure.⁴⁸ The Management Division took over the investigation and selection of families for occupancy at the resettlement projects; the Land Acquisition Unit investigated and appraised the lands purchased and under contract; the Architectural and Engineering staff surveyed boundaries and subdivided the project lands and drew out locations for future roads, bridges, drainage ditches as well as produced detailed blueprints and sketches, building specifications and estimated costs that would all be forwarded to the Washington, D.C., offices

⁴³ “Rehabilitation Aimed At Poverty-Pinched Farmers,” *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 28 July 1935.

⁴⁴ “Functions of the Resettlement Administration Explained,” *Times & Headlight*, Heber Springs, Arkansas, 28 November 1935.

⁴⁵ “Experiment in Tenant Farming Planned by RA,” *The Journal*, Malvern, Arkansas, 28 November 1935.

⁴⁶ Holley, “The New Deal and Farm Tenancy,” p 57.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Resettlement in Region Six (Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana), Pamphlet, ca. 1936, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas, p. 21.

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for approval for each project.⁴⁹ The Construction Division was then tasked with directing the construction needed at each project.

The Lakeview Project

At the Lakeview Project, Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers were tasked with much of the early building work. This allowed the project to not only serve as a new home for resettlement clients, but also to provide needed work in rural areas for the unemployed. By December of 1937, 87 houses were either completed or under construction:

“The project provided employment at security wages for a weekly average of 197 laborers certified by the WPA as being in need of employment during the year 1937. Peak employment was reached in August when 359 workers were employed.”⁵⁰

Also, newly arrived families in late 1937 and early 1938 were trained as carpenters and in other trades in order to complete the remaining larger homes during 1938, so that by the time the project was completed in 1939, 92 complete farmsteads were built. In a 2008 oral interview, Ms. Geraldine Richardson-Davis, who was born on the project in 1938 shortly after her family moved to Lakeview, noted that her father was trained as a carpenter as soon as he moved in as they were still building houses on the northern and western edges of the project.⁵¹ Her father also talked about how many of the men who had already moved to the project were also working for the WPA. The early residents of Lakeview also worked to clear their newly leased land to ready it for the upcoming planting season. It was noted by several early residents that the rent for certain properties was more expensive based on the amount of already cleared land, the size of the new house, or its location in the community. The highest prices were for property that was already cleared, had a large house, and was located either near the lake or along the main central road in the community.⁵²

⁴⁹ Holley, *Uncle Sam's Farmers*, pp. 80-81.

⁵⁰ “87 of State's Best Negro Farm Families Will Reside Soon in Utopia Near Helena,” *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 26 December 1937, p. 8.

⁵¹ Interview with Geraldine Richardson-Davis, 22 July 2008, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁵² *Ibid.*

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House at Lakeview Project, Arkansas

Photographer: Russell Lee

FSA - RA - Library of Congress, December 1938

Lot 1666 (43), <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017781884>

Residents who applied to be resettled in Lakeview were screened by a three member selection committee which included the local county agricultural extension agent.⁵³ The families were then invited for personal interviews and a tour of the community. The applicants were required to be within a certain age range, married, and healthy. However, some exceptions were made; Ms. Nora Hoskin Sykes noted that her father was too young and her grandfather was too old, but that the selection committee made an exception for them as long as they moved into the project together.⁵⁴ The Hoskin families were able to find two farm lots across the road from one another. Once selected, the families either moved themselves if possible or a truck was sent from Lakeview to collect the family.⁵⁵ Ms. Verna Haynes Hartfield remembered that her family had moved to the community on a truck with two other families, as no one family had many possessions to move.⁵⁶ Once the family arrived, they would sign a three to five year trial lease and be given initial funding and supplies to start a new crop on their newly settled land. This lease agreement allowed those families that were unprepared to fully participate and/or submit to the government requirements regarding farming practices or community development to leave

⁵³ William Harris, Local County Agent – Negro, Annual Report, November 1937, MG03077 AHC, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁵⁴ Interview with Nora Hoskin Sykes, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁵⁵ Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁵⁶ Interview with Verna Haynes Hartfield, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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the project. Mr. Sidney Fitzhugh, Jr., who was 4 years old when his family moved to Lakeview in 1938, noted that the government was trying to teach people to work together but that some people didn't want to take orders from anyone as it was just too much like the plantations they had just left.⁵⁷ Mr. Leon Phillips, Jr., who was 3 years old when his family moved to the area in 1938, noted in his oral history of the project that the government provided close supervision in the homes as well as on the farms.⁵⁸ The women of the project were required to can a certain amount of food for each family member. Canned items included various vegetables and meats that were produced on the farms; such as "peas, greens, pork sausage, spare ribs, quite a bit of other stuff."⁵⁹

Some of the initial families selected for the community did end up leaving for various reasons. This allowed other families to move into the community. In the first few years of the community, it was common for families to move farms, sometimes up to four times, before they finally settled on a specific lot.⁶⁰ Ms. Spencer Johnson Mansfield noted in an oral history of the community that her family lived on four separate farms and eventually settled on Highway 44 near the lake.⁶¹ Ms. Genora Gladney Frazier, the first baby girl born on the project, remembered that her family lived on three farms before finally settling permanently on Wall Street.⁶² The transitions between farms were due in part to the varying size of homes built and the variation in acreage at each farm. As families left the community or new homes were completed, those already in the community would be given the first chance to upgrade. Especially large families were often given first choice on the larger houses that were built later.⁶³ After their trial period in the community, those families who had satisfied the terms of their lease were given the opportunity to receive mortgages on their property.

The Lakeview Project property was developed to include lots averaging roughly 40 acres each that were bounded on at least one edge by an access road. Highways 85 and 44 had been constructed previous to the development of the Lakeview Resettlement Project and the state roads and the railroad that travelled through the area provided for quick and easy access to the project site. The new government designed community of Lakeview was developed over the top of an existing farming community known as Lake View or Lakeview and Lakeview Plantation. This area was based mostly around local plantations as evidenced by an early press report of a 1935 land acquisition where the purchased plantations are noted as The Key Plantation, Keese Plantation, Wooten Plantation, Thompson Plantation and the Higgins Plantation, ranging in size

⁵⁷ Interview with Sidney Fitzhugh, Jr., Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁵⁸ Interview with Leon Phillips, Jr., Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁶¹ Interview with Spencer Johnson-Mansfield, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁶² Interview with Genora Gladney Frazier, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

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from 1222 acres to 358 acres.⁶⁴ The location was also close to the community of Elaine, where the attempt by local black farmers to collectively bargain for better payment for their cotton crops in late 1919 was met with suspicion and then violence when a shooting at a union meeting inspired a white mob to massacre local black residents.⁶⁵ Then, to make matters worse, many local black residents of the county were rounded up and tried for a range of crimes from murder to rioting. The Lakeview Project was seen by some as a small step toward justice in the area, although the real reason for the project's black focus was most likely because the local area was already predominantly black, so that developments would not change any of the racial demographics of the area.⁶⁶ While the FSA did try to recruit African-American resettlement clients in proportion to their numbers in the recently completed 1930 census, the agency was sensitive to local opinion in the south especially. Agency leaders did not locate "negro projects" in areas that would possibly inflame local racial tensions. Instead, they placed African-American projects in areas where the population was already predominately black.⁶⁷ While many at the Resettlement Administration and the later Farm Security Administration understood and tried to combat the issues of racial segregation and blatant racism they were also hampered by the political realities of the day.⁶⁸

The Lakeview Resettlement Project in Phillips County, Arkansas, is located on a site that was roughly 5600 acres in size at its initial purchase. Ninety-seven family farm plots were initially planned; however, only 91 farms were eventually settled by resettlement clients. Lot 5 and part of lot 26 was given over to the Lakeview Cooperative Association and lot 6 was used as the site of the local school/community hall. This school was seen as the highlight of the community by many of the surviving early members of the community. Ms. Clara Eiland Gould noted that the brand new school was "beautiful, the facilities were much better, nothing like it" when comparing it to the previous school she attended in the Altheimer community in Jefferson County before moving to Lakeview.⁶⁹ Lot 7 was reserved for use of the project's manager and also used as an area to house the cooperatively-owned livestock and equipment. One of the original 97 parcels was removed from the plan due to the realignment of Johnson Bayou along the northern edge of the project. A few other planned farm lots were also determined to be too small for productive family use after the introduction of a drainage and flood control ditch, so plots 10 and 11 were eventually merged into larger combined fields. The community parcel, lot 5 and part of lot 26, included the community association offices, the large community gin and other co-op facilities. By the early 1940s, the local cooperative association ran "a gas station, a machinery repair shop, a store, a cotton gin, a farm supply service, a feed mill, a sirup[sic.] mill,

⁶⁴ "RA Will Buy 5,400 Acres Near Helena," *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 4 November 1935, p. 12.

⁶⁵ Grif Stockley, "Elaine Massacre," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 17 July 2018, www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net, Accessed 1 October 2018.

⁶⁶ Donald Holley, "The Negro in the New Deal Resettlement Program," *Agricultural History*, Vol. 45, No. 3 (July 1971), p. 184.

⁶⁷ Adams, "This Land Ain't My Land," p. 329.

⁶⁸ Sidney Baldwin, *Poverty and Politics: The Rise and Decline of the Farm Security Administration*, Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

⁶⁹ Interview with Clara Eiland Gould, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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and livestock and heavy machinery services.”⁷⁰ Only a small portion of the original gin building remains, mostly as a ruin, but the large field still includes foundational remnants of the several buildings that were on the site. The community store was operated by the Resettlement Administration to ensure fair trading practices. The operation of the store was later turned over to the co-operative association.

A good portion of the farmland in the project area had already been cleared and was in use by earlier plantations while a portion of the more inaccessible areas were still timbered. The timbered land was used by the early resettlement clients as a source of firewood for cooking and heating in the cold months. Ms. Ardie Washington Funderburk remembered that some farms were strewn with tree stumps that had to be removed, these areas were known as “new ground.”⁷¹ After the remaining timber land was cleared on the established farm lots, the soil was quickly developed for agricultural use. The most common crop for the resettlement clients was the cash crop of cotton with small portions of farms also producing forage crops for the animals still required to work the farm.⁷² Also, family gardens for canning and truck crops or locally saleable vegetable crops were common. Ms. Blanche Washington James, as well as others who gave oral histories of the property, recalled that many people grew sorghum so that they could produce sorghum syrup, often colloquially called sorghum molasses.⁷³ Mr. Leon Phillips, Jr., noted that most families raised all of their family’s food, needing only to buy flour.⁷⁴

Many farmers also supplemented their farm income by practicing trades and skills they learned through Works Progress Administration training or by creating small businesses; including starting a barber shop like Mr. Frank Washington or starting a small grocery store like the Jessie and Ada Carter family.⁷⁵ Ms. Shirley Carter, who was born in Lakeview, noted that the Lakeview Project gave her “something to be proud of that a person, people with hardly no education, my dad had...maybe first grade,...my mother had up to third grade education ... and they came here and had a business, were entrepreneurs.”⁷⁶ Today, the land continues to be used predominantly for agricultural use. In 2017, based on agricultural data from the United States Department of Agriculture, much of the farm land was used for soybeans, some of which was

⁷⁰ “The Resettlement Projects,” *Hearings before the Select Committee of the House Committee on Agriculture, to Investigate the Activities of the Farm Security Administration*, House of Representatives, 78th Congress, First Session, Part 3, Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1944. p. 1044.

⁷¹ Interview with Ardie Washington Funderburk, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁷² FHA Project Description Book – National Archives record group 96, copy in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

⁷³ Interview with Blanche Washington James, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁷⁴ Interview with Leon Phillips, Jr., Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

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rotated with winter wheat.⁷⁷ The area is also used for cultivation of sorghum, rice, and corn. The area surrounding the Lakeview Project property is used for the cultivation of soybeans, rice, and cotton.

A few scattered examples of the early home types, with various alterations, survive; as noted in Section 7. A typical farm unit included a five or six room wood-framed house, a barn, and a chicken coop. Individual wells were drilled for each house site with an indoor kitchen pump installed. The units also included a wood-framed smoke-house and outhouse. When Ms. Essie Lee Dolphin arrived at the Lakeview Project she was 9 years old. In describing her arrival at her new home in Lakeview she noted in comparison to her previous home in Lonoke County, it was “a nice home, didn’t rain on you, couldn’t see the stars through the roof, it was just beautiful... All painted white, it was a beautiful place.”⁷⁸ She also remembered that every farm “had a home, a smokehouse, a barn, a hen house every farm.” There were also only a few families that had automobiles when they moved to the project. Ms. Dolphin noted that “when we moved ... the only thing here were mules, horses, wagons, pigs, and chickens.”

The houses were designed for the eventual installation of indoor plumbing, but this would only be installed as the property owners invested in sewage systems themselves as was common at other planned communities, both black and white. The houses and barns were built near the closest access road to the property. A survey of the area in the 1970s noted that most of the surviving original homes from the project existed along Martin Luther King Drive. Today, a few scattered examples of original homes remain, with most located along the main central street of the project, Martin Luther King Drive. Many of the houses throughout the community, in the years after the Farm Security Administration pulled out, were sheathed in a later siding material (metal or asbestos) and the front porch space was enclosed to provide more interior space. Also additions were common to enlarge the living space of the house or as exterior carports.

During 1936 and 1937, a second phase of the project, made up of 2550.97 acres, was purchased in Lee and Phillips County for more resettlement of individual families. These additional farm plots were roughly equally divided between white and black farm families. An area known at the time as the Lesser-Goldman Tract in Lee County was dedicated to the black farm resettlement families. These outlying farms were never considered to be a part of the Lakeview community and are not included in this nomination. As was policy at the time, the resettlement of families were to follow the racial demographic of nearby communities, with black farm families being settled either in new communities or in areas with a local population of black farmers so as not to upset the racial tensions of any area. These outlying farms were developed as individual “infiltration” type properties where small plots of land were to be bought and settled by Resettlement clients within established farming communities.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Cropland Data Layer.

<https://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape/>.

⁷⁸ Interview with Essie Lee Dolphin, Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Oral History Project, 2007-2008, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁷⁹ Holley, “The New Deal and Farm Tenancy,” p. 57.

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Between November of 1935 and February of 1936, all of the projects eventually initiated and completed by the Resettlement Administration in Region VI were approved. The Lakeview Resettlement Project was conceived by the Resettlement Administration to serve as a first step in an effort to check the local trend toward landlessness as many blacks were forced for various reasons from positions as sharecroppers and tenants to work as farm laborers, or to simply no work at all.⁸⁰ As the Lakeview Project was nearing its official opening in January of 1938, the Farm Security Administration, which had been formed in 1937 and took over from the Resettlement Administration, pointed out that the project had a two-fold goal:

“First, it will provide a practical and concrete demonstration of what can be done to enable worthy negro farmers to achieve ownership of small farms and a better standard of living by providing sufficient capital on liberal terms and sympathetic supervision in following a sound type of farming.

Second, it will constitute a goal toward which the 60,000 negro tenant farmers in Arkansas may aim.”⁸¹

In local newspaper articles discussing the success of the Resettlement Administration’s efforts in the Mississippi River Delta, the most common image used to illustrate news reports of farmers starting new lives on government purchased land is a pair of images showing a dilapidated sharecropper or tenant farmer shack juxtaposed with the new white painted farmhouse recently constructed for resettlement clients in Lakeview or other project areas.⁸² Sometimes the images are specific and show actual homes in the area before and after the government intervention while others show more generic images with no specific locations noted. Sometimes the associated caption would be couched in the racial views of the time: “A typical house in the project. Small, simple in design, inexpensive, it is adequate for the negro families, and is far superior to the ‘shotgun’ shacks from which most of the negro sharecroppers came.”⁸³ In reality, the houses were based off of the same plans as the homes built in white resettlement communities.

⁸⁰ “The Resettlement Projects,” *Hearings before the Select Committee of the House Committee on Agriculture, to Investigate the Activities of the Farm Security Administration*, House of Representatives, 78th Congress, First Session, Part 3, Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1944. pp. 1030-1033, 1044.

⁸¹ “87 of State’s Best Negro Farm Families Will Reside Soon in Utopia Near Helena,” *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 26 December 1937, p. 8.

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ Gene Rutland, “FSA Seeks ‘Way Out’ for Negro Sharecroppers,” Little Rock, Arkansas, 6 August 1939.

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Untitled Photo

Photographer: Russell Lee

FSA - RA - Library of Congress, November 1938

Lot 1666 (43), <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017738659>

The photographs of the newly constructed homes and small family farms on the delta landscape were powerful images of renewal in an area hard hit by years of flood, drought, and financial depression. This image was also a powerful rebuttal to the images of poor southern farm laborers, both white and black that were taken by New Deal photographers and were seen across the country and in many ways came to be the stereotypical image of the poor southern farmer in trouble. The images taken in Lakeview of homes and activities by New Deal photographer Russell Lee during the 1930s are atypical in this respect, especially since they portray successful black farming families, including women and children. The farmers are shown in new homes, learning new trades while the women and children are shown being taught home sciences such as meat processing and vegetable canning.⁸⁴ The community also developed a close relationship with the local agricultural extension office. The local Negro county agent, William Harris, noted that:

“The outlook for Agricultural Extension Service work among our people in this county seems brighter, if possible, than ever before. Farmers are showing themselves to be more appreciative of the services of the local county agent than ever. The Lakeview resettlement project should give to our people, not only in the county, but in this section of the state, a greater urge to become home owners and farm owners, and to use wisely and well all opportunities for economizing and becoming such. I have attended nearly all the meetings held by the Farm Security Administration for interviewing and inspecting families making

⁸⁴ Lakeview Project Photographs, Photographed by Lee Russell, Farm Security Administration – Office of War Information Photograph Collection (Library of Congress). Lot 1666, December 1938.

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applications for acceptance on the Lakeview Project, and have been instrumental in recommending quite a few of such families that have been accepted.”⁸⁵

After a few years of transition some families were not successful in fulfilling the terms of their initial lease and other families were selected. By the mid-1940s, when the Farm Security Administration’s oversight of the project was replaced by the USDA and the Farmers Home Administration, the families that inhabited the community were given structured mortgages and most became successful land owners.⁸⁶ Although basically forgotten as a government initiated community by outsiders, there was and is a powerful community connection to “the project” as the area and community were known. Those families who were successful in gaining ownership of project land raised their families in this new and promising community. Also, the stable community provided by the Resettlement Administration project allowed the citizens of the project to not only become land-owners, but also to become active in the political and social movements of the time period, including the early civil-rights movement.⁸⁷ In 1940, the Committee on Negro Organization and the Phillips County branch of the NAACP, held an inaugural three-day conference at the Lakeview Project that brought in more than 500 delegates.⁸⁸ The conference was dedicated to helping unify the activities of those in Arkansas who “engaged in the struggle for social, economic, and political advancement.”

⁸⁵ William Harris, Local County Agent – Negro, Annual Report, November 1937, MG03077 AHC, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁸⁶ Timeline of the Lakeview Project, files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

⁸⁷ Adams, “This Land Ain’t My Land,” p. 327.

⁸⁸ “Arkansans Seek To Unify Race At Confab,” *The Chicago Defender*, Chicago, Illinois, 21 September 1940, p. 8.

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Lakeview Project House
ca. 1970
Files of the AR Historic Preservation Program

In the long run, the Lakeview Project's success in establishing a community of independent, land-owning African-American farm families was a factor in its slow decline throughout the end of the 20th century. As noted in the 1943 congressional investigation of the Farm Security Administration's resettlement programs:

“Farm Security Administrations’ main responsibility has been to put the projects and the families on them in such order that the properties could be disposed of to the residents ... on such terms as would enable the families to retain them as a secure home and an economic base on which they could make a decent living and rear children who would not have to be picked up off future relief rolls.”⁸⁹

As families were able to provide financial security and send their children for advanced educations outside the community, the second generation left the community for opportunities elsewhere, leading to a sizable portion of absentee ownership and leasing of farmland to a small group of local farmers. Also, this had led to many home sites being abandoned or removed. However, the divisions within the landscape and the surviving home sites have remained as a visible remnant of the government design for the project.

⁸⁹ “The Resettlement Projects,” *Hearings before the Select Committee of the House Committee on Agriculture, to Investigate the Activities of the Farm Security Administration*, House of Representatives, p. 1032.

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Unfortunately, the successes of Lakeview in providing new opportunities and educations to many farm families in a real and powerful way were on just such a small scale that they had no influence on the larger cultural and social issues of tenancy and landlessness in both the white and black farm families of the south overall. Although early reports on the Lakeview Project noted that:

“The success of the project here may go far in establishing a permanent public policy in attacking the evil of increasing farm tenancy among negro farmers of which there are 60,000 in Arkansas alone. If the government is able to buy neglected tracts of farm land from absentee owners, enable tenants to become owners and, at the same time, return the cost of the venture to the treasury through liquidation of the investment, there is reason to believe that the plan could be enlarged to constitute a potent weapon in the national attack against the farm tenancy evil.”⁹⁰

The resettlement projects created by the Resettlement Administration and later overseen by the Farm Security Administration were never able to do more than create small-scale changes. It seemed that everyone recognized the problems of tenancy and the sharecropping system as well as the continued breakdown in the agrarian social order due to the Great Depression, but the government experiments and programs brought to bear were just never enough to galvanize any lasting change. It would not be until the mechanization of farming after World War II and the elimination of the need for farm labor for many aspects of the agricultural industry that the culture of tenant farming throughout the south was actually transformed and in many places simply eliminated.

In the Lakeview community, many families that permanently settled in the new project are represented by descendants who still own their family’s farm lots. At one point in the early 1970s, it was estimated that the Lakeview community represented one of the largest concentrations of black-owned farm land in the United States, numbering 4580 contiguous acres.⁹¹ While many of these later descendants no longer live in the area, many original family members continue to be members of the Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends and the Lake View Cooperative Association. These two groups are dedicated to keeping the history of the Lakeview Resettlement Project alive within their community and across the state.

The Lakeview Resettlement Project is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, under community planning and development and agriculture as a landscape designed to be used by a community of small independently owned and operated family farms with associated cooperative association properties. This resettlement project is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, under Ethnic Heritage: Black and Social History for its role as the earliest resettlement community specifically designated and planned for African-

⁹⁰ “87 of State’s Best Negro Farm Families Will Reside Soon in Utopia Near Helena,” *Arkansas Democrat*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 26 December 1937, p. 8.

⁹¹ Gordon D. Morgan, *Changing Concepts of Community in a Small Arkansas Town*, Agricultural Experiment Station, Division of Agriculture: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1978. p. 1.

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American resettlement clients in Region VI, which encompassed Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, of the Resettlement Administration which later evolved into the Farm Security Administration. Announced in 1935, opened in January of 1938 and formally dedicated in November of 1938, the Lakeview Project is an important surviving agricultural landscape designed to help black Arkansans overcome the cultural and systemic problems of the sharecropper and tenant farmer system in the Mississippi River delta.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PH0234, PH0540-PH0542, PH0545-
PH0547, PH0549-PH0565

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property roughly 4371 acres

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

A: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 703509.03	Northing: 3810545.33
B: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 700386.99	Northing: 3808852.74
C: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 696920.53	Northing: 3808773.65
D: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 696916.74	Northing: 3809574.88
E: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 698532.68	Northing: 3809598.68
F: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 698529.90	Northing: 3810468.52
G: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 699489.11	Northing: 3810883.72
H: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 698871.11	Northing: 3811668.90
I: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 698830.07	Northing: 3811823.91
J: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 701033.90	Northing: 3812287.59
K: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 701055.14	Northing: 3811549.73
L: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 701990.91	Northing: 3811891.76
M: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 701998.45	Northing: 3812496.19
N: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 701839.48	Northing: 3812941.72
O: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 701832.96	Northing: 3812608.50
P: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 702632.80	Northing: 3812941.28
Q: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 703852.89	Northing: 3812946.03
R: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 703848.86	Northing: 3813757.63
S: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 704227.40	Northing: 3813761.18
T: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 704239.46	Northing: 3814163.80
U: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 705049.27	Northing: 3814185.08
V: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 705057.25	Northing: 3813781.35
W: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 706665.72	Northing: 3813787.73
X: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 706690.48	Northing: 3812721.94

Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

Phillips County, Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

Y: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 705157.98	Northing: 3811372.78
Z: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 705105.74	Northing: 3811370.71
AA: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 705094.16	Northing: 3812170.70
BB: Zone: 15 S	Easting: 703456.42	Northing: 3812140.11

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Starting at point A at the intersection of Highway 44 and Highway 85. (A: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 703509.03, Northing: 3810545.33) Following a line west along the path of Highway 44, along the northeast shore of Old Town Lake to a point B. (B: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 700386.99, Northing: 3808852.74) Then west along a portion of Phillips County Road 438 to the intersection with Phillips County Road 437 to a point C. (C: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 696920.53, Northing: 3808773.65) Then north to point D along the top of a levy along a gravel access road. (D: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 696916.74, Northing: 3809574.88) Then east along the gravel levy access road to a point at E. (E: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 698532.68, Northing: 3809598.68). Then north along the western property lines of original properties (lots 79, 78, 77) to a point F. (F: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 698529.90, Northing: 3810468.52) Then northeast along the northern property lines of original lots 77, 76, 75, 74, and 73 to point G, at the intersection of Woodland Road and Wall Street. (G: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 699489.11, Northing: 3810883.72). Then northwest along Woodland Road then following the western property line of original lot 89 to a point H. (H: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 698871.11, Northing: 3811668.90) Then north along the original property line of lot 89 to a point I. (I: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 698830.07, Northing: 3811823.91) Then northeast along the northern property lines of original lots 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, and 95 to a point J, along the previous route of Johnson Bayou Ditch. (J: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 701033.90, Northing: 3812287.59) Then south along the east property line of original property lot 95 to a point K. (K: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 701055.14, Northing: 3811549.73) Then northeast along Wall Street and then along the northern property lines of original properties including lots 65, 64, 63, and 62 to a point L. (L: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 701990.91, Northing: 3811891.76) Then north along the western property line of lot 97 to a point along the southern property line of original property 96 at point M. (M: Zone: 15 S Easting: 701998.45, Northing: 3812496.19) Then west along the southern property line of lot 96 to a point at N. (N: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 701839.48, Northing: 3812941.72) Then north along the western property line of original property lot 96 to a point O, at the corner of the northern property line of lot 96 along the previous route of the Johnson Bayou Ditch. (O: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 701832.96, Northing: 3812608.50) Then northeast along the northern property line of lot 96 to a point P. (P: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 702632.80, Northing: 3812941.28) Then east along the northern property line of original lots 60, 32, 33, and 34, following partially along Phillips County Road 354 to a point at Q. (Q: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 703852.89, Northing: 3812946.03) Then north along the western property line of original property lots 55 and 55 to a point at R. (R: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 703848.86, Northing: 3813757.63) Then east along the northern property line

Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District
Name of Property

Phillips County, Arkansas
County and State

of original property lot 55 to a point at S. (S: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 704227.40, Northing: 3813761.18) Then north along the western property line of original property lot 54 to a point at T. (T: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 704239.46, Northing: 3814163.80) Then east along the northern property line of original property lot 54 to a point U, along Phillips County Road 347. (U: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 705049.27, Northing: 3814185.08) Then south along Phillips County Road 347 to a point at V. (V: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 705057.25, Northing: 3813781.35) Then west along the northern property lines of original lot 53, 50, 49, and 48 to a point W, along Phillips County Road 354. (W: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 706665.72, Northing: 3813787.73) Then south along Phillips County Road 354 and along the eastern property lines of original lots 48 and 47 to a point along an irrigation ditch at point X. (X: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 706690.48, Northing: 3812721.94). Then west along the irrigation ditch and along the southern property line of original lots 47 and 45, curving along the existing irrigation ditch and canal to the northern boundary of Section 23, Township 3 South, Range 3 East at a point Y. (Y: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 705157.98, Northing: 3811372.78) Then west along the northern boundary of Section 23 to a point at Z. (Z: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 705105.74, Northing: 3811370.71) Then north along the western property line of the original lot 45, along the eastern side of Section 14, T3 South, R 3 East to a point at AA. (AA: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 705094.16, Northing: 3812170.70) Then west along the southern property lines of original lots 40, 39, 38, 37, 36, 35, 34, and 33 to a point along Highway 85. (BB: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 703456.42, Northing: 3812140.11) Then south along Highway 85 to the original starting point at A. (A: Zone: 15 S, Easting: 703509.03, Northing: 3810545.33)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described above includes the large contiguous block of farms originally planned and created by the Resettlement Administration for the Lake View Project as well as all of the gravel roads planned and constructed by the Resettlement Administration for access throughout the project.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Larry Jordan Sr., President

organization: Lakeview Cooperative Association Legacy Committee

name/title: Gwendolyn Washington Bush, Mable Washington Bynum, Pearl Phillips Howse

organization: Local Lakeview Consultants

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian

organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 1100 North Street

city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201

e-mail: callie.williams@arkansas.gov

telephone: 501-324-9880

date: 10/01/2018

Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District
Name of Property

Phillips County, Arkansas
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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: Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

City or Vicinity: Lake View

County: Phillips

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams

Date Photographed: December 2017, September 2018

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

- 1 of 31: Lakeview Gin and original store and cooperative association office location near the intersection of Market Street and Highway 44, camera facing northwest.
- 2 of 31: Lakeview Gin, Side Facades, camera facing southeast.
- 3 of 31: Lakeview Gin, Side Façade, camera facing northeast.
- 4 of 31: Lakeview Gin, Side Facades, camera facing northwest.
- 5 of 31: Farm 53 House, Front and Side Facades, camera facing northeast.

Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

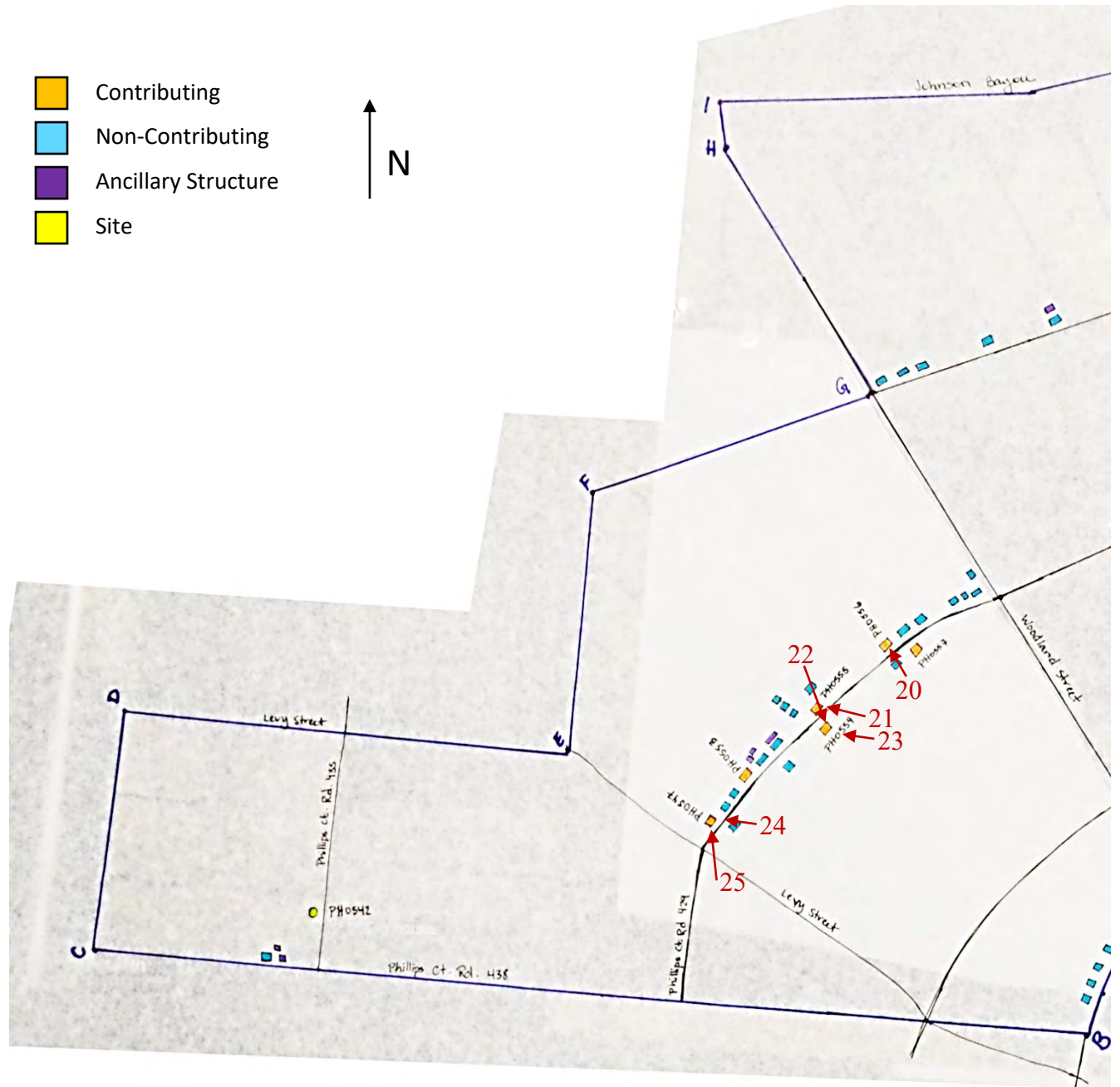
Phillips County, Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

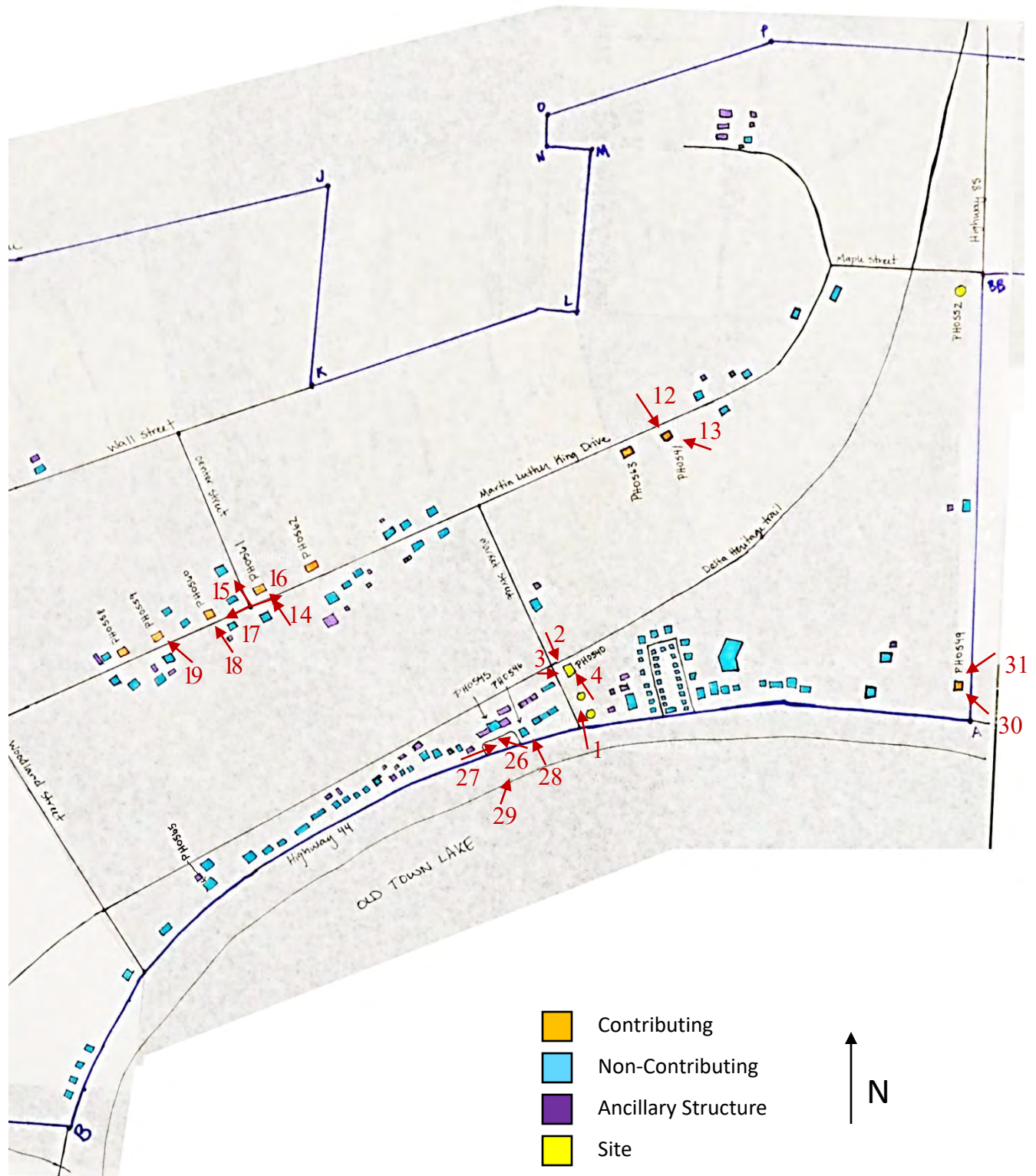
- 6 of 31: Farm 38 House, Front Façade, camera facing south.
- 7 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, along Phillips County Road 354, camera facing east.
- 8 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, intersection of Phillips County Roads 354 and 347, camera facing east.
- 9 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, intersection of Phillips County Roads 354 and 347, camera facing north.
- 10 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, intersection of Phillips County Roads 354 and 347, camera facing west.
- 11 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, intersection of Phillips County Roads 354 and 347, camera facing south.
- 12 of 31: Washington Family House (Farm 27 House), Front Facade, camera facing southeast.
- 13 of 31: Washington Family House (Farm 27 House), Rear and Side Facades, camera facing west.
- 14 of 31: House on Farm 67, Front and Side Facades, camera facing northwest.
- 15 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and Center Street, camera facing northwest.
- 16 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and Center Street, camera facing northeast.
- 17 of 31: Lakeview Project Streetscape, intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and Center Street, camera facing southwest.
- 18 of 31: Farm 68 House, Front Façade, camera facing northwest.
- 19 of 31: Farm 69 House, Front and Side Facades, camera facing northwest.
- 20 of 31: Farm 75 House, Front and Side Facades, camera facing west.
- 21 of 31: Farm 77 House, Front and Side Facades, camera facing west.
- 22 of 31: King Family House (Farm 14 House), Front Façade, camera facing southeast.
- 23 of 31: King Family House (Farm 14 House), Rear and Side Facades, camera facing west.
- 24 of 31: Steele Family House (Farm 80 House), Front and Side Facades, camera facing northwest.
- 25 of 31: Steele Family House (Farm 80 House), Front and Side Facades, camera facing north.
- 26 of 31: Lakeview School, Front Façade, camera facing northwest.
- 27 of 31: Lakeview School, Front Façade, and Lakeview Baptist Church, Side Façade, camera facing northeast.
- 28 of 31: Lake View Baptist Church, Front Façade, camera facing northwest.
- 29 of 31: Lake View Baptist Church, Side Façade, camera facing northeast.
- 30 of 31: Carter Family House, Front and Side Façades, camera facing northwest.
- 31 of 31: Carter Family House, Front and Side Façades, camera facing southwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

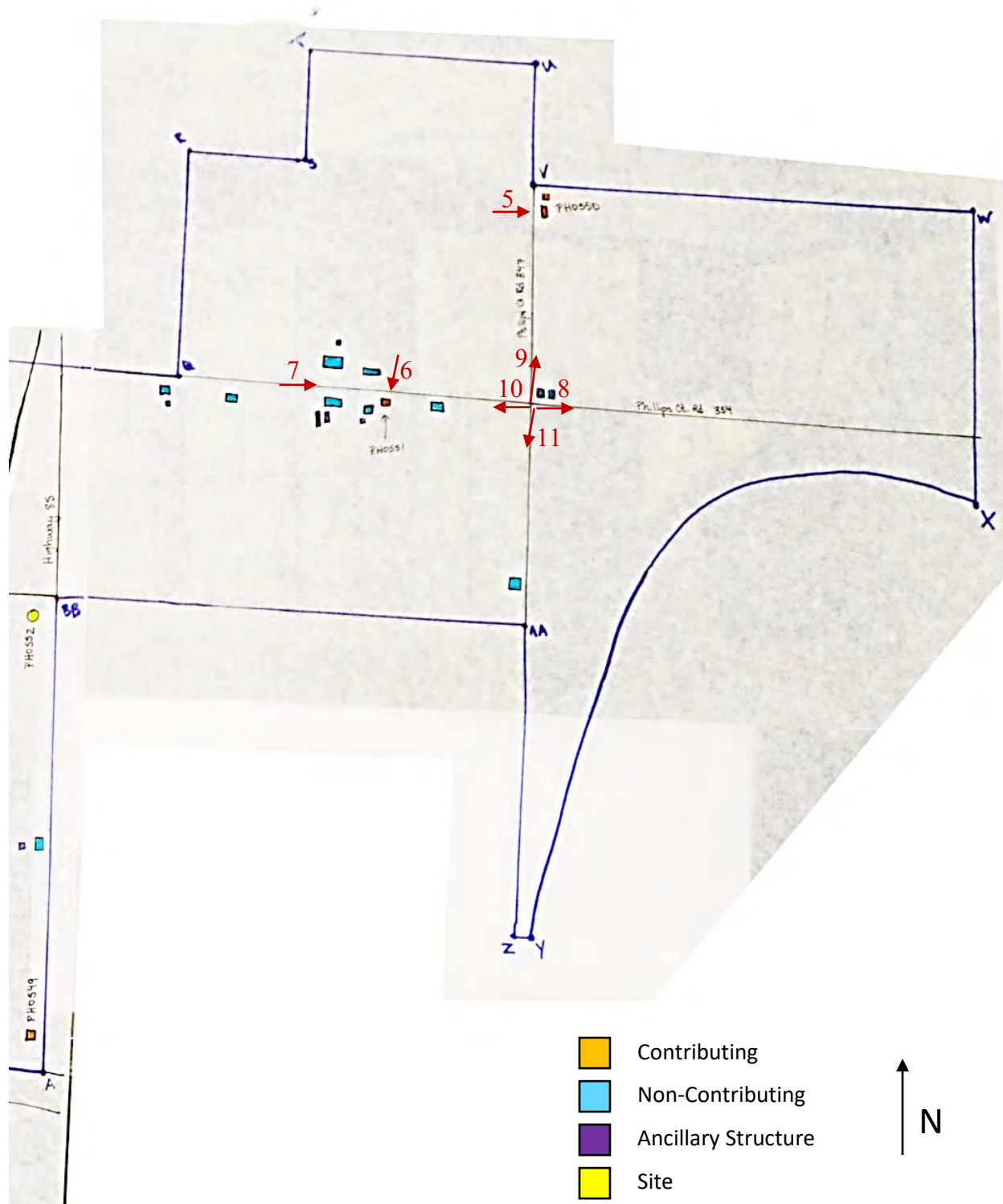
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District, Detail of Resource Map, Western Section
 (PH___ indicates resource survey numbers, red numbers with arrows indicate photo locations)



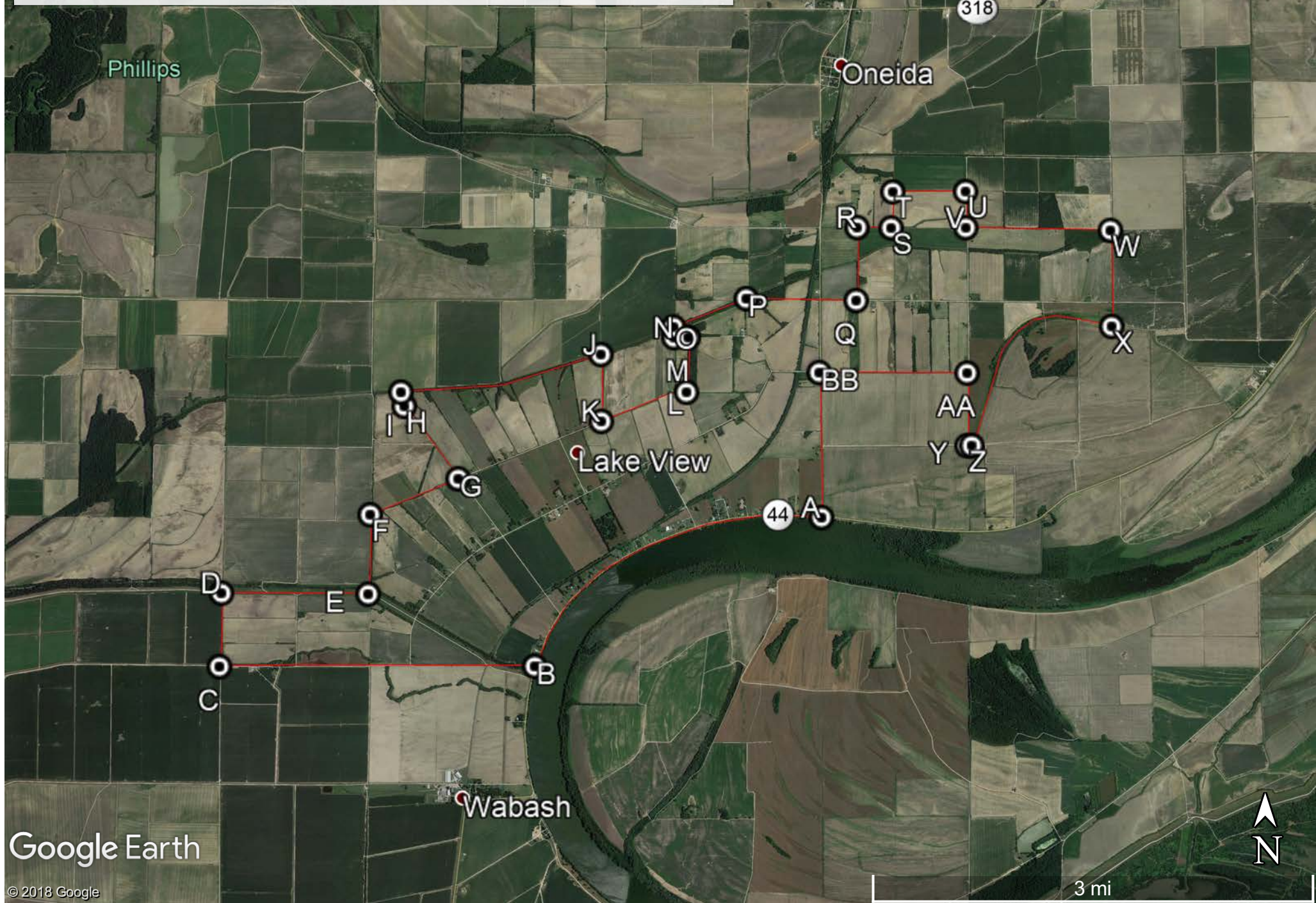
Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District, Detail of Resource Map, Central Section
 (PH___ indicates resource survey numbers, red numbers with arrows indicate photo locations)



Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District, Detail of Resource Map, Eastern Section
(PH___ indicates resource survey numbers, red numbers with arrows indicate photo locations)

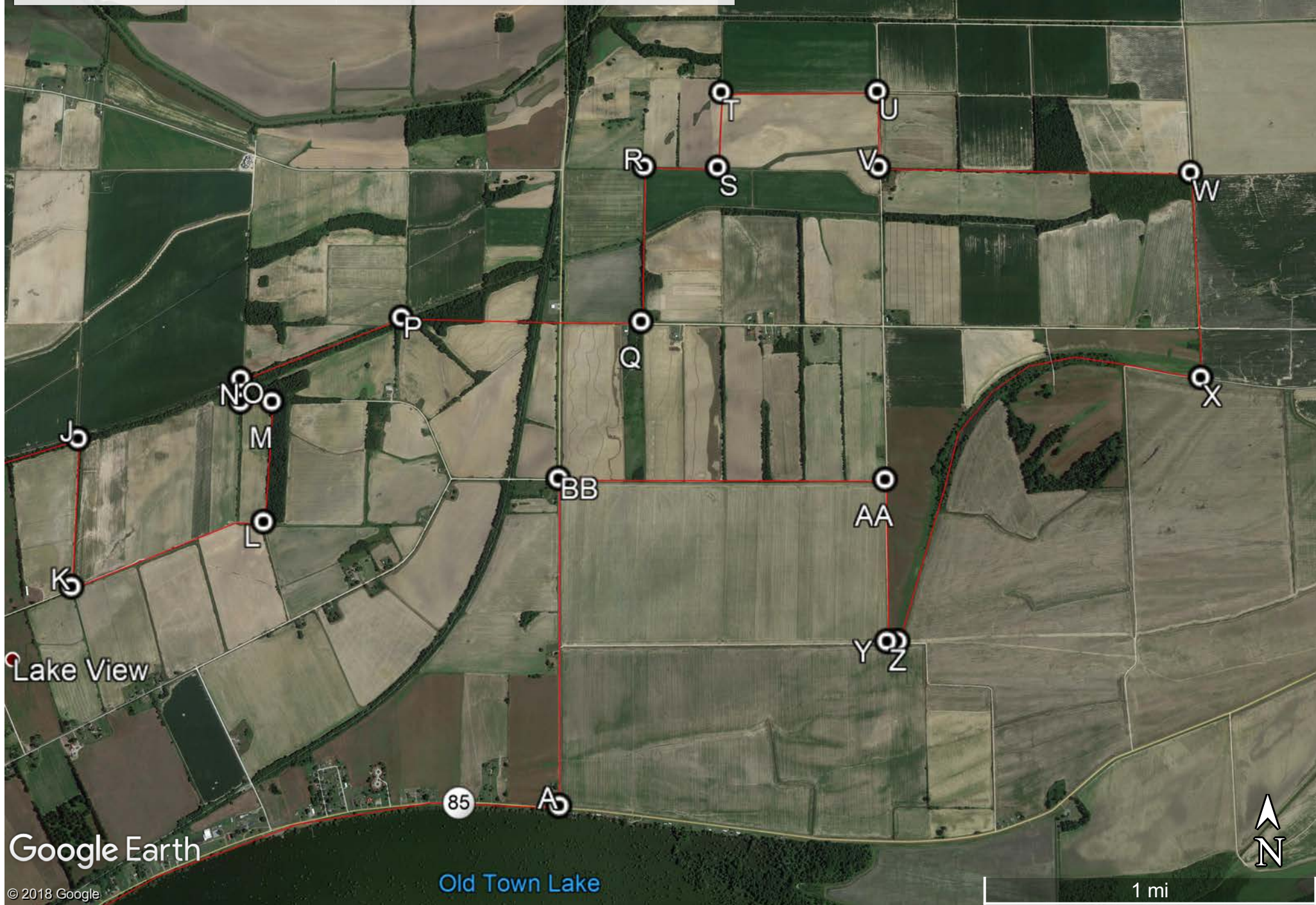
Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

Lake View, Phillips County, Arkansas



Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

Lake View, Phillips County, Arkansas



Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District

Lake View, Phillips County, Arkansas



Google Earth

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LAKEVIEW SCHOOL

LAKE VIEW
CITY LIBRARY
AND
RESOURCE CENTER



EAST VIEW
CITY LIBRARY
1000 W. 10TH ST.
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District
Multiple Name: _____
State & County: ARKANSAS, Phillips

Date Received: 12/13/2018 Date of Pending List: 12/28/2018 Date of 16th Day: 1/14/2019 Date of 45th Day: 1/28/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003357
Nominator: _____

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 1/28/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: A Resettlement Administration/Farm Security Administration agricultural settlement project specifically for African Americans. There are some of the extant houses remaining, and the field patterns, road network, and division of public service core are still readily evident on the landscape.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian
Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : **No** see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

December 5, 2018

Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington D.C. 20240

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District – Lake View, Phillips
County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Lakeview Resettlement Project Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. 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 Callie Williams of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:clw

Enclosure



1100 North Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184

info@arkansaspreservation.org
www.arkansaspreservation.com

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