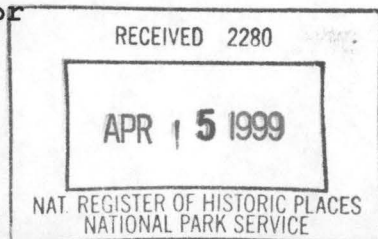


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Scipio A. Jones House

Other Name/Site Number: PU9832

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 1872 South Cross Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Little Rock

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR

County: Pulaski

Code: 119

Zip Code: 72206

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Scipio A. Jones House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historically Black Properties in Little Rock's Dunbar School Neighborhood

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Cathy A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

3-30-99
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Scipio A. Jones House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

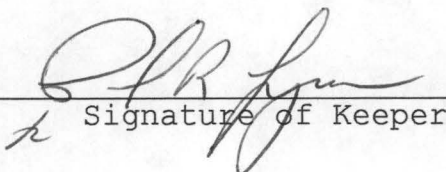
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5. National Park Service Certification

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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

5/23/99
Date
of Action

Scipio A. Jones House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: foundation Brick roof Other/Tile
walls Brick other Gables: Stucco
Stucco Porch columns: Stone/Granite

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY

One of the Dunbar neighborhood's most richly-detailed Craftsman-style houses, particularly among those built originally for black residents, the Scipio A. Jones House is located on one lot at the northwest corner of 19th and Cross Streets. The variety and quality of materials used in the home's construction—brick, stucco, tile, granite—distinguish it from its neighbors and indicate that it was built for a person of more than average means. Unfortunately, poor maintenance and the partial enclosure of the home's front porch presently comprise its appearance to some extent.

ELABORATION

The main 1 ½-story section of the Scipio A. Jones House has a broadly-pitched, front-gabled roof with exposed rafter ends. Red tile covers this main roofline, as well as the hipped roofs of the front porch, a two-story rear section, and a one-story projecting bay in the rear (west) façade, all of which also have exposed rafter ends. Rather than the more typical knee

Scipio A. Jones House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

braces, exposed beams are located under the eaves of the main roofline's front-facing "clipped" gable. A band of three casement windows is centered in this gable end.

All of the first floor of the house is veneered in a buff-colored brick. The second level of the two-story rear section of the house is clad in stucco, as is the front-facing gable end.

Most of the home's original first-floor windows, many of them arranged in pairs or in groups of three, have four-over-one, double-hung sashes. The exceptions are two small casement windows that flank the brick chimney on the north side of the house. Bands of casement windows also are located in the south, west, and north facades of the second-story rear section, which probably originally enclosed a sleeping porch.

Four square columns of gray granite support the roof of the home's one-story, full-width front porch, forming three bays across the front (east) of the house. The one major alteration of the home's original exterior design has been the enclosure of the north and south bays of the porch. Bands of three aluminum, double-hung windows are located in the east walls of these enclosures, while the north and south ends each have a pair of aluminum, double-hung windows. The center bay, defined by a granite arch, remains open and frames the front entry, comprised of a multi-paned door flanked by sidelights.

A driveway across the rear (west) of the house originally led to a small garage that no longer stands.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Ethnic Heritage/Black
Law

Period(s) of Significance: 1928-1943

Scipio A. Jones House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

Significant Dates: 1928

Significant Person(s): Jones, Scipio A.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

SUMMARY

The Craftsman-style Scipio A. Jones House was built about 1928 for an African-American attorney who was one of the most prominent members of Little Rock's black community during the late-19th and early-20th centuries, serving as well-because of the respect he earned as a lawyer and leader of the black community-as a bridge to Little Rock's white power structure. The home is significant for its association with Scipio A. Jones and his accomplishments.

ELABORATION

When he died in 1943, Scipio Africanus Jones was described by a statewide newspaper, the *Arkansas Gazette*, as "one of Arkansas's best known Negroes and recognized throughout the United States as a leader for his race. . . ." He had practiced law in Little Rock for more than fifty years and was remembered especially for having secured the release of twelve black men convicted of murder following the Elaine (Arkansas) Race Riot of 1919.

Born into slavery in rural Arkansas in 1863, Scipio Jones moved to Little Rock about 1881 in order to further his education. He finished a "preparatory" course at Philander Smith College, then enrolled in North Little Rock's Shorter College, graduating with a bachelor's degree. He subsequently taught school while "reading law" in the office of three white attorneys. His long legal career began when he passed the bar examination in 1889, becoming one of Little Rock's first black lawyers.

The successful appeal that Jones brought on behalf of twelve men who had been tried and convicted of murder following the Elaine Race Riot resulted in his receiving national recognition during the 1920s. The riot had

occurred in October 1919, when an attempt was made to organize black sharecroppers in the eastern Arkansas delta. Several whites and more blacks were killed, leading to the arrests of over one hundred African Americans. Within a month, an all-white jury had convicted twelve black men of murder and sentenced them to death. The NAACP soon hired a white Little Rock attorney, George W. Murphy, to appeal the convictions. Murphy, in turn, asked Scipio Jones to assist him. When Murphy died unexpectedly less than a year later, Jones took the lead in the appeal, and charges against six of the men eventually were dismissed. To assist the other six defendants in an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court, the NAACP again hired a white lawyer, Moorfield Storey, but Scipio Jones is credited with having prepared the briefs on which Storey's successful argument was based.

Long before Jones attracted national attention, he was well-known locally as the attorney for several black fraternal organizations and as a powerful member of the Republican Party in Arkansas. He worked for years, not always successfully, to ensure that African Americans had a voice in party decisions. Despite white Republicans' growing support for segregation during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Jones held several responsible party positions, including serving as a delegate to the 1928 Republican National Convention.

During his more than sixty years in Little Rock, Jones had several residences, all but two of which now are gone. While he was single, he lived in two or three different locations. Following his marriage in 1896, Jones moved with his bride, Carrie, to 1808 Ringo Street in what now is the Dunbar School Neighborhood. Here, their only child—a daughter, Hazel—was born. Around the time of Carrie Jones' death in 1908, Scipio and Hazel Jones moved a few doors down the street to 1822 Ringo. Both of these Ringo Street residences were in the block where Dunbar High School later was built. In 1917, Scipio Jones married Miss Lillie Jackson. Their first home together, a frame Colonial Revival cottage, still stands at 1911 Pulaski Street. They lived at this address until 1928, when they moved to their new Craftsman-style home at 1872 Cross Street.

Although the house on Pulaski Street was Jones' residence during the period when he was representing the Elaine Race Riot defendants, the more substantial and stylish house at 1872 Cross Street represents the "fruit" of his career because it was made possible by the financial resources he accumulated during his many years as a lawyer. Jones' continued prominence during the latter years of his life is underscored by the appearance of his biography in the 1930-31 volume of *Who's Who in America*.

Both Scipio and Lillie Jones lived out their lives at 1872 Cross Street. Scipio Jones died in the home on March 28, 1943. Following Lillie Jones' death a few years later, the house was purchased by members of the family that owns it today.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Arkansas Democrat (Little Rock). 8 April 1915.

Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock). 29 March 1943.

Dillard, Tom. "Scipio A. Jones." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 31 (Autumn 1972): 201-219.

Insurance Maps of Little Rock, Arkansas. Vol. 1. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1939.

Little Rock City Directories: 1886-1974.

Marquis, Albert Nelson. *Who's Who in America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Men and Women of the United States*. Vol. 16: 1930-31. Chicago: The A. N. Marquis Co., 1931.

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 -- Specify Repository:

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

Name of Property

County and State

A	<u>15</u>	<u>565280</u>	<u>3843260</u>	B
C				D

Lot 7, Block 33, Wright's Addition to the City of Little Rock

The legal description of the Scipio A. Jones House property has remained unchanged since the house was built; this boundary contains all of the property historically associated with the resource.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Cheryl Griffith Nichols/Consultant

Organization: N/A Date: March 24, 1999

Street & Number: 1721 S. Gaines St. Telephone: 501-375-2686

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72206

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Jones, Scipio A., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Historically Black Properties in Little Rock's Dunbar School
Neighborhood MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

DATE RECEIVED: 4/15/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/26/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/12/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/30/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000545

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Scipio A. Jones House is significant under National Register Criterion A and B in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Black and Law. The house is a modest Craftsman-inspired residential design associated with prominent Little Rock attorney Scipio Jones. The building (one of two extant resources associated with Jones) stands as a symbol of the success and status achieved by certain African American businessmen and professionals in the Little Rock community during the early twentieth century.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+B

REVIEWER PAUL LUSIGNAN DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 5/28/99

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



- 1) Scipio A. Jones House
1872 S. Cross St., Little Rock
- 2) Pulaski County, Arkansas
- 3) Cheryl Nichols
- 4) 6/25/98
- 5) AHPP
- 6) View looking southwest



- 1) Scipio A. Jones House
1872 S. Cross St., Little Rock
- 2) Pulaski County, Arkansas
- 3) Cheryl Nichols
- 4) 6/25/98
- 5) AHPP
- 6) View looking northeast

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500023