National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



	s in <i>How to Complete</i> —complete applicable	National Register Formes sections	s	
1. Nam	ie			
historic Rhod	des Park (Highland	d Avenue) Kist	Dist	
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation Karanly L	pounded by S. 1 mand S. 30 +	to the S. 13th and	Highland Kleres
street & number	Bounded by 10th	Ave. So., Highland	Avenue and 13th Aven see attached boundary	ue, South
city, town	Birmingham	<u> </u>	description) congressional district	6
state Alaba	ema co	ode 01 coun	ty Jefferson	code 073
3. Clas	sification			
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public privateX both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progres Accessible yes: restricted _X_ yes: unrestricte no	entertainment government	museum X park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	erty		
name See	Multiple attached list of p	roperty owners		
street & number				
city, town		vicinity of	state	
	ation of Lec	gal Descrip	tion	,
		efferson County Co	urthouse	
street & number	716 21st Stree	et, North		
city, town	Birmingham	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	state	Alabama
Jefferson C	resentation o. Historic Sites ghland Aven. Hist.	Survey of 1972 & 1	Surveys $_{ m Indiv}$ 976; NRHP 1975 (The Formal property been determined elements)	idual properties cited inslem House) and NRHP legible? _X yes no
date 1972, 19	975, 1976, & 1977		_X_ federal _X_ sta	ite X_ county local
depository for su	urvey records Jeffe	rson Co. Hist. Com	mission	
ty, town	Birmingham		state	Alabama

7. Description

good ruins altered moved date fair unexposed	Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rhodes Park Historic District is located on the lower ranges of the northern slope of Red Mountain, at the southern edge of Jones Valley, approximately two miles from Birmingham's central business district. Covering roughly a ten-square-block area, the district is one of the most intact of the city's early 20th century streetcar neighborhoods, containing some of the city's finest residential architecture of the period along with a solid concentration of speculative middle-class housing, much of it also architect-designed. The integration of a lightly wooded, uneven terrain and a rather dense built environment of detached houses and scattered apartment buildings gives the district its distinct character. (#1, 2, 3, 4)

The topography of the land, a series of hollows, knolls, and ridges, shaped the development of the district. Some of its streets are laid out to follow the shape of the land, forming crescents and circles which merge into the city's original grid pattern to the north. Highland Avenue, the landscaped boulevard that was the central artery for development of the area as well as the major transportation link to the city, accentuates the natural beauty of the setting, following the winding contours along the base of the mountain, creating a series of parks in the deep hollows along its route. (#3) The second of these, Rhodes Park, is one of the focal points of the district. (#6)

The buildings in the district vary in scale from the eight-story H-plan Altamont Apartment tower to the large and impressive houses along Highland Avenue to the more modest one and two-story houses on 50-foot frontage lots lining the streets along the northern edge of the district. In general, the houses diminish somewhat in scale the farther they are away from Highland Avenue. Despite these variations in scale, the district holds together by its density, fairly regular spacing and set-back, compatiblity of materials and tree-lined streets. Given the strength of these factors, the contrast in scale actually adds complexity and vitality to the district. (#7)

The characteristic building materials of the district are red and gold brick, stucco, half-timbering, shingles, clapboards, and random rubble, which appear in a variety of combinations. Rustic, textured materials are used with equal sensitivity in the grander houses along Highland Avenue and Rhodes Circle and in the more modest, often speculative, houses. This can be seen in the use of rubble and rough-cut shingles in the Craftsman style house at 1051 28th Street So. (#8) and the rubble and stucco with half-timbering in the Craftsman-Tudor Revival style house at 2848 Highland Avenue. (#9) Similar quality in design and craftsmanship is seen in the fine brickwork throughout the district as illustrated in the Colonial Revival style house at 2838 Highland Avenue (#10) and the four developer built houses at 2900, 2904, 2908, and 2912 10th Court So. (#11)

Of the 166 buildings within the district, 158 (95%) are considered to be architecturally and/or historically significant. The significant buildings date from the late 1880s to the late 1920s; 101 (60%) date between 1907 and 1916.

The earliest buildings in the district, dating from 1888-1896, are along 10th Avenue So. and include two frame Victorian Italiate style houses (2911 and 2929; c. 1889) (#12, 13), a Victorian cottage (2916; c. 1896), (#14) and a vernacular farmhouse type (2908-14; c. 1896) (#15). There are only a few houses which date between 1900 and 1906 and they are primarily in transitional styles. The majority of the neighborhood's buildings date from 1907 to 1916. This period includes both affluent development along Highland Avenue and around Rhodes Circle, typified by the large Neo-Classical, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles such as the Enslen House (1908) at 2737 Highland Avenue (NRHP 1975) (#16), the Donnelly House (1908) at 2838 Highland Avenue

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(original NRHP District 1977) (#10), and the J. H. Loveman House (1908) at 2944 Rhodes Circle (#17) and the less pretentious houses on adjacent streets that represent popular versions of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. During the 1920s approximately 15 two and three-story apartment buildings, one four-story and one eight-story apartment house, and several compatible Bungaloid houses were built on vacant or redeveloped property. The apartment buildings were designed to blend sensitively with the existing neighborhood houses, most being the fine interpretations of Neo-Classical, Tudor Revival, and Colonial Revival design with well-planned courtyards and landscaping.

Present use of the buildings is 99% residential; 1% is joint residential/commercial. Less than 2% of the contributing buildings need more than minor repairs. Few of the district buildings have been significantly altered with changes in original materials or design.

The northern boundary of the Rhodes Park Historic District--10th Avenue So.--is a logical break dividing the residential district from the institutional (St. Vincent's Hospital) and commercial use and unrelated scale and style of more recent buildings along the heavily trafficked thoroughfare, 8th Ave. So.-Clairmont Avenue. The northwestern corner of the district borders the grounds of Lakeview Elementary School (NRHP 1977). The eastern boundary--30th Street So.-- is set by the topography; a steep slope dividing the district from somewhat later residential development to the east. This division is reinforced by the absence of connector through-streets. The southeastern boundary is formed by Rushton Park (one of the three parks created by the winding Highland Avenue and oriented to development to the south and east.) A segment of Highland Avenue lined with newer buildings unrelated in style and scale serves as the southern boundary. southwestern boundary runs behind the property line of the houses along Highland Avenue and loops south to include several houses and two apartment buildings on 28th Street So. and 13th Avenue So, which relate to the district by age, siting, and architectural style. The houses are isolated from adjoining neighborhoods by newer construction and a dead-end The western boundary of the district--28th Street So.--is created by light commercial, institutional and professional offices of late dates, vacant lots, parking facilities, and another distinct -- but unrelated -- residential neighborhood, separated from the district by a steep slope and no through access.

Within the district boundaries there are eight non-contributing buildings. One conditionally contributing property (2900 Rhodes Circle) could become contributing with the replacement of insensitive siding with materials more suited to the scale of the building. The majority of the buildings with are non-contributing are two-story apartment buildings built between 1950 and the late 1970s. Several are incompatible in scale, siting, and design quality. Because there are relatively few of these, they do not seriously alter the district character. Other intrusions include several vacant lots and a new church. There are four properties which have been excluded from this nomination but were included in the Highland Avenue Historic District (NRHP 1977). They have been omitted because they were built after 1960 and do not contribute to either the historical or architectural character of the district.

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Contributing Properties

- 1. 2808 10th Avenue, South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and aluminum siding. 1912-14.
- 2. 2818 10th Avenue, South: 4 unit apartment, 2 stories, brick. 1912-14.
- 3. 2830 10th Avenue, South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and half-timber. 1914.
- 4. 822 29th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, aluminum siding. 1915.
- 5. 820 29th Street South: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards. c. 1920.
- 6. 814 29th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and half-timber. 1912-14.
- 7. 815 29th Street South: Bungalow, 1 story, clapboard. c. 1924.
- 8. 819 29th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and half-timber. 1912.
- 9. 825 29th Street South: Craftsman, 1 1/2 stories, stone, clapboards and vertical siding. 1912-14.
- 10. 2900 10th Avenue South: Craftsman, 2 stories, clapboards and shingles. 1912-14.
- 11. 2906 10th Avenue South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and half-timber, 1917.
- 12. 2908-14 10th Avenue South: vernacular type, 2 stories, brick and clapboards. 1896-98.
- 13. 2916 10th Avenue South: Victorian cottage, 1 story, brick, clapboards and vertical siding. 1896-98.
- 14. 2809 10th Avenue South: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, clapbaords and half-timber. 1912-14.
- 15. 2815 10th Avenue South: Tudor Revival apartment, 2 stories, brick and concrete. 1924.
- 16. Non-contributing. (see page 10).
- 17. 903 29th Street South: Craftsman apartment, 3 stories, brick. c. 1920.
- 18. 2901 10th Avenue, South: Modified Beaux-arts apartment, 3 stories, brick. c. 1924.
- 19. 2905 10th Avenue, South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and clapboards, post 1917.
- 20. 2911 10th Avenue, South: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, asbestos shingles and wood shingles. 1889.

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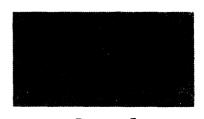
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- 21. 2915 10th Avenue South: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards. 1912-14.
- 22. 2917 10th Avenue South: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, stone and brick. 1908.
- 23. 2919 10th Avenue South: Bungalow, 1 story, stone, 1905-07.
- 24. 2923 10th Avenue South: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards. c. 1920.
- 25. 2929 10th Avenue South: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and shingles. 1889.
- 26. 900 30th Street South: Classical portico apartment, 3 stories, brick. 1925.
- 27. 914 30th Street South: Craftsman apartment, 3 stories, brick. c. 1920.
- 28. 905 30th Street South: basic box, 2 stories, stucco and clapboards. 1906-07.
- 29. 909 30th Street South: basic box, 2 stories, clapboards. 1906-07.
- 30. 2800 10th Ct. South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick. 1911-12.
- 31. 2806 10th Ct. South: classic box, 2 stories, brick. 1911-12.
- 32. 2814 10th Ct. South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick. c. 1910.
- 33. 2830 10th Ct. South: modified Beaux-arts apartment complex, 2 stories, brick. post 1917.
- 34. "
- 35. "
- 36. "
- 37. "
- 38. ''
- 39. 2900 10th Ct. South: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1911-12.
- 40. 2904 10th Ct. South: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1911-12.
- 41. 2908 10th Ct. South: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1911-12.
- 42. 2912 10th Ct. South: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1911-12.

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- 43. 2916 10th Ct. South: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards. c. 1916.
- 44. 2920 10th Ct. South: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards. c. 1920.
- 45. 2924 10th Ct. South: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards. 1911-12.
- 46. 918 30th St. South: modified Beaux-arts apartment, 2 stories, brick. 1924-30.
- 47. 920 30th Street South: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick and stone. 1906-07.
- 48. 1028 28th St. South: Classical portico, 2 stories, brick. 1912.
- 49. 1034 28th St. South: Craftsman, 2 stories brick and stucco. 1914.
- 50. 1038 28th St. South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick. 1913.
- 51. 1044 28th Street South: carriage house, 2 stories, brick. 1913.
- 52. 1048 28th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and stucco. 1914.
- 53. 1052 28th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and stucco. 1913.
- 54. 1056 28th Street South: symmetrical Colonial Revival, 2 stories, shingles. 1913.
- 55. 1060 28th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone and clapboards. 1913.
- 56. 1064 28th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and shingles. 1912.
- 57. 1068 28th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and shingles. 1912.
- 58. 1100 28th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and stone. 1912.
- 59. 1102 28th Street South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and half-timber. c. 1917.
- 60. 1104 28th Street South: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1914.
- 61. 1108 28th St. So.: modified Beaux-arts apartment, 3 stories, brick and terra cotta. 1920.
- 62. 2801 10th Ct. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles. 1911-12.
- 63. 2803 10th Ct. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and clapboards. 1911-12.
- 64. 2809 10th Ct. So.: Classic box, 2 stories, stone and aluminum siding. 1910.

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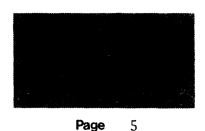
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- 65. 1035 28th St. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and half-timber. 1912.
- 66. 1039 28th St. So.: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, clapboards. 1907-10.
- 67. 1043 28th St. So.: Victorian Colonial Revival, 1 story, clapboards and shingles. 1907-10.
- 68. 1047 28th St. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, clapboards. 1907-10.
- 69. 1051 28th St. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, clapboards, and shingles. 1914.
- 70. 1055 28th St. So.: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, stone and clapboards. 1907-10.
- 71. 2800 11th Avenue South: Classical portico, 2 stories, brick and asbestos siding. 1911.
- 72. 2804 11th Avenue South: Classic box, 2 stories, brick and asbestos siding. 1911.
- 73, 2815 10th Ct. South: Craftsman, 2 stories, shingles. 1911-12.
- 74. Non-contributing. (see page 10)
- 75. 1006 28th Pl. South: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and shingles. 1910.
- 76. 1012 28th Pl. South: basic box, 2 stories, brick and half-timber. 1910.
- 77. 1016 28th Pl. South: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1910.
- 78. 1022 28th Pl. South: Classic box, 2 stories, stone. 1910.
- 79. 1032 28th Pl. South: symmetrical Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick. 1911.
- 80. 1101 28th St. South: modified Beaux-arts apartment complex, 2 stories, brick. post 1917.
- 81. 2800 11th Ct. South: Beaux-arts, 2 stories, brick and terra cotta. 1911.
- 82. Non-contributing. (see page 10)
- 83. 1106 28th Pl. South: Tudor Revival, 3 stories, stone, half-timber and stucco. 1910.
- 84. 1112 28th Pl. South: Craftsman, 2 stories, clapboards, brick. 1910.
- 85. 1120 28th Pl. South: Tudor Revival, 3 stories, stone, half-timber and stucco. 1910.

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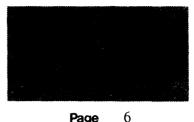
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- 1001 28th Pl. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and clapboards. 1914. 86.
- 87. 1003 28th Pl. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone and clapboards. 1914.
- 1005 28th Pl. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles, 1911. 88.
- 89. 1007 28th Pl. So.: symmetrical Colonial Revival, stone and asbestos shingles. 1910.
- 90. 1009 28th Pl. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories stone, clapboards and half-timber, 1911.
- 1011 28th Pl. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, shingles and clapboards. 1911. 91.
- 92. 1013 28th Pl. So.; Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and half-timber. 1911.
- 93. 1015 28th Pl. So.: Craftsman w/classical influence, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles. 1910.
- 1023 28th Pl. So.: Colonial Revival, 2 stories, clapboards. 1910. 94.
- 1025 28th Pl. So.: Classic box, 2 stories, asbestos shingles. 1910. 95.
- 96. 1027 28th Pl. So.: Prairie style influence, 2 stories, clapboards. 1912-13.
- 2824 11th Ave. So.: Queen Anne, 2 stories, brick, chingles and clapboards. 1888. 97.
- 98. Non-contributing. (see page 10).
- 99. 2816 Rhodes Circle.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone and clapboards. 1912-14.
- 100. 2814 Rhodes Circle.: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and asbestos shingles. 1912-14.
- 101. 2812 Rhodes Circle.: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1912-14.
- 102. 2804 Rhodes Circle.: Prairie style, 2 stories, brick. 1908.
- 103. 2901 10th Ct. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles. 1915-16.
- 104. 2911 10th Ct. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles, 1911-12.
- 105. 2913 10th Ct. So.: Craftsman. 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles, 1912.
- 106. 2915 10th Ct. So.: basic box, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles. 1911-12.
- 107. 2931 10th Ct. So.: Craftsman apartment, 3 stories, brick, half-timber. 1920.

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- 108. Conditionally Contributing. (see page 10).
- 2914 Rhodes Circle.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone and asbestos shingles. 1915. 109.
- 110. 2918 Rhodes Circle.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone and aluminum siding. 1912-14.
- 2920 Rhodes Circle.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stucco. 1918-20. 111.
- 2930 Rhodes Circle.: Classical portico, 2 stories, brick. 1910. 112.
- 1003 20th St. So.: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards, 1924-30. 113.
- 1007 30th St. So.: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and clapboards. 1924-30. 114.
- 1015 30th St. So.: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, clapboards. 1906-07. 115.
- 1021 30th St. So.: basic box, 2 stories, clapboards. 1911. 116.
- 1025 30th St. So.: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick, clapboard and shingles. 117. 1906-07.
- 1027 30th St. So.: Colonial Revival apartment, 2 stories, brick. 1924-30. 118.
- 119. Non-contributing. (see page 10).
- 2801 Rhodes Circle: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, half-timber and stucco, fine 120. leaded glass surrounding front door. 1915.
- 2974 Rhodes Circle: symmetrical Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick and stone; home 121. of A. A. Adams, prominent Birmingham realtor. 1909-10.
- Non-contributing. (see page 10). 122.
- 2956 Rhodes Circle: Neo-Roman Revival, 2 stories, brick; home of A. B. Loveman, 123. founder of Loveman, Joseph and Loeb, major local store. Harry Wheelock and Bem Price, architects. 1908.
- 124.2944 Rhodes Circle: Tudor Revival, 2 stories, stone and half-timber: home of J. H. Loveman partner in Loveman, Joseph and Loeb, a major local store. S. Scott Joy, architect. 1908.
- 1101 28th Pl. So.: Craftsman apartment, 2 stories, stone, brick and half-timber. 125. 1920.
- 2835 11th Ave. So.: Bungalow, 1 story, stucco. 1922-23. 126.
- 2817 11th Ave. So.: Classical portico, 2 stories, clapboards. 1909. 127.

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- 128. 1103 29th St. So.: Craftsman-Tudor Revival, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and half-timber; home of John V. Coe, president of Birmingham Lumber and Coal Co. 1909.
- 129. 2834 Highland Ave.: Greek Revival type, 2 stories, clapboards; home of Mrs. Mortimer Jordan, widow of one of Birmingham's first and most prominent physicians. William C. Weston, architect. 1906.
- 130. 2838 Highaland Ave.: Neo-Georgian, 3 stories, brick, notable semi-circular portico; home of J. W. Donnelly foremost arts philanthropost. Bem Price, architect. 1907.
- 131. 2848 Highland Ave.: Tudor Revival, 2 stories, stone and half-timber. Dan Reamer, Architect. 1907.
- 132. 1114 30th St. So.: basic box, 2 stories, brick. 1909-11.
- 133. 2906 Highland Ave.: symmetrical Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick. Harry Wheelock, architect. 1909.
- 134. 2908 Highland Ave.: Ornamented Craftsman, 2 stories, brick, stone and terra cotta; fine brickwork and handsome terra cotta detailing surrounds porch and window openings. William C. Weston, architect. 1913.
- 135. 1103 30th St. So.: Classic box, 2 stories, brick. Harry Wheelock, architect. 1914-15.
- 136. 1105 30th St. So.: basic box, 2 stories, brick and stucco. 1914-15.
- 137. 1107 30th St. So.: Tudor Revival apartment, 3 stories, brick and half-timber. 1924-27.
- 138. 1109 30th St. So.: basic box 2 stories, brick and clapboards. 1909-11.
- 139. 1115 30th St. So.: Classical portico, 2 stories, brick and stucco. 1909-11
- 140. 1117 30th St. So.: Craftsman, 2 stories, stone and brick. 1914-15.
- 141. 1119 30th St. So.: basic box, 2 stories, brick and asbestos siding. 1909-10.
- 142. 1125 30th St. So.: Bungalow, 1 story, brick and stucco. 1924-27.
- 143. 1127 30th St. So.: basic box, 2 stories, clapboards and stucco. 1909-11.
- 144. 1131 30th St. So.: Classic box apartment, 3 stories, brick. 1924-27.

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- 145. 2731 Highland Ave.: Classic box, 2 stories, cast stone. Robert E. Posey, architect. 1906.
- 146. 2733 Highland Ave.: symmetrical Colonial Revival, 2 stories, cast stone. Robert E. Posey, architect. 1906.
- 147. 2737 Highland Ave.: Georgian Revival, 2 stories, marble veneer over brick; home of E. F. Enslen, president of Jefferson County Savings Bank. Robert E. Posey, architect. 1906-08.
- 148. Non-contributing. (see page 10).
- 149. 1218 28th St. So.: symmetrical Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and shingles. William Chaffee architect. 1903.
- 150. 1220 28th St. So.: symmetrical Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick, clapboards and shingles. William Chaffee, architect. 1903.
- 151. 1300 28th St. So.: Tudor Revival apartment, 3 stories, brick and cast stone. 1929.
- 152. 2831 Highland Ave.: 8-story apartment tower, brick. 1925.
- 153. 2819-23 Highland Ave.: Beaux-arts influenced apartment complex, 2 stories, brick and concrete. 1922.
- 154. '
- 155.
- 156. "
- 157. Non-contributing. (see page 10).
- 158. 2809 Highland Ave.: Classic box, 2 stories, cast stone; leaded and stained glass windows at entrance. 1909.
- 159. 2807 Highland Ave.: Tudor Revival apartment, 2 stories, stone and half-timber. c. 1925.
- 160. Non-contributing. (see page 10).
- 161. 1211 28th St. So.: Greek Revival, 2 stories, clapboards. 1922.
- 162. 1215 38th St. So.: Colonial Revival, 2 stories, stone, clapboards and shingles. 1905.

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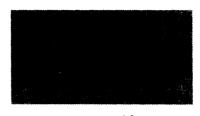
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- 163. 2802 13th Ave. So.: Classic box, 2 stories, clapboards. 1903.
- 164. 2814 13th St. So.: Victorian Colonial Revival, 2 stories, stone and clapboards. 1903.
- 165. 2801 13th Ave. So.: Georgian Revival, 2 stories, clapboards and shingles; home of J. F. Rushton, owner of Birmingham Ice Company. William Chaffee, architect. 1903.
- 166. 2809 13th Ave. So.: Tudor Revival apartment, 3 stories, brick. 1929.
- 167. Rhodes Park: 3.25 acres, open space with stairways, benches and sculpture of aggregate with Moravian tile insets.

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Non-contributing Properties

- 16. 2828 10th Ave. So.: modern apartment, 2 stories, brick with aluminum Mansard roof. c. 1970.
- 74. 1000 28th Pl. So.: modern apartment, 2 stories, clapboards and shingles. c. 1975.
- 82. 2843 11th Ave. So.: modern apartment, 2 stories, brick. c. 1960.
- 98. 2824 Rhodes Circle: modern apartment, 2 stories, glass and brick. c. 1965.
- 119. 26 Rhodes Circle: modern apartment, 2 stories, glass and brick. c. 1965.
- 122. 2964 Rhodes Circle: modern apartment, 2 stories, brick with shingled Mansard roof. c. 1970.
- 148. 1208-14 28th St. So.: modern apartment, 1 story. brick. c. 1965.
- 157. 2825 Highland Ave.: modern apartment, 2 stories, brick and concrete. c. 1970.
- 160. 2803 Highland Ave.: religious building, 1 story, brick, steel and stucco. c. 1970.

Conditionally Contributing

108. 2900 Rhodes Circle: Craftsman, 2 stories, brick and incompatable aluminum siding which has been carelessly applied and does not contribute to the scale of the building.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	2 2	military music : philosophy	religion science sculptureX social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	late 1880s-1930	Builder/Architect See a	attached "Statement o	of Significance

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture: The Rhodes Park Historic District is significant because it contains some of the city's most notable early 20th-century residential architecture, exceptional for its design quality and siting. The houses--many of them designed by prominent local architects--exemplify the leading national styles of the period. For example, the Enslen House (2737 Highland Avenue; NRHP 1975) with its two-story colonnaded portico and use of classical details is the finest example of the colonial Revival Style in the district--and in the city. Throughout the district the widespread use of rustic materials and broad, chunky proportions mark the influence of the Craftsman style. Especially fine interpretations of the Tudor Revival Style are evidenced in the J. H. Loveman house (2944 Rhodes Cicle) with its steep roof, half-timbered upper-story and three-dimensional woodwork. The design quality of the houses, including the more modest speculative houses, is enhanced by their siting. The unexpected imposition of urban density--closely spaced houses set close to the streets-- upon a hilly, wooded landscape makes this district a unique place in the city.

Social History: The Rhodes Park Historic District is significant because it is a rare surviving example of an early middle-class neighborhood: it encompasses not only the grand houses of well-to-do Highland Avenue and Rhodes Circle residents but also the more modest middle class homes on adjacent streets. It includes three pre-1900 houses (relatively rare in a city founded in 1871). It also was the home of several of Birmingham's most prominent business and professional people: A. B. and Joseph H. Loveman, proprietors of Birmingham's major department store; Eugene F. Enslen, president of Jefferson County Savings Bank; Rufus N. Rhodes, editor of the Birmingham News; and James W. Donnelly, an important local arts philanthropist. Because of its reputation for many years as one of Birmingham's finest residential addresses, and because it exemplifies the special character of a turn-of-the-century middle-class urban neighborhood, the district is an important landmark for the history of the city and its people.

Community Planning: The Rhodes Park Historic District is significant because it is one of the few neighborhoods in Birmingham containing evidence of early urban residential planning. Within the district are tangible clues of the early efforts of the Elyton Land Company (the firm which founded and developed the city) to lure prosprective home buyers to their removed--but not remote--neighborhood, two miles south of the city: Highland Avenue, a landscaped boulevard which they laid out to wind along the base of Red Mountain; Rhodes Park, one of the three parks planned within the curves of the avenue; streets designed to conform to the area's uneven topography, including Rhodes Circle placed around the district's commanding knoll; and a streetcar route which followed the course of Highland Avenue, connecting the neighborhood to the city's business district. Because all of these elements which shaped the neighborhood's character are still visible, the Rhodes Park Historic District is an important link to understanding the city's early development.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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The Rhodes Park Historic District (late 1880s - 1930), one of Birmingham's oldest and essentially intact neighborhoods, contains some of the most notable residential architecture in the city in a setting that integrates urban density with a hilly, wooded landscape. Despite scattered intrusions, the district has retained its special early 20th--century urban residential character. It exemplifies the forces that shaped the appearance and character of the early city; uneven topography opened for development by the streetcars; a vital and aspiring middle class in which varying income levels coexisted comfortably in densely developed settings; talented architects; and continued redevelopment and expansions.

The proposed district is an expansion of the existing Highland Avenue Historic District (NRHP 1977) which focused on the exceptionally fine early 20th-century architecture concentrated along the city's grand residential boulevard, Highland Avenue. The expanded district provides a more complete and balanced picture of the neighborhood's age, original design quality and social make-up, sensitivity of layout to topography and existing neighborhood identity. It includes Rhodes Circle, a commanding knoll with houses of the same period and architectural quality of those only a block away on Highland Avenue. It acknowledges the existence of less pretentious architect-designed speculative and commissioned middle class housing--immediately off Highland Avenue--in which the bulk of the Rhodes Park neighborhood lived. And it includes the oldest homes in the neighborhood which predate the development of Highland Avenue and Rhodes Circle. Recognition of this expanded district by listing in the National Register of Historic Places will help counter continued threats from developers and insensitive zoning policies.

In the mid-1880s, the Elyton Land Company, the real estate firm organized in 1870 to establish the city of Birmingham, initiated the development of a 1,500-acre tract of land south of Birmingham. In 1884, Willis J. Milner, engineer of the Elyton Land Company, laid out a serpentine avenue intended to be a wide landscaped boulevard following the natural contours of the land along the base of Red Mountain. A streetcar line ran along the boulevard, connecting the city to the Lakeview Park resort, which was built to further speculative interest in the area. Along with Highland Avenue and the three parks set within the curves along its route, Milner laid out streets that formed crescents and circles, following the topography of the land. The new curvilinear development he merged into the existing grid plan of the city, laid out in 1871, which stopped a few blocks north of Highland Avenue.

In 1893, when the avenue and surrounding area were incorporated into the city of Birmingham, there had been little development. Only ten houses had been built in the district by 1900, all of which were in its northern section and related to earlier development closer to the city's business district. One of the earliest houses (c. 1888-9) at 2929 10th Avenue So. (#13) belonged to Arthur A. Adams, a real estate and insurance broker who later moved to Rhodes Circle.

By 1902, when Lakeview Elementary School (NRHP 1977) located on the district's northern edge opened, settlement was still sparse. Between 1903 and 1907 development gradually spread eastward along Highland Avenue and southward from the 10th Avenue So. area.

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The segment of Highland Avenue around Rhodes Park began to be developed in 1903 by affluent and successful business and professional people. In that year, J. F. Rushton, owner of the Birmingham Ice Company, built his house at 2801 13th Avenue So. (#18), just off Highland Avenue. In 1906, three sisters and their husbands built houses that filled a block along Highland Avenue: the George W. Harris House (2731 (#19), the Robert Warner House (2733; 1906) (#20), and the Eugene Enslen House (2731; 1908; NRHP 1975) (#16), the grandest house on Highland Avenue. Harris ran Birmingham's largest decorating and painting firm, Warner was an ice cream and candy manufacturer, and Enslen was the president of the Jefferson County Savings Bank. Other early residents of the grand houses that made Highland Avenue such a prestigious address were James Donnelly, Birmingham's premier art collector and arts philanthropist (2838; 1907) (#10), S. D. Thompson, president of three major real estate firms in Birmingham (2848; 1907) (#9); and Mrs. Mortimer Jordan, widow of one of Birmingham's first and most successful doctors (2834; 1906) (#21).

In 1908, the first houses were built on Rhodes Circle (originally called Fairview Circle; renamed c. 1915). Among its original inhabitants were Rufus N. Rhodes, publisher of the Birmingham News (and for whom both the circle and the park within the district were named) who lived at 2827 (1908; now demolished); A. B. Loveman (2956; 1908) (#22) and J. H. Loveman (2944; 1908) (#17), partners in the Loveman, Joseph and Loeb Department Store (one of the first major stores in Birmingham, later known as Lovemans); G. B. Kelley (2804; 1908) (#23) and Arthur A. Adams (2974; 1909), both successful Birmingham realtors. Rhodes Circle was an exclusive development, convenient to public transportation (Highland Avenue) but set off on a knoll overlooking the dirty, noisy city. Rhodes Circle and Highland Avenue were among the most prestigious addresses in Birmingham during the first two decades of the 20th century.

Adjacent to the two residential developments of Highland Avenue and Rhodes Circle is Rhodes Park (#6), one of the parks created by the looping Highland Avenue. A park plan was drawn by Boston Landscape architect George H. Miller in 1910. (Miller was in the city designing a landscape plan for the Tennessee Coal and Iron Railroad Company of Corey.) Work on the park started sometime within the next few years by local architect William Leslie Welton who designed aggregate and Moravian tile structures, street furniture (benches, tables), and paths highlighting the natural setting (#24).

While Highland Avenue and Rhodes Circle were developing, the larger portion of the district was also expanding with speculative and commissioned housing for middle-class residents (#25, 26). Many of the houses in this area were built by contractors such as the Joy-Marriott Construction Company, who probably worked both from plans by local architects and standardized house plans. Among those attracted to the area (particularly to 28th Place So. and 30th Street So.) were small merchants like the Rosenbergers, Weils, and Horsts, names still associated with quality local retail establishments.

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Between 1915 and 1925, there was only small sporadic house building which filled in some of the district's vacant lots. A significant building spurt occurred in the mid-1920s with the addition of several 2 and 3-story and one 8-story apartment building, the Altamont, a very fashionable address in its day, built in 1925. By 1930, the Rhodes Park area had begun to be supplanted as Birmingham's exclusive residential community by the automobile-oriented suburbs of Redmont, Mountain Terrace, and Mountain Brook. Vacant land in the district was more profitably developed for high-density housing. Compatible in style, siting, and scale with the surrounding single-family residences, the apartments reinforced the essentially middle-class character of the district.

The architectural development of the Rhodes Park Historic District spans a period of more than 40 years, from the late 1880s to 1930, representing the various styles of several periods. The earliest houses are examples of the Victorian period, located in the northern end of the district. Representative of this development are 2929 (#13) and 2911 (#12) 10th Avenue So. Identical in massing, and to a degree in detailing, these houses were built in the late 1880s. The least altered of the two, 2929, is a good example of the Victorian Italianate Style, featuring a corner tower with a hipped roof, bracketed eaves, and squared Tuscan columns supporting a one-story porch. Ornate gable treatment and geometrically patterned windows show the Victorian period's attention to detail. The cottage at 2916 10th Avenue So. (#14), although slightly altered in appearance by the recent enclosure of the front porch, is also a variation of a Victorian style most notably in the unusual forms of the stacked gables and the odd pyramidal vent openings.

By 1900, the development of the district had shifted southward to the area along and around Highland Avenue. The J. F. Rushton House (2801 13th Ave. So; 1903) (#18) is an example of the Neo-Georgian style, strictly rectangular in plan with a symmetrical facade developed around the central gable and classically ornamented window. The hipped roof (originally carrying a balustrade) and classically detailed eaves add to the rich architectural treatment. Local architect William Chaffee designed this house and the neighboring 1218 (1903) and 1220 (1903) 28th Street So. (#27), both more eclectic in design.

The most distinctive house in the district is 2737 Highland Avenue (1907) (#16), a Neo-Classical design by local architect Robert Edgar Posey for Eugene F. Enslen, president of the Jefferson County Savings Bank. The house, with its massed columns, heavily dentiled eaves, frieze of metopes and triglyphs with guttae and white marble facade is unrivaled as the supreme example of the Neo-Classical style in Birmingham (NRHP 1975). Other fine examples of classically inspired designs are the A. B. Loveman House (2956 Rhodes Circle; 1908) (#22), a Neo-Jeffersonian Roman Revival style building of fine red brick with a colossal portico, designed by local architects Harry Wheelock and Bem Price, and the Mortimer Jordan House (2834 Highland Avenue; 1906) (#21), a Greek Revival inspired design by local architect William C. Weston.

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Also designed by William C. Weston is the Tudor Revival style William Mudd Jordan House at 1106 28th Place So. (1910) (#28) which sensitively incorporates the traditional materials of Tudor design, stucco and half-timber, into a complex, highly unified design. The Tudor Revival style was also used by local architect S. Scott Joy for the J. H. Loveman House (2944 Rhodes Circle; 1908) (#17). The most striking feature of this design is the use of massive pendant brackets which screen the beveled walls at the four corners of the first floor. The W. S. Brown House (2908 Highland Avenue; 1913) (#29), by William C. Weston is notable for its fine brickwork, patterning, massing, and use of color, evoking a sense of Wrightian design. The wood and terra cotta details along the eaves and within the porch are unusually fine. For attention to craftsmanship, there is no better example in the district.

At the same time that the larger houses were being constructed, speculative housing was also being developed for the middle-class residents. Although less grand in scale and architectural concept than the houses along Highland Avenue and Rhodes Circle, there was still a demand for quality craftsmanship. Many of the houses were designed by well-respected local architects working for developers and, in some instances, for individual clients. Representative of the architect-designed, possibly speculative, housing are 2801 and 2803 10th Court So. (c. 1911) (#30, 31) by Miller and Martin. These two Craftsman style houses with exposed strucutral beams under the eaves, chunky support brackets and rustic materials are mirror images: only a slight difference in materials and the reverse orientation of the door to the street give them any individuality. The same is true for 2900, 2904, 2908, and 2912 10th Court So. (c. 1911) (#11), four houses with quality brickwork that through their tight grouping and bold forms add distinction to the street.

Other houses, although probably part of a speculative group development, lend an individual quality to the district with their skillful handling of materials (brick, clapboard, stone and shingles) and the well-crafted design which shows an awareness of contemporary national trends and housing demands. 1048 28th Street So. (1914) (#32), S. Scott Joy, architect, is similar to neighboring houses, yet the fine panelled brickwork, the band of stucco which breaks the vertical line of the building, and the paired brackets under the eaves give this rather typical house a special character. The same can be said for 1103 30th Street So. (1913) (#33), a Harry Wheelock design which gives central emphasis to a fine piece of Art glass and for 1027 28th Place So. (#34), a 2-story house which sensitively uses Prairie style forms and details with its broad eaves, carved porch piers, and horizontal lines. They are both rather typical in form, yet each has an individual design quality.

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During the late 1910s and 1920, a few small bungalows were built on scattered vacant lots and several 2 and 3-story apartment buildings were added. The Corinthian Court Apartments, 900 30th Street So. (1925) (#35), use handsome two-story Corinthian columns to incorporate porches and balconies into a strong design, echoing the earlier housing types. The Berkshire Apartments (1300 28th Street So.; 1928) (#36), a Tudor Revival design using patterned brickwork and stone door frames and sills, is compatible with the earlier examples of the Tudor Revival style in the neighborhood. Apartment houses such as these were intended to reflect the sense of a fine place to live and to attract a client who was no less discerning than the home-buyer.

During the 1930s and 1940s the area began to decline. The Depression had forced the conversion of several of the district's single-family residences into apartments. Development of Birmingham's outlying suburbs greatly increased, particularly after 1950, and is perhaps evidence of the nationwide trend of post-World War II middle class home buyers preference for suburban--rather than city--living. Redevelopment in the 1950s of the Five Points section of Highland Avenue into business and commercial property further compromised the residential quality of the area. Most of the intrusions in the Rhodes Park Historic District, however--the 20--unit, 2-story apartment buildings--were built in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

During the past decade the trend seems to have been reversed. Efforts to change the neighborhood zoning classification to single-family are now underway in a large segment of the district. Some of the older houses which had been converted to rental units are being reconverted to their original use. Many homeowners have begun renovation and restoration along Highland Avenue as well as along other streets in the district. The city's relandscaping of Highland Avenue, along with the installation of new sidewalks and street lighting has fostered a new optimism that there is support for preserving this fine residential neighborhood.

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The northern boundary begins at the western property line of parcel 6, tax block 9 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W) proceeding eastward along the alley between Clairmont Avenue and 10th Avenue, So. to the eastern property line of parcel 14, tax block 8 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W). At this point it turns southward along the eastern property line of aforesaid parcel to the center line of 10th Avenue, So. At this point it turns and proceeds eastward along 10th Avenue, So. to the center line of 30th Street, So. and turns and proceeds southward to intersect the northern property line of parcel 9, tax block 7 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W), it then turns eastward along property line of aforesaid parcel proceeding to the alley between 30th and 31st Streets, So. Turns and proceeds southward to the southern property line of parcel 10, tax block 7 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W) and turns and proceeds westward to intersect the center line of 30th Street, So. Turns and proceeds southward along 30th Street, So., intersecting northern property line of parcel 2, tax block 17 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W), and turns and proceeds eastward along aforesaid parcel for 140 feet, turning southward 80 feet to intersect the northern property line of parcel 5, tax block 17 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W). Turns eastward 52.5 feet along aforesaid property line, intersecting the alley between 30th and 31st Streets, So. Turns and proceeds southward along aforesaid alley until its intersection with 30th Place So. Proceeds along 30th Place So. behind parcels 15, 16, 17, and 18, tax block 17 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W) and turns westward crossing 30th Street, So. and proceeds along Highland Avenue and turns northward at the western property line of parcel 4, tax block 26 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17s, R2W) to the alley between Highland Avenue and Rhodes Circle. Turns and proceeds eastward along the alley to western property line of parcel 1, tax block 26 (Sec. 31. SE 1/4, T17S, R2W), and turns northward and proceeds along aforesaid property line to Rhodes Circle; turns westward and proceeds along Rhodes Circle to the center line of 29th Street So. Turns southward and proceeds along 29th Street, So., intersecting Highland Avenue, to the southern property line of parcel 2, tax block (Sec. 32, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W). Turns westward, proceeds along aforesaid property line to the alley between Highland Avenue and 29th Street, So. Turns southward and proceeds along the alley and the eastern property line of parcel 5.1, tax block 3 (Sec. 6, NE 1/4, T18S, R2W) crosses 13th Avenue, So. and proceeds along eastern property line of parcel 2, tax block 13 (Sec. 6, NE 1/4, T18S, R2W) to the alley to 28th Avenue, So. and Niazuma Avenue. Turns west, proceeds along the alley to 28th Street, So. and turns north, proceeds to the southern property line of parcel 11, tax block 12 (Sec. 6, NE 1/4, T185, R2W). Turns and proceeds westward along property line to the alley between 27th Place So. and 28th Street So., turns northward and proceeds along the alley to the alley between Highland and Niazuma Avenues. Turns and proceeds westward to the western property line of parcel 2, tax block 12 (Sec. 6, NE 1/4, T18S, R2W) and proceeds northward along aforesaid property line to center line of Highland Avenue. Proceeds northwestward along Highland Avenue to its intersection with 11th Court So. Turns and proceeds northeastward along 11th Court So. to intersection with 28th Street, So. Turns and proceeds northward along 28th Street, So. to its western intersection with 11th Avenue, So. Turns and proceeds westward on 11th Avenue, So. to the western property line of parcel 14, tax block 11 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W). Turns and proceeds northward along the western property lines of parcels 14 through 25, tax block 11 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W), including that section of parcel 1, tax block 11 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W) which fronts 45 ft.

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on 28th Street So. between parcels 23 and 24. Turns and proceeds eastward at the northern property line of aforesaid parcel 25 to the center line of 28th Street, So., and turns and proceeds northward on 28th Street, So. to northern property line of parcels 7 and 8, tax block 12 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W) intersecting the eastern property line of parcel 9, tax block 12 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W). Turns and proceeds northward to the alley between 10th Avenue So. and 10th Court So. Turns and proceeds eastward along alley to the western property line of parcel 3, tax block 12 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W). Turns and proceeds northward along aforesaid property line, crossing 10th Avenue, So., and proceeds northward along the western boundary of parcel 6, tax block 9 (Sec. 31, SE 1/4, T17S, R2W) to the point of origin.

