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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Dunbar-Carver Historic District  
Other names/site number N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing Historic Resources of Brownsville, Tennessee

## 2. Location

Street & Number: Located along E. Jefferson Street and roughly bounded by Anderson Avenue, E. Main Street and the Railroad Tracks  
City or town: Brownsville State: TN County: Haywood  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  Local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

*Charnelle J. Hyatt* 12/15/14  
Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission Date  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting Official: Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of the Keeper

1.27.2015  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
23	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
23	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

EDUCATION/School

COMMERCE/Trade

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

EDUCATION/School

COMMERCE/Trade

EDUCATION/Education Related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival

20th CENTURY AMERICAN: Craftsman Bungalow, Minimal Traditional, Ranch

OTHER: Shotgun, Folk Victorian

**Materials:**

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK/WOOD /CONCRETE/ASPHALT

**Narrative Description**

The Dunbar-Carver Historic District is located southeast of the downtown commercial area in Brownsville, Tennessee. Brownsville is the county seat of Haywood County which is approximately 60 miles east of Memphis. Brownsville was historically a center for cotton processing and shipping with cotton being a prominent crop of the county in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Haywood County had one of the largest ratios of slaves to owners within the state. Many of these slaves stayed and worked on the farms as sharecroppers or tenant farmers following the Civil War. African Americans to this day are the majority demographic in Brownsville at 60% of the population.

Because of segregation in Brownsville in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, separate commercial and residential areas evolved for African Americans in the city. The center for African American commerce was along E. Jefferson Street south of the square; a residential area developed along this street as well. Home to the city's African American merchants, teachers and other professionals, the Dunbar-Carver Historic District was developed throughout the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The district contains 26 properties of which 23 are considered contributing resources or 88.5%. Also in the district are 3 properties or 11.5%, which are considered to be non-contributing resources due to their loss of integrity, post-1964 construction or as a vacant lot. The district contains primarily residential properties along with two commercial businesses and one educational facility.

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The primary transportation corridor through Brownsville is U.S. Highway 70 or E. Main Street, which passes through the center of the Brownsville's downtown commercial district. This highway is also known as the Memphis-Bristol Highway, constructed between 1922 and 1926, which connected Brownsville directly to Memphis on the west and Jackson to the east. Along with the CSX Railroad, U.S. Highway 70 forms the district's northern boundary and the railroad also extends along the western boundary of the district. The district is bounded by Sugar Creek on the south and Anderson Avenue on the east. The district primarily runs and is centered along E. Jefferson Street.

Within this boundary is the site of the former Dunbar School and Carver High School. The history of the Dunbar-Carver High School extends from 1910 through 1970; it is a significant property in the history of African American education in Haywood County. Adjacent to the Dunbar-Carver School site are several residences that were home to notable professors and principals at the Haywood County Training School or Carver High School. Residents of the neighborhood also included commercial business owners and ministers.

A majority of dwellings in the neighborhood were built between 1910 and 1964. The oldest remaining dwellings are 911 E. Jefferson Street and 921 E. Jefferson Street, built ca. 1910. The district is the largest and most significant collection of dwellings associated with the historic African American community in Brownsville.

### **INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS**

Properties in the inventory are organized alphabetically by street and numerically by address. The entries list the address, date of construction, district map number and whether the property is a contributing or non-contributing property.

#### **KEY:**

C – Contributing

NC – Non-Contributing

Ca. - Circa

#### **Anderson Avenue**

1. 225 Anderson Avenue. Ca. 1948. One-Part Commercial Block Building. Corner convenience store, brick, one story, flat roof, built up asphalt, brick foundation, rectangular plan, metal canopy supported by steel cables, aluminum, twelve-light casement windows. (C)

#### **Jefferson Street (East)**

2. 504 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1953. Craftsman. Weatherboard, one story, asphalt shingle cross-gable roof, square plan, brick foundation, cutaway entry porch with square wooden columns, original six-light and wood panel entry door, eight-over-eight double-hung wood sash windows, two interior central brick chimneys, exposed purlins. (C)

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3. 510 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1953. Craftsman. Duplex. Aluminum, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, rectangular plan, concrete block foundation, full width entry porch with square wooden columns, 1/1 wood sash windows, two interior end brick chimneys, exposed purlins. (C)
4. 516 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1948. Shotgun. Weatherboard, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, rectangular plan, concrete block foundation, full width entry porch with square wooden columns, one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows, exposed purlins. (C)
5. 601 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1956. Craftsman. Weatherboard, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, rectangular plan, concrete block foundation, cutaway entry porch with metal trellis columns, original three-light and wood panel entry door, six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows, one interior central brick chimney, exposed purlins. (C)
6. 605 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1946. Bungalow. Aluminum siding, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, square plan, brick foundation, full width, shed porch supported metal trellis columns, one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows, one interior central brick chimney. (C)
7. 609 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1928. Shotgun. Brick, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, rectangular plan, brick foundation, full width shed porch supported by metal posts, two-over-two aluminum awning windows. (C)
8. 610 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1953. Shotgun. Aluminum siding, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, square plan, concrete block foundation, entry stoop, one-over-one aluminum windows. (C)
9. 709 East Jefferson Street- Dunbar Carver School. Ca. 1920-1950. School. Brick. One story, built up flat roof with brick parapet, irregular plan, poured concrete and brick foundation, some windows have been bricked in, Gym widows are twelve-light and metal casement windows, paired aluminum and glass entry doors. (C)
10. 801 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 2005. New Construction, Traditional style dwelling. Brick veneer, one story, square plan, poured concrete foundation, asphalt shingles, gable roof, six-over-six vinyl windows. (NC)
11. 804 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1953. Craftsman influence duplex. Asbestos siding, one story, square plan, brick foundation, asphalt shingles, gable roof, two interior central brick chimneys, partial width entry porch supported by metal trellis columns, six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. (C)
12. 805 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1943. Colonial Revival. Brick, One story, square plan, brick foundation, asphalt shingles, gable roof, partial width entry porch supported by metal trellis columns, three-over-one wood sash windows. (C)
13. 810 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1948. Double Pen duplex. Weatherboard siding, one story, square plan, concrete block foundation, asphalt shingles, gable roof, full width shed porch supported by metal trellis columns, one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows, original four-light and wood panel entry door. (C)

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Barber Shop. Ca. 1964. Commercial building. Concrete block, one story, square plan, concrete block foundation, asphalt shingles, gable roof, two-over-two aluminum awning windows, original single-light and wood panel entry door. (C)

14. 816 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1949. Shotgun. Asbestos Siding, one story, rectangular plan, brick foundation, asphalt shingles, gable roof, one interior central brick chimney, exposed purlins, partial width, hipped roof porch supported by square wooden columns on brick piers, original two-light and wood panel door, three-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. (C)

15. 901 East Jefferson Street. 1980. Ranch. Brick, one story, rectangular plan, poured concrete foundation, asphalt shingles, hipped roof, six-over-six vinyl windows. (NC)

16. 905 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1963. Minimal Traditional. Brick, one story, square plan, poured concrete foundation, asphalt shingles, gable roof, six-over-six aluminum windows. (C)

17. 911 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1911. Queen Anne. Weatherboard, one story, asphalt shingles, hipped and gable roof, irregular plan, brick foundation, one interior central brick chimney, wraparound porch with square wooden columns, one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows, original six-light and wood panel door. (C)

Garage. 1970. Aluminum, One story, concrete block foundation, gable roof with metal posts. (C)

18. 919-921 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1913. Craftsman. Aluminum siding, one story, asphalt shingles, clipped gable roof, rectangular plan, brick foundation, two interior central brick chimneys, full width entry porch supported by square wooden columns on brick piers, one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. (C)

19. 925 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1930. Bungalow. Weatherboard, one story, asphalt shingles, hipped roof, rectangular plan, brick pier foundation, one interior central brick chimney, wrap around shed porch with square wooden columns, exposed purlins, one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows, original six-light and wood panel door. (C)

20. 1001 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1956. Craftsman. Weatherboard, one story, asphalt shingles, cross gable roof, square plan, brick foundation, one interior central brick chimney, cutaway porch with square wooden columns, original three-light and wood panel door, two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows. (C)

21. 1007 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1958. Ranch. Brick veneer, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, rectangular plan, brick foundation, central bay entry stoop with metal posts, one-over-one vinyl windows. (C)

22. 1008 East Jefferson Street. Vacant Lot. Indication of former brick dwelling. There is still a wooden shed with a gable roof ca. 1930s with a brick foundation. (NC)

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23. 1013 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1963. Colonial Revival. Brick veneer, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, rectangular plan, poured concrete foundation, full width shed porch with square wooden posts, six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. (C)
24. 1014 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1942. Craftsman. Weatherboard, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, rectangular plan, brick foundation, partial width entry porch with metal trellis columns, 6/6 wood windows. (C)
25. 1016 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1953. Plain Traditional. Weatherboard, 1 story, asphalt shingles, hipped roof, concrete block foundation, square plan, six-over-six aluminum windows. (C)
- Garage. Ca. 1980, aluminum siding, gable roof, asphalt shingles, concrete block foundation. (NC)
26. 1025 East Jefferson Street. Ca. 1963. Ranch. Brick, one story, asphalt shingles, gable roof, concrete block foundation, interior central brick chimney, six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. (C)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**Areas of Significance**

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1910-1970

**Significant Dates**

1922

1970

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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

**Criteria Considerations N/A**

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

Property is:

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



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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Summary Paragraph**

The Dunbar-Carver Historic District is located southeast of the downtown commercial area in Brownsville, Tennessee. Brownsville is located in West Tennessee and as the county seat, is centrally located in Haywood County, approximately 60 miles east of Memphis, Tennessee. Brownsville is known as a historically prosperous community based on the productive agricultural economy. Cotton was the primary crop in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and this cultivation of cotton brought along with it a high slave to owner ratio. Historically, Haywood County had one of the largest ratios of slaves to owners in the state. African Americans to this day are the majority demographic in Brownsville at 60% of the population.

Following the Civil War, the area along E. Jefferson Street became known as the center for the city's African American middle-class citizens. This segregated area was the center for the city's African American schools and churches. This residential area was home to several professors, principals, local scholars, and ministers who played a crucial role in the African American history of Brownsville.

The Dunbar-Carver Historic District is nominated for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for the district's Ethnic History and for the district's significance in the area of Education. It meets registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Brownsville, Tennessee." The Period of Significance extends from ca. 1910 to 1970.

Due to various tear downs and fires within the last century, the oldest remaining property within the Dunbar-Carver Historic District was built in 1910, marking the beginning of the period of significance. The establishment of the Freedman School for Blacks, later Dunbar School, led to a settlement of a prominent and determined African American community in Brownsville. This community settled around the school along E. Jefferson Street and included citizens who worked in the advocacy of Civil Rights for African Americans, teachers and professors of African American children from all over Haywood County, and business men and women who played a vital role in establishing an active business district for the African American Community. The period of significance for the Dunbar-Carver Historic District encompasses a period of tremendous achievement in the midst of a harsh socioeconomic climate for the African American community of Brownsville and Haywood County.

**Historical Overview:**

In 1785, Henry Rutherford along with an entourage from North Carolina, conducted an excursion surveying West Tennessee and the Cumberland, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers. They came upon a small stream named Okeena by the Native Americans. Okeena was later named Forked Deer by the surveying party. Rutherford called this point "Key Corner".<sup>1</sup> The road leading from the west into Brownsville is also named Key Corner due to its origin from this designation.<sup>2</sup> At the time of Rutherford's land survey, the land was occupied by

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1 Brownsville-Haywood County Historical Society, History of Haywood County Tennessee (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing, 1989), 234.

2 Ibid.

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Native Americans and the soil was a mixture of clay and sand, ideal for the growth of cotton and grains. As a result of the treaty of 1818, the Chickasaw Indians sold their interest in the West Tennessee land. This treaty spurred interest from land speculators, especially those from North Carolina who moved to the Tennessee area by boat, wagon and foot after the Panic of 1819, leading to the migration of many Carolinians to the agriculturally rich land of West Tennessee.<sup>3</sup>

Once part of Madison County until a Legislative Act in 1823, Haywood County was created and named after Judge John Haywood of North Carolina.<sup>4</sup> One of the first settlers in the Haywood County area was Colonel Richard Nixon. Nixon's father was granted 3,600 acres of land in Haywood County for his contribution in the Revolutionary War. Once Nixon inherited his father's land, he was later appointed a justice of the peace and built the first log cabin which eventually was the county's first organized courtroom.<sup>5</sup> In 1825, a Legislative Act provided that a county seat would be established to be as centrally located as possible and at least 50 acres in size. Brownsville was chosen as this county seat and named after General Jacob Jennings Brown for his contribution in the War of 1812.<sup>6</sup> Thomas M. Johnson deeded the required 50 acres to the city for the cost of one dollar plus one lot. A town square was then created with 2 and 7/8 of an acre and the town was one square mile with all the boundary streets named Margin, i.e. North Margin, South Margin, East Margin, and West Margin.<sup>7</sup> Brownsville was later incorporated as a city in 1826 and the development of the town and the influx of settlers soon began. By 1832, Brownsville had a population of 400. The only two forms of transportation at the time were by steamboat down the Hatchie and Forked Deer Rivers and roads to surrounding communities built and maintained by local landowners.<sup>8</sup> The railroad was not connected to Brownsville until 1846.

With adequate means to transport goods and agricultural crops and cultivation of its rich soil, Haywood County quickly ranked third in Tennessee for cotton production during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Cotton brought great wealth to the residents of Haywood County and Brownsville. A majority of the wealthier residents in Brownsville were large landowners and cotton farmers. One of the city's most important businessmen from this period was Thomas Bond, who settled in Haywood County; having moved from North Carolina in 1826; he "built one of the greatest fortunes in Tennessee."<sup>9</sup> Bond owned and operated his own steamboat to carry supplies and his cotton products. Bond became the largest taxpayer in the county before and after the Civil

3 USGenWeb Archives online, Historical Sketch of Haywood County, May 1, 2013,

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/tn/haywood/history/1872/westtenn/historic20nms.txt>

4 Tennessee Library and Archives website. THS Collection: "John Haywood (1762-1826) Papers (1768-1796)", April 30, 2012.

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/th448.pdf>

5 Bob Moses, Lynn Shaw, Walter Baird and Harrell Clement, Haywood County, Tennessee (Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Company, 1998), 7.

6 Ibid.

7 Brownsville-Haywood County Historical Society, History of Haywood County Tennessee (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing, 1989), 237.

8 USGenWeb Archives online, A History of Haywood County, April 30, 2013,

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/tn/haywood/history/history.txt>

9 Emma Nunn, Haywood County, Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture online, April 30, 2013.

<http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=615>

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War.<sup>10</sup> Cotton production was primarily operated by slave labor until the Civil War. Bond himself brought over 500 slaves with him to Haywood County in the 1820s.<sup>11</sup>

In the early 1800s, several African American slaves were shipped to Haywood County via boat down the Hatchie River. By 1830 the population of Haywood County reached just over 5,000 residents, of whom 1,200 were slaves, representing 34%. Eventually, Haywood County had one of the largest ratios of slaves to white owners in the state. By 1840 Haywood County's population more than doubled to 13,870 residents with more than 6,250 (45.39%) enslaved. During the 1850s, some 3,000 slaves escaped from Haywood County and sought refuge with members of the Chickasaw tribe farther west.<sup>12</sup> While many were never captured, those who were caught were returned to slavery in Haywood County. By 1860 Haywood County's population rose to 19,232 and 11,026 of that population, or 57.4%, were slaves.<sup>13</sup> The dispute over slavery and states' rights led to the secession of Tennessee and the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. While there was never any major fighting in the county, Brownsville was occupied at various times by both Union and Confederate troops.<sup>14</sup> The war disrupted commerce, but fortunately no major fires or other destructive acts occurred during the war.

After the Civil War, the federal government placed offices for the newly assembled Freedmen's Bureau throughout the South to aid African Americans in finding employment and encourage whites and blacks to work together after the abolishment of slavery.<sup>15</sup> With the assistance and guidance of the Freedmen's Bureau, many freed slaves were able to stay and work on the farms as sharecroppers or tenant farmers under an employer/employee arrangement rather than a master/slave arrangement.<sup>16</sup> Sharecropping became the most common occupation for African Americans in the South following the Civil War. Sharecropping was the process in which a landowner would allow African Americans to work a portion of the land and landowners would take a portion of the profit from the harvest at the end of the year. Illiteracy was a common problem for some African Americans and they were often cheated out of larger profit portions of what was rightfully theirs.<sup>17</sup> Few freed slaves remained in Brownsville's city limits; the majority moved throughout rural areas of Haywood County to seek opportunities in agricultural production. African Americans soon began purchasing land or renting farm plots. Farming and land ownership became vital to the African American community as it was their primary means of income as well as providing a means to feed their families. Frank Evans and Cato Walker were the earliest known African American landowners in Brownsville in 1872. By 1870 Haywood County's population rose to 25,094, 13,832 or 55.12% of whom were freed slaves. African

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10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 Sharon Norris, Black America Series: Haywood County, TN (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.) 7.

13 "Telling the Haywood County Story" The Dunbar-Carver Museum. February 26, 2014.

14 The Brownsville-Haywood County Bicentennial Book Committee, Heart of the Tennessee Delta (Dixie Printing Company, 1996), 3.

15 Emma Nunn, Haywood County, Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture online, April 30, 2013  
<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=615>

16 Ibid.

17 Carrie Parker, interview by Rebecca Hightower, Dunbar-Carver Museum, February 26, 2014.

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Americans would eventually become the largest demographic percentage of landowners in Haywood County at 64%.<sup>18</sup>

Throughout slavery and the Reconstruction period, many African Americans sought access to intellectual and educational opportunities. A notable leader in the education of African Americans of Haywood County was Reverend Hardin Smith. Smith was one of many enslaved sons fathered by his white owner, Abner Smith, in Hanover County, Virginia.<sup>19</sup> General William H. Loving bought Hardin at a young age and brought him to Haywood County in 1840. Hardin had a light complexion from his father and General Loving's wife began teaching him to read and write. At sixteen, Smith was given permission to preach to a slave congregation at night at the Woodland Baptist Church in Nutbush, which was white-owned at the time.<sup>20</sup> Smith also began teaching his congregations to read and write and went on to establish several other churches in small communities throughout Haywood County.

The post-Civil War Reconstruction period in Brownsville was one filled with a racial divide between white and black. This divide was only intensified when the Tennessee Legislature and other states passed the "Jim Crow Laws" in 1876 bringing an end to the formal Reconstruction period in 1877. Jim Crow laws were considered any law or ordinance put in place to support racial segregation.<sup>21</sup> Most whites felt superior to African Americans and the Jim Crow Laws made racism or racist acts towards African Americans legal, including the separation of whites and blacks through public education and public transportation.<sup>22</sup> These laws eventually extended to all public places, including restaurants, theaters, cemeteries, parks, and other establishments. As a result, African Americans began establishing their own churches and schools throughout Brownsville. A map of Haywood County dated 1877 illustrates one of the first "Colored" churches on W. College Street. This church was the First Baptist Church of Brownsville and was founded by Reverend Martin Winfield.<sup>23</sup>

Establishing a school became a major focus of the African American community. The Freedman School for Blacks, or the Normal School for Coloreds, as it was originally called, was established as part of the Freedman Bureau in 1866. Reverend Hardin Smith, Maltimore Bond, Charles Somerville, Thomas Claiborne, Frank Peeples, and Samuel Williams raised funds to build the first African American school building on E. Jefferson Street in Brownsville, as it was centrally located within the county.<sup>24</sup> A wooden school was erected in 1866 and was two-stories in height with 6 classrooms. Reverend Martin Winfield convinced John R. Gloster to come to Brownsville and be the school's first principal. Gloster, along with his wife, had been educated at Roger Williams University in Nashville, Tennessee. The Normal School for Coloreds, which became known as the Dunbar School in 1880, offered high school training. George Currie

18 "Telling the Haywood County Story" The Dunbar-Carver Museum. February 26, 2014.

19 Emma Nunn, Haywood County, Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture online, April 30, 2013  
<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=615>

20 Ibid.

21 Encyclopedia Britannica, Jim Crow Laws. Encyclopedia online. Accessed February 28, 2014.  
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/303897/Jim-Crow-law>

22 Ibid.

23 "Telling the Haywood County Story" The Dunbar-Carver Museum, February 26, 2014.

24 Carrie Parker, interview by Rebecca Hightower, Dunbar-Carver Museum, February 26, 2014.

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took over as temporary principal when the Gloster's left Brownsville in 1915.<sup>25</sup> This school quickly became the focal point of the African American community and residences and commercial buildings began being built along E. Jefferson Street, with construction continuing into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

African American residential development in Brownsville was limited until the 1910s. Following the passage of the Jim Crow Laws in 1877, racial tensions in Brownsville and Haywood County rose dramatically, causing a number of African Americans to move to other states escaping the cruel discrimination. A majority of the county's African Americans continued farming as their occupation and only a small community lived in the Brownsville city limits. By the 1910s educated African Americans settled in Brownsville taking up occupations such as teachers, preachers, and doctors. These professions created a middle-class economy in the African American community and many began building modest homes. The implementation of the Jim Crow Laws created a segregated society pushing African Americans to build a community for themselves, removed from Brownsville's white society already concentrated around the public square as well as to the north and west of the square. As a result, the African American community began to settle around the newly established Dunbar School on E. Jefferson Street and close to the railroad tracks where several factories were located.

The Dunbar School on E. Jefferson Street was destroyed by a fire in 1920. Local churches, such as the First Baptist Church of Brownsville, Holiness Church, and Farmer's Chapel CME took over responsibility and continued to operate classes in their facilities.<sup>26</sup> During the rebuilding stages, professors at Dunbar School, Professor F.E. Jeffries, Mack Sloan, and George Currie acted as temporary principals while classes were conducted at the local churches. The school was rebuilt using funds from the Rosenwald Foundation. Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald collaborated to build schools for African American children in the early 1900s. Rosenwald was part owner of the Sears-Roebuck Company and a philanthropist. Rosenwald's school funding program eventually built over 5,000 schools between 1910 and 1935.<sup>27</sup> In 1922, the Dunbar School was rebuilt with assistance from Rosenwald school funds, reopened as the Haywood County Training School. It was decided at that time to move the school further west on E. Jefferson Street closer to the railroad tracks and the local churches.<sup>28</sup> The school was rebuilt of brick, two-stories in height with six classrooms, a cafeteria, a gym, office space and a library costing \$23,000. Some \$1,600 of the total amount was paid for by the Rosenwald Fund and the rest cobbled together from a collection of state and county funds and donations.<sup>29</sup>

The school's programs were offered to African American children across Haywood County. Professor F.E. Jeffries became the first principal of the newly built school. Professor Jeffries purchased one of the more ornate Queen Anne style homes at 911 E. Jefferson Street from Lizzie Boone in 1923 to remain close to the new school building. Professor Jeffries was the principal of Haywood County Training School until 1936 when he took a position as the first African American State Agricultural Extension Agent for Haywood

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Carrie Parker, interview by Rebecca Hightower, Dunbar-Carver Museum, February 26, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> Tom Hanchett. Rosenwald Schools. History South website. February 7, 2014 <http://www.historysouth.org/rosenwaldhome.html>

<sup>28</sup> Carrie Parker, interview by Rebecca Hightower, Dunbar-Carver Museum, February 26, 2014

<sup>29</sup> "Telling the Haywood County Story" The Dunbar-Carver Museum. February 26, 2014

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County.<sup>30</sup> As an agricultural agent, Jeffries taught farming and cropping skills to African American farmers throughout Haywood County. Professor F.E. Jeffries wife, Mrs. Ernestine Jeffries, was a school teacher at Dunbar School. The Jeffries' maintained a residence at 911 E. Jefferson Street until F.E. died in 1970. Professor Roy Bond replaced Professor Jeffries as Principal in 1936. Schools in rural areas only went up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade at this time; therefore, students had to travel to Haywood County Training School from all over the county to receive a high school education.<sup>31</sup> Until the 1930s there was no bussing system for African American students. Children often had to walk several miles to get to school each day. Principal Bond encouraged students to bring in any cotton they could obtain and in 1938, the students gathered enough cotton to make a bale of cotton which they sold to buy the first school bus. In 1950, the school was named Dunbar-Haywood County Training-Carver High School or Carver High School after George Washington Carver.<sup>32</sup> Principal Bond also built a home at 805 E. Jefferson Street, just east of the school, to remain close to the facilities. Over time the school's student population rose to approximately 1,500.

According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1910, 1929 and 1944, several modest to small sized dwellings were constructed along E. Jefferson Street, east of Jackson Avenue near the Dunbar School. These houses were often less ornate versions of popular architectural styles from Queen Anne to Bungalow. The African American working class also developed a collection of row houses or "Shotgun" houses along the street as well. These houses were generally one-story frame dwellings that were inexpensive and easy to build. Shotgun houses were built throughout the South in African American communities and featured a side entrance and continuous hallway from the front to the back of the house. This house form was commonly built following the Reconstruction Period through the 1940s. The residential development also contained boarding houses for students and teachers of Dunbar School. Due to the distance students had to travel to school, many were boarded so that they might attend school. Boarding houses were also built to house teachers who specifically came to Brownsville to teach at Dunbar School. These boarding houses were built adjacent to, or across the street from, the school, but have since been razed.<sup>33</sup> African American churches such as the First Baptist of Brownsville and the Church of Christ relocated their churches to be close to the school and the African American residential community as well.

In 1916, Booker T. Washington gave a speech in Brownsville's city square, encouraging self-improvement among the African American community which led to the establishment of social groups and businesses. In the 1920s and 1930s racial tensions continued to promote segregation. The Jim Crow Laws made it legal for white businesses to refuse service to African American citizens and, if they did not refuse them, to serve them last or force them to use separate entrances. African Americans were allowed to shop in downtown Brownsville any day of the week, but were required to be off the streets by 10 pm, once a police officer blew a whistle signaling the curfew and forcing African Americans out the square immediately.<sup>34</sup> If allowed to eat in a white owned restaurant or shop in a white owned store, African Americans were usually forced to enter

30 Brownsville-Haywood County Historical Society, 168.

31 Carrie Parker, interview by Denise Gallagher, Elma Ross Public Library, August 13, 2013

32 Carver Dunbar Alumni website. About Us: History. Accessed February 6, 2014

[http://www.carverdunbaralumni.com/About\\_Us.html](http://www.carverdunbaralumni.com/About_Us.html)

33 Carrie Parker, interview by Rebecca Hightower, Dunbar-Carver Museum, February 26, 2014

34 Norris, Sharon, Black America Series: Haywood County, TN (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000), 7.

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the business in the rear and would be served only after the white patrons had been served. The same was true in regard to healthcare, African Americans usually had to enter a Doctor's office in the rear of the building and be treated only after all white patients had been cared for regardless of medical urgency.<sup>35</sup> In 1940, Inez Taylor and Waldine Mickens were the only African American nurses working in the "Colored Wing" of the local hospital.<sup>36</sup>

The buildings on E. Jefferson Street and Jackson Avenue southeast of the public square became the home to the segregated businesses serving the African American community. Originally these buildings were white-owned livery, storage or office operations, but during the 1920s they began housing African American businesses such as restaurants, grocery stores, dry cleaners, pharmacies, barber and beauty shops, and offices. In 1939, several prominent African Americans gathered to create the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter of Haywood County. Shops were also located further east on E. Jefferson Street closer to the Haywood Training High School. Businesses were also housed in newly constructed houses such as Nola's Beauty College at 810 E. Jefferson Street, Walker's Café & Fuller's Grocery at 516 E. Jefferson Street, and Grigley's Coal Yard next door to the high school at 711 E. Jefferson Street.<sup>37</sup> African Americans also ran businesses out of their homes such as Mrs. Chlorophine Baskerville, married to James D. Rawls, ran a seamstress business out of her home at 806 E. Jefferson Street.<sup>38</sup> There was also an electrician located at 510 E. Jefferson Street.

After World War II, African American veterans took advantage of the opportunities provided by the GI Bill to buy houses, establish families in cities and towns or even move from their hometown to seek higher education. Many Veterans attended a barber college located in downstairs in the Gem Theater. Madam Alma S. Taylor operated the college at the Kozy Barber College. Veterans returning to Brownsville resented the substandard conditions to which they were subjected and agitated for the right to vote. With a large ratio of African Americans to whites, the fear of political change in what was a traditional southern society became a dividing force.<sup>39</sup> This fear of change began a violent period in the Civil Rights Movement. Founding members of the NAACP and those at the forefront of the voting movement for African Americans became targets to the white society that opposed African American equal rights.

Several founding members of the local chapter of the NAACP lived on E. Jefferson Street and held Civil Rights activist meetings in their homes.<sup>40</sup> Ollie S. Bond, a World War II veteran and a founding member was the target of violent acts intended to intimidate members of the NAACP chapter. Bond was beaten several times, his house was set on fire, and he and his family were eventually run out of town by police for his promotion of voting rights.<sup>41</sup> Elbert Williams, another founding member, was murdered in 1940 for advocating voting rights. Williams' death led to several leaders in the African American community moving

35 Carrie Parker, interview by Denise Gallagher, Elma Ross Public Library, August 13, 2013

36 Cynthia A. Bond Hopson, *Times of Challenge and Controversy: Voter registration in Haywood County, Tennessee, 1960-1961: A content analysis of local, regional and national coverage.* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 98.

37 "Telling the Haywood County Story" The Dunbar-Carver Museum. February 26, 2014

38 Ibid.

39 Jan Voogt, "The War in Vietnam: The View from a Southern Community" (PhD diss., University of Leiden, 2005), 65.

40 Brownsville States-Graphic, "Black History Month 2014 supplement." February 27, 2014, 4.

41 Ibid.

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from Brownsville out of fear for their own safety. The murder of Elbert Williams led to the investigation into the violence against African Americans by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Williams' case drew national attention resulting in visits from African American leaders such as Thurgood Marshall.<sup>42</sup> With many members of the NAACP chapter, leaving Brownsville after Williams' murder, the chapter was disbanded.<sup>43</sup>

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, efforts to gain voting rights among the county's African-Americans once again were initiated. The NAACP chapter was reinstated in 1961 to assist in these efforts. The NAACP established an office at 26 E. Jefferson Street in Brownsville and remains at that location today. Many tenant farmers and sharecroppers in the county came to Brownsville to register to vote and these efforts were met with economic retaliation by white farmers. Several white landowners, either by choice or intimidation to do so, forced African American tenant farmers who had registered to vote off their lands. Nearly 400 African American families were evicted and sought refuge in places such as "Tent City" in Fayette County.<sup>44</sup> Tent City was on land donated by a black man, Shephard Towles, on which tents, provided by an anonymous white merchant, housed several families left homeless after being forced off farmlands. Federal aid came to those evicted when it was realized that these families were not receiving proper nutrition.<sup>45</sup> Tent City gained national prominence because of the substandard living conditions and the level of hostility towards the African American farmers of Haywood and Fayette Counties.

In 1954, the Supreme Court undermined the Jim Crow Laws with the Brown vs. Board of Education case which declared that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. The ruling created a domino effect, applying the ruling to segregation in other public facilities, and overturning any future segregation-based legislation.<sup>46</sup> However, even with the removal of the Jim Crow Laws, the Civil Rights Movement continued through the 1960s and segregation remained within Brownsville's society. Civil Rights activists, such as Eric Weinberger, came to Brownsville and gathered together citizens in the African American community to stage marches in Brownsville's public square between 1960 and 1963.<sup>47</sup> Although African Americans did achieve the right to vote in 1963, the African American community remembers enduring acts of retaliation. For example, to deter voting, some in the courthouse would set out fans and blow black pepper in the direction of African Americans standing in line to vote.<sup>48</sup> Eventually the Civil Rights Act of 1964 declared that discrimination due to race, sex, age, religion, and national origin illegal, leading to the eventual end of segregated facilities and businesses in Brownsville.

In 1965 the Haywood County Board of Education planned to integrate schools in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and created the "Freedom of Choice Plan".<sup>49</sup> The Freedom of Choice Plan declared that students could choose which school they wanted to attend and the Board of Education would assign students

42 Carrie Parker, interview by Rebecca Hightower, Dunbar-Carver Museum, February 26, 2014

43 Brownsville States-Graphic, "Black History Month 2014 supplement." February 27, 2014, 10.

44 Ibid, 5.

45 Jan Voogt, "The War in Vietnam: The View from a Southern Community" (PhD diss., University of Leiden, 2005), 68.

46 Encyclopedia Britannica, Jim Crow Law. Encyclopedia Britannica online. Accessed February 28, 2014.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/303897/Jim-Crow-law>

47 Jan Voogt, "The War in Vietnam: The View from a Southern Community" (PhD diss., University of Leiden, 2005), 71.

48 Carrie Parker, interview by Denise Gallagher, Elma Ross Public Library, August 13, 2013

49 Jan Voogt, "The War in Vietnam: The View from a Southern Community" (PhD diss., University of Leiden, 2005), 72.



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to a school. The school board also guaranteed that the assignment would not be based on race, color, national origin, or religion.<sup>50</sup> The Freedom of Choice plan met resistance and continued to create a division in the community. The plan was not enforced effectively. While some African American students were assigned to Haywood County public schools, the ratio continued to be predominantly white as there were more than 4,200 African American pupils in the education system with only 44 attending white public schools.<sup>51</sup> The Ku Klux Klan was also present in Brownsville at this time, hosting rallies in front of the courthouse in Brownsville's public square and burning homes or crosses in front of homes of African Americans who openly supported the integration of the Haywood County schools and public facilities. The incidents of Ku Klux Klan actions were addressed in the 1967 court case of the Justice Department vs. Haywood County Board of Education. This court case was filed against the Board of Education in response to the ineffectiveness of the Freedom of Choice Plan, which created a dual school system and fostered hostility in the community.<sup>52</sup> The courts ruled in favor of the Justice Department and put steps in place for the Board of Education to begin full integration.

The Carver High School facilities finally closed after the dual school system was officially shut down in 1970 and a new Haywood County High School was built for all students on the north side of Brownsville. The wife of Professor F.E. Jeffries, Mrs. Ernestine Jeffries, became the first African American math teacher at the newly integrated high school. The Carver High School facilities were closed and from 1970 to 2007, during which time the building was used for alumni functions. The Boys and Girls Club began using the gym, cafeteria and office in 2003 as part of their Brownsville operation. In 2007 the unused classrooms were reopened as the Dunbar-Carver Museum to educate the public on African American history and accomplishments in Haywood County. In recent decades, several of the boarding houses, middle class homes and small businesses were abandoned or razed as many African Americans moved out of their once-segregated area along E. Jefferson Street. The E. Jefferson Street commercial and residential districts continue to represent Brownsville's African American heritage and the struggle for equality in Brownsville. The Dunbar-Carver Museum contains exhibits and historical information on the growth and development of the African American community. The First Baptist Church of Brownsville is also an important landmark in the community. What remains of the once dominant African American community includes a small commercial district and a collection of modest Bungalow and Folk Victorian dwellings anchored by the Dunbar-Carver Museum. This section of the city continues to retain a unique identity and is a significant center for the city's African American community.

The Dunbar-Carver Historic District was created by Brownsville's African American middle class citizens who yearned for a better quality of life. The period of significance of the district spans from 1910 to 1970. This period of significance tells the story of the establishment of an educational system for the African American community in Brownsville and the individuals associated with that movement. The majority of properties within the proposed district retain much of their original design and integrity. Despite the demolition of some of the properties, this area possesses a strong sense of time and place as the center of the city's African American community. The residential properties within the district centered around the

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50 Ibid.

51 Ibid, 73.

52 Ibid, 74.

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Dunbar-Carver School site which played a significant role in the education of African Americans in Haywood County. Individuals who lived in the Dunbar-Carver Historic District were instrumental to the school's operation and impact as well as to the city's African American business community. The district, along with the history of the school and residences within it, continues to represent Brownsville's African American heritage and the struggle for equality in Brownsville. The Dunbar-Carver Museum contains exhibits and historical information on the growth and development of the African American community. The First Baptist Church of Brownsville is also an important landmark in the community. This section of the city continues to retain a unique identity and is a significant center for the city's African American community.

In addition to the Ethnic History the Dunbar-Carver Historic District exhibits, the district is also significant due the history and role the Dunbar School and Dunbar-Carver school played in the Education of African Americans of Haywood County. Haywood County struggled with the integration of schools once the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was enacted. African American students continued to be divided unfairly from white students in Haywood County. The Justice Department filed a court case against the Board of Education in response to the ineffectiveness of the Freedom of Choice Plan, which created a dual school system and fostered hostility in the community. The courts ruled in favor of the Justice Department and put steps in place for the Board of Education to begin full integration. The Haywood County Board of Education was not successfully integrated until 1970, closing the doors of Carver High School. Between 1950 and 1970, many of the educators and citizens living within the Dunbar-Carver Historic District rallied against the inequality towards African Americans and the education system. The closure of Carver High School in 1970 signifies the end of the period of significance for the Dunbar-Carver Historic District.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 32.7 Acres **USGS Quadrangle** 422 SE

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:**

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.593528° | Longitude: -89.257616° |
| 2. Latitude: 35.593524° | Longitude: -89.251206° |
| 3. Latitude: 35.589425° | Longitude: -89.251204° |
| 4. Latitude: 35.589426° | Longitude: -89.257626° |

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### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Dunbar-Carver Historic District is illustrated on accompanying maps. The district is approximately bounded by E. Main Street on the north (State Highway 70), the railroad tracks to the west, Sugar Creek to the south and Anderson Avenue to the east. The district primarily runs along E Jefferson Street.

### **Boundary Justification**

This nomination boundary is drawn to include all residential properties historically associated with the historic African American community along E. Jefferson and adjacent streets in Brownsville. This area includes the blocks and parcels along E. Jefferson Street beginning west where the railroad tracks cross E. Jefferson Street and terminating to the east at Anderson Avenue. This boundary includes all properties that not only retain architectural integrity, but also were homes or associated with professors, ministers, principals and leaders in the educational movement and business community for African Americans in Brownsville. To the north of this boundary is E. Main Street which is comprised of commercial strip malls and several commercial buildings constructed post 1970. To the south of this boundary is the watercourse of Sugar Creek which separates the district from post-1970 subdivisions. To the east of this boundary is a modern housing development built by the Brownsville Housing Authority and vacant lots. The district is bordered on the west by the CSX railroad tracks. Beyond the railroad line to the west is a mixture of residential, commercial, and religious properties built before and after 1970 which do not have sufficient architectural continuity to be included within the district boundary.



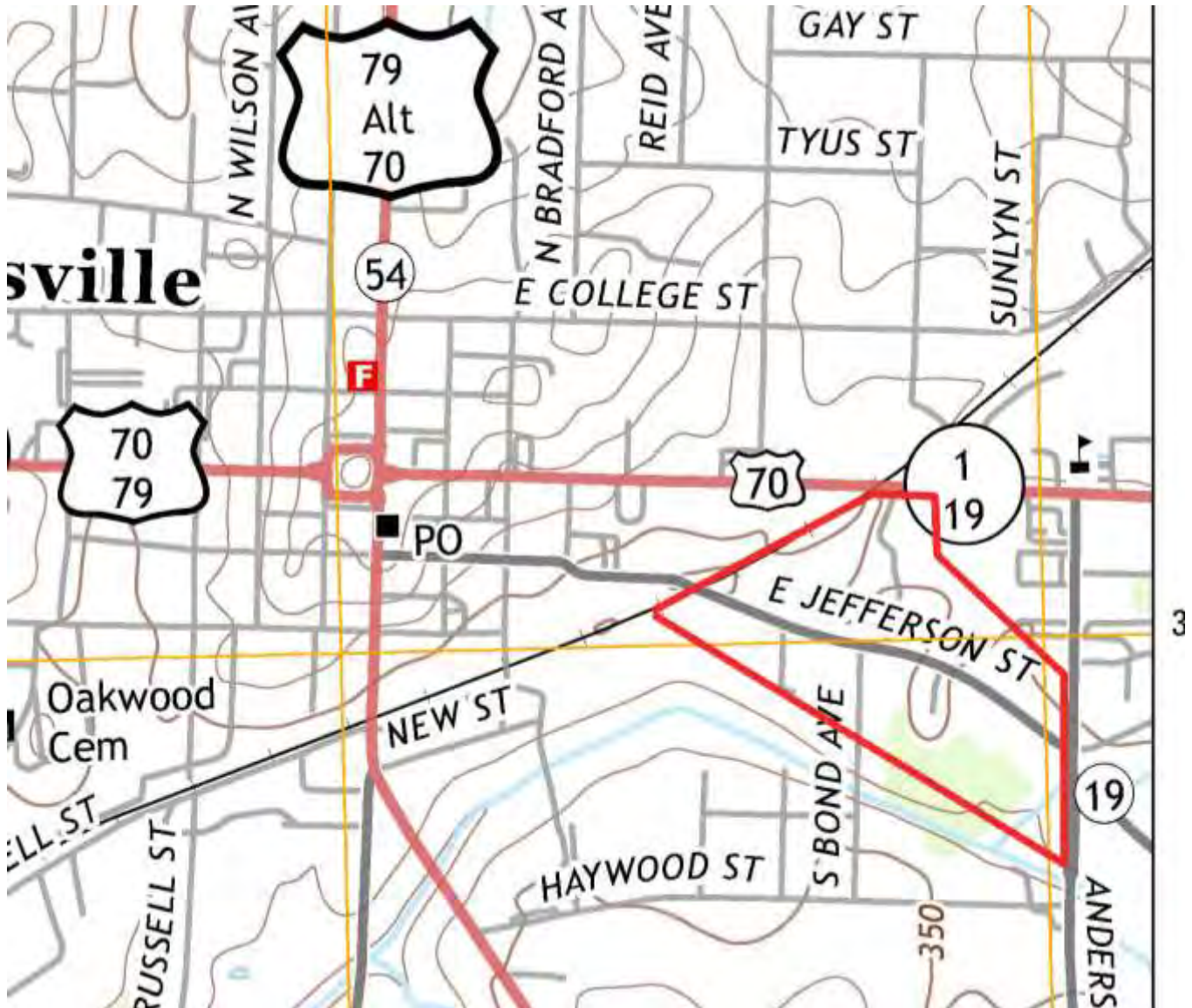


Dunbar-Carver Historic District

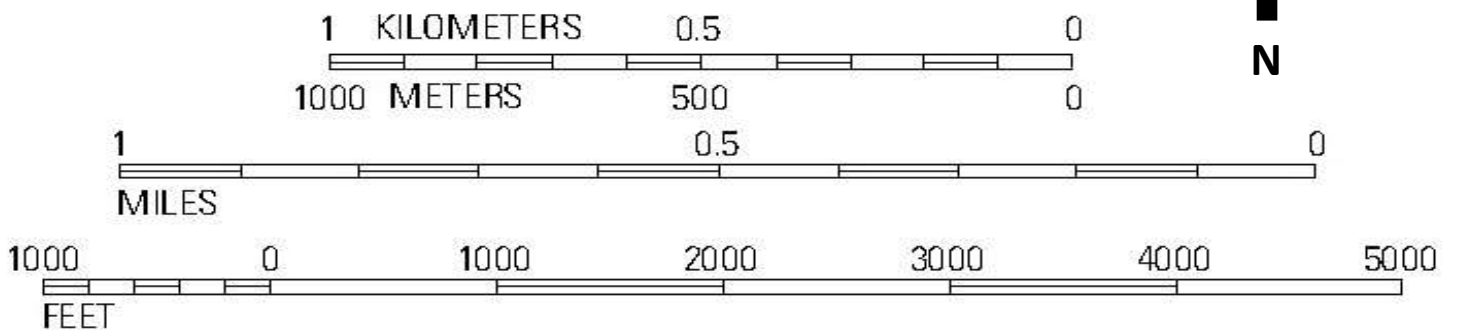
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**USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Map, Brownsville, Tennessee (2013)**



**SCALE**



Dunbar-Carver Historic District

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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Name Rebecca Hightower

Organization Thomason and Associates

Street & Number P.O. Box 121225

Date May 5, 2014

City or Town Nashville

Telephone 615-385-4960

E-mail Thomason@bellsouth.net

State TN

Zip Code 37212

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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### Photo Log

Name of Property: Dunbar-Carver Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Brownsville  
County: Haywood State: Tennessee  
Photographer: Rebecca Hightower  
Date Photographed: August 2013

- 1 of 19. 911 East Jefferson Street, View North
- 2 of 19. 816 East Jefferson Street, View South
- 3 of 19. 516 East Jefferson Street, View South
- 4 of 19. 504 East Jefferson Street, View South
- 5 of 19. 805 East Jefferson Street, View Northwest
- 6 of 19. 925 East Jefferson Street, View North
- 7 of 19. 1007 East Jefferson Street, View North
- 8 of 19. 1013 East Jefferson Street, View North
- 9 of 19. 804 East Jefferson Street, View South
- 10 of 19. 810 East Jefferson Street, View Southeast
- 11 of 19. 225 Anderson Avenue, View Northwest
- 12 of 19. Streetscape, 600 Block E. Jefferson Street, View Northwest
- 13 of 19. Streetscape, 600 Block E. Jefferson Street, View Southwest
- 14 of 19. Streetscape, 800 Block E. Jefferson Street, View Southeast
- 15 of 19. Streetscape, 800 Block E. Jefferson Street, View Southwest
- 16 of 19. Streetscape, 900 Block E. Jefferson Street, View Northwest
- 17 of 19. Streetscape, 1000 Block E. Jefferson Street, View Southeast
- 18 of 19. Streetscape, 1000 Block E. Jefferson Street, View Northwest
- 19 of 19. 709 East Jefferson Street, Dunbar Carver High School, View Northeast

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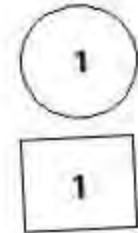
**Photo Key Map** (see larger map enclosed)



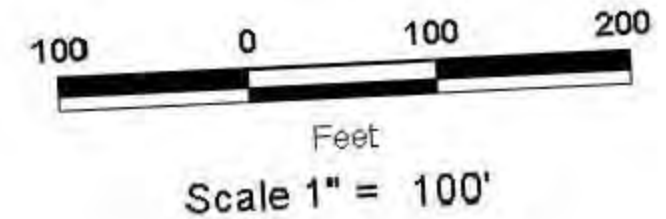


**LEGEND**

- CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES
- NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY



**DUNBAR-CARVER RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**



Dunbar-Carver Historic District

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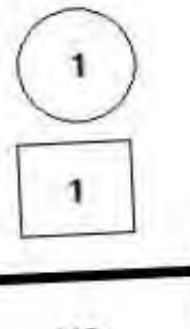
**District Property Tax Map (see larger map enclosed)**



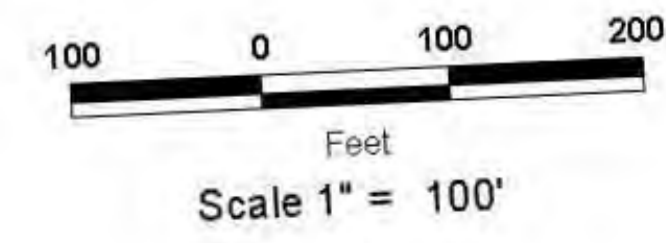


**LEGEND**

- 1 CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES
- 1 NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY



**DUNBAR-CARVER RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**



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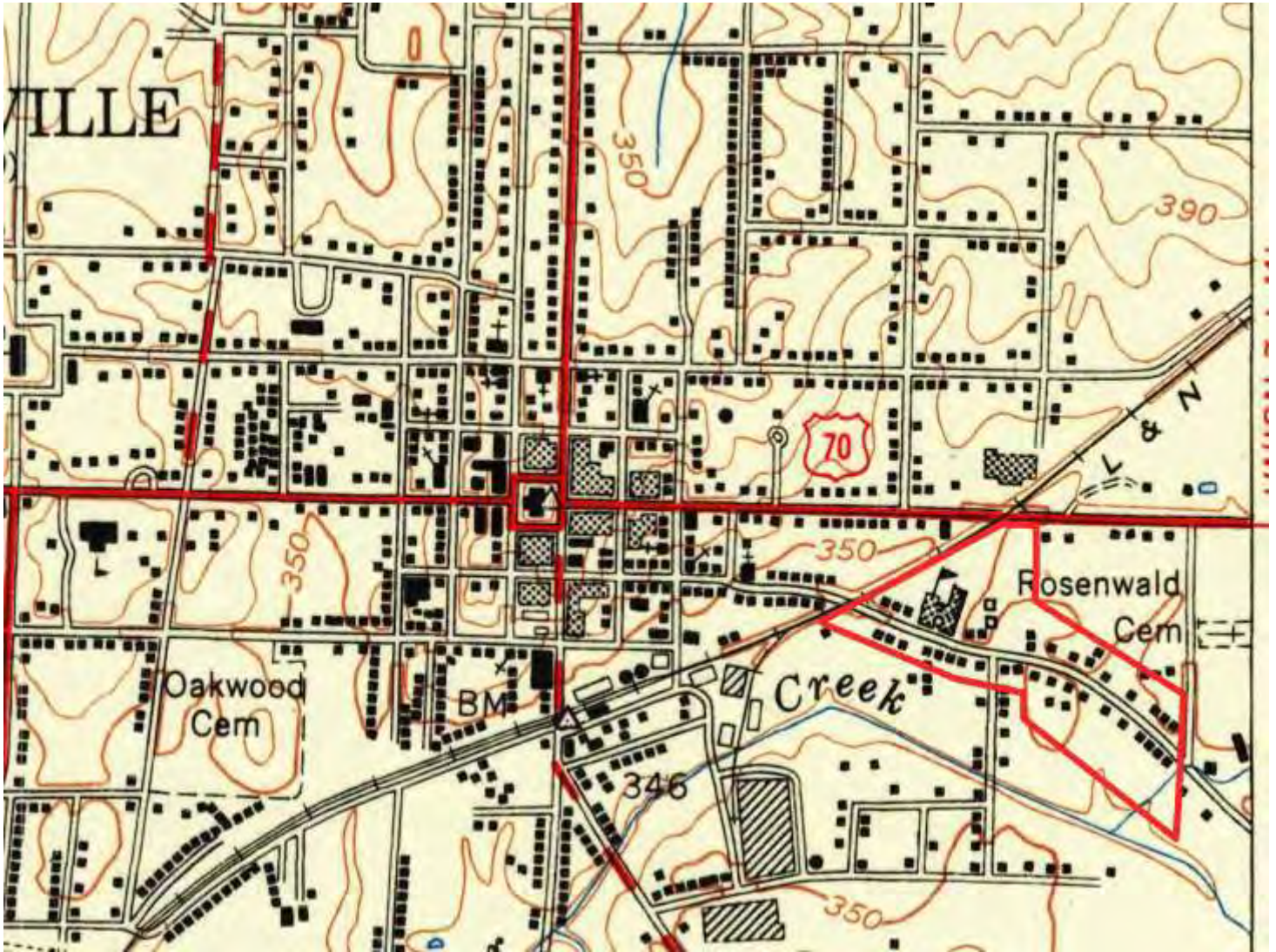


Figure 1: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Map, Brownsville, Tennessee (1951)

























Handwritten text on the blue wall, possibly a logo or name.

NC























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dunbar--Carver Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Brownsville, Tennessee MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Haywood

DATE RECEIVED: 12/12/14      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/15      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/27/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001224

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1-27-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Meets Registration Requirements of MPS  
African American neighborhood centered around the Dunbar school*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Grubert      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW**

**CLG:** Brownsville  
**PROPERTY:** Dunbar-Carver Historic District  
**ADDRESS:** Located along E. Jefferson Street and roughly bounded by Anderson Avenue, E. Main Street and the Railroad Tracks

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EVALUATION**

**NAME OF COMMISSION:** Brownville Historic Zoning Commission  
**DATE OF MEETING:** August 21, 2014  
**HOW WAS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING?** Local media – newspaper & radio  
 **ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**  
 **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

As set forth in the Multiple Property Document Form, "Historic Resources of Brownville, Tennessee," under National Register Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage, this District is significant for its African American heritage as a residential center for African American middle-class citizens including schools and churches during the era of segregation.

**SIGNATURE:** *Sharon Hayes*  
**TITLE:** Sharon Hayes, Certified Local Government Coordinator

*8-21-2014*  
**DATE:**

**THC STAFF EVALUATION**

**ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**  
 **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

The Dunbar-Carver Historic District is located southeast of the downtown commercial area in Brownsville, Tennessee. Brownsville is known as a historically prosperous community based on the productive agricultural economy. Cotton was the primary crop in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and this cultivation of cotton brought along with it a high slave to owner ratio. Historically, Haywood County had one of the largest ratios of slaves to owners in the state. Following the Civil War, the area along E. Jefferson Street became known as the center for the city's African American middle-class citizens. This segregated area was the center for the city's African American schools and churches. This residential area was home to several professors, principals, local scholars, and ministers who played a crucial role in the African American history of Brownsville. The Dunbar-Carver Residential Historic District meets registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Brownsville, Tennessee," Criterion A for the district's Ethnic Heritage.

**SIGNATURE:** *Carole Mathieson*  
**TITLE:** Historic Preservation Specialist-National Register

**DATE:** July 18, 2014

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE:** September 15, 2014

**RETURN FORM TO:**

**CHRISTINE MATHIESON  
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214**

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW**

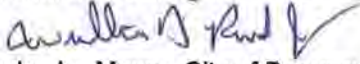
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**SIGNATURE:**   
**TITLE:** William Rawls, Jr., Mayor, City of Brownsville

**DATE:** 8/21/14

**THC STAFF EVALUATION**

**ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**  
 **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

The Dunbar-Carver Historic District is located southeast of the downtown commercial area in Brownsville, Tennessee. Brownsville is known as a historically prosperous community based on the productive agricultural economy. Cotton was the primary crop in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and this cultivation of cotton brought along with it a high slave to owner ratio. Historically, Haywood County had one of the largest ratios of slaves to owners in the state. Following the Civil War, the area along E. Jefferson Street became known as the center for the city's African American middle-class citizens. This segregated area was the center for the city's African American schools and churches. This residential area was home to several professors, principals, local scholars, and ministers who played a crucial role in the African American history of Brownsville. The Dunbar-Carver Residential Historic District meets registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Brownville, Tennessee," Criterion A for the district's Ethnic Heritage.

**SIGNATURE:**   
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**DATE:** July 18, 2014

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: September 15, 2014**

**RETURN FORM TO:**

**CHRISTINE MATHIESON  
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214**



**William (Bill) Rawls, Jr., Mayor**

**111 N. Washington Avenue · P.O. Box 449 · Brownsville, TN 38012 · 731-772-1212**

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September 12, 2014

Mr. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37214

RE:           Application for the Jefferson Street Commercial District, Brownsville, TN  
              Application for the Dunbar-Carver Residential District, Brownsville, TN

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

On behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the citizens of Brownsville, I want to express our complete support of the above referenced applications before the Tennessee Historical Commission. Our comprehensive plan for growth, "Brownsville On The Move," establishes as a major objective "to preserve and enhance the city's environment through the skillful application of advanced historic preservation." Approval of these applications could truly help us focus our efforts to expand our existing historic districts and establish new ones, as we fight to save our historically, architecturally, and culturally significant structures.

Thanks to past support from the THC, Brownsville has experienced a resurgence of commitment to preserving our past, while engaging our residents in our exciting present, and most promising future. We look forward to working with you as we move towards our mutual goals and objectives, and we thank you for your consideration of these applications.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William (Bill) Rawls, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Mayor

VICE MAYOR: LEON KING · ALDERMEN: JOHN SIMMONS · CAROLYN FLAGG · THOMAS AVERYHEART



**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214  
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550  
[www.tnhistoricalcommission.org](http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org)  
E-mail: [Claudette.Stager@tn.gov](mailto:Claudette.Stager@tn.gov)  
(615) 532-1550, ext. 105  
<http://www.tn.gov/environment/history>



November 25, 2014

Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
National Register Branch  
1201 Eye Street NW  
8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate *Dunbar-Carver Historic District* to the National Register of Historic Places. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the *Dunbar-Carver Historic District* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Christine Mathieson at (615) 770-1086 or [Christine.Mathieson@tn.gov](mailto:Christine.Mathieson@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:cm

Enclosures(4)