NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

737

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: _____

Other names/site number: Medgar Evers Historic District_____

Name of related multiple property listing:

_____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Margaret Walker Alexander Street roughly west of Missouri Street and east of Miami Street._____

City or town: Jackson_____ State: Mississippi_____ County: Hinds_____

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

___national **_X__statewide** **___local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X_A **_X__B** **_X__C** **___D**

R. E. Robertson SHPO — July 22, 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

_____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 9.18.13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [X]

Public – Local [ ]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) [ ]

District [X]

Site [ ]

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
42	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
42	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
RELGION/religious facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, WOOD, ASBESTOS, ASHPALT,

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Medgar Evers Historic District contains 44 buildings and is located approximately 3 miles northwest of the downtown central business district of Jackson, Mississippi, which is the capital city of the state and one of the seats of Hinds County. This district is comprised primarily of residences in the Ranch style typical of a 1950s suburban development, planned by African Americans for middle-class African American homebuyers. The majority of houses in the district retain their architectural integrity, with modern windows and enclosed carports being the most common alterations over time. One building, the Medgar Evers House, is previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description

The Medgar Evers Historic District encompasses the 36 original lots developed in 1955 - 1957 by Winston J. Thompson and Leroy Burnett, African American entrepreneurs, and known as the Elraine Subdivision, as well as six additional lots later developed by Burnett in early 1960s and Greater Mt. Mariah Missionary Church (formerly the Elraine Baptist Church), constructed c. 1956. The district covers approximately twelve acres and is located about 3 miles northwest of downtown Jackson. Hawkins Field (Old Jackson Municipal Airport) is less than a mile to the southwest of the district. The district is roughly bounded by W. Ridgeway Street to the north, Medgar Evers Boulevard to the south/southwest, Munsey Street to the south, and Miami Street to the east. Medgar Evers Boulevard is a southeast extension of U.S. Highway 49 and is a major corridor running between I-220 to the northwest and Woodrow Wilson Avenue, to the southeast.

Most of the resources in the district face what is now known as Margaret Walker Alexander Drive (formerly Guynes Street). Margaret Walker Alexander Drive runs straight east-west between Miami Street, which runs straight north-south, and Missouri Street, which runs straight northwest-southeast. Lots sizes are primarily uniform throughout the district at approximately 75 feet wide by 90 feet deep.[1] The exceptions are on the western end where the angled intersections at Medgar Evers Boulevard and Ridgeway Street; Missouri Street and Ridgeway Street, and Missouri Street and Margaret Walker Alexander Drive create irregular lots.

Houses in this district are predominately in the Ranch style, generally set back from the street about 20 – 30 feet. Most residences in the district are one-story, with low-pitch roofs and horizontal lines that are typical of the style. The house designs also incorporate carports, acknowledging the importance of the automobile in American culture by the 1950s.[2] Although there are no sidewalks in the district, the Ranch homes with landscaped lawns along moderately wide asphalt streets retain the suburban character of the original development.

The topography of the district and the surrounding area is relatively flat. Other neighborhoods with smaller sized residences surround the district to the north, east, and south, although the lots in these subdivisions are generally narrower and the houses are more likely to be minimal traditional in inspiration. Medgar Evers Boulevard to the west is predominantly commercial.

Generally speaking, the houses in the Medgar Evers Historic District are in good condition and retain a high level of architectural integrity. The houses in the district are a good representation of post-World War II modest-sized housing with undercut one-car carports. Forty-two of the buildings contribute to the district, one is non-contributing, and one, the Medgar Evers House at 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, has been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places (2000). The oldest home in the district is the Margaret Walker Alexander House at 2205 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, which she and her husband moved into as soon as it

[1] WFT Architects. *Medgar Evers Home Renovation: A Historic Structure Report*, 1995.
[2] Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 479.

was completed in 1955.[3] Although most of the houses were completed between 1955 and 1956, two houses built in 1963, two built in 1964 and two built in 1965 are considered contributing to historic district significance. All six houses are ranch style house compatible with the other houses in the district in terms of style, materials, massing and setback. Additionally, the majority of these houses were built by Leroy Burnett, one of the original developers. Over the past few decades, minor alterations have taken place to houses throughout the district that have either increased interior floor space or increased carport/garage/driveway space to accommodate more automobiles. Additions have typically been to the rear and are not visible from the public right of way. Homes with later garages still retain the characteristics of the Ranch style. A few houses now have replacement windows and/or siding.

Inventory of Resources

C = Contributing element; NC = Non-contributing element; PL = Previously listed element

The inventory is arranged alphabetically by street name in ascending numerical order. Resources are classified as "contributing" (C) or "non-contributing" (NC) to the historic character of the district, or "previously listed" (PL) for resources already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

1. (C) 2105 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of brick veneer. The windows on the front façade are steel four-light and one-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanked on each side; two of the front façade windows have faux shutters on each side. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch that is equipped with a concrete handicap ramp. The house also has a one-car side carport supported by a brick wall and two steel pipe columns.

2. (C) 2106 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a hipped roof over the main house and a front gable roof over the garage. The exterior finishes consist of brick veneer. The front façade windows are steel, one-light and four-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The front door is a wood door behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch supported by a brick column and steel tube column. The house also has a two-car garage to the right of the porch.

3. (C) 2111 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle side gable roof. The exterior finishes consist of brick on all four sides. There are three steel frame windows on the front façade. One of the windows is a picture window, which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side; two others have a smaller fixed four-light at the center flanked by four-light casement windows. A set of steps go up to

[3] Grace B. Sweet, *Personal Notes*.

the entrance that is sheltered under the roof overhang, which is supported by two metal posts. The main entrance has a hollow core wood door with accent paneling. The house has a side carport on the right side with three metal posts to support the roof.

4. **(C) 2112 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch**
One-story house resting on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior walls are asbestos shingle siding with a vertical wood board and batten accent wall on the front façade. There are three steel frame windows on the front façade. One of the windows is a picture window which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side; two others have a smaller fixed four-light at the center flanked by the same four-light casement windows. A set of steps lead to the entrance, which is sheltered under the roof overhang, supported by two metal posts. The front entrance has a hollow core wood door with accent paneling. The house has a side carport on the right side with three metal posts supporting the roof.

5. **(C) 2118 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch**
One-story house resting on a brick conventional foundation with asphalt shingle side gable roof. The primary façade is brick veneer with asbestos siding on the remaining three elevations. There are three aluminum windows on the front façade. One of the windows is a picture window which is flanked by 2/2 sing-hung at each side. The two other windows are 2/2 single-hung. Decorative metal security bars have been added to the entrance door and windows. A set of steps lead to a small entrance portico which is supported by decorative metal posts. The house has a single-car driveway.

6. **(C) 2121 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch**
One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of brick veneer. The windows on the front façade are steel, four-light and one-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanked on each side. Each of the front façade windows has faux shutters on either side. The front door is wood with decorative paneling. The house has a shallow front porch. Attached to the front porch is a side two-car carport supported by a brick wall and one brick column.

7. **(C) 2124 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1965 Ranch**
One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure is a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all sides with a four-foot tall brick accent wall on the front façade. The front façade windows are paired, single-hung, 2/2 divided light aluminum windows with wire mesh screening. The front door is wood with paneling behind a glass screen door. The house has a square front porch and a side carport supported by two decorative wood columns.

8. **(C) 2130 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch**
One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure is a front gable over the principle house with a flat roof over the carport. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all sides. The front façade windows are steel, four-light

fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The front door is wood with an oval decorative glass light in the middle. The house has a shallow front porch and a side carport supported by four steel tube columns. Underneath the carport is a small square storage closet.

9. (C) 2131 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956, enlarged c. 1990 Ranch

One-and-one-half-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The property encompasses both 408-850 and 408-851 parcel numbers. The roof structure consists of a hipped style roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos shingle siding. There are four aluminum 9/9 single-hung windows on the front façade. Each of the windows is covered with metal guard bars. A set of steps leads to the main entrance door, which is sheltered under a small portico with wooden posts. There is also a secondary entrance that is sheltered under the roof on the east side of the house; the second entry is located on the closed portion of Midlawn Rd. This closed portion of the road also serves as a two-car driveway for the property.

10. (C) 2200 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation with asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all sides with a wood vertical board and batten accent wall on the front façade. There are three steel frame windows with faux shutters. Each window is composed of a fixed three-light widow, which is flanked by four-light casement window on each side. An ornamental metal security door has been added to the entrance door. A set of steps lead to the entrance that is sheltered under the roof overhang, which is supported by two metal posts. Metal handrails at the entrance steps were added at a later date. There is a side carport on the right side of the house with metal posts to support the roof.

11. (C) 2205 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch
Margaret Walker Alexander House

One-and-one-half-story Ranch style house sitting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure of both levels consists of a hipped style roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The front façade finishes are a combination of wood bard and batten siding and brick veneer. Two metal posts support the roof overhang. The windows on the front façade consist of three steel picture windows with sliding glass windows on the bottom, two aluminum sliding glass windows on the upper story, and three steel four-and-one-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The property doesn't have a defined driveway but it appears as though the property shares the closed portion of Midlawn Rd. for parking.

12. (C) 2206 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1957 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof consists of a side gable intersected by a front gable with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all sides with a wood vertical board and batten accent wall on the front façade. The front façade windows are steel, four-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The front door is wood behind a decorative

metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch and a side carport supported by two ornamental metal columns and one steel tube column. Underneath the carport is a small square storage closet.

13. (C) 2214 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof is hipped with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of wood vertical board and batten siding on all sides with a brick accent wall on the front façade. The front façade windows consist of four-light and one-light fixed steel windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The house has a shallow front porch with a side, one-car carport supported by four brick columns.

14. (C) 2215 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house sitting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of brick veneer. The windows on the front façade are steel, four-light and one-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. Each of the front façade windows has faux shutters on either side. The front door is wood with decorative paneling behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch with a one-car side carport supported by four brick columns.

15. (C) 2222 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation with asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior finishes consist of brick on all sides. There are four windows with a brick window sill and metal guards (except one of them) on the main façade. Three of the windows are steel frame, composed of a fixed four-light window flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. The fourth window is an aluminum frame picture window, which is flanked by 2/2 single-hung at each side. An ornamental metal security door has been added to the wood entrance door. A pair of metal handrails was added at the entrance steps at a later date. A set of steps lead to the entrance, which is sheltered under the main roof overhang, supported by two brick columns. There was a side carport on the right side which has now been enclosed and converted into interior space.

16. (C) 2223 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt-shingle side gable roof. Exterior finishes consist of brick veneer. There are three steel frame windows with faux shutters on the front façade. One of the windows is composed of a picture window which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. The two others have a smaller fixed four-light window at the center, flanked by four-light casement windows. Each of the windows is covered with ornamental metal guard bars. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. A set of steps lead to the entrance that is sheltered under the roof overhang, which is supported by two metal posts. The house has a double carport on the right side with decorative wood work above the entrance.

17. (C) 2229 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house sitting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with three tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of wood lap siding. The windows on the front façade are aluminum, 6/6 simulated divided light windows. Each of the front façade windows has faux shutters on each side. The front door is wood with decorative paneling behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch with decorative metal hand railing leading up to the front door. The house has a one-car side carport supported by three wood Doric style columns.

18. (C) 2230 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of brick on all sides. The windows on the front façade are steel four-light and one-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. Each of the front façade windows has faux ornamental metal shutters on each side. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch with a set of metal handrails leading to the front entry steps. The house also has a single-car carport supported by three ornamental metal columns.

19. (C) 2235 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story house resting on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle hipped roof. The exterior finishes consist of vinyl lap siding on all four sides with brick veneer accents on the front façade. There are three steel frame windows on the front façade. One of the windows is a picture window which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. The two other windows have smaller fixed four-lights at the center flanked by light casement windows. A set of steps in the carport go up to the main entrance door. The carport has been enclosed by additional part in the back side. There is another entrance door to this newer part through the carport. There is a single side carport on the right side supported by three wood columns.

20. (C) 2240 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof is hipped with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of brick on all sides with a brick ledge under all windows. The windows on the front façade are steel, four-light and one-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The front door is wood with accent paneling. The house has a shallow front porch with a brick flower bed. The house also has a two-car side carport supported by three ornamental metal columns with a brick wall base.

21. (C) 2241 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house sitting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with a front gable over the porch area. The roof material is three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of brick on all four sides with vinyl lap siding on wall underneath the carport. The windows on the front façade consist of one vinyl clad window with twenty simulated divided lights, one 8x8 simulated divided light vinyl clad sliding window, and one steel frame four-light fixed window flanked by two four-

light casement windows. The front door is wood with decorative paneling behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch with a raised porch area with steps leading down both sides; the steps have metal handrails on each side. The house has a one-car side carport supported by four wood Doric style columns and two ornamental metal columns.

22. (C) 2246 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation with asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior finishes consist of vinyl lap siding on all sides with an asbestos siding accent wall on the front façade. There are three steel frame windows on the min façade; each window is composed of a fixed four-light window which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. An ornamental metal security door has been added to the wood entrance door. The house has a side carport on the right side with metal posts to support the roof. A set of steps lead to the entrance that is sheltered under the roof overhang, which is supported by two metal posts. Also, there is a small aluminum storage shed at the rear of the property.

23. (C) 2247 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-and-a-half-story house resting on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle hipped roof and gable roof. The second story portion of the home is located at the rear of the open carport. The exterior finishes are a combination brick and vertical wood board and batten siding. There are three steel frame windows on the front façade. One of the windows is a picture window which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. The two other windows have a smaller fixed four-light arrangement at the center flanked by four-light casement windows. The front door is wood behind an ornamental metal security door. A wheelchair ramp encompasses the shallow front porch area. A secondary entrance door is located under the open carport. The carport has a low brick wall on the right side and is supported by an ornamental metal column.

24. (C) 2300 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a hipped roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of vertical wood board and batten siding with a brick accent wall on the front façade. The windows on the front façade are steel, four-light and eight-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch and a single-car carport supported by three ornamental metal columns.

25. (C) 2305 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house sitting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of simulated stone clad siding and aluminum lap siding. The windows on the front façade are steel, four-light and one light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanked on each side. The front door is wood behind an aluminum screen door. The house has a

shallow front porch with a one-car side carport supported by three wood columns. Underneath the carport is a small square storage closet.

26. (C) 2310 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof is side gabled with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos lap siding with a vertical board and batten accent wall on the front façade. The windows are steel, four-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch and a side carport supported by two steel tube columns. Under the carport is a small, square storage closet.

27. (C) 2314 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. Asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior finish is brick veneer. There are three aluminum windows on the main façade with faux shutters. One of the windows is double, 6/6 single-hung, while two others are 6/6 single-hung. An ornamental metal security door has been added to the wood entrance door. A set of steps lead to the entrance that is sheltered under the roof overhang, which is supported by a metal post and a brick column. There is a side carport on the right side of the house with brick columns and a low wall made of brick.

28. (C) 2315 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle hipped roof. The exterior finishes consist of brick on all four sides. There are three steel frame windows on the front façade. One of the windows is a picture window which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. The other two windows have a smaller fixed four-light arrangement at the center flanked by four-light casement windows. Each of the front façade windows are fitted with ornamental metal guard bars. The front door is wood behind an ornamental metal security door. A set of steps with metal handrails lead to the entrance which is sheltered under the roof overhang. The original house had a one-car side carport that has since been replaced with a two-car garage with an aluminum paneled door.

29. (C) 2319 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house sitting on a conventional brick foundation. The roof structure consists of two front babbled roofs connected by a flat roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all four sides with vertical board and batten siding around the garage area. The windows on the front façade consist of aluminum 2/4 and 6/6 divided light windows. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a shallow front porch with a raised square stoop at the front door. The house also has a two car garage with a decorative metal piece above the garage door.

30. (C) 2322 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956/enlarged c1979 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a front gable roof with a front gable extension over the front porch. There are also flat roof structures that cover east side of the house and the carport. The roof is covered with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all sides. Other materials on the front façade include custom mill work balusters that hang from the roof eave overhangs and below the front window. The windows on the front façade are steel four-light and eight-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. Faux window shutters also flank the front façade windows. The front door is wood behind an aluminum screen door. The house has a shallow front porch and a single car carport supported by three metal tube columns. The 1979 additions are to the rear and not visible from the public right of way.

31. (C) 2325 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story house rests on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior finishes consist of wood lap siding on all four sides, with vertical wood board and batten accent wall between two windows on the front façade. One of the windows is a large fixed four-light window which is flanked by 4-light casement windows. The other two windows have a smaller fixed four-light arrangement at the center flanked by four-light casement windows. The house has a shallow front porch with a one-car side carport supported by five metal tube columns. Underneath the carport is a small, square storage closet.

32. (C) 2331 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story house resting on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt-shingle side gable roof. The exterior finishes consist of a combination of vertical wood board and batten siding and brick on the front façade and asbestos siding on the remaining facades. There are three steel frame windows with faux shutters on the front façade. One of the windows is a picture window which is flanked by four-light casement windows. The other two windows have a smaller fixed four-light arrangement at the center, flanked by four-light casement windows. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. A set of steps with decorative metal handrails lead to the entrance, which is sheltered by the roof's overhang. The house originally had an open two-car carport, which has since been enclosed by an aluminum paneled garage door. Surrounding the garage door are strips of ornamental metal.

33. (PL) 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch
Medgar Evers House (NRHP, 1992)

One-story Ranch style house sitting on a conventional brick foundation. The roof structure is hipped with an aggregate roofing material. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all sides with brick and batten board accent walls on the front façade. The front façade windows are steel, four-light fixed windows with four-light casement windows flanking each side. The house has a shallow front porch and a one-car side carport supported by four ornamental metal columns.

34. (C) 2338 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story house rests on brick conventional foundation with asphalt shingle side gable roof. Its primary façade consists of asbestos siding. Also on the right side of the main façade is vertical board and batten siding. There are three steel frame windows on the main façade with faux shutters. Each window is composed of a fixed four-light window which is flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. A security glass door has been added to the entrance. The house has a side carport on the left side with wooden posts to support and wood lattice fence which was added thereafter to enclose the carport. A set of steps lead to the entrance that is sheltered under the roof overhang; the entrance porch is supported by two metal posts. There is a handicap ramp at the entrance and an enclosed porch with wooden lattice fence at the back side of the house.

35. (C) 2346 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive 1956 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure consists of a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of vinyl lap siding. The windows on the front façade consist of four aluminum single-hung 6/6 simulated divided light windows. Each of the windows on the front façade is trimmed by three-inch wood molding. The front door is wood and is covered by the roof overhang. A set of concrete steps lead to the front entrance. The house also has a shallow front porch and a single-car side carport supported by three metal tube columns.

36. (C) 3672 Medgar Evers Blvd. c. 1956
Greater Mt. Mariah M.B. Church (formerly Elraine Baptist Church)

One-and-one-half-story church building on a slab-on-grade foundation. Roof structure consists of a tall front gable intersecting a side gable roof with three-tab asphalt shingles. The church is surrounded by evergreen landscaping and asphalt parking lot. The building has a symmetrical layout with a north-to-south axis intersecting an east-to-west axis. The exterior materials are brick with brick buttresses running along both sides of the building's longest axis. The window above the primary entrance to the building is an aluminum fourteen-light fixed window shaped proportionally with the shape of the roof pitch above. The other windows on the structure consist of tall aluminum six-light fixed windows and aluminum single-hung 2/2 divided light windows. The principle entrance is a metal double-leaf door with exterior light fixtures on each side. The secondary entrance is a metal single door with one exterior light fixture and covered by a canvas awning.

37. (C) 3527 Missouri St. 1964 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house sitting on a conventional brick foundation. The roof structure is a side gable roof with 3-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all four sides with brick up to the window sill on the front façade. The windows on the front façade are aluminum single-hung 2/2 divided light windows behind decorative metal security bars. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a rectangular front porch with a handicap ramp enclosed by a wood lattice fence. A single car driveway runs along the side of the house.

38. (C) 3529 Missouri St. 1963 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house that sits on a conventional brick foundation. The roof structure is a side gable with an intersecting front and rear gable with 3-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of simulated wood vinyl siding on all four sides with brick up to the window sill. The windows on the front façade consist of aluminum single-hung 2/2 divided light windows. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a rectangular front porch covered by a front gable roof extension. The house has a single car driveway that runs along the side of the house.

39. (C) 3603 Missouri St. 1965 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all four sides with brick up to the window sill on the front façade. The windows on the front façade consist of aluminum single-hung 2/2 divided light windows. The front entrance has a wood door behind an ornamental metal security door. The house has a rectangular front porch partially covered by the roof overhang. A single-car driveway runs along the side of the house.

40. (C) 3604 Missouri St. 1964 Ranch

One-story house resting on a brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle hipped roof. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all sides with a brick accent wall on the front façade. The windows on the front façade consist of steel twelve-light and four-light fixed windows flanked by four-light casement windows on each side. The front entrance has a wood door behind an ornamental metal security door. The house has a rectangular front porch and a one-car side carport supported by four ornamental metal columns. Underneath the carport is a small square storage closet.

41. (C) 3611 Missouri St. 1963 Ranch

One-story wood frame house on brick conventional foundation with an asphalt shingle side gabled roof. The exterior finishes consist of asbestos siding on all 4 sides with brick up to the window sill on the front façade. The windows on the front façade consist of aluminum single-hung 2/2 divided light windows. The front entrance has a wood door behind an ornamental metal security door. The house has a rectangular front porch covered by a front gable roof extension. A single car driveway runs along the side of the house.

42. (C) 2335 Ridgeway St. 1957 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house that sits on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure is hipped with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of vinyl lap siding on all sides. The windows on the front façade consist of two steel eight-light casement windows and one steel eight-light fixed windows flanked by two four-light casement windows. The front entrance has a wood door with a square stoop. The stoop is flanked by a set of decorative metal handrails. The house has a one-car side carport supported by two ornamental metal columns.

43. (C) 2343 Ridgeway St. 1961 Ranch

One-story Ranch style house resting on a brick conventional foundation. The roof structure is a side and rear facing gable with three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of

vinyl lap siding on all sides with brick up to the window sill. The windows on the front façade consist of aluminum single-hung 2/2 divided light windows. Also on the front façade is an aluminum picture window with a sliding window at its base. The front door is wood with a decorative door light behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a square raised stoop partially covered by the roof eave. The stoop area is enclosed by a three-foot tall Prairie style wood fence. The house has a single-car driveway that is accessed from Missouri St.

44. (NC) 2439 Ridgeway c. 1980 Ranch
Greater Mt. Mariah M.B. Church - Parsonage

One-story Ranch style house on a slab-on-grade foundation. The roof structure is side gable intersected by a front gable. The roof material is three-tab asphalt shingles. The exterior finishes consist of wood board and batten siding. The windows on the front elevation consist of aluminum, single-hung 4/4 divided light windows. The front door is wood behind a decorative metal security door. The house has a rectangular front porch that is covered by the front roof gable.

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.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] 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 grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ETHNIC HERITAGE:BLACK
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1955-1963

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Medgar Wiley Evers
Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Winston J. Thompson
Leroy Burnett
William Lattimore

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Medgar Evers Historic District in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for association with Community Planning and Development, Social History and Ethnic Heritage: Black. The district is eligible for listing under Criterion B for association with Medgar Evers and Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander. The district is eligible for listing under Criterion C for association with Architecture as a cohesive mid-century planned subdivision.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Jackson, the Mississippi state capital and the largest city in the state, was founded in 1821. The land now occupied by the city was part of the territory of the Choctaw tribe at the time of European contact. The Choctaw and the United States entered into the Treaty of Doak's Stand in 1820 which required the Choctaw to cede about half of their territory, including the site of present day Jackson.[4]

Mississippi became a state in 1817. In 1821, the legislature, then meeting in Natchez, appointed a three-man commission led by Thomas Hinds, to locate a more central site for a new capital. The Hinds commissioners settled on a site on the bluffs overlooking the Pearl River near a trading post operated by Louis Lefleur. On November 21, 1821 the legislature adopted a statute designating the site as the permanent seat of the state government and named it in honor of General Andrew Jackson.[5]

The city grew slowly and its survival as the state capital was not resolved until the 1832 state constitution mandated that legislative sessions be held in the city until 1850. The city's status was further cemented when the state capitol was completed in 1840. Residential development, for white citizens, developed along streets leading from the downtown. The homes of the city's African-American population in the antebellum period, largely enslaved peoples, are not well documented.

The city population in 1860 was 3191. The Civil War had a devastating effect on the city, with Union troops occupying Jackson on three occasions and physical destruction accompanying multiple battles. Although the Reconstruction period saw greater political freedom for the city's

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[4] *From Frontier Capital to Modern City, A History of Jackson's Built Environment, 1965-1950. P. 1.*
[5] *Frontier Capital, p. 2.*

freedmen, by 1875, white control of the state's electoral process was re-established and would continue for another one hundred years.[6]

Even with the short-term political gains for blacks during Reconstruction, life in Jackson was based on strict racial segregation, whether it involved schools, churches or residential neighborhoods. Although early racial housing patterns show some mixing of black and white housing, the period after Mississippi's 1890 Constitution would see the establishment exclusively black neighborhoods.[7]

Although antebellum Jackson was home to a small number of free people of color, the black population of the city grew steadily in the years following the war. Many settled in the Farish Street neighborhood. The area was surveyed and subdivided in the 1870s and by the turn of the century, Farish Street boasted numerous successful businesses. The surrounding area was home to the many of the city's African Americans, including businessmen, ministers, educators, physicians, craftsmen and tradespeople, and citizens engaged in a host of occupations.[8]

As Jackson's population grew to the west, the Washington Addition became another black enclave surrounding Jackson College, a public college for African Americans and the predecessor to Jackson State University, The college established its campus on Lynch Street in 1902. Lynch Street, west of downtown Jackson, and southwest of the Farish Street neighborhood, hosted a black business community and residential neighborhood. Noted author, Richard Wright, lived in his grandmother's house on Lynch Street from 1920 to 1923. Wright's acclaimed novel, *Native Son,* draws on his experiences growing up in the segregated Lynch Street neighborhood.[9]

The Washington Addition was extended west of the Jackson College campus and south of the Y. & M.V. Railroad. The Washington Addition was laid out by 1903 and annexed by the City of Jackson in 1910. The residents were primarily employed in the mills and railroads, or worked as domestic laborers or in hotels. A smaller area northeast of the college called "Sugar Hill" was the home to some wealthier and professional black residents. However, the Farish Street neighborhood continued to be the heart of the black community in Jackson.[10]

During the 1920s, Jackson annexed nearly nine square miles of territory in three phases. However residential growth in the 1930s was stagnant. The racial distribution of residential neighborhoods is seen most graphically on a Residential Security Map created by the Mortgagee Rehabilitation Division of the Home Owner's Loan Corporation in Washington, DC in June 1936. The map, based on economic studies and interviews with several Jackson businessmen engaged in real estate and finance, grades the financial security of real holdings on a four-point

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[6] *Frontier City,* p. 8.
[7] *Frontier City,* , p. 33.
[8] National Register of Historic Places nomination. Farish Street Neighborhood Historic District. xxxx
[9] Lee Ragland. "Some residents unaware they live in book's setting." *Jackson Daily News,* January 26, 1987.
[10] *Frontier City,* p. 62.

scale: Best, Still Desirable, Definitely Declining and Hazardous. The three areas graded "Best" were 100% white as were all of the "Sill Desirable" areas. Four of the six "Hazardous" areas were composed of 100% black residents, with one additional area noted to be 90% black. Two of the areas graded "Hazardous" had majority white residents.[11] The security map is attached as Exhibit 1.

During World War II and in the immediate post-war years, Jackson's population grew rapidly. In 1948, the city annexed large tracts of suburban areas to the north and south, which resulted in a 100% increase in city population.[12] Most of the suburban residential development was limited to whites. The black residential areas in these post-World War II years were not significantly changed from the 1936 Security Area Map (Exhibit 1), with most blacks residing in

> the area of West Jackson between Central Street and the railroad corridor south of Jackson College; Washington Addition; the area of Duttoville south of the railroad corridor; the center city of Jackson bounded by Silas Brown Street, the I.C. Railroad on the West, Lamar Streets on the east, and Livingstone Street on the north (with the exception of Capitol Street; the area east of the I. C. Railroad between Monument Street and Woodrow Wilson (includes Farish Street), with the exception of Bailey Avenue; the "Under the Hill" area between Mississippi and High Streets east of the GMN&O Railroad; and the neighborhood between Stonewall and Ridgeway west of the I.C. Railroad and Fondren,[13]

Criterion A: Community Planning and Development, Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Social History

The Medgar Evers Historic District is historically significant statewide as the first modern subdivision designed for middle-class blacks after World War II in Mississippi. The subdivision was developed by Winston J. Thompson, a black entrepreneur, and a majority of the houses were built by Leroy Burnett, a black builder. Many of the early residents were teachers or others engaged in professional and clerical employment that placed them in the middle class. Noted residents of the neighborhood include Medgar Evers, the Mississippi Field Secretary of the National Association of Colored People, who was assassinated in the driveway of his home, one of the signal events of the Civil Rights Movement. Author and educator Margaret Walker Alexander purchased the first home in the subdivision in 1955.

The Medgar Evers Historic District was developed as the Elraine Subdivision. The Capital Land and Investment Company owned the land and filed a plat with the Hinds County Chancery Clerk for "Elraine Resurvey, Part Four, a resurvey of Lot 43 Elraine & Part of Lot 7, Block 45, Elraine Resurvey Part One" in 1941. The plat included 80 parcels located along the south side of County Road (now Ridgeway Street) and on the north and south sides of Guynes Street, between Missouri Street on the west and Miami Street on the east. (A copy of the plat is attached as Exhibit 2.) Land west of Missouri Street had been subdivided and developed in the late 1920s.

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[11] Report of Survey…
[12] *Frontier City*, p. 111.
[13] *Frontier City*, p.115.b

The Capital Land Company failed to build or clear the land, and in 1951 conveyed the property to W. B. McCarty, a white businessman who in turn sold the property to African American developer Winston J. Thompson in 1955. Thompson and Leroy Burnett became partners in the development and construction of the Elraine subdivision. Both men were veterans and secured financing from the Veteran's Administration.[14]

The lots on the 1941 plat were 50 feet wide. Thompson and Burnett widened the lots to 75 feet by dividing every third lot. It is not known whether the developers obtained the services of a local architect or used stock plans to build the 850 to 950 square foot houses along Guynes Street. They completed thirty-six similarly scaled homes with similar floorplans between 1955 and 1957.[15] The Ranch style was the predominate design. Mrs. Grace B. Sweet, an original resident, recalled that Thompson graduated from Lanier High School in 1948. After returning from the military he opened a real estate business. Leroy Burnett, also a veteran, was a native of Terry, Mississippi.[16]

Thompson and Burnett advertised their businesses in the *Jackson Advocate,* the African-American newspaper in Jackson. Burnett, operating as Burnett-Gaston & Associates, ran a small box advertisement as "Builders of New Homes" over several months in 1956. A larger advertisement filed by W. J. Thompson & Company in the March 10, 1956 issue, announced several properties for sale, notably this one which was almost certainly an advertisement for the homes in the Elraine subdivision (see Exhibit 3):

> Also 13 New 3 Bedroom Homes in Very Nice Location only $200.00 Down to Veterans Plus Closing Costs[17].

Thompson's firm was recognized as the largest African-American real estate business in the state. Between 1952 and 1956, Thompson was credited with building over 250 homes for African Americans in Jackson, Meridian, Greenwood and Forest. The firm was the first black-owned business authorized to originate and service FHA and GI loans.[18]

The Elraine subdivision was directly adjacent to white neighborhoods, in particular to Missouri Street to the south and the large Green Fields subdivision to the north and west. Although Mrs. Grace Sweet recalled that "the idea of a predominantly black neighborhood was not welcomed," there are no contemporary reports of violence or legal efforts to prevent the construction of the subdivision. Mrs. Sweet stated further:

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[14] "Application for Historic District Designation, City of Jackson. December 1993." Mississippi Department of and Archives and History Historic Preservation Division Inventory Files.
[15] Historic Structures Report, p. 12
[16] "Application for Historic District Designation, Personal Notes, Mrs. Grace B. Sweet."
[17] *The Jackson Advocate,* March 10, 1956.
[18] "Negro Realty Firm Plans Huge Homes Development." *The Jackson Advocate,* March 24,1956.

> These homes were welcomed by the Afro-American community because this was the first complete street of homes of this caliber built in Jackson for Afro-Americans. Three bedrooms, nice large bath, central heat, attached storage room and beautiful landscaped lawn were the features advertised, and the homes sold like hotcakes.[19]

Margaret Walker Alexander and her husband, Firnist, bought the first house on Guynes Street in 1955. Alexander, an author and educator, recalled purchasing the home for $9,500 and "we sort of consider ourselves pioneers of better housing for black people."[20] Her neighbor and colleague, Bernice Lloyd Bell, remembered the subdivision as "the first neighborhood that was somewhere really decent for blacks to live."[21] Both women remembered a tight-knit community with a garden club and a Christmas pageant, a recollection shared by Mrs. Grace B. Sweet.

Many of the families that purchased houses in the Elraine subdivision were teachers and other white-collar workers. Alexander remembered that buyers had to have an income of $5000 to qualify.[22] The Jackson City Directory first has entries for Guynes Street in the 1957 edition. For ten of the twenty-two families on the street, the husband, the wife, or both, were educators. Two were nurses and two were insurance agents. One resident owned and operated a drug store on Farish Street. Medgar Evers occupation was listed as "field secretary, NAACP."[23] The 1958 edition included seven additional families, with three employed in education.

Most of the recollections of life in the Elraine subdivision recall a close-knit community with neighborhood and family celebrations. However, the peaceful nature was interrupted on the night of June 12, 1963. Medgar Evers, who moved onto the street with his wife and children in 1956, was shot and killed in his driveway by a sniper. The effect on the neighborhood was profound.. Margaret Walker Alexander recalled the yearly Christmas celebration with lights and a pageant. That changed after the Evers assassination. Alexander explained that "after he was killed, the street was dark at Christmas."[24]

As a black neighborhood adjacent to white residences, the Elraine subdivision was on the front line of the Jackson strictly segregated society. Myrlie Evers-Williams, in her autobiography, described how that affected the daily life of the community:

> A block away from our house was a section of white homes. The unwritten law of the neighborhood was that our children never played with theirs. It was not that we didn't want them to know white children, we did. It was just that in Jackson, Mississippi, it was too

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[19] Notes, Mrs. Grace B. Sweet
[2020] Leslie B. Meyers, "More Memories than money invested in Alexander house." "*The Clarion Ledger,* February 18, 1980.
[21] "Bernice Bell, Margaret Walker Alexander." *The Clarion Ledger,* July 12, 1981.
[22] Billy Watkins. "Scene of the Crime." *The Clarion Ledger,* May 10, 1996.
[23] Polk's Jackson City Directory. Richmond, VA: R. L. Polk & Co.. 1957.
[24] *The Clarion Ledger,* July 12, 1981.

> dangerous. An altercation, a childish fight could be magnified into race war. We all knew who would win such a contest.[25]

On the tax map for this part of the city, Guynes Street lots stand out as substantially larger, with wider streetfronts, than lots on nearby streets, including those of the white subdivisions. A drive down the surrounding streets bolsters the impression that Guynes Street residents not only occupied a higher economic class than nearby African American neighbors but also had more substantial houses than nearby white neighborhoods, where smaller tract houses predominate. The fact that Guynes Street lay adjacent to predominately working-class white neighborhoods is significant and probably explains how this middle-class black neighborhood was able to gain a foothold in northwest Jackson. Meanwhile, middle- and upper-class white neighborhoods were coalescing in northeast and south Jackson, leaving the northwest section of the city open for African Americans and working-class whites.

The development of modern subdivisions by and for African Americans in the segregated South has garnered recent scholarly interest. The Edward Heights Historic District in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The district, composed of 319 resources, was listed for association with "the development of the African-American community in Oklahoma after World War II, and for its association with Walter J. Edwards and Francis W. Edwards, African-American entrepreneurs and philanthropists."[26] The district was recognized as "a response to housing segregation policies."[27]

The Collier Heights Historic District in Atlanta, Georgia, was listed in 2009. The nomination noted the district significance in the areas of community planning and development, social history and ethnic heritage: black:

> The Collier Heights Historic District represents the way in which the newly emerging and economically empowered African-American middle and upper-middle classes at mid-century developed their own version of the suburban "American Dream"...to meet the rising expectations of an emerging and economically empowered middle and upper-middle class of African-Americans eager and able to fully participate in and benefit from new lifestyle opportunities in suburbia.[28]

The Battery Heights Historic District in Raleigh, North Carolina, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. Battery Heights, developed between 1956 and 1964, provided housing opportunities for the rising number of black professionals settling in the North Carolina capital following World War II. The district was listed "for its contribution to the Community Planning and Development and Black Ethnic Heritage of mid-century Raleigh...as

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[25] Myrlie Evers Williams, with William Peters. *For Us, the Living*. Garden City, New Jersey: Doubleday & Co., p. 229.
[26] Edwards Heights Historic District, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. National Register of Historic Places nomination, p. 68.
[27] Edwards Heights, p. 68.
[28] Collier Heights Historic District, Atlanta, Georgia. National Register of Historic Places nomination, p. 27.

one of only a handful of subdivisions planned for and open to the black community in the city."[29] The district was also recognized for its collection of Ranch and Split-level houses.

The Berkely Square Historic District in Las Vegas, Nevada, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. Although Nevada did not have the same history of racial segregation seen in some Southern states, African-American residents were relegated to an area known as Westside and the use of restrictive covenants barred them from many neighborhoods. Berkely Square was platted in 1954 with 148 lots. Developers engaged Paul R. Williams, an African American architect from Los Angeles, to design the houses. The district was listed for association with Ethnic Heritage (African-American) as "the first minority-built subdivision in Nevada," for its role in the redevelopment of Las Vegas's Westside to provide adequate housing for a growing African-American community...and improve living conditions for the city's African-American community."[30] The nomination also recognized the association with architect Paul Williams.

In many ways, the development of African-American residential neighborhoods in Jackson parallels the experiences of African-Americans in other southern states. Following the Civil War, freed blacks moved to the cities seeking economic opportunities. They were relegated to certain areas of the city, often less desirable than developing white neighborhoods. After World War II, when white Jacksonians were moving into newly constructed suburban subdivisions, both inside and outside the city limits, the African-American home buyer was excluded. With their economic status improving, many African-Americans also sought new homes with the modern amenities found in the post-war housing market. Winston J. Thompson and Leroy Burnett recognized this desire and mobilized to provide a development that would meet it. The Elraine subdivision was the result. In his study of African-American suburbanization Andrew Wiese concluded:

> Developers built new homes with amenities identical to those being offered to millions of white suburbanites at the time, and they advertised suburban living as a domestic retreat from the city, ideal for children, and replete with every modern convenience. Black middle-class home owners stressed many of the same points. They desired homes of their own complete with modern services and amenities. They wanted well-maintained, ever ornamental, residential landscapes with open space, grass, trees and, room for gardens. They hoped that their homes would prove to be sound investments as well as good places to raise children, and, like Americans elsewhere, they wanted to live in neighborhoods with people of similar backgrounds and outlook. In the midcentury South, that meant neighborhoods that were black-as well as middle class.[31]

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[29] Battery Heights Historic District, Raleigh, North Carolina. National Register of Historic Places nomination, p. 12

[30] Berkley Square, Las Vegas, Nevada. National Register of Historic Places, Section 8, p. 1.

[31] Andrew Wiese. *Places of Their Own, African-American Suburbanization in the Twentieth Century.* Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2004. p. 207.

For at least some in Jackson, the Elraine subdivision met those needs.

Although the Elraine subdivision is Jackson's first developed post-World War II subdivision for middle-class African Americans, working-class black housing already lined some of the streets on the north and east sides of the neighborhood. Elraine was soon followed by other black middle-class suburban housing developments in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Some of these neighborhoods were developed by African-American businessmen, while others were the product of white developers. In March 1956, Winston J. Thompson, the developer of the Elraine subdivision, announced plans to build a large subdivision in West Jackson. According to a story in *The Jackson Advocate,* the neighborhood would include 500 homes ranging in price from $7000 to $35,000. A map of the proposed development included with the story showed a large subdivision with curvilinear streets, courts and cul de sacs.[32] However, it does not appear that Thompson was able to complete the project.

In December 1956, the Evans Lumber Company advertised homes "For Colored People" on Sage Street, off Bailey Avenue in North Jackson. The advertisement, in the *Jackson Advocate,* promoted "100% G.I. Loan...Nice 5 Room House...Floor Furnace, Complete Plumbing...You can own this $6000 home cheaper than you can pay rent!"[33]

Then as today, the location of schools played an important role in the development of residential neighborhoods, both feeding and feeding off of new subdivisions. Mississippi has a long history of school segregation. As legal challenges to segregated schools compounded in the early 1950s, Mississippi officials sought to blunt arguments about unequal facilities and embarked on a program of construction of new and modern facilities to serve the African-American community.

In Jackson, several of these "equalization" schools were built in undeveloped or newly developed areas of northwest Jackson. By the mid-1950s, builders and developers began to construct new subdivisions around these schools, with black subdivisions opening around black equalization schools and white subdivisions near the one white school along Delta Drive, O.M. Bradley Elementary School. For instance, Smith Elementary School (3900 Parkway Ave.) for black students, opened in 1954, educating students from the Shady Oaks subdivision (platted in 1945) along California and Wabash, and later drawing students from the nearby Elraine and High School Park subdivisions. Nearby, Brinkley High School (now Powell Middle School, built 1958, 3655 Livingston) attracted several new black subdivisions, including Schoolview, platted in June 1959, and the expansive Brinkley Place, begun in 1961. Meanwhile, the 1948 Bradley Elementary School (2601 Ivanhoe) for white students, on the west side of Delta Drive, drew students from the growing white working and middle-class subdivisions adjacent to Elraine, including Green Fields and the western side of the Elraine subdivision (platted separately from Guynes Street). (Exhibit #4)

Northwest Jackson's status as an enclave of middle and upper-class African American neighborhoods was confirmed in 1960 when the City of Jackson set aside 85 acres just north of

[32] *The Jackson Advocate,* March 24, 1956.
[33] *The Jackson Advocate,* December 1, 1956.

Smith Elementary School on Parkway Avenue as Grove Park Golf Course, the city's first public golf course for African Americans.

Criterion B: Medgar Wiley Evers

Medgar Wiley Evers was the first Mississippi field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Evers and his wife purchased a home at 2332 Guynes Street (now Margaret Walker Alexander Street) in 1956. The Evers family lived in the home until 1963 when Evers was assassinated in the driveway of the house.

Evers was born in Decatur, Mississippi on July 2, 1925, the third of four children. James and Jesse Evers wanted their children to have an education, and Medgar attended a one-room segregated school in Decatur and later attended the black high school in Newton. He left school and joined the United States Army in 1943, serving in segregated units in England, Belgium and France. Myrlie Evers Williams, his wife, would later write that his military service

> opened up the world to him. The opportunity to leave the South and see new parts of the world provided an adventure he could not forget. In France, he found 'a whole people-all of them white-who apparently saw no difference in a man because of the color of his skin, and this was perhaps the greatest revelation of all.[34]

After his discharge, he completed high school at the Alcorn College laboratory school and later enrolled at Alcorn A&M University (now Alcorn State University). Evers excelled at sports, was editor-in-chief of the college annual, served as president of his junior class and was named to Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities. He also met Myrlie Beasley, a Vicksburg native, and they married on Christmas Eve, 1952.

After graduating from Alcorn A&M, Evers took a job as a salesman for the Magnolia Mutual Insurance Company in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Evers travelled extensively throughout the Mississippi Delta where poverty and illiteracy were endemic. Evers was distressed by the widespread poverty and attended mass meetings organized by Magnolia Mutual's founder, Dr. T. R. M. Howard. He also began organizing chapters of the NAACP to address conditions suffered by African-Americans in the Delta.

After meeting Thurgood Marshall, Evers recognized he could better help people if he had a law degree. He applied to the law school at the University of Mississippi but was denied admission ostensibly because his letters of recommendation came from Newton County residents, including two white men, rather than from Bolivar County, where Evers resided.[35]

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[34] Myrlie-Evers Williams with William Peters. *For Us, the Living.* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1976), p. 24-25.
[35] John Dittmer. *Local People, The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi."* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1994), p. 49

In January 1955, Evers moved to Jackson and became the Mississippi Field Secretary for the NAACP, the first salaried staff position in the state. He travelled throughout the state encouraging people to register to vote. He investigated and documented cases of discrimination and violence against blacks. Evers worked with other organizations such as CORE and SNCC, speaking at rallies and organizing boycotts and marches.

As his public stature grew, threats against both Evers and his family increased. On May 24, 1963, a Molotov cocktail was hurled onto the carport of the Evers' Guynes Street home. Although the police dismissed the incident as a "prank," Evers increased security measures and he and Myrlie discussed the possibility he would be murdered.[36]

In the early morning hours of June 12, 1963, Evers was returning home from a rally at the New Jerusalem Church. When he stepped out of his car, a sniper located about 150 feet away fired a single shot that struck Evers in the back, just below the shoulder blade. The bullet traveled through the living room window of the house, coming to rest against the refrigerator. Mrs. Evers and the older children rushed to his side. Neighbors assisted Evers into a station wagon and drove him to the University of Mississippi Hospital. Although the hospital was a segregated facility, hospital officials attempted treatment, but Evers died as the result of trauma and blood loss.

More than 4000 people attended Evers' funeral at the Masonic Temple and 5000 marched from there to the funeral home on Farish Street where Evers' body was to be sent by train for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Later, several hundred mourners marched toward the white business district, resulting in multiple arrests. However, historian John Dittmer noted that "for the first time, the angry blacks fought back, showering the police with bricks, bottles, and other available missiles."[37]

Evers was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on June 19. More than twenty-five thousand people viewed the procession. Following the funeral, President John F. Kennedy invited Mrs. Evers and her children to the White House.

Medgar Evers played a seminal role in the Mississippi Civil Rights movement. Like many of the leaders of the movement, he attended segregated schools. His military service provided him a glimpse of a world where racial equality was possible. When he returned to Mississippi his effort to register to vote was rebuffed. However, his work in the Delta inspired him to devote his life to achieving better opportunities for Mississippi's black citizens. Beginning in the mid-1950s and continuing until his assassination in 1963, Evers was deeply involved in investigating racially motivated murders, including Emmitt Till, Dr. George Lee, and Gus Counts. There was hardly a voter registration drive that did not involve Medgar Evers. When United States Department of Justice official John Doar came to Mississippi to investigate the denial of voter registration efforts, he met with Evers in his home on Guynes Street. Doar had a list of people denied the

[36] Dittmer, 165.
[37] Dittmer, 166.

right to vote. Evers knew most of the people and was able to give the investigators directions to their homes so they could be interviewed.[38]

But Evers life and death also has an important place in the national civil rights history. One observer noted that Evers 'was the first well-known civil rights leader who was killed in a way that would become all too familiar."[39] John Lewis, President of SNCC and later a United States Congressman, believed the Evers assassination moved President John Kennedy to make a commitment to the civil rights, an issue he had previously straddled.[40] Evers' assassin, Byron de la Beckwith, would finally be brought to justice when he was convicted of murder in 1994 and sentenced to life in prison.

Medgar and Myrlie Evers purchased the lot at 2332 Guynes Street in 1956. They rejected an available corner lot since Evers considered the location was too exposed. Unlike most of the other houses on the street, the Evers house lacked a front door, with a side entrance sheltered under the carport. This was almost certainly a security issue. Myrlie Evers would later write ,"it may seem incredible to the average American homebuyer, but security from attack was a consideration we discussed at length."[41]

Before they moved in, Mr. and Mrs. Evers heard rumors that some residents of the Elraine subdivision were concerned about having them move onto the street, concerned that violence would follow.[42] These concerns lessened over time. The writer and poet Margaret Walker Alexander, a Guynes Street neighbor, later said, "Our children played together. We carpooled together. We visited each other...Medgar was a wonderful person, a congenial neighbor who would lean over the fence and talk to people."Mrs. Grace Sweet, another neighbor, also noted Evers "kindness and humanity." She recalled that Evers "would get up at twelve midnight to light heating systems in the cold weather when the only access to the heating unit was under the crawl space. He would crawl under the house to light the pilot light."[43]

The Medgar Evers House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000 under Criterion A for association Ethnic Heritage/black and Social History and under Criterion B for association with Medgar Evers. The City of Jackson honored him by renaming nearby Delta Drive as Medgar Evers Boulevard. The city airport and the main Jackson Post office also bear the Evers name. The City of Jackson designated the Elraine subdivision as the Medgar Evers Neighborhood Historic District.

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[38] Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters, America in the King Years, 1954-1963. (New York: Simon & Shuster, 1988), 410.*
[39] Susan Orr-Klopfer and Fred Klopfer and Barry Klopfer. *Where Rebels Roost, Mississippi Civil Rights Revisited.* 2 ed. 397
[40] David Halberstam. *The Children* (New York: Random House, 1998), 444.
[41] Evers-Williams, 227.
[42] Evers-Williams, 105.
[43] Notes, Mrs. Grace Sweets.

Criterion B: Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander

Margaret Walker Alexander was a poet, novelist, essayist, and educator with an international reputation. She and her husband, Firnist Alexander, built the first house in the Elraine subdivision in 1955.[44] She lived in the home for most of the remainder of her life and the home is still owned by members of the Alexander family.

Margaret Walker Alexander was born in Birmingham, Alabama on July 7, 1915. The family moved to New Orleans when she was ten years old. Her father, Rev. Sigismund C. Walker, and her mother, Marion Dozier Walker, taught at New Orleans University, now Dillard University. Walker graduated from Gilbert Academy in 1930. At the encouragement of poet Langston Hughes, Alexander attended Northwestern University, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1935. She worked for the Federal Writer's Project in Chicago, along with Gwendolyn Brooks and Richard Wright. Walker attended the University of Iowa, earning a Master of Arts in 1940. She later returned to the University of Iowa to complete her graduate studies and was awarded a PhD in 1965.

Alexander began her teaching career at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina in 1941. She taught at West Virginia State College before joining the faculty at Jackson State College (now Jackson State University) in 1949, where she remained until her retirement in 1979. Alexander taught English and initiated the Black Studies program at Jackson State. She created the Institute for the Study of the History, Life and Culture of Black People, now the Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center.

She began writing poetry as a child. Her work was first published in *The Crisis* in 1934. Alexander's early poetic masterwork, *For My People,* won the Yale University Series of Younger Poets prize in 1942. After moving to Jackson, her teaching duties, as well as her responsibilities as a mother of four, left little time for writing. However, in 1966, she published , *Jubilee,* a novel about the life of enslaved peoples on a Georgia plantation. Based on stories she heard from her grandmother, *Jubilee* became an international bestseller translated into French, Spanish, German and Hungarian. A review published in *New York Times Book Review* stated " when she shows us Vyry singing from a great need for relief and sustenance, or feeding her own flock of laying hens on her own rock acres, Mrs. Walker succeeds beautifully. In its best episodes, and in Vyry, *Jubilee* chronicles the triumph of a free spirit over many kinds of bondage."[45]

Alexander continued to publish prolifically over the next thirty years. She published numerous articles and essays, five volumes of poetry, and a biography of Richard Wright. She was a popular speaker at events across the country.

Margaret Walker Alexander died on November 10, 1998.

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[44] *The Clarion Ledger,* July 12, 1981.
[45] Wilma Dykeman, "A Talent for Survival," *New York Times Book Review,* September 25, 1966.

During her career, Alexander won many awards and prizes. In addition to the Yale University poetry prize, she was awarded a Rosenwald Fellowship for Creative Writing in 1944, a Ford Fellowship in 1954, a Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1972 and a Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1991. She was inducted into the African American Literary Hall of Fame in 1998. Alexander was honored by her home state in 1992 when she was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. Jackson State University honored her with an honorary doctorate, one of four she received.[46] The City of Jackson recognized her contributions when they renamed Guynes Street as Margaret Walker Alexander Street in 1981.[47]

Although Alexander's place in American literature was established as early as her work *For My People,* her total body of work has earned high praise from literary critics. The University of Minnesota "Voices from the Gaps," a program dedicated women artists of color, says of Alexander

> Although Margaret Walker Alexander has never received the national acclaim of other contemporary writers of her stature and contribution, she is held in high critical regard. The focus of her writing has always been the Black experience. Walker's racial pride allowed her to dedicate over seven decades of her life to this new experience, dealing with such themes as time, racial equality, love, and freedom. Her work has a powerful message, despite having fallen through the cracks of literary recognition; many agree that she has proven herself to be a literary giant.[48]

The Poetry Foundation online entry for Alexander quotes University of Illinois Professor of English Richard K. Barksdale writing in *Black American Poets between Worlds, 1940-1960,*

> She became one of the youngest Black writers ever to have published a volume of poetry in this century…the first Black woman in American literary history to be so honored in a prestigious national competition.[49]

Shortly after her death, poet Amiri Baraka, wrote a memorial published in *The Nation.* He called Alexander "one of the greatest writers of the language. She was the grandest expression of the American poetic voice and the ultimate paradigm of the Afro-American literary tradition."[50]

Discussing her home at 2205 Margaret Walker Alexander, Alexander stated that she and her husband had difficulty finding a home to rent when they first came to Jackson in 1949. However,

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[46] "*In Memoriam, Margaret Walker Alexander (1915-1998).*" Memorial Service Program, Central United Methodist Church, Jackson, Mississippi. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Subject Files, Alexander, Margaret Walker, 1998-.
[47] Charlotte Graham, "Renaming Guynes Street honors Alexander." *The Clarion Ledger,* January 4, 1981.
[48] http://voices.cla.umn.edu/artistpages/alexanderMargaret.php
[49] http://poetryfoundation.og/bio/margaret-walker.
[50] http://www.thenation.com/article/margaret-walker-alexander

by 1955 they were able to purchase their home. "We finally got this house for $9500...Now we sort of consider ourselves pioneers of better housing for black people." In the mid-1960s they modified the three bedroom home when they added a parlor, her office and a master bedroom. She said of her office/writing room, "This is the place where I work...I thought 15 years ago this room would be a sufficient size, but my books overran it long ago." After raising her four children in the home, Alexander said, "You know you can always get another house-but this house has had a heap of livin' in it to make it a home."[51]

Criterion C: Architecture

The Medgar Evers Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C as a significant concentration of Ranch-style houses in Jackson, Mississippi. The Ranch style developed in California in the 1930s and later and typically included such characteristics as asymmetrical massing, hip or gable roofs with moderate or wide eaves. Generally one-story, the Ranch house presents its long axis to the street and almost always has a garage or carport, depending on climatic conditions.. The style proliferated after World War II across the country, reaching its zenith in the 1970s.[52] Millions of Ranch houses were built on urban lots and in suburban subdivisions across the country.

While the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Historic Resources Database includes hundreds of examples of Ranch houses in virtually every county in the state, to date, most Ranches represent later infill in early twentieth-century historic districts. In the city of Jackson, scores of Ranch houses are included as contributing resources in National Register-listed historic districts, including the Belhaven Historic District (NR, 2012). In these districts, the Ranch-style house is one of many architectural styles employed by architects, builders and homeowners over a period of development that spans decades. The Ranch houses are isolated, either a single example, or in small groups.

In contrast, the Ranch style houses in the Medgar Evers Historic District define the district and are part of the rhythm of the street. This unity of design in the district is a significant element. A majority of the houses were built over a three year period, between 1955 and 1957. Even the later houses, built in 1963, 1964 and 1965, continue to express the overall design motif, with similar massing, setbacks, materials and the characteristic Ranch house styling. This cohesion and unity of design are due to the consistent involvement of Winston Thompson and Leroy Burnett, neighborhood developers and builder. It is unknown at this time whether they originated the plans or adapted stock plans for the houses.

The commonality of the Ranch style also reflects the desires of the intended homebuyers: middle-class African Americans. Because of the role of racial segregation in the Jackson housing market, these buyers' opportunities were restricted. However, they sought middle-class amenities and newly constructed homes, as did their white contemporaries. The houses in the Elraine subdivision provided these amenities in a popular architectural style that subtly rejected the

[51] *The Clarion Ledger,* February 18, 1980.
[52] Virginia & Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003), 479.

Colonial Revival and other historical styles common in many white neighborhoods. A simple visual inspection of the nearby houses built for both white and black residents shows that the Elraine houses were larger and the density was lower that these surrounding neighborhoods. The surrounding houses are predominantly Minimal Traditional or tract houses with no identifiable style.

The Ranch houses Thompson and Burnett built were by no means extravagant. The Medgar Evers House (2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, Inv. No.) is typical of how the houses looked as built in the late-1950s. Because of its unique circumstance as a historic landmark, the Evers House has not been updated or modernized. The 2000 National Register nomination described the house:

> The one-story house has a long, asymmetrical facade facing south, with a single carport on the west end. The low-pitched asphalt shingle roof has a broad overhang. [53]The exterior is clad primarily in asbestos shingles, but there is some board-and-batten siding under the porch and brick to the right of the porch. Decorative iron supports the roof around the carport and frames the large picture window under the porch. One entrance is located under the carport and is defined by a concrete stoop and a wingwall made from the same brick as on the front of the house. The windows on the house are steel-framed casements.

The house has a medium-size lawn with a concrete driveway.

This same form, setback, and materials were repeated on houses along both sides of the street. Although a few houses have been changed, with the addition of a garage, or the enclosure of the carport, the rhythm of the district as a whole remains strong with consistent elements of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Although Jackson's post-World War II subdivisions have only begun to be intensively surveyed, reconnaissance survey indicates that the Medgar Evers Historic District with its concentration of Ranch houses built to a small number of similar plans is significant as an architectural case study apart from its origins as an African American neighborhood and possesses high integrity compared to both white and black neighborhoods from the 1950s. Comparable African American middle-class neighborhoods such as Schoolview and Brinkley Place also have high concentrations of Ranch houses and appear to possess a high level of integrity—but these subdivisions are not as old as Elraine and have larger and more varied designs. Comparable white middle-class neighborhoods of the 1950s seem to contain a more diverse stylistic mix that includes Minimal Traditional, Ranch, Colonial Revival and even Modernist houses. These may possess significance for their variety rather than the one consistent vision seen in the Medgar Evers Historic District.

[53] Medgar Evers House. National Register of Historic Places nomination. 2000

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

The Clarion Ledger

Evers-Williams, Myrlie with William Peters. *For Us, the Living.* Garden City, NJ: Doubleday &N Co., 1967.

The Jackson Advocate

Jaeger Company. *From Frontier Capital to Modern City: A History of Jackson, Mississippi's Built Environment, 1865-1950..*

Mississippi Department of Archives and History Historic Preservation Division Inventory files.

Polk's Jackson City Directory

Wiese, Andrew. *Places of Their Own, African American Suburbanization in the Twentieth Century.* Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
__X__ 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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
__X__ Local government
____ University
_X___ Other

Name of repository: Tougaloo College

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 12_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Medgar Evers Historic District is comprised of the lots on the north and south side of Margaret Walker Alexander Street (originally Guynes Street) in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi west of Miami Street and east of Missouri Street; and the lots on the west side of Missouri Street south of Ridgeway Avenue and north of the southern lot line of the property commonly known as 3611 Missouri Street: the lot at the corner of Ridgeway Street and Medgar Evers Boulevard, commonly known as 2349 Ridgeway Street; and the two lots facing Ridgeway Street east of Missouri Street, commonly known as 2335 Ridgeway Street and 2343 Ridgeway Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the subdivision originally platted as Elraine subdivision and developed by Winston Thompson and Leroy Burnett between 1955 and 1957, and additional buildings constructed by Leroy Burnett between 1963 and 1965.

---

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William M. Gatlin and Vicki Myers, Architectural Historians, MDAH
: Mississippi Department of Archives and History__
Akili Kelly, Senior Preservation Planner, City f Jackson_____
street & number: PO Box 571_____
city or town: Jackson_____ state: MS____ zip code:39205-0571
e-mail bgatlin@mdah.state.ms.us_____
telephone:601-576-6951_____
date: May 23, 2013_____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Medgar Evers Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jackson

County: Hinds State: Mississippi

Photographer: Akili Kelly, City of Jackson (Photos 0001-0011)
Vicki Myers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (0012-0016)

Date Photographed: January 2013 (Photos 0001-0011)
May 2013 (Photos 00 12-0016)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

0001 of 16.	2111 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing south
0002 of 16	2118 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing north
0003 of 16	2114 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing north
0004 of 16	2130 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing north
0005 of 16	2205 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing south Margaret Walker Alexander House

0006 of 16	2206 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing north
0007 of 16	2223 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing south
0008 of 16	2335 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing south
0009 of 16	2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing north Medgar Evers House
0010 of 16	3529 Missouri Street, camera facing southwest
0011 of 16	3611 Missouri Avenue, camera facing southwest
0012 of 16	Greater Mt. Mariah MB Church, camera facing southeast
0013 of 16	2439 Ridgeway Street, camera facing south
0014 of 16	Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing southwest
0015 of 16	Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, camera facing east
0016 of 16	Missouri Street, camera facing southeast

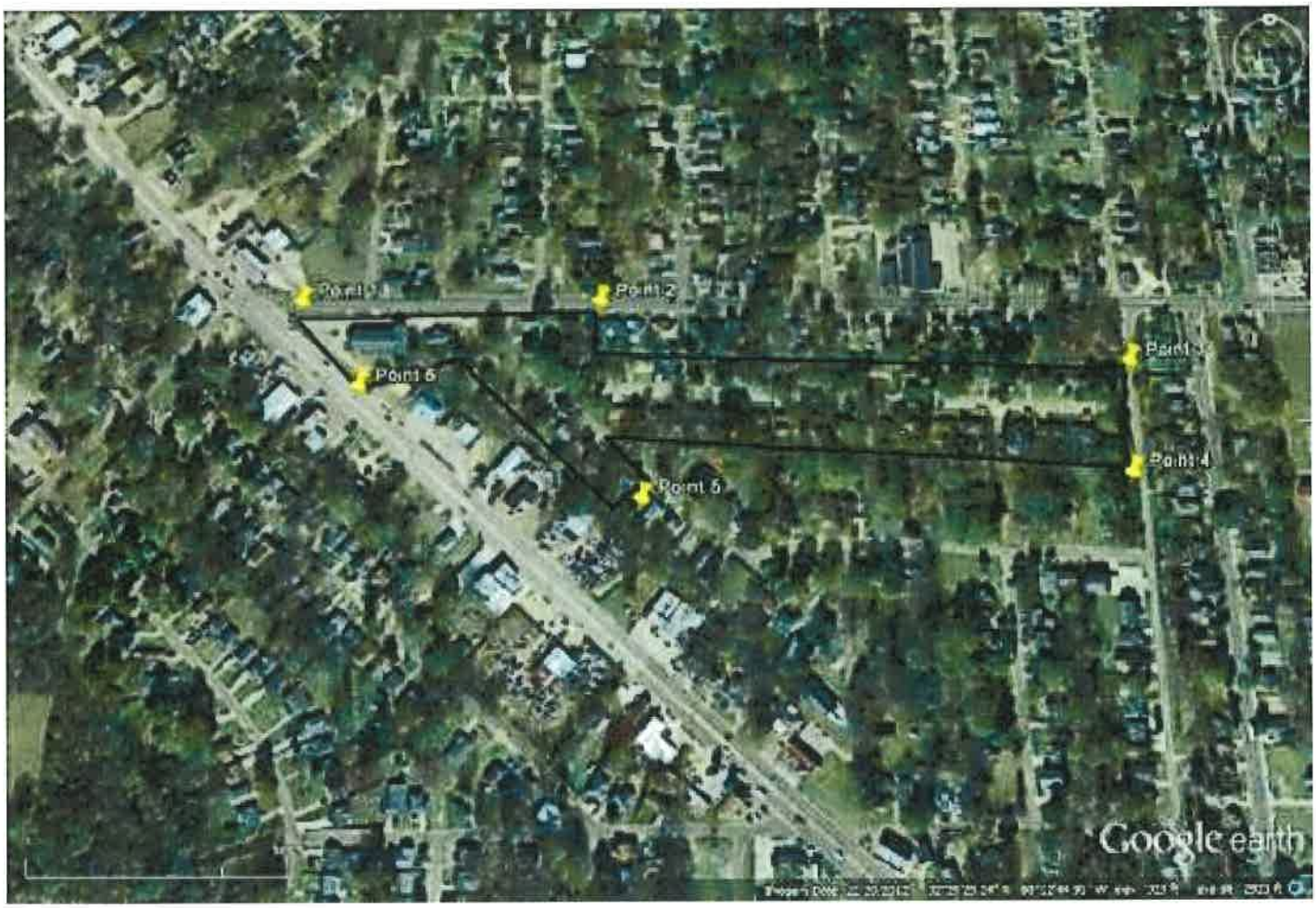
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

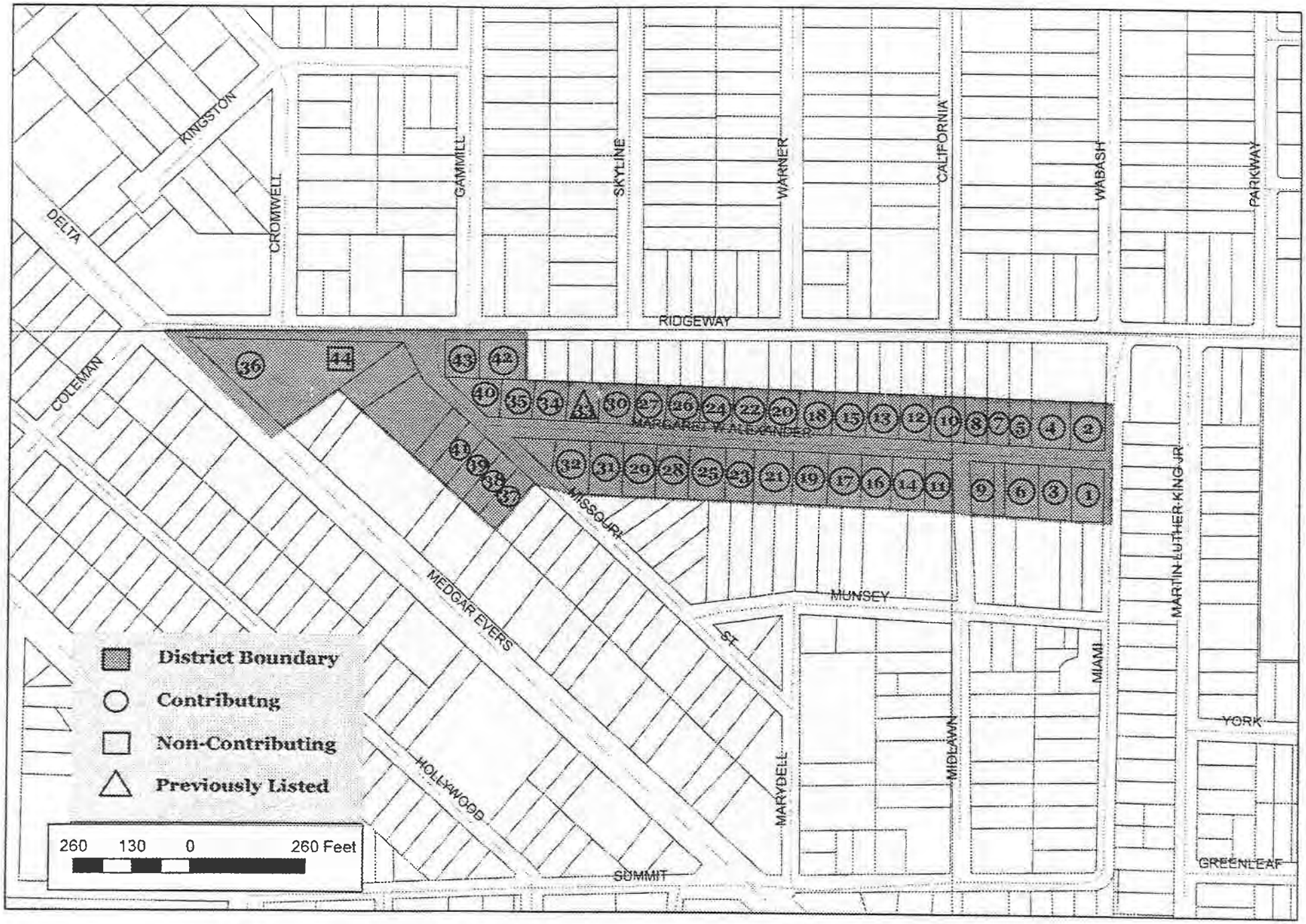
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Follow similar guidelines for entering these coordinates as for entering UTM references described on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

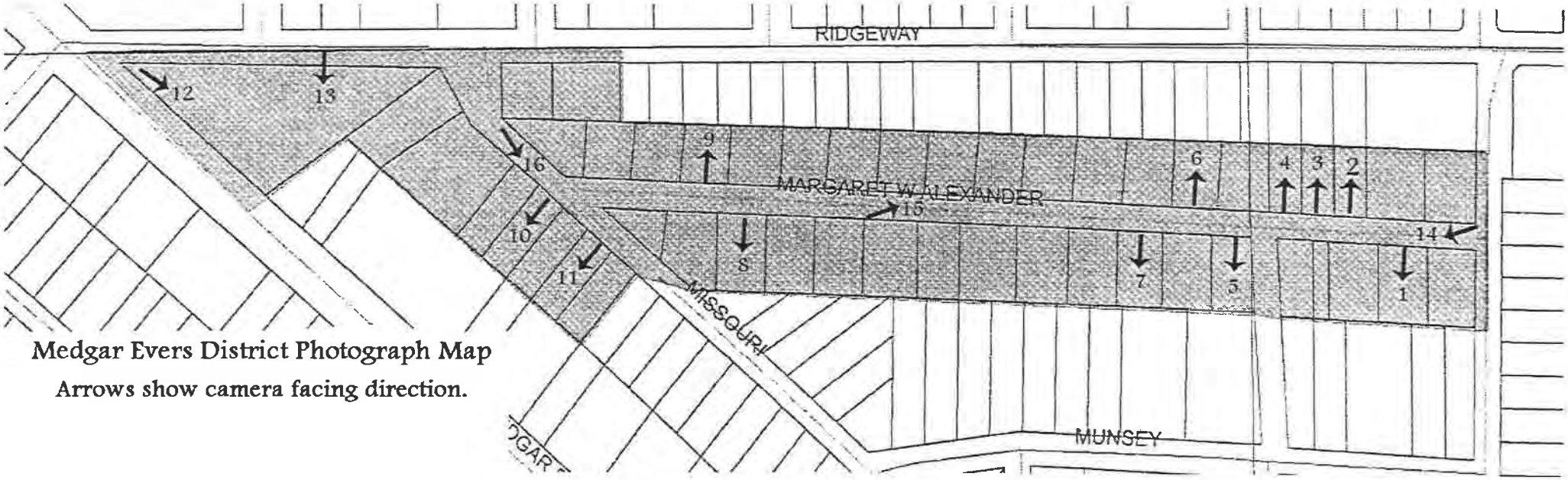
Datum: WGS 84

1. Latitude:	32.341111	Longitude:	-90.212278
2. Latitude:	32.341389	Longitude:	-90.212778
3. Latitude:	32.340833	Longitude:	-90.208611
4. Latitude:	32.346389	Longitude:	-90.208889
5. Latitude:	32.339722	Longitude:	-90.212500
6. Latitude:	32.340556	Longitude:	-90.214722


Point 2
Point 6
Point 5
Point 4
Google earth

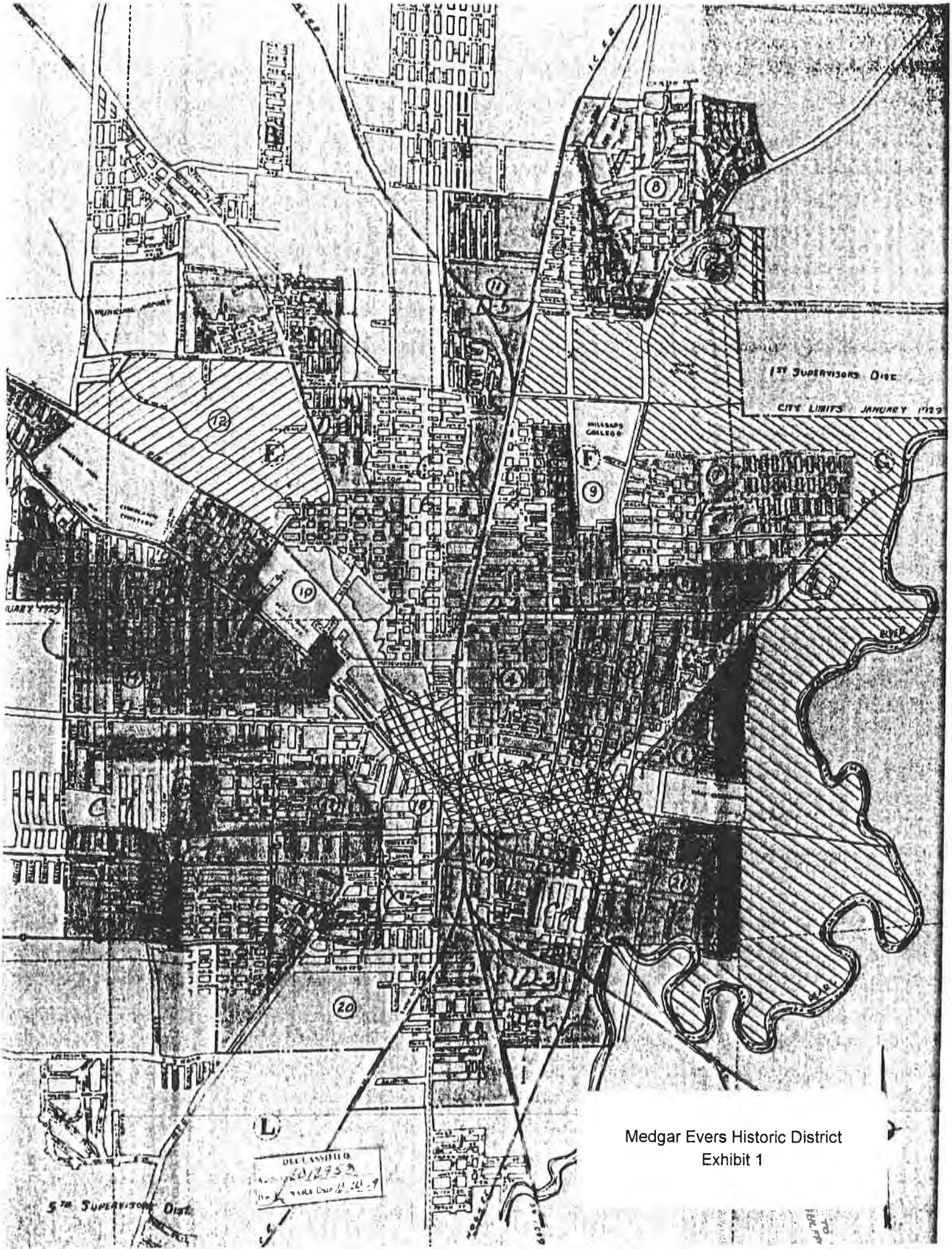


Medgar Evers Historic District



Medgar Evers District Photograph Map

Arrows show camera facing direction.



Medgar Evers Historic District
Exhibit 1

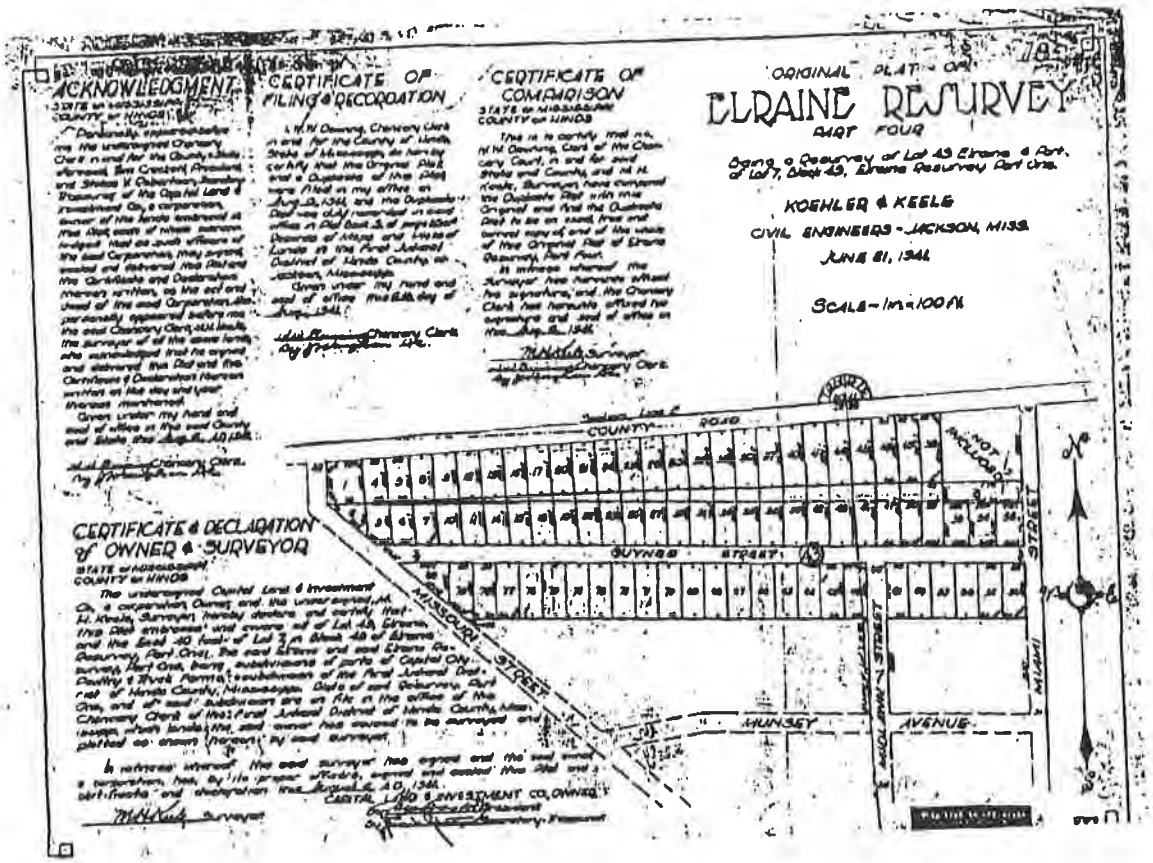
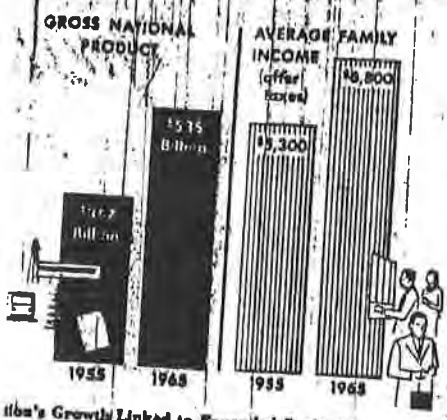


Figure 3. Copy of the 1941 plat of the Elraine Resurvey, Part Four on file at the Streets, Bridges and Drainage Division of the City of Jackson.

You Will Live Better, Earn More in 1965



...ities's Growth Linked to Expanded Sanitation Facilities

Many of the changes in the American way of life within the past decade have been related to the industrial expansion of the country and the growth of the American Community.

As a result of this industrial progress and community growth, Americans will live better in 1965 than they did in 1955, the Sanitary Engineering Committee of the National Clay Pipe Association reports.

However, full modernization of the Nation's existing sewage and water facilities is necessary in the next ten years if this country is to continue its growth and progress.

The combination of industrial growth and rapid population increase has placed a burden on present sewage and water facilities. Thousands of miles of underground clay pipe lines are needed to carry wastes to disposal plants. Vitrified clay pipe is recognized as the one material that provides all the qualities necessary to satisfy the exacting demands of sanitary structures. Clay pipe resists all the effects of acids and other caustic substances that are found in sewer systems.

Modern sanitary systems constructed of clay pipe play an everyday role as guardian of the health of the people. They are one of the city's lifelines, carrying away deadly wastes.

experts to prepare studies documentation to show that tion may be accomplished detriment to the education, and morals of the students. Dalcher also reports on the the Commission on Hights of the Catholic Comof the South. The Comshe says, has worked quietreers to prepare the way tual integration of Catholis.

ped up its program after reme Court decisions of 1955, mailing reprints tholic journals on varied om genetics to Catholic anthropology, health, and tics.

illing included a pastoral n Bishop Vincent S. Watleigh, North Carolina, in said: "There is no segreraces to be tolerated in lic Church in the Diocese The pastors are charged erying out of this teachall tolerate nothing to y."

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Dr. Clarence Scheps, of Tulane University r of the Orleans Parboard, says: "We will We will use every arable means to maintion." (A special three court recently, declarns school segregation and ordered the School Board toial policy.)

defended the Board's ng to Mrs. Dalcher, is of its "separategram.

he problems faced oard members on the ues, Mrs. Dalcher e law provides that withhold from any ng to break racial Orleans schools reinancial support

former member of who says the pubs come first, no ly you feel about Louisiana schools ugh to take another must be supole community." article notes that omy criticism of locating $100,000 assist local school ation adults. The chool Board was

U. S. Senate . . .

(Continued from Page One)

"In the face of today's problems, at home and abroad, I am sure all thoughtful citizens of every section will want to make our country's record in the protection of the basic constitutional rights of our citizens completely defensible against Communist attack, or criticism by new independent nations now arising in Asia and Africa," Senator Hennings said. "The passage of these bills will help greatly to bring about equality of citizenship in this country, without regard to race, color, religion, or ancestry of any citizen. The guaranteed right to vote without being intimidated or coerced, or kept from the polls by official subterfuges, is the most important thing of all."

Senator Hennings recalled that when he first entered the House of Representatives in 1935, his first patronage appointment was given to a young Negro from St. Louis, and thereafter Negroes figured prominently in all his patronage. Ever since then he has been working in the House and Senate to bring about full equality of legal rights for all American citizens, regardless of race, color, religion or ancestry. Hennings introduced his own anti-lynching bill when he was a member of the House of Representatives.

When the Selective Service Act was enacted, Hennings said, he spoke in the House of Representatives to urge that every minority in this country should share in any national activity without discrimination.

"The four bills which the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights has just approved," he said, "are four more steps toward realization of what I believe to be the one and only right way to handle race relations within the United States."

The bill to protect the citizen's right to vote extends the provisions of the Hatch Act, as now written, to include primaries and special elections of Federal office holders in all states. The section will protect the right to vote against interference based on a voter's religion, race or color. The penalty for intimidating, threatening, or coercing any person who tries to vote is not at $1,000 or a year's imprisonment or both.

The bill to strengthen the machinery of enforcement of civil rights laws, within the Department of Justice, would elevate the Civil Rights Section of the Department to the status of a Civil Rights Division to be headed by an Assistant Attorney General. It would [illegible]

mob.

In its discussion of the introduction of a new anti-lynching bill similar to ones which have failed of adoption in the past, the Subcommittee says: "When this legislation has been considered on previous occasions, its constitutionality has been questioned. Most of these assertions are based upon the suspicion that lynching is nothing but murder and the Federal government has no constitutional right to punish lynching any more than it has to punish murder. This analogy, however, between murder and lynching is dispelled upon closer examination. In murder, one or more individuals take life generally motivated by some personal reason. In lynching, a mob sets itself up in place of the State, in disregard of the processes of law, and attempts to mete out punishment to persons accused or suspected of crimes. The mob in such cases sets itself up as the judge, the jury and the executioner. In murder, the accused merely violates the laws of the State. In lynching, the mob arrogates to itself the powers of the State and the functions of the government. It is, therefore, not only an act of killing but a usurpation of the functions of the government, and it is this combination of acts which this legislation seeks to prevent. If there is no usurpation of governmental authority and a homicide has been committed, the homicide, if punishable, is punishable under State laws. But where a homicide occurs, having as its basis the denial of justice to a person because of his race, color or religion, or any associated reason, the crime committed is against the sovereign and should be punishable accordingly.

"Where does the Congress derive authority for the punishment of such actions? First of all, from its authority to punish attempts to usurp federal authority. Secondly, from its constitutional power to guarantee to each State of the Union a republican form of government. Thirdly, from the constitutional power to enforce the provisions of the 14th Amendment, prohibiting states from depriving any person of due process and equal protection of the laws."

Morgan Student . . .

(Continued from Page One)

Award" to Wilson for the study beginning September, 1956.

The invitation to sing in the Paris opera is also a signal honor for Wilson. He will be the first of his race in the history of the Paris theater to sing a lead role in the opera.

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2. Also Nice 2 Bedroom Home on Prosperity Street. Price — $5,000.00. $300.00 down to Veteran.
3. Very Desirable Duplex that rents for $14.00 per week. Price — $4,700.00. Terms If Desired.
4. Also 13 New 3 Bedroom Homes in Very Nice Location only $200.00 Down to Veterans Plus Closing Costs.

W. J. THOMPSON & COMPANY

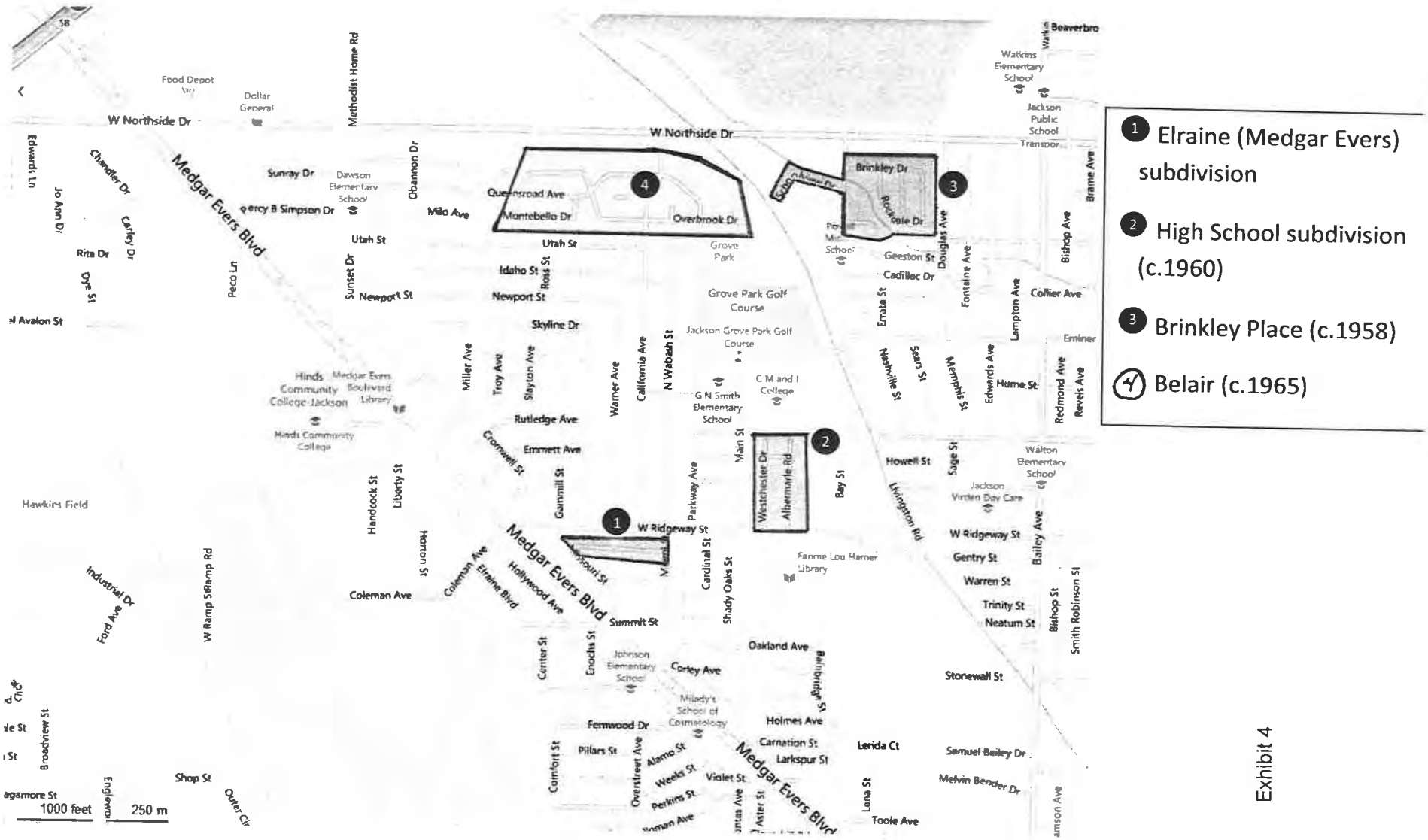
846 W. LYNCH STREET
Jackson, Mississippi
Phone: 2-3374

Night Phones: W. J. Thompson 2-3947
H. R. Sanders 2-6954
W. A. Lattimore 3-2576

BELL & HOWELL

AGENTS WANTED
— TO SELL THE —
JACKSON ADVOCATE

Medgar Evers Historic District
Exhibit 3



Documented African American Subdivisions in Northwest Jackson, 1950s-1960s

Exhibit 4

Report #2

Exhibit B

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Authority EO 12958
By NARA Date 10-10-9

JACKSON, MISS.

REAL ESTATE AREA MAP

LEGEND

A - GREEN - BEST

B - BLUE - STILL DESIRABLE

C - YELLOW - DEFINITELY DECLINING

D - RED - HAZARDOUS

This map submitted to the following and classifications shown thereon were agreed on by them:

Mr. Curtis Green, R. O. L. S. State Appraiser
Mr. H. G. Bailey, Realtor
Mr. W. F. Bridges, Realtor
Mr. J. E. Wells, Realtor
Mr. A. C. Nunez, Vice-President Reid-Nunez & Co., Inc., Realtors and Insurance Company Loan correspondents
Mr. L. L. Kingsley of Kingsley-Hafes & Co., Real Estate Subdivisions
Mr. Charlie Sewell, Vice-President, First Federal Savings & Loan Association.
Mr. A. J. Reilfield, Manager Mortgage Loan Department Lamar Life Insurance Company.

SECTION A-1

Population 100% white. Community settled with Bank Cashiers, Druggists, Insurance Men, School Professors, Lumber Salesmen, Drug Store Owners, Doctors, and a mixture of other good class of salary earning residents. Community approximately 40% built up, properties well maintained. 95% of buildings are single unit residences, improvements one to eight years of age. No shifting of population from this community, it is probably most on the upward trend than any other section in the city at this time.

SECTION A-2

Population 100% white. Western section of this community settled with professional and other good class of high salary earning residents. Eastern section settled with class of salary earning residents and few professional men. Western section about 60% built up. Eastern section about 80% built up; properties well maintained and from one to 15 years of age. Majority of buildings are single family residences with only a few duplex and four unit apartments. No shifting of population. Section on upward trend

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SECTION A-3

Population 100% white. Community settled with medium class salary earners, some few business and professional men. Existing improvements as a whole well maintained, community about 85% built up, improvements 2 to 30 years of age, about 95% single family residence and remainder apartments some of which are old homes converted into apartments. Only shifting of population is in occasional instances when most substantial salaried people move to one of the newer subdivisions.

SECTION A-4

Population 100% white. Community settled with salaried people in the middle bracket. Community approximately 40% built up, all single family residences from 1 to 12 years of age. Properties are well maintained. No shifting of population, majority of properties occupied by home owners, undeveloped portions being gradually built up.

SECTION B-1

Population 100% white. Community settled with substantial salaried earners such as white-collared railroad men it being located close to round house office. Location of this section very nearly as ideal as that of A-1 except that it is too near the railroad and several industrial plants. Community is approximately 35% built up, 95% of the properties are well maintained; probably 98% of residences are single family and others duplex, average age of properties about 8 years. No shifting of population. Probably more construction of new residences going on in this section than in any other section of the city at this time.

SECTION B-2

Population 100% white. Community settled with the older class of substantial home owners mixed with business, professional and salried people. Community approximately 85% to 90% built up and properties for the past two years have been well maintained but up until that time some of them had been allowed to run down. Existing improvements seven to forty years of age and 90% are single family residences with several new apartment houses and a good many old type homes converted into apartment houses. Some shifting of population in the older sections of this community due to some of the residents desiring to move to newer subdivisions.

SECTION B-3

Population 100% white. Community settled with better class of salaried earners in the lower bracket. Of the buildings most are single unit residences from one to twelve years of age. Community approximately 60% built up and properties are being well maintained. No shifting of population.

SECTION B-4

Population 100% white. Community settled with better class of salaried earners in the lower bracket. Most of improvements are single family residences from one to twelve years of age. Community approximately 60% built up and properties are being well maintained. No shifting of population.

SECTION B-5

Population 100% white. Community settled with salaried earners mostly with some

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business and professional men. Community is approximately 60% built up and properties are being well maintained. Most of the buildings are single family residences with a small percentage of duplexes, and are from one to twenty years of age. No shifting of population.

SECTION B-6

Population 100% white. Community settled with salaried workers with some business and professional men. Most buildings are single family residences from one to twelve years of age. Community approximately 40% built up and properties being well maintained. No shifting of population.

SECTION B-7

Population 100% white. Community settled largely with salaried earners with a few business men. Most of the buildings are single family residences from one to twelve years of age. Community approximately 40% built up and properties well maintained. No shifting of population.

SECTION C-2

Population 70% white and 30% colored. This community consists of white and colored residents mostly workers in factories and railroad workers. All buildings are single family from one to fifteen years of age. Community is about 10% built up and properties fairly well maintained. No shifting of population. There are quite a few industrial plants located outside the city limits at the Northwest corner of this section, railroad yards are also nearby.

SECTION C-3

Population 100% white. Community settled with salaried workers of the lower bracket, railroad employees, etc. All buildings are single family residences from five to ten years of age. Community approximately 30% built up and properties fairly well maintained. No shifting of population. Influence detrimental to this section is due to railroad yards, manufacturing plants and negro section at the West across the railroad track.

SECTION C-5

Population 100% white. Community settled with salaried workers of the lower bracket, railroad employees, etc. All buildings are single family dwellings from five to ten years of age. Community approximately 35% built up with properties fairly well maintained. No shifting of population. Detrimental influences railroad yards, manufacturing plants and negro section on the East across the railroad track.

SECTION C-4

Population 100% white. Community settled with better class of factory workers, filling station operators and a few old business people. 95% of the buildings are single family dwellings with a few apartment houses and other old homes converted into apartments, from five to thirty-five years of age. Community 90% built up and properties fairly well maintained within the past two years. Some shifting of population due to old residents moving to newer subdivisions.

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SECTION C-3

Population 85% white, 10% colored, 5% foreign. Community settled with lower class to middle class industrial workers. All buildings single family residences from five to thirty-five years of age. Community approximately 70% built up and approximately 60% of the properties need painting and other repairs. About 40% of properties fairly well maintained. No shifting of population.

SECTION C-4

Population 100% white. Community settled with middle class working people, consisting of railroad employees, carpenters, policemen, firemen, etc. Community approximately 60% built up and properties fairly well maintained. Majority of buildings are single family dwellings from two to thirty years of age. No shifting of population. This section is bordered on two sides by negro sections.

SECTION C-5

Population predominately colored. The community is settled with part time employed negroes, the type that take various kinds of employment and being idle a large portion of their time. All single family dwellings from five to twenty years of age. Community about 85% built up and properties not properly maintained. No shifting of population.

SECTION C-6

Population 100% white. Community settled with regularly employed residents of the medium income. Most of the improvements in this section are single family dwellings, some few duplexes part of which are old homes converted into apartments, from two to twenty-five years of age. On Capitol Street there are also located a good many filling stations, several drink and lunch stands and what might be termed a beer tavern. Community about 60% built up and most of the properties are being fairly well maintained. Very little shifting of population.

SECTION D-3

Population 100% colored. Community settled with common laborers, owners of small businesses and general mixture of all type of workers. All buildings single family except a few duplex flats and are from two to thirty-five years of age. Community about 70% built up and 40% of the properties are in fair condition. No shifting of population.

SECTION D-4

Population 100% colored. Community settled with common laborers. All buildings are one unit wooden houses from five to fifteen years of age. Properties poorly maintained and community about 40% built up. No shifting of type of population. One thing in favor of the section is that it borders on a white section and is close to the business section and those living in the community work for white residents in near vicinity.

SECTION D-5

Population 85% white, 15% colored. Community settled mostly with poorer class of laborers of every type. All single family residences from three to thirty-five years of age. Community approximately 60% built up and properties not well maintained. No shifting of type of population. Located in this section are railroad tracks, factories, iron shops, etc.

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SECTION D-4

Population 90% colored, 10% foreign. The Negro element consists of common laborers, owners of small Negro businesses and general mixture of Negro home owners just about the average. Foreign element owners of various types of businesses ordinarily owned by this type of people, such as fruit houses, hamburger stands, etc. All buildings single family dwellings from two to twenty-five years of age. Community about 40% built up and about half of the properties are being fairly well maintained. No shifting of population.

SECTION D-5

Population 70% white, 30% colored. White residents of this section employees of railroads, factories and construction work. Colored residents common laborers. All buildings single family dwellings from two to fifteen years of age. Community about 60% built up properties only fairly well maintained. No shifting of type of population. Industrial influences fertilizer factories, railroad shops, also milling section.

SECTION D-6

Population 100% colored. Community consists of brick layers, laborers and [illegible] common laborers, truck gardeners and those following various trades. All single family residences from two to eighteen years of age. Community about 60% built up and properties fairly well maintained. No shifting of population.

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NO PARKING ANY TIME
GREATER MOUNT MARIAH M.B. CHURCH