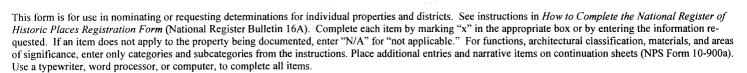
± 1000)

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property		
historic name Natchez Street Historic Distric	ct	
other names/site number "Baptist Neck"		
2. Location		
street & number Roughly bounded by Colucity or town Franklin	ambia Ave., Granbury St., and West Main St.	N/A not for publication N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code T	N county Williamson code 187	zip code <u>37064</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
request for determination of eligibility meets of Historic Places and meets the procedural and perty meets does not meet the National nationally statewide locally. (See continuous Signature of certifying official/Tipe	Iistoric Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this the documentation standards for registering properties in the professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my o Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider muation sheet for additional comments.) Date Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission	e National Register pinion, the prop-
In my opinion, the property meets does additional comments.)	not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuatio	n sheet for
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification	100	
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.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
other, (explain:)		

30

Natchez Street Historic Di	strict	Williamson County, TN				
Name of Property		Co	ounty and State			
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		urces within Property reviously listed resource	es in count.)		
	☐ building(s)☑ district☐ site	Contributing 65	Noncontributing	buildings		
public-Federal	structure object		21	sites structures		
		8 73	2 29	objects Total		
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is listing.)	property listing a not part of a multiple property	Number of Cont in the National R	ributing resources prev Register	viously listed		
N/A		0	<u>.</u>			
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions		Current Functio	ns			
(Enter categories from inst	ructions)	(Enter categories	from instructions)			
DOMESTIC: single dwelli	ng, multiple dwelling	DOMESTIC: sing	gle dwelling, multiple dw	velling		
RELIGION: religious facil	ities	RELIGION: relig	ious facilities			
COMMERCE/TRADE: lu	mber mills,	COMMERCE/TR	ADE: nursing home			
tobacco warehouse, grocer	y stores					
FUNERARY: mortuary		FUNERARY: fun	eral home			
7. Description						
Architectural Classificati (Enter categories from inst		Materials (Enter categories:	from instructions)			
Bungalow/Craftsman	,	`	CK, STONE, CONCRET	ΓE		
Other: Shotgun, Ranch, Ga	ble-Front and Wing		STONE, CONCRETE, W			
			ALUMINUM SIDING			
			PAPER, ASPHALT SH	INGLE		
			WOOD, BRICK, STONE			
		CONCRE	TE			

Williamson County, TN

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Attached Sheets

Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying	(Enter categories from instructions)
the property for National Register listing.)	
101 National Register fishing.)	
A Property is associated with events that have made	ETHNIC HERITAGE – AFRICAN-AMERICAN
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
our history.	SETTLEMENT
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	Period of Significance
individual distinction.	1881-1953
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	
information important in prehistory or history.	
mornation important in promotory or motory.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1881, 1907, 1925, 1953
Property is:	
A owned by a religious institution or used for	
religious purposes.	
B removed from its original location.	Significant Person
	N/A
C moved from its original location.	
	Cultural Affiliation
D a cemetery.	N/A
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property	
	Architect/Builder
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Multiple; unknown
within the past 50 years. Narrative Statement of Significance	
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more co	ontinuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form of	on one or more continuation sheets.)
	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State Agency
previously listed in the National Register (church)	Federal Agency
Previously determined eligible by the National	Local Government
Register designated a National Historic Landmark	☐ University ☑ Other
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
# recorded by Historic American Engineering	Williamson County Archives; Records of Thelma Battle
Record #	

Natchez Street Historic District	Williamson County, TN						
Name of Property		C	county	and State			
10. C L. I. D. 4-							
10. Geographical Data							
Acreage of Property Approximately 25 acres (Leipers Fork 63)	NW)						
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)							
1 16 510756 3974630 Zone Easting Northing 2 16 511274 3974950		3 4	$ \frac{16}{Zone} $ $ \frac{16}{\Box S} $ shee	510766 See continuation	3974660 Northing 3974386		
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 Laura Stewart and Dr. Carroll Van West							
organization Center for Historic Preservation		(date	July 29, 2003			
street & number Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80		telep	hone	615-898-2947			
city or town Murfreesboro	state	TN	1	zip code 37132	2		
Additional Documentation							
Submit the following items with the completed form:							
Continuation Sheets Maps							
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the particle A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large as							
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 Multiple – list attached							
street & number				telephone			

Williamson County, TN

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 listing. 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 20303.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Otan -4 | 11:-4 - -1 - | District

DESCRIPTION

The Natchez Street district is comprised of the central section of Natchez Street beginning at Acton Street continuing to West Main Street. The district also includes several surrounding streets that run perpendicular to Natchez Street, including West Fowlkes Street from Columbia Avenue and Strahl Street to Natchez Street, and the surrounding area bordered by Carter Street, Granbury Street, Eleventh Avenue and Park Street. The district is bordered on the east by Columbia Avenue, on the north by Acton Street, on the west by Park Street, and on the south by roughly two-hundred feet north of Main Street.

A majority of the district is comprised of single and multiple family dwellings and churches. The houses and buildings in this area represent a range of domestic forms from bungalows to Ranch houses that reflect the working-class to middle-class demographics of the neighborhood. A majority of the buildings are of a simplified bungalow and shotgun style, utilizing local materials, craftsmanship, and construction that are unique to the Natchez Street neighborhood.

Several of the homes along Natchez Street are early 1900s bungalow style homes. A few shotgun houses with additions and gable-front and wing cottages remain in the district and represent traditional African-American domestic architecture. Throughout this area, newer structures are interspersed with older properties. A few mobile homes are located throughout the district, and the areas bordered by portions of Carter, Strahl, and Granbury streets contain public housing projects. Another housing project is located on Spring Street just off Natchez Street heading toward West Main. As a historic African-American urban enclave within the larger suburban-driven sprawl of Franklin, the Natchez Street neighborhood has a large number of homes that have remained remarkably intact.

A majority of the homes in this neighborhood occupy noticeably small lots, and are situated in close proximity to the streets. A few large homes are set back from the street on sizeable lots, although large lots are not typical in this neighborhood. The area's churches also occupy very small lots, with very little room designated for parking. Shorter Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) does not have a parking lot at all.

The prevalence of several low stone walls within this area is particularly distinctive. Built with local stone, most of these stone fences are placed only across the front of the lots rather than fencing in the full yard. Providing a decorative addition to the home's area that faced directly onto the street, these may have also provided a means to distinguish personal space and property lines in an area that placed a number of houses on exceptionally small lots. Their low proximity to the ground and placement across only the front of the lot rather than enclosing the entire property make it unlikely that they were used for privacy; rather, they were most likely a reflection of a distinctive value attached to property and home ownership, and freedom from tenancy.¹

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Natchez Street neighborhood, nicknamed "Baptist Neck" by local residents since the early 1900s, is so called because of the three churches that occupy each end and the midpoint of Natchez Street. Shorter Chapel A.M.E. sits at the corner of Natchez and Fowlkes Street, First Missionary Baptist sits at the corner of Natchez and 9th Avenue, and Providence United Primitive Baptist sits on the corner of Natchez and Granbury streets. Claiborne and Hughes Health Center, which was originally built in 1949 to house the Franklin Training School (later Natchez High School), occupies the lot on the corner of Natchez Street and Carter Street, which is not included within the boundaries of the proposed district.

Several homes dating from the late 1800s through the 1950s still stand in the district. The Kinnard-Dotson House, built in 1921, is located on the corner of Natchez Street and Acton Street. This home currently houses Natchez Place, Inc., an organization dedicated to preservation of the neighborhood and its history. Across the street at the corner of Natchez and Eleventh Avenue South sits the Merrill Williams House, built in 1881. The McCoy Brown Hunter house, originally built for the district's earliest African-American dentist, sits at the north end of Natchez Street. Each of these homes is designated with a local marker noting prominent neighborhood residents that have occupied them.

Park Street is a short street that curves off Eleventh Avenue South. Park Street contains a concentration of large, well-built and well-maintained bungalows, as well as two shotgun style houses, a Ranch house, and 1990s tract homes.

West Fowlkes, settled more recently that those listed previously, is bordered on one side by the Williamson County Community Services Building. This street's most notable feature is its high concentration of churches, including two 1950s era buildings that still maintain active congregations.

The Natchez Street neighborhood, bordered by public housing projects as well as the remarkably intact affluent West Main Street neighborhood (NR Hincheyville Historic District 4/15/1982), has retained its unique sense of community. The remaining structures provide an excellent representation of the evolution of a Southern African American community.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Inventory

Fowlkes Street, West, Properties

1. 124 Fowlkes Street, West

The dwelling at 124 W. Fowlkes Street is a one-story center hall tract house, built ca. 1900 and modified in 1950. The dwelling has white aluminum siding, asphalt shingles, a medium pitch side gable roof, and a small shed roof front entry porch with curved metal porch supports. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two six-over-six double-hung windows. (C)

2. 126 Fowlkes Street, West

The dwelling at 126 W. Fowlkes Street is a one-story rectangular shaped white cement block apartment complex, built ca. 1960, with an asphalt shingle hipped roof. Four units contain a single door and window with one chimney on either side of structure. (NC, due to date of construction)

3. 128 Fowlkes Street, West

The dwelling at 128 W. Fowlkes Street is a two-story gable front home, built ca. 1910, with exterior wood shingles and a front gable roof with asphalt shingles and a side brick chimney. The small entry porch has a front gable roof with slender wood columns. White awnings hang over the porch entrance and windows. A central front door is flanked by a pair of two symmetrically placed windows. A privet hedge surrounds the property. (C)

One story gray cement block gable front garage, built ca. 1960. (NC, due to date of construction)

4. 130 Fowlkes Street, West

Winstead Tabernacle

The building at 130 W. Fowlkes Street is a two-story rectangular building, built ca. 1950, with red brick façade, gray cement concrete blocks on remaining three sides, and painted wood trim along the front pitch gable roof. The main entrance has glass double entry doors. (C)

5. 132 Fowlkes Street, West

The dwelling at 132 W. Fowlkes Street is a one-story hipped roof gray brick cottage, built ca.1930, with asphalt shingles and a side brick chimney. The dwelling has a recessed front porch with three metal wrought iron supports. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two large bay windows. A front privet hedge surrounds the property. (C)

6. 138 Fowlkes Street, West

The dwelling at 138 W. Fowlkes Street is a two-story side gable cottage, built ca. 1900, with combination of large and small gray bricks placed in asymmetrical pattern, a front gable roof with green shingles, a side gable roof over front entry porch, and a single front door. (C)

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7. 140 Fowlkes Street, West

Fowlkes Street Church of Christ

The building at 140 W. Fowlkes Street is a one and one-half-story rectangular building with multi-colored brick façade, built ca. 1950, with a low pitch front gable roof. A front gable roof with a side flat extension hangs over a front entry ramp, with wrought iron supports. The main entrance has white wood double doors. The north side has a ca.1960 addition, which is accessed by a covered ramp with white metal railing. (C)

8. 146 Fowlkes Street, West

The dwelling at 146 W. Fowlkes Street is a one-story buff colored brick original shotgun plan with later additions to either side, built ca. 1900, additions ca. 1960. The main entrance is a single front door under a gable roof porch that is supported by two metal posts, flanked by two side casement windows. There is a central red brick chimney. (NC, due to alterations)

9. 151 Fowlkes Street, West

The dwelling at 151 W. Fowlkes Street is a one and one-half-story Minimal Traditional stone house, built ca. 1940, with side gable roof and front gable entry porch. A centrally located front door is flanked by a picture window to the south and a pair of three-over-one double-hung windows to the north. The dwelling has a side porch, built ca. 1970, with battered wood piers on brick bases with a concrete and stone foundation, on the north side of the house. (C)

10. 152 Fowlkes Street, West Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Church

The building at 152 W. Fowlkes Street is a large red brick two-story Victorian with an irregularly shaped plan, built 1925 with 1979 side additions, with a multi-gabled roof, glass block windows, and a square two-story tower with small white decorative wood steeple on triangular brick base. The main entrance has modern double doors flanked by a glass block front entrance. The 1979 side brick addition has a front gable roof and two windows. (C)

Small two-story white cement block outbuilding, side door, gray wood steps. ca.1970. (NC, due to date of construction).

National Park Service

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Natchez Street Properties

11. 230 Natchez Street

McCov-Brown-Hunter House

The dwelling at 230 Natchez Street is a large one-story hipped roof bungalow, built 1913, with pale yellow wood shingles, a hipped dormer with a four-paned window, and a small red brick chimney. There is a full width recessed porch supported by four battered wood piers with gray stone bases that rest on a concrete foundation. A side privet hedge outlines a medium-sized front yard. Windows with green shutters are symmetrically placed on either side of the front door. The home is set at slight angle to the front of street. (C)

Low gray concrete block fence, ca. 1940. (C)

12. 234 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 234 Natchez Street is a two-story central hall house, built ca. 1890, with bright green painted wood shingles, brick chimney centrally located on the ridgeline, and a side gable roof with two cross gable wall dormers with double-hung six-over-six windows and diamond patterned shingles. The dwelling has a one-story front porch with hipped roof and four white wood piers. The main entrance is a central front door flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows. (C)

Low white wood picket fence, ca. 1950. (C)

13. 236 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 236 Natchez Street is a one-story gable front house, built ca. 1920, on small lot, with vinyl siding. There is a low pitch front gable entry porch supported by two slender white wood columns, with a concrete and stone base. A central front door is flanked by paired double-hung windows. (NC due to alterations)

14. 239 Natchez Street

Kinnard-Dotson House

The dwelling at 239 Natchez Street is a reddish brown brick single story Craftsman style house, built in 1921, with a jerkin-head hipped roof with dormer window, and a jerkin-head hipped roof front porch with battered white wood columns on brick bases and a concrete and stone base. A single front door is flanked on either side by two one-over-one windows. (C)

15. 242 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 242 Natchez Street is a small one and one-half-story cottage, built ca. 1890, on very small lot, with a steeply pitched side gable roof, shed dormer with four-pane window, and vinyl siding. There is a concrete full recessed porch with three slender plain white wood columns. A single front door is next to one six-over-six double-hung window. (C)

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16. 244 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 244 Natchez Street is a two-story Craftsman style home, built ca. 1920s, with gray vinyl siding, a steep pitch front gable tin roof, and one six-over-six double-hung second story window with white shutters. There is a single front door with metal awning, one bay window with white shutters and metal awning. The yard contains a side wood rail fence. (C)

17. 246 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 246 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story gable front cottage, built ca.1900, with a brick chimney, wood siding, and a full concrete and stone front porch with low pitch hipped roof and three wrought iron supports. There is a single front door and one double-hung window on lower-story, and one double-hung window on second-story. (C)

18. 248 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 248 Natchez Street is a two-story duplex brick home, built ca. 1900 with ca. 1960 side and rear additions, with a medium pitch side gable roof and full front concrete porch with hipped roof and four battered wood pillars with stone bases. A concrete porch with red brick base and steps leads up to home. Centrally located brick chimney, two front doors flanked by two double-hung three-over-one windows. Single shed dormer window. Recent addition ca. 1970 to northwest section of home contains active beauty parlor. (C)

Low red brick fence surrounding front of home, ca. 1940. (C)

19. 251 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 251 Natchez Street is a one-story symmetrical three-bay Colonial Revival, square plan, home, built ca. 1940, with white vinyl siding and a low pitch front gable roof. The main entrance is a central front door flanked by two one-over-one windows. The dwelling has a front entry porch under a side pitch roof with a concrete and stone base. (C)

20. 253 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 253 Natchez Street is a one-story stone shotgun style home, built ca. 1900, and side addition ca. 1940, with a side pitch gable roof. The dwelling has a recessed front pitch gable roof porch with slender white wood columns. The main entrance is a single door with one double-hung window on main house and one double-hung window on addition, small rear chimney. (C)

21. 256 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 256 Natchez Street is a large two-story rectangular stone house, built ca. early 1900s, with a flat roof. The dwelling has a lower story full stone porch with concrete base supported by four stone columns forming low triangular arches. There is a rustic enclosed second story wood porch with five six-over-six double-hung windows. The main entrance is a single front door. (C)

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22. 263 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 226 Natchez Street is a one and one-half story gable and wing house with three bays, built ca. 1900, with brick veneer and new windows added to the entire dwelling, ca. 1980. (NC, due to alterations)

23. 264 Natchez Street

Merrill-Williams House

The dwelling at 264 Natchez Street is a large white two-story cottage, 1881, with side gable roof and ca. 1900 addition, full shed roof porch and two interior brick chimneys. The porch has two central white wood fluted columns and two corner columns with three white square columns on battered red brick bases. The main entrance is a single front door with transom and sidelights flanked on either side by tripartite double-hung bay windows. Second-story windows are four double-hung windows with black shutters. The dwelling has a concrete front porch with stone base with three steps leading up to house. (C)

Low rough-cut stone wall with front walk entry pillars. (C)

Two-story gable, frame garage and apartment, ca. 1920. (C)

24. 269 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 269 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story three-bay red brick bungalow, built ca. 1920, with a hipped roof front porch with exposed rafters and three white wood battered columns set on rough-cut stone bases. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two double-hung windows with black shutters and wrought iron vertical bars. There are two second-story six-over-six double-hung windows with black shutters. (C)

Low rough-cut stone fence with small entry and corner pillars, ca. 1920. (C)

Front gable roof work shed, built ca. 1960. (NC, due to date of construction)

Metal side carport, built ca. 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

25. 300 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 300 Natchez Street is a Colonial Revival influenced one and one-half-story three-bay cottage built ca. 1940, with wood siding, steep pitch side gable roof with asphalt shingles, interior brick chimney, and two second-story gable dormer windows with six-over-six double-hung windows. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two lower six-over-six double-hung windows. (C)

Curved low red brick fence along front of home, ca. 1940. (C)

Gable front wood garage with asphalt shingles, built ca. 1940. (C)

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Natabaz Stroot Historia District

26. 301 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 301 Natchez Street is a Colonial Revival style one and one-half-story cottage, built ca. 1940, with wood weatherboard siding, side gable roof, interior red brick chimney, and two second-story gable dormer windows with double-hung windows. The dwelling has cream-colored wood trim around windows and doors. The porch is made of concrete and rough-cut stone with shed roof and three wood columns. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two double-hung windows. (C)

27. 304 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 304 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story hipped roof bungalow, built ca. 1920, with aluminum siding, central brick chimney, and a hipped dormer window with two single-paned windows. The dwelling has a recessed front porch with three battered white wood columns with cut stone bases. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by a double-hung window with white shutters. There is a wood wheel-chair accessible ramp attached to front porch.

Frame gable front garage, built ca. 1920. (C)

28. 305 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 305 Natchez Street is a one-story gable-front and wing house, built ca. 1910, with rust-colored wood weatherboard, interior brick chimney, and asphalt shingles. The dwelling has a pair of long double-hung windows in gable, and another pair of long double-hung windows in the wing next to the main entrance, which is a single multi-paned front door. The dwelling has a stone front porch foundation, with a ca. 1940 porch roof replacement and three wrought iron supports. Rear addition, ca. 1970. (C)

Low rough-cut stone wall with entry and corner low pillars surrounding home, ca. 1910. (C)

29. 308 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 230 Natchez Street is an irregular cut gray stone one and one-half-story cottage, built ca. 1930, with a side gable roof and interior brick chimney. The dwelling has a front gable dormer window with a pair of double-hung windows under a window awning. The dwelling has a front gable entry porch with two square wood columns. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two double-hung windows. (C)

30. 310 Natchez Street

Mobile home, built ca. 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

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31. 312 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 312 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story bungalow, built ca. 1920, with metal siding, interior brick chimney, side gable roof, and pier foundation with tin cover. The dwelling has two gable dormer windows with four-over-four double-hung windows. The main entrance is a single front door with one double-hung window. There is a recessed full front porch with concrete block base and four square white wood columns. Rear addition, ca. 1960. (C)

32. 315 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 315 Natchez Street is a cross gable one and one-half-story Craftsman style bungalow duplex, built ca. 1930, with interior brick chimney, tin roof, and wood weatherboard. The dwelling has a full front porch with front gable roof and three wrought iron supports. Each unit has single front door and one eight-over-eight double-hung window. (C)

White wood picket fence surrounding front of home, ca. 1970. (NC, due to date of construction)

Frame gable-front garage, ca. 1970. (NC, due to date of construction)

33. 317 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 317 Natchez Street is a one-story two-bay gable-front and wing cottage, built ca. 1900, with wood siding and asphalt shingles. The dwelling has rear additions ca. 1950 and 1970 and façade addition, ca. 1970. (NC, due to alterations)

34. 318 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 318 Natchez Street is a Craftsman style one and one-half-story bungalow, built ca. 1930, with a side gable roof with exposed rafters, asphalt shingles, two brick interior chimneys, and a shed dormer window with two single-paned windows. The main entrance is a multi-paned front door flanked by two pairs of six-over-six double-hung windows. The dwelling has a front porch with shed roof extension and three battered white wood columns with brick bases. (C)

Cement block fence surrounding front of home, built ca. 1950. (C)

Frame gable front garage, ca. 1930. (C)

35. 322 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 322 Natchez Street is a gable front one and one-half-story bungalow, ca. 1920, with interior brick chimney. There is a pair of upper-story six-over-six double-hung windows and a hipped roof front porch with two battered white wood columns with red brick bases. (C)

Concrete block outbuilding, built ca. 1940. (C)

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Notoboz Stroot Historia District

36. 332 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 332 Natchez Street is a one-story front gable roof cottage, built ca. 1990, with front gable entry porch, vinyl siding, asphalt shingles, and concrete foundation. (NC, due to date of construction)

37. 334 Natchez Street

(Vacant - Formerly Patton's Restaurant)

The building at 334 Natchez Street is a one-story front gable building, built ca. 1920, with asphalt shingles, vinyl siding, and covered front entry with enclosed side rooms. (C)

38. 336 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 336 Natchez Street is a one-story bungalow, built ca. 1940, with side gable roof, interior brick chimney, and an entry porch with front gable roof and two white wood battered pillars with rough-cut stone bases. The main entrance is a single front door with ten-paned sidelights flanked by double six-over-one double-hung windows. (C)

Side gable three-bay cottage, built ca. 1880, with tin roof and recessed front porch with four slender wood columns, two front doors, two six-over-six double-hung windows. (C)

39. 338 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 338 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story duplex four-bay side gable bungalow built ca. 1920, with concrete foundation, completely sided in new wood weatherboard and paired dormer windows, ca. 1995. (NC, due to alterations and date of construction)

40. 342 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 342 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story Craftsman style bungalow with a cross gable roof, built ca. 1930, with red brick on lower level and white wood weatherboard on upper gables. The dwelling has a hipped roof front porch with four white square wood piers with red brick bases of varying heights, and an upper-story double-hung window. The main entrance is a multi-paned front door flanked by two large picture windows added ca. 1960. (C)

Prefabricated barn-style shed, built ca. 1990. (NC, due to date of construction)

41. 346 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 346 Natchez Street is a Craftsman style single-story bungalow, built ca. 1920, with a front gable roof, interior brick chimney, and front stone façade with vinyl siding on remaining three sides. The dwelling has a front gable entry porch with two battered brown wood columns with brick bases. The main entrance is a single multi-paned front door with ten-paned sidelights flanked by a pair of triple three-over-one windows. There is a later rear shed addition with tin roof. (C)

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42. 348 Natchez Street

Mobile home, built ca. 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

43. 352 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 352 Natchez Street is a cross gable one and one-half-story red brick bungalow, built ca. 1940, with a small upper-story double-hung window and exterior red brick chimney. The main entrance is a single front door, with two bay windows flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows. (C)

44. 355 Natchez Street

Johnson-Ewing-Booker-McCullough House

The dwelling at 355 Natchez Street is a gable-front and wing two-story home, built 1891, with interior chimney. Windows have white wood shutters with painted green trim, including an upper-story double-hung window, shed dormer with single pane window, and a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows on gable's lower-story. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows. The dwelling has a recessed front porch with wrought iron supports on brick bases painted green. (C)

45. 360 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 360 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story cottage with a cross gable roof, built ca. 1930, with exposed rafters and two interior brick chimneys. The dwelling has a gable dormer with a pair of three-over-one double-hung windows, two lower-story three-over-one double-hung windows, and single multipaned front door. The dwelling has a small recessed front entry porch with two wrought iron supports. (C)

Gable front white wood garage or shed, built ca. 1930. (C)

46. 365 Natchez Street

Mobile home, built ca. 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

47. 366 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 366 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story hipped roof bungalow, built ca 1920, with white wood siding, interior brick chimney, and a hipped roof dormer with pair of double-hung windows. The dwelling has a full recessed front porch with four battered wood columns with rough-cut stone bases. The main entrance is a single multi-paned front door flanked by two large double-hung windows. (C)

White wood picket fence surrounding front yard, ca. 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

Gable front garage with metal roof, built ca. 1920. (C)

48. 367 Natchez Street

Mobile home, built ca 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

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49. 370 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 370 Natchez Street is a brick two-story, two-bay gable dwelling, built ca. 1880, lean-to addition on the rear of the home ca. 1960, and a limestone block foundation. (NC, due to date of alterations)

50. 377 Natchez Street

Providence United Primitive Baptist Church

The building at 377 Natchez Street is a one-story rectangular taupe brick building, built 1972, with a front gable roof, brick foundation, white wood weatherboard, and a small front gable roof covering the front door with wrought iron supports that have floral designs, and a double white wood central entrance. (NC, due to date of construction)

51. 382 Natchez Street

Patton Brothers Funeral Home

The building at 382 Natchez Street is a one-story red brick rectangular building, ca. 1980, with concrete foundation, front gable roof, white wood siding on front porch extending length of building, and four white wood columns. The building has two sets of double wood doors, which are flanked by a double-hung six-over-six window and two double-hung four-over-four windows, concrete steps leading up to entrance, side concrete parking lot. (NC, due to date of construction)

52. 402 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 402 Natchez Street is a one and one-half-story bungalow, built ca. 1910, with concrete foundation, aluminum siding, with a pyramidal roof with upper-story front gable window, front red brick chimney, later rear addition with chimney made of different brick from side chimney and supports, and concrete foundation. The dwelling has a front gable porch covering half of home with battered white wood columns on red brick bases. The main entrance is a single door with sidelights flanked by a single side window. (C)

53. 406 Natchez Street

The dwelling at 406 Natchez Street is a ca. 1920 one-story multi-gable roof brick cottage with side gable roof, side brick chimney, and concrete front porch with wrought iron supports on stone base, The main entrance is a single front door flanked by paired six-over-six double-hung window. The dwelling has a rear section with hipped roof, central red brick chimney, and an iron railing around front of home. (C)

Symmetrical three-bay hipped roof stucco ranch house, built ca. 1960, central entrance flanked by one-over-one windows. (NC, due to date of construction)

54. 1106 Park Street

Gentry House

The dwelling at 1106 Park Street is a front gable one and one-half-story brick house, built ca. 1930. The dwelling has an area above porch roof covered in gray wood weatherboard, interior brick chimney, single front door, one double-hung window, double-hung bay window flanked by smaller double-hung windows.

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The dwelling has a hipped roof front porch with two wrought iron corner supports and two central gray brick columns, with three circular brick steps leading up to porch. (C)

Brick and concrete block fence surrounding house, two stone lions on entry pillars, ca. 1950. (C)

Concrete block gable end shed, built ca. 1950. (C)

Park Street Properties:

55. 1108 Park Street

The dwelling at 1108 Park Street is a one-story front gable frame duplex, built ca. 1930, with asphalt shingles, two interior brick chimneys, and wood siding. The dwelling has two six-over-one double-hung windows between two single front doors. The dwelling has a hipped roof front porch surrounded by white wood railing with three slender white wood columns. (C)

56. 1110 Park Street

The dwelling at 1110 Park Street is a one-story front gable four-bay dwelling, ca. 1900, with asphalt shingles and two brick chimneys. The dwelling has a shed asphalt shingle two-bay addition made to north wall, ca. 1930, and rear addition made in ca. 1960. (C)

57. 1111 Park Street

The dwelling at 1111 Park Street is a hipped roof one-story brick cottage, built ca. 1950, with a hipped roof front entry porch and wrought iron supports. The main entrance is a single front door with wrought iron screen, with one double-hung window with black shutters, next to one large bay window flanked by smaller double-hung windows and black shutters. (C)

58. 1113 Park Street

The dwelling at 1113 Park Street is a one-story front gable yellow brick bungalow, built ca. 1930, with white wood shingles above porch roof and interior brick chimney. The dwelling has a recessed concrete front porch with three wrought iron supports, and a single front door with wrought iron screen flanked by two double-hung six-over-six windows. (C)

59. 1114 Park Street

The dwelling at 1114 Park Street is a single-story shotgun house, built ca. 1910, with interior brick chimney and wood shingles. The dwelling has a concrete front porch with three slender white wood columns. The main entrance is a single front door, next to a four-over-four double-hung window. There is a shed addition to north side. (C)

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60. 1117 Park Street

The dwelling at 1117 Park Street is a one-story front gable red brick bungalow, built ca. 1930, with white siding above porch roof and interior brick chimney. The dwelling has a front concrete recessed porch with three wrought iron supports and two double-hung windows with black shutters. The main entrance is a single front door with wrought iron screen. (C)

61. 1118 Park Street

The dwelling at 1118 Park Street is a one and one-half-story hipped roof bungalow, built ca. 1910, with white wood shingles and a hipped dormer with two one-over-one windows. The dwelling has a recessed full front porch with concrete base and four white square wood columns. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two double-hung windows. There is a ca. 1960 rear frame addition, with weatherboard siding and a concrete foundation. (C)

62. 1119 Park Street

The dwelling at 1119 Park Street is a one-story gable asphalt shingle roof three-bay dwelling, built ca. 1980, with vinyl siding. (NC, due to date of construction)

63. 1120 Park Street

The dwelling at 1120 Park Street is a one and one-half-story hipped roof bungalow, built ca. 1910, with an irregular stone façade, a small pyramidal dormer vent, and interior brick chimney. The dwelling has an extended brick front porch with three battered wood columns on red brick bases. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two four-over four double-hung windows. There is a privet hedge across front yard. (C)

Metal carport, built, ca. 1960. (NC, due to date of construction)

64. 1122 Park Street

The dwelling at 1122 Park Street is a one and one-half-story shotgun house, built ca. 1900, with a front gable roof, interior chimney, and wood shingle siding. The dwelling has a front entry porch with two plain wood columns. The main entrance is a single front door, next to one three-over-one window, with a small upper story six-paned window. (C)

65. 1123 Park Street

The dwelling at 1123 Park Street is a one-story front gable bungalow, built ca. 1920, with stucco siding and wood shingles above porch and interior brick chimney. The dwelling has a small concrete gable front entry porch with two white square wood columns on brick bases painted white. The main entrance is a single front door with decorative black wrought iron screen flanked by two double-paned bay windows with black shutters. Large rear addition, built ca. 1980. (C)

Gable front wood garage with asphalt shingles, built ca. 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

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66. 1124 Park Street

Mobile home, built ca. 1970. (NC, due to date of construction)

67. 1125 Park Street

The dwelling at 1125 Park Street is a single story, four bay brick ranch style home, built ca. 1970, with a side gable roof, surrounded by a chain link fence. (NC, due to date of construction)

68. 1126 Park Street

The dwelling at 1126 Park Street is a one and one-half story duplex, built ca. 1920, with a front gable roof and single interior brick chimney. The dwelling has a concrete recessed front porch with three wrought iron supports. The main entrance consists of two front doors flanked by four-over-four double-hung windows. (C)

69. 1127 Park Street

The dwelling at 1127 Park Street is a one-story asphalt shingle gable front three-bay dwelling, with concrete foundation, built ca. 1985. (NC, due to date of construction)

70. 1128 Park Street

Fitzgerald House

The dwelling at 1128 Park Street is a large two and one-half-story rooming house/hotel, built ca. 1920, with weatherboard siding, low pitch front gable roof with asphalt shingles, and two interior red brick chimneys. The dwelling has a concrete front porch with tin roof and two plain wood columns. The dwelling has a small upper-story decorative beveled glass window and three second-story six-over-six double-hung windows. The main entrance consists of two entry doors flanked by four-over-four double-hung windows. There is a wood plank fence around front of property, chain link fence on side. (C)

71. 1129 Park Street

The dwelling at 1129 Park Street is a one-story cottage, built ca. 1940, with a side gable roof, interior brick chimney, and wood shingle siding with red painted trim. The dwelling has a front gable roof entry porch with four wrought iron supports. The main entrance is a single front door flanked by two double-hung bay windows. A front privet hedges surrounds the home. (C)

72. 1130 Park Street

The dwelling at 1130 Park Street is a, ca. 1950, one-story shotgun style house with a low pitch front gable tin roof, white wood shingle siding, and a north wing extension, ca. 1950. The dwelling has a recessed front porch with two plain square wood columns. The main entrance is a single front door next to one double-hung window. (C)

73. 1133 Park Street

The dwelling at 1133 Park Street is a one-story front-gable and wing cottage, built ca. 1920, with interior brick chimney and wood siding with dark brown trim. The dwelling has a concrete front porch with shed

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roof and three large square wood columns. The main entrance has two front doors flanked by two six-oversix double-hung windows with brown shutters. (C)

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Natchez Street Historic District

VIII. Statement of Significance:

The Natchez Street district is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion "A" for its association with the settlement and community development patterns of African-Americans in the Williamson County area. The district reflects the period from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights movement and integration, which were significant to the local history of Franklin, Tennessee and Williamson County, Tennessee. The district is a collection of sixty-one, primarily residential, contributing buildings. Construction dates begin in 1881 and continued well into the twentieth-century. The buildings represent a variety of bungalow, shotgun and ranch styles and are mostly comprised of churches and single and multiple family dwellings. The neighborhood's historic geographic area included the areas bounded by Ninth Avenue S. to the north, Columbia Avenue to the east, Granbury Street to the south, and Natchez and Park Streets to the west.

Part I: The Natchez Street Neighborhood is Established – 1871-1899

The Natchez Street neighborhood is an integral part of the story of Franklin's growth and expansion in both the black and white communities. Comprised of a continuously evolving mixture of homes, businesses, churches, schools, and meeting halls, the Natchez Street district exemplifies the evolution of a southern African-American neighborhood established after Reconstruction. Local historian Rick Warwick describes this area as "the economic and social center of Franklin's African-American community," and it continues to hold distinction as a cultural and community center today.

The years between 1871-1899 comprised a period of establishment for the African-American Natchez Street neighborhood. After Emancipation, former slaves with names connected to some of Franklin's most prominent land and slave owners began to purchase property and settle along this street located just outside the town limits. The Williamson County Tax Records of 1871 list a number of black landowners in the 9th District, which encompassed the Natchez Street neighborhood. Henry Ewing, John Merrill, George and Andrew Patton, Oscar Southall, Ned Bennett, Alex Crutcher, George W. Johnson, Henry Morton, Billy Miller, and Lewis North are among the names listed as owning lots in "Natchez" in the 1871 records.³ These surnames are ones that occur throughout the evolution of the Natchez Street neighborhood. Unfortunately, the census records for Williamson County for the years 1865-1870 have been lost, but local lore places residents living in this area during and immediately after the Civil War.

Living in a small town (approximately three thousand) rather than on a farm or plantation offered freedmen an opportunity to learn several trades that led to a variety of occupations held by early residents after the Civil War. The 1870 Census lists Henry Ewing's trade as a carpenter, Oscar Southall as a painter, and George and John Patton as chair makers. Prosperous merchant Allen Nevils Crutcher (A.N.C.) Williams lived at 264 Natchez Street, and is the area's most renowned and well-known early resident. Williams owned and operated the first African-American business on 4th and Main Street. The building is still extant, but no longer owned by the Williams family. ⁵

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A.N.C. Williams was born into slavery in Williamson County in 1844, and was freed before the end of the Civil War. He resided within the Natchez Street district at 264 Natchez Street. He was the first free black merchant to conduct business on Franklin's main square, successfully owning and managing stores in Franklin for sixty-three years. He began operating his first store on the public square in 1863, although the original location was destroyed during the battle of Franklin in 1864. His business occupied several locations before he finally purchased a building on upper Main Street on Franklin's downtown square (NR Franklin Historic District 10/05/1972). Both black and white customers openly frequented A.N.C. Williams' store, which was unusual for this time, and signified his elevated standing in the Franklin community as well as the Natchez Street district. He is listed on the Pioneer Families of Williamson County, and is buried in Toussaint L'Overture County Cemetery, Franklin's historic African-American cemetery (NR 12/13/1995). A.N.C. Williams is significant for his contribution as a free black entrepreneur and businessman who assisted in the development of Franklin's post-Civil War downtown merchant base, as well as paving the way for additional African-American businesses to participate in Franklin's expanding economy.

A number of extant homes in the district have ties to these prominent African-American citizens in the Franklin community. In 1881, Moses Merrill built a large two-story residence at 264 Natchez Street. It appears that Moses Merrill was a former slave whose owner either gave or sold him the land on Natchez Street. Upon becoming aged and unable to maintain the residence, he sold it to the A.N.C. Williams family in 1892. The Merrill-Williams House remains intact in its original structure.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, portions of Columbia Avenue running parallel to Natchez Street and providing the east boundary of the district, developed as the neighborhood's traditionally upper-class area for African Americans with Natchez Street being primarily a middle-class neighborhood. Oscar Southall, John Merrill, and Robert Murdic, built dwellings along this stretch of Columbia, although these structures have since been removed as Columbia Avenue has been commercially developed.⁹

Religious institutions have traditionally played a significant role in African-American communities. After the Civil War, blacks began organizing their own churches to provide their communities with a strong spiritual foundation. During the early decades of the district's formation, several congregations were formed, which are still in existence today. These long-standing churches in the Natchez Street neighborhood provided and continue to provide a spiritual and social foundation for the community. Local residents still refer to the community as "Baptist Neck" because of Natchez Street's extension between these vital churches. Shorter Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, whose congregation was organized in 1873 under the Franklin A.M.E. Church, stands on the corner of Natchez and West Fowlkes Streets, where it has stood since 1925. Providence United Primitive Baptist Church stands at the corner of Natchez and Granbury Streets. In 1883, Atha Thomas sold the land for this church to Wallis Bradley, Randal Brown, Harrison Scruggs, Jack Wilburn and Aaron Blakely. Although outside of the nominated boundaries, due to the impact of a federally funded public housing project in the late 1950s (see below), the First Missionary Baptist Church's congregation, also residing on land sold by Atha Thomas, is at the north end of Natchez Street. This church, established in 1871, was the site of the Colored Missionary Baptist Association meeting in 1901, when a group of

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three to four thousand African-Americans gathered for this meeting. This was unusual in a town whose population was only three thousand.¹⁰

The neighborhood's rich African-American educational history began during this early period. In 1888, the 9th District School Committee purchased the lot on Natchez Street that would house the neighborhood school until integration of Franklin's schools caused it to finally close its doors in 1967.¹¹ The original school built on Natchez Street in 1888 was initially called the Claiborne Institute. Few formal records about The Claiborne Institute's history have survived, although it is known the building burned in 1907. Local residents Mrs. Johnnie Winstead, Will Kelton, and Alice Hughes Patton, were told that it was named for African American Willis Claiborne, who donated the land for the school and acted as its first principal. Willis Claiborne's grandniece was told by her mother that his wife, Mrs. Patience Claiborne, donated the land.¹²

Part II: Solidification of the Neighborhood: 1900-1952

The Natchez Street Historic District solidified its status as one of Franklin's most prominent, as well as economically and socially diverse, African-American neighborhoods during the period between 1900 through 1952. During the first half of the twentieth century, Franklin, like most Southern towns, was strictly regulated by Jim Crow laws and customs. The Natchez Street neighborhood represents the conspicuous racial divide between African-American neighborhoods and their white counterparts. West Main Street, running parallel to Natchez Street, is one street over but might as well be a world away. It is dominated by large, elaborate homes on sizeable lots, and remains remarkably well preserved. In contrast, the Natchez Street neighborhood grew up as many African-American neighborhoods in the South did, making the best of their small, segregated area and creating an enclave of ethnic solidarity and neighborhood support. Within this district, African Americans in Franklin during the first half of the twentieth century continued to acquire property, raise families, attain professional and gainful employment, and maintain a self-sufficient neighborhood with a distinct cultural heritage.

During this period the Natchez Street Historic District also demonstrated issues of class and economic status within the African-American community itself in the Jim Crow South. Because areas were so highly segregated before the changes brought by the Civil Rights movement and integration, African Americans were severely limited in their residential neighborhood choices. As a result, this district demonstrates the manner in which African Americans of all economic levels were forced to live in immediate proximity to one another, regardless of income or profession. The district provided a varied combination of industry, residential and professional dwellings, with an equally diverse representation of economic classes and professions.

During this time, the neighborhood housed a number of industries that contributed greatly to both the neighborhood's and to Franklin's economic development. Before the completion of Interstate 65, Franklin was a primarily rural area that depended heavily on agriculture and its few industries, despite its relatively close proximity to Nashville. The Natchez Street neighborhood was home to a number of industries during the last century, although the actual buildings no longer stand. The few industries in the district generated vital income for the town as a whole, and provided critical employment for many neighborhood residents.

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The area provided a unique locale for both black and white owned businesses. The 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Franklin locate the American Syrup and Preserves Company on Natchez Street near Spring Street and West Main. Southall Brothers Lumber, Planing, and Woodworking Mill was located on the corner of Natchez and Granbury Streets. Owned and operated by W.A. Southall, the mill began operation in 1902.

J.W. Beasley Planing, Sawing, and Lumber Mill was also located within the district's boundary, facing Strahl Street and is no longer extant. This industrial complex is particularly significant in the fact that its owner built shotgun houses to house the mill workers along Carter and Strahl streets, which border the district. Nicknamed "Beasley Town," and no longer extant, these homes provided a place to live for lumber mill workers and their families. Encompassing three acres, the area contained thirty-six houses built by Mr. Beasley from lumber sawed at the mill, each of which had a small garden plot. Mr. Beasley collected the rent for these homes each week, and every family was expected to have the rent ready at the appointed time when he made his rounds to collect.

Both mills were still in existence on the 1940 Sanborn fire insurance update.

Although the lumber mills were important, tobacco remained the largest cash crop in Williamson County during the early part of the twentieth century. Every fall, millions of pounds of tobacco came through town, earning local farmers record payments. ¹⁵ Jewell's Tobacco Warehouse stood on Spring Street. This facility previously housed the American Syrup and Preserving Company, a cannery that went out of business in the 1930s; due to a lack of sufficient produce, the company discontinued operations. It was subsequently turned into Jewell's Tobacco Warehouse and Floor. ¹⁶ After Urban Renewal in the 1950s and closing of the high school in 1967, the neighborhood became primarily residential. Industry that previously existed within its boundaries was instrumental both in the development of the neighborhood and in the development of Franklin's economy.

In addition to the lumber mills, the tobacco floor, and the cannery owned by Franklin's white residents, many black neighborhood residents owned and operated successful neighborhood businesses. Funeral homes provided a vital service as well as a profession in the district. Rev. T.J. Patton started the district's most well-known and enduring funeral home in the early part of the twentieth century. The Franklin 1933 Directory contains an advertisement for Patton Brothers Funeral Home, which promoted "25 Years of Good Service." The Patton Funeral Home is still operating at 382 Natchez Street today. Although the present structure was rebuilt in 1987, the Patton Brothers Funeral Home remains the oldest and largest black owned and operated funeral service in Williamson County, and has remained in the family since its inception in 1903.

Less prominent but equally important to the neighborhood's development and atmosphere were the existence of smaller shops and operations operated by neighborhood residents. The 1928 Sanborn map also indicates a woodworking and carpenter shop located in the center of the area bordered by Natchez, Granbury, and Strahl Streets. The Fitzgerald House, located at 1128 Park Street, is a large wood frame early boarding house for African Americans in Franklin. It is significant as one of the neighborhood's few remaining business-related structures. According to lifelong Park Street resident Mac Gentry, Fats Domino stayed at the Fitzgerald House when he played in the area.

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A number of Natchez Street district residents received advanced formal education and achieved positions of prestige and status. The neighborhood was fortunate to have several physicians living in the district that were deeply committed to the well being of its residents. Prominent African-American physicians that lived and practiced in this area include Dr. C.C. Johnson, Dr. J.W. Hudson, and dentist Dr. McCoy, whose home still stands at 230 Natchez Street. An article in the 1985 *Franklin Review Appeal* states that Dr. Johnson converted his Columbia Avenue home, which was torn down in the 1960s, into a hospital for blacks when Franklin's hospital would not keep mothers of newborns overnight. Dr. Johnson, originally from Iowa, attended Meharry Medical College and graduated in 1917. He settled in the area with his wife to launch a practice after realizing the extensive needs of the Natchez community. Dr. Hudson, an Arkansas native, also came to Nashville to attend Meharry Medical College, graduating in 1921. He married Franklin resident Julia Otey, and settled on Natchez Street. Both doctors were also active members of Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Dr. Hudson acted as the football team's physician for the Franklin Training School prior to his death in 1949. The district was also home to many of the school's teachers and principals during this time.

The history of this neighborhood includes more than the more prominent and professional citizens that have lived in it. The variety of working-class positions that residents in this area held tells another aspect of this area's story – the often neglected side of the history of ordinary, hard-working citizens that endured and overcame Jim Crow and segregation to provide a solid living for their families. Citizens of the Natchez Street neighborhood were instrumental in literally building portions of Franklin through manual labor, including building, well digging, brick-laying, and stonework. In addition to local industries, residents of the Natchez Street neighborhood found employment in other areas. The 1933 Franklin Directory lists several occupations for Natchez Street residents, including ministers, stone workers, grocery store owners, house servants, laborers, teachers, carpenters, plumbers, tinners, drivers, undertakers, barbers, and janitors. Natchez Street resident Albert Blakely was a stonemason in the area during the 1930s and 1940s. Patton's Restaurant, whose original building still stands at 334 Natchez Street, served meals to the area during the 1920s, 30s and 40s. Local grocery stores, including stores owned by neighborhood residents Pokey Morton, George Kinnard, and the Gentry family, allowed residents to purchase groceries and other household items without leaving the neighborhood. The segregated neighborhood was quite self-sufficient, providing its residents with services that could not usually be obtained in the restricted white areas of Franklin.

In 1925, the Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Church was built at the corner of Natchez Street and West Fowlkes, where it still stands today with an active congregation. The church remained a vital spiritual and social organization in the Natchez Street neighborhood. In addition to church membership, social clubs and organizations within this African-American community were an important aspect of daily life. The policies of segregation often denied greater educational and professional opportunities to the neighborhood residents, and these groups offered a means to gather, learn and support each other. Various groups, including the Canary Arts Club, the Forget-Me-Not Arts Club, the Professional Women's Club, the Cavalier Club, and the Taborian Lodge were created and flourished during this time. Groups met at the school, at churches, at individual homes in the neighborhood, and the now demolished Lodge Hall at Ninth Avenue South and Natchez Street.²⁵

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The African-American educational system in Franklin during the first half of the twentieth century reflects both the era's attitudes of racial inequality demonstrated through policies of segregation, and the emphasis and value that African Americans placed on education. Although there was only one African American school to serve the community, the school's role in the Natchez neighborhood was pivotal to the development of many of its residents. The first school was the Claiborne Institute. The original building burned in 1907, and was replaced with a new building which was renamed the Franklin Colored School under the jurisdiction of the City of Franklin. In 1925, the school was rebuilt and renamed the Franklin Training School, operating with the assistance of a small Rosenwald Fund Grant. Training school curriculum, as well as receiving Rosenwald funding, is typical of African-American schools during this time period. This building was expanded two years later. In 1949, facing increasing pressure from the Tennessee State Department of Education to improve the substandard facility, the county replaced the 1925 school building with a new facility for black students, the Natchez High School. The school served as both an educational and social pinnacle for the district. Residents took great pride in the school's sports teams, bands, and staff. This 1949 structure still stands at 335 Natchez Street and currently houses the Claiborne Hughes Health Center, which opened in 1982 and is not included within the boundary at this time.

Although the Civil Rights Movement had not yet gained its later full strength as a unified movement, Natchez Street resident John Sanford was an early pioneer in the fight for equality. Local residents credit John Sanford as being the neighborhood's first civil rights activist, long before the civil rights movement gained national force. He wrote the President of the United States on numerous occasions, trying to improve equality and integration for African Americans in an era marked by Jim Crow laws and segregation.²⁷

William Redmond's family lived in a house at the corner of Natchez and Ninth streets. Redmond's story is significant as a precursor to the civil rights in Franklin. In 1936, William Redmond graduated from Tennessee A&I State College (presently Tennessee State University since 1979) with the goal of becoming a pharmacist. The only pharmacy school at that time was part of the segregated University of Tennessee School of Pharmacy in Memphis, and Redmond's application was denied based on the state's deeply entrenched segregation policy. Undaunted, he engaged the services of prominent African American Nashville attorney Z.Alexander Looby, and spent four years battling the university for the right to attend the School of Pharmacy. Before the fight was over, the case would traverse many courts and appeals, including federal courts. At one point, Thurgood Marshall, at the time doing work for the NAACP, served as Redmond's attorney. In a daring challenge to the state's political and educational segregation policies, Looby argued that the law establishing the Tennessee Agricultural College provided Redmond "the right to enter the school, even if the university had to provide separate accommodations." Although Redmond was not able to attend, his stand against segregation marked a turning point in Franklin's perception of Jim Crow laws.

The first half of the twentieth century marked a time of tremendous global warfare, and current and former residents of the Natchez Street neighborhood provide local ties to this significant time in military history. Despite being denied full freedom within their own country, several Natchez neighborhood residents left their homes after being inducted into the Army to fight for the nation's freedom. Ostranda Williams, son of A.N.C. Williams, served in the Army during World War I and fought in France. Samuel L. Johnson also

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served in the army with the 351st Field Artillery Battery D while stationed in France. This company was part of the 92nd Colored Division, an African-American Division created during World War I. He returned to the Natchez Street neighborhood and managed several rental properties in the area.²⁹

Although their participation in the First World War did not engender the freedom they had hoped for at home, several area residents enlisted to fight in World War II. Thomas Gordon Patton, of the prominent Patton funeral business family, joined the Army Air Corps in 1944. He trained as a fighter pilot at Tuskegee Air Field, becoming Franklin's first African-American fighter pilot in World War II. Patton gained the rank of captain as a member of the 332nd Fighter Group. Following closely in Thomas Patton's footsteps, Robert Murdic Jr. also trained to be a fighter pilot at Tuskegee after graduating from Fisk University. Latham Mills, nephew of Dr. C.C. Johnson, was Williamson County's first African-American Marine.

Part III: A Time of Transformation: 1953-1970

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Natchez Street neighborhood, although segregated, was a thriving area in many respects. It was anchored by the vital Natchez High School and several well-established churches. Neighborhood grocery stores, cafes, beauty parlors, funeral homes, nightclubs, and the only local hospital in segregated Franklin that treated blacks, continued to serve the area's residents. However, the effects of the Civil Rights Movement, integration, urban renewal, and public housing drastically changed the fabric of the neighborhood.

The Civil Rights Movement was an integral part of the Natchez Street evolution. In the 1950s and 1960s, residents under the leadership of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) created an organization named "Citizens for Human Dignity" to promote integration and civil rights in Franklin. This group included prominent civil rights activists including Rev. William Scruggs, David Gosey, and Walter Rucker. David Gosey served as President of the NAACP in Franklin and was a prominent civil rights leader. These activists and social reformers are significant due to the leadership that they provided which actively promoted the civil rights movement and an end to segregation in Franklin.

Education remained a priority in the neighborhood as students, parents, and teachers worked to thrive and advance in spite of continued segregation during the 1950s and early 1960s. In 1962, teachers at Franklin Training School worked with the Williamson County Board of Education to change the school's name to Natchez High School in an effort to reflect the desire for equality in education and a move beyond mere industrial training curriculums for African-American students. Extra-curricular activities during this time, included outstanding football and women's basketball teams, a marching band called the "pride of the Black community", elaborate Homecoming events, and a high level of community involvement ensured that the high school remained one of the key elements of the neighborhood's character and sense of pride.³¹

During this time, active military service continued to play an integral role in the lives of Natchez Street residents. The military had been integrated soon after World War II, and black and white soldiers now fought

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side by side in integrated divisions, experiencing similar horrors during their tours in Korea and Vietnam. Mac Gentry, who still resides on 1106 Park Street, received the Bronze Star medal in Vietnam for his heroism in risking his own life to save three soldiers in danger.³²

The church and spirituality continued to play an active role in the lives of Natchez Street residents and in the stability of the neighborhood. During the 1950s and 1960s, two additional churches were established with buildings on West Fowlkes Street. Winstead Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church, located at 130 West Fowlkes Street, was established in 1950, and Fowlkes Street Church of Christ, located at 140 West Fowlkes Street, was established in 1964. Both churches have active congregations today.

Integration and the subsequent closing of Natchez High School generated a significant change in the neighborhood's identity. Franklin Training School had been renamed Natchez High School in 1962 after residents argued that it was not simply a "training school" for blacks but a full-fledged high school. Schools in Franklin began to integrate in 1964, and Natchez High School graduated its last class in 1967. With the closing of its high school, the neighborhood was irrevocably altered. It had lost one of its most critical institutions that had engendered community support, spirit, identity, and pride. Currently, the former Natchez High School building still stands and has been converted into the Claiborne and Hughes Health Center. The school's contribution to the educational development of Franklin's black population during segregation, and its subsequent closing during integration, reflects the transformation of African-American education throughout the South during this time.

During Franklin's urban renewal and public housing heyday, local public officials identified the Natchez Street district as one that needed significant improvement to provide adequate housing to all of its residents. In some cases, this decision was justified; the neighborhood did contain some substandard housing. Long-term area resident Thelma Battle recalls several wells on Granbury Street, which provided residents with water before city water was pumped into the neighborhood.³⁴

In 1953, responding to community pressures to deal with the need for affordable low income housing in Franklin, the town's Mayor and Board of Alderman formed the Franklin Housing Authority (FHA). The FHA designated the Natchez neighborhood west of Columbia Avenue between Ninth Avenue and Fowlkes Street to be demolished for the first wave of public housing. Initially, when Natchez Street residents learned of the plan, the neighborhood banded together to resist demolition of the entire area.³⁵

City plans for urban renewal continued, and many long-term residents voiced continued protest. "Ultimately residents in the area, some of them with names deeply in Franklin's history, such as Murdic, Williams and Redmond, objected to losing their homes." Fifteen residents signed a petition stating that the signers "expressed disapproval of the plan to relocate residents of the area in the clearance project . . .they state that most of them have their homes already established, some of which were inherited from their parents." However, they were unable to fully stop the tide of urban renewal engulfing the city, and local authorities erected the first public housing project in the neighborhood in the late 1950s. The neighborhood's first public housing projects were built on twenty acres that had previously contained company housing for the Beasley

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Lumber Mill between Granbury, Strahl, and Carter Streets.³⁸ The radical changes that the Natchez Street district experienced after 1958 during the height of urban renewal is an accurate reflection of the housing and urban planning policies that profoundly influenced cities and towns throughout the country.

The Natchez Street area also experienced far-reaching changes during the 1950s and 1960s resulting from urban renewal and subsequent public housing projects built during that twenty-year period. The neighborhood is currently bordered on three sides by public housing projects built beginning in 1958 through the early 1970s that are still in use. Behind the neighborhood, Columbia Avenue, once the recognized street for upper-class African-American homes, was developed in the 1960s and presently consists of a supermarket, discount stores, and fast food chain restaurants.

Part IV: Reinventing the Neighborhood: Today

The Natchez Street neighborhood and its rich historical legacy is a vital part of the story of growth in Franklin, TN. Local residents realize their historical importance to the city, and have begun to organize a means to protect their resources and communicate their history. Natchez Place Inc. was established in 2002 by members of Franklin's African-American community to generate increased interest in the neighborhood's and the city's African American past. This organization has been active in establishing an office in the Kinnard-Dotson House at 239 Natchez Street, setting up bus tours of African-American sites, holding a Veteran's Day celebration highlighting the military service of the district's veterans, and hosting open houses to share the neighborhood's stories. Natchez Place Inc. is also evaluating potential opportunities for funding to restore and rehabilitate portions of this historic area. The former school, which now houses the Claiborne and Hughes Health Center, is an excellent example of adaptive reuse of a historic structure. The neighborhood's close proximity to the historic Carter House (NHL Franklin Battlefield 4/5/1985), heavily traveled Columbia Avenue, West Main Street, the Natchez Trace Parkway, and the downtown area make it a desirable location for inclusion in Franklin's frequently toured and visited historic areas.

The entire city of Franklin is being modified by rapid growth and development, and the Natchez Street neighborhood is not immune to the changes that are influencing Franklin. Designation as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places would provide the neighborhood with a source of community pride, an added element in its advertisement as a historic neighborhood, and some forms of protection from commercial and industrial development as the city continues its rapid expansion.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description and boundary justification:

The Natchez Street Historic District includes the properties from 230 to 406 Natchez Street, 124 to 152 West Fowlkes Street, and 1106 to 1133 Park Street. The nominated district includes approximately twenty-five acres as indicated on the accompanying Williamson County Tax Map 78J. The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant property historically associated with the Natchez neighborhood of Franklin, Tennessee that retain integrity and convey the qualities of a National Register district.

National Park Service

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Endnotes

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³1871 Williamson County Property Tax Records.

⁴1870 Census.

⁵ James A. Crutchfield and Robert Holladay. Franklin: Tennessee's Handsomest Town. (Franklin,

⁶"Newspaper Excerpts of Historical Records in Williamson County, TN," Franklin Review Appeal, September 30, 1926. Personal Conversation with Fred Williams. October 15, 2002.

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⁸Williamson County Register of Deeds, Book 16, pg. 165-166.

⁹Warwick, 138.

¹⁰Warwick, 159-163.

[&]quot;Deeds to Churches," Williamson County Archives.

¹¹Crutchfield, 241.

¹²Carter Julian Savage, "From Claiborne's Institute to Natchez High School: The History of African American Education in Williamson County, Tennessee, 1890-1967." Ed.D. diss., Peabody College of Vanderbilt, 1998, 47-48.

¹³ Who's Who in Williamson County – ADD CITATION

¹⁴ Who's Who in Williamson County – pg. 106.

¹⁵Crutchfield. 425.

¹⁶ Franklin, TN Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1928, 1940 Update.

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¹⁷Franklin, TN 1933 Directory, 49.

¹⁸"Patton Brother future is secured in its past," Metropolitan, May 1988, 22.

¹⁹Franklin Review Appeal, February 22, 1985.

²⁰Hudson Alexander, *Physicians of Williamson County: A Legacy of Healing 1797-1997*. (Franklin, TN:

Canaday Enterprises, 1997), 96-97, 105-106.

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²¹Crutchfield, 320.

²²Franklin City Directory, 49-56.

²³Personal conversation with Thelma Battle.

Deed Book 94, pg. 330.

²⁴Personal conversation with Thelma Battle, October 15, 2002.

²⁵ Franklin, TN Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1928.

²⁶Savage, 3-4.

Warwick, 168.

²⁷Personal conversation with Thelma Battle, October 15, 2002.

²⁸Crutchfield,341.

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²⁹Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Funeral Bulletin, date unknown.

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³⁰Visions of the Past Photo Collection, pg. 38.

³¹ Thelma Battle, *Memories that Lead to a Street Called Natchez*, . Franklin, TN: underwritten by NationsBank and The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, 1998.

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³²Visions of the Past pg. 37-39.

³³Carter, 143-147.

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³⁴Personal conversation with Thelma Battle, November 13, 2002.

³⁵Crutchfield, 408-409,441.

³⁶Ibid., 409.

³⁷Franklin Review Appeal, 1958, exact date unknown.

³⁸Crutchfield, 409.

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Natchez Street Historic District Williamson County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs by: Carroll Van West

Middle Tennessee State University, Center for Historic Preservation

Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: February 2003

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

2941 Lebanon Road Nashville, TN 37243

230-234 Natchez Street, facing west

1 of 20

240-246 Natchez Street, facing northwest

2 of 20

239 Natchez Street, facing southwest

3 of 20

239 –249 Natchez Street, facing northeast

4 of 20

200 block of Natchez Street, facing northwest

5 of 20

Shorter AME Church and W. Fowlkes Street, facing east

6 of 20

West Fowlkes Street, facing northwest

7 of 20

West Fowlkes Street, facing northwest

8 of 20

West Fowlkes Street, facing southwest

9 of 20

Williams House, 264 Natchez Street, facing west

10 of 20

300 block of Natchez Street, facing northwest

11 of 20

312-318 Natchez Street, facing west

12 of 20

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Natchez Street Historic District Williamson County, Tennessee

336 Natchez Street, facing northwest 13 of 20

300 block of Natchez Street from high school site, facing north 14 of 20

352-366 Natchez Street, facing southwest 15 of 20

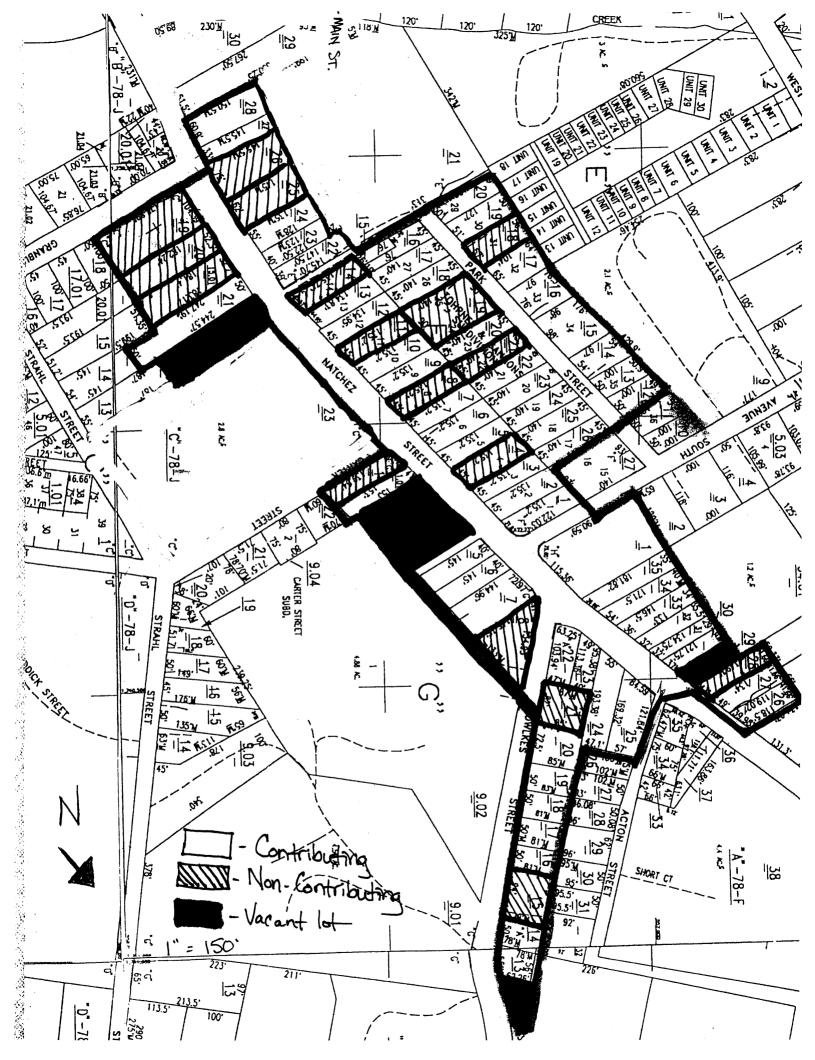
366 Natchez Street, facing west 16 of 20

Natchez Street at Granbury Street, facing north 17 of 20

Park Avenue, facing south 18 of 20

Park Avenue, facing northwest 19 of 20

Park Avenue, facing north 20 of 20



Natchez Street District Property Owners:

230 Natchez Street

Ed Lee Hunter

234 Natchez Street

Armenda Bradley

236 Natchez Street

Lolette Gentry

239 Natchez Street

Jesse Ewing Dotson

242 Natchez Street

Rosa Ella Miller

246 Natchez Street

Ernestine Flye

251 Natchez Street

Fowlkes Church of Christ

253 Natchez Street

Shorter-Chapel AME

263 Natchez Street

Scruggs Realty Company

264 Natchez Street

Fred. D. Williams

269 Natchez Street

Shemeka and James W. Allen Donnell

300 Natchez Street

Jerry Eugene Scruggs

301 Natchez Street

Shemeka and James W. Allen Donnell

304 Natchez Street

Docia Colleen Williams Douglas

305 Natchez Street

Charles Clark

308 Natchez Street

Christine Scruggs Gosey

310 Natchez Street

Non-contributing

312 Natchez Street John H. Patton

315 Natchez Street Marcia D. Allen

317 Natchez Street Marcia D. Allen

318 Natchez Street Alice H. Patton

322 Natchez Street Patricia Patton-Jones

332 Natchez Street

Barbara A. Sparkman

334 Natchez Street (former home of Patton's Restaurant) Jerry Gosey, Jr.

336 Natchez Street B & M Enterprises

338 Natchez Street Edward H. Baines

342 Natchez Street Prather Bright Jr.

346 Natchez Street Sammy James and Sallie Refugee

352 Natchez Street Elnora R. Claiborne

355 Natchez Street Clark and Betty Jean McCullough

360 Natchez Street None available

365 Natchez Street Mobile home, NC.

366 Natchez Street Harold J. Steele First Missionary Church

367 Natchez Street Mobile home. NC.

Parton Brothers Funeral Home

377 Nadolez Providence UPB Church

402 Natchez Street Docia Colleen Douglas

406 Natchez Street Church of God

Park Street Properties:

1102 Park Street Calvin Malone

1106 Park Street – Gentry House Betty L. Gentry

1108 Park Street Mamie Scruggs Leach

1110 Park Street Geraldine Taylor and Thomas Edward Scruggs

1111 Park Street Wm. E. Ratcliffe

1113 Park Street Dora Ellen Smith Robinson

1114 Park Street None available

1117 Park Street Aubrey Dodson, Jr.

1118 Park Street Burge Alexander Sr. and Carolyn A. Pasley

1119 Park Street Sam Isaac Baugh

1120 Park Street Connie Kinnard

1122 Park Street None available

1123 Park Street Alice Wilson

1125 Park Street
James Milton Kelton

1126 Park Street

Jessie R. Haddox

1127 Park Street Mary Ann Murray

1128 Park Street - Fitzgerald House

J.D. Fitzgerald and James Keiton

1129 Park Street William and Martha Locke

1130 Park Street Mary Ruth Dowell

1133 Park Street Lou Willie Hayes Effie Gosey

West Fowlkes Properties:

124 West Fowlkes Dwayne J. Coffee

126 West Fowlkes George Leon Sanford

128 West Fowlkes
Detoria Smith

130 West Fowlkes Winstead Church

132 West Fowlkes Peggy L. Grigsby

140 West Fowlkes John W. and Mary Smith

146 West Fowlkes Church of Christ

151 West Fowlkes Willie Ann Pointer

152 West Fowlkes
None available