NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District

Other names/site number: Central City Neighborhood

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historically Black Properties in Little Rock's Dunbar School Neighborhood
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Wright Ave. on the north, S. Chester St. on the east, S. Ringo St. on the west, and W. 24th St. on the south

City or town: Little Rock State: AR County: Pulaski (119)

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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 ___statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___B ___C ___D

Martha Miller 8/7/13

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

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 9/27/2012

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	x
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	
88	63	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
88	63	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single family
DOMESTIC/multiple family
EDUCATION/schools
EDUCATION/college

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single family
DOMESTIC/multiple family
EDUCATION/schools

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne-Eastlake
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival/Tudor Revival
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Prairie/Bungalow/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco/Ranch Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/weatherboard; BRICK; CONCRETE; ASPHALT; METAL/aluminum; STUCCO; SYNTHETICS/vinyl

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 Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District consists of 88 contributing resources, four individually-listed resources, and 63 non-contributing resources, for a total of 155 resources, the collective of which evidence local adaptation of popular architectural trends from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The majority of resources within the district boundary date prior to World War I, with 53 (58%) of the 92 contributing structures constructed between ca. 1895-1914. Three (3%) resources were constructed during World War I, 1914-1918. Twenty-nine (31%) resources were constructed during the interwar period and seven (8%) were constructed post-World War II. Four resources, the Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College (PU3232), the Miller House (PU9829), the Womack House (PU9830) and the Scipio Jones House (PU9832) were previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) individually or as part of the Historically Black Properties in Little Rock's Dunbar School Neighborhood Multiple Property Submission.

Narrative Description

The Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District (hereinafter referenced as District), located south of downtown Little Rock proper, encompasses the southern portion of the neighborhood historically associated with the Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College (PU3232), now the Dunbar Gifted and Talented Education International Studies Magnet Middle School (hereinafter referenced as School), which serves as a central axis for the community. While the neighborhood historically associated with the development patterns of this area extends beyond the historic district, the district boundary includes the highest percentage of contributing resources within the neighborhood and includes the core of the residential infrastructure that evidences patterns of community development, architectural variation, and racial integration for which the District is significant.

This area generally conforms to the boundary of Wright Avenue at the north; the alley between and parallel to West 24th Street and West Roosevelt Road at the south; the alley between and parallel to South Cross Street and South Pulaski Street to the west; and the alley between and parallel to South Ringo Street and South Chester Street to the east. Streets within the boundary are set on a grid, with the exception of Wright Avenue at the north, which, extending from West 17th Street, follows a curvilinear pattern as it enters the district, providing a major thoroughfare from the Governor's Mansion Historic District to the east, through the District, and into and beyond the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District on the west. South Chester Street, just to the east of the district and bordering portions of the Governor's Mansion Historic District, provides a major north-south thoroughfare, as does Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard to the west. The neighborhood at-large is divorced from downtown proper by Interstate 630, which runs in a roughly east-west route from Interstate 30 to Interstate 430. This separation is not inconsequential, and is, in part, attributable to many of the mid-twentieth century changes witnessed within the vicinity of the District.

With the exception of the School, the District is comprised entirely of residential resources, dating from circa 1890 to circa 1955. In total, there are 92 contributing resources, which include four individually-listed properties, and 63 non-contributing resources, for a total of 155 resources that illuminate the dynamic social and architectural climate of late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century Little Rock. The majority of resources within the District date prior to World War I, with 53 (58%) of the 92 contributing structures constructed between circa 1890 and 1914. The remaining contributing resources were constructed during World War I, 1914-1918 (three resources, 3%); during the interwar period (29 resources, 31%); and post-World War II and (seven resources, 8%). Non-contributing resources follow similar patterns, with the majority constructed prior to 1914. Nine resources post-date the period of significance for the District, with the most recent structure constructed in 2010. Four resources, the Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College (PU3232), the Miller House (PU9829), the Womack House (PU9830) and the Scipio Jones House (PU9832) were previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), individually or as part of the Historically Black Properties in Little Rock's Dunbar School Neighborhood Multiple Property Submission.

Resources within the District reflect the varied architectural styles prevalent during the late-nineteenth and early-to-mid-twentieth centuries. Indeed, properties exhibit a broad mix of influences and architectural variants popular during the period, influenced by regional and ethnic traditions. The elaborate Art Deco School is undoubtedly the architectural showcase of the neighborhood, and stands in stark contrast to the majority of residential resources, which are vernacular forms, adorned with hints of stylistic influences, that were easily constructed and could be adapted as afforded by personal means. While the School demands a place of prominence, anchoring the community along Wright Avenue, dwellings are located along wide residential streets, lined by concrete sidewalks and mature trees, with gentle hills traversing most of the area. Setbacks are, on the whole, consistent, and all but one resource (PU6666) is set square to the street. Many houses are situated along the sweeping hillsides, with embankments held in place by cast-concrete or mortared-stone retaining walls that front the sidewalks. Alleys are a common, functional element of the District, providing access to graveled or paved parking areas at the rear of houses, which are often flanked by small, rectangular outbuildings such as garage or sheds or a prefabricated, non-historic carport.

While the District has historically exhibited several non-developed parcels, twenty-six recently vacant parcels identified as non-contributing resources are also interspersed within the boundary of the District. The majority of these lots are overgrown and unmaintained, and their vacancy reflects patterns of disinvestment that have characterized the neighborhood during the latter years of the twentieth century and first years of the twenty-first century.

The composition of the contributing and non-contributing resources are presented in the table below and are described, according to general patterns and characteristics, following. The table, organized by street address, denotes the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) resource number, address, approximate construction date, architectural style, and status of each building in the District. If a historic name beyond the address of the property has been associated with the property as a result of a previous survey, it is also noted. The contributing or non-contributing status of each resource is indicated by a "C" or "NC," respectively. Resources previously listed individually in the NRHP are denoted by an "L."

Properties within the Paul Laurence Dunbar School Historic District:

Resource Number	Historic Name	Address	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Status
N/A	N/A	1015 Wright Avenue	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU3232	Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College	1100 Wright Avenue	1929	Art Deco	L
N/A	N/A	1107 Wright Avenue	N/A	Demolished	NC

Resource	Historic	Address	Construction	Architectural	Status

Number	Name		Date (circa)	Style	
PU6744	N/A	1851 S Cross Street	1990	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6739	N/A	1852 S Cross Street	1905	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6743	N/A	1855 S Cross Street	1990	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6738	N/A	1856 S Cross Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
N/A	N/A	1858 S Cross Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6742	N/A	1859 S Cross Street	1925	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU5682	N/A	1865 S Cross Street	1890	Folk Victorian	C
PU6741	N/A	1867 S Cross Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6737	N/A	1870 S Cross Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU9832	Scipio Jones House	1872 S Cross Street	1930	Bungalow	L
PU6740	N/A	1873 S Cross Street	1905	Colonial Revival	C
PU6699	N/A	1901 S Cross Street	1965	Ranch	NC
PU6706	N/A	1902 S Cross Street	1898	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6705	N/A	1904 S Cross Street	1905	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6704	N/A	1910 S Cross Street	1905	Folk Victorian	C
PU6700	N/A	1911 S Cross Street	1925	Bungalow	C
N/A	N/A	1914 S Cross Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6701	N/A	1915 S Cross Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6702	N/A	1919 S Cross Street	1948	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6703	N/A	1922 S Cross Street	1910	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	NC
PU6936	N/A	1923 S Cross Street	2003	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6667	N/A	2018 S Cross Street	1925	Bungalow	NC
PU6666	N/A	2022 S Cross Street	1910	Craftsman	C
PU6638	N/A	2100 S Cross Street	1955	Ranch	C

Resource Number	Historic Name	Address	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Status
PU6629	N/A	2101 S Cross Street	1964	Ranch	NC
PU6637	N/A	2104 S Cross Street	1940	English Revival	C
PU6636	N/A	2106 S Cross Street	1945	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6630	N/A	2107 S Cross Street	1915	Craftsman	C
PU6631	H.C. Ray House	2111 S Cross Street	1917	Craftsman	C
PU6632	N/A	2115 S Cross Street	1918	Craftsman	C
PU6635	N/A	2118 S Cross Street	1925	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6633	N/A	2121 S Cross Street	1925	Craftsman	C
N/A	N/A	2123 S Cross Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6634	N/A	2124 S Cross Street	1928	Craftsman	C
PU6602	N/A	2206 S Cross Street	1925	Plain/ Traditional	C
N/A	N/A	2218 S Cross Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
N/A	N/A	S Cross Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6603	N/A	2222 S Cross Street	1905	Folk Victorian	NC
PU6574	N/A	2300 S Cross Street	1900	Colonial Revival	C
PU6573	N/A	2304 S Cross Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6572	N/A	2310 S Cross Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6571	N/A	2314 S Cross Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6567	N/A	2317 S Cross Street	1967	Ranch	NC
N/A	N/A	2318 S Cross Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
N/A	N/A	S Cross Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6568	N/A	2321 S Cross Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6570	N/A	2322 S Cross Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6569	N/A	2323 S Cross Street	1900	Ranch	C
PU6530	N/A	2400 S Cross Street	1920	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6531	N/A	2404 S Cross Street	1920	Plain/ Traditional	C

Resource Number	Historic Name	Address	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Status
PU6939	N/A	2408 S Cross Street	1960	Plain/ Traditional	NC
N/A	N/A	1850 S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU9829	Miller House	1853 S Ringo Street	1906	Craftsman	L
N/A	N/A	1855 S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6749	N/A	1856 S Ringo Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6752	N/A	1859 S Ringo Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6748	N/A	1860 S Ringo Street	1970	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6747	N/A	1864 S Ringo Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6751	N/A	1865 S Ringo Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU9830	Womack House	1867 S Ringo Street	1922	Bungalow	L
PU6746	N/A	1868 S Ringo Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6745	N/A	1870 S Ringo Street	1910	Colonial Revival	NC
PU6750	N/A	1871 S Ringo Street	1925	Craftsman Bungalow	C
PU6698	Hopkins-Reynolds-Green House	1900 S Ringo Street	1905	Colonial Revival	C
PU6690	N/A	1901 S Ringo Street	1910	Craftsman	C
PU6689	N/A	1905 S Ringo Street	1930	Craftsman Bungalow	C
PU6697	McLaughlin-Saville House	1906 S Ringo Street	1905	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6691	N/A	1909 S Ringo Street	1925	Craftsman Bungalow	C
PU6696	N/A	1912 S Ringo Street	1948	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6695	N/A	1916 S Ringo Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6692	N/A	1919 S Ringo Street	1920	English Revival	C

Resource Number	Historic Name	Address	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Status
PU6694	N/A	1922 S Ringo Street	1900	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6693	Funk House	1923 S Ringo Street	1900	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6628	N/A	2100 S Ringo Street	1900	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	NC
N/A	N/A	2101 S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6627	N/A	2106 S Ringo Street	1930	Craftsman	C
PU6620	N/A	2107 S Ringo Street	1900	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
N/A	N/A	2110 S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6621	N/A	2111 S Ringo Street	1900	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6626	N/A	2114 S Ringo Street	1910	American Foursquare	C
PU6622	N/A	2117 S Ringo Street	2010	Other	NC
PU6623	N/A	2123 S Ringo Street	1900	Classical Revival	C
PU6625	Clok House	2124 S Ringo Street	1900	Folk Victorian	C
PU6610	N/A	2200 S Ringo Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6609	N/A	2204 S Ringo Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6617	N/A	2205 S Ringo Street	1952	Ranch	NC
PU6616	N/A	2217 S Ringo Street	1952	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6608	N/A	2218 S Ringo Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6615	N/A	2219 S Ringo Street	1945	Plain/ Traditional	C
N/A	N/A	2224 S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6563	N/A	2300 S Ringo Street	1900	Queen Anne/ Eastlake	C
PU6553	N/A	2301 S Ringo Street	1900	Colonial Revival	C
PU6562	N/A	2304 S Ringo Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6554	N/A	2305 S Ringo Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6555	N/A	2307 S Ringo Street	1910	Craftsman	C

Resource Number	Historic Name	Address	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Status
N/A	N/A	S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6561	N/A	2310 S Ringo Street	1930	Craftsman	C
PU6556	N/A	2311 S Ringo Street	1910	American Foursquare	C
PU6560	N/A	2312 S Ringo Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6557	N/A	2317 S Ringo Street	1925	American Foursquare	C
PU6558	N/A	2321 S Ringo Street	1920	Craftsman	C
PU6559	N/A	2324 S Ringo Street	1910	Craftsman Bungalow	C
N/A	N/A	2401 S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU5670	N/A	2405 S Ringo Street	1920	Craftsman Bungalow	C
N/A	N/A	2407 S Ringo Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU5700	N/A	1015 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1915	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6687	N/A	1019 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1925	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6686	N/A	1023 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6680	N/A	1101 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1910	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6679	N/A	1103 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1925	Craftsman Bungalow	C
PU6678	N/A	1105 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1900	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6937	N/A	1107 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1910	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6677	N/A	1113 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1900	Plain/ Traditional	NC
N/A	N/A	1115 W Charles Bussey Avenue	N/A	Demolished	NC
N/A	N/A	1121 W Charles Bussey Avenue	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6676	N/A	1123 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1895	Plain/ Traditional	C
N/A	N/A	W Charles Bussey Avenue	N/A	Demolished	NC

Resource Number	Historic Name	Address	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Status
PU6671	N/A	1203 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6670	N/A	1207 W Charles Bussey Avenue	1925	Bungalow	C
PU6682	N/A	1020 W 21st Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6681	N/A	1024 W 21st Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6675	N/A	1102 W 21st Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6674	N/A	1106 W 21st Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
N/A	N/A	W 21st Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6673	N/A	1118 W 21st Street	1954	Plain/ Traditional	C
N/A	N/A	1120 W 21st Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6672	N/A	1122 W 21st Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6665	N/A	1210 W 21st Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6619	N/A	1015 W 22nd Street	1930	Plain/ Traditional	NC
N/A	N/A	1019 W 22nd Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6618	N/A	1021 W 22nd Street	1930	Craftsman Bungalow	NC
PU6624	N/A	1112 W 22nd Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU5679	N/A	1115 W 22nd Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6611	N/A	1119 W 22nd Street	1910	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6612	N/A	1123 W 22nd Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6601	N/A	1201 W 22nd Street	1895	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6600	N/A	1203 W 22nd Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6599	N/A	1209 W 22nd Street	1960	Plain/ Traditional	NC

Resource Number	Historic Name	Address	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Status
PU6613	N/A	1022 W 23rd Street	1965	Ranch	NC
N/A	N/A	1115 W 23rd Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6607	N/A	1116 W 23rd Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6565	N/A	1117 W 23rd Street	1930	Craftsman Bungalow	C
PU6606	N/A	1118 W 23rd Street	1900	Plain/ Traditional	NC
PU6604	N/A	1120-1122 W 23rd Street	1930	Craftsman	C
PU6566	N/A	1123 W 23rd Street	1905	Plain/ Traditional	NC
N/A	N/A	1101 W 24th Street	N/A	Demolished	NC
PU6543	N/A	1105 W 24th Street	1920	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6542	N/A	1109 W 24th Street	1920	Craftsman	NC
PU6541	N/A	1115 W 24th Street	1920	Craftsman	C
PU6540	N/A	1121 W 24th Street	1920	Craftsman	C
PU6529	N/A	1205 W 24th Street	1920	Plain/ Traditional	C
PU6528	N/A	1207 W 24th Street	1920	Plain/ Traditional	C

Queen Anne/Eastlake (9 contributing; 2 non-contributing):

Nine contributing resources within the District reflect the Queen Anne/Eastlake architectural style. Most of these are not of a pure Queen Anne style, but reflect an intermingling of styles from the period or adaptation of the Queen Anne style to a vernacular form. Combinations of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival influences are the most prominent, while a few also exhibit Craftsman-inspired details. Most of the Queen Anne-influenced houses are located along South Cross and South Ringo Streets between Wright Avenue and West Charles Bussey Avenue, and are often found in pairs. Constructed circa 1898, the house at 1902 South Cross Street (PU4280), the oldest Queen Anne house in the District, displays elements such as scalloped shingles, projecting pavilions, and projecting bays. Other early houses (PU6620, PU6693, and PU6694) also display Queen Anne elements such as arched windows, scalloped shingles, and projecting pavilions, as well as several Colonial Revival elements such as Classical columns and dentil molding. The houses at 1852 and 1904 South Cross Street (PU6739 and PU6705, respectively) display more prominent Colonial Revival elements such as a widow's walk, Classical porch columns, and an oxeye window. The house at 1906 South Ringo Street (PU6697) displays Craftsman elements such as rafter tails. These twentieth century elements reflect the houses' later construction during the transitory period from late-nineteenth century Victorian influences to the popular trends of the early-twentieth century.

Two Queen Anne houses (PU6628 and PU6703) are non-contributing to the District because of the installation of incompatible replacement siding, windows, and doors, as well the construction of mass-altering additions.

Folk Victorian (3 contributing; 1 non-contributing):

Three contributing resources within the District reflect the Folk Victorian style, which is defined by the presence of Victorian detailing on vernacular forms, which are usually much less elaborate or consistent in the incorporation of decorative elements than their high-style Victorian counterparts. [1] The house at 1865 South Cross Street (PU5682) exhibits a vernacular gabled ell form with Queen Anne details such as vergeboard, scalloped shingles, and turned porch posts. Another example is the house at 2124 South Cross Street (PU6634), which exhibits a myriad of styles, with an Italianate form featuring Classical porch columns and wide eaves that historically would have likely had decorative brackets.

One house, 2222 South Cross Street (PU6603) is a non-contributing resource to the District because of several incompatible additions and the enclosure of the porch.

Colonial/Classical Revival (5 contributing; 1 non-contributing):

Four houses within the District reflect the Colonial Revival architectural style, while one house reflects the Classical Revival style. Primarily constructed during the interwar housing boom, these houses reflect two of the most popular architectural styles of the early-twentieth century, which dominated residential construction throughout the country. Like the houses noted as being of the Queen Anne style, a number of the houses do not exhibit pure Colonial Revival detailing, isolated from other stylistic influences.

Constructed circa 1900, the house at 2123 South Ringo Street (PU6623), exhibits pedimented gables, modillions, and a hip roof, common to early Classical Revival structures. The houses at 1873 and 2300 South Cross Street (PU6740 and PU6574, respectively) exhibit Colonial Revival elements such as Classical columns, dentil molding, and cornice returns, but also exhibit Queen Anne influences such as shingles and steeply gabled pavilions, while the house at 1900 South Ringo Street (PU6698) exhibits several Craftsman-inspired influences such as brick porch piers and exposed rafter tails. The house at 2301 South Ringo Street (PU6553) is the most elaborate Colonial Revival house within the District, exhibiting elements such as a fanlight, pedimented gables and entry, Classical cornice returns, and dentil molding.

The sole non-contributing example of a Colonial Revival dwelling, the house at 1870 South Ringo Street (PU6745) exhibits an incompatible rear addition and non-historic brick veneer.

[1] Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses,* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000, 309.

English Revival (2 contributing):

Two English, or Tudor, Revival houses are located within the District. While this architectural style was rivaled only by the Colonial Revival style in national popularity during the early twentieth century, it appears in fewer numbers within this neighborhood. The house at 2104 South Cross Street (PU6637) exhibits modest details such as a Tudor arch entry and a prominent and wide set, patterned brick chimney located on the façade, while the house at 1919 South Ringo Street (PU6692) exhibits more noteworthy details such as a stucco cladding, steep gables, arched windows, and diagonal glazing.

American Foursquare (3 contributing):

Three contributing resources within the District are of an American Foursquare plan, the post-Victorian "comfortable house," an economical house suited to small lots and the early twentieth century housing boom.[2] The American Foursquare is characterized by a two-story, two-bay square or rectangular plan, low-pitched hipped roof, front dormers and a one-story, full-width front porch.

Two of the American Foursquare houses exhibit Craftsman detailing applied to the form. The house at 2317 South Ringo Street (PU6557), with its exposed roof supports, triangular knee braces, and multi-pane upper windows, is more detailed than the other Craftsman-influenced American Foursquare at 2311 South Ringo Street (PU6556), which exhibits wide boxed eaves and multi-pane upper windows.

Craftsman/Bungalow (26 contributing; 3 non-contributing):

Craftsman-style residences and Craftsman-inspired bungalows are one of the most prevalent categories of houses within the District, with 26 contributing examples present. Following national trends, most of the houses within the District exhibiting Craftsman elements were constructed during the interwar period, from 1918 to 1940. Characterized by combinations of low-pitched, gabled roofs with wide eaves, rafter tails, wood shingles, knee braces, battered porch piers, and tapered porch posts, Craftsman-style residences and Craftsman-inspired bungalows are scattered throughout the District, but are often found in pairs or groups in places like South Ringo Street between West 19th Street and West Charles Bussey Avenue, along South Cross Street between West 21st and West 22nd Streets, and along West 24th Street.

One Craftsman-style residence, the Miller House (PU9829), was listed in the NRHP in 1999 under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage/Black, under Criterion B for its association with Arthur T. Miller, and under Criterion C for Architecture.[3] The house features wood tapered porch posts, triangular knee braces, and exposed rafter tails. The houses at 1901, 2310, and 2321 South Ringo

[2] Patricia Poore. "The epitome of the post-Victorian 'comfortable house,' the Foursquare is about dignified self containment." *American Foursquare Architecture and Interiors.* http://www.oldhouseonline.com/american-foursquare/ accessed August 27, 2012.

[3] Cheryl Griffith Nichols, *Miller House National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.* Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Little Rock, Arkansas, 1998, 5.

Street (PU6690, PU6561, and PU6558, respectively), with their multi-pane upper windows, low pitch gables roofs, knee braces, exposed rafter tails, and half-timbering, exhibit some of the most elaborate Craftsman details within the District. Other Craftsman-style houses exhibit only one or two of the simplest details such as exposed rafter tails.

Of the 26 Craftsman-style dwellings in the District, eleven are Craftsman-inspired Bungalows. The Craftsman Bungalow was an extremely popular house style during the early twentieth century, influenced by the publication of pattern books that offered plans for Craftsman Bungalows that included pre-cut packages of lumber and detailing that could be assembled by local labor. [4] Easily adaptable, with numerous variations across the country, the Craftsman Bungalow was an affordable housing option for the rapidly growing and transitioning community surrounding the School during the interwar years of the twentieth century. Two subsets of the Bungalow form are found within the District – the Craftsman Bungalow and the Southern Bungalow – although, in the case of the District, Southern Bungalows also exhibit Craftsman-inspired features.

Made popular by California architects Greene and Greene, the Craftsman Bungalow is the most common Bungalow, often exhibiting rusticated materials, shed dormers, wood shingle siding, wide eaves, rafter tails, triangular knee braces, battered porch piers, and tapered porch posts. The Scipio Jones House (PU9832), a Craftsman Bungalow was listed in the NRHP in 1998 under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage/Black and Law, under Criterion B for its association with Jones, a prominent African-American attorney, and under Criterion C for Architecture.[5] The Womack House (PU9830), listed in 1999 under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage/Black, under Criterion B for its association with Womack and under Criterion C for Architecture, is another listed example, with its tapered porch posts, exposed rafter tails, and triangular knee braces. The house at 2324 South Ringo Street (PU6559) is the most high-style example of a Craftsman Bungalow within the District. It exhibits elements such as a front-gabled dormer, triangular knee braces, exposed rafter tails, and brick porch support piers. The house at 1117 West 23rd Street (PU6565) also exhibits Craftsman details such as multi-pane upper windows, exposed rafter tails, triangular knee braces, and brick and wood porch supports. While other Craftsman Bungalows are much simpler, they all exhibit elements such as a low-pitched roof with wide eaves and exposed rafter tails.

Two Southern Bungalows are found within the District. By definition, Southern Bungalows are almost always front-gabled with space for an attic and are deeper than they are wide and feature a prominent front porch. [6] The Southern Bungalows within the District exhibit these characteristics with some variation; the house at 1911 South Cross Street (PU6700) exhibits a recessed front porch, while the house at 1207 West Charles Bussey Avenue (PU6670) features Craftsman-inspired features such as exposed rafter tails and triangular knee braces.

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[4] McAlester and McAlester, 454.

[5] Cheryl Griffith Nichols, *Scipio A. Jones House National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.* Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Little Rock, Arkansas, 1998, 5.

[6] Richard Sexton, "Southern Bungalows," *Old House Journal, May-June 2002, 74.*

Three Craftsman dwellings – 2018 South Cross Street (PU6667), 1021 West 22nd Street (PU6618) and 1109 West 24th Street (PU6542) – are non-contributing resources of the District. Characterized by replacement siding and windows and doors, as well as mass-altering additions, the houses no longer retain integrity to convey their historic forms.

Plain/Traditional (42 contributing; 25 non-contributing):

Forty-two contributing buildings within the District are overtly vernacular with only minimal stylistic influence, following the traditions of this predominately working class neighborhood. Numerous forms characterize the dwellings in this category, although one-story rectangular masses and gabled ells are the most prevalent. Of the houses exhibiting some level of stylistic influence, often in the form of applied ornament, twelve houses have isolated elements of the Queen Anne style, such as the house at 2218 South Ringo Street (PU6608) with its projecting pavilions; the house at 2323 South Cross Street (PU6569) exhibits isolated elements of the Folk Victorian style with its turned porch posts; seven residences exhibit sparse elements of the Craftsman style, such as triangular knee braces and exposed rafter tails, which are evident on houses such as 1019 West Charles Bussey Avenue (PU6687); and several dwellings feature elements of the Colonial Revival style, such as the house at 2118 South Cross Street (PU6635), which features cornice returns and a soldier brick course.

Twenty-five houses noted as Plain/Traditional are identified as non-contributing resources to the District. Characterized by replacement siding, replacement windows and doors, or unsympathetic additions or enclosures, or some combination thereof, these dwellings no longer retain their simple character upon which their integrity is based, or post-date the period of significance for the District.

Ranch (1 contributing; 5 non-contributing):

One Ranch house is a contributing resource within the District. The most common house form from the mid-twentieth century and beyond throughout the country, the Ranch house and its one-story form with a long, low roofline became synonymous with residential construction during the 1950s. Within the District, Ranch houses were constructed in isolation throughout the neighborhood as modern dwellings, following the demolition of older housing that no longer met the needs of its occupants. The house located at 2100 South Cross Street (PU6638) is a variation of the Ranch house known as the Bungalow Ranch, identified by a form that is nearly as deep as it is long and sheltered by a hip roof. This particular house also exhibits a brick veneer and integrated garage.

Five Ranch houses are non-contributing resources to the District. Four of these (PU6567, PU6613, PU6629, and PU6699) post-date the period of significance for the District, while one Ranch house (PU6617) is a non-contributing resource because of incompatible additions to its historic form.

Art Deco (1 listed):

Constructed in 1929 by the architectural firm of Wittenberg and Delony, the Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College (PU3232), was originally constructed as the Negro School of Industrial Arts, one of 338 Rosenwald schools in Arkansas. The building is a three-and-one-half-story brick structure with denotative Art Deco detailing, such as geometric ornament and a design emphasizing verticality and monumentality through fenestration patterns and setbacks. Several one-story additions have been added onto the school throughout the years following its construction to accommodate growth and modern use. The building was listed in the NRHP in 1980 under Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture.[7]

Other (1 non-contributing):

The house at 2117 South Ringo Street (PU6622) is a recently constructed Neo-Traditional residence that replaced a historic circa 1910 cottage form.

Vacant Parcels (25 non-contributing):

Twenty-five of the 63 non-contributing resources within the District are lots that are presently, but not historically, vacant. These lots are scattered throughout the District and were historically occupied by dwellings, but now bear witness to patterns of disinvestment that have characterized the neighborhood in the post-Urban Renewal era. Many of the lots are under-maintained and characterized by overgrown vegetation.

Integrity

As a collective, the District continues to retain sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association to covey its local significance and contextual associations under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage.

The District at-large retains the qualities upon which it was established, based largely on a gridded street layout dating to the late-nineteenth century, with wide-set streets flanked by an hierarchy of trees, utilities, and landscape features such as retaining walls providing long views of the District in all directions across the sloping terrain. Anchored by the monumental School at the northern boundary of the District, the neighborhood's character continues to be defined by relatively uniform setbacks, with one- and two-story houses of similar scale, fronting open, grass lawns, some of which were interspersed with shade trees along the right-of-way. Starting in the 1960s, the District has, to some degree, been characterized by a tendency toward deferred maintenance and an ethic of disinvestment, which has resulted in the demolition of numerous historic residences that formerly occupied now vacant lots. Yet, while these vacant lots dot the landscape of the District, they do not individually or collectively diminish the integrity of setting,

[7] Don Brown and Ethel Goodstein. *Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.* Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Little Rock, Arkansas, 1980, 4.

feeling, or association in a dramatic manner that detracts from the larger character of the District. This, in part, is because several lots within the District were historically undeveloped, with vacant lots a permanent feature of the community. As such, recently vacated lots do not present a significant detraction from the District, which was never characterized by a solid building wall. Divorced physically from the areas of the Dunbar neighborhood that were characterized by processes of slum clearance and urban renewal, the District has witnessed only minimal infill construction in the last quarter of the twentieth century and first years of the twenty-first century.

The collective of building stock within the District also retain integrity of workmanship, materials, and design. To be certain, the vast majority of the houses within the District have undergone a number of changes since their construction; however, as further elaborated upon in the context, the balance of these changes were largely undertaken during the period of significance and bear witness to changing societal patterns for which the District retains significance. As such, they have become part of the character-defining features of the building stock and contribute to integrity of workmanship, materials, and design of the overtly vernacular community that has been adapted and modified by a legacy of homeowners who have made the Dunbar neighborhood their home, and crafted its architectural context to local traditions and patterns of changing needs and economic needs from the late-nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries. Moreover, many of the changes undertaken in the community have been completed with recycled building materials and thus have not introduced large quantities of incompatible materials into the District that would otherwise impede the understanding of its context.

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

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

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or 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.)
EDUCATION
ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

Period of Significance
1890–1961

Significant Dates
1929
1955

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
George H. Wittenberg & Lawson L. Delony

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 Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District (District) is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its associations with the African American history of Little Rock. As a collective, it is representative of the evolution of a neighborhood from an integrated working and middle-class neighborhood in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century to a predominantly African American working and middle-class neighborhood in Little Rock by the 1960s. The period of significance for the District begins with the date of the initial construction of the first residence within the boundary of the District, 1890, and extends through 1961, the construction date of the newest contributing building within the District. This period includes the significant dates of 1929 and 1955, which signaled the opening and closing of Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School and Junior College, the showcase of the District, for which it is so-named.

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

Encompassing 155 properties, the Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District (District) exists as a collective entity that, through its diverse building stock, represents the evolution of a core Little Rock neighborhood from an integrated working and middle-class neighborhood in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries to a predominately African American neighborhood. Indeed, the significant contexts of African American history and the development of the neighborhood are inherently and inseparably linked as the African American community supported and fed the development of the area and the evolution of housing stock into the twentieth century. The area presently under study as the District comprises just one portion of a larger community, extending from West Ninth Street at the north to Roosevelt Boulevard at the south and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard on the West to South Chester Street on the east. While the neighborhood was historically integrated, unlike much of the flanking neighborhoods, a long history of African American settlement in the area underlies the ultimate development of the community.

In terms of the larger neighborhood, African Americans first migrated into this area as a permanent population in the 1850s, supported by the presence of local religious institutions, which also provided a social outlet. The first of these was established in 1854, when the family of Chester Ashley gave land for the construction of Wesley Chapel, an African American Methodist church. A second African American church, Bethel A.M.E., was built down the street

by 1865.[8] During and following the Civil War, these religious institutions made the area a suitable location for recently emancipated slaves who had no other means of living except support from the United States government. It was here that, during the Federal occupation of Little Rock starting in September of 1863, the army cleared the land from several undeveloped lots and used the timber to build shacks for many newly-freed slaves who were rapidly pouring into Little Rock from the surrounding area. Known colloquially as the "Lickskillet" settlement, in response to a Federal soldier who saw a child licking the contents of a pan, [9] African American occupation of the area was later recounted by Charles Green Dortch, a former slave from Helena, Arkansas, who noted that the Army constructed a log shanty town to house emancipated slaves and "when they brought us here, they put us in solders' camps in a row of houses," near Mount Holly Cemetery, within the larger neighborhood but north of the District boundary.[10]

This early occupation and later permanent settlement by African Americans such as William Wallace Andrews, former slave of the Chester Ashley family, who purchased land and built homes at the southwestern edge of Little Rock, promulgated the future development of the Dunbar neighborhood into the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries as populations, and particularly African American populations, increased dramatically. Indeed, after the Civil War, the population of Little Rock exploded, forcing the city to expand beyond the original plan. The pre-war population of 3,727 persons grew to 12,380 persons by 1870 and to 38,307 persons by 1900, prompted, in part, by the arrival of the first railroad in 1871.[11] Swells in the African American population mirrored those of the larger community, with 122,169 blacks in Arkansas by 1870, and a population of 366,856 persons by 1900. Many of these black Arkansans settled in Little Rock, with the African American population of the city jumping from 5,274 persons in 1870, to 14,694 persons in 1900.[12]

The southwestern edge of the city provided a prime location for the expansion as citizen population swelled. Like its neighbors to the east and west, the larger Dunbar area, historically recognized as "Central City" prior to the construction of Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College, began to fill out as previously undeveloped parcels were secured and built upon. However, unlike its neighbors, the Dunbar neighborhood continued to be built largely upon the legacy of an African American population, which continued to be supported by its social, political, and cultural center comprising a four-block section along West 9th Street between Broadway and South Chester Street and recently established institutions such as Philander Smith College and Arkansas Baptist College. This continued African American settlement in Dunbar and the absence of such settlement to the east and west would geographically accentuate racial disparities that would continue into the twentieth century.

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[8] Cheryl Griffith Nichols, Historically Black Properties in Little Rock's Dunbar School Neighborhood. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1999, E2.

[9] Nichols, E2.

[10] Interview of Charles Green Dortch by Samuel S. Taylor, WPA Ex-Slave Interviews, 1936-1941, *The American Slave V. 8, Arkansas Narratives, Part I*, (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Company), 173.

[11] James W. Bell, "Little Rock (Pulaski County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* (2012), http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=970 *(accessed September 4, 2012).*

[12] John William Graves,*Town and Country: Race Relations in an Urban-Rural Context, Arkansas, 1865-1905*, (Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 1990), 91.

Development of the Dunbar neighborhood, historically recognized as "Central City" prior to the construction of Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College, began with construction on all empty blocks of the original city and westward into the Centennial Addition and then followed from north to south as citizens dispersed from Little Rocks' city center. Settlement first occurred in Fleming & Bradford's Addition, [13] to the north of the current District boundary. Then, moving into the District boundary, development followed into Wright's Addition, bordered by Wright Avenue to the north, West 21st Street to the south, and South Cross and Ringo Streets on the west and east, respectively. From West 21st Street south to Roosevelt Road, development moved into Wat Worthen's Addition. While the northern areas of this neighborhood largely no longer retain collective integrity exhibiting these early development trends, having been disrupted by the construction of Interstate 630 and late-twentieth century patterns of urban renewal, the central and southern portions of the neighborhood, anchored by the School and encompassed within the District boundary, continue to form the intact core of a dynamic landscape. Public utilities were available to a number of residents within the District by this time, as public water lines and fire hydrants are depicted along numerous streets and many intersections.

As evidenced by Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, the majority of lots were occupied by 1913, although several large vacant areas remained along South Ringo Street, between West 19th and West 20th Streets and West 22nd and West 23rd Streets; along South Cross Street between West 21st and West 22nd Streets; and along West 24th Street, between South Cross and South Ringo Streets at the southern end of the District. In terms of extant buildings, 58% of the contributing resources within the District were constructed prior to 1914, just following publication of the Sanborn maps. Development within the District was overtly residential, with one-story dwellings pervasive. Historically, the only commercial buildings within the District were a repair shop located just north of the intersection of Wright Avenue and South Cross Street, where the School now stands, and a block of stores at the intersection of Wright Avenue and South Ringo Street and along South Cross Street between West 22nd and West 23rd Streets. Other commercial structures were located within the Dunbar neighborhood, along Chester Street and Broadway, but are outside of the District boundary. Also historically an element of the neighborhood but just to the west of the present boundary and no longer extant in historic form was the Raleigh Springs Bottling Works, closed in 1988, and Raleigh Springs Park, along South Pulaski Street between West 23rd and West 24th Streets.

The remainder of the District was largely a product of the interwar period, when simple homes were built to accommodate workers and professionals who came to Little Rock during the envisioned prosperity of the 1920s and 1930s. Indeed, by 1939, the District had nearly filled out, taking on its present form, less a few isolated lots made vacant by recent demolition. By this time, the dwellings and repair shop along Wright Avenue at the northern boundary had been demolished for construction of the School, and numerous vacant lots of the 1910s were now occupied by recent construction in the form of single-story dwellings; several buildings functioning as tenant apartments were also constructed along South Cross and South Ringo

[13] Nichols, E3.

Streets. Historically vacant lots continued to characterize some portions of the District, such as the 2000 block of South Cross Street where houses were constructed only along the western side of the street.

While the legacy of African American settlement within the Dunbar areas has been noted, sandwiched between the present Governor's Mansion Historic District to the east and the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District to the west, Dunbar originally developed as an integrated area with both white and black property owners in the late-nineteenth century. Yet, while areas such as Governor's Mansion became a stronghold for the city's upper-middle class and the Central High School neighborhood served a predominately middle-class white community, the Dunbar neighborhood took in the flux of Little Rock's African American population. Such statements are reflected in the memories of persons such as Annie Abrams, who noted that Chester Street, just to the east of the District boundary, was the dividing line between white and black residences.

Within the District, the Dunbar neighborhood was, in a sense, both geographically integrated and segregated. As captured in city directories of the era, African American populations dominated the area within the Centennial Addition, starting at West 9th Street and moving into the District boundary, to West 19th Street. Once south of West 19th Street, racial composition was more integrated. Indeed, the east-west streets (West 20th [now West Charles Bussey Avenue], 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Streets) south of West 19th Street were integrated, although heavily white, with at least one African American family living on each street within the District. White families historically occupied large sections of South Ringo Street and South Cross Street into the 1920s and 1930s, particularly the 1900 through 2300 blocks; however, into the mid-twentieth century, African Americans displaced many white owners as they moved to newly available communities on the developing suburban fringe. Areas such as the 2200 and 2300 blocks of South Cross Street were historically integrated. Within each block and along each street, variations in topography provided a driving factor in settlement patterns, with many white residents constructing their homes on level high ground, while many African American residents chose from less desirable lots characterized by hilly terrain.[14] Patterns of integration, or lack thereof, were somewhat formalized in policy in 1903, when Arkansas passed the Gannt Bill, providing for separation of races on public transit systems throughout the city.

This dispersion of racial composition within the District into the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s continued to be influenced by a number of the factors introduced during earlier settlement of the community at-large, one being the presence of social institutions. Certainly, the development of Dunbar as an African American enclave was largely spurred by the fact it was within close proximity to many of the public and private institutions, businesses, and facilities available to African Americans during the early 20th century. Of particular importance was West 9th Street, the center of African American economic, political, social, and cultural life in Little Rock from roughly 1870-1950. Known to locals as simply "the Line," this black commercial landscape served as both the boundary that divided black and white societies and the heart of the black community in Little Rock for more than a century. Black owned and operated businesses geared

[14] Ibid, E4.

to meet the every need of their black customers were the lifeline of the African American community until the 1970s and the expansion of the interstate highway system.[15] While this commercial backdrop is no longer extant and was located outside of the District boundary, it served a tremendously important role in the development of the community within the District, which was prompted by the occupation of lands within the immediate vicinity of West 9th Street, eventually filtering southward into the District boundary as populations expanded. Complementary to this economic, political, and social center were the aforementioned African American religious institutions such as Mount Zion Baptist Church and Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, which continued to provide support to the developing African American community.

Development of the community and patterns of racial integration, or lack thereof, were also supported by the presence of schools historically serving African American students. To be certain, these were a boon to the community, fostering the education of a growing legion of African American leaders, but at the same time, they, by definition, echoed undertones of maintained segregation within Little Rock and the community. Most notable of these was the construction of the Dunbar School, with origins dating shortly after the opening of Little Rock High School, an elaborate school for white students of Little Rock, to the west. Designed as an industrial high school, partially funded by the Rosenwald Fund—a philanthropic fund established by Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck, and Company, to provide partial funding and construction plans for black schools across the South—the school was intended to prepare black students for their role in the work place, rather than college. Members of the African American community expressed their opposition to the school board and sought a classical education for their youth that would prepare them for college.[16] According to Dunbar Alumna Faustina Childress Jones Wilson, members of the local community were "active in civic affairs and concerned about curricular offerings for black youth. Community leaders such as R.C. Childress, Isaac T. Gillam, Charlotte A. Stephens, and Scipio A. Jones worked tirelessly to insure [sic] that Dunbar's curriculum consisted of liberal arts oriented, college preparatory classes, as well as vocational offerings."[17] Opened in 1929 and originally named the Negro School of Industrial Arts, the school was renamed as the Paul Laurence Dunbar Junior and Senior High School (NRHP listed 8/6/1980), after the first African American poet laureate, following protests of the community.

Dunbar was the only high school for black students in Little Rock from 1929 to 1950, bolstering the African American population of the surrounding community. Described as "the finest high school building in the South for Negro boys and girls," the school eventually offered Junior

[15] Berna Josephine Love, "End of the Line: The Heyday and Demise of Little Rock's West Ninth Street," (MA thesis, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2002, iii.

[16] James D. Anderson, *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 206-207.

[17] Faustine Childress Jones Wilson, *A Traditional Model of Educational Excellence: Dunbar High School of Little Rock, Arkansas* (Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1981), 4.

College courses in one wing of the building.[18] During its years of operation as a high school, the Dunbar community supported and encouraged the growth of the student population, and community members often opened their homes to students from across the state. For example, Annie Abrams, an alumna of Dunbar lived with her cousin, Herbert Denton, and his family at 1859 South Ringo Street in order to attend Dunbar School.[19] Another alumna described the relationship between the school and the neighborhood: "Since all our social activities, not church related, were conducted at the school we can readily say that the school was the cornerstone of the community. Most social activities were held at Dunbar."[20] Many of Dunbar's graduates continued their education in college and became leaders in their fields. The important legacy of the School is echoed by the incorporation of the National Dunbar Alumni Association in 1978, and its eleven chapters across the nation.

Amidst this dynamic social, political, and cultural backdrop laid an active and hardworking community. To be certain, much of the significance of the District within the development of the African American history of Little Rock stems from the individuals that resided within the community – both the prominent leaders of African American society in Little Rock and the working class members of the community that occupied the houses in the District. Indeed, the District was simultaneously home to a large enclave of workers who drove the daily activities of Little Rock and a social community of black leaders and professionals. City directories from the early-twentieth to mid-twentieth century note the functional positions of a largely working class population: craftsmen, barbers and beauticians, chauffeurs, cooks, domestic workers, delivery drivers, porters, maids, launderers, mail clerks, and others. The presence of the railroad in the area also supplied a means of work for many of the men in the District. These persons lived in modest homes, many of which they owned, cared for, and adapted to meet their changing needs; these homes, like that of railway mail clerk Arthur Miller (NRHP listed 5/8/99), illustrate the value of self-reliance. Interspersed within the District among the houses of such workers were the homes of leaders of a broad-reaching African American culture – those of attorneys Scipio Jones and John A. Hibbler; educators Isaac T. Gillam, Jr., and Reverend Joseph A. Booker, physician A.A. Womack, and other professionals such as Harvey C. Ray, who was a District Demonstration Agent for the Agricultural Extension Service.

Into the mid-twentieth century, the District and vicinity continued to undergo new transitions, which highlight historic tensions and evolving patterns of racial dispersion. In 1957, two years after Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College became Dunbar Junior High School, Little Rock became the focus of national news when nine African American students sought to attend Central High School, located in the middle-class white community just to the west of Dunbar. While Dunbar was not the focus of the conflict, it provided the backdrop, as six of the "Little Rock Nine" were from the Dunbar neighborhood and the neighborhood's historic

[18] Marci K. Bynum, "Scholastic Achievement in the Segregation Era: Dunbar High School of Little Rock, Arkansas," National Dunbar History Project, National Dunbar Alumni Association and University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 15.

[19] Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams, Interviewed by Erma Glasco Davis. Tape recording. National Dunbar Alumni Association Collection, Arkansas Studies Institute. Little Rock, AR, February 24, 1995.

[20] Daisy McMurray Crockett, "Questionnaires Completed by Alumni in lieu of Interviews, Detroit Reunion—July 1995," National Dunbar Alumni Association collection, Arkansas Studies Institute. Little Rock, AR.

legacy of African American populations, spurred by the long presence of a segregated African American school, drove, in part, the conflict.

During the same era and into the 1960s and 1970s, the District and neighborhood at-large also witnessed its final racial transition. Many of the white residents who had means left the area starting in the 1950s, when middle-class residential areas were developed outside of the core of Little Rock in concert with new shopping centers and other suburban amenities. This outmigration left Dunbar predominately a neighborhood of working-class African Americans. Bolstering the exodus from what had become the gritty urban core was the construction of the 8th Street Expressway (later Interstate 630) and the "slum clearance projects of the 1950s and 1960s, which further segregated the community and left it overly characterized as a blight area.[21] While these clearance projects were located outside of the District boundaries, combined with a sustained period of disinvestment for the neighborhood at-large, they have had the effect of shifting the character of the African American population of the District, as many of the persons of means have left in recent years in favor of developments outside of this city quadrant.

The rich and evolving history of the District and its significant associations with African American heritage in Little Rock under Criterion A continues to be reflected in the diverse collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architectural styles, and in the many changes and alterations to houses by African American residents over time, reflecting the continued vernacular process of adapting shelter to meet needs according to available means and capturing the stark contrast in white and black housing of the era. Indeed, the evolution of the housing stock within the District overtly captures the diligent ethic of a working class community tied to its roots. Architecturally, the District exhibits a wide variety of houses evidencing popular trends of the period – Colonial Revival, Craftsman, American Foursquare, English Revival, and Queen Anne, among others – all set aside one another along the District's wide set streets that were built out in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. And, while the majority of resources within the District are not pure examples of a particular architectural movement, they retain significance in their reflection of patterns of adaptation according to local traditions and vernacular forms. Furthermore, even the more pure examples reflect the character of a largely vernacular community of industrious workers, as they are perhaps of less grandeur than would otherwise be found in Little Rock's more established neighborhoods of the period that were dominated by the latest architectural trends.

Historically, just as races were integrated throughout much of the District, so were architectural innovations, but, exterior treatments often provided clues delineating patterns of racial composition. While one-story frame houses with half-width, three-quarter width, or full-width porches dominated the landscape of the District for both white and black occupants, and while the vast majority of the housing was overtly vernacular in its application of denotative detail, evidencing the working-class character of the community, the homes of some white residents were visually distinct from the remainder of the community. Homes occupied by whites were more likely to have irregular or complex floor plans and, in general, exhibited more denotative

[21] William B. Legg, *Redevelopment Plan for the Dunbar High School Area of Little Rock Arkansas,* (Little Rock: The Housing Authority of Little Rock, 1952).

detail than their African American owned counterparts. All original two-story houses within the District were historically occupied by white occupants. In comparison, homes historically occupied by blacks were predominately simple, one-story masses with applied ornamentation mimicking the detailing of high-style dwellings popular in Little Rock during the early-twentieth century. These trends are reflected in the juxtaposition of eclectic Colonial Revival and Queen Anne residences with numerous variations of Plain/Traditional residences characterized by isolated details of Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, or English Revival styles.

Over time, however, such differences became less discernible. As many of the white residents left the District, particularly into the 1940s and 1950s, as a result of increased means and patterns of suburbanization, African Americans moved into homes that were originally occupied by whites. The total of these houses, both those originally occupied by blacks and those occupied following white ownership, exhibit significant remodeling and adaptations that reflect patterns of longevity in African American ownership, whereby owners maintained and adapted their houses according to changing needs and affordability rather than moving into new houses elsewhere as was common for white residents as well as many of Dunbar's leaders in the African American community. Furthermore, many of the residents of the District were restricted to the neighborhood (or others like it) by the segregation of new neighborhoods that not only advertised to white residents, but also utilized deed restrictions to further exclude African American residents. As a result, over time, the District took on a more cohesive, vernacular character brought on, in part, by necessity.

These changes, many occurring as early as the 1910s and 1920s, as evidenced by historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps for the area, are a significant component of the character of the District, and now function as character-defining features of a diverse housing stock. Application of brick veneers to frame houses is common throughout the District, reflecting a desire for visual permanence in construction, as is the use of recycled building materials to complete renovations and alterations and construction additions. In isolated instances, owners also added additional stories to their houses, providing extra room for growing families. Undertones of historic detailing and massing permeate many of the residences within the District, but they are, perhaps rightly so, secondary to the evolution of housing stock which bears witness to the dynamism of societal change within the District over its history.

Through its history, the District has continued to retain a local consciousness of the area's history. In 2005, 20th Street was renamed as Charles Bussey Avenue in memory of civic leader Charles Bussey, who served as the first African American on the Little Rock City Board and the City's first African American Mayor. North of the district but within the larger Dunbar neighborhood is Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive, named in honor of Bates, an influential civic leader who played a prominent role in advising the students of the Little Rock Nine, when they attempted to enroll at Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Anchored by the School at the northern boundary, a permanent feature that drove the development and evolution of much of the District, these streets and others continue to be lined by a diverse collective of residences, owned by many who have remained through previous decades to maintain and adapt their homes according to available means, allowing the District to appropriately convey its associations with historic patterns of development and architectural innovation experienced during a period of

dramatic social, economic, and political evolution in the African American community and Little Rock at-large.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ 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
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _PU7348_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 41.03

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:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [x] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15	Easting: 565300.60	Northing: 3843684.00
2. Zone: 15	Easting: 565403.57	Northing: 3843664.27
3. Zone: 15	Easting: 565387.45	Northing: 3843543.30
4. Zone: 15	Easting : 565442.93	Northing: 3843546.77
5. Zone: 15	Easting : 565416.99	Northing: 3842830.86
6. Zone: 15	Easting : 565202.11	Northing: 3842840.06
7. Zone: 15	Easting : 565224.89	Northing: 3843546.56
8. Zone: 15	Easting : 565281.39	Northing: 3843546.07

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

Beginning at a point at the southwest corner of the intersection of South Cross Street and West 18th Street at UTM E 565298 N 3843689, the boundary follows West 18th Street approximately 0.07 miles east to a point at the southeast corner of the intersection of South Ringo Street and West 18th Street at UTM E 565409 N 3843660. It then follows South Ringo Street south approximately 0.07 miles south to a point at the northeast corner of the intersection of South Ringo Street and Wright Avenue at UTM E 565384 N 3843546. The boundary then follows Wright Avenue east approximately 0.3 miles to a point at the southwest intersection of Wright Avenue and the alley located east of South Ringo Street and west of South Chester Street at UTM E 565392 N 3843543. The boundary then follows the alley between South Ringo Street and South Chester Street south approximately 0.43 miles to a point at the northwest corner of the alley between South Ringo Street and South Chester Street and the alley south of West 24th street and north of Roosevelt Avenue at UTM E 565413 N 3842838. Then the boundary follows west along the alley between West 24th Street and Roosevelt Avenue approximately 0.13 miles to the northeast intersection of the alley between West 24th Street and Roosevelt Avenue and the alley located east of South Pulaski Street and west of South Cross Street at UTM E 565195 N 3842843. The boundary then follows the alley between South Pulaski Street and South Cross Street north approximately 0.44 miles to the southeast intersection of the alley and Wright Avenue at UTM E 565221 N 3843549. It then follows Wright Avenue 0.3 miles east to the intersection of Wright Avenue and South Cross Street at UTM E 565278 N 3843549. It then follows South Cross Street approximately 0.09 miles north to the beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes Paul Laurence Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College (currently Dunbar Magnet Middle School) as well as the adjacent core of the Dunbar neighborhood. The boundary does not encompass the entire Dunbar neighborhood, but rather a diverse section of the neighborhood that conveys the area's multiple layers of significance and contains the highest number of intact contributing structures.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Holly Higgins and Hallie Hearnes, architectural historians
organization: Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.
street & number: 201 NW 4th Street, Suite 204
city or town: Evansville state: IN zip code: 47708
e-mail: sahiggins@crai-ky.com
telephone: 812.253.3009
date: September 7, 2012

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.)

Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District - Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR

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: Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District

City or Vicinity: Little Rock

County: Pulaski State: AR

Photographer: H. Hearnes

Date Photographed: August 2012

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

1 of 18. Northerly overview of district from the intersection of Wright Avenue and South Ringo Street, showing Dunbar Magnet Middle School.

2 of 18. Southerly overview of district from South Ringo Street toward West 19th Street.

3 of 18. North-northwesterly overview of district from the intersection of South Ringo Street and West 22nd Street.

4 of 18. South-southeasterly overview of district from the intersection of South Ringo Street and West 23rd Street.

5 of 18. South-southwesterly overview of district from South Cross Street toward West 24th Street.

6 of 18. South-southeasterly overview of district from South Cross Street toward West 22nd Street.

7 of 18. South-southwesterly overview of district from West 19th Street toward S. Ringo Street.

8 of 18. North-northwesterly overview of district from Charles Bussey Ave. toward W. 19th Street.

9 of 18. West-southwesterly overview of district from South Ringo Street down Charles Bussey Avenue.

10 of 18. West-southwesterly overview of district from South Ringo Street across West 24th Street.

11 of 18. Northwesterly view from Wright Avenue showing the façade of Dunbar Magnet Middle School and grounds.

12 of 18. North-northeasterly view from South Ringo Street, showing the Miller House at 1853 South Ringo Street.

13 of 18. Easterly view from South Cross Street, showing façade of the house at 1865 South Cross Street.

14 of 18. Northwesterly view from South Cross Street, showing the façade and south elevation of the house at 1902 South Cross Street.

15 of 18. Easterly view from South Ringo Street, showing the façade of 1919 South Ringo Street.

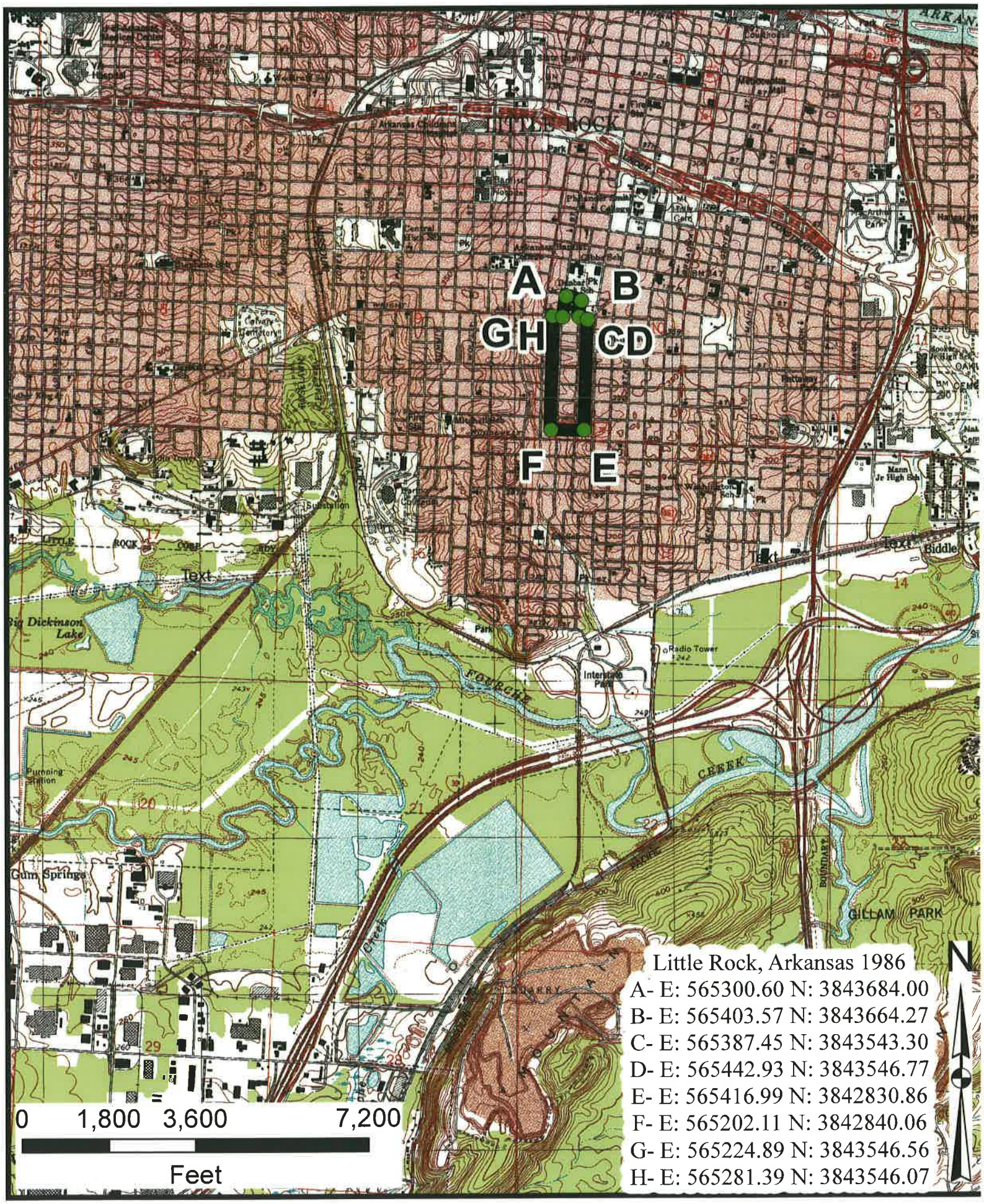
16 of 18. South-southeasterly view from S. Cross Street, showing the façade of 1019 West Charles Bussey Avenue.

17 of 18. Southwesterly view from South Cross Street, showing the façade and north elevation of 2100 South Cross Street.

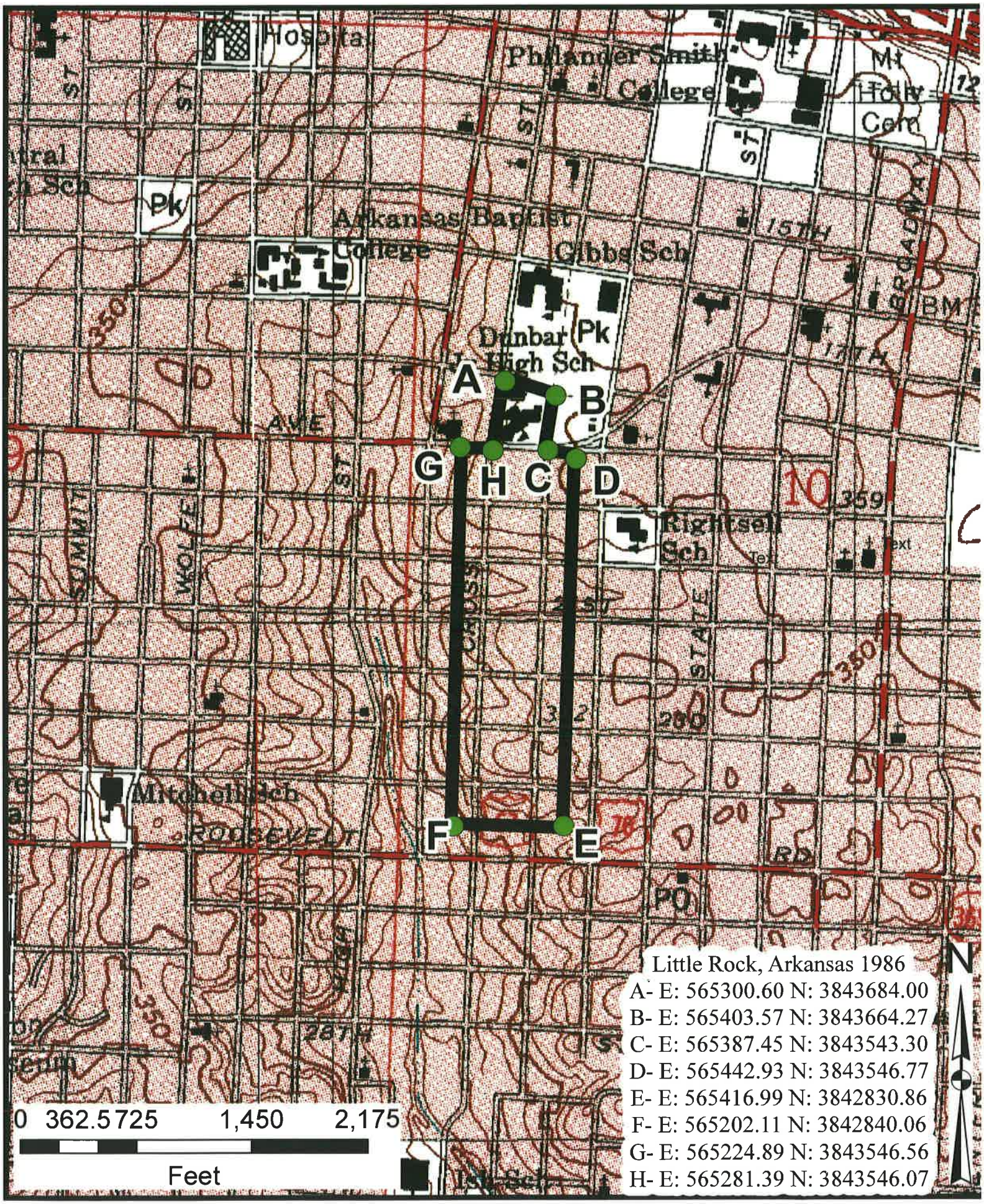
18 of 18. South-southeasterly view from West 23rd Street at Ringo St. showing façade and north elevation of house at 2301 South Ringo Street.

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.

Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District



Paul Laurence Dunbar School Neighborhood Historic District



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