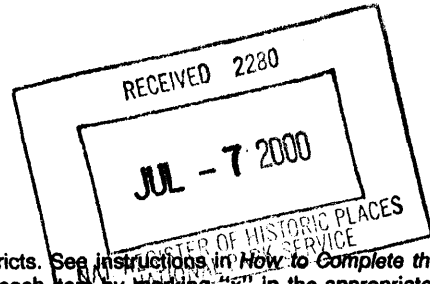


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shake Rag Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 119-439 State Street; 506 State Street; 443-447 East 4th Avenue; 513-515 East 4th Avenue; 415-429 East 3rd Avenue; 506-510 East 3rd Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Bowling Green N/A vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Warren code 227 zip code 42101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
David L. Morgan, SHPO and
Executive Director, KHC 6-5-2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Beth Beland Date of Action 8/18/00

Shake Rag Historic District
Name of Property

Warren County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 45 | 18 | buildings |
| 1 | 2 | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 46 | 20 | Total |

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/multiple dwelling (duplex)
- Religion/religious facility
- Landscape/plaza
- Education/school
- Education/education-related housing (dorm)
- Commerce/trade/business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/multiple dwelling (duplex)
- Religion/religious facility
- Landscape/plaza
- Commerce/trade/business
- Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Late 19th & Early 20th Century Movements/
- Bungalow/Craftsman; Other: American
- Foursquare; Other: Tudor Revival
- Late Victorian/Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Stone/limestone; Brick; Concrete block
- walls Wood/weatherboard; Brick; Synthetics/vinyl; Asbestos
- roof Asphalt
- other _____

Narrative Description

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

Shake Rag Historic District
Name of Property

Warren County, Kentucky
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1867-1954

Significant Dates

1867; 1875; 1884; 1886; 1900; 1923; 1929;
1947; 1949; 1954

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architects: Unknown

Builders: Underwood, John Cox
Covington, James

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Western Kentucky University, Kentucky Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 18.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad: Bowling Green South (1982)

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 16 | 550640 | 4094700 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 16 | 550640 | 4094770 |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3 | 16 | 550230 | 4094340 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | 16 | 550220 | 4094400 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Johnston, Becky Proctor, Brian Gregory, Karen Heege
Folk Studies Program

organization Western Kentucky University date December 1, 1999

street & number 1 Big Red Way telephone 270-745-2401

city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name See attached listing

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky**

7. Narrative Description

The Shake Rag Historic District is an African-American residential neighborhood which contains single and multiple family dwellings, several small businesses, and State Street Baptist Church. The district is comprised of properties on the east and west sides of the 100 through 500 blocks of State Street and properties located on the 400 and 500 block of East 3rd Avenue and East 4th Avenue. The nominated district contains sixty-six buildings and three sites. Forty-five buildings are contributing and include dwellings, businesses, and religious facilities. Eighteen buildings are non-contributing structures and including accessory structures and commercial buildings built after the period of significance. Two sites are vacant lots and are non-contributing sites. Lee Square (WA-B-549) at 200 State Street is significant for its use as a public square and is a contributing site. Two buildings – the State Street Baptist Church and the Underwood-Jones House (WA-B-9 and WA-B-11) are contributing resources previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bowling Green, population of 48,000, the seat of Warren County, is an industrial and agriculturally-based community in south central Kentucky. The county has flat-to-gently rolling terrain with an abundance of major karst areas located within both the urban and rural sections. The Shake Rag Historic District is located four blocks north of Fountain Square, Bowling Green's central business district. The Shake Rag Historic District is bounded by commercial structures located along the 100 block of State Street, alleys on the east and west, and East 5th Avenue on the south. State Street was significant as a major transportation route between 1927 and 1983. This two-lane, one way thoroughfare served as the northern route of Dixie Highway (U.S. 31W) through Bowling Green for fifty-six years.

The domestic architecture of the Shake Rag Historic District chronicles the emergence of black working and middle class in Bowling Green. Many of the houses were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with the majority built between the years of 1905 and 1945. Most of these dwellings are one- to one-and-one-half story Bungalow style houses. These Bungalow houses are present in a number of forms.

Two types of duplex Bungalows include three duplex Bungalows with hipped roof and dormer located at 412 State Street (WA-B-527), 414 State Street (WA-B-528), and 416 State Street (WA-B-529) and three duplex Bungalows with front gabled roof located at 445-447 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-536), 423-425 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-545), and 427-429 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-544). Other Bungalow forms are illustrated by the gable-front houses at 345 State Street (WA-B-539), 329 State Street (WA-B-540), 327 State Street (WA-B-541), and 515 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-525), by the side-gabled houses at 513 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-524), 506 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-514), 443 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-537), and by the cross gable and hipped Bungalows at 312 State Street (WA-B-518) and 424 State Street (WA-B-531). Cross gable plans are represented by the house at 318 State Street (WA-B-519), which contains more Arts and Crafts stylistic elements.

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Section 7 Page 2

Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Other styles present in the district include the Second Empire/Italianate Underwood-Jones House (WA-B-11), the Tudor Revival cottage at 315 State Street (WA-B-543), and the American Foursquare duplex built in 1910 at 325 State Street (WA-B-542). Additionally the district contains an 1875 Victorian Free Classic style house located at 418 State Street (WA-B-530), and a later 1905 example, the O.D. Porter House at 439 State Street (WA-B-256). The most distinctive houses in the district are the mirror image cross gable Bungalows located at 332 and 334 State Street (WA-B-522 and WA-B-523). Built on the same lot in 1930, these houses' designs differ only in the window fenestration on the façade. Each contains a front facing gable over the entry supported by tapered square wood columns set on brick pillars.

In addition to the residential buildings, the district contains several small commercial structures built during the late 1940s and early 1950s. These structures were built in response to neighborhood demand, increased travel along State Street, the northbound route of Dixie Highway (U.S. 31W), and the opening of the U.S. 31W Bypass in 1949. The gas station at 401 State Street (WA-B-450) is a typical example of late 1940s "oblong box" service stations.¹ The Hi-Way Drive Inn at 313 State Street (WA-B-481) was constructed in 1945 and served as a neighborhood café for Shake Rag residents and Dixie Highway travelers. The corner Ashlock Service Station and Café at 301 State Street (WA-B-449) offered gasoline, automobile repair, and food to the neighborhood and travelers. In 1945, the Phillips Ice Service began operation at 438 State Street (WA-B-533). This commercial building retains its exterior finish of yellow tile with contrasting grey tile, horizontal bands. Two residences also served as tourist homes for African-Americans in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The Southern Queen Hotel at 140 State Street (WA-B-496) and the Porter Tourist Home at 439 State Street (WA-B-256) operated as tourist homes for black travelers who could not stay at Bowling Green's white-only hotels.

Schools and churches were the general anchors in the historic district both geographically and socially. State Street School, located at 204 State Street, was the first public school for African Americans in Bowling Green. In 1886, one year after the school's construction, four hundred eleven students were enrolled in eight grades.² State Street School served the educational needs for black students for sixty-eight years and was razed in 1962. The State Street School Gymnasium (WA-B-555), built on the school grounds in 1929, was the site of numerous championships in basketball and was where the State Street Mustangs drew record crowds and frequently defeated teams from all white city and county schools. The gymnasium is a one story, three bay building with a front projecting gable entrance. It is currently used as a storage facility for the Capitol Window and Door Manufacturing Company. The State Street Cafeteria (WA-B-513) was constructed in the 1940s to provide on-site food services to students and faculty. Other important educational facilities included the Presbyterian Church-sponsored Bowling Green Academy and Girls Dormitory. Located at 306 State Street and 229 State Street, respectively, the private academy provided female black residents with a high school education in Bowling Green, rather than forcing them to attend schools in Nashville, Tennessee or Louisville, Kentucky. Both of these structures were razed during the 1950s.

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Religious life in the district centered around the State Street Baptist Church (WA-B-9) at 304 State Street. First organized as the African Baptist Church, a daughter congregation of the First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, the church occupied a lot at the corner of Chestnut and Short Streets. In 1872 the congregation changed the name of the church to the First Colored Missionary Baptist Church of Bowling Green and moved into a structure built at the corner of State Street and East Fourth Avenue. This church building burned in 1898 and was replaced by the current building in 1900. The church is a one-and-one-and-a-half stories tall with a two story entry tower with entrances that face the corners of the intersection. A robust example of Victorian Gothic-Romanesque Revival style, the State Street Baptist Church towers over the modest residential dwellings along State Street.

Architecturally, with the emergence of the black middle class, the presence of numerous Bungalows increased between the years 1905 and 1935. Low in cost, small in scale, and comprised of elements borrowed from the Arts and Crafts Movement, these houses employed the latest ideas in building technology, healthful living, and convenience. A well-designed Bungalow indicated middle class status to residents and visitors alike. Teachers, principals, and church ministers are just a few of the professionals who resided in these modern dwellings. Two examples include the Bungalow at 345 State Street (WA-B-539) which served as the minister's parsonage for the State Street Baptist Church, and 414 State Street (WA-B-528), a duplex Bungalow that served and continues to serve the community as Alice's Beauty Shop. James Covington was a successful carpenter who built many of the houses in the district and throughout Bowling Green before constructing his two story, fourteen bedroom home at 140 State Street (WA-B-496). At one time three physicians resided in the district. Dr. O.D. Porter, a graduate of Fisk University Medical School and one of the first black physicians in Bowling Green, purchased the Victorian Free Classic house at 439 State Street (WA-B-256) in 1900. During the 1920s, Dr. Z.K. Jones purchased the Cox-Underwood House at 506 State Street (WA-B-11), where he lived and practiced medicine for nearly fifty years. A third physician, Dr. Isaac B. Bruton, lived in a modest Bungalow at 139 State Street (WA-B-550) for twenty-six years.

The Shake Rag Historic District contains two buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The State Street Baptist Church (WA-B-9), an example of Victorian Gothic-Romanesque Revival styling, was built in 1898 and replaced an 1873 structure which was destroyed by fire. The State Street Baptist Church served as an anchor to the emerging black middle class neighborhood, and continues to be the oldest, largest, and most influential black church in Bowling Green. Additionally, the church provided social services through the Child Health Conference for Colored Children during the 1930s and 1940s. The Underwood-Jones House (WA-B-11) is one of only a few Second Empire style buildings remaining in Bowling Green. Built by John Cox Underwood circa 1875, the house combines elements of both the Second Empire and Italianate styles. In the late 1920s, Dr. Zacharias K. Jones, a prominent black physician, purchased the house.

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**Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky**

Integrity Considerations

The Shake Rag Historic District meets National Register Criterion A and is historically significant within the context of evaluation, "African-American Experience in Bowling Green 1867-1954." This district was one of Bowling Green's four African-American neighborhoods – Shake Rag, Jonesville, Delafield, and Bartown, and it is the only remaining intact African-American district within the City of Bowling Green. The Shake Rag neighborhood included residences, businesses, schools, and churches, and the original district extended from High Street to College Street and from the Barren River to East 5th Avenue. Today the nominated district contains the highest concentration of residences, businesses, schools, and churches retaining their original location, setting, association, and feeling. This historic district is historically significant as the setting of the African-American experience in Bowling Green-Warren County, and it serves as a material reminder of the contributions of African-Americans to the growth and development of Bowling Green and Warren County. Today Shake Rag Historic District exhibits the spatial organizations, physical components, and historic associations originally affiliated with the African-American neighborhood. The feeling and character of the district are retained. To fully assess the historic integrity of the Shake Rag Historic District, the seven integrity factors – location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, association – were examined.

The Shake Rag Historic District retains its integrity of location, setting, and association. The district includes houses and public buildings that retain the most architectural integrity of the traditional African American, middle class residential neighborhood. The district's setting remains urban in character and still reflects an African-American neighborhood. While the neighborhood historically encompassed similar blocks along College Street on the west and Chestnut Street on the east, those areas have experienced extensive alteration to and demolition of some of the original building stock. Additionally a higher number of intrusive structures have been built in the corresponding blocks along Chestnut and College Streets, interrupting the architectural and historical integrity of the neighborhood. South of East 5th Avenue, State Street changes from an almost exclusively residential neighborhood to one characterized by a variety of commercial enterprises. Because of the encroachment of the neighborhood's original building stock and the unsympathetic alteration of the extant buildings, the district boundaries have been limited to the east-and-west facing blocks of State Street, beginning at the middle of the 100 block of State Street and continuing south through the 400 block and including the Z.K. Jones House at 506 Street and including the 400 and 500 blocks of East 4th and East 5th Avenues.

The Shake Rag Historic District also retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The nominated district reflects the physical plan of the City of Bowling Green in 1802 by its founder, Robert Moore. The majority of the residences, commercial buildings, and public buildings in the district have retained their original configuration, size, scale, massing, fenestration, location, and setting. Several residences in the district have had little or no alteration and have retained the historic integrity and historic fabric. However, a majority of the buildings have been modified in response to improved building materials and to reduce building maintenance. Many structures have been modified with the

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**Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky**

- | | | |
|------------------|----|--|
| Contributing | 3a | <p>State Street High School Gymnasium (WA-B-555), 1929 200 State Street PVA #039A-04-022</p> <p>Site of Lee Square, an area set aside in 1802 by Bowling Green founder, Robert Moore, as a park for black population. State Street High School Gymnasium annex constructed in 1929. One story, brick construction (50' x 88') with central front gable entry projection. Cement block foundation. Decorative brick work resembling quoins on main body of building and on entry projection. Stone window sills and flat arches. Multi-light windows on building side elevations.</p> |
| Contributing | 3b | <p>State Street High School Cafeteria (WA-B-513), circa 1940s 202 State Street PVA #039A-04-022</p> <p>One story concrete block construction (60' x 120') with side gable roof. Concrete block foundation. Stone window sills and lintels. Multi-light windows on building elevations.</p> |
| Non-contributing | 3c | <p>Site of Lee Square and State Street High School Capital Aluminum Manufacturing Building (WA-B-513), 1961 202 State Street PVA #039A-04-022</p> <p>Site of Lee Square (see #3) and site of State Street High School from 1885 to 1954. State Street High School building demolished in 1962. One story commercial building (60' x 88'). Poured concrete foundation. Frame construction covered with corrugated metal siding. Front gable roof covered with metal roofing.</p> |
| Non-contributing | 4 | <p>Vacant Lot 230 State State PVA #039A-04-025</p> |
| Non-contributing | 5 | <p>Discount Carpet Store, 1971 236 State Street PVA #039A-04-025</p> <p>One story brick construction (44' x 45') with flat roof covered with wood shingles. Poured concrete foundation. Arched windows.</p> |

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CONTINUATION SHEETSection 7 Page 7Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

-
- | | | | |
|---|-----|---|------------------|
| Non-contributing | 6 | Duplex, 1941 240-242 State Street | PVA #039A-04-027 |
| One story duplex. Frame construction covered with vinyl siding and brick. Flat roof covered with asphalt shingles. Poured concrete foundation. Shed roof porches. | | | |
| Contributing | 7 | Halsell House (WA-B-514), 1942 506 East 3 rd Avenue | PVA #039A-03-037 |
| One story side gable Bungalow with entry porch. Porch has chamfered columns with brick bases. Stone foundation. Three bay front elevation. One over one double-hung windows. | | | |
| Non-contributing | 8 | Mustang Inn (WA-B-515), circa 1949-1951 508 East 3 rd Avenue | PVA #039A-03-038 |
| One story front gable commercial converted for use a duplex. Frame construction covered with vinyl siding. Stone foundation. Two bay front elevation. Shed porch. | | | |
| Contributing | 9 | Gibson House (WA-B-516), 1941 510 East 3 rd Avenue | PVA #039A-03-039 |
| One story side gable single-family Bungalow. Concrete block foundation. Three bay front elevation with one-over-one double-hung windows. Entry porch. | | | |
| Non-contributing | 10 | Site of Bowling Green Academy/Auto Clinic Building (WA-B-517), 1949 302-304 State Street | PVA #039A-04-033 |
| Site of Bowling Green Academy, a private academy that provided black residents with secondary education. One story (50' x 100') commercial building. Concrete block construction. Concrete slab foundation. | | | |
| Contributing | 11a | House (WA-B-518), 1905 312 State Street | PVA #039A-04-034 |
| One and a half story single-family Bungalow. Masonry foundation. Frame construction with vinyl siding. Cross gable with central hipped section roof. | | | |

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Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Three bay width. Central door and one over one windows. Wraparound porch supported by decorative wrought iron railings.

Non-contributing 11b Garage, date unknown
312 State Street PVA #039A-04-034

Two-car detached garage. Frame construction covered with vinyl siding.

Contributing 12 House (WA-B-519), 1905
318 State Street PVA #039A-04-037

One and a half story single-family Bungalow. Masonry foundation. Frame construction. Cross gable roof. Brick chimneys located in side and rear gables. Engaged corner porch with tapered square columns set on cast stone piers. Paired one over one windows. Central door.

Contributing 13a House (WA-B-520), 1905
320 State Street PVA #039A-04-039

One and a half story single-family Bungalow. Masonry foundation. Frame construction. Hipped dormer with three single light windows. Three bay width. Engaged corner porch supported with square columns. Central door. Windows one over one.

Non-contributing 13b Garage, date unknown
320 State Street PVA #039A-04-039

Detached garage (17' x 20'). Frame construction.

Contributing 14 Wilson-Hockersmith House (WA-B-521), 1910
322 State Street PVA #039A-04-040

One and a half story cross gable single-family dwelling. Frame construction. Hipped, gable roof. Three bay width. One over one windows. Transom over central door. Shed roof porch supported by decorative wrought iron posts.

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**Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky**

- | | | |
|-------------------|----|--|
| Contributing | 15 | <p>House (WA-B-522), 1930 332 State Street PVA #039A-04-044</p> <p>One and a half story cross gable single-family dwelling. Frame construction. Central chimney. Two bay width. Paired one over one windows on west elevation. Gable front porch supported by square wooden columns set on brick piers. House is mirror image to 334 State Street.</p> |
| Contributing | 16 | <p>Whitlow House (WA-B-523), 1930 334 State Street PVA #039A-04-045</p> <p>One and a half story cross gable single-family dwelling. Frame construction. Central chimney. Two bay width. Paired one over one windows on west elevation. Gable front porch supported by square wooden columns set on brick piers. House is mirror image to 332 State Street.</p> |
| National Register | 17 | <p>State Street Baptist Church (WA-B-9), 1896 338-340 State Street PVA #039A-04-046</p> <p>One and a half story brick, L-shaped main block with subsidiary blocks in angle and on north side. Entry tower in angle, faces corner of State Street and East 4th Avenue. Stone detail. Buttress strips. Round arch openings.</p> |
| Contributing | 18 | <p>Phillips House (WA-B-524), 1930 513 East 4th Avenue PVA #039A-03-078</p> <p>One story, three bay single-family Bungalow. Frame construction covered with vinyl siding. Brick foundation. Front facing entry porch with chamfered wood and brick columns.</p> |
| Contributing | 19 | <p>House (WA-B-525), circa 1933-1941 515 East 4th Avenue PVA #039A-03-077</p> <p>One story, three bay single-family Bungalow. Frame construction covered with vinyl siding. Stone foundation. Entry porch. Front gable roof with asphalt shingles.</p> |

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

- | | | | |
|---|----|--|------------------|
| Contributing | 20 | House (WA-B-526), 1905 404 State Street | PVA #039A-04-052 |
| <p>One and a half story cross gable, single-family dwelling. Frame construction. Gable roof with asphalt shingles. Interior end chimney on south elevation. Three bay width. Paired one over one windows in the front gable bay and in rear ell. Two single one over one windows and door with transom above located on side gable front elevation. Porch supported with tapered wood posts on tapered brick piers.</p> | | | |
| Contributing | 21 | Duplex Bungalow/Bowling Green-Warren County Library, Colored Branch (WA-B-527), 1920 412 State Street | PVA #039A-04-054 |
| <p>Duplex Bungalow. Frame construction. Hipped roof. Hipped dormer with three-six light windows. Porch roof supported with decorative metal railing. One of three duplex Bungalows situated together in the 400 block of State Street.</p> | | | |
| Contributing | 22 | Duplex Bungalow/Alice's Beauty Shop (WA-B-528), 1920 414 State Street | PVA #039A-04-056 |
| <p>Duplex Bungalow. Frame construction. Hipped roof. Hipped dormer with three-four light windows. Porch supported by square wood posts, engaged wood columns, and decorative brackets. One of three duplexes situated together in the 400 block of State Street.</p> | | | |
| Contributing | 23 | Duplex Bungalow (WA-B-529), 1920 416 State Street | PVA #039A-04-057 |
| <p>Duplex Bungalow. Frame construction. Hipped roof. Hipped dormer with three-four light windows. Porch supported by elaborate metal posts and brackets. One of three duplexes situated together in the 400 block of State Street.</p> | | | |

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| Contributing | 24 | Frank Kister House (WA-B-530), 1875 418 State Street PVA #039A-04-058 |
| Two story Victorian Eclectic single-family dwelling. Frame construction. Cross gable plan. Two bay width. Paired one over one windows located in front facing gable. First story bay window with one over one window. Front facing gable porch supported by square wood posts. Decorative brackets under eaves of roof and porch. Central chimney. | | |
| Contributing | 25 | House (WA-B-531), 1899 424 State Street PVA #039A-04-061 |
| One and a half cross gable. Frame construction. Cross gable roof with central hipped section. Center chimney. One over one light windows. Front porch supported by square wood posts set on coursed stone pillars. | | |
| Contributing | 26 | C.E. Loving House (WA-B-532), 1915 426 State Street PVA #039A-04-062 |
| One and a half story cross gable. Frame construction. Cross gable roof with center stone chimney. Two bay width. One over one light windows. Front porch supported by square wood posts set on stone pillars. | | |
| Contributing | 27 | Phillips Ice Service (WA-B-533), 1945 438 State Street PVA #039A-04-065A |
| One story commercial block. Masonry foundation. Wood and masonry construction covered with yellow glazed tile. Asymmetrical three bay façade. Paired four over four windows on side façade separated by projecting masonry pilasters. Flat roof with coping. Two contrasting color beltcourses located on top third of exterior. | | |
| National Register | 28 | Underwood-Jones House (WA-B-11), circa 1875 506 State Street PVA #039A-04-071 |
| Two and a half stories. Brick construction, American bond. Foundation concrete block. Gable-hip roof with asphalt shingles. Second Empire style. Mansard roof. Decorative brackets under eaves. | | |

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| Contributing | 29a | O.D. Porter House and Tourist Home (WA-B-256), circa 1890 439 State Street PVA #039A-04-066 |
| | | Victorian Free Classic style. Two and a half stories. L-plan. Brick construction. Foundation coursed limestone. Roof steep pitch hipped with front facing gable and covered with asphalt shingles. Second story porch supported with brick columns set on cast stone pillars. Second story projecting bay window on front façade. Windows one over one, single and double placement. Two bay width. |
| Non-contributing | 29b | Garage, date unknown 439 State Street PVA #039A-04-066 |
| | | Detached garage. Frame construction. |
| Non-contributing | 30 | Vacant Lot 433 State Street PVA #039A-04-064 |
| Non-contributing | 31 | Garage, 1991 429 State Street PVA #039A-04-063 |
| | | One story commercial building (45' x 127'). Brick construction. Metal garage door. Front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. |
| Contributing | 32 | Eubanks-Cheatham House (WA-B-534), circa 1900 423 State Street PVA #039A-04-050 |
| | | Two story gable front and wing. Cross gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Cast stone foundation. Frame construction clad in asbestos siding. Three bay width. One over one windows. Flat roof porch supported by freestanding and engaged wood columns. Patterned wood shingles gable detailing. Additions, one and one half story, cement foundation, shingle siding. |
| Non-contributing | 33 | DBS Drywall and Building Supply Building, 1991 419 State Street PVA #039A-04-055 & 039A-04-059 |
| | | One story commercial building. Frame construction covered with corrugated metal siding. Poured concrete foundation. Front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. |

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Contributing 34 House/Childhood Home of Mrs. O.A. Moses (WA-B-535), 1915
409 State Street PVA #039A-04-053

One story cross gable. Cross gable with central hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. Central brick chimney. Limestone foundation. Frame construction. Two bay width. Two over one windows. Flat roof porch supported by wrought iron railing.

Contributing 35 Clifford Lindsey Service Station (WA-B-450), 1948
401 State Street PVA #039A-04-051

One story, oblong box (27' x 42') service station. Flat roof with coping. Cement block Wall construction. Two overhead garage doors. Entry door flanked by single light windows.

Contributing 36 Duplex Bungalow (WA-B-536), 1940
445-447 East 4th Avenue PVA #039A-04-050

One story, four bay duplex Bungalow. Frame construction with weatherboard. Front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Stone foundation. Entry porches on front elevation.

Contributing 37 House (WA-B-537), 1930
443 East 4th Avenue PVA #039A-04-049

One story, three bay Bungalow. Frame construction covered with weatherboard. Side gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Entry porch and carport.

Contributing 38 House (WA-B-538), 1920
347 State Street PVA #039A-04-048

One story cross gable Bungalow. Cross gable roof, asphalt shingles. Two bay width. Frame construction with weatherboard cladding. Picture window under front facing gable. Shed porch supported by wood columns mounted on brick piers.

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Contributing 39a State Street Church Parsonage (WA-B-539), circa 1925
345 State Street PVA #039A-04-047

One story Bungalow. Front facing gable, asphalt shingles. Three bay width. Frame construction covered with asbestos shingles. Hipped porch supported by decorative wrought iron posts set on brick pillars. Open brickwork porch railing.

Non-contributing 39b Detached Garage, date unknown
345 State Street PVA #039A-04-047

Detached garage (10' x 28'). Frame construction.

Non-contributing 39c Accessory Structure, date unknown
345 State Street PVA #039A-04-047

Accessory storage structure (6' x 14').

Contributing 40a Barlow House (WA-B-540), 1926
329 State Street PVA #039A-04-043

One story Bungalow. Front facing gable, asphalt shingles. Three bay width. Frame construction covered with PermaStone. Paired three light windows in gable eave. Asymmetrical façade. Offset door with three light window flanked by a single three over one window (north) and a pair of two over one windows (south). Hipped porch supported by decorative wrought iron posts. Decorative wrought iron porch balustrade.

Non-contributing 40b Garage, date unknown
329 State Street PVA #039A-04-043

Two-car detached garage (12' x 39'). Concrete block construction.

Contributing 41 Halcomb House (WA-B-541), 1939
327 State Street PVA #039A-04-042

One story Bungalow. Front facing gable, asphalt shingles. Three bay width. Frame construction with weatherboard. Single six light window in gable eave. Central door with six light window flanked by single six over six windows. Masonry foundation. Hipped porch supported by rectangular wood posts set on brick piers. Central brick chimney.

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| Contributing | 42 | Blakey House (WA-B-542), 1910 325 State Street PVA #039A-04-041 |
| <p>Two story American Foursquare duplex. Hipped roof, asphalt shingles. Gable dormer with paired single light windows. Four bay width. Coursed stone foundation. Frame construction covered with vinyl siding. First floor façade contains mirror image door and single one over one window with doors located toward ends. Second story façade contains paired one over one windows, a pair for each duplex. Pent porch supported by round wood columns set on coursed stone pillars. Porch enclosed with wrought iron railing.</p> | | |
| Non-contributing | 43 | Randolph Hale & Meredith Building, 1970 319 State Street PVA #039A-04-038 |
| <p>Two story brick commercial building. Metal parapet. Flat roof with asphalt shingles. Poured concrete foundation.</p> | | |
| Contributing | 44 | Tudor Revival House (WA-B-543), 1937 315 State Street PVA #039A-04-036 |
| <p>One story Tudor Revival. Side facing gable roof, asphalt shingles. Front facing gable with asymmetrical sloping roof over entry door. Frame construction covered with stone cladding. Single narrow window under front facing eaves. Massive stone interior end chimney, crowned with decorative chimney posts.</p> | | |
| Contributing | 45a | Hi-Way Drive Inn (WA-B-481), 1945 313 State Street PVA #039A-04-035 |
| <p>One story concrete block commercial building used as restaurant and converted for use as a theatrical performance center. Flat roof. Concrete block foundation.</p> | | |
| Non-contributing | 45b | Commercial Building, date unknown 313 State Street PVA #039A-04-035 |
| <p>One-story commercial building used as an automobile repair garage. Brick construction.</p> | | |

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| Contributing | 46 | Ashlock Service Station & Café (WA-B-449), circa 1940s 301 State Street PVA #039A-04-032 |
| | | One story limestone commercial building. Half-hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. Stone foundation. |
| Contributing | 47 | Duplex Bungalow (WA-B-544), 1940 427-429 East 3 rd Avenue PVA #039A-040-032 |
| | | One story, four bay duplex Bungalow. Frame construction covered with weatherboard cladding. Stone foundation. Front gable roof with asphalt shingles. Two entry porches. |
| Contributing | 48 | Duplex Bungalow (WA-B-545), 1940 423-425 East 3 rd Avenue PVA #039A-04-032 |
| | | One story, four bay duplex Bungalow. Frame construction covered with weatherboard cladding. Stone foundation. Front gable roof with asphalt shingles. Two entry porches. |
| Contributing | 49 | Commercial Building (WA-B-546), 1947 417-421 East 3 rd Avenue PVA #039A-04-032 |
| | | One story, brick commercial building with two storefronts. Poured concrete foundation. Flat roof. |
| Contributing | 50 | Commercial Building (WA-B-547), 1948 415 East 3 rd Avenue PVA #039A-04-031 |
| | | One and a half story brick commercial building. Poured concrete foundation. Front gable roof with asphalt shingles. |
| Non-contributing | 51a | Site of Bowling Green Academy Girl's Dormitory Bowling Green Auto Sales Building (WA-B- 548), circa 1952 229 State Street PVA #039A-04-024B |
| | | Site of Girl's Dormitory for the Bowling Green Academy until 1927. Listed in the 1914, 1925, and 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. One story commercial building. Front gable roof with asphalt shingles. Poured |

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concrete foundation.

Noncontributing 51b Jimmy's Auto Sales Building (WA-B-548), circa 1950s
223 State Street PVA #039A-04-024A

Commercial building. Side gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Frame construction covered with weatherboard.

Contributing 52a Site of Lee Square (WA-B-549), circa 1802
201 State Street PVA #039A-04-023

Site of Lee Square, property donated by founder of Bowling Green, Robert Moore, in 1802 for use as a public square for African-American residents. Site historically used as a public space for recreational and other municipal uses.

Non-contributing 52b George Washington Carver Center (WA-B-549), circa 1950s
201 State Street PVA #039A-04-023

One and a half story residential structured converted for use as a meeting facility. Moved to site in 1960s by the George Washington Carver Center Board of Directors. Brick construction with vertical frame siding. Front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Side entry porch.

Contributing 53 Dr. Isaac B. Bruton Residence (WA-B-550), circa 1925
139 State Street PVA #039A-04-014

One and one-half story Bungalow. Side gable roof with asphalt shingles. Front facing gable over porch. Brick foundation. Frame construction covered with vertical board cladding. Paired one light windows in front gable eaves and single one over one window in side gable eaves. Three bay width. Central entry flanked by two six over six windows. Porch gable supported by tapered square wood posts set on brick piers.

Non-contributing 54 Cooney's Trim Shop, 1978
137 State Street PVA #039A-04-013

One story, brick (32' x 45') commercial building. Front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Poured concrete foundation.

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Contributing 55 Temple-Dorsey House (WA-B-551), circa 1930
127 State Street PVA #039A-04-008

One story cross gable plan. Cross gable with central hip roof, asphalt shingles. Brick chimney located at apex of hipped roof. Coursed stone foundation. Frame construction with brick patterned roll sheathing. Three bay width. Single one over one window located in front facing gable elevation. Shed roof porch located on southeast corner of building and supported by tapered square wood posts set on decorative cement pillars.

Contributing 56 House (WA-B-552), 1926
125 State Street PVA #039A-04-007

One story cross gable plan. Cross gable roof, asphalt shingles. Stone foundation. Frame construction, covered with asbestos shingles. Three bay width. Single one over one window located in front facing gable façade. Central, multi-light door and one over one window located under pent roof supported by decorative wrought iron posts set on coursed stone piers.

Contributing 57 Fresh House (WA-B-553), 1921
119 State Street PVA #039A-04-006

One story pyramidal roof Bungalow. Medium pitch hipped roof, asphalt shingles. Masonry foundation. Frame construction covered with vinyl siding. Three bay width. Central door with decorative lights flanked on each side by a single one over one window. Pent porch roof supported by square wood posts set on coursed stone piers. Decorative coursed stone balustrade enclosed porch.

Notes

¹ Jakle p. 220-242.

² "Building Being Razed Believed to Have Been First Negro School Here." *Park City Daily News* 9/8/63.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Shake Rag Historic District meets National Register Criterion A, and it is significant within the historic context: "African American Experience in Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1867-1954." The Shake Rag Historic District helps us to understand the important role African-Americans have played in the growth and development of Bowling Green as a regional population center from the years after the Civil War and continuing through the first half of the 20th century. This neighborhood contains structures that are associated with important themes of education, religion, and transportation in Bowling Green, Warren County, and Kentucky.

The period of significance 1867-1954 reflects the growth and development of the Shake Rag Historic District. The beginning date 1867 indicates the year that the State Street Baptist Church initiated services at its present location. The ending date 1954 indicates the closing of State Street High School (WA-B-513). The significant date 1875 indicates the construction of the Frank Kister House (WA-B-530) at 418 State Street Street. The significant date of 1884 indicates the founding of Bowling Green Academy, and the date 1886 represents the opening of State Street High School. The significant dates 1900 and 1923 indicate the residency of African American physicians, Dr. O.D. Porter (WA-B-256) and Dr. Z.K. Jones (WA-B-11), respectively, in the Shake Rag Historic District. The significant date 1929 represents the construction of the State Street High School gymnasium (WA-B-555); the date 1947 indicates the opening of the Bowling Green-Warren County Public Library, Colored Branch (WA-B-527); and the significant date 1949 represents the opening of U.S. 31W Bypass.

African American Experience in Bowling Green, 1867-1954

In 1890, Warren County ranked fifth among Pennyrile Region counties in African American population. African Americans made up twenty-six percent of the population of Warren County.¹ While social and economic change caused this number to decline to thirteen percent by 1940, the Shake Rag neighborhood has maintained its association with Bowling Green's African American community throughout the period of significance.

The Shake Rag Historic District is the only intact historic African American district in Bowling Green. Prior to the 1970s, four traditional African American neighborhoods – Shake Rag, Jonesville, Delafield, and Bartown – existed. The Shake Rag neighborhood historically encompassed the area between the Barren River and East 5th Avenue and College and Chestnut Streets. While the original Shake Rag neighborhood experienced alteration, demolition, and encroachment, the nominated district still retains the highest concentration of original residences, businesses, and churches associated with the African American experience in Bowling Green and Warren County. As other African American neighborhoods in Bowling Green succumbed to the expansion of Western Kentucky University or were destroyed or significantly altered by urban renewal projects, the Shake Rag neighborhood remained a stable residential community. The Jonesville neighborhood was located between Russellville Road

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(U.S. 68/80) and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. This African American neighborhood was similar to Shake Rag and included schools, residences, churches, and businesses. Due to the expansion of Western Kentucky University, the Jonesville community was entirely razed by 1967. The Bartown neighborhood was located off U.S. 31W Bypass near East 13th and East 14th Avenues and Magnolia and Nutwood Streets. Today this neighborhood retains few original structures associated with the traditional African American neighborhood. The Delafield neighborhood was situated near Hobson Grove and mirrored the Jonesville and Shake Rag communities. Due to urban renewal projects in the 1970s, this community experienced significant demolitions and severe alterations, and today the Delafield neighborhood fails to reflect the African American experience during the period of significance.

That the Shake Rag Historic District was able to maintain its historical integrity is all the more remarkable because it is situated at one of Bowling Green's central transportation corridors. The "foot" of State Street, at the Barren River, was an early landing, ferry, and bridge site, making the route up State Street one of the main entrances to downtown Bowling Green from the North. With increased use of the automobile, State Street became the northbound route for Dixie Highway (U.S. 31W), the first major north-south motorway linking Bowling Green to Louisville and Nashville.

In 1797, the first building lot was sold in Bowling Green. Robert Moore, one of the town's founders, donated the lots on either side of State Street and south of East Second Avenue as a public square, later known as Lee Square. A similar lot was laid out six blocks south that eventually became the elaborately landscaped public square, Fountain Square Park, that Bowling Green is known for today. Lee Square did not receive the elaborate treatment, although over the years it has served as a focus of community activity. The part of Lee Square on the east side of State Street became the site for State Street School, built in 1884. The western half of Lee Square has been a playground and home to several successive community centers. Currently it is the site of the George Washington Carver Center.

Education

State Street School was Bowling Green's first public school for African Americans. In 1886 it had an enrollment of four hundred eleven pupils in eight grades.² Although Kentucky authorized the building of its first public schools in 1837, it was not until 1882 that legislation was passed authorizing funding for the education of blacks.³ The opening of State Street School three years after the passage of this legislation links the State Street School to Kentucky's earliest provision of public education for blacks. The school's surviving gym annex (WA-B-555) provides a valuable local link to the early days of public education for African Americans in Bowling Green-Warren County.

The Covington-Moses House (WA-B-496) at 140 State Street is also associated with the State Street School. Not only is it home to Mrs. O.A. Moses, graduate of Fisk University and the University of Illinois and who became the school's first librarian, it was also where children purchased their lunches before the school had its own cafeteria. Mattie Covington, Mrs. Moses's aunt, ran the lunch operation in addition to boarding black travelers who could not stay in many of Bowling Green's hotels.⁴

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State Street graduates comment about the high quality of the curriculum at the State Street School. Graduate and later principal Herb Oldham states:

The teachers drilled that into us. They prepared you so you could come back and uplift your own people. We learned that we needed an education to help ourselves and families, because if you don't do something to uplift yourself, you've lost.⁵

Despite inequitable funding and a lack of amenities, residents of the State Street neighborhood saw the neighborhood's school not as a legacy of segregation, but as places of empowerment. Teachers and school personnel are remembered and referred to as role models who held their students to high standards.

The State Street School is remembered for its success in both academics and athletics. A history of Bowling Green, for example, notes that more than one-half of the graduating class of 1929 went on to college.⁶ The State Street Mustangs won numerous championships in football and basketball, and before desegregation, according to the same history, the basketball team drew "record-breaking crowds when they played – and soundly defeated – teams from all-white city and county schools."⁷

Martin's *Pennyryle Cultural Landscape* notes that Kentucky's slowness in supporting public education resulted in a number of private academies in the state. One of these was the Bowling Green Academy, founded in 1884, continuing through the 1930s and located at 306 State Street. The existence of the school in a regional population center, such as Bowling Green, is evidence that educational opportunity was unavailable for blacks everywhere; students from parts of the Pennyryle without local public schools for blacks came to Bowling Green and boarded in order to receive an education. Recalls Bowling Green Academy graduate Maereeth Kurykendall Whitlaw:

Drakesboro had no black high school. If it were not for the academy, I would have to go Nashville or Louisville. We learned Latin (Cicero, Virgil), Spanish and geometry, as well as other subjects. I graduated second in my class.⁸

In 1947, the Bowling Green-Warren County Public Library opened a new "colored" branch at 412 State Street in the home of Miss Bessie Woods, replacing an earlier branch that opened in 1945 at 322 Chestnut Street. The library contained 3,500 volumes and reported a monthly circulation of 400 books. It also featured a children's room and recreational programs.⁹

The existence of State Street School, the Bowling Green Academy, the public library branch, and the active Sunday Schools of the neighborhood's churches are evidence of the neighborhood's role as a center of education. Many of the teachers, principals, and ministers that founded and ran the schools lived in the neighborhood. The clustering of educational institutions in one neighborhood illustrates Martin's observation that the presence of academies and schools in a Pennyryle community were indicative of the

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neighborhood and community interest in education.¹⁰

Not only was Bowling Green a regional center of commerce and education, but the clustering of schools in an urban center illustrates the gap that existed in attitudes toward education between city and urban dwellers. According to Martin, this tension was one of the contributing factors in the delayed development of strong public schools in Kentucky.¹¹ The State Street neighborhood helps us understand patterns in the development of education in the Pennyriple; its educational landscape shows us that the trends Martin observes in the development of the region hold true for black as well as white communities.

The surviving State Street Gymnasium (WA-B-555), the sites of State Street School and Bowling Green Academy, and the numerous homes associated with teachers, principals, librarians, and ministers influential in the education of the African-American community, show the central role that the lower State Street neighborhood played as a regional center for education.

Religion

Similar to its role as an education center, the Shakerag neighborhood was and continues to be a religious center. The State Street Baptist Church is the largest, oldest, and most influential black church in Bowling Green.¹² It traces its origins to 1838 when it was organized as the African Baptist Church and held services in Bowling Green's first white First Baptist Church. Eventually a separate building was constructed and as early as 1867 the congregation worshipped at its present location.¹³ The current building was built in 1898 and replaces an 1873 structure that was destroyed by fire. A robust example of Victorian Gothic-Romanesque Revival styling, the State Street Baptist Church is evidence that by the turn of the century, a solid middle and professional class had emerged within Bowling Green's African American community.¹⁴ The church became "the pioneer and mother church of all Black Baptist Churches in Bowling Green" and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹⁵ The church was also active in the social history of the neighborhood, housing the Child Health Conference for Colored Children in the 1930s and 1940s.

The State Street Baptist Church and the Presbyterian-affiliated Bowling Green Academy help us to understand the role of religion in the Pennyriple. The State Street congregation's early affiliation with, and subsequent separation from, Bowling Green's white First Baptist Church after the Civil War reflects the pattern of black church organization in the Pennyriple.¹⁶ Just as the State Street Baptist Church became the dominant black church in Bowling Green, the Baptist church became the dominant church of blacks after the Civil War in the Pennyriple. The mission-oriented Bowling Green Academy reflects the Presbyterian denomination's concerns for education and the establishment of schools for blacks throughout the South in the decades after the Civil War.¹⁷ Reverend W.M. Wolfe and his wife, Hattie Fleming Wolfe, lived in the Academy's dormitory at 229 State Street and were respected African American educators and community leaders. Mrs. Wolfe was the first woman, black or white, to be elected an elder in the U.S.A. Presbyterian Church.¹⁸

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Domestic Architecture and Growth of Bowling Green as Population Center

The domestic architecture of the lower State Street area helps us to understand the emergence of Bowling Green as a population center in the period from the late 1860s to the first decades of the 20th century. In the decades after the Civil War, blacks in the Pennyryle clustered in counties that offered industrial and service-industry employment. In Bowling Green, sizable numbers of blacks had access to the canning, lumber, stone, rock asphalt, and dairy industries.¹⁹ Counties with large cities, such as Warren County and Christian County, could offer these types of employment and developed significant black populations (26 and 45 percent, respectively, in 1890). Predominantly rural counties in the Pennyryle, on the other hand, frequently had black populations of less than 10 percent.²⁰

The houses built on lower State Street represent the type of one-story T-plan houses built for the working class in urban areas throughout the Pennyryle. The Shake Rag Historic District is similar to the St. Joseph's Historic District in Bowling Green. "Located at the western end of Main Street, across the Louisville and Nashville Railroad tracks from the Downtown Commercial Historic District, this residential district [St. Joseph's] is closely linked with Bowling Green's first industrial area consisting of largely workers' houses built between 1860 and about 1940."²¹ The Shake Rag Historic District includes the most cohesive group of residential structures, and this district represents one of only four African American neighborhoods in Bowling Green during the period of significance.

The one-story Southern bungalows and T-plan houses on Lower State Street were built mainly in the first two decades of the 20th century and have varying degrees of decorative scrollwork ornamentation. The emergence of these types of houses in the county seat towns of the Pennyryle can be seen as the search of the growing middle class for houses that express modernity and as an adaptation to an increasingly industrial society.²² Low in cost, small in scale, and borrowing from the Arts and Crafts philosophy, these houses were seen as employing the latest ideas in building technology, healthful living, and convenience. A well-designed modern bungalow was a statement of solid middle class status, and the bungalows of Lower State Street were built by and for Bowling Green's emerging black middle class. The 1922 Bowling Green City Directory lists 36 single-family homes in the Lower State Street neighborhood, all but three of them occupied by African Americans.

In addition to the decorated and unadorned Southern bungalows of the neighborhood's working class, the neighborhood also featured the larger homes of an emerging middle and professional class. James and Mattie Covington moved to Bowling Green from the rural Plano community in southeastern Warren County near the turn of the century. James, a successful carpenter, built many houses in the neighborhood and throughout Bowling Green before building his own two-story, fourteen-bedroom home in 1906 at 140 State Street.²³ Dr. O.D. Porter, a graduate of Fisk University Medical School and one of the first black physicians in Bowling Green, purchased a large two-story brick home at the northwest corner of State Street and East 5th Avenue in 1900. In 1923, Dr. Z.K. Jones, another prominent black physician, purchased the historic Cox-Underwood House on the southeast corner of State Street and East 5th Avenue. In a 1975 interview, Dr. Jones remembered the pride he felt in purchasing the home and saw it as the fulfillment of a

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dream that seemed impossible to him as a boy growing up in the neighborhood.²⁴

The domestic architecture of the Lower State Street Historic District chronicles the emergence of a black working and professional class in Bowling Green in the early 20th century. The houses of Doctors Porter and Jones defined the southern border of the neighborhood and were status symbols within the community. The 1922 city directory, the last to list residents by race, shows that beyond East 5th Avenue, State Street became a predominantly white neighborhood. Lower State Street, with its mix of educational and religious institutions and its unofficial-though-distinct boundary at East 5th Avenue, was a cohesive African American residential community throughout the period of significance.

Transportation

Changes that came to the neighborhood were the result of another set of impacts, those related to transportation changes in Bowling Green, Warren County, and Pennyriple region. The Covington-Moses Home (WA-B-496), 140 State Street, operated as the Southern Queen Hotel after its owner Mattie Covington became aware that chauffeurs and others travelling with wealthy white tourists had to sleep in their cars because they could not stay in Bowling Green's white hotels.²⁵ The home of Dr. O.D. Porter (WA-B-256), 439 State Street, was also operated as a tourist home by his widow. The gas station at 401 State Street (WA-B-450) represents 1940s commercial architecture and is an excellent example of an "oblong box" filling station. These transportation-related structures indicates State Street's role as the primary north route of Dixie Highway (U.S. 31W) through Bowling Green before the opening of U.S. 31W Bypass in 1949. After Bowling Green Academy and its girls dormitory were razed in the 1950s and State Street School was demolished in 1962, their sites became attractive to developers as commercial sites due to the proximity of the Lower State Street neighborhood to U.S. 31W, Bypass, and railroad. Today the neighborhood retains its strong residential character in all but the 200 block, which has a large window factory on the site of the State Street School and a former Chrysler dealership, now used as a boat repair and sales, on the site of the Bowling Green Academy girls dormitory across the street. Intermixed throughout the rest of the neighborhood are small industrial and commercial structures that were constructed when State Street became a designated federal highway. Some, such as the Phillips Ice Company, 438 State Street, built in 1945, have a longtime presence in the neighborhood and contribute to its mixed-use character.

Summary

The landscape and architecture of the Shake Rag Historic District help us to understand changes that took place in Bowling Green from the decades after the Civil War to the mid-20th century. African Americans helped to shape the emergence of Bowling Green as a regional population center. The stable residential neighborhood while accommodating changes that contributed to Bowling Green's growth. The preservation of the neighborhood as a historic district enables us to see broad patterns that affected the larger Pennyriple cultural area while noting the distinct contributions of individual residents.

Future knowledge and information about the lives of the black middle class residents of the district may be revealed through archeological investigations. Excavations at the now demolished state Street

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Public School and the Bowling Green Academy could illustrate information about the students, teachers, and visitors to these educational facilities. Investigations on the grounds of the Underwood-Jones house may reveal information pertinent to the medical practices of this neighborhood as well as the foundations of an infirmary once located at the rear of the property. Archeological excavations at a number of the private residences might reveal artifacts relevant to the average middle class residents of the neighborhood, and could be compared with materials owned and used by residents of white middle class neighborhoods.

Notes

¹ p. 208, Charles Martin *The Pennyryle Cultural Landscape*. Kentucky Heritage Council: Frankfort, KY 1988.

² "Building Being Razed Believed to Have Been First Negro School Here." *Park City Daily News* 9/8/63. According to this article, a small house on the same lot was an even earlier school building used as a caretakers house once State Street School was built. The house was razed in 1963.

³ Martin p. 137.

⁴ Mrs. O.A. Moses, tape-recorded interview with Brian Gregory, 10/21/96.

⁵ Quoted in "School Reunion: Pride of BG's Black Schools Binds Graduates, Teachers" *Park City Daily News* 7/8/84.

⁶ Baird, Nancy Disher. *Bowling Green: A Pictorial History*

⁷ Baird, 141.

⁸ Quoted in "Depression, Western's Expansion Affected Town's Black Community" *Park City Daily News* 9/29/88.

⁹ "Formal Opening of Branch Library for Colored People Scheduled Today" *Park City Daily News* 11/2/47.

¹⁰ Martin p. 10.

¹¹ Martin p. 167.

¹² This is not to discount the role other churches have played in the community. Taylor's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on East 7th Avenue and Cecilia Presbyterian Church on College

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Street are two other churches that have been significant. These churches and possibly several other churches need to be documented in an expansion to the Shake Rag Historic District.

¹³ Sumpter, Irene Moss. *Our Heritage: An Album of Early Bowling Green, Kentucky Landmarks*. Bowling Green, KY: American Bank and Trust. 1978. p. 213.

¹⁴ *Architecture of Warren County, Kentucky 1790-1940*. Bowling Green, KY: Landmark Association. 1984. P. 166.

¹⁵ Sumpter p. 213.

¹⁶ Martin p. 130.

¹⁷ Martin p. 129.

¹⁸ Obituary, *Park City Daily News* 5/21/36.

¹⁹ Martin p. 267.

²⁰ Martin p. 208.

²¹ *Architecture of Warren County, Kentucky 1790-1940*. p. 273.

²² Martin p. 271.

²³ Mrs. O.A. Moses, tape-recorded interview with Brian Gregory, 10/21/96.

²⁴ Transcript of an interview with Dr. Z.K. Jones, Biographies and Obituaries Vertical File, Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

²⁵ Mrs. O.A. Moses, tape-recorded interview with Brian Gregory, 10/21/96.

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

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**Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky**

10. Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Verbal Boundary Description

See Shake Rag Historic District map (1" = 200').

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Shake Rag Historic District are the most cohesive group of residential, commercial, and residential structures representing the four African American neighborhoods in Bowling Green during the period of significance. The strong sense of neighborhood cohesiveness, historic significance, and architectural integrity present in the structures located on the east and west sides of the mid-100 through 400 blocks of State Street, including the Underwood-Jones House (WA-B-11) at 506 State Street, and on the 400 and 500 blocks of East 3rd and 4th Avenues, represent the core of the Shake Rag Historic District. The boundaries include a contiguous group of buildings, and this district includes historic resources that possess historic integrity of location, setting, and association.

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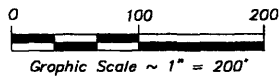
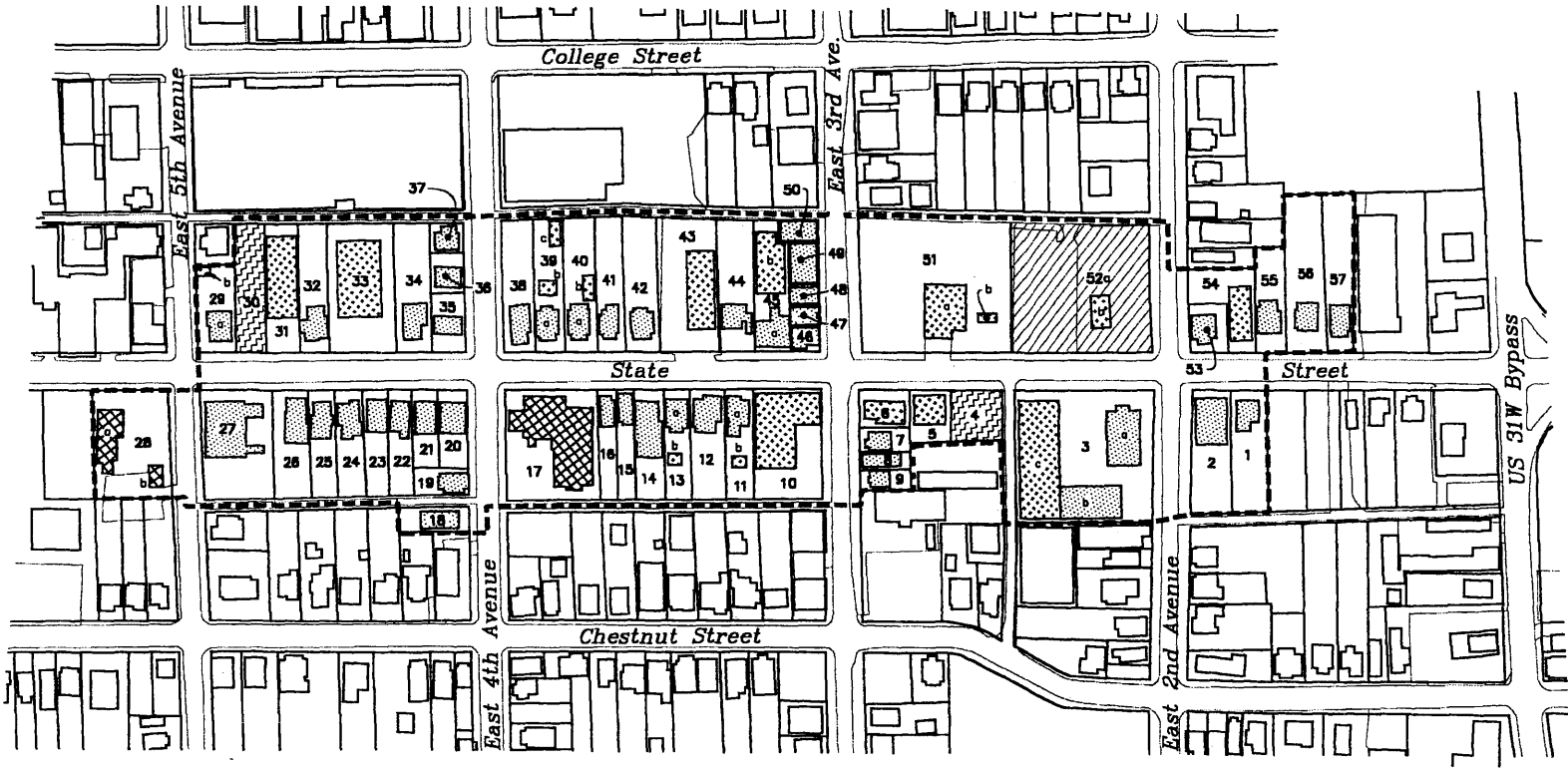
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Additional Documentation
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**Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky**

Additional Documentation

1. District Map, 1" = 200'
2. USGS Map, Bowling Green South (1968)
3. Aerial Photograph, 1" = 400'
4. Map of City of Bowling Green, 1877



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | Non-contributing Site |  | Proposed Historic District Boundary |
|  | Contributing Building |  | Contributing Site |
|  | Listed in National Register of Historic Places |  | Non-contributing Building |

**SHAKE RAG HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY**

Date
November 28, 1999

Scale
1" = 200'



--- Boundary

Additional Documentation
Aerial Photograph, 1" = 400'
Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Kentucky

MAP OF WARREN COUNTY, KY.

From New and actual Surveys
 COMPILED & PUBLISHED BY
A. G. Meers & Co.
 27 South Sixth St. PHILADELPHIA

Printed by W. B. Tandy & Co. at No. 27 S. 6th St. Phila.

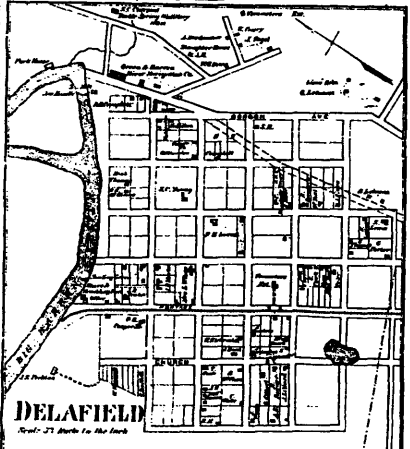
Warren County Business Directory
 Adams, J. M., Farmer and Stock Grower, P. O. ...
 Allen, J. M., Farmer and Stock Grower, P. O. ...
 Anderson, J. M., Farmer and Stock Grower, P. O. ...
 ... (list continues with many names and professions)

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN



Warren County Business Directory

Adams, J. M., Farmer and Stock Grower, P. O. ...
 Allen, J. M., Farmer and Stock Grower, P. O. ...
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 ... (list continues with many names and professions)



Adams, J. M., Farmer and Stock Grower, P. O. ...
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 Anderson, J. M., Farmer and Stock Grower, P. O. ...
 ... (list continues with many names and professions)

SMITH GROVE
 Scale 27 Rods to the Inch

Map of Bowling Green, KY 1877
 Snake Rag Historic District

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Photograph Log

Janet Johnston and Becky Proctor took the following photographs of the Shake Rag Historic District on July 16, 1999 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. All negatives are located at the Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board offices, 1141 State Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Description

- 1 Lively House, 136 State Street (WA-B-554). Camera direction is southeast.
- 2 Southern Queen Hotel/Covington-Moses Residence, 140 State Street (WA-B-496). Camera direction is southeast.
- 3 State Street High School Gymnasium, 200 State Street (WA-B-555). Camera direction is south.
- 4 State Street High School Cafeteria, 202 State Street (WA-B-513). Camera direction is northeast.
- 5 Capital Aluminum Manufacturing Building/Site of State Street High School, 202 State Street (W-B-513/non-contributing). Camera direction is southeast.
- 6 Discount Carpet Building, 236 State Street (non-contributing). Camera direction is southeast.
- 7 Duplex, 240-242 State Street (non-contributing). Camera direction is southeast.
- 8 Halsell House, 506 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-514). Camera direction is northeast.
- 9 Mustang Inn, 508 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-515). Camera direction is northeast.
- 10 Gibson House, 510 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-516). Camera direction is northeast.
- 11 Auto Clinic/Site of Bowling Green Academy, 302-304 State Street (WA-B-517/non-contributing). Camera direction is south.
- 12 House, 312 State Street (WA-B-518). Camera direction is southeast.
- 13 House, 318 State Street (WA-B-519). Camera direction is southeast.
- 14 House, 320 State Street (WA-B-520). Camera direction is southeast.

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Photograph Log (continued)

Description

- 15 Wilson-Hockersmith House, 322 State Street (WA-B-521). Camera direction is southeast.
- 16 House, 332 State Street (WA-B-522) (left) and Whitlow House, 334 State Street (WA-B-523) (right).
Camera direction is southeast.
- 17 State Street Baptist Church, 338-340 State Street (WA-B-9/National Register). Camera direction is south.
- 18 State Street Baptist Church, 338-340 State Street (WA-B-9/National Register). Camera direction is east.
- 19 House, 513 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-524). Camera direction is southwest.
- 20 House, 515 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-525). Camera direction is southwest.
- 21 House, 404 State Street (WA-B-526). Camera direction is southeast.
- 22 Duplex/Bowling Green-Warren County Library, Colored Branch, 412 State Street, (WA-B-527).
Camera direction is southeast.
- 23 Duplex/Alice's Beauty Shop, 414 State Street (WA-B-528). Camera direction is southeast.
- 24 Duplex, 416 State Street (WA-B-529). Camera direction is southeast.
- 25 Frank Kister House, 418 State Street (WA-B-530). Camera direction is southeast.
- 26 House, 424 State Street (WA-B-531). Camera direction is southeast.
- 27 C.E. Loving House, 426 State Street (WA-B-532). Camera direction is southeast.
- 28 Phillips Ice, 438 State Street (WA-B-533). Camera direction is east.
- 29 Underwood-Jones House, 506 State Street (WA-B-11/National Register). Camera direction is south.
- 30 O.D. Porter House and Tourist Home, 439 State Street (WA-B-256). Camera direction is north.
- 31 Garage, 429 State Street (non-contributing). Camera direction is northwest.

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Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky

Photograph Log (continued)

Description

- 32 Eubanks-Cheatham House, 423 State Street (WA-B-534). Camera direction is northwest.
- 33 DBS Drywall and Building Supply, 419 State Street (non-contributing). Camera direction is northwest.
- 34 House, 409 State Street (WA-B-535). Camera direction is northwest.
- 35 Clifford Lindsey Gas Station, 401 State Street (WA-B-450). Camera direction is northwest.
- 36 Duplex, 445 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-536). Camera direction is southwest.
- 37 House, 443 East 4th Avenue (WA-B-537). Camera direction is southwest.
- 38 House, 347 State Street (WA-B-538). Camera direction is northwest.
- 39 State Street Church Parsonage, 345 State Street (WA-B-539). Camera direction is northwest.
- 40 Barlow House, 329 State Street (WA-B-540). Camera direction is northwest.
- 41 Halcomb House, 327 State Street (WA-B-541). Camera direction is northwest.
- 42 Blakey House, 325 State Street (WA-B-542). Camera direction is northwest.
- 43 Randolph Hale & Meredith Building (non-contributing). Camera direction is northwest.
- 44 Tudor Revival House, 315 State Street (WA-B-543). Camera direction is northwest.
- 45 Hi-Way Drive Inn, 313 State Street (WA-B-481). Camera direction is northwest.
- 46 Ashlock Service Station and Café, 301 State Street (WA-B-449). Camera direction is west.
- 47 Duplex, 427-429 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-544). Camera direction is southwest.
- 48 Duplex, 423-425 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-545). Camera direction is southwest.
- 49 Commercial Building, 417-421 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-546). Camera direction is southwest.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Section _____ Page _____

**Shake Rag Historic District
Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky**

Photograph Log (continued)

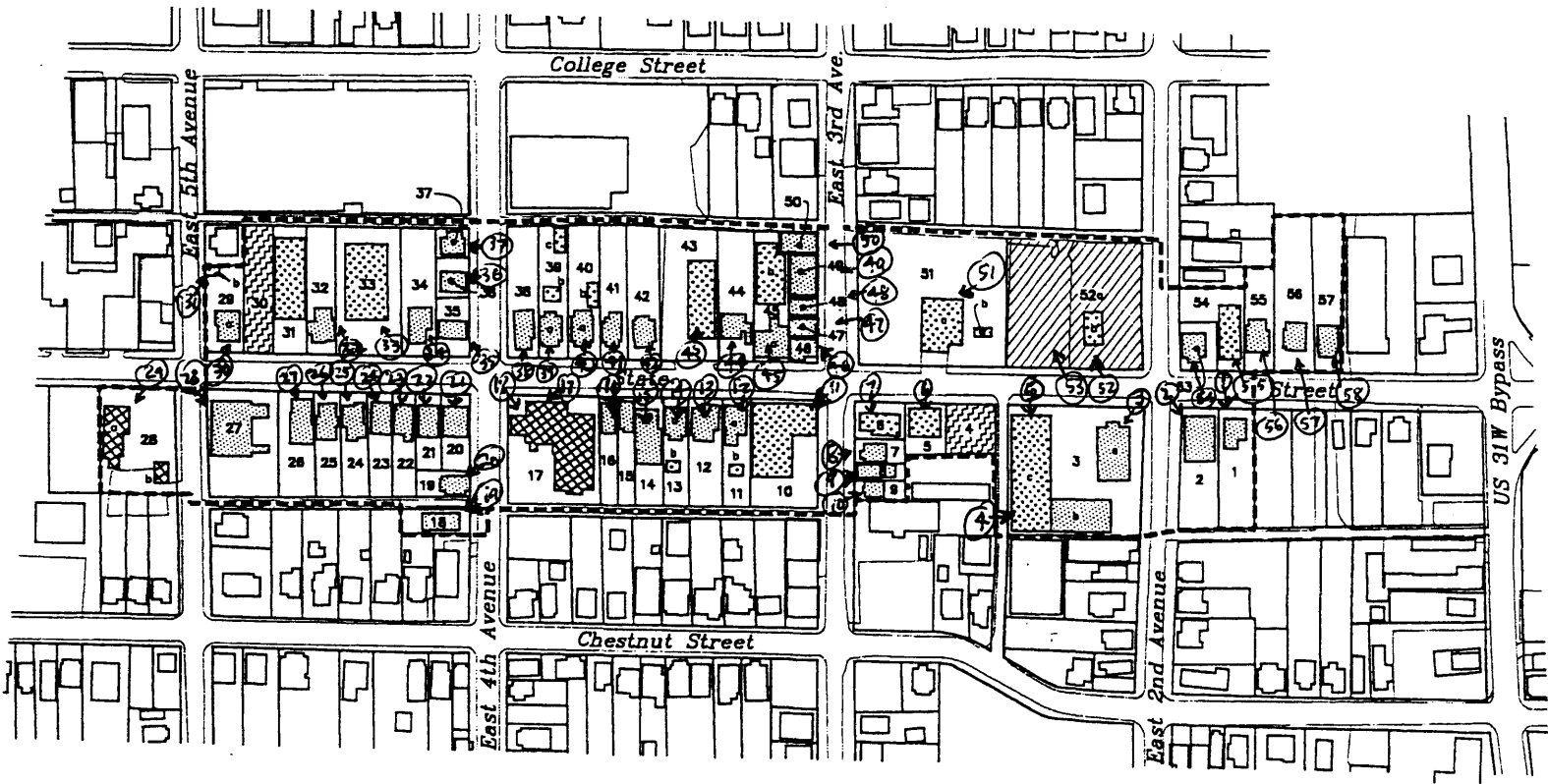
Description

- 50 Commercial Building, 415 East 3rd Avenue (WA-B-547). Camera direction is southwest.
- 51 Site of Bowling Green Academy Dormitory, 223 State Street (WA-B-548). Camera direction is west.
- 52 George Washington Carver Center, 201 State Street (WA-B-549). Camera direction is west.
- 53 Site of Lee Square, 201 State Street (WA-B-549). Camera direction is west.
- 54 Dr. Isaac B. Bruton Residence, 139 State Street (WA-B-550). Camera direction is northwest.
- 55 Cooney's Trim Shop, 137 State Street (non-contributing). Camera direction is northwest.
- 56 Temple-Dorsey House, 127 State Street (WA-B-551). Camera direction is northwest.
- 57 House, 125 State Street (WA-B-552). Camera direction is northwest.
- 58 Fresh House, 119 State Street (WA-B-553). Camera direction is northwest.



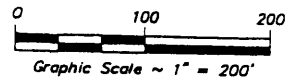
Photo Identification Map.







⊙ # = Photograph Number and Direction



SHAKE RAG HISTORIC DISTRICT BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Date
November 28, 1999
Scale
1" = 200'



-  Non-contributing Site
-  Contributing Building
-  Listed in National Register of Historic Places
-  Proposed Historic District Boundary
-  Contributing Site
-  Non-contributing Building