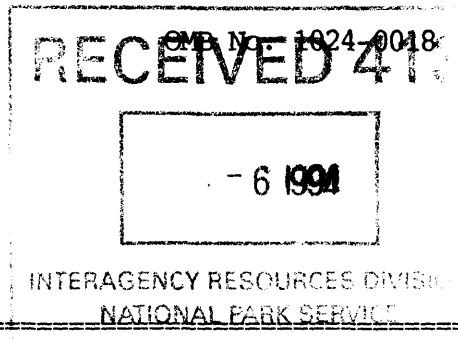


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name College Place Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number See inventory not for publication N/A
city or town Florence vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Lauderdale code 077 zip code 35630

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 11/29/94
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 1-12-95

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman
Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals
see continuation sheet 7.1

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls brick
wood
other N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1907-1944

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder See inventory

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance on continuation sheet/s.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 18 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	437440	3852430	3	16	437960	3851940
2	16	437825	3852620	4	16	437785	3851780
___ See continuation sheet.							

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert W. Beck

organization N/A date Aug. 16, 1994

street & number 229 W. Lelia Street telephone 205/767-6186

city or town Florence state AL zip code 35630

USDI/NPS Registration Form
Property Name College Place Historic District
County and State Lauderdale County, Alabama

Page #5

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name See inventory

street & number _____ telephone _____

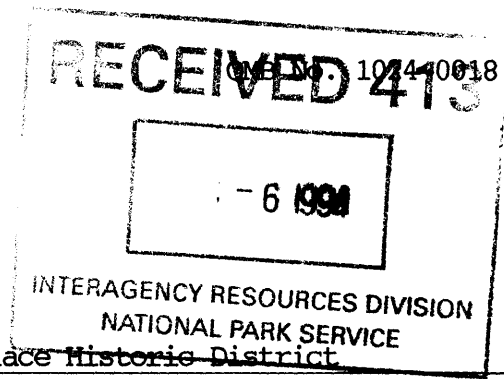
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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College Place Historic District
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ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION (continued)

Tudor Revival
Colonial Revival
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

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#7 DESCRIPTION:

Rising up a gradual hill from the intersection of Sherrod Avenue and Circular Road and overlooking Wesleyan Hall (listed NRHP 1974), the 1855 castle-like structure on the campus of the University of North Alabama, the College Place Historic District is a neighborhood of tree-lined streets and fine homes dating from 1907 to the 1940's and later. It joins the Wood Avenue Historic District (listed NRHP 1981) at various points: at the intersection of West Hawthorne Street and Sherrod Avenue, at the intersection of West Lelia Street and North Wood Avenue, and at the intersection of West Mattie Lou Street and North Wood Avenue.

College Place Historic District is a residential neighborhood consisting of predominantly one- and two-story brick buildings reflecting the Craftsman, Revival (Mission, Georgian, etc.) and Bungalow styles. The Bungalow style is the most prevalent as might be expected given the years in which most construction took place. All structures are in unusually good physical condition. Interestingly, the District has never suffered a loss from fire, natural disaster or neglect. All of the houses in the 200 block of West Lelia Street are still intact as shown on the Sanborn Fire Map of Florence dated July, 1928, along with 22 other houses on Sherrod Avenue¹. Of course, infill housing has been constructed since then on the vacant lots identified on the map.

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The District covers the 700, 800 and 900 blocks of Sherrod Avenue and the 200 block on West Lelia Street, as well as the adjoining houses on West Mattie Lou Street and Circular Road. Since it also joins the Wood Avenue Historic District, it has the ultimate effect of bringing together an entire geographic section of the city of Florence to be preserved for posterity.

So, what had been, in the late 1800's, the pastures and meadows on the farm of Florence's Judge J. J. Mitchell became, in subsequent years, a neighborhood of handsome houses for the city's fast-growing professional class.²

FOOTNOTES

¹Sanborn Fire Map, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company.
Chicago: July, 1928.

²Oral interview with Ellen Mitchell Redd, granddaughter of Judge J.J. Mitchell, October, 1989.

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The outbuildings that are associated with the residences generally date from approximately the same time as the houses. Unless otherwise stated in the following inventory, an outbuilding, which is usually a garage, was probably constructed along with the house.

INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES

- #1 1002 Willingham Road, (contributing) 1926; One-story stone veneer bungalow with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; front porch gable elliptical; open rafters on side porch; side lights at front entrance; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: T. W. Crowe
Original owner: Dr. L. C. Ellis, veterinarian
Name of house: The Striplin Home
Current owner: Mrs. M. M. Striplin, Jr.
- #2 233 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1923; Two-story brown brick Prairie style; hipped roof with wide eaves and brackets; porte cochere; probably first "picture window" in Florence; separate two-story garage (contributing) in same brick with maid's quarters on second level.
Builder: T. W. Crowe
Original owner: Dr. L. T. Young
Name of house: The Tomlinson Home
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Allen Tomlinson
- #3 229 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1924; Two-story neo-Georgian brick with hipped roof and asphalt shingles; porte cochere; large exterior chimney flanked by small windows; rectangular front porch with square brick columns; multi-paned front door with sidelights; separate two-story garage (contributing) (stucco) with maid's quarters on second level.
Builder: Paul Norquist (Florence Lumber Company)
Original owner: Ms. W. H. Collins
Name of house: The Beck House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitman Beck

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- #4 228 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1923; One-and one-half story bungalow; brick; large shed dormer on front roof; multi-paned front entrance with sidelights and transom; gabled roof with asphalt shingles; porte cochere; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: T. W. Crowe
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Brown
Name of house: The Broadfoot House
Current owner: Billy W. Broadfoot, Sr.
- #5 224 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1925; One-and one-half story bungalow with large gabled dormer (three windows) on front roof; rectangular front porch with tapered wooden columns; gabled roof with asphalt shingles; exterior chimney flanked by small windows; separate one-story stucco garage (contributing).
Builder: Paul Norquist
Original owner: Dewey Mitchell, Sr.
Name of house: The Mitchell Law House
Current owner: Peggy M. Law
- #6 220 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1923; One-story brick bungalow with gabled roof facing the street; rectangular front porch with tapered wooden columns; exposed rafters under eaves in pure bungalow style; separate one-story brick garage (contributing).
Builder: Miles W. Darby
Original owner: Miles W. Darby
Name of house: The Darby Holt House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Holt (Mr. Holt, retired U. S. Postmaster)
- #7 221 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1923; One-story red brick bungalow with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; tapered wooden columns on rectangular front porch; decorative wooden brackets under wide eaves; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Paul Norquist (Florence Lumber Company)
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Crowe, developers of College Place Subdivision
Name of house: The Crane House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Crane (Mr. Crane engineer for City of Florence)

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- #8 216 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1926; One-and one-half story brick bungalow; gabled roof with large shed dormer on front; arched brick supports on front porch.
Builder: Charles H. King
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. King
Name of house: The Smith House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Mark Smith (Mr. Smith, a Certified Public Accountant)
- #9 217 W. Lelia Street, (non-contributing) 1978; One-story red brick with low-pitched gabled roof; front porch with four small support columns; architect designed by Lindon Ezell, AIA; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Glen Jenkins
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Van Stack
Name of house: The White Home
Current owner: John H. White
- #10 213 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1926; Two-story red brick; neo-Georgian style; hipped roof with asphalt shingles; porte cochere with square brick columns; large exterior chimney to accommodate interior fireplace; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Paul Norquist
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Williams (Mr. Williams, pharmacist)
Name of house: The Sibley House
Current owner: Ellen T. Sibley
- #11 212 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1925; One-and one-half story brick bungalow style with gabled roof and dormer (with three windows) on front roof; rectangular front porch with tapered wooden columns in center and square brick columns on outside corners; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Dr. Newsom, physician
Name of house: Underwood House
Current owner: Susan Underwood

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- #12 208 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1924; Two-story red brick neo-Georgian style with hipped roof and asphalt shingles; large exterior brick chimney flanked by windows; multi-paned front door with sidelights; rectangular front porch with tapered wooden columns; porte cochere; mirror image exactly of the Beck house, 229 W. Lelia Street; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Ben Riley (both architect and builder)
Original owner: Ben Riley
Name of house: Simpson Evans Home
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. J. Douglas Evans (Mr. Evans, attn.)
- #13 209 W. Lelia Street, (non-contributing) 1946; Two-story square-built house with hipped roof; lower story of brick; second story, frame.
Builder: Charlie Jones
Original owner: Charlie Jones
Name of house: The Carriage House
Current owner: Herbert D. Jones
- #14 927 Sherrod Avenue, (noncontributing) 1971; Two-story red brick eight-unit apartment house; rectangular design; hipped roof; narrow front porch with iron supports.
Builder: Joe Massenburg
Original owner: Joe Massenburg
Name of house: Gold Oak Apartments
Current owner: Joe Massenburg
- #15 124 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1937; Two-story frame house with gabled roof and exterior brick chimney; front stoop with gabled roof and asphalt shingles supported by two wooden columns; first house in Florence with asbestos siding.
Builder: Strickand Lumber Company
Original owner: Ernest Roberts, shoemaker
Name of house: The Statom House
Current owner: Ernestine Roberts Statom
- #16 129 W. Lelia Street, (contributing) 1939; One-story red brick with frame extension; gabled roof with asphalt shingles; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Cecil Gargis
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Humphrey
Name of house: Pflueger Haus
Current owner: Mary Ann Thornton

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College Place Historic District
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-
- #17 923 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1908; One-story frame house in late-Victorian style; tall four-over-four windows; front porch with brick and wood supports; original handcarved front door with sidelights and transom; ornate tin ceiling in foyer; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Acme Lumber Company
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Bounds
Name of house: The Bounds House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. William C. Nabors
- #18 917 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1938; One-story frame bungalow style with gabled roof; rectangular front porch with square wooden columns resting on brick bases; decorative wooden brackets under wide eaves; considered the real "show-house" of the subdivision when first built.
Builder: Cecil Gargis
Original owner: James Gresham
Name of house: The Gresham House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Virgil E. Grigsby, Jr.
- #19 918 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1942; One-story brick cottage; gabled roof with composition shingles; arched front door.
Builder: Cecil Gargis
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Harris Burns
Name of house: The Burns Homeplace
Current owner: Mrs. John Barnes (formerly Mrs. Harris Burns)
- #20 916 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1942; One-story red brick with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; distinctive sun porch original to the house; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Cecil Gargis
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miller
Name of house: The Audie White Home
Current owner: Mrs. Audie White
- #21 913 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1920; One-story frame bungalow style with gabled roof; front porch railing of brick; decorative wooden brackets under wide roof eaves; separate two story garage (contributing) with stucco siding and maid's quarters on second level.
Builder: Florence Lumber Company
Original owner: O. J. Renegar
Name of house: The Wessel Home
Current owner: Susan Wessel

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#22

909 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1909; One- and one-half story frame cottage with gabled roof; small shed dormer on front roof.

Builder: Florence Lumber Company
Original owner: Emma Gresham, a teacher
Name of house: Daniel Redden House
Current owner: Daniel J. Redden

#23

907 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1909; One- and one-half story frame cottage with gabled roof; large shed dormer (with three windows) on front roof; wooden columns with brick bases on front porch; separate one-story garage (contributing with wood siding).

Builder: Florence Lumber Company
Original owner: Emma Gresham
Name of house: Gresham Howard House
Current owner: Lula Gresham Howard

#24

901 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1912; Two-story frame house with hipped roof and composition shingles; one central brick chimney; large sun porch original to house; separate one-story garage (contributing) with metal siding.

Builder: Herbert F. Koonce
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McCorkle
Name of house: The Pittman House
Current owner: Doreen J. Pittman

#25

130 W. Mattie Lou Street, (contributing) 1926; One-story red brick with hipped roof; large, rectangular front porch with square brick columns; separate one-story brick garage (contributing).

Builder: U. O. Redd (Florence Lumber Company)
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert F. Koonce
Name of house: Weems House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Tommy B. Weems

#26

126 W. Mattie Lou Street, (contributing) 1925; One-story Spanish style; stucco over brick; low gabled roof; one group of three arched windows on front of house; separate one-story stucco garage (contributing).

Builder: Herbert F. Koonce
Original owner: Unknown
Name of house: The Hite House
Current owner: Ms. Gail Hite

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- #27 127 W. Mattie Lou Street; (contributing) 1907; One-story red brick gabled roof with composition shingles; along with the house at 923 Sherrod, the oldest in the subdivision; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Mr. Walker
Original owner: Unknown
Name of house: The James Place
Current owner: Grace C. James
- #28 831 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1925; Two-story red brick neo-Georgian style; hipped roof with one dormer; large brick exterior chimney; rectangular front porch with wooden columns on brick bases; separate one-story brick garage (contributing).
Builder: Herbert F. Koonce
Original owner: Lutie Pryor
Name of house: Dumas House
Current owner: Mrs. A. Leon Dumas
- #29 827 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1926; One-story red brick house in bungalow style; gabled roof; rectangular porch; separate one-story brick garage (contributing).
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Unknown
Name of house: Keeton House
Current owner: John Keeton
- #30 825 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1925; Two-story red brick neo-Georgian style; hipped roof with composition shingles; brick exterior chimney flanked by windows; rectangular porch with wooden columns; separate two-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Herbert F. Koonce
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Butcher
Name of house: The Cracraft House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Morris Cracraft
- #31 821 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1927; One-story Tudor-style cottage; stucco exterior; brick exterior chimney; gabled roof with exposed beams in the gables; front stoop; separate one-story garage (contributing) with stucco exterior.
Builder: W. S. and Harvey Whitman
Original owner: J. I. McClure
Name of house: The Mauldin House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Macke Mauldin

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-
- #32 822 Sherrod Avenue, (non-contributing) 1946; Two-story central section flanked by one-story wings in modified Colonial style; portico with four columns which extend to second floor; pedimented entry flanked by two shuttered windows.
Builder: Jack Jones
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Russell
Name of house: The Russell Home
Current owner: Ann Russell Girdner
- #33 807 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1926; English Tudor style; red brick with ornate stonework around exterior doors and windows; large group of rectangular windows; complex roof lines with many gables and dormers; central brick chimney; designed by Paul W. Hofferbert, architect, and Ben Riley, apprentice.
Builder: Paul W. Hofferbert
Original owner: Elizabeth Whitman
Name of house: The Smith Home
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Larry M. Smith (Mr. Smith, attorney)
- #34 820 Sherrod Avenue, (non-contributing) 1955; One-story brick with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; matching wings on either end of the house, giving it a very symmetrical appearance; large front porch with elaborate wrought iron columns and arches; designed by Tillman Architectural Associates of Nashville, Tennessee.
Builder: Mitchell Builders
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Landrum
Name of house: The Landrum Home
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Landrum
- #35 110 W. Hawthorne Street, (noncontributing) 1951; one-story frame house; low-pitched gabled roof with composition shingles; architect-designed by Malcolm E. Smith, AIA.
Builder: Charles Martin
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rasch
Name of house: The Rasch Home
Current owner: Mrs. Charles Rasch, retired Associate Professor, University of North Alabama
- #36 729 Sherrod Avenue, (noncontributing) 1953; One- and one-half story stone house with gabled roof; attached garage with hipped roof; recessed entrance with sidelight; floor-to-ceiling front windows.
Builder: Elbert Burns, businessman
Original owner: Elbert Burns
Name of house: Lyle House
Current owner: Dr. and Mrs. Michael Lyle (Dr. Lyle a dentist)

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-
- #37 727 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1925; One- and one-half story red brick bungalow; gabled roof; large side dormer; rectangular front porch with brick railing and wooden columns; decorative wooden shingles on front gable; architect-designed by Paul Hofferbert, AIA; separate one-story brick garage (contributing).
Builder: J. B. Dobson, Sr.
Original owner: J. B. Dobson, Sr., businessman
Name of house: The Edwards House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Edwards
- #38 728 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1926; One-story bungalow; stucco exterior; gabled roof; rectangular porch with brick railing and wooden columns; exposed wooden beams on front gable.
Builder: Z. R. Christian
Original owner: Jennie P. Ferguson
Name of house: The John Ivy Home
Current owner: John C. & Candance Ivy
- #39 722 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1929; One- and one-half story brick cottage; gabled roof with asphalt shingles; small front porch with gabled roof and wrought iron columns; six-over-six windows throughout; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Z. R. Christian
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Paxton
Name of house: The Johnson Home
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Johnson
- #40 718 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1927; One-story brick bungalow with gabled roof and composition shingles; rectangular porch with brick railing and square brick columns; decorative brackets under wide eaves; separate one-story garage (contributing) with wood siding.
Builder: Z. R. Christian
Original owner: Maude B. Williams
Name of house: The Quillen House
Current owner: William C. Quillen
- #41 717 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1928; Two-story brick of neo-Georgian design with hipped roof; front shed dormer with three windows; asphalt shingles; small identical front and side porches with brick and wood columns; large central chimney.
Builder: Z. R. Christian
Original owner: Unknown
Name of house: The Edwards Place
Current Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Edwards

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-
- #42 714 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1925; One-story red brick bungalow with hipped roof; symmetrical front porch with square brick columns; separate one-story garage with wood siding (contributing).
Builder: Edward L. Garner
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Sam U. Hardie
Name of house: Jaggers Home
Current owner: Patricia C. Jaggers (a medical doctor)
- #43 715 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1925; One- and one-half story combination red brick and frame house; gabled roof with twin gabled dormers on front roof; rectangular porch with square brick columns.
Builder: Carter Townsend
Original owner: Carter Townsend
Name of house: Buettner Homeplace
Current owner: Estate of Paul Buettner
- #44 703 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1940; One- and one-half story cottage; red brick with gabled roof.
Builder: Frank Young
Original owner: Virgil Young
Name of house: The Dobson House
Current owner: J. B. Dobson, Jr.
- #45 701 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1924; One-story brick Tudor cottage with clipped gables on front; two small rounded dormers; one exterior chimney flanked by double-casement windows with diamond-shaped glass; front porch with double front doors that have 12 beveled glass panes and 8-pane side-lights (also beveled); separate one-story brick garage (contributing).
Builder: Z. R. Christian
Original owner: Unknown
Name of house: Edwards Manor
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Edwards
- #46 702 Sherrod Avenue, (contributing) 1938; Three-story red brick apartment house; gabled roof with composition shingles; six-over-six windows grouped in sets of two and three; architect-designed by Ben Riley, AIA (altered plans from American Builder magazine).
Builder: Frank Young
Original owner: Frank Young, businessman
Name of house: Walter Posey House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Posey

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#47 120 Circular Road, (contributing) 1927; Two-story brick house; hipped roof; dormer on front; rectangular front porch with four wooden columns extending from porch floor to second story; solid wood front door with sidelights.
Builder: Florence Lumber Company
Original owner: Dr. T. L. Bennett, Sr.
Name of house: The Williams House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams

#48 116 Circular Road, (contributing) 1944; One- and one-half story brick cottage; gabled roof with asphalt shingles; separate one-story frame garage (contributing) with asbestos siding.
Builder: R. Leo Butler
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. R. Leo Butler
Name of house: The Leo Butler House
Current owner: Mardia B. Irby and Barbara B. Goudreau

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT:

Although no formal archaeological survey has been completed, there may be a potential for subsurface remains.

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#8 SIGNIFICANCE:

The proposed College Place Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architecture. Its period of significance dates from 1907, the year the earliest house was constructed, to 1944 which represents the fifty-year cut-off date. Although construction occurred throughout the period of significance, almost one third of the contributing resources were built in the years 1923 to 1927.

The early 1900's (a continuation of the booming 1890's) and the 1920's were especially active periods for home construction in Florence, Alabama, a reflection of the regional and national scene. Officials in Florence were feeling so optimistic in 1923 that they commissioned a film crew to create a promotional film to tout the virtues of their fair city in major cities of the East and Midwest. Copies of it exist still in local collections. What would eventually be College Place Historic District was born in 1922 as an outgrowth of this flurry of activity.

This well-defined neighborhood contains good and representative examples of residential architecture from 1907 to the 1940's and later.

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From Revival styles (especially Mission and Georgian) to the Bungalow, the collection of structures is quite varied and especially well maintained. The architectural styles are represented in different kinds of materials: brick, wood, stucco, concrete, etc. Of particular interest are the Bungalows: in practically mint condition, they reflect America's fascination with that style between the 1920's and the 1940's and the almost limitless ways in which it could be interpreted. Whatever one is looking for as relates to the variations on the Bungalow theme (exterior arches in wood or stucco, decorative brackets under the eaves of roofs, low brick walls surmounted on concrete porches, sidelights flanking multi-paned front doors, etc.), one is almost sure to find it in this interesting neighborhood. As one moves through the District, one is struck by the excellent condition of the structures, the lines of huge oak trees, and the vistas created by the fine old buildings, especially Wesleyan Hall (NRHP 1974), on the campus of the University of North Alabama which is adjacent to the District.

The land on which this District rests has its historical roots in the sale on March 12, 1818, by the Cypress Land Company (of which Andrew Jackson was a trustee) which established the city of Florence.¹ It also figured prominently in the Civil War by its being chosen as the site for the construction of breastworks for the defense of Florence's northern flank by the Confederate soldiers.² Remnants of these breast-

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works are still visible today, though they are not within the District. Later, in 1882, it became the property of Florence's Judge J. J. Mitchell who used it as pastureland for his horses and cattle.³ Judge Mitchell's fine home still graces North Wood Avenue, and its rear property line abuts College Place Historic District--maintaining the physical and historical link that has been in existence for well over 100 years.

Over the years residents of College Place Historic District have made outstanding contributions to the city of Florence. Mr. Clyde Anderson, for example, founded Anderson News Company, the forerunner of Bookland and Books-a-Million stores which are found in shopping malls across the country. (Their home base is still Florence, Alabama, where their owners, children of Mr. Anderson, live.) Dr. Wyatt Simpson, a highly-skilled physician from a family of medical doctors, also lived in the District. Mr. Jerry Landrum, known throughout north Alabama for his fine photography, still lives in the District. He is the son of Mr. G. W. Landrum, a photographer whose farsightedness prompted him to record for posterity pictures of the construction of such important local structures as the Nitrate Plant and Wilson Dam, both of which were projects of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Dr. Gerald Williams, a top-level agronomist with the TVA, and, later, a participant in Heifer International in the Cameroons was a resident as was Dr. R. G. Hightower, a well-known specialist in diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

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Elizabeth Dabney Gerber, owner of many commercial buildings in downtown Florence as well as thousands of acres in the rural part of the county, reared her children in the District.

Current residents who are continuing the tradition of their predecessors include: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mack Smith (he, a local judge; she, an attorney); Mr. Douglas Evans, an assistant in the office of the District Attorney; Florine Rasch, a professor (retired) from the University of North Alabama; and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Cracraft (he, the director of transportation for the Florence City School System; she, a teacher of Spanish at Bradshaw High School).

The contributions of College Place Historic District to the architectural and social history of the city of Florence truly make it worthy of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

FOOTNOTES

Deed to the property at West Lelia Street owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beck.

Ibid.

Ibid.

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#9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Deed to property at 229 West Lelia Street owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beck
2. Oral interview with Ellen Mitchell Redd, granddaughter of J. J. Mitchell, October, 1989.
3. Oral interview with Billy R. Warren, president of Heritage Preservation, Inc., November 10, 1993
4. Sanborn Fire Map, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Chicago: 1928.

#10 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see accompanying sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

These boundaries are proposed because they form a logical, cohesive district since they are bordered by the well-established campus of the University of North Alabama and the Wood Avenue Historic District.