

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received AUG 2 1984 date entered AUG 30 1984

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

1. Name

historic Nitrate Village ^{No.} Number 1 Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

Roughly bounded by Wilson Dam Circle, Wheeler and Wilson Dam

Wilson Dam Ave.-200-604; Wilson Dam Circle-700-718; Watts Bar-100-215, 301-406; street & number Douglas St.-101-206; Guntersville St.-101-210; NA not for publication

Guntersville Circle-100-106; Chickamauga-100-105,200; Pickwick-100-108 even. city, town Sheffield NA vicinity of congressional district 5

state Alabama code 01 county Colbert code 033

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes checkboxes for district, building(s), site, object, public/private/both, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress, accessible (yes/restricted/unrestricted/no), agriculture/commercial/educational/entertainment/government/industrial/military, museum/park/private residence/religious/scientific/transportation/other.

4. Owner of Property

name multiple ownership

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Colbert County Courthouse

street & number Corner Water & Main Streets

city, town Tuscumbia state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1970-present federal X state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nitrate Village #1 Historic District contains 112 residential houses, 2 school buildings and one large apartment building, formerly an officers quarters and school. The district is located on the flat plain between the south bank of the Tennessee River, Spring Creek and the city of Sheffield.

The boundaries selected for the district are based on the original 1918 street plan and include all major buildings and streets from the 1918 development.

The district is built on a distinctive "liberty bell" street plan with two large greens; one in the upper portion of the bell between Wilson Dam Avenue and Wheeler Avenue, and the other located at the base which is bordered by Pickwick Street and Norris Circle and is divided by Chickamauga Street. The contributing houses within the district sit on their original sites. The setbacks of the houses range from approximately 20 to 30 feet.

All the contributing houses and buildings share several common elements throughout. The houses are basically of the Bungalow type, rooted in the Craftsman tradition which was popular in the U.S. from the turn of the century to 1920. The materials used suggest a consistent stylistic theme borrowed from the Mission style. The architects achieved cosmetic variety, or an illusion of diversity by using slight variations in the treatment of facades and with slight shifts of roof planes and types, while the central interiors remained more constant. The houses and buildings have brick foundations and stuccoed walls, with the stucco applied to either metal lath mounted on 2 x 6 wooden frames or to clay tiles. Red tile roofs are utilized, which, in exceptionally few cases, are still intact and there are wooden floors and plaster walls. There is also a common decorative/utilitarian arched vent that is found repeatedly in the gables of the houses.

There are three basic categories of the contributing houses found within the district and are determined according to size. There are four types of smaller houses, seven types of medium size houses and one type of the largest style house, plus a school building and old officers quarters. The house types of the contributing houses found within the district are as follows:

Type 1, Category A (small houses) - Photograph #5. The houses in this type have a rectangular main block, gabled roofs with a front slope that extends in the same plane to cover a three-bay pier porch across a 3/4 front. The rear projects cross gabled extensions. There is a central front door, with flanking French doors, opening onto the porch. The windows at side and rear have guillotine sashes. Behind the single gable projects a central chimney.

Type 2, Category A

Type 3, Category A

Type 4, Category A

Type 1, Category B (medium houses)

Type 2, Category B

Type 3, Category B

Type 4, Category B

Type 5, Category B

Type 6, Category B

Type 7, Category B

Type 1, Category C

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Type 2, Category A - Photograph #4. This varies from type #1 in that the broad gable faces the street and projects over a 3/4 length porch. A tiled hood is applied above a 3-bay porch; the narrow tiled roof has lightly bracketed eaves. The rectangular main block has a rear projection. The front door is off-center with two French windows to one side. A chimney which feeds the living room projects from the gabled roof.

Type 3, Category A - Photograph #6. Differs essentially as a front type of numbers 1 & 2. The porch is covered by a broad gable that extends at right angle from the main gable, parallel to the street. Porch has bracketed tiled hood covering the front porch.

Type 4, Category A - Photographs #8, #11, #12. Essentially a rectangular main block Bungalow. This type has an off-center piered porch covered by a single gable which projects at right angle of the front main gable. To one side of porch a triple window sets in a lightly projecting bay. There is also a lightly projecting bay, covered by secondary gable at the right side elevation. A prominent chimney projects from the front slope of the roof. Sashing varies between 4/4 for narrow window openings and 8/8 for larger openings.

Type 1, Category B - Photograph #13. As with two smaller counterparts, the rectangular main block is covered by a broad tiled gable roof with palladian-style vents at either end. From the main roof projects a broad gabled three-bay porch with bracketed eaves. The bays of the porch are symmetrically arched with the central bay somewhat wider than the two flanking bays. Hood or pent is covered with tile and spans the bays of the porch. Two massive chimneys break the slope of the main roof. From the main block there is a large irregular-shaped extension from the rear. Sash windows are variously 4/4 and 8/8.

Type 2, Category B - Photograph #7. Rectangular main block, covered by a broad gable extending from front to rear, here; however, the porch is inset at one corner rather than projecting from the front. Corresponding with the porch is a laterally projecting bay on the opposite side of the porch. Both porch and corner bay are covered by severely crossed gables projecting at right angles from the main roof line. The gables are linked by bracketed hood which spans the width of the facade and forms a triangular tympanum before the main gable. The facade is divided into three bays, treating the porch as one bay, the two central windows as a second bay, and on the opposite side of the porch, a triple window as the third. The two central windows contain 8/8 sashes and the opposite windows 4/4.

Type 3, Category B - Photograph #15. The major difference between this Bungalow and type 2, category B, is that the facade lacks the continuous hood or pent. Instead, the pair of windows composing the central bay is set into a slightly projecting pavilion, articulated at the top by a stylized crenellation.

Type 4, Category B - Photograph #10. The main gable is parallel to the street instead of extending from front to back. There is the same inset corner porch but the two-window central bay is emphasized by being covered with a secondary cross gable. Lateral elevation is embellished with palladian openings that function as louvered attic vents.

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Type 5, Category B - Photographs #17 & #18. Most Hispanic looking of the house types with recessed arcaded porch, bracketed eaves and tiled roof. Main block covered with a broad gabled roof with front slope parallel to street. From the main block, a small wing projects from one side, covered with a gabled roof telescoped from main gable. The three-bay porch is abutted by an advanced gabled bay containing a triple window. Behind it a chimney breaks the slope of the main roof line. Further variety is achieved in this type by reversing the plan of the house.

Type 6, Category B - Photograph #9. Original story and 1/2, 2nd floor rooms have been added. Consists of story and 1/2 rectangular main block covered with gabled roof which, as in the case of the smaller Bungalows, extends forward in same plane to cover a three-bay pier porch. Same type as the smaller bungalows, but the walls are extended upward to accommodate the second story. In this larger variety the front slope of the roof is broken by a small triangular gable containing an arched louvered vent. The central door is flanked, as in the smaller companion houses, by a pair of French windows.

Type 7, Category B - Photographs #21 & #22. This house anticipates in format, if not in scale, the larger ranking officers homes (Category C) situated along Gunterville Circle. It consists of a gabled, rectangular main block from which is laterally extruded a small gabled bay on plane with the front slope of the roof. A centered three-bay, gabled porch projects from the front--the wide center bay being flanked by two narrow apertures. The bays are slightly rounded at the top most corners and are spanned by the same lightly bracketed and tiled hood distinguishing some of the other bungalow variants to be seen in the community. Breaking the front slope of the main roof is a prominent, off-center chimney serving the living room fireplace.

Type 1, Category C (large house) - Photograph #14. These three houses were built as ranking officers quarters. They are enlarged and elaborated versions of Type 7, Category B. It consists of a large rectangular main block with spacious offset extensions to the rear. A deep three-bay, gabled porch projects at right angles from the broad main gable. The eaves of the porch are accentuated by a series of paired brackets. Rear wing contains a solarium which is outwardly indicated by rows of casement windows. Sashing in the larger windows and elsewhere throughout the house is 8/8.

Village School - Photograph #2. Stylistically, the Village School--the centerpiece of the entire complex--continues the prevailing, faintly Hispanic, theme found in the surrounding buildings with its tiled roof and stuccoed walls. A complex arrangement of gabled roof planes belies the school building's essentially simple, T-shaped, symmetrical layout. A broad gable, with a raised clerestory vent astride the rear part of the ridge, extends from front to back over the main pavilion. From this two-storied center section, a complex, graduated roofline extends laterally over an identical pair of lower wings. There shelter the twin, recessed entrances to the school. Between the entrances and across the lower story of the main block stretches a bond of five ribbon windows. Above them, at second-floor level, is a trio of arched windows fronted by a decorative iron

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balcony. Inside the school, the center section which forms the stem of the T-shaped floor plan accommodates an auditorium. Classrooms occupy the surrounding space as well as the adjoining wings.

Old Officers Quarters - One of the two most prominent buildings in the district, it is two-story, hollow tile covered with stucco. Originally, the roof was covered with tile, which has been replaced by asphalt shingles. Follows an "H" shaped arrangement with a rectangular main block flanked by a pair of story and 1/2 wings turned at right angles to the central sections so as to form a shallow court. Wings are linked to main block by slightly lower hyphens. The distinguishing feature of the wings is the clerestory or raised monitor roof which straddles the length of the ridge. Extending laterally from each side of these wings is an additional short four-bay projection, also marked by a raised monitor. Originally a small one-story shed-roofed tile porch spanned the three central bays of the main block. This porch has been replaced by a longer metal porch with second floor deck. Window openings employ both casement and guillotine sashes, with the first floor windows being surmounted by rectangular transoms. Four large chimneys, two in the main block and one each in the wings, break the roof line. There is also a full basement.

The contributing houses of 1918 vintage construction have undergone very little exterior alteration. Also intact are many of the original street lamps and fire hydrants placed in the village during a 1919 improvement project. Many of the trees found in the village, particularly the cedars, were planted at the time of the completion of construction. There are modern houses found in the area bordered by Fontana Street, Watts Bar and Douglas Streets and a short section of Wilson Dam Avenue. There is another section of modern houses located on the east side of Guntersville Street to Norris Street and two others located at the top of Wilson Dam Circle. These buildings, of either frame or brick construction, were all built after 1950 and are not associated with the original development of the district or with T.V.A.'s control. Therefore, these have been judged to be non-contributing to the character of the district.

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES IN NITRATE VILLAGE #1 HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 1 3. Old Officers Quarters (108 Watts Bar)
- 2 22. 100 Pickwick Street, 1918; Type 2, Category B.
- 3 23. 101 Douglas Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 4 24. 303 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 5 25. 305 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
- 6 26. 102 Pickwick Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 7 27. 104 Pickwick Street, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
- 8 28. 106 Pickwick Street, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
- 9 29. 108 Pickwick Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 10 30. 100 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 3, Category A.
- 11 31. 102 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
- 12 32. 104 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
- 13 34. 105 Chickamauga Street, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
- 14 35. 103 Chickamauga Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 15 36. 101 Chickamauga Street, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
- 16 37. 108 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
- 17 38. 104 Chickamauga Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 18 39. 102 Chickamauga Street, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
- 19 40. 100 Chickamauga Street, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
- 20 41. 401 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 4, Category B.
- 21 42. 403 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
- 22 43. 405 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 4, Category B.
- 23 44. 407 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 6, Category B.

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-
- 24 45. 401 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
25 46. 403 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
26 47. 405 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 3, Category B.
27 48. 110 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
28 49. 112 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 4, Category B.
29 50. 114 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 3, Category B.
30 51. 400 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 3, Category B.
31 52. 201 Douglas Street, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
32 53. 402 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
33 54. 203 Douglas Street, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
34 55. 404 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
35 56. 205 Douglas Street, 1918, Type 6, Category B.
36 57. 406 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
37 58. 301 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
38 59. 500 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 4, Category B.
39 60. 502 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
40 61. 504 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
41 62. 506 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 4, Category B.
42 63. 508 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
43 64. 510 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 1, Category B.
44 65. 512 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
45 66. 514 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 1, Category B.
46 67. 516 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
47 68. 600 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.

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- 48 69. 602 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
49 70. 604 Wilson Dam Avenue, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
50 71. 700 Wilson Dam Circle, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
51 72. 702 Wilson Dam Circle, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
52 73. 704 Wilson Dam Circle, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
53 76. 714 Wilson Dam Circle, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
54 77. 716 Wilson Dam Circle, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
55 78. 718 Wilson Dam Circle, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
56 79. 305 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
57 80. 303 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 7, Category B.
58 81. 301 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
59 82. 209 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
60 83. 207 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 1, Category B.
61 84. 205 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
62 85. 203 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 1, Category B.
63 86. 201 Wheeler Avenue, 1918, Type 5, Category B.
64 89. 106 Guntersville Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category C.
65 90. 102 Guntersville Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category C.
66 91. 100 Guntersville Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category C.
67 96. 105 Guntersville Street, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
68 97. 103 Guntersville Street, 1918, Type 4, Category A.
69 98. 101 Guntersville Street, 1918, Type 4, Category B.
70 99. 400 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 3, Category B.
71 100. 402 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 4, Category B.

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- 72 101. 404 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 73 102. 406 Watts Bar Street, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
- 74 103. 116 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 3, Category A.
- 75 104. 118 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 3, Category B.
- 76 105. 120 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 3, Category B.
- 77 106. 122 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 78 107. 124 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 2, Category B.
- 79 108. 126 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 3, Category B.
- 80 109. 130 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
- 81 110. 132 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 2, Category A.
- 82 111. 134 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
- 83 112. 136 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 1, Category A.
- 84 113. 138 Norris Circle, 1918, Type 3, Category A.
- 85 115. Village School (200 Chickamauga)

NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES IN NITRATE VILLAGE #1 HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 1 1. 100 Watts Bar Street; CA 1960, 2-story, brick construction, gable roof.
- 2 2. 104 Watts Bar Street; CA 1960.
- 3 4. 208 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955.
- 4 5. 103 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, 1 story, frame construction.
- 5 6. 105 Watts Bar Street, CA 1955, 1-story, frame construction, gabled roof, gabled extension at front.
- 6 7. 107 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, 1-story, frame construction, gabled roof, gabled extension at front.
- 7 8. 201 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, 1-story, frame construction, gabled roof, inset entrance.
- 8 9. 205 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, 1-story, frame construction, gabled roof.

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- 9 10. 207 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, 1-story, frame construction with gabled roof.
- 10 11. 209 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 11 12. 211 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 12 13. 213 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 13 14. 215 Watts Bar Street; CA 1955, two-story, frame construction.
- 14 15. 206 Douglas Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 15 16. 204 Douglas Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 16 17. 202 Douglas Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 17 18. 200 Douglas Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 18 19. 102 Douglas Street; CA 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 19 20. 201 Wilson Dam Avenue; 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 20 21. 200 Wilson Dam Avenue; 1955, single story, frame construction.
- 21 33. 106 Norris Circle; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 22 74. 708 Wilson Dam Circle; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 23 75. 710 Wilson Dam Circle; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 24 87. 200 Wheeler Avenue; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 25 88. 210 Guntersville Street; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 26 92. 201 Guntersville Street; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 27 93. 205 Guntersville Street; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 28 94. 201 Guntersville Street; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 29 95. 107 Guntersville Street; CA 1960, 1-story, brick construction.
- 30 114. C. M. Brewster School (200 Chickamauga Street); 1966; 1-story, brick construction, school building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1918-1949 **Builder/Architect** J. G. White Engineering Corporation/
Ewing and Allen, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria A & C

Industry - Nitrate Village #1 is significant for its association with Nitrate Plant #1, built at Sheffield, which utilized the German-developed Haber process in an unsuccessful attempt to produce ammonium nitrates, and Nitrate Plant #2, at present undergoing demolition by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which utilized raw materials in the Cyanamide Process to produce nitrates for explosives. These two plants, built in 1918, were the only two of their type in the country and were constructed to alleviate the U. S. dependence on foreign sources of nitrates for military use. Nitrate Village #1 was built from May 1918 - May 1919, along with two other villages no longer in existence, to provide housing for both military and civilian personnel and their families who were assigned to the operation of the plants.

Village #1 is also significant for its association with the early development of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The village was owned by T.V.A. from 1933-1949 and provided housing for workers and their families during this period. The public buildings located in the village were used as schools for the workers' children and as places for social gatherings for the workers and their families.

Community Planning - The Nitrate Village is significant as an example of an early 20th century planned community for the Federal Government. The village is an example of the emergency war developments for the government during World War I that were designed and built with rapid construction time and utilitarian quality as the foremost requirements but with concerns for harmony and variety throughout the town plan. The designers of the village, Ewing and Allen, Architects and Town Planners, utilized plaster scale models of each type of house to study group effects and to achieve the optimum design. The final design was the distinctive "Liberty Bell" street plan.

Architecture - Nitrate Village #1 is an excellent example of early prefabrication and standardization in housing construction. Prefabrication and standardization were used throughout this emergency war development in order to cut cost and construction time. All houses and public buildings had stuccoed walls and terra-cotta roofs. Two to three standard sizes of sashes were used; all front doors were the same size, and practically all hardware, plumbing, and lighting fixtures were uniform throughout the village. The project was constructed much the same way that war time merchant ships were fabricated. No full scale drawings were used during construction. In place of these drawings 9 x 12 inch sheets that showed every detail necessary for the construction of the buildings were utilized. This plan for the detailing of construction materials was adopted by the Federal Bureau of Housing and Transportation for the Department of Labor and by the Housing Bureau of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 75 3/4 acres

Quadrangle name Tuscumbia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
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G	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached scale map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bailey

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date July 2, 1984

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 26, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

8/30/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Historical Summary

Nitrate Village Number 1 Historic District

During 1916 as the United States was drawing closer to involvement in the war in Europe, it became apparent to the Congress and the War Department that unrestricted German submarine warfare could severely curtail or completely halt the nation's total supply of nitrates imported from Chile. Congress realized that the disruption of this vital munitions material would cripple U. S. military potential; it, therefore, passed the National Defense Act in order to counter the threat. This act appropriated \$20,000,000 to develop a plant for the domestic production of ammonium nitrate and empowered President Woodrow Wilson to acquire, by condemnation if necessary, all lands needed for the construction of the plant and its surrounding reservation.

The U. S. Nitrate Supply Committee and the Interdepartmental Nitrate Board, following careful study, recommended that \$4,000,000 be used for the construction of an experimental ammonium nitrate processing plant, which would use the German developed Haber process of extracting nitrates from air. U. S. Army Intelligence had obtained incomplete details of the highly secret process which, when built into the plant at Sheffield, caused many problems and led to the plants non-operational status.

President Wilson designated Sheffield, Alabama as the site for the new plant because of the inland safety factor and because of the potential of readily available, cost effective, power from a new hydroelectric power dam being constructed on the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals. During this period it also became evident that the Haber process would not produce the amount of nitrates needed by the military; therefore, approximately \$30,000,000 in emergency funds were appropriated to construct a second plant at Muscle Shoals which utilized the better known cyanamid process. Planning for the permanent operations of these two plants, the Army authorized the construction of three villages to house the workers and their families.

Nitrate Village 2 and Village 3, which were constructed to house workers at Wilson Dam, consisted of one and two-story frame houses. These houses were removed from the original village sites during the early 1950s and were relocated at various sites around the Sheffield and Muscle Shoals area.

Nitrate Village #1, located a short distance from Nitrate Plant #1, was designed by Ewing and Allen, Architects and Town Planners and was built by J. G. White Engineering Corporation of New York. Cost savings and short construction time were imperative on the project; therefore, the designers came up with several ways to achieve these objectives. The designers had plaster models of each type house, to be used within the village, made in 1-16 inch scale. These models were used in three dimensional studies of group effects in order to achieve greater variety and harmony within the village. These scale models and three dimensional studies alleviated the need for group effect studies on paper.

There were twelve variations of houses in all within the village with all buildings being constructed utilizing stuccoed walls and hollow tile roofs. The town plan finally agreed upon was a distinctive "liberty bell" street grid with streets being from forty to seventy feet in width. Great savings in the cost of millwork was achieved by the use of standardized sizes and the ordering of material in large quantities. Two or three standard sizes for window sashes were used throughout the entire village. All front doors used in the buildings were the same size and only three type shutters were used. Hardware for the entire community, including public buildings, was made as simple as possible and uniform throughout. Light fixtures, ranges, plumbing and other materials were uniform as possible.

Historical Summary

Nitrate Village Number 1 Historic District

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The construction of the houses was carried out on the same order that war time merchant ships were fabricated. The architects prepared sets of 9" x 12" sheets showing every detail needed in the construction of the houses. These sheets detailed standards for millwork, hardware, plumbing fixtures, heating, installations of fixtures and were supplied to contractors, subcontractors, millworkers and other workers on the project. This same plan for detailing materials was adopted by the Bureau of Housing and Transportation for the Department of Labor and by the Housing Bureau of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

Twenty-eight different combinations of color schemes were used throughout the houses for walls, trim, shutters, front doors, roofs, window sashes and porch floors and ceilings. Eight color tints were used for each house. A creme color was used predominately for walls, with shades of brown, green and red used predominately throughout other parts of the houses.

At the end of World War I a war-weary public and Congress saw little need to operate the new nitrate plants. When the plants closed in 1919 the officers quarters, school building and permanent houses of Nitrate Village 1 had just been completed and had little occupancy or use. Prior to the closing, during April and May 1919, the streets were graded, storm drains and sewers added and tennis courts were built across the street immediately in front of the officers quarters during an improvement project undertaken within the village.

After the closing of the reservation, there was great debate over what to do with the inactive facility. There were several offers from private individuals, such as industrialist Henry Ford who in July 1921 offered the government \$5,000,000 for the whole facility and planned to develop the area into a huge industrial complex which would employ 1,000,000 workers in steel, aluminum, fertilizers and chemical industries. There was great support for full industrial development of the Muscle Shoals area, which one writer described as "the future site of the greatest commercial and manufacturing community in the world."

The bitter debate raged in Congress for over 10 years and one political party included a supportive plank in its presidential platform during the elections of 1924, 1928 and 1932. Senator George Norris of Nebraska championed the cause for public use of the facility from 1919 to 1932. In May 1933 Norris was victorious in his efforts when President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law an act creating the Tennessee Valley Authority and authorizing the development of the facilities at Muscle Shoals as a fertilizer production and development center.

Preparations for extended operations were undertaken and the houses of Nitrate Village 1 were repaired and opened for the families of the workers.

Educational needs for the children of the workers was one major concern of the T.V.A. By fall of 1933 classes were opened in both the former officers quarters and the school building. The officers quarters were easily adapted for school use and housed one of the more progressive elementary schools in the southeast during its years of operation.

In April 1949, T.V.A. deeded all streets, playgrounds and schools in Village 1 to the city of Sheffield, and in October 1949 the houses were auctioned with many of the residents purchasing the houses they were living in at the time.

The residents have, over the years, made an effort to keep the village much the same way it was at the time of its completion and when it was taken over by T.V.A.

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- 1) America's Munitions, 1917-1918, Report of Benedict Crowell, Assistant Secretary of War: Director of Munitions: Washington, Government Printing Office, 1919.
- 2) Brown, Earl H. and Young, Ronald D., History of U. S. Facilities at Muscle Shoals, Alabama and Origins of T.V.A. U. S. Government Publication, 1976
- 3) Callahan, North, T.V.A., Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A. S. Barnes & Co., Cranbury N.J., 1980
- 4) Clay, Martin, The Facts About Muscle Shoals, Ocean Publishing Company, New York, 1924
- 5) Gamble, Robert S., "Muscle Shoals Architecture," "Historic Muscle Shoals: Buildings and Sites," Journal of Muscle Shoals History, Volume X, 1983
- 6) Lohr, L. R., Captain, U. S. Army. Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals, Southern Railway System Publication, Washington, 1926.
- 7) Muscle Shoals, Hearing Before the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives, 69th Congress, Second Session, Government Printing Office, 1927
- 8) "Muscle Shoals Recollections," National Fertilizer Development Center News, April 1983
- 9) Seay, Maurice F. and McGlothlin, William J. "Elementary Education in Two Communities of the Tennessee Valley, A Description of the Wilson Dam and Gilbertsville Schools," Bulletin of the Bureau of School Services, Vol. XIV, March 1942, Number 3
- 10) Waldo, Willis G. "Muscle Shoals - The Niagara of the South. Alabama's Contribution to America's Economic Welfare." Alabama Handbook: Agricultural and Industrial Resources and Opportunities, Department of Agriculture and Industries, Montgomery, AL Brown Printing Co., Montgomery 1919.
- 11) Warner, Ralph F. "Muscle Shoals - A New Industrial Town In Alabama" Architectural Review, Vol. 8 #1 January 1919.
- 12) Worley, Patty, "History of C. M. Brewster School" Unpublished Manuscript, April 1976.
- 13) Copies of photographs of construction of Nitrate Village #1 from T.V.A. Historical Files, National Fertilizer Development Center, Muscle Shoals, AL

Inclusive Street Numbers for Nitrate Village 1 Historic District, Sheffield

Wilson Dam Avenue
200-604

Wilson Dam Circle
700-718

Watts Bar
100-215
301-406

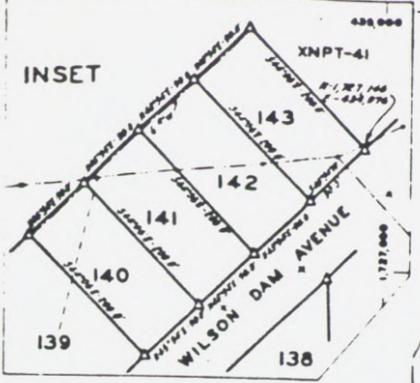
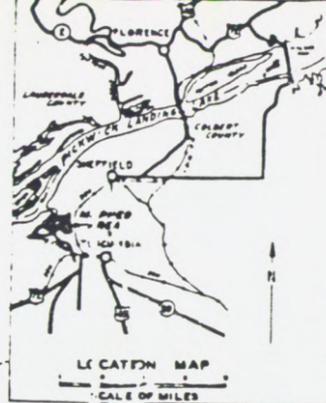
Douglas St.
101-206

Guntersville St.
101-210

Guntersville Circle
100-106

Chickamauga
100-105, 200

Pickwick
100-108 even



- LEGEND
- TELEPHONE LINE AND POLE
 - TELEPHONE LINE UNDERGROUND & MANHOLE
 - POWER LINE - NO POLE
 - POWER LINE - NO TELEPHONE LINE
 - ANCHOR POLE
 - SANITARY SEWER AND MANHOLE
 - STORM SEWER CATCH BASIN AND MANHOLE
 - WATER LINE AND VALVE
 - FIRE PLUG
 - STREET LAMP OR FLOOD LIGHT
 - ANGLE IRON, MID-POINT, UNMARKED POINT
 - LOT LINES
 - TVA BOUNDARY
 - ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE LINE

EXPLANATION

Geo M. Baker

Compiled from:
Land Conveyance Map 185 422 K 522,
1"-100' & 1"-200' P.T.S.
Traverse and Tape Survey of Jan. & Feb. 1949

The positions of corners and directions of lines are referred to the Alabama (West) Coordinate System.



PICKWICK
WHEELER AVENUE
WILSON DAM
CIRCLE

LANDING
CREEK
WILSON DAM
CIRCLE

XNPT-35
6.42 AC.

XNPT-34
2.821 AC.

PARCEL-1
XNPT-33
6.61 AC.

PARCEL-2
XNPT-33
9.82 AC.

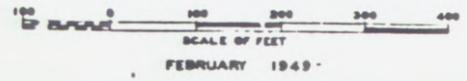
XNPT-32
2.32 AC.

XNPT-26
4.41 AC.

XNPT-27

XNPT-28

SUBDIVISION PLAT
PORTION OF
NITRATE PLANT NO. 1 RESERVATION
COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA
TOWNSHIPS 3S. & 4S., RANGE 11W
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



SURVEY AND CARTOGRAPHY BY
MAPS AND SURVEYS BRANCH

