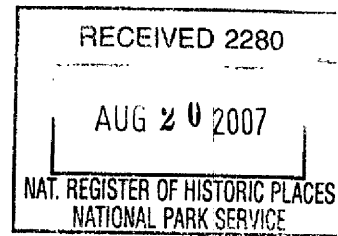


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1027

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Center Street Historic District
other names/site number Dynamite Hill

2. Location

street & number 940-1145 Center St.; 2-9th Ct West; 4-10th Ave. N., 2-4 10th Ct N.; 16-24 11th Ave. N.; 1-2 11th Ct. N.
city or town Birmingham vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Jefferson code 073 zip code 35204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

ALABAMA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFF 16 AUG 07
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

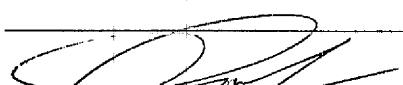
Date

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): _____


Signature of Keeper

10/06/07
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>27</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	— structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	— objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>27</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, 1933-1979

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>Religious facility</u>
	<u>Church-related residence</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>Religious facility</u>
	<u>Church-related residence</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style, Ranch Style
20th CENTURY REVIVALS & AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Tudor Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK, CONCRETE
 roof: ASPHALT
 walls: BRICK
WOOD: Weatherboard
 other: _____

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

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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance 1946-1965

Significant Dates 1946-1951; 1963

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Gaillard, Leroy Jr., Builder

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

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):

- 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: Birmingham Public Library; Birmingham Historical Society; Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; Birmingham News

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.5 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>515210</u>	<u>3708900</u>	4	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	5	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	6	_____	_____	_____

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 Marjorie White, Birmingham Historical Society; Christy Anderson and David Ray, NR Coordinators at the Alabama Historical Commission

organization Birmingham Historical Society date 12-13-2006

street & number One Sloss Quarters telephone (205) 251-1880

city or town Birmingham state Alabama zip code 35222

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 Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

Narrative Description

The proposed Center Street Historic District is comprised of 29 properties in a linear district extending four blocks along Center Street North from Ninth Court West to Eleventh Court West, and one block to the east of Center Street along Eleventh Avenue North. These properties include 26 private residences, a parsonage, and two churches. This area has been locally known as "Dynamite Hill" since the 1950s (see Historical Summary).

Center Street, as it extends north from Ninth Court to Eleventh Avenue, increases 140 feet in elevation along the southern flank of Flint Ridge. From Eleventh Avenue to Eleventh Court, Center Street descends in elevation along the northern slope of the ridge. The major physical feature of the district, other than its linear street orientation, is the presence of Interstate 20/59, which bisects the original grid street system of the Smithfield city blocks. Residences sited along the crest of the ridge, at an elevation of 720 feet, were demolished in the early 1960s for the 1965 construction of the interstate corridor.

In the present district, four houses were originally built by and for white families. Dating from the early 1900s, these four are frame residences in the Queen Anne and bungalow styles. Three houses, built in 1948, 1950 and 1953, were built by white builders for blacks and are in the Tudor Revival (#22) and Minimal Traditional (#s 23, 24) styles. Both churches, built in 1952 and 1956 (#10 and #7, respectively), include Gothic Revival features. The district in general, however, has a decidedly "modern" look, having been constructed largely in the 1950s and early 1960s. Leroy Gaillard Jr. designed and built the most substantial houses, including #1 (940 Center Street, built in 1957), #14 (1109 Center Street, built in 1959), and #17, his own residence (1119 Center Street, built in 1956).

Most properties in the district are in the Ranch, Ranchette, Split-level, and International styles. Houses are characterized by low rooflines, picture windows, metal casement windows, and wrought-iron railings, all common features in this neighborhood. Brick veneer is the preferred building material.

Properties are well sited to the steep grade of the ascending ridge. The higher the elevation of the residences, the better the views of the city center and Red Mountain (to the south) from their large picture windows and terraces. Also in this district, the importance of automobiles is evident; they are housed both in detached garages and in carports for one and two cars.

An inventory of the individual resources in the district follows; those resources marked as "C" are those that contribute to the significance and integrity of the district, while those that are denoted as "NC" have been determined to be non-contributing at the time of the nomination.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

Center Street Historic District

INVENTORY

** Original owner or owners (in bold), unless otherwise specified*

*** Owner or owners (in bold) during the period of significance*

Center Street

1. **940 Center Street, 1957**
Howard and Cora **Powell** *

Split-level house with low-hipped two-car garage; brick veneer and vinyl siding; composition shingle roof; gabled wing with exterior end brick chimney, with entry in ell of open terrace. Nine-light, mostly fixed, metal-frame picture window; small upper-level windows altered with *faux* shutters added. Garage door is original wood-frame overhead rolling door. Wrought-iron railing on terrace and front walk and stairs. Built by the Gaillard Co., Inc. C (Roll 1, # 3)

2. **942 Center Street, 1956**
Benjamin and Delores **Adair** *

One-storey Ranch-style house with attached garage and filled breezeway; hip roof with composition shingles; central entry with dappled glass (patterned and translucent) side panel. Metal-frame casement windows on the south wrapping the corner: the current owner said that Mr. Adair, the disabled Korean War veteran who built the house, wanted to be able to sit there and have a good view. Garage door a metal replacement of the original wood. A former owner, Mr. McCrae, removed the chimney, the foundations of which remain against the façade wall near the entry. Square and Bunia Cobb have lived in this house since 1984; Square, also a veteran, previously lived with his mother in a small residence nearby and thought of the folks on Center Street as "starchy professional people." C (Roll 1, # 4)

3. **948 Center Street, c. 1900**
James and Willie **Caster** **

Originally a wood-frame cottage, now with metal siding on a concrete block-filled brick pier foundation, in form an ell with a lean-to shed addition on the south side. The ell foundation is filled with rock panels and 4-over-4 pivot windows between the piers; the main foundation is stuccoed. The concrete basement noted in the Board of Equalization records was poured prior to 1939. Oversized vent dormer with pedimented gable in front of ell wing roof; two roofbeam chimneys. Windows are 1-over-1 sash with screens and *faux* shutters on front, probably not original; elsewhere 4-over-4 sash. Ell shed porch roof supported by 4 X 4 wood posts; filigreed combed brick parapet wall probably dates from 1950s or later. C (Roll 1, # 5)

4. **949 Center Street, 1969**
Parsonage - **Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church** *

One-storey, side-gabled traditional ranch-style house: varitone red brick veneer, large shallow projecting gabled porch, now filled with metal siding and bands of 1-over-1 metal sash windows; concrete floor; entry generally at center. Primary windows paired 6-over-6 wood sash. The church property was purchased by the Catholic Bishop of Mobile in 1941 from the Smith family heirs. NC (Roll 1, # 8)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

5. **950 Center Street, 1950**
Monroe and Mary Means **Monk** *

Hipped Ranchette, varitone red brick veneer; concrete block retaining wall on south end, the remainder of the old garage that was destroyed very recently (in 2004; the owner said it had been unstable since the bombings). Shallow projecting central portion with entry off a small open porch. Primary windows are metal casements, in the center flanking a plate picture window; replacement windows elsewhere toward the north end. Interior brick chimney. C (Roll 1, # 6)

6. **960 Center Street, 1962**
George **Boyd** *

Side-gabled, split-level Ranchette: varitone red brick veneer; front slope of roof extends over the picture window bay, with entry to side of this; a wrought-iron post supports the roof corner. Other windows are metal sash. Garage on lower level; large brick end chimney, north end. C (Roll 1, #7)

7. **961 Center Street, 1956**
Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church *

Front-gabled church with substantial hipped rear addition that extends to both sides: red brick veneer; six nave bays separated by small stepped buttresses, each bay with a tripartite clear leaded and beveled glass window (except in the first vestibule bay, which has a small window). Entry porch under a mansard copper hood supported by hollow fluted wood columns in the Doric style; double-door central entry with sidelights, leaded as the windows. Two gorgeous marble angels flank the doorway. Side entry at rear on both sides, on the north under a flat roof supported by more fluted columns.

Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, zoned "A-1 Residence," were purchased in 1941 by T.J. Toolen, Bishop of Mobile, through Cahill Realty Company of Birmingham from the Smith family heirs: M.R.H. Smith, T.O. Smith, T. Weller Smith, Anne Rowan Smith, W.D. Smith Jr.; Birmingham Trust & Savings Co., Executor, Estate of J.R. Smith Jr.; Trustees, Estate of T.O. Smith. There was a six-room house on the site at the time of purchase. C (Roll 1, #9)

8. **1000 Center Street, 1956**
Earnest D. and Materia **Poole** *

Long hipped Ranch-style house, central entry bay between projecting hipped bays, the entry facade with PermaStone and three-panel contemporary door, tripartite picture window. Varitone red brick veneer; metal sash windows. Breezeway with side entry and added garage wing on north end. No visible chimney. C (Roll 1, #13)

9. **1021 Center Street, 1952**
Arthur and Theodora **Shores** *

A long hip-roofed Ranch-style house with slightly projecting hipped end bays, on the south side over a lower-level garage; log-tech red brick veneer with rock-face, random-course sandstone facing the entry bay and the large off-center front chimney. Walkway from drive across front of house to steps up to semi-circular sandstone-floored entry-bay terrace; entry bay itself slightly recessed and containing one window

(continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

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1021 Center Street (continued):

and bright yellow single door. Most windows are metal-frame casements with overlights; picture window on front, flanked by casements; over garage is a quartet of 16-light metal-frame windows with operable lower sashes. Pyramidal-roofed louvered vent cupola atop south end bay; solder course at first-floor level; canted hipped room extension to rear. The house contains seven rooms and a half-basement. Built by Gaillard Co., Inc. C (Roll 1, #s 15, 16, 28; Roll 2, # 10)

10. **1024 Center Street, 1952, 1969-70**
First Congregational Christian Church *

Modern Parish Gothic in form, a gabled ell with its blank gabled wall toward Center Street and a generally square flat-topped tower in the ell (probably anticipating a belfry) with a plain double-door entry. Faced in varitone smooth red brick laid in common bond with darker header rows; the only decorative element in the building is the header panels that go to the ground below the windows, with similar panels above the tower entry-doors. The eave-line is low and shallow, and the rather small straight-head sanctuary windows come up to it; the windows are leaded with central medallions of stained glass in a field of painted glass. There are three sanctuary bays, and a small gabled vestibule on the north side; the primary entry now seems to be from the rear parking lot, leading directly into the rear of the main room, a rear vestibule separated from the sanctuary by a folding screen. The interior is distinguished by a timber ceiling with attenuated scissor trusses with bolted bosses. Central carpeted aisle to the *dais* and choir; no chancel. Lights are Gothic-styled hanging lanterns; plaster walls.

The short ell wing of the original building sits just as the landscape slopes to the south, and this portion sits atop a basement level. Built as an extension of this ell is the large 1969-70 addition, a full two storeys with basement: flat-roofed, varitone red brick, with bays of metal-frame windows set in pale buff brick panels. C (Roll 1, #s 17, 30)

11. **1032 Center Street, 1960, rebuilt after 1965**
Preston L. and Susie Evans *

One-storey modern Ranch house, situated on a high corner with its windows designed to take advantage of the view: red brick veneer; central entry bay with PermaStone facing on reveal, off a curved flagstone-paved terrace with wrought-iron railing; north bay canted out with large picture window. Windows are panels of metal жалюзи, one wrapping the south corner, all now covered in wrought-iron screens. Primary central window (north of entry bay) is bowed (*cf.* 2^{9th} Court W., #21). Low interior brick chimney. Stepped landscaped yard, full of yucca; terrace is accessed by stone steps and flagstone walkway. Garage on 10th Court side at lower level, concealed from Center Street views. The original long Ranch-style house on this site extended northward toward the present expressway; the existing house was rebuilt following construction of the expressway in 1965. C (Roll 1, #s 18, 20, 22, 24, 28, 29)

12. **1044 Center Street, 1959**
Charles R. and Carrie O. Crowder *

Split-level house, varitone red brick veneer, cross-gabled roof; front-gabled portion with entry under shed hood off a curved terrace with wrought-iron railing; plate window bands. Garage on lower level. C (Roll 1, #23)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

13. **1108 Center Street, 1965**
John and Addine **Drew** *

One-storey International-style house, flat roof with peripheral screen wall, punctuated with filigreed block screen panels; rough-face white Roman brick veneer; entry facing onto driveway court with open garage forming an ell on the west end. Entry plane above the screen wall and surrounding the door is amber glass; here the roof projects slightly and is supported on front by wood posts under crested fascia bays, creating a shallow overhang for plantings. The screen wall extends toward Center Street and around the end of the house to enclose a private yard or court. Lower interior brick chimney. C (Roll 2, #s 6, 7 and 8)

14. **1109 Center Street, 1959**
Roy L. and Jessie M. **Smelley** *

Side-gabled Ranchette with projecting hipped bay on south end; varitone red brick veneer; shallow ell terrace with entry near inner corner. Main picture window is plate flanked by sash; brick edge chimney, north end. Garage on lower level under the hipped bay. The house is deep and ends with a porch on pole supports, as the land falls off toward the rear. Built by Gaillard Co., Inc. C (Roll 1, #s 33, 34)

15. **1113 Center Street, 1952, 1964**
Verdine (Vera) **Nalls** *

One-storey hipped Ranchette with large front-gabled rear addition; varitone red brick veneer; central projecting shallow porch on wrought-iron post support; symmetrical five-bay facade with central door flanked by two metal sash windows. Rear addition dates from around the late 1990s. The house was originally a frame cottage, built in 1952 and veneered in 1964. C (Roll 1, # 35)

16. **1116 Center Street, c. 1900**
John J. and Sarah A. Gould
Louis and Elizabeth P. **Tolliver** **

Two-storey front-gabled house with one-storey porch of later date: clipped front gable; symmetrical five-bay facade with central entry, all windows now replacement metal sash. House is now covered in metal siding that obscures all original details. Full-facade projecting gabled porch replaced the original two-storey porch, with four brick pier supports, now closed with glass; shed metal awning. Because of alterations, now NC. (Roll 2, # 2)

17. **1119 Center Street, 1956**
Leroy and Ruth **Gaillard Jr.** *

Nearly flat-roofed modern Ranch-style house, with very low-angled gable sides; varitone red brick veneer; irregular facade with entry near north end, flanked on one side by a picture window; other facade windows are metal sliders; interior brick chimney near north end. Designed and built by the owner's company, Gaillard Co., Inc., for himself. C (Roll 1, #36; Roll 2, #7)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

18. **1120 Center Street, c. 1920, siding 1964**
Gatina-Monteith-Stenson House **

Front-gabled bungalow, now with metal siding on a stuccoed foundation; full-facade recessed porch with a concrete floor and wrought-iron post supports resting on the original brick pier bases; porch is inset on the north side with a separate entry. All windows now replacement metal, on front with jalousies. Separate gabled garage at rear. Composition/asbestos shingle siding added in 1964. C (Roll 2, #3)

19. **1130 Center Street, 1956**
Annie Mae Hendrix *

Hipped Ranchette, varitone red brick veneer, projecting shallow porch bay with wrought-iron post supports, entry near center; windows Chicago style with plate center panels; end-exposed brick chimney, north end. Garage on lower level; half-daylight basement windows visible beside the porch at ground level. C (Roll 2, #4)

20. **1145 Center Street, 1950**
Robert and Loraine R. Coar *

One-storey small Ranch-style house, low side-gabled roof with hipped projecting end bay on south; extended roof on north end that covers entry stoop with wrought-iron column support at corner. Varitone red brick veneer; plate windows with band across the central portion of the facade in Chicago style (a large plate center with flanking two-leaf smaller ones); roofline brick chimney. Offset double garage to north rear. The interior features a sunken living room. C (Roll 3, #s 1, 2)

Ninth Court West

21. **2 Ninth Court West, 1964**
Ethel Burke *

One-storey Ranch-style house with full basement, four rooms at the lower level and a two-car garage; on a sloping site with terraced stairs leading from Center Street and from Ninth Court. Varitone buff brick veneer; low-hipped roof with composition shingle; end-exposed rock chimney on Center Street end. Symmetrical four-bay facade with central entry and projecting open stoop. Multi-light metal-frame picture windows; two on end are bowed; all with elaborate wrought-iron side panels and bowed inset spandrel panels under the windows; *faux* shutters added. Secondary entrance on Center Street side with large plate doors and terrace with wrought-iron rails and staircase; brick flower boxes built in at base of Ninth Court facade. C (Roll 1, #s 0, 1, 2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

Tenth Avenue North

22. **4 Tenth Avenue North, 1948**
Catherine and Ernestine Foster *

Two-storey, eight-room Tudor Revival house with an open side porch, a high-pitched side-gabled roof; enclosed central entry vestibule with high brick chimney on facade beside it; concrete tile roof with cresting. Conforming to the sloping site, its massing is two storeys at the rear and one-storey at the front; side gables are asymmetrical. Windows 6-over-6 wood sash. Detached hipped double garage, built in 1958. Interior finishes include hardwood floors, plaster walls. C (Roll 1, #12)

Tenth Court North

23. **2 Tenth Court North, 1950**
Arthur Lee and Dorothy Wilson *

One-storey, cross-gabled Minimal Traditional house on sloping site with full basement with concrete floor; red brick veneer; shallow projecting nesting gables on front with entry in the larger and multi-light picture window in the other. Two-car garage (1952) on lower level with terrace above, under an extended front slope of the roof. Interior roofbeam brick chimney. Terraced front yard. C (Roll 1, #s 19, 26)

24. **4 Tenth Court North, 1953, partially rebuilt after burning in 1963**
Major A. and Eliza Jane Brown *

One-storey, six-room cross-gabled Minimal Traditional house with half basement; red brick veneer, shallow projecting nesting gables on front with entry in the larger and multi-light picture window beside it in the other. Garage on lower level, with terrace above under an extended slope of the roof. Interior roofbeam brick chimney. Terraced front yard. C

Eleventh Avenue North

25. **16 Eleventh Avenue North, 1964**
Thomas-Frazier House **

Hipped Ranchette: varitone red brick veneer, low hip roof; partial-facade projecting hip porch on wrought-iron posts with iron balustrade; windows 2H-over-2H metal sash, with Chicago-style window under porch roof. House has slightly raised basement with steps up to the front porch. C (Roll 3, # 4; Roll 1, #s 25, 26)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

- =====
26. **22 Eleventh Avenue North, 1953**
Claude and Gertrude Wesley *

Hipped Ranchette: red brick veneer and novelty siding; symmetrical three-bay facade with central projecting hipped stoop porch on wrought iron posts; central recessed entry flanked by paired 1-over-1 sash windows, replacements of the original metal casements. West side and rear retain novelty siding, while the other two sides are veneered. Exterior end brick chimney, west side. The Wesleys' daughter Cynthia was one of the four girls killed in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in September of 1963. C (Roll 3, # 5, 6, 7)

27. **24 Eleventh Avenue North, 1962**
Leroy and Cleopatra Goree *

One-storey International-style house with low hipped roof: varitone orange-buff brick veneer; asymmetrical facade with partial-width flat roof over the slightly recessed entry section, on wrought-iron post supports. Metal sash windows; large bow window on front beside entry bay; large modern brick roofbeam chimney. Garage in basement with entry on east side. C (Roll 3, #s 8, 9)

Eleventh Court North

28. **1 Eleventh Court North, c. 1900, siding 1964**
Tottie Hayes
B. Frank and Sallye B. Davis **

Two-and-a-half-storey Queen Anne house, cross-gabled roof with a hex turret in front corner ell under a conical roof; now with metal siding on a brick wall foundation. Projecting wrapping (around three sides) hipped porch with Tuscan column supports. Gables faced with half-timbering and wood shingle, with narrow windows in the faces. Primary windows are 1-over-1 wood sash; large two-level bay window on facade. Entry now has replacement solid door, plate sidelights, but transom retains leaded lozenge glass, as does the window to the side. The Davis' daughter, Angela, lived here from 1948 to 1959, when, as a teenager, she sought educational opportunities outside Birmingham. C (Roll 2, # 5)

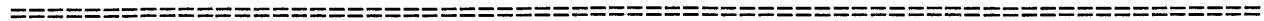
29. **2 Eleventh Court North, 1964**
Ross House *

Gable-front-and-wing split-level; red brick veneer; windows 2H-over-2H metal-frame sash, with a pair of 12-over-12 sash on porch wing. The extending roof covers a recessed *porte cochère* and ell porch on the east side, with wrought-iron post supports. C (Roll 3, # 3)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama



Statement of Significance

The Center Street Historic District is significant under Criterion A, due to the neighborhood's status as a seminal battleground for attainment of civil rights for black citizens in Birmingham. The critical events on Center Street began in 1946 and did not end until 1965, when the final bombs were discovered before they exploded. Designated a buffer zone by local zoning code, Center Street served as a dividing line between white and black residential areas. Violence discouraged crossing the line. Center Street, best known as Dynamite Hill, is also the spine of a black residential neighborhood whose residents led the legal campaigns to desegregate the neighborhoods, schools and public facilities in the city.

The district is nominated at the local level because a context study has not been completed that examines racist terrorism associated with breaking the housing and the school desegregation barriers in other cities. Also, research on the significance of attorney Arthur Shores, long-time legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the local Movement, the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, is currently underway.

Justification of Criterion Consideration G

The Center Street Historic District also meets Criteria Consideration G concerning significance achieved within the past 50 years. Center Street was a conflict point where the boundaries of institutionalized segregation were challenged in a residential context between 1946 and 1951. The district was also a target of violence in response to other events in Birmingham, as well as to ongoing legal challenges to segregation waged by its residents, particularly surrounding integration of the schools in 1963.

The Center Street district was identified as a potential historic district in "The Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama, 1933-1979" Multiple Property Submission as a neighborhood that "deserves careful assessment for its significant associations to Civil Rights era events, including the Bombingham pattern of terrorism against blacks who moved into designated white housing and the roles of key middle-class civil rights leaders, such as Arthur Shores, John and Deanie Drew. . . Mary M. Monk, and others."

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Historical Summary

Center Street is the dividing line between College Hills and North Smithfield residential districts just west of the Birmingham city center. The area is best known as "Dynamite Hill." Twice, from 1946 to 1951 and from 1963 to 1965, the hill became a center of intense conflict. During both eras, and despite civil rights violations, Ku Klux Klan activity, police treachery and violence, black leaders were successful at breaking the legal barriers that maintained segregation of the city's residential areas and schools.

Beginning in 1926 Birmingham zoning ordinances mandated segregated neighborhoods, allocating to blacks a disproportionately small area and largely less attractive areas for residences. In Southern cities such as Atlanta and New Orleans, segregated zoning ordinances were struck down shortly after initial passage, but in Birmingham segregated zoning continued until 1950.

From 1946 to 1951, Birmingham blacks successfully mounted the legal challenges that permitted them to own and occupy housing in locations of their choosing. White terrorists, fearful of declining property values and integration of schools, responded with dynamite, which they placed at residences and threw from cars, as well as with cross- and house-burnings. White moderates formed committees with black moderates to attempt reform. Many of these bi-racial discussions took place on Dynamite Hill at the Congregational Church and in the Shores and Drew residences. However, only token reform would occur, as civic and business leaders could not control political leaders or reform the Police Department, which sheltered the Ku Klux Klan terrorists. Klan intimidation was effective. Membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) dropped after the organization was banned by the State of Alabama as subversive and its offices closed in 1956. Leadership of the civil rights movement in Birmingham then passed from middle class moderates to more activist elements in the black community.

It was these activist elements, organized by the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and his organization, the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR, organized June 5, 1956), that instigated the demonstrations of the Spring of 1963, where children marching, police dogs attacking and fire hoses used as weapons were shown on television and penetrated the nation's conscience. Suddenly Birmingham and its problems with civil rights were an international news story.

Center Street had remained a focus of intense conflict. Each evening from 1950 until the late 1960s, armed patrols guarded houses of blacks that were built on Dynamite Hill in the 1950s and early 1960s. In the summer of 1963, Birmingham lawyers won successful cases to integrate the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and Graymont School in Birmingham, which was the neighborhood school for white children of the Dynamite Hill area. Following the entry of the Armstrong boys at Graymont (the first and only successful integration of schools in the city at this time), terrorists bombed the Center Street residence of the lawyer who had championed legal desegregation for decades, making Dynamite Hill once again a crime scene and the subject of national press attention. The Arthur Shores house was bombed twice in 1963 and bombed again in 1965 as integration of schools continued across the city and blacks moved into former "whites only" residential districts.

A center of conflict and strategy, Dynamite Hill also contributed leaders to help work for not only the advancement of African-Americans but also for the commemoration of their struggle and the reconciliation of racial strife. Arthur Shores served as the first black on the Birmingham city council, newly formed in 1963 to oust the administration of Commissioner Bull Connor. Addine Drew (Mrs. John Drew, known as Deanie) served on the public library board. Robert and Loraine Coar's son is a federal judge in Chicago, and both a daughter of Arthur and Theodora Shores and a son of Major and Eliza Jane Brown grew up to become judges in the county courts, trying any cases that come under Alabama law. The Congregational Church continues to provide a place for dialogue between the races.

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The streets and avenues of the Center Street District were formed from lands of the Joseph Riley Smith plantation. In 1886, Smith (1819-1895), a physician and surgeon, subdivided 600 acres of his agricultural estate into the early Birmingham suburb named Smithfield. Smithfield lay directly west of the Birmingham city center, established in 1871. Streetcars connected Smithfield to Birmingham and also to industries then being aggressively developed to the west at Pratt City, Ensley and Thomas. Lots in the subdivision sold quickly.¹

Topography and circumstance combined to create divergent situations within sections of the original Smithfield subdivision of 1886. Joseph Riley Smith gave lots in the "highlands" of Smithfield, west of Center Street, to his children for their homes.² Following the location here of what became Birmingham-Southern College in the early years of the 20th century, this area became and remains known as "College Hills³," until the mid-1960s understood to be a "whites only" area. Low-lying portions of the plantation lands along Valley Creek were subdivided for industrial and transportation uses and for housing and were known as Smithfield.⁴ The area to the east of Center Street and north of Eighth Avenue became known as North Smithfield; this remained largely vacant land through the 1920s, and it would be zoned for "blacks" in a 1926 revision of the 1915 city zoning code (see below). The situation of vacant land adjacent to conflicting zoning categories created a potential battle zone for home-building, and so it became, by the time the pent-up need for housing for both races was addressed after World War II.

In 1898, Smithfield was home to 297 households with black, white and immigrant residents.⁵ By 1909, substantial numbers of the black "elite" -- teachers, principals, business owners, and well paid industrial workers -- lived here. At this time, blacks lived principally in the areas to the south of Eighth Avenue, where Birmingham's first high school for blacks, the Industrial, later Parker, High School was located in 1899. Parker High School remains at this location today.⁶ The majority of Birmingham blacks lived in company towns associated with area industries but, by the 1910s, they were beginning to move out of company houses and to build houses and churches in residential communities that grew up near the industries where they found employment. Collegeville, sections of Ensley, East Birmingham, East Thomas and Smithfield witnessed black homebuilding at this time. North Smithfield remained largely vacant land through the 1920s.

Portions of Smithfield, together with other late 19th and early 20th century streetcar suburbs located to the west of Smithfield along Eighth Avenue North (a major streetcar route) became known as Graymont, named for Joseph Riley Smith's daughter Lucy Smith Gray. In 1908, the Graymont community built a school for white children. Two years later, Graymont became a neighborhood of the City of Birmingham when it, along with many other suburbs surrounding the city center, was annexed to create greater Birmingham. Graymont School became a Birmingham public school.

In the 1920s demand for housing increased, with the years from 1924 to 1926 seeing record numbers of housing starts. However, in 1926 Birmingham City Commissioners amended the City's 1915 zoning ordinance to include a provision patterned after a New Orleans ordinance, permitting blacks to own property in any section of the city, but forbidding them from using the property for residential use in delineated "whites only" areas. In 1916, the U. S. Supreme Court had struck down the New Orleans ordinance, but the Birmingham provision remained in the code until 1950.⁷

The Birmingham ordinance established residence districts for blacks and whites and showed the districts on a "Zone Map."⁸ The majority of the land designated for black districts was located in low-lying areas near industrial plants and represented approximately 15 percent of the city's total land area. Blacks represented 40 percent of the population at this time.⁹

The Graymont and College Hills areas were zoned for "whites only." Pockets of vacant land or buffer zones separated the white areas from the surrounding black-zoned areas. Birmingham Mayor Cooper Green lived in Graymont and drew its "dividing lines" with special care.¹⁰ Blacks might build residences in North Smithfield

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(to the east of Center and north of 8th Avenue North) and in East Thomas (to the north of 11th Avenue North). However, the vacant property on both sides of Center Street in the proposed historic district was zoned for "whites only." Whites feared decline in their property values and also feared the possible integration of school districts if black people moved into their neighborhoods.

During World War II, Birmingham's population increased significantly as blacks and whites came to the city to man wartime factories. Over this period of time and up to 1950, the city's overall population increased by 20 percent, but the black population increased by 30 percent. In these years, industrial firms sold their company-built houses to former tenants of both races, thereby containing some of the demand for increased housing. However, the availability of Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration mortgage financing guarantees, as well as a supply of contractors eager to build homes, increased the demand for home starts for both blacks and whites.

In the late 1940s, 40 percent of the Birmingham population was still zoned for 15 percent of the land area. Construction of federal housing projects in Smithfield in 1938 and 1939 and in nearby Tuxedo Court in Ensley in 1957 further shrank land available to blacks for home-building and displaced many renters and home owners.

The vacant area on both sides of Center Street, including the three long blocks from 9th Court to 10th Court on the southern slope of the ridge, as well as the area on the northern side of the ridge descending to 11th Avenue North, was zoned for "whites only." However, whites were reluctant to purchase here in the 1940s and so the land remained vacant. A real estate broker in 1946 said that he advertised property for sale on 11th Avenue North fifteen times and got about twenty white prospects, but that no one would buy the property when its location (near black-zoned residences) was noted.¹¹ Everyone considered Center Street a "dividing line" between blacks and whites.

Several white families lived on the hill along Center well before and during the era of racial conflict. Several Italian grocers lived in the frame cottage built c.1900 on the southern slope of Center.¹² At 11th Avenue near the crest of the hill are the Gould-Tolliver House (# 16, built c.1900 as a two-storey, two-parlor residence and long inhabited by English-born machinist James Gould and his extended family, until 1957, when the Klan burned one too many crosses in his front yard), the Gatina-Monteith-Stenson House (#18, built c.1920s), and the turreted Queen Anne-style Hayes-Davis house (#28, built c. 1900) into which Frank and Sallye Davis, and young daughter Angela, would move in the middle of the night. Peggy Hayes Heide's first memory is of a cross burning in her yard, following the sale of her family's house to the Davis family.

By 1946 the Birmingham branch of the NAACP had grown to 8,500 members and received recognition from the national office as the most outstanding branch in the nation for its actions in combating police brutality, voting rights, and employment discrimination, including local unequal public school teacher salaries. The local branch raised \$10,000 from area churches to challenge racial zoning in the courts and received pledges of support from significant individuals and organizations in the black community. At this time the NAACP Birmingham branch relied on the legal skills of Arthur Shores, the only practicing black attorney in Alabama. In spite of Shores' talent as an attorney, as well as the backing of the NAACP and the U. S. Supreme Court (which had been on the NAACP's side of the racial zoning issue since 1917), it would take Shores three tries before the NAACP succeeded in challenging Birmingham's racial zoning ordinances.¹³ In the spring of 1946, the Birmingham Zoning Board recommended that an area near the Titusville neighborhood be rezoned to permit construction of additional black housing, but the City Commission refused to permit the change. In August 1946 Attorney Arthur Shores, serving as counsel for the Birmingham branch of the NAACP, filed suit in state court in the name of Mrs. Alice P. Allen, an administrator at Miles College. The suit challenged the constitutionality of Birmingham's racial zoning ordinance. The City settled this case by rezoning Mrs. Allen's property, which would have permitted her to occupy a house on it. This same year, Attorney Shores successfully challenged Huntsville, Alabama's zoning ordinance, receiving favorable court action.¹⁴

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During 1946, attorney Shores (who would complete his own residence at 1021 Center Street [#9] in 1952) filed a companion suit in federal court on behalf of Samuel and Essie Mae Mathews. The 43-year-old ore miner and his wife sought to occupy their six-room frame residence, built at a cost of \$4,250 and located at 120 11th Court North. City building inspectors denied Mathews an occupancy permit, saying the house was zoned for whites only and was outside the residential areas permitted for blacks.¹⁵

As a response to the Allen and Mathews legal challenges to residential zoning as well as applications of blacks for voting rights, the Birmingham chapter of the Ku Klux Klan revived and formally incorporated.¹⁶ Klan members sent warning letters to attorney Shores, NAACP officers and to Mathews, suggesting that his suit be withdrawn. They also burned crosses in various sections of the city. Attorney Shores did withdraw Mathews's suit, as Mathews had never formally applied for his occupancy permit. However, after Mathews did apply to the City Building Inspector, Shores filed the suit again. Notes saying Mathews built his house in a "white only" section continued to threaten the homebuilder.

On August 4, 1947, Federal Judge Clarence Mullins entered an injunction ordering building inspectors to grant Mathews a certificate of occupancy. John J. Gould (#16, 1116 Center), a 34-year resident of the community, told a *Birmingham World* reporter "that while many of them did not like the new democratic zoning situation, they did not seek 'illegal steps' to improve things."¹⁷ Unfortunately, Gould's view would not prevail.

Two weeks later, on August 18, 1947 around 11 p.m., six sticks of dynamite blew the Mathews House "into match wood." *Birmingham World* editor Emory Jackson reported on the terrorism that destroyed the Mathews House and further noted that J. E. Monteith of 1120 North Center (#18) allegedly threatened realtors as "they showed prospective Negro buyers lots in this area released for occupancy to all citizens by the zone-law melting federal court injunction."¹⁸ For three decades, the Birmingham police would not investigate these situations, reflecting the department's support for vigilante violence. According to city planner and historian Charles Connerly, "Birmingham sent a message that the use of violence was a legitimate means to reinforce racial boundaries." And Birmingham politicians became "unanimous in their determination to resist the civil rights movement and to do so with the tacit cooperation of the city's white terrorists."¹⁹

In the late 1940s, local NAACP members and attorneys continued to challenge voting qualifications and won additional federal rulings against Alabama statutes limiting the right of blacks to vote. These victories contributed substantially to increases in membership in the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan grew from 700 in 1946 to 6,500 three years later.

On this stage, "the battle for North Smithfield" had begun and would continue for several years as Klan-sponsored bombings and cross-burnings, together with political maneuvering, sought to restrict opportunities for blacks to build homes in this area, which became known as "Dynamite Hill."²⁰

Judge Clarence Mullins, by granting Samuel Mathews' injunction, had given the opinion that Birmingham's residential segregation ordinance was unconstitutional, but Mathews' suit was not a class action. Nevertheless, blacks now pressed City officials to open white-zoned areas to them for home-building sites. They formed the Birmingham Property Owners' Protective Association, headed by Robert Coar (who would later build at 1145 Center Street, #20) and Wilbur Hollins, to accomplish these aims. Hollins, brother-in-law to Shores, built his house at 2410 10th Court West, one block from Shores.

Insisting that the races remain separate, whites organized the Graymont-College Hills Civic Association. A retired army officer, Horace Hansen, and Olin Horton (who would become a leader of the segregationist American States' Rights Association) headed up the association.²¹ Front-page stories in the *Birmingham World* during the spring and summer of 1948 -- "KKK burns cross in Negro neighborhoods" and "New wing of KKK burns cross to warn Negroes to stay in their place" -- note the Klan's role in keeping residential segregation zoning in place.²²

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In the spring of 1949, City officials also proposed a compromise to what became a residential zoning crisis in North Smithfield: the creation of a park as a buffer. But agreement between the various parties could not be reached. On March 25, 1949, the Klan bombed three North Smithfield homes at 17, 25, and 31 11th Avenue West. These properties were rental houses, owned by A. M. E. Bishop S.L. Greene and John Madison, which had been built in a white-only zoned area.²³ On April 27, 1949, Federal Judge Seybourne Lynne ruled the City's proposed buffer area unconstitutional.

In May of 1949, the *Birmingham World* reported that Klansman Robert (later nicknamed "Dynamite Bob") Chambliss had intimidated a black family into fleeing a home they had just occupied. Other blacks in the area received threatening telephone calls. FBI reports and other sources would later confirm the involvement of Chambliss as the principal Klansman involved in the terrorism on Dynamite Hill.²⁴

In May and August, bombs damaged 1104 Center Street North, then owned by Rev. E. B. DeYampert. On August 5, 1949, 1100 Center Street North was also bombed. In October 1949, both 1100 North Center, where the Rev. Milton Curry resided, and the DeYampert Residence, at 1104 Center North, were again bombed. The later bomb was thrown from an automobile. Hundreds of outraged blacks gathered on the hills to protest the bombings, which had created immense craters in the yards and blown items from shelves of area homes.

Five-year-old Angela Davis later described that one "explosion a hundred times louder than the loudest, most frightening thunderclap I had ever heard shook our house. Medicine bottles flew off the shelves, shattering all around me. The floor seems to slip away from my feet as I raced into the kitchen and my frightened mother's arms," while outside "crowds of angry Black people came up the hill and stood on 'our' side, staring at the bombed-out ruins of the Deyaberts' [sic] house. Far into the night they spoke of death, of white hatred, death, white people, and more death. But of their own fear they said nothing. Apparently it did not exist, for Black families continued to move in."²⁵

Meanwhile, City officials appointed a committee of black and white moderates to resolve the conflict. Klansmen denounced the City's action, seeming "to have felt that," as political historian Mills Thornton states, "enforcement of segregation was being left up to them." On August 17, 1949 the largest mass protest by black citizens in the city since the Great Depression took place at the Smithfield Court housing project on 8th Avenue North. An estimated 2,000 persons demanded an end to the terrorism and passed various resolutions, one in support of both the real estate sales and legal work of Arthur Shores.

However, in August 1949, City Commissioner Bull Connor proposed a new City ordinance, 709-F, and a month later the three Commissioners enacted it, which "made it a crime for any person to move into an area historically occupied by another race."²⁶ According to historian Glenn Eskew, the new law put police power behind the enforcement of residential segregation. Former state senator and Tennessee Coal & Iron attorney James A. Simpson drafted the ordinance, free of charge. As Simpson explained in a letter to City Attorney James H. Willis, the new ordinance had nothing to do with zoning and everything to do with the separate-but-equal logic behind segregation laws. Simpson drafted the measure to ward off "amalgamation." He argued: "If you let the situation disintegrate and Negroes continue to infiltrate white areas and whites infiltrate negro areas so that our lines of demarcation become broken down, you are in for disorders and bloodshed and our ancient and excellent plan of life here in Alabama is gone."²⁷

In announcing the new ordinance, Commissioner Connor accused Arthur Shores of creating the zoning conflict in North Smithfield: "It is impossible to compromise with Shores, who is putting money above his race. . . . I tell you we're going to have bloodshed in this town as sure as you're sitting here. The white people are not going to stand for it [the selling of houses to blacks and the integration of the schools that would follow]."²⁸

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Arthur Shores and the NAACP responded to the new Birmingham zoning ordinance by filing a suit in state court petitioning the City to issue Mrs. Mary Means Monk a building permit (for 950 Center Street, #5). Mrs. Monk, a nurse, had purchased her lot from the Italian grocer Coronado Toro in 1948, and she wanted to build a residence on her land. When Circuit Judge J. Edgar Bowron dismissed the petition on the grounds that Monk had not exhausted all administrative remedies, Shores filed a class action in federal court on behalf of Monk and 14 other black property owners. This suit -- *Monk v. City of Birmingham* -- aimed to render both racial zoning and the newest City ordinance unconstitutional. In December 1949, Federal Judge Clarence Mullins heard the suit, as well as significant rhetoric on the moral inferiority of blacks. Mullins ruled immediately at the conclusion of the trial, entering a permanent injunction against the enforcement of residential segregation in Birmingham.

The court victory over racial segregation in Birmingham was duly noted by Birmingham and national NAACP leaders. NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall, speaking at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church for a Negro History Forum in February of 1950, noted that "he saw new trends in the fight Birmingham leadership successfully waged against racial zoning."²⁹ The NAACP would award the Birmingham chapter significant honor for the campaign that would eventually break the Birmingham zoning ordinance, but not until after the City of Birmingham appealed Judge Mullins' ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the bombings resumed.

In April 1950, the *Birmingham World* carried the following account of "the bomb-wrecked home of contractor-minister B. W. Henderson of 1100 Center Street North, "located in the "Dynamite Zone" of North Smithfield: "The law-flaunting, police-dodging dynamite-layers struck the Henderson home, which was occupied at the time by three persons who escaped injury. Police ordered a mumbling, angry, seething crowd to keep moving. A police guard was placed around the home. It was the second bombing in nine days. Negro leaders by midweek had hidden their bitterness in silence."³⁰ A *Birmingham Post* report noted that the bomb was thrown from a speeding automobile.³¹

A Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals panel heard arguments in the Monk case in October of 1950, and on December 20, 1950, Judge Wayne Borah's opinion sustained Judge Mullins' decision. The next day, the Klan bombed and severely damaged the "new ultra-modern \$18,500 home" of Mary Means Monk and her husband, Monroe (#5 at 950 Center Street).³²

The following May, in 1951, two Center Street houses (1100 and 1104 Center) that were "located in the 'Dynamite Zone' of North Smithfield," and which had been previously bombed in August of 1949 and also in 1950, were burned to the ground after a six-hour fire. For several reasons, this terrorist act concluded "the battle for North Smithfield".³³

Neighbors had taken up their own defense. Two years earlier, they had hired a white detective who infiltrated the Klan. They had also sought the protection of the Alabama highway patrol and authorization from Governor Jim Folsom. They finally applied to federal authorities to organize a Civil Defense unit (the Korean War had broken out) to protect the neighborhood.³⁴ From the early 1950s until the late 1960s, the 50-member Smithfield District Civil Defense Reserve Police patrolled the neighborhood every night. To organize the surveillance, building contractor Leroy Gaillard Jr. (1119 Center, #17) lent the neighborhood patrol his construction vehicles that were equipped with two-way radios. Efforts focused first on North Smithfield, and later on other neighborhoods as blacks moved into formerly all-white neighborhoods and Klan terrorism spread throughout the city.

Leroy Gaillard Jr. described the operations of the neighborhood patrol: "We organized what we called a North Smithfield Protective Association. It comprised . . . most of Smithfield from 8th Avenue to 13th or 14th Avenue North . . . We patrolled that area and I had radio equipment, cars, and trucks that I loaned to the association at night when we weren't working. They patrolled the neighborhood. Some of my trucks were big trucks, like a dump truck that had a radio in it. So they put it in a stationary position, they just parked and observed. Small trucks and cars they would just patrol the neighborhood all night. I would meet them every night at 6:30 and we would dispatch the cars and trucks out. I had a radio monitor in my bedroom so I could monitor my cars and also monitor the police band and the police department."³⁵

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Attorney Shores reflected on the cessation of the bombings on Dynamite Hill in a 1985 interview for *Eyes on the Prize*, with the following statement: "And what broke it up was that the blacks had hired a white member who infiltrated the Klan and the Klan notified him that on a certain night, a certain house, that had been recently purchased, would be either burned or dynamited. And at the appointed hour . . . blacks had secreted themselves across from this house, and when the whites came up, they opened gunfire. One white was killed, and several were wounded. Nothing was ever placed in the paper about it. And that broke it up, there was no more burning there until several years later . . . in 1963, I believe it was, when the schools were integrated."³⁶

During the 1950s and into the 1960s, with the men patrolling the neighborhood each evening, blacks built substantial numbers of houses along Center Street and in the surrounding North Smithfield neighborhood. Among the families building along Center in the early 1950s were the Monks, Coars, Shores, Nalls, Wilsons, Wesleys, Browns, Gaillards, Powells and Evans (#s 5, 20, 9, 15, 23, 26, 24, 17, 1, and 11). The Congregational Church (#10) rose in 1952 and the Catholic Church (#7) in 1956. During this period, most houses were built by married couples. In 20 households of the 1950s and 1960s, both spouses worked, most often as teachers and business owners.³⁷ Annie Mae Hendrix managed a hotel, Susie Evans was a pharmacist; others worked as nurses, doctors, lawyers, dressmakers and professional ball players. There were lots of children in the neighborhood and the school board built Wilkerson Elementary School in 1961 to serve them. Wilkerson playground is on the site of the bombed Mathews House.

During the early 1950s, white business leaders pressured City officials to find and prosecute the Dynamite Hill bombers and to explore racial reform. According to political historian Mills Thornton III, "business progressives pushed into theretofore unthinkable territory; they began talking to blacks." An entirely local, privately sponsored biracial committee, the Interracial Committee, resulted and included black moderates like attorney Arthur Shores and businessman A. G. Gaston. Chaired by Episcopal bishop Charles C. J. Carpenter, the Interracial Committee labored to seek racial reforms, working from April, 1951 until the spring of 1956. Seven sub-committees addressed various community issues. Meetings were held in many locations, including at the Congregational Church on Center Street. Among the Committee's successful ventures was the desegregation of elevators in city center office buildings, the first step toward racial integration. Black doctors were admitted to the Alabama and Jefferson County Medical Associations and a 56-bed hospital was built. A day care facility, a golf course, and a community center were constructed and 13 black parks and playgrounds, five community centers, and two swimming pools opened. However, no reform of the police department was made and no black police were hired.³⁸ Likewise, no one was prosecuted for the bombings on "Dynamite Hill."

During April and May of 1963, when the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference mounted their major campaign to end desegregation in Birmingham, two properties in the Center Street District served as sites of refuge and clandestine strategy meetings of ACMHR and SCLC leaders with black and white moderates and federal officials of the Kennedy administration.

These sites were the Congregational Church (# 10) and John and Deanie Drew's houses. As John Drew's father had been a schoolmate and good friend of Martin Luther King Sr., Martin Luther King Jr. often stayed with the Drews when he was in Birmingham (both in the house demolished for I-20/59 and its replacement, built in 1965, #13). Many high-level discussions and many calls to the White House took place at both Drew residences. Jefferson Drew recalls a red phone installed to provide direct dialing to the President.³⁹

The famous "Feud at the Top," as journalist Howell Raines described the conflict among SCLC leadership, erupted on May 8, 1963 at the Drew House on Dynamite Hill. The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, secretary of the SCLC and leader of the ACMHR, the local SCLC affiliate, challenged the decision of SCLC leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Kennedy administration to call off the demonstrations *without* significant change in local segregation practices.⁴⁰ Rev. Shuttlesworth lost his challenge, and the mass demonstrations won no local concessions.

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To date, no history on the role of the Congregational Church in the Movement has been written. According to many local sources, from the early 1950s on, secret bi-racial meetings took place here between moderates seeking to improve race relations. Church member Arthur Shores, who lived across Center Street from the church, organized many of the meetings. Attorney and later Mayor David Vann, John Drew and civil rights activist C. Herbert Oliver also conducted meetings here. Church members maintained good relationships with the members of other white Congregational and Unitarian churches in the city.⁴¹

During the summer of 1963, a newly elected Birmingham City Council, the new governmental body voted in by the citizens to rid the City of the Bull Conner administration, sought to peacefully achieve desegregation in public accommodations. This would include access to lunch counters and stores across the city and other items detailed in the ambiguous resolution of the spring Birmingham campaign. They did so with remarkable success. The story of the desegregation of the schools would be quite different.

The civic committees, trying to work out of the racial crisis, included representatives of Birmingham's business community and the traditional black elite. Attorney Arthur Shores and businessman John Drew were among the leaders representing the black community. Of these individuals, Arthur Shores had the highest visibility in civil rights efforts due to his many civil rights cases, including the successful breaking of the residential color barrier that led to the naming of "Dynamite Hill".⁴² The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, leader of the ACMHR, had not lived in Birmingham since August 1961 and was no longer a target for terrorists. Nor did the Reverends Martin Luther King Jr. or Ralph Abernathy, other possible terrorist targets, live in the city. Hence, the Klan turned its attention to the middle class leaders working to achieve racial desegregation.

Arthur Shores' visibility became even higher in June of 1963, when he handled the admission of James Hood and Vivian Malone (Jones) to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Hood and Malone were admitted after Governor George Wallace made his famed stand in the schoolhouse door at Foster Auditorium.⁴³ Shores also handled the ACMHR case that led to the admission of the first black students, James and Dwight Armstrong, to Graymont Elementary School in Birmingham, which is located a few blocks from the Shores residence on Center Street.

Arthur Shores was born in 1904 near Birmingham. He received an A. B. degree from Talladega College in 1927. He then taught and served as a high school principal while attending the University of Kansas and LaSalle Extension University, completing an L.L. B. in 1934. Shores passed the Alabama Bar Association examination in 1937 to become one of three black lawyers in the state (and the only black attorney just three years later, when the two others retired from the bench). During the period roughly between 1940 and 1950, he was a lone Alabama voice defending the civil rights of black people. His early cases across the state sought to register black voters, notably teachers who could pass the vigorous qualifying test.

In 1942, he fought for and won pay equity for black teachers in Jefferson County. For four decades, Shores would be deeply involved in civil rights litigation, handling dozens of cases first for the NAACP (often in close association with attorney Thurgood Marshall) and later for Rev. Shuttlesworth's ACMHR. Shuttlesworth would by 1965 have accumulated more cases before the U. S. Supreme Court than any other living individual, and it was Shores who most often represented him.⁴⁴ Shores was one of the NAACP lawyers who were associated in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case that resulted in the 1954 U. S. Supreme Court decision desegregating schools in the South. Two years earlier in 1952, he had filed suit on behalf of Autherine Lucy (Foster) to desegregate the University of Alabama. Lucy entered the university in 1956 but was dismissed on the grounds that she spoke unfavorably about the University's board of trustees. The dismissal stuck until the entrance of Vivian Malone (Jones) and James Hood in August, 1963.⁴⁵

On August 19, 1963 Federal Judge Clarence Allgood approved the Birmingham Board of Education's plan to begin desegregation of city schools. The plan called for five students to be admitted to three all-white elementary and high schools.

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The next day, on August 20, 1963 at 9:26 p.m., the Klan bombed the residence of Arthur Shores at 1021 Center Street (#9). Jefferson (Jeff) Drew, son of John and Deannie Drew, who lived several houses up the hill, said the impact of the bombing "blew him from the floor to the ceiling." Mrs. Evans, an across-the-street neighbor (#11), noted that "her front window folded into the yard." Houston Brown noted that his parents' home (#24) across 10th Court North from the Shores House had to be rebuilt from the foundation up and that, as the bombing was a "civil commotion," insurance did not cover repairs. Barbara Shores, Arthur Shores' daughter, noting the placement of the bomb underneath the spotlight just outside the recreation room where the family always gathered, considered the August 20th bomb to be an attempt on her father's life.⁴⁶

The August 20 bomb dug a crater four feet wide in the Shores' driveway, damaging the house, cars, and surrounding houses. Shores was not injured, nor were his wife and youngest daughter, who were at the movies on 8th Avenue. They returned home through a crowd of a thousand people who flooded onto the hill. ACMHR leader Reverend A.D. King, then the pastor of First Baptist Church of Ensley, urged those assembled to "stand in love, not violence." Police, attempting to disperse the crowd, fired several series of shots, aiming above the heads of the crowd.⁴⁷

Contractor Leroy Gaillard Jr. also quickly arrived on the scene and protected the Shores property from further damage. His construction firm had a standing order with an insurance adjuster to shore up bombed properties to avoid further deterioration. Gaillard's firm later repaired damage done to the house, replacing the picture window with a multi paned window, such that the small panes might be less easily shot out.⁴⁸

On Wednesday, September 4, 1963, Floyd and Dwight Armstrong, accompanied by their father James Armstrong and the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, registered for classes at Graymont Elementary. While many students stayed away from school, hostile demonstrators picketed, shouted and raged. Birmingham police handled the situation.⁴⁹

That evening at 9:40 p.m., the residence of attorney Shores (#9) was bombed again, this time on the northern exposure. This second bomb created a hole about two feet wide and 18 inches deep. The crater was five feet from the house. Mrs. Shores was injured and hospitalized.⁵⁰ Birmingham police were on the scene before the bomb exploded and soon a mob of angry rioters poured into the neighborhood, throwing bricks and rocks at the police.⁵¹ Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who was staying at the Gaston Motel, soon arrived and tried to calm the crowd. Police attempted to disperse the assembly by firing shots over their heads; a 21-year-old army veteran named John Coley, who had hopped a ride with a friend to come see what was happening, was killed by police fire. Blacks in the crowd noted Coley's resemblance to Reverend Shuttlesworth, who had hit the pavement not far away.⁵²

The next day, Rev. Shuttlesworth denounced the shootings and the bombing as "part of a plot to enmesh the city in trouble" and to give Governor George Wallace a chance to stop the integration of the schools. Indeed, Wallace closed schools in Birmingham, Tuskegee, Huntsville and Mobile that very day. Shuttlesworth further criticized the Kennedy administration for failing to intervene in what that administration considered a local matter.⁵³ He also issued "A Call for Calmness and Restraint during the Racial Crisis" to the ACMHR and the larger black community.

Four days later, on Sunday, September 8, the Klan bombed the home of black businessman A. G. Gaston.⁵⁴ School board officials reopened the schools the next day, and rowdy white demonstrations against desegregation resumed.

The following Sunday, September 15, 1963, the Klan bombed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church during the Sunday school hour, and four little girls were killed. Among them was Cynthia Wesley, the only child of school teachers Claude and Gertrude Wesley (# 26, 22 11th Avenue North). An adopted child, Cynthia Wesley was at the head of her class in every endeavor.

Reverend Shuttlesworth requested federal intervention and further denounced Governor Wallace, whose defiant public statements had "created an atmosphere for violence and turmoil all over this state." The ACMHR leader also threatened to resume demonstrations similar to those of the previous spring. He told reporters that the Sunday

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Center Street Historic District
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bombing at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church had exhausted the patience of the black community and that the May agreement with business leaders had turned out to be a fraud.⁵⁵ King and Shuttlesworth and other black ministers also told President Kennedy that they were "on the verge of despair as a result of this reign of terror." They asked the President to tour the South and see the situation for himself.

In the weeks following the bombings of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and of the Shores House, Dynamite Hill was described by national news reports as "an armed camp." In addition to the construction vehicles stationed at key entry points to the neighborhood, two shifts of 50 to 75 men patrolled the hill from dusk to dawn. Porch lights remained on all night long.⁵⁶ District men who were among those involved in the patrol were Major Brown (#24), Preston Evans (#11), John Drew (#13), Roy Smelley (#14), Robert Coar (#20), and Leroy Gaillard Jr. (#17).⁵⁷

The bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church did not end terrorist activity directed at stopping integration of the schools in Birmingham. A series of bombs were set to go off two years later one Sunday in March of 1965. One bomb was set at the Catholic Church on Center Street (#4) and several bombs, including a shrapnel bomb, went off nearby. Mrs. Arthur (Theodora) Shores found yet another bomb, ignited, at her residence (#9) that Sunday morning in 1965. The Dynamite Hill neighborhood was evacuated and a bomb squad from Fort McClellan came and dismantled the bomb, noting that it would have been the biggest blast ever.⁵⁸ They also dismantled four other bombs, made from a total of 300 dynamite sticks, set across the city that same day.

Journalist Diane McWhorter, commenting on the possible motives among rival factions of the Eastview and Cahaba River gangs of the local Ku Klux Klan who may have joined bomb-making talents to produce and coordinate these bombs, concluded: "Even the [Sixteenth Street] church bombing might have been extenuated as a miscalculation. But the shrapnel bomb proved unequivocally that the civil rights movement had launched counter-insurrection intent upon maiming or killing."⁵⁹

These bombs were the final ones for Dynamite Hill, but Governor Wallace's highway department would soon begin blasting for construction of I-20/59, which would cream the crest from Dynamite Hill. Construction of the highway took the Drew House and other homes of prominent members of the black community. Deannie Drew often said, "Bull Connor ran the highway right through her house," and there may be truth to that statement, according to UAB history professor Raymond Mohl, who has written extensively on links between racism and Interstate highway routes.⁶⁰ When the Drews rebuilt in 1965 (# 13 at 1108 Center), they added a courtyard fronting the Center Street side of the house, so that Klansmen could not shoot in.⁶¹

Throughout the 1960s, home building in North Smithfield and East Thomas continued at a fast pace as Ranch style houses rose across the ridge, now divided by the Interstate and no longer a zoning line. Wilkerson Elementary School became one of the best schools in the city. The Armstrong boys, however, lived with a white couple and were educated in the North, eventually earning advanced degrees. Other children skated down Center Street. And the day came when the great excitement was that a biology teacher found a snake.⁶²

The center of strategy and conflict for the civil rights struggle, Dynamite Hill would also contribute leaders to help work for reconciliation of racial strife. Arthur Shores served as the first black member of the Birmingham city council, newly formed in 1963 to oust the administration of Commissioner Bull Connor. Deannie Drew would become the first black to serve on the board of the Birmingham Public Library, which institution she helped desegregate. Helen Shores Lee and Houston Brown, individuals who as children toted guns and fixed coffee for their parents as they protected the neighborhood at night during the 1950s and 1960s, serve today as Jefferson County Circuit Court judges, trying cases that come under Alabama law. And the Congregational Church continues to host community meetings of those working for the neighborhood association, which now includes both sides of Center Street, as well as for dialogue between the races. Church member Odessa Woolfolk, a leading proponent of such dialogue, also serves as a moving force behind the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, created in 1990 to champion harmony between the races and to tell Birmingham's civil rights story to the world.

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Center Street Historic District
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Notes on the Historical Narrative

1 Marjorie L. White, *The Birmingham District-An Industrial History and Guide* (Birmingham Historical Society, 1981, 24-31)

2 See Joseph Riley Smith National Register Historic District Nomination.

3 See Birmingham-Southern College National Register District Nomination.

4 See Smithfield National Register Historic District Nomination.

5 Birmingham City Directory, 1898.

6 Paige McWilliams, Smithfield Occupational Survey

7 J. Mills Thornton III, *Dividing Lines*, 158. The U. S. Supreme Court -- *Buchanan v. Warley* -- struck down racial zoning laws as unconstitutional in 1917. Judge Clarence Mullins cites this decision in his ruling of December 13, 1949, which was published verbatim in the *Birmingham World* of December 30, 1949.

8 City of Birmingham Appendix. Zoning. Ordinance No. 1101-C and the Zone Map (Birmingham Historical Society Center Street District files. A copy of the *Zone Map* hangs in the Department of Planning and Engineering at the Birmingham City Hall.

9 Richard Anderson and Marjorie White, *Map of Birmingham's Civil Rights Churches* derived from *Birmingham Planning Board Plan of Existing Land Use*, 1965 (itself based on the *City of Birmingham Zone Map* of July 13, 1926, Zoning Commission, John H. Adams, Chairman)

10 Stephen G. Meyer, "Doing the Master's Business in Alabama: The First Dynamite Hill Bombings and the Fight against Residential Segregation in Birmingham, 1947-1954 (unpublished graduate seminar paper, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, copy in possession of J. Mills Thornton; cited in *Dividing Lines*, 628.

11 *Birmingham World*, August 5, 1947

12 In 1941, seeing the hand-writing on the wall, the Smith family heirs -- M.R.H. Smith, T.O. Smith, T. Weller Smith, W.D. Smith Jr., Anne Rowan Smith, W. D. Smith Jr., Josephine Hawkins Smith, Birmingham Trust & Savings Bank Co. Executor Estate of J. R. Smith Jr. and Birmingham Trust Savings Trustees Estate of T. O. Smith -- sold their five lots along the east side of Center Street to the Bishop of Mobile. The lots, zoned for whites, became the sites of the Catholic church and parsonage (# 7 and #4) built in 1956 and 1969 in the historic district.

13 Charles E. Connerly, "The Most Segregated City in America": *City Planning and Civil Rights in Birmingham, 1920-1980*, University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville and London, 2005, 67-101.

14 *Birmingham World*, August 5, 1947; *Dividing Lines*, 159.

15 Emory O. Jackson, "Judge rules Jim Crow zoning laws unconstitutional here," *Birmingham World*, August 5, 1947.

16 Thornton, *Dividing Lines*, 159-163; Diane McWhorter, *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama—The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*, 73.

17 *Birmingham World*, August 22, 1947.

18 *Birmingham World*, August 9, 1947; August 22, 1947.

19 Connerly, *op. cit.*, 100-01.

20 In the era of the 1940s through the 1960s, the use of dynamite as an explosive in area limestone and dolomite quarries and in coal and ore mines was common practice. Supplies and knowledge of the use of the explosive were widespread.

21 *Dividing Lines*, 160-61.

22 *Birmingham World*, May 21, 1949; July 6, 1948.

23 The houses were later destroyed by construction of I-20/59.

24 Diane McWhorter, *Carry Me Home*, 75, 614: cites sources implicating Chambliss in the residential bombings that led to his nickname, "Dynamite Bob," and his involvement in the terrorism that led to the Center Street District's nickname, "Dynamite Hill." For a description of the bombings, see FBI Summary of Bombings, Bapbomb; *Birmingham Post-Herald*, October 1, 1963, FBI interviews with Paul McMahan, July 16, 1964 and August 12, 1965, Bapbomb; FBI interview with Hugh Morris, August 5, 1965, Bapbomb; McMahan interrogation of Chambliss, May 23, 1949; statement of Milton Curry, June 8, 1949; police statement of DeYampert, August 16, 1949; and statement of J.H. Coleman, August 23, 1949, all in Bishop Green bombing file, Box 4, BPSF; *Birmingham News*, August 13 and 14, 1949; "Confidential Source Material," September 23, 1977, attorney general's notes on FBI files, JY. In a *Birmingham News* interview of July 26, 1979, Chambliss admits that one night he "stationed himself in a building to watch the bombing of three vacant houses." In 1977, Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley would convict Chambliss of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

25 Angela Davis, *An Autobiography*, 78-79. Reprint: New York: International Publishers, 1988. Quoted in Eskew, 68.

26 Thornton, *Dividing Lines*, 162.

27 James A. Simpson to James H. Willis, August 18, 1949, box 9, file 24, Green Papers, quoted in Eskew, 62.

28 *Birmingham News*, August 9, 1949, quoted by Glenn T. Eskew, *But for Birmingham: The Local and National Movement in the Civil Rights Struggle* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1997), 62.

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Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

Notes on the Historical Narrative, continued:

²⁹ *Birmingham World*, February 21, 1950, "Legal segregation doomed all over America."

³⁰ *Birmingham Post*, April 28, 1950. See also the *Birmingham World*, December 30, 1949 and April 25, 1950.

³¹ *Birmingham Post*, April 24, 1950; *Birmingham News*, April 23, 1950.

³² *Birmingham World*, "Dynamite blows away part of Monk home—Negro leadership stirred by bombing," December 26, 1950; "City's zoning laws ruled unconstitutional," December 22, 1950.

³³ *Birmingham Post*, December 22, 1950. Portions of the site were later cleared for I-20/59 and acquired by John and Deanie Drew for the residence that they built in 1965 (1108 Center, #13) to replace their home also lost to I-20/59.

³⁴ *Dividing Lines*, 163-64.

³⁵ Leroy S. Gaillard Jr. Interview, March 18, 1998, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

³⁶ Arthur Shores, Interview for *Eyes on the Prize*, November 1, 1985, Sound Number 1507, Camera Roll Number 513.

³⁷ Houses designed by Leroy Gaillard Jr. clearly espouse the Ranch and International styles, as early as the 1950 Shores House (#39). Gaillard Jr. was owner and manager of Gaillard Company, Inc., opened in 1949 and advertising in the 1956 City Directory as "Registered General Contractors, Blue Print Specifications, New Work, Repairs, Alterations, FHA Loans." The firm built six houses in the District: Powell House (#1), Shores House (#9), Evans House (#11), Crowder House (#12), Smelley House (#14), and his personal residence, Gaillard House (#17). The firm was one of two "custom" design/build firms building for blacks in this era in the city. During Gaillard's military service throughout the early 1940s, he trained in carpentry, drafting, building construction technology, architectural engineering and management before returning to Birmingham in 1948. His construction firm operated from 1949 until ca. 1973 and employed 50 persons, including white electricians and painters. (Gaillard's father Leroy Gaillard Sr., a Tuskegee graduate who had operated a successful plumbing business in the city, also joined his son in his firm.) Gaillard Jr., who built for individual families, noted that it took "two people working, usually two school teachers," to afford to build his houses. He also noted with pride that most Gaillard designs are still owned by the original builders or their heirs. Leroy Gaillard Jr. Interview with Marjorie White, Birmingham Historical Society, July 22, 2004.

³⁸ *Dividing Lines*, 177.

³⁹ Jefferson Drew Interview, January 23, 2005.

⁴⁰ Howell Raines, *My Soul is Rested: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement in the Deep South* (Viking Penguin Inc., 1977), 154-161.

⁴¹ Telephone interview with Odessa Woolfolk, April 1, 2005.

⁴² Barbara Shores retains letters addressed and delivered to her father: "Nigger on the Hill." Telephone interview with Barbara Shores, January 28, 2005.

⁴³ See Foster Auditorium National Historic Landmark Nomination, 2005.

⁴⁴ *TIME* Magazine, November 26, 1954.

⁴⁵ Ted Bryant, "Arthur Shores—A career of dynamite to doctorate," *Birmingham Post-Herald*, February 1, 1982; Harold

Kennedy, "Shores reminisces about early days as lawyer in state," *Birmingham Post-Herald*, November 25, 1969.

⁴⁶ Jefferson Drew, Susie Evans, Houston Brown, Barbara Shores, Interviews, January 23, 2005.

⁴⁷ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, August 21, 1963; Barbara Shores Interview, January 23, 2005.

⁴⁸ Leroy Gaillard Jr. Interview, July 22, 2004.

⁴⁹ Relman Morin, "Bewilderment, anxiety, unhappiness grip city in crisis," *Birmingham Post-Herald*, September 6, 1963; Andrew M. Manis, *A Fire You Can't Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth*, 401-02.

⁵⁰ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, September 5, 1963. Theodora Shores' daughter Barbara, in a 2005 interview with the author, noted that when her mother returned home from the hospital she—who had long disparaged her husband's involvement in civil rights litigation—then took up the cause with vigor. Barbara Shores Interview, January 23, 2005.

⁵¹ Houston Brown Interview, January 23, 2005. Judge Brown commented that there was a good supply of bricks in the neighborhood as homes were still under reconstruction from the previous bombing.

⁵² Tom Lankford and Joe Campbell, "Shores home blasted, 1 dead, 21 hurt in riot, Negroes attack policemen with bricks, bottles, rocks," *Birmingham News*, September 5, 1963; Don Brown, "Bomb scene eerie amid shots," *Birmingham News*, September 5, 1963.

⁵³ *Birmingham News*, September 7, 1963.

⁵⁴ "Closed schools reopen today, Gaston home firebombed, Negro businessman and wife unharmed," *Birmingham Post-Herald*, September 9, 1963.

⁵⁵ Manis, *op.cit.*, 405.

⁵⁶ Anthony Ripley, *Detroit News*, September 21, 1963; Leroy Gaillard Jr. Interview, July 22, 2004.

⁵⁷ Houston Brown, Susie Evans, Jefferson Drew, Roy Smelley, Interviews, January 23, 2005.

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Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama



Notes on the Historical Narrative, continued:

⁵⁸ Barbara Shores, telephone interview, January 26, 2005. Lou Isaacson, "Latest explosive found under truck," *Birmingham News*, March 22, 1965.

⁵⁹ Diane McWhorter, *Carry Me Home*, 543.

⁶⁰ Raymond A. Mohl, *The Interstates and the Cities: Highways, Housing, and the Freeway Revolt* (Research Report for the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, 2002).

⁶¹ Jefferson Drew Interview, January 23, 2005; Deanie Drew Interview, c. 1978.

⁶² Barbara Shores Interview, January 23, 2005.

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Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

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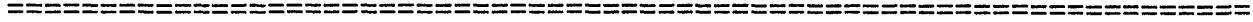
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Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama



Verbal Boundary Description

As shown on the accompanying map, the proposed district is essentially comprised of a corridor oriented along the north-south axis of Center Street, between its intersections with 9th Court West (the southern border) and 11th Court North/11th Court West (the addresses attributed to properties fronting 11th Court transition from a "North" to "West" appellation at the Center Street intersection). It is generally bounded on the east and west by the rear or side property lines of the resources along both sides of the Center Street right-of-way. However, at its far northern end, the district boundary extends to encompass only the two houses on the east side of the street that are sited immediately north of the intersection of Center Street and 11th Court North. At its easternmost edge, the proposed district also includes the three houses along the north side of 11th Avenue North, within the first block east of its intersection with Center Street (the buildings on the south side of the avenue were demolished to make way for the construction of I-20/59).

Justification of the Boundary

The boundary was drawn to include residences and churches now located in the area along Center Street extending from 9th Court West to 11th Court North/11th Court West. This area was designated a "white only" buffer zone by the 1926 City of Birmingham zoning ordinance, in order to separate black and white residential areas.

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Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

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Center Street National Register Historic District Photograph Log

Roll No. 1

Photographer: Marjorie L. White

Date: January 11, 2005

- 1.0 # 21: 2 Ninth Court West (Burke House) – facing NW
- 1.1 # 21: 2 Ninth Court West (Burke House) – facing NW
- 1.2 # 21: 2 Ninth Court West (Burke House) – facing W/NW
- 1.3 # 1: 940 Center Street (Powell House) – facing west
- 1.4 # 2: 942 Center Street (Adair House) – facing NW
- 1.5 # 3: 948 Center Street (Caster House) – facing west
- 1.6 # 5: 950 Center Street (Monk House) – facing NW
- 1.7 # 6: 960 Center Street (Boyd House) – facing NW
- 1.8 # 4: 949 Center Street (Parsonage for Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church) – facing E/NE
- 1.9 # 7: 961 Center Street (Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church) – facing NE
- 1.10 Not Printed
- 1.11 # 22: 4 Tenth Avenue North (Foster House) – view looking N/NE across Tenth Ave. N and along Center St.
- 1.12 # 22: 4 Tenth Avenue North (Foster House) – facing NE
- 1.13 # 8: 1000 Center Street (Poole House) – facing NW
- 1.14 # 10: 1024 Center Street (First Congregational Christian Church) – facing NW
- 1.15 # 9: 1021 Center Street (Shores House) – facing NE
- 1.16 # 9: 1021 Center Street (Shores House) – streetscape view looking N/NE along Center St.
- 1.17 # 10: 1024 Center Street (First Congregational Christian Church) – facing NW
- 1.18 # 11: 1032 Center Street (Evans House) – facing NW
- 1.19 # 23: 2 Tenth Court North (Wilson House) – facing N/NE
- 1.20 # 11: 1032 Center Street (Evans House) – facing NW
- 1.21 # 23: 2 Tenth Court North (Wilson House) – facing NE to the garage
- 1.22 # 11: 1032 Center Street (Evans House) – facing W/SW
- 1.23 # 12: 1044 Center Street (Crowder House) – facing west
- 1.24 # 11: 1032 Center Street (Evans House) – facing S/SW to the front terrace
- 1.25 # 23: 2 Tenth Court North (Wilson House) – view facing SE from Center St. to the Birmingham city center
- 1.26 # 23: 2 Tenth Court North (Wilson House) – view facing SE from Center St. to the Birmingham city center
- 1.27 # 11: 1032 Center Street (Evans House) – facing NE to side stairs from Tenth Court West
- 1.28 Center Street streetscape – looking SE from # 11 towards # 9, across Jones Valley to Red Mountain
- 1.29 Center Street streetscape – looking SE from # 11 towards # 9, across Jones Valley to Red Mountain
- 1.30 Center Street streetscape – looking S/SE towards # 9 and # 10
- 1.31 Center Street streetscape – looking N/NW from Tenth Court North to the crest of “Dynamite Hill”
- 1.32 Interstate 20-59 – looking E/SE to the Birmingham city center and Red Mountain
- 1.33 # 14: 1109 Center Street (Smelley House) – facing NE
- 1.34 # 14: 1109 Center Street (Smelley House) – facing NE
- 1.35 # 15: 1113 Center Street (Nalls House) – facing east
- 1.36 # 17: 1119 Center Street (Gaillard House) – facing NE

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Additional Documentation

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Center Street Historic District
Jefferson County, Alabama

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Center Street National Register Historic District Photograph Log

Roll No. 2

Photographer: Marjorie L. White

Date: January 11, 2005

- 2.1 # 13: 1108 Center Street (Drew House) – facing SW
- 2.2 # 16: 1116 Center Street (Gould-Tolliver House) – facing west
- 2.3 # 18: 1120 Center Street (Gatina-Monteith-Stenson House) – facing west
- 2.4 # 19: 1130 Center Street (Hendrix House) – facing NW
- 2.5 # 28: 1 Eleventh Court North (Hayes-Davis House) – facing SE
- 2.6 Center Street streetscape – looking E/SE from # 13 front lawn towards bridge over Interstate 20-59
- 2.7 Center Street streetscape – looking NE past # 17 and # 28
- 2.8 # 13: 1108 Center Street (Drew House) – facing W/SW to courtyard
- 2.9 Center Street streetscape – looking south from the bridge over Interstate 20-59
- 2.10 Center Street streetscape – looking SE towards # 9
- 2.11 Center Street streetscape – looking S/SW along the 900 block of Center St.

Roll No. 3

Photographer: Marjorie L. White

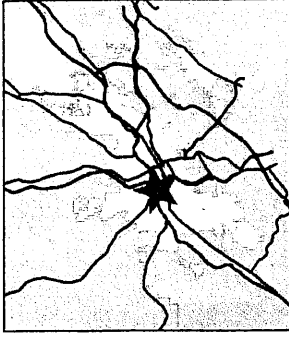
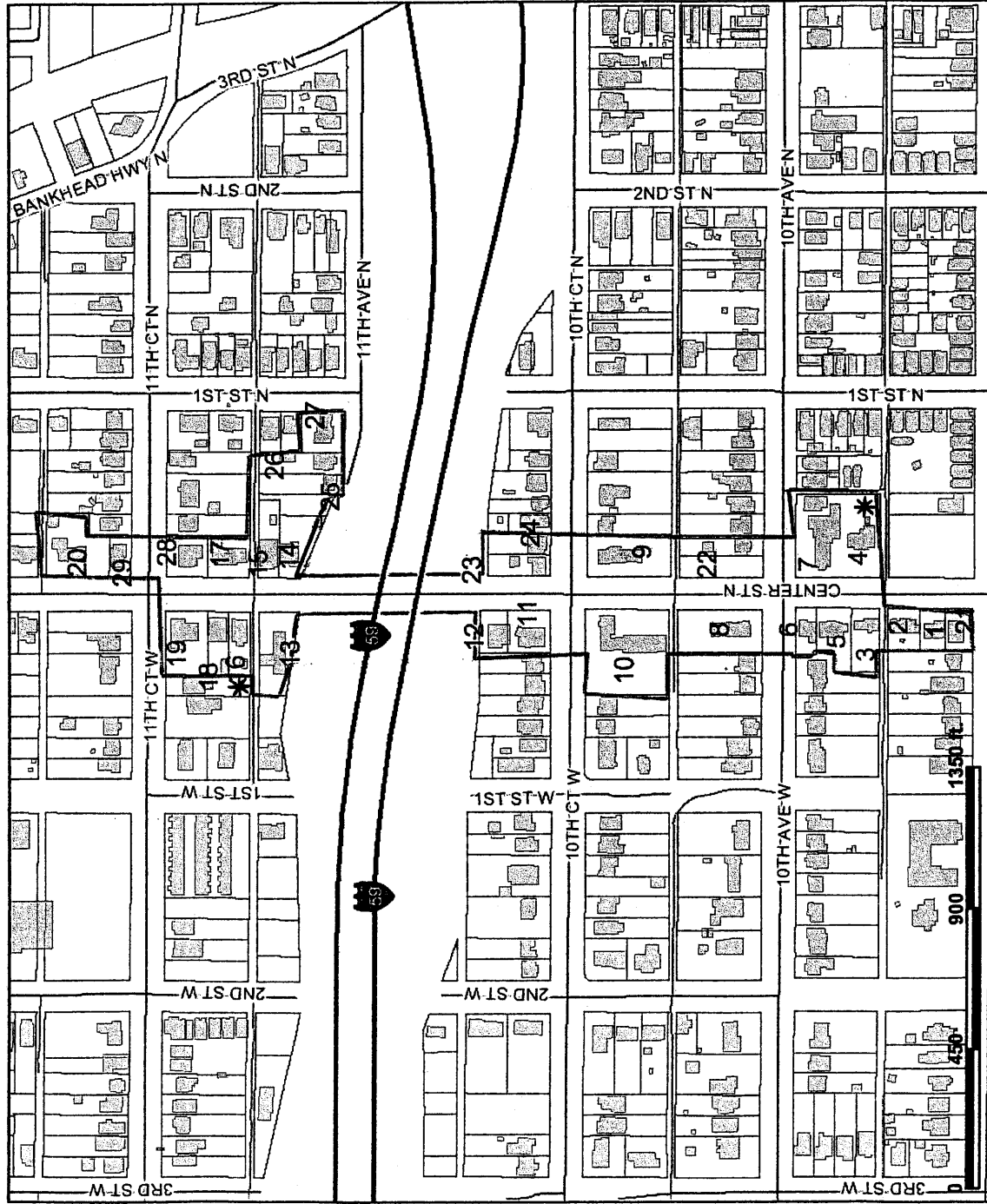
Date: February 7, 2005

- 3.1 # 20: 1145 Center Street (Coar House) – facing SE
- 3.2 # 20: 1145 Center Street (Coar House) – facing SE
- 3.3 # 29: 2 Eleventh Court North (Ross House) – facing N/NW
- 3.4 # 25: 16 Eleventh Avenue North (Thomas-Frazier House) – facing N/NE
- 3.5 # 26: 22 Eleventh Avenue North (Wesley House) – facing NE
- 3.6 Eleventh Avenue North streetscape – looking SE past # 27 towards city center and Red Mountain
- 3.7 Eleventh Avenue North streetscape – facing NE at # 26 and # 27
- 3.8 # 27: 24 Eleventh Avenue North (Goree House) – facing NE
- 3.9 # 27: 24 Eleventh Avenue North (Goree House) – facing NE



City of Birmingham
Online Mapping

Resource Map: Center St. Historic District



Legend

- Roads**
- Limited Access
 - Ramp
 - US Highway
 - State Highway
 - County Highway
 - Arterial
 - Local
 - Alley
- Buildings**
- Buildings
- Parcels**
- Parcels
- City Limits**
- City Limits



Scale: 1:5,959

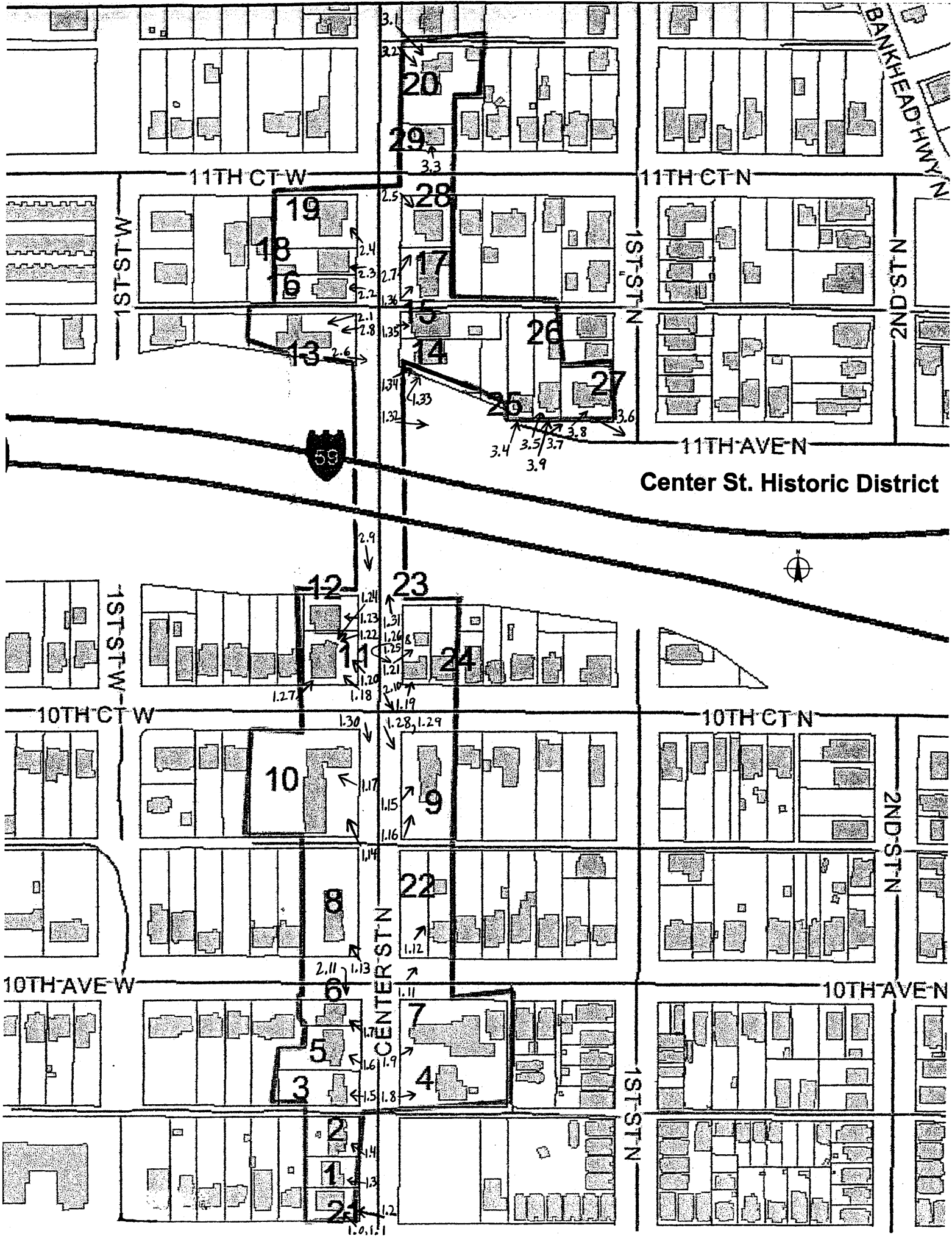


** Non-contributing resource*

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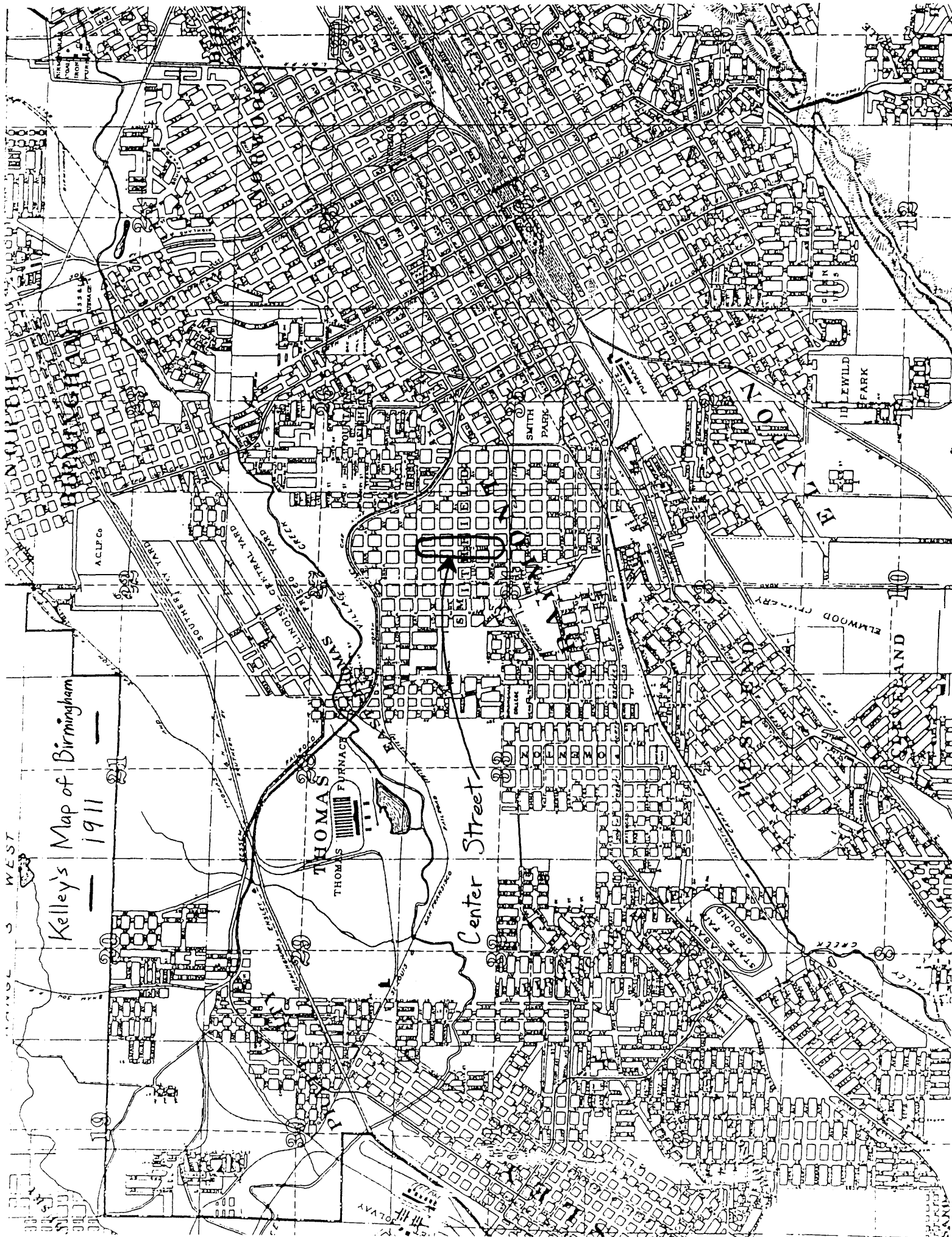
Map Created: July 17, 2007

<http://gisweb.informationbirmingham.com>



Center St. Historic District





Kelley's Map of Birmingham
— 1911 —

WEST

19

21

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22

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THOMAS
THOMAS FURNACE

Center Street

SMITH
SMITH PARK

STEEL
STEEL FOUNDRY

ELWOOD
ELWOOD FOUNDRY

LEWIS
LEWIS PARK

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