United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received DEC 9 1982 date entered

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7. Description

Condition excellent deterioratedX good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unalteredx altered	Check one original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The College Hill Historic District is located along College Avenue between Scott and Kyle Streets. It is a quiet neighborhood of generally well-kept houses, each set well back from the street which is lined with large shade trees. The houses were built between 1890 and 1978; 10 were built between 1890 and 1929, 3 were built in the 1930s, and 1 in the 1970s. Despite the wide range in construction time, the houses are very compatible in style. There are houses in the Vernacular style, the Bungaloid style, Classic Revival, the Pyramidal-roof house, and the Neo-English cottage that was popular during the 1930s. The district contains 13 houses of historic and architectural significance, and one house from the 1970s. Many of the residents are original residents or descendants of the families who established the neighborhood. The feeling of closeness has remained an important part of the neighborhood.

There are four houses along the north side of College Avenue. Ten houses line the south side of the street. The first house on the southern side of College Avenue is the Proctor house (1) built in 1899 by John F. Proctor. The contractor for the house, Mr. O'Neal, was described in the local paper as "an artist in his line and has made this about the handsomest residence in town." It is a Vernacular, two-story frame house of seven rooms. The hipped roof is joined by three gables, each featuring decorative pierced work. There are two interior chimneys. There are two segmental bays, one on the west and one on the north side of the house. The entrance is a glass and wood paneled single leaf door with a simple transom light above. At the time that the house was built, Mr. Proctor was serving as a state legislator for Jackson County and was also practicing law in Scottsboro. The House is now owned by the granddaughter of Rice Jacobs.

The Rice Jacobs house (2) was built by Mr. Jacobs in 1921 and is still occupied by him. Mr. Jacobs was, at the time he built the house, President and Chairman of the Board of J. C. Jacobs Banking Co., on of Scottsboro's two locally owned banks. Mr Jacobs is still active in the bank. The house is one-and-one half story brick painted white. This brick cottage has a gable roof with three gabled dormers evenly spaced across the front. The front porch has a flat roof with a gallery rail and decorative wood supports; the entry is a single leaf wood panel door with narrow side lights. The rear extension joins to the front at right angles, and a recessed porch on the west side is identical to the front porch. There is one exterior brick chimney.

The Howland house (3) was built in 1911 by Mr. H. C. Dunn, a Baptist minister who was connected with the Baptist Institute which was the college located on the corner of Scott Street and College Avenue. The house was purchased by J. M. Matthews in 1913. Miss Leola Matthews, daughter of J. M. Matthews, was elected tax assessor in 1927. She was the first female to be elected to public office in Jackson County. The house was sold to Robert L. Howland (present owner) in 1944. Mr. Howland served as Probate Judge of Jackson County in the early 1950s. The house is a Pyramidal-roof house of frame construction and simple design. It has clapboard siding, a triple dormer with a pyramidal roof, a full veranda, four Tuscan columns, single leaf entry of wood with side lights and transom, and extra wide single windows flanking the entrance.

The Lipscomb/Pitt Hous (4) was built in 1937 by Dutch Eyster, a civil engineer. It was sold to Bess Moody Lipscomb in 1950 and is now owned by Virginia Lipscomb Pitt, her daughter. Th Lipscombs and the Pitts have been active merchants in Scottsboro for many years. The house is one and one half stories of painted brick with a gabled roof and two gabled dormers and a brick stoop. The entry is wood paneled single leaf with architrave trim and a plain cornice.

¹Scottsboro Citizens, September 21, 1899.

8. Significance

1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 x 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		law literature military music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c.1900-1937	Builder/Architect N	IVA	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

ARCHITECTURE/LOCAL HISTORY

The College Hill District is significant as a concentration of buildings which reflect the development of residential architecture in Scottsboro from the turn of the century to World War II. Included in the small district are examples of pyramidal-roof houses, bungalows, and Neo-English cottages as well as late Victorian style houses. Although modest by most standards, the homes were those of the city's leading families and are strongly associated with the political, economic and educational life of the community. The extended period of development of the district reflects the economic conditions of the county, particularly the impact that the Tennessee Valley Authority had on the economy.

The College Hill District was the first sub-division to be laid out in the city of Scottsboro. The area was part of the property inherited by Charlotte Scott Skelton and her husband, R. S. Skelton, from the estate of Mrs. Skelton's father, Robert T. Scott, founder of Scottsboro. The houses show a wide range of architectural styles that reflect the extended period of development of the district. The houses in this district have been the homes of many important figures in the city's early history. This neighborhood of 14 houses has sheltered 2 doctors, 2 lawyers (1 a state legislator), 4 bankers, 3 probate judges, 4 city officials, and numerous merchants, educators, and clergymen. Most are occupied today either by the same families, their descendants, or families who are prominent in the city today. The district gets its name from the earliest (1890) reference to the area as being the "College Hill" area. The founding family of Scottsboro, the R. T. Scott family, donated to the city a large plot of land on the northeast corner of the intersection of Scott Street and College Avenue for a school. The first school located on this site was the Scott Male and Female Academy, built in 1878. The site has been occupied continuously by academies, colleges, and public schools. The present building, now called Page Elementary School, was constructed in the 1930s. This site borders the northwest corner of the district.

The College Hill District has, from the beginning, been one of the more desirable neighborhoods in Scottsboro. The wide, tree-lined street and the deep and uniform set back of the houses gives this area a quiet dignity that appealed to the families who built their homes here. The location was and still is ideal: a short walk from the public square, in close proximity to one of the schools, but quiet and removed from commercial areas. The houses have been generally well maintained and the majority are owner occupied. Several houses have been constructed since the 1920s, and several early houses in the district have been replaced through the years by newer houses.

Of the 14 houses in the district, 3 were constructed in the 1930s. The Benson House (1935), the Word House (1937) and the Lipscomb House (1937) all reflect national style trends of the 1930s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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The Williams house (5) was built in 1909 by Henry P. Barclay, a prominent businessman in Scottsboro. The house was owned and occupied by the Barclay family until 1976 when it was purchased by the present owner, Bill R. Williams. It is a Pyramidal-roof house of one and one half stories, clapboard siding, brick foundation, and a large gabled dormer. Segmental bays flank the entry which is single leaf with transom and side lights. The porch has a shed roof supported by short Tuscan columns that sit on brick pedestals. There is a wooden balustrade and two interior chimneys.

The Armstrong house (6) was built about 1900 by Mr. Davis for his family. Mr. Davis was an early businessman in Scottsboro and his daughter had a successful millinery shop for may years. The Davis family occupied the house until 1956, when it was purchased by R. L. Howland who sold it to George L. Armstrong in 1957. The Armstrong family occupies the house today. Mr. Armstrong was an engineer with the State Highway Department and his wife, Onie, one of the most beloved teachers in the Scottsboro city school system. The house is of frame construction and has been covered with asbestos siding. It has an intersecting gable roof, three exterior chimneys; there is a segmental bay in the front gable. The shed roof of the porch is now supported by wrought iron posts. The house has been badly altered, but it is not irretrievable.

The Floyd house (7) is the most recent house built in the district. It was built in 1978 by Dorothy Shook Floyd. It is of red brick, one and one half stories, gabled roof with two gabled dormers. The shed roof of the porch is supported by boxed columns. The single leaf wood paneled entry has full side lights.

The James W. Gay house (8) was built in 1929 by Mr. Gay for his family and is occupied by one of his daughters. The house is a Neo-English cottage, a style popular in the 1930s. The house plans were drawn by another daughter, Frances Lyles Gay, from a picture that was published in Holland Magazine in 1928. R. C. Patrick, Sr., was the builder of ten house and Henderson Russell the brick layer. Mr. Gay and his brother John W. Gay, Jr., were prominent merchants in Scottsboro and were among the founders of the First National Bank of Scottsboro. The house is a one-story red brick that is irregually in plan and massing. There are intersecting gables and the entrance is in a small front gable and is framed by a segmental brick arch. The porch to the left of the entrance is sheltered by the eaves of the gable that runs the width of the house. The porch has two Tuscan columns for decorative effect. There is one exterior and one interior chimney.

The Henry McAnelly house (9) was built in 1929 by Henry McAnelly. His wife designed the house basing her design on photographs from magazines. Ben Thomas was the carpenter/builder. The house remained in the family until 1966, when it was purchased by members of the Hal Word family, present owners. Mr. McAnelly was in the furniture and undertaking business from 1914 to 1934, and again in the 1940s. He was one of the first undertakers

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in Jackson County to obtain a degree or certificate from a mortuary school. He served as Probate Judge from 1934 to 1937. The house is of the Bungalow style, and it is one and one half stories of wood frame construction with clapboard siding. It has a gable roof with a porch gable facing the street. The tapered porch posts are on tall brick pedestals. There is a shed dormer with triple windows. The single leaf entrance of glass panels has side lights. The porch balusters are pierced brick with concrete railing.

The Hal B. Word house (10) is a Neo-English cottage that was built by Mr. Word in 1937. Mr. Word still occupies the house. Hal Word is the founder and co-owner with his son, Jake, of Word Motor Company. He built the Word Arcade Building (#40, in Public Square District) in 1923 to house this business. The house is a two-story red brick with a basement. It has an intersecting gable roof and a gabled entrance. The roof is slate. There are stone arches over the windows, entrance, and porch openings, and stone is used as random decoration. Single, massive Romanesque columns give visual support to the porch and arches and the window arches of the second story.

The northern side of College Avenue is occupied by the college grounds (not included in the district), and on the eastern end by four houses. The first of these houses is the Howland/Boyd house (11), built in 1914-15 by Mr. Charles Howland to replace the original house, built in 1912 and destroyed by fire in 1913. The contractor for the house was Mr. Curtis Barron, one of Scottsboro's finest builders. Mr. Howland was a prosperous merchant in Scottsboro. The house was purchased in 1927 by Dr. Hugh Boyd, a prominent doctor and surgeon. It remained in the Boyd family until purchased in 1974 by the present owner, Wallace Haralson, a young attorney in Scottsboro. The house is Southern Greek Revival, two stories, wood frame with clapboard siding. The roof is hipped with a small hip knob. The veranda has a flat roof supported by four columns and two engaged columns. The original Ionic capitals have been replaced by stepped wooden blocks. There are pilasters at the corners of the house and a plain projecting cornice. The entrance is single leaf wood and glass panel with side lights.

The H. G. Jacobs house (12) was built in about 1917 by Mr. Jacobs and is still occupied by his widow. Mr. Jacobs was involved in banking (J. C. Jacobs Bank), a partner in the Scottsboro Knitting Mills, Scottsboro Wholesale Co., and served as a member of the City Council. The contractor for the house was Mr. Curtis Barron, who also built the houses on each side of this one. The house is of the Bungalow style and has been altered once. The original front porch extended the full width of the house. The west end of the porch, under the extending front gable was enclosed for a sun porch. This alteration is still in keeping with the Bungalow style. It is one and one half stories with a basement. The roof is gabled with a shed dormer. There is one exterior brick chimney and one boxed post supporting one end of the front gable. The balustrade is wood and the single leaf entrance is wood and glass paneled with a transom.

The Padgett/Bogart house (13) was built in about 1920 by R. A. Padgett with Mr. Curtis Barron as the contractor. Mr. Padgett was an early businessman in Scottsboro and operated a hardware store on the public square with James W. Gay from 1914 to 1922. After several years in Texas, he returned to become partners with John B. Benson in the automobile business. The house was sold to W. R. Bogart in 1923. Judge Bogart

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was then Probate Judge of Jackson County—one of three Probate Judges to make their homes in the College Hill District. In 1929, H. G. Jacobs bought the house and converted the interior into apartments. The house is still used as apartments and is owned by Mr. Jacobs' widow. The house is two story of frame construction with clapboard, siding, corner boards, and two interior chimneys. The massing and plan are irregular. There are cross gables and smaller gables facing the street. There are wood shingles and diagonal brackets in the gable ends. Brick piers support the porch gable and the balustrade is solid brick with a concrete cap. The porch is concrete. The glass paneled entrance has matching side lights.

The John B. Benson house (14) was built in about 1935 by Mr. John B. Benson. The house was occupied by the Bensons until Mrs. Benson's death in 1978. It is being rented at this time. Mr. Benson was a prosperous industrialist and land developer. He established the first cold storage plant in this section of northeast Alabama, and thus modernized the meat processing industry of the area. This house is a red brick Bungalow of one story. The roof is a long gable with a porch gable facing the street, which is supported by white wrought iron open posts. The balustrade is also white wrought iron. The entrance is a single leaf, glass paneled door. There is one brick interior chimney.

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The scale of the houses range from moderate to large. Many houses are much larger than would appear from the street. The materials used are wood and brick with several of the brick houses painted white, as are all of the frame houses. The styles represented are Vernacular, Classic Revival, Bungaloid, Pyramidal-roof, and the Neo-English Cottage that was popular in the 1930s. The houses are not elaborate but reflect the conservative nature of the people of the Scottsboro.

The development of the College Hill Historic District parallels the development of the Public Square Historic District, both reflecting the steady economic growth of Scottsboro. Through the years, the people of the College Hill District have consistently made major contributions to both the economic and cultural growth of Scottsboro. Their strong sense of civic pride and continuing involvement in civic, cultral, and charitable activities as well as a great sense of neighborhood unity has made this area a "prime mover" in the development of Scottsboro.

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Contributing:

- 1. Proctor/Jacobs House (418 College Avenue): 1899; 2 story, frame construction, clapboard siding, brick foundation, hip roof with cross gables, 2 interior chimneys, simple pierced decoration in gable ends, 2 segmental bays lower floor-north and west sides, second story extends over bay on north and overhang on corner has carved decoration, shed roof over porch, brick pedestal under wrought iron supports, brick balustrade.
- 2. Rice Jacobs House (416 College Avenue): ca. 1921; 1 1/2 story, painted brick, gable roof, 3 single dormers with gable roofs across front, full porch with flat roof, gallery rail around porch and open, decorative supports of wood, second gable connects at right angles to rear, recessed porch on east side identical to front porch, entry wood paneled single leaf with narrow side lights, architrave trim and simple cornice, 1 exterior brick chimney.
- 3. Howland House (414 College Avenue): 1911; Pyramidal-roof house, frame construction, clapboard siding, pyramidal-roofed triple dormer, full veranda with shed roof, 4 Tuscan wood columns, single leaf entrance of wood with high row of vertical lights, simple transom, extra wide sash windows flank entrance, 1/1 lights, 2 interior chimneys, brick foundation.
- 4. Lipscomb/Pitt House (412 College Avenue): 1937; 1 1/2 story, painted brick, gable roof, with 2 dormers with gabled roofs, brick stoop, 2 single sash windows flank entrance, entry wood paneled single leaf with architrave trim and plain cornice, wrought iron and glass storm door the only alteration to facade.
- 5. Williams House (410 College Avenue): 1909; Pyramidal-roof house, 1 1/2 story, frame construction, brick foundation, clapboard siding, large gable dormer over entry, segmental bays flank entry, entry single leaf with transom and side lights, shed roof over porch, Tuscan columns on brick pedestals, wood balustrade, 2 interior chimneys.
- 6. Armstrong House (408 College Avenue): ca. 1900; 1 story, wood frame, asbestos siding, intersecting gable roofs, 3 interior chimneys of brick, segmental bay under front gable, flat roof over porch with wrought iron supports, exterior badly altered, but not irretrievable.

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7. Dorothy Floyd House (404 College Avenue): 1978; 1 1/2 story, red brick, gable roof, two gabled dormers, shed roof over porch, boxed columns, 2 exterior chimneys, single leaf wood paneled entry with full side lights.

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- 8. James W. Gay House (402 College Avenue): 1929; Neo-English cottage, 1 story, red brick, irregular in plan and massing, house based on photograph in Holland's Magazine, 1928, intersecting gable roof, small gable over entry, entry framed by segmental brick arch, porch sheltered by eaves of gable that runs width of house, 2 Tuscan columns for decorative effect, 1 interior and 1 exterior chimney, windows double-hung sash with 6/1 lights.
- 9. Henry McAnelly House (308 College Avenue): 1929; Bungalow, 1 1/2 story, wood frame with clapboard siding, gable roof, porch gable faces street, tapered porch posts on tall brick pedestals, shed dormer, single leaf entry glass paneled with side lights, vertical lights in gable windows, dormer windows and upper section of first story windows, pierced brick balusters with concrete railing.
- 10. Hal B. Word House (306 College Avenue): 1937; Neo-English cottage, 2 story with basement, red brick, stone arches over windows, doorway, and porch openings, stone also used at random for decorative effects, intersecting gable roof, gabled entrance, 2 exterior chimneys, single, massive Romanesque columns give visual support to side arches and the window arches of second story, slate roof covering.
- 11. Howland/Boyd House (405 College Avenue): 1914-15; 2 story, Southern Greek Revival, white clapboard siding, hipped roof, small hip knob, 2 exterior brick chimneys--north and east sides, entrance wood and glass panel with side lights, full front veranda with flat roof, 4 columns and 2 engaged columns, stepped wood-block capitals replace original Ionic, pilasters at corners of house, plain projecting cornice, brick foundation, concrete porch.
- 12. H. G. Jacobs House (407 College Avenue): ca. 1917; Bungaloid, I story, gable roof, porch gable to street, sun porch to left of entry, narrow horizontal double window in gable end, shed dormer, I exterior brick chimney, clapboard siding, porch roof support wood, boxed post on brick pedestal, double-hung sash windows with vertical lights above and single light below.
- 13. Padgett/Bogart House (409 College Avenue): ca. 1920; Vernacular, 2 story, white clapboard siding, cross gable roof, wood shingles and diagonal brackets in gable ends, corner boards, irregular massing, 2 brick interior chimneys, gable roof over porch, broad brick piers, solid brick balustrade, glass paneled entrance with side lights, brick foundation.
- 14. Benson House (411 College Avenue): ca. 1935; brick Bungaloid, 1 story, red brick cottage, gable roof, porch gable to street, porch gable supports replaced with wrought iron, also balustrade, 1 interior chimney, entry is single leaf, glass paneled door.

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the northwest corner of lot #2, thence south to the south side of College Avenue, thence west to the northwest corner of lot 11, thence south to the southwest corner of lot #11, thence east along the back of the lots facing on College Avenue to Kyle Street, thence north to the point of beginning. The district is distinguished from its surroundings by the date of construction of the houses on the street.

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Wallace Haralson 405 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768 Billy R. Williams 410 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768 H. G. Jacobs 407 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

John Benson Estate 411 College Avenue c/o Mary Lee Hall 810 Ft. Payne Highway Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

Dorothy Floyd 404 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768 Mildred A. & William J. Word 308 College Avenue c/o Hal Word 306 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

Onie Armstrong 408 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768 Edna Gay 402 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768 James Bergman 418 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

Rice A. Jacobs 416 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768 Bob L. Howland 414 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

412 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

James E. Pitt

Hal Word 306 College Avenue Scottsboro, Alabama 35768 CONTRIBUTING

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