

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

FRANK W. WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 6, 2012

TEL: 334-242-3184
FAX: 334-240-3477

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior, NPS
Cultural Resources
National Register, History & Education Programs
1201 "I" Street NW (2280)
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear ~~Ms. Shull~~ *Carol*

Enclosed please find the nomination and supporting documentation to be considered for listing the following Alabama resource in the National Register of Historic Places:

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Your consideration of the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination is appreciated.

Truly Yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/sme/nw

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Old Town Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Bounded approximately by Church, Newcomb, Vine, & Cashin Sts.
See page 2.1 for addresses

☒ not for publication N/A

city or town Decatur

☒ vicinity N/A

stat Alabama code _____ county Morgan code 103 zip code 35601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Shirley Ann Brown Deputy SHPO

6 Nov 2012

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Alabama Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other,

(explain:)

West Old Town Historic District
Name of Property

Morgan County, Alabama
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 42 | 30 | buildings |
| 1 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 43 | 30 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Ranch Style

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER: Pyramid Square, Shotgun, Gable Front, Gabled Ell

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE; BRICK

walls WOOD; BRICK; SYNTHETICS: Aluminum, Vinyl

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

Narrative Description

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

West Old Town Historic District
Name of Property

Morgan County, Alabama
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic -Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

Ca. 1890-1962

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

African-American

Architect/Builder

Multiple

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

West Old Town Historic District
Name of Property

Morgan County, Alabama
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 31 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 16 | 500606 | 3831000 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| B | 16 | 500846 | 3830765 |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| C | 16 | 500757 | 3830671 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| D | 16 | 500785 | 3830628 |

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andra Kowalczyk Martens (Consultant) & Susan Enzweiler (AHC NR Coordinator)
organization Thomason and Associates, Thomason@bellsouth.com date June 2012
street & number 1907 21st Avenue South telephone 615-385-4960
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 1

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

LOCATION:

600, 604 & 608 NW Alma Street
720, 726 & 728 NW Alma Street
708, 710, 711, 715, 716, 718, 726 & 728 NW Cashin Street
732, 735, 736, 742, 746, 748, 750 & 752 NW Cashin Street
802, 807 & 809 NW Cashin Street
621 NW Church Street
703, 705, 711, 712, 714, 720, 726, 728 & 733 NW Church Street
817 NW Church Street
703, 705, 706, 707 & 711 NW Fink Street
708 NW Geddis (Sterrs) Street
706, 709, 712, 715, 720, 724, 726, 728, 729, 732 & 734 NW Lafayette Street
707, 715, 717 & 726 NW Newcomb Street
706, 719, 723, 732, 740, 744, 749 & 750 NW Sykes Street
815 NW Sykes Street
726, 812 & 902 NW Vine Street
1012 & 1014 NW Vine Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Description

Decatur is located on the south bank of the Tennessee River in north-central Alabama, approximately 25 miles west of Huntsville and 170 miles north of the state capitol, Montgomery. The river influenced the establishment of Decatur as a center of commerce. In 1891, it became the county seat of Morgan County, which was originally established in 1818 as Cotaco County. Decatur had a population of 55,778 in 2006.

The historically African-American West Old Town Historic District encompasses the western portion of the Northwest, or Old Town, neighborhood of Decatur. It includes buildings within the approximate boundaries of NW Newcomb Street on the southeast, NW Vine Street on the southwest, NW Cashin Street on the northwest, and NW Church Street on the northeast. Historically, this contiguous collection of buildings represents the development of Decatur's African-American neighborhood that followed the Civil War and continued beyond the early 1960s. The district was (and is) part of a larger Northwest neighborhood that began as a white, working class neighborhood, with residents building houses in the blocks immediately west of the railroad tracks. As the West Old Town Historic District portion of the Northwest neighborhood attracted African Americans, the eastern section became first racially mixed, then predominantly African-American, by the 1960s and 1970s.

During the Civil War, several blocks within the district were already being developed. Small, gable-roofed houses were constructed to replace tents for housing 3,000-5,000 soldiers in the blocks south of the riverfront and west of the railroad. These camps remained following federal occupation and represent the earliest development of the Northwest neighborhood, (though none of the soldiers' houses are extant today).

The railroad from Montgomery to Nashville stimulated re-development across the city. Decatur's robust industry and river port offered employment opportunities, drawing freedmen from rural settings. There was a large brick plant along the river, and the railroad also created urban jobs that drew workers from farms. The railroad, a few blocks to the east of the district, served as a dividing line with working class citizens residing to its west. Many railroad and brick plant workers resided in the Northwest neighborhood as a whole. African Americans mainly settled in the blocks of the subject district. Between it and the railroad, the predominantly white neighborhood would become increasingly integrated.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Prior to emancipation, the area around the railroad had been predominantly white. It evolved over time to become racially mixed, then predominantly African American. As former slaves flocked to urban opportunities, that neighborhood expanded westward, into the blocks encompassed by the West Old Town Historic District. The district became the center of the African-American community and was the location of many of the original African American commercial businesses and the homes of prominent citizens as well as working- and middle-class residents.

Businesses such as corner markets, small groceries, and diners could be found throughout the district from the 1920s into the 1960s. By that time, however, all of Decatur experienced out-migration, and businesses closed, leaving many vacant buildings, both commercial and residential. After years of deterioration, dilapidated buildings have since been cleared, leaving vacant lots. In 1951, the Cashin Homes federal housing development was constructed; 105 of these units were demolished in 2005. In this open space, single family dwellings were built.

The West Old Town Historic District contains 72 primary buildings and one archaeological site. Of these 73 total resources 43 (58.9%) are contributing and 30 (41.1%) are non-contributing. The district boundaries are NW Church Street on the northeast, NW Newcomb Street on the southeast, NW Vine Street on the southwest, and NW Cashin Street on the northwest. Within these boundaries are NW Alma, NW Sykes, NW Geddis Street, and NW Fink Streets, in the 600-800 blocks. The district encompasses vernacular forms such as Pyramid Square, Shotgun, Gable Front and Gabled Ell along with Bungalows and Ranch style dwellings. Also included is the ca. 1940 George W. Braxdell Lodge [inv. # 37, photo #5]. This district represents the traditional African-American neighborhood of Northwest Decatur, where several prominent black families resided, including the Cashin and Sykes families. Members of these families were successful businessmen and doctors in Decatur and supported the community through development of social entities such as churches and schools.

The contributing archaeological site in the district is collectively composed of 86 vacant lots. Historically, some of these once had dwellings, while others have never been developed. The vacant lots are grass-covered, and some have trees. These lots are noted in the inventory. Other lots are attached to adjacent dwellings by ownership and are not noted separately. These parcels, particularly where buildings have been razed, have the potential to yield information about the growth and development of the neighborhood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Property Types

Most of the residential architecture in the neighborhood can be classified as vernacular and includes plans such as Gabled Ell, Pyramid Square, and Gable Front. The houses constructed in Decatur reflected vernacular forms popular nationwide.

Gable front plans are dwellings with a gabled roof facing the street. Examples in the West Old Town Historic District are at 712 NW Lafayette Street [inv. # 46] and 604 Alma Street [inv. # 2]. Concrete block is a common construction material for dwellings during the period leading up to and following World War II. Often, these dwellings are of the gable front form. Examples of concrete block, gable-front dwellings are at 720 NW Lafayette Street [inv. # 48] and 726 NW Alma Street [inv. # 5].

The Gabled Ell plan was popular beginning in the late 19th century. This plan is "L"-shaped, with a gable-front projecting bay and a lateral, recessed, side-gabled wing. There are many examples of the Gabled Ell in this proposed historic district. Typically, these structures are of frame construction, and the gable front bay usually has a wood sash window, and the recessed bay, a shed roof porch. It is not uncommon for the porches to have been updated ca. 1920, evident by their wood posts on brick piers, a popular style borrowed from that period's Bungalow form. Gabled Ell dwellings can be found at 711 NW Church Street [inv. # 30] and 729 NW Lafayette Street [inv. # 52].

The Pyramid Square plan is another popular form of the late nineteenth century. These frame structures are one-story, have an interior central chimney and they are typically of frame construction. They generally have one-story porches across the main façade with milled, square, or classical columns. Examples of the Pyramid Square plan, both with updated porches, are at 720 NW Alma Street [inv. # 4] and 703 NW Fink Street [inv. # 38].

The Shotgun house is yet another vernacular plan that became popular beginning in the late nineteenth century. The form invariably has a gable-front façade, is one room wide, and is of frame construction. An example of the shotgun house is at 728 NW Lafayette Street [inv. # 51].

Bungalows initially became popular on the west coast in the early twentieth century, ultimately reaching into small towns across America. They can be of brick or frame construction. The more elaborate designs often have complex roofs; in the survey area, there are a couple of detailed examples. However, most representatives within this district are simpler plans with front gable

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

roofs and a central façade entrance flanked by windows and having a full-width porch. Bungalow examples can be found at 706 NW Fink Street [inv. # 40] and 621 NW Church Street [inv. # 27].

During the 1940s and 1950s, residential architecture became more restrained and styles such as Ranch became popular. The Ranch style is simple and features horizontal forms, low-pitched roofs, minimal detailing, limited porches and often had large picture windows on the main façade. An example of a Ranch dwelling in the district can be found at 709 NW Lafayette Street [inv. #45].

The majority of the residential architecture of the West Old Town Historic District reflects its working-class and middle-class character. Almost all of the dwellings are of frame construction and represent vernacular house forms of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district is a notable collection of these building typologies and it continues to have a particular sense of time and place.

In addition to the dwellings, there are religious and social buildings in the district. The Newcomb Street Church of Christ [inv. # 58, photo #6] at 726 NW Newcomb Street was constructed during the post-World War II period. It was originally of frame construction but had a brick veneer exterior added in recent decades. The George W. Braxdell Lodge [inv. # 37, photo #5] from ca. 1940 is located at 817 NW Church Street. The two-story frame building also housed a variety of grocery stores and restaurants between 1940 and 1960.

Integrity

Since 1962, only a few new houses were built in the district, and overall the district retains a high degree of its original character and integrity. Most properties evaluated as non-contributing are those that have been altered in recent decades through the enclosures of original porches, addition of replacement siding, and replacement of original doors and windows. Properties with such extensive alterations and no visible historic fabric were considered to no longer retain integrity. Overall, the district retains integrity via the following seven aspects: 1.) location – the district encompasses a residential area that represents Decatur's historic African-American neighborhood in the area known as the Northwest neighborhood, west of the Southern Railway line. It is distinctly differentiated from the commercial/public area to the east; 2.) design – overall the district retains many aspects of the original design elements that define the architectural style and form; 3.) setting – the district remains a cohesive residential neighborhood with very few buildings post-dating its period of significance; 4.) materials –if the overall form,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

plan and architectural detailing of a building was evident then the application of modern siding and windows did not render the property non-contributing. Properties considered non-contributing were those where no historic fabric was visible as well as compromises to the overall form and plan; 5.) workmanship – is the physical evidence of the masons and carpenters who constructed the buildings in the district; 6.) feeling – the district retains a unique sense of time and place, conveying the impression of a Decatur neighborhood that began its development in the late-nineteenth century. This concentration of properties is one of two of the most representative historic African-American neighborhoods in Decatur (the other being the East Old Town Historic District); 7.) association – the surviving buildings collectively reflect an association with Decatur's growth and development.

Inventory

Where noted, dwellings are named for their earliest known owner/occupant. This information was derived from City Directories from 1940 and 1961.

1. 600 Alma Street. Buford Gaiter-Theophilus Bumpus House. This ca. 1915, vinyl-sided dwelling has a partial-width, rebuilt, 3-bay porch that is not original. (The original porch spanned the entire facade and wrapped around the side.) On the facade, the entrance is off-center. (There was possibly a second entrance, now enclosed.) On the facade, to either side of the porch is a 6/6 window. The roof peak has a vented gable. The foundation is concrete block. (NC)

2. 604 Alma Street. Andrew Cargle House. This ca. 1920, asbestos-sided, front gable dwelling has a facade with a half-width, one-bay porch and a gable front bay with 3/1 windows covered by a metal awning. The porch has tapered posts on brick piers and a shed roof. There is a central, interior, brick chimney. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

3. 608 Alma Street. Fred Cowley House. This ca. 1920, aluminum-sided dwelling has a full-width porch with metal posts. Under the porch are 2 entrances with mis-matched doors (one is solid, the other has 3 horizontal panes). These are flanked by 1/1 windows. There is a central, interior, brick chimney. The foundation is covered in metal sheeting and is not visible. (NC)

600 block of Alma Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 03041812003013000.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

600 block of Alma Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 03041812003015000.

4. 720 Alma Street. J.W. Powell House. This one-story, frame, pyramid square dwelling has original weatherboard siding, a hip roof and central, interior, brick chimney. The façade has a bay with a 1/1 window covered by a metal awning; above this bay, on the roof is a gabled dormer. The half-width porch is integral and has an entrance on the main elevation and another entrance in the side wall. The porch was remodeled ca. 1920 with square, wood posts and brick piers and a pierced, brick railing. The porch has an added metal awning. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

700 block of Alma Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 03041812003017000.

5. 726 Alma Street. Mrs. Hattie Haynes House. This ca. 1930, one-story bungalow dwelling is of concrete block construction and has a front gable roof. The 3-bay façade has a central entrance flanked by 4/4 wood sash windows. The partial-width porch has a front gable roof and wood posts. The dwelling has an interior, concrete chimney. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

6. 728 Alma Street. This ca. 1930, one-story church has a front gable roof, concrete block foundation, and vinyl siding. The enclosed entry vestibule has an integral stoop with central double doors, each with three vertical panels. The windows are ca. 1970 fixed panes on the side elevations of the building. The foundation is concrete block. Due to the extent of alterations this property no longer retains integrity of its original design. In 1940 there was a Church of God in Christ at 27 Alma Street, before street numbers were changed. In 1961, at this address was the Holy Temple Church of God. (NC)

700 block of Alma Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073008013000.

7. 708 NW Cashin Street. Ellie Matthews House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame bungalow has a gable front roof and an exterior of aluminum siding. The façade has an off-center entrance flanked by windows. The 2-bay porch has added wrought iron posts and a gable-front roof with a metal awning added underneath the roof eaves. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

8. 710 NW Cashin Street. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame bungalow has a gable front roof and an exterior of aluminum siding. The façade has a central entrance flanked by 2/2 horizontal sash windows. The 1-bay porch has wrought iron posts and a front gable roof. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

9. 711 NW Cashin Street. Mattie L. Matthews House. This ca. 1900, one-story, brick dwelling has a side gable roof and a three-bay porch with wrought iron posts. Windows in the side elevation are 6/6 vinyl sash replacements. The foundation is brick. (NC)

10. 715 NW Cashin Street. Cleo Spraggins House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame dwelling has a front gable roof and an exterior of vinyl siding. The façade has an off-center entrance flanked by one 1/1 sash window and a fixed, multi-light Craftsman-style window. The 3-bay porch has square, brick posts and added wrought iron railing and a shed roof. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

11. 716 NW Cashin Street. Katie A. Foster House. This ca. 1920, one-story bungalow dwelling has a front gable roof and vinyl siding. The façade has a central entrance flanked by a 1/1 sash window and a picture window. The 3-bay porch has wrought iron posts and a front gable roof with a metal awning below it. At the roofline, the rafter tails are exposed. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

12. 717 NW Cashin Street. This is a ca. 1970 Split-level dwelling with an exterior of brick veneer and masonite siding. The façade consists of 2 main bays: a one-story side gable roofed section with a 2-bay porch and a 2-story section, also with a side gable roof and an entrance with a wood door with a single diamond light and a metal awning. Windows are 2/2 horizontal sash. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

13. 718 NW Cashin Street. This is a ca. 1970, one-story dwelling with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete foundation, and an exterior of stretcher bond brick. On the façade is a partial-width porch with wrought iron posts and railing. The windows are 2/2 horizontal sash and have metal awnings. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0303073010011000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073010020000.

14. 726 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Sarah Hatchett House. This ca. 1930, one-story bungalow dwelling is of concrete block construction and has a front gable roof. The façade has an off-center entrance flanked by 1/1 sash windows. The 3-bay porch has wrought iron posts and a shed roof. The dwelling has two interior, brick chimneys. (C)

15. 728 NW Cashin Street. R.E. Summers House. This ca. 1930, one-story bungalow dwelling has a front gable roof and an exterior of concrete block. The façade has an off-center entrance flanked by 1/1 sash windows. The 3-bay porch has wrought iron posts and railing and a shed roof. The dwelling has an interior, brick chimney. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

700 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0303073010014000.

16. 732 NW Cashin Street. George Wakefield House. This ca. 1930, one-story, frame bungalow dwelling has a front gable roof, a 3-bay façade, and an exterior of vertical board siding. The entrance is flanked by a replacement 1/1 wood sash window and a 2/2 horizontal sash window. The three-bay, integral porch has milled wood posts and wood newel-post railing. The foundation is concrete. (C)

17. 735 NW Cashin Street. Samuel Vinson House. This ca. 1960, one-story, brick, ranch-style dwelling has a hip roof and an interior, brick chimney. The façade has 4 bays: a large, multi-light picture window, the entrance, a double-hung, wood sash window, and another similar window. The first two bays are under the integral porch, which has wrought iron posts. The entrance has an awning extending out from the roofline, and there is a poured concrete pad with iron railing. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0303073010015001.

700 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0303073010016000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

18. 736 NW Cashin Street. Albert Wright House. This ca. 1930, one-story, frame bungalow has a front gable roof, an exterior of aluminum siding, a 3-bay façade, and an interior, brick chimney. The rebuilt porch has a shed roof, wrought iron posts and an enclosed bay. Windows are ca. 1960 2/2 horizontal sash replacements. The rear elevation has a shed roof addition. The foundation is concrete. (C)

19. 742 NW Cashin Street. Fred Cowan House. This ca. 1920, one-story frame dwelling has a front gable roof and vinyl siding. The façade has a ca. 1990 remodeled, off-set porch with a shed roof and Tuscan columns. The porch shelters the off-center entrance and a 1/1 wood sash window. It appears that there was another window on the opposite side of the porch that was covered when the vinyl siding was added. The foundation is concrete. Due to the extent of alterations this property no longer retains integrity of its original design. (NC)

700 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0303073007006000.

20. 746 NW Cashin Street. William Holden House. This one-story frame dwelling has a front gable roof and vinyl siding. The façade has a full-width porch with a shed roof and square, wood posts. The porch shelters the off-center entrance and is flanked by 6/6 wood sash windows. The foundation is concrete. (C)

21. 748 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Georgia M. Hill House. This ca. 1920, one-story frame dwelling has a front gable roof and aluminum siding. The façade has a partial-width porch with a shed roof and milled wood posts. The porch shelters the off-center entrance and is flanked by 6/6 wood sash windows. The entrance has a ca. 1990 door with a fanlight. The foundation is concrete. (C)

22. 750 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Edna Priest House. This ca. 1930, one-story frame dwelling has a front gable roof and vinyl siding. The façade has a ca. 2000 remodeled, partial-width porch with a shed roof and square, wood posts and wood railing with square newel posts. The porch shelters the off-center entrance with a ca. 2000 replacement door and is flanked by 2/2 horizontal wood sash windows. The foundation is concrete. Due to the extent of alterations this property no longer retains integrity of its original design. (NC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

23. 752 NW Cashin Street. William Edmondson House. This ca. 1900, frame, original gabled ell dwelling has an addition on the façade to the front gable bay. The recessed bay has the entrance. An ell-shaped porch fits into the two façade sections and has square wood posts and railing of square wood newel posts. Windows are 6/6 vinyl sash replacements. There is an interior end, brick chimney. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

800 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073006013000.

24. 802 NW Cashin Street. Claude Stevenson House. This ca. 1920, one-story, stucco bungalow dwelling has a side gable main roof with a projecting front gable bay. The façade has an off-center entrance flanked by paired 4/4 wood sash windows. A half-width porch with the gable front roof shelters the entrance and one pair of windows. The porch has square, stucco posts and a poured concrete floor that extends across the entire façade. There is aluminum siding in the gable field of the projecting bay. The entrance has a 6-light glass and wood door. The foundation is concrete. (C) [photo 9]

800 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073006012000.

25. 807 NW Cashin Street. Collis Stevenson House. This 1955, one-story, brick bungalow dwelling has a 2-bay façade: the foremost bay has 2/2 horizontal sash windows; the integral porch bay has the entrance and a large picture window. The porch has a square, brick corner post. There is an exterior, end, brick chimney. The dwelling has a hip roof. The foundation is concrete. (C)

800 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0303073006007000.

26. 809 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Samella Brown House. This ca. 1960, one-story, frame dwelling has a central entrance flanked by paired wood sash windows. The exterior is masonite siding. There is a roof-less entry porch with wood newel railing. The dwelling has a hip roof. The foundation is concrete block. (NC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

800 block of NW Cashin Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street (at the corner of NW Church Street), parcel number 0303073006008000.

27. 621 NW Church Street. Frederick Dankins House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame, bungalow dwelling has a gable front roof, weatherboard siding, and a 3-bay porch with tapered posts on brick piers. The entrance has a single-light transom. There is a large, multi-light craftsman style window on the façade. Windows on the side elevations have awnings. The foundation is brick. (C)

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073003019000.

28. 703 NW Church Street. J.T. Priest House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame, side gable dwelling has vinyl siding, and a 3-bay façade with a central entrance flanked by 2/2 horizontal sash windows. A central, three-bay, partial-width porch has replaced the original porch. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

29. 705 NW Church Street. Charles Lee House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame, bungalow dwelling has vinyl siding and a 3-bay façade with an off-center entrance flanked by 2/2 horizontal sash windows. The off-set, partial-width porch has a front gable roof and square, brick posts. There is a central, interior, brick chimney. The foundation is concrete. (C)

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073003018000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005004000.

30. 711 NW Church Street. A.C. Ruffin House. This ca. 1900, one-story, frame, gabled ell dwelling has vinyl siding and a façade with a gable-front projecting bay with a vinyl sash window. The three-bay porch has square wood posts. Other windows are also vinyl sash design. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

31. 712 NW Church Street. John Allison House. This ca. 1940, one-story, frame, front gable dwelling has vinyl siding and a 3-bay façade with an off-center entrance flanked by a pair of 6/6

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

and a pair of 4/4 wood sash windows. The entrance has a ca. 1960 replacement door. The attached porch has ca. 1970 wrought iron posts and a shed roof. The foundation is brick piers with concrete block infill. (C)

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073003014000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005007000.

32. 714 NW Church Street. Charles Horton House. This ca. 1920, one-story, dwelling has added brick veneer and a 2-bay façade with a front gable projecting bay and a replacement porch with square brick posts and a front gable roof that projects beyond the main house elevation. On the façade are paired original 3/1 wood sash windows and an added picture window. In 1940, the dwelling was vacant; B.T. Outlaw, 1961. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005008000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005009000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073003012000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005010000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073003011000.

33. 720 NW Church Street. James Hobbs House. This ca. 1920, one-story dwelling has a stucco exterior, front gable roof, and a 3-bay façade with an off-center entrance flanked by a single and paired 1/1 vinyl sash windows. The porch has a front gable roof and metal poles. The foundation is stuccoed concrete block. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005012000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073003009000.

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005013000.

34. 726 NW Church Street. This is a ca. 1970 one-story dwelling with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles, a poured concrete foundation, and an exterior of hardi-plank siding. Windows are 2/2 horizontal sash. On the façade is a partial-width porch with wrought iron posts and a shed roof. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005014000.

35. 728 NW Church Street. Mattie Cornwell House. This ca. 1900, one-story dwelling has a side gable roof, an interior, central, brick chimney, and an exterior of added brick veneer. The 2-bay porch has square, brick posts and a railing of pierced brick. Windows are 1/1 vinyl replacements. The entrance has a ca. 1960 2-light wood door. The side gable fields have vinyl siding. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005016000.

36. 733 NW Church Street. J.D. Bryant House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame Bungalow dwelling has a gable front roof, asbestos siding, and a 4-bay façade. There are two entrances, flanked by 6/6 wood sash windows. The 3-bay porch has tapered wood posts on brick piers and railing of pierced brick. One of the two brick piers of the entry bay is missing its tapered post. The foundation is concrete. (C) [photo 8]

700 block NW Church Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005018000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

37. 817 NW Church Street – George W. Braxdell Lodge, ca. 1940. This two-story building is of concrete block construction, and the exterior surface has been stuccoed. It has a low-pitched, gable-front roof with exposed rafter tails. The first floor of the façade has an off-set entrance with a replacement door and brick piers supporting a second-story porch. This porch has a replacement railing and metal poles supporting a metal awning that spans the facade. It is accessed by a flight of stairs on the side elevation. In the porch area is a door flanked by boarded up windows. In general, window openings are covered with sheet metal or board. The foundation is stuccoed concrete block. (C) [photo 5]

38. 703 NW Fink Street. Jas. Perry House. This ca. 1900, one-story, brick, pyramid square dwelling has a steep-pitch hip roof and a façade with a central entrance flanked by 1/1 wood sash windows. The almost-full-width porch has a shed roof and square, wood posts on brick piers. The foundation is brick. (C)

39. 705 NW Fink Street. W.H. Dobbins House. This ca. 1900, one-story, frame, pyramid square dwelling has a steep-pitch hip roof, aluminum siding, and a façade with a central entrance flanked by 1/1 wood sash windows. The almost-full-width porch has a shed roof and wrought iron posts. The entrance has a 6-panel replacement door. The foundation has brick piers with concrete block infill. (C)

40. 706 NW Fink Street. Clifton Cooper House. This ca. 1920, one-story, stucco bungalow has a gable front roof and an integral porch which was remodeled with wrought iron posts on brick piers and closed, brick railing. The dwelling has three interior chimneys in a row along the center line of the house. The foundation is stuccoed concrete block. (C)

41. 707 NW Fink Street. Matthew Troupe House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame bungalow dwelling has a front gable roof and a façade with an off-center entrance flanked by paired 1/1 vinyl sash windows. The rebuilt 3-bay porch has a shed roof and metal posts. The foundation is concrete. (C)

700 block NW Fink Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182008006000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block NW Fink Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182009002000.

700 block NW Fink Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182008007000.

42. 711 NW Fink Street. Albert Pickett House. This one-story, ca. 1914, frame bungalow dwelling has vinyl siding and a hip roof with a gable dormer on the façade and a side elevation. The 3-bay façade has a central entrance with paired ca. 1950 2/2 horizontal sash windows. The 3-bay, rebuilt porch is full-width and has a shed roof, square, wood posts, and a railing with square wood newel posts. The foundation is concrete block. Due to the extent of alterations this property no longer retains integrity of its original design. (NC)

700 block NW Fink Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182008008000.

700 block of NW Geddis Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182010009000.

700 block of NW Geddis Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182010010000.

43. 708 Geddis Street. This is a ca. 1970, one-story dwelling with a gable front roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete block foundation, and vinyl siding. The façade has a central entrance and a full-width porch with wrought iron posts. Windows are 2/2 horizontal sash. On the side of the house is a shed roof carport. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block of NW Geddis Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182010011000.

700 block of NW Geddis Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182010012000.

700 block of NW Geddis Street, vacant lot on the southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182010001000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 17

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block of NW Geddis Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073009004000.

700 block of NW Geddis Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073009003000.

44. 706 NW Lafayette Street. Frances & John Weams House. This ca. 1900, one-story, frame dwelling has a main block with a side gable roof and a projecting, front gable bay with a large, craftsman style picture window and a 3-bay porch with a hip roof and wrought iron posts. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0304182003005000.

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0304182003004000.

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0304182003003000.

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073005032000.

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073005031000.

45. 709 NW Lafayette Street. This is a ca. 1960, one-story brick Ranch style dwelling. The façade is two-bay with a recessed, integral porch. The recessed portion has a picture window flanked by single-light fixed windows. The porch has a corner, brick post. The house has a low-pitched hip roof and an interior, brick chimney. Windows are 1/1 wood sash. The foundation is concrete. (C)

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073005030000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 18

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0304182003001000.

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073008001000.

46. 712 NW Lafayette Street. A.L. Holmes House. This ca. 1950, one-story, frame dwelling has a gable front roof and a façade with a half-width, integral porch with wrought iron posts, a large picture window, and 2/2 horizontal wood sash windows. The exterior is of aluminum siding. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

47. 715 NW Lafayette Street. Mrs. Aray J. Tatum House. This ca. 1950, one-story dwelling has a gable front roof and an exterior of stucco. The façade has a center entrance flanked by a large, added picture window and a pair of 1/1 windows. The 3-bay porch has a front gable roof and wrought iron posts. The foundation is stuccoed concrete block. (C)

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073008003000.

48. 720 NW Lafayette Street. Joe Irvin House. This ca. 1950, one-story dwelling has a gable front roof and an exterior of concrete block. The façade has an off-center entrance flanked by 1/1 windows. The 3-bay porch has a front gable roof and wrought iron posts. The dwelling has a concrete chimney. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073008004000.

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073008005000.

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on northeast side of street, parcel number 0303073005025000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 19

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073008006000.

49. 724 NW Lafayette Street. Epsie Burns House. This ca. 1890, one-story, frame pyramid square dwelling has a hip roof and an exterior of rolled asphalt siding. The façade has an off-center entrance flanked by a single and a pair of 1/1 windows. The 3-bay porch has a shed roof and wrought iron posts. The dwelling has 2 interior concrete chimneys. Most of the foundation is concealed; it appears to have concrete block, likely added as infill between piers. (C)

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073008007000.

50. 726 NW Lafayette Street. Mitchell Beaufort House. This ca. 1950, frame, one-story dwelling has a gable front roof, aluminum siding, and a 2-bay façade. On the façade is a front gable projecting bay with a picture window and an integral corner porch. The small porch has a wrought post on a brick pier and closed brick railing that extends across the remainder of the façade. The foundation is concrete. (C)

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on southwest side of street, parcel number 0303073008008000.

51. 728 NW Lafayette Street. Della Moore House. This ca. 1900, frame, one-story shotgun-style dwelling has a front gable roof, a 2-bay façade, and an exterior of aluminum siding. The one-bay porch has wrought iron posts and a shed roof. The windows are 6/6 wood sash. (C)

52. 729 NW Lafayette Street. Oscar Reed House. This ca. 1900, frame, one-story gabled ell dwelling has a 2-bay façade, an exterior of vinyl siding, a concrete chimney, and a cross gable roof. The projecting gable-front bay has an original 4/1 wood sash window. The recessed, side gable wing has an added picture window. The 2-bay porch has wrought iron posts, a shed roof, and ca. 1990 wood newel post railing. The foundation is concrete block. (C)

700 block NW Lafayette Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073005021000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 20

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

53. 732 NW Lafayette Street. Martin E. Queen House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame bungalow dwelling has a front gable roof, a 3-bay façade, two interior brick chimneys, original 2/2 and 1/1 wood sash windows, and an exterior of vinyl siding. Each window has a metal awning. The 3-bay porch has square, wood columns and a hip roof. There are knee brace brackets in the roof eaves. The foundation is concrete block. (C) [photo 7]

54. 734 NW Lafayette Street. R.L. Crump House. This ca. 1900, one-story, frame dwelling has a hip roof, a front gable projecting bay, a 3-bay façade, and an exterior of aluminum siding. Windows are ca. 1960 2/2 horizontal sash. The porch has wrought iron replacement posts. The main entrance has a ca. 1960 one-light wood door. There is a shed roof addition on the rear elevation. The foundation is concrete block. Due to the extent of alterations this property no longer retains integrity of its original design. (NC)

55. 707 NW Newcomb Street. This is a ca. 2000 one-story dwelling with an exterior of vinyl siding, a poured concrete foundation, and a side gable roof of asphalt shingles. Windows are 6/6 vinyl sash. The façade has a 2-bay porch with a gable front roof, square posts and wood railing. To the side is a two-bay garage. The foundation is concrete block. (NC)

700 block NW Newcomb Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182004009000.

56. 715 NW Newcomb Street. This is a ca. 1970 one-story dwelling with a hip roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete foundation, and an exterior of vinyl siding and brick veneer (on the façade). There is an integral corner porch with a wrought iron post and an aluminum awning. Windows are 6/1 sash. The main entrance has a 6-panel door, and there is a secondary entrance on the side elevation. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block NW Newcomb Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 03041820040010000.

57. 717 NW Newcomb Street. John Watkins House. This ca. 1990 one-story, frame dwelling has a front gable roof and an exterior of vinyl siding. The 2-bay façade has a 6/1 wood sash window and a half-width, off-set, re-built porch with a front gable roof and wood posts and wood newel railing. The foundation is stuccoed concrete block. (NC)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 21

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block NW Newcomb Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182004011000.

58. 726 NW Newcomb Street. Church of Christ. This ca. 1950 church building has a front gable roof, a brick exterior, concrete foundation and a square corner belltower with a four-sided pyramidal cap. The façade has a central entrance flanked by fixed one-light windows. The entrance is located in a front gable porch with square, brick posts. Stairs to the porch have metal pipe railing. Originally, the church was clad in weatherboard. (C) [photo 6]

700 block NW Newcomb Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182003007000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182010006000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182011002000.

59. 706 NW Sykes Street. Mrs. Mattie Black House. This ca. 1920, one-story, stucco dwelling has a front gable roof. The façade has a shed roof porch and a metal awning, wood posts, and pierced concrete block railing. On the façade wall an off-center entrance is flanked by a single and paired 1/1 sash windows. An ell-shaped, wood ramp is attached to the porch. The foundation is stuccoed concrete block. (C)

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0304182011001000.

60. 719 NW Sykes Street. This is a ca. 1980 one-story dwelling with a hip roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete foundation, and vinyl siding. The façade has an integral porch with wooden railing and steps. Windows are 2/2 horizontal sash, and there is a 9-light fixed window. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182010009000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 22

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182010010000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182010011000.

61. 723 NW Sykes Street. This is a ca. 1990 one-story dwelling with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete block foundation, and masonite siding. The façade has a gable front porch with turned wood posts and wooden railing. Windows are paired 8-light vinyl casements. The entrance has a nine-light door. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 0304182010012000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on Northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073010003000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 03003073009004000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073010002000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073010001000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on southeast side of street, parcel number 03003073009003000.

700 block NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073010001001.

62. 732 NW Sykes Street. This is a ca. 1920, brick bungalow with a gable front roof. The façade has a central entrance flanked by paired 3/1 wood sash windows. The 3-bay porch has square,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 23

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

brick posts and a railing of pierced brick. The dwelling has an interior, brick chimney. The foundation is concrete. (C)

63. 740 NW Sykes Street. This is a ca. 2005 one-story dwelling with an exterior of brick veneer and a gable-on hip roof of asphalt shingles. The façade has a central entrance bay with a gable front roof and a street-facing garage bay with a gable front roof. Windows are 9/9 vinyl sash. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

700 block of NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073007003000.

64. 744 NW Sykes Street. Archie Elliot House. This ca. 1920, one-story bungalow has a front gable roof, and exterior brick chimney, brick veneer and a 3-bay façade. The central entrance is flanked by a 2/2 horizontal sash windows and a single-light picture window between 1/1 wood sash windows. The 3-bay porch has tapered wood posts on brick piers and a hip roof. Above the porch roof, the gable field has rolled asphalt siding and a 1/1 sash window. The dwelling has an added attached garage on the side elevation. It has a one-bay, ca. 1960 over-head tracking metal door. The foundation is concrete. (C)

700 block of NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073007002000.

65. 749 NW Sykes Street. Paul Anderson House. This ca. 1960, one-story, brick dwelling has a front gable roof and an exterior brick chimney. The façade has a central entrance flanked by 1/1 sash windows. The one-bay porch has wood posts and brick piers and a front gable roof. Windows are 2/2 horizontal sash. The foundation is concrete. (NC)

66. 750 NW Sykes Street. S.A. Garth House. This ca. 1920, one-story, frame bungalow has a five-bay façade, including a porte cochere and an exterior, brick chimney, a gable front roof, an exterior of vinyl siding. And 6/1 wood sash windows. There is a second exterior, brick chimney on the side elevation behind the porte cochere, which has a side gable roof and square, brick posts. The foundation is concrete. (C)

700 block of NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on the northwest side of street, parcel number 0303073006004000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 24

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

67. 815 NW Sykes Street. James Hall This ca. 1920, one-and-one-half-story, brick dwelling has an exterior, end, brick chimney, brick foundation, and a side gable roof. The façade has a 3-bay, shed roof porch with square, brick posts and pierced brick railing. On the façade wall, the central entrance is flanked by 1/1 sash windows. On the façade there is a gable dormer on the roof with three 3/1 original windows. (C)

700 block of NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on the north side of street, parcel number 0303073006002000.

700 block of NW Sykes Street, vacant lot on the north side of street, parcel number 0303073006001000.

700 block of NW Vine Street, vacant lot on north side of street, parcel number 0304182009008000.

700 block of NW Vine Street, vacant lot on north side of street, parcel number 0304182009009000.

700 block of NW Vine Street, vacant lot on north side of street, parcel number 0304182009010000.

68. 726 NW Vine Street. I.L. Turner House. This ca. 1960, one-story, brick, Ranch dwelling has a pair of 2/2 horizontal sash windows, an exterior façade brick chimney, a bank of 3 multi-light wood casement windows, concrete foundation, and an incised corner porch. (NC)

600 block of NW Vine Street, vacant lot on north side of street, parcel number 0304182010005000.

69. 812 NW Vine Street. Leroy Clark House. This ca. 1945, one-story dwelling is of concrete block construction and has a side gable roof and a concrete block foundation. The façade has a 6/6 wood sash window and a half-width, off-set porch with a shed roof and wood posts on pierced concrete block railing. The dwelling has an interior, concrete block chimney. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 25

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

70. 902 NW Vine Street. This is a ca. 2005 dwelling with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles, vinyl siding exterior, concrete foundation, and an attached one-bay garage. (NC)

900 block of NW Vine Street, vacant lot on north side of street, parcel number 0304182011005000.

900 block of NW Vine Street, vacant lot on north side of street, parcel number 0304182011006000.

71. 1012 NW Vine Street. This is a ca. 1970 one-story dwelling with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete block foundation, and hardi-plank siding. The façade has a one-bay porch with a shed roof and wood posts. Windows are 1/1 wood sash. The main entrance has a 6-panel door. On the rear elevation is a 1/2-width screened porch. (NC)

1000 block of NW Vine Street, vacant lot on north side of street, parcel number 0304182012002000.

72. 1014 NW Vine Street. This is a ca. 1970 one-story dwelling with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles, a concrete block foundation, and an exterior of masonite siding. The façade has a full-width porch with turned wood posts. On the rear elevation is a large addition. (NC)

73. All the vacant lots where buildings have been razed compose one archaeological site for their potential to yield information about the growth and development of the neighborhood. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The district's period of significance extends from ca. 1890, which is the approximate date of the oldest remaining dwellings in the neighborhood to 1962 in keeping with the fifty year cut-off date.

Decatur's West Old Town Historic District is locally significant for the National Register under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black, Criterion C: Architecture and Criterion D: Archaeology. The West Old Town Historic District contains 73 primary buildings and one site of which 46 (62.2%) are contributing and 28 (37.8%) are non-contributing. The district represents the largest intact collection of contiguous late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century dwellings in the Northwest neighborhood. These dwellings have not been significantly altered, and the district retains a strong sense of time and place. The appearance of the West Old Town Historic District has not been significantly altered, and it retains much of its historic character.

Under criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black, this proposed district is the home of Decatur's original African-American community. The Northwest neighborhood was first developed as a white working-class neighborhood in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. Freed slaves were drawn here by railroad and industrial jobs after the Civil War. The subject district developed as a predominantly black neighborhood in the blocks of west of the white working class neighborhood. Within the West Old Town Historic District were many of Decatur's original African-American businesses and the homes of prominent citizens as well as working- and middle-class residents. This was a common development pattern in Alabama where segregation forced blacks to live in certain areas of town.

Under criterion C, the district is a notable collection of modest vernacular dwellings of the nineteenth and early- to mid- twentieth centuries. Found within the district are good examples of such building typologies as the pyramid square, the shotgun, the gable front and the gabled ell. There are also intact, though modest, examples of the bungalow and the ranch style house. A fraternal lodge constructed of concrete block and dating from c. 1940 is an intact example of a mid-twentieth century social hall.

The West Old Town Historic District also has local significance under Criterion D: Archaeology. Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this neighborhood, the potential for subsurface remains is high. The ground level remains, Sanborn maps and oral tradition indicate that buried remains on the vacant lots may yield useful information on the historic buildings that once occupied these lots and the history of the people who inhabited this neighborhood.

History and Context of the Northwest Neighborhood

Located south of the Tennessee River in north Alabama, Decatur is a town that had a population of 55,778 in 2006. It is the county seat of Morgan County, which was originally established in 1818 as Cotaco County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 27

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

The river influenced the establishment of Decatur as a center of commerce. Within the district, dwellings of high style architecture are intermingled with vernacular forms ranging from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

Cotaco County was carved out of land obtained from the Cherokees in the Treaty of Turkeytown. The county was named after a creek running through the area. Its county seat was Somerville. Pioneers arrived from southeastern states, settling on the Cotaco and other tributaries. Early settlers engaged in cotton farming, both large and small scale, in the fertile river valley. Lumber and cattle were among the other agricultural products shipped out of Morgan County via steamboats and ferries. Decatur was one of the earliest towns in the new county.¹

Following the 1819 granting of statehood to Alabama, Major John Hutchings, nephew of General Andrew Jackson, surveyed the area of present-day Decatur at the request of President Monroe. Briefly referred to as Hutchings Bluffs, Decatur was officially named on June 2, 1820 for Stephen Decatur, a naval war hero in the War of 1812. Patents were issued to the Decatur Land Company, and the town became incorporated in 1826.²

While the convenience of river transportation and the fertile soil of this river valley attracted settlers, low water levels and shoals hindered travel on this particular stretch of the river. The cotton cultivated in Morgan County had to be stored in warehouses on the riverbank until the water level was high enough to navigate the shoals and ship it to New Orleans. An 1830 survey estimated the cost of a canal around the shoals at \$1.4 million. The United States government gave the state of Alabama 400,000 acres to sell in order to raise the money for the canal. Work began in 1831 and was completed in 1836. Unfortunately, the project was doomed: during low water levels, boats could not reach the canal; during high levels, the canal was unnecessary.³

In 1836, however, Decatur's prosperity took a turn for the better with the construction of the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad. This rail line, believed to be one of the first west of the Alleghenies, provided incentives for growth, and Decatur became an industrial center. The prosperity influenced the establishment of a Bank of Alabama branch in Decatur in 1833. However, the state banking system imploded in the Depression of 1837.⁴ In 1855, the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad was purchased by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, which built a rail bridge across the Tennessee River. Also in 1853, the Tennessee-Alabama Central Railroad connected Decatur to Nashville. The two railroads intersected at

¹ Donna J. Siebenthaler "Morgan County," at the Encyclopedia of Alabama, <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article>.

² "Albany Heritage Commercial Historic District," National Register form, Section 8, Page 19; Sarah Lawless, "Decatur," Encyclopedia of Alabama at <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org>; Philip Wirey, Decatur, Alabama, Historic Walking Tour.

³ *A Brief History of Decatur, Alabama*, (Decatur: River City Kiwanis Club, 2004), 3.

⁴ "Albany Heritage Commercial Historic District," Lawless: "Decatur Then," at http://www.decaturalabamaua.com/livework/decatur_then.html.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 28West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Decatur, making the city a major hub for the north-south and east-west lines.⁵ Decatur was a thriving commercial center in the years immediately preceding the Civil War.

As a rail center, Decatur became a strategic location during the Civil War. Most residents of Decatur and north Alabama were opposed to leaving the Union. Though Morgan County's representative voted against secession, the state as a whole voted to secede. During the war, Decatur was occupied at various times by both armies. Decatur fell to the Union Army without a fight, some residents even voluntarily. In 1862, Union troops abandoned the city, destroying much of the railroad and the rail bridge across the river. Locals managed to salvage some of the rail line between Decatur and Tuscumbia. The area was revisited in 1864 by Union troops under General Grenville Dodge, who took Decatur and built a pontoon bridge across the river. He ordered residents to leave the city and destroyed all its buildings that were not serving as headquarters or housing supplies. Remaining buildings included the Old State Bank, the Burleson-McEntire House, the Dancy-Polk House, and the McCartney Hotel.⁶ All of these buildings are outside the boundaries of the Old Town Historic District.

On October 26, 1864, General Robert Granger received news that Confederate General John Bell Hood was approaching Decatur from the east. Granger moved 300 soldiers to the fortifications at Decatur, preparing to defend it. Hood's troops numbered approximately 30,000 men, far more than the 3,000-5,000 Union troops in Decatur. Over the course of two days, the two combatants engaged in skirmishes that resulted in nominal casualties and captures. One of these skirmishes took place in the Northwest Neighborhood near the intersection of Vine and Washington Streets. Hood finally abandoned his goal to take Decatur and cross the river into Tennessee. He circumvented Decatur, instead crossing at Florence, Alabama.⁷ This delay helped to concentrate sufficient Union troops in Tennessee to defeat Hood and force his retreat.

| Year | Free white males | Free white females | Free black males | Free black females | Slave males | Slave females |
|------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1820 | 2243 | 1251 | 6 | 5 | 432 | 426 |
| 1830 | 3130 | 2996 | 19 | 23 | 1442 | 1452 |
| 1840 | 3383 | 3242 | 25 | 20 | 1576 | 1640 |
| 1850 | 3319 | 3318 | 28 | 23 | 1724 | 1713 |
| 1860 | 3781 | 3811 | 18 | 19 | 1817 | 1889 |

Table with population of Morgan County between 1820 and 1860

Decatur's population prior to the war had been in the 600s. Following the war, Decatur was devastated, but rebuilding efforts commenced. The reconstruction of rail lines in 1871 and their incorporation into the Louisville & Nashville Railroad network greatly influenced Decatur's return to its position as a commercial center. A post-war economic boom helped Decatur's population to grow to 1,140 by 1873 and to between 1500 and 2000 by 1877. Still, Decatur experienced further losses with a devastating fire in 1877 and a yellow

⁵ *A Brief History of Decatur, Alabama*, 4.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 5.

⁷ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 29

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

fever outbreak in 1878. The epidemic claimed fifty-eight lives and sent hundreds of residents fleeing the city. No trains stopped in Decatur for sixty days.⁸ By 1880, Decatur's population had diminished to 1,063.

As freedmen assimilated into American society after Emancipation, some remained in rural settings working in agriculture while others gravitated to cities. They contributed to the rise in Decatur's population, settling in an area that became known as Northwest Decatur, or Old Town. Decatur's industrial base was booming, and employment opportunities could be had along the river at various industrial sites. Also, the urban environment offered the opportunity for advancement in education and professional trades among African Americans. The railroad through Decatur served as a dividing line between the middle and upper class neighborhoods on the east side of the tracks and the working class Old Town neighborhood on the west side. In the Old Town neighborhood, blocks near the railroad track already had white, working-class households; the migration of African Americans to the western blocks of the Old Town neighborhood began a process of integration across the entire neighborhood.

When former slaves migrated to Northwest Decatur, many retained their former owner's surnames, as evident in the similar family names among prominent African American and white Decatur residents. Two examples are the Sykes and Garth families. Census records indicate that Francis Sykes was a successful farmer and slave holder in Lawrence County, Alabama. In ca. 1855, he fathered a son, Solomon, with one of his slaves, Laura.⁹ The 1880 Census indicates that Solomon Sykes, his wife, and his brothers Melvin, Charles, and James established a family presence in the Northwest neighborhood.¹⁰ Another family name in Decatur's African-American community was Garth, which also originated from a planter. Jesse W. Garth owned large land tracts in northern Alabama and Mississippi. Several branches of the Garth family were recorded in Morgan County in 1870.¹¹ The Cashin family was also noteworthy in the neighborhood.

Another example of the prominence of the neighborhood's African-American residents was Willis E. Sterrs, whose family lived at 701 NW Vine Street. The residence (no longer extant) was later converted into Reynolds Funeral Home. Sterrs was born in Montgomery to Charles and Harriet Sterrs, former slaves. Following graduation from the University of Michigan with a medical degree, he practiced as a surgeon in

Montgomery beginning in 1888, then in Decatur beginning in 1890. He was briefly (1891) employed as a professor of bacteriology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, before returning to Decatur. There, he opened Magnolia Drug Store, dispensing affordable prescriptions to African-American patients. Sterrs strove to engender a sense of solidarity and self-sufficiency among the African American community of Decatur, next opening a dry goods store that catered to African Americans. He also opened the Cottage House Infirmary and Nurse Training School beginning in 1908. In all his businesses he employed African-American men and women. His office was at 310 Bank Street in downtown Decatur. Sterrs was very active in the community, serving as a minister at the Baptist Church and on the board of trustees for the North Alabama Baptist Academy. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias. His wife Eva survived his

⁸ Ibid., 8-9.

⁹ Alice Sykes, genealogical research notes, 2004.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 30West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

untimely death in 1921 by forty years. She perpetuated his philanthropy, donating an organ to the First Baptist Church of Decatur and made contributions to the City of Decatur for a Boys' Club and a library, both of which bear her name.¹²

During the 1880s, Decatur began its renaissance as a commercial and cultural center. Attention to infrastructure included electricity, sanitation, and road improvements. Sheffield, Alabama developer Major E.C. Gordon foresaw the success and prosperity that Decatur promised, acquiring 5,600 acres of land under the Decatur Land Improvement and Furnace Company. Advertising nationally, Gordon proceeded with the development of New Decatur to the southeast of the original town. His company hired expert architects and designers to plat a community with wide avenues, landscaping, parks and distinct districts for commercial businesses and residential neighborhoods. The promotion of New Decatur's 500 new homes and businesses attracted new residents to the development, evidenced in a jump in that town's 1887 population from 1,200 to 5,000. The building of two opulent hotels, the Tavern and the Casa Grande, also indicated the wealth arriving in Decatur. Additionally, the three-story Cotaco Opera House, built from the sale of public stocks, was completed in 1890.¹³ By that year, (Old) Decatur's population had risen dramatically over the previous decade from 1,063 to 2,765 (a gain of 160%).

Morgan County officials clearly recognized the growing prominence of Decatur and moved the county seat there from Somerville in 1891.¹⁴ Thus, Decatur had by this time taken its place as a commercial and public center on the river. Its prosperity was challenged by a financial panic in 1892-94. However, its prominence as both a rail hub and a river port helped lure new industry especially during the last five years of the century. The business center on New Decatur's Second Avenue flourished.¹⁵ At the turn of the twentieth century, Decatur's population was between 7,000 and 8,000.¹⁶

As Old and New Decatur entered the new century, they had developed a distinct rivalry. While the old town, on the river, was the gateway for the transportation of goods, New Decatur, enjoyed more modern planning and architecture. In 1907, New Decatur officially changed its name to Albany, favored by the town's large northern population. The two cities, despite their rivalry, cooperated in enticing new business to the Albany-Decatur-Upper Muscle Shoals region. The area boasted a wealth of natural minerals, river access, and truck-rail lines, collectively attractive to factories. A promotional brochure named three dozen industries and noted additional available lots for new businesses.¹⁷

One example of Decatur's industry in this period was the Alabama Brick and Tile Company. This plant was in operation by the early 20th century. Clay was shipped in by barge from pits around Garnersville and Lacy Springs. The plant's extant brick kiln could fire around 200,000 individual bricks at a time.¹⁸ Located next to

¹² Frank Lincoln Mather, ed., *Who's Who of the Colored Race*, (Chicago: published by author, 1915), 252-253.

¹³ "Albany Heritage Commercial Historic District;" Lawless.

¹⁴ Siebenthaler.

¹⁵ "Albany Heritage Commercial Historic District," National Register form, Section 8, Page 20.

¹⁶ "Decatur Then."

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 21.

¹⁸ Roy Johnston, telephone interview, February 4 & 5, 2010.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 31West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

the Tennessee River, this large plant employed numerous workers in the northwest neighborhood. Most of the buildings associated with this industry have been razed.

The economic progress of the city was reflected in the expansion of the residential area known as the Old Town neighborhood, south of the Tennessee River and west of the railroad. Development of these blocks had already begun after the Civil War, when soldiers' tents were replaced with more permanent frame structures. Further development continued through the end of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. The blocks immediately west of the railroad evolved over time from a predominantly white, working class neighborhood into a predominantly African-American community. Unlike the gradual shift in demographics experienced in blocks of East Old Town Historic District, West Old Town Historic District has traditionally been an African-American neighborhood. In addition to the dwellings, several churches and commercial buildings were constructed during these years to serve the area's residents. The density of the neighborhood is illustrated on the 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.

During this period, north Alabama cities benefited from hydroelectric developments on the Tennessee River. In Congress, General Joe Wheeler advanced the goal of a hydroelectric dam at Muscle Shoals in 1898. The bill had passed, but the project was never undertaken. During World War I, however, the federal government built Wilson Dam and two explosives-manufacturing plants at Muscle Shoals.¹⁹ Dependable river levels resulted in the building of several new industries in the Decatur area. This period was one of prosperity and growth for Decatur. The total population of cities and suburbs by the 1920s was 20,000 residents - triple the number from two decades prior. The city of Decatur had a population of 4,752 in 1920, followed by a dramatic spike to 15,593 in 1930.

The success of this northern Alabama region prompted the construction of a new highway bridge across the Tennessee River during the Good Roads movement of the 1920s. In 1923, an attempt was made to consolidate Albany and Decatur, in order for both municipalities to contribute to the infrastructure project. However, higher taxes in Albany and a discrepancy in respective debts resulted in an Alabama Supreme Court ruling that such a merger was unconstitutional. By 1927, however, financial issues were resolved, and Albany and Decatur worked as a collective municipality to complete the Keller Bridge across the river.²⁰

Other notable events of the decade included a fire in 1926 (another occurred in 1938) at the Morgan County courthouse in Decatur. The damage resulted in the loss of most county records that had not already been destroyed during the Civil War. In 1929, the city enjoyed the installation of its first traffic lights, indicative of the growth of automobile traffic through the region. On the eve of the Great Depression, Decatur was not only a center of commerce and government, but also of social life, with movies, restaurants, theaters, and musical venues.²¹

As across America, the decade following the 1929 stock market crash derailed progress and prosperity in Decatur. Exacerbating life in Morgan County during the 1930s was a notorious court case that drew

¹⁹ *A Brief History of Decatur, Alabama*, 11.

²⁰ Lawless.

²¹ *Ibid.*; Siebenthaler; "Decatur Then."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 32West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

international attention to racial conditions in the post-Reconstruction period in the South. Decatur was the scene of the famous Scottsboro Trials involving the accusation of rape by two single, white women against nine African-American males. The trials commenced in 1931 and garnered international attention. The event that launched the notorious legal proceedings occurred on March 25, 1931, when a fight between white and black youths erupted on a train en route through Jackson County, Alabama. The two women, traveling unaccompanied, were questioned as witnesses. They falsely accused the young black men of rape in order to avoid charges of vagrancy against themselves. Their actions resulted in several years of court proceedings, indictments, appeals, and the eventual incarceration of some of the accused men.²²

The original trials occurred in Scottsboro, county seat of Jackson County. The all-white juries returned a guilty verdict in just four days in early April 1931. Eight of the nine African-American men were sentenced to death; the judge scheduled their executions for July of that year.²³

If not for outside attention, the sentences would have been carried out. It was the International Labor Defense (ILD) that intervened. Sponsored by the Communist Party USA, the ILD astutely recognized the Scottsboro trials as a propaganda tool for conflating racial injustice and economic discontent. The ILD obtained a stay of execution for the defendants while the case was reviewed by the Alabama Supreme Court. Despite evidence of the defendants' innocence, including the recanting of one of the two women's original accusations, the court upheld the verdicts. The ILD mounted an enormous publicity campaign as it took the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court. There, *Powell vs. Alabama* invoked the Fourteenth Amendment to enforce equal rights to adequate council for the African American defendants.²⁴

Legal proceedings returned to Alabama, with a change of venue to Morgan County. Another all-white jury returned guilty verdicts, but Judge James Horton over-ruled, based on a medical examiner's statement who found no evidence of rape. The prosecutors were unrelenting, however, and gained guilty verdicts against two of the defendants. The ILD resorted to bribing the second accuser, resulting in a turn-over of the lead defense attorney in the trials. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1935 reviewed the latest cases, turning them over on the basis of systematic exclusion of African Americans from any of the juries. Again, legal proceedings returned to Alabama, where verdicts and sentencing, all based on the same evidence, varied from acquittal for four defendants to incarceration until 1976 for the last to be paroled.²⁵

The Scottsboro Trials set several precedents. They first enforced equal rights to adequate legal representation. Additionally, the trials called for integration of juries. Several prominent African-American residents of the Northwest Neighborhood were interviewed to serve on the jury for the Scottsboro Boys. However, the prosecution always found fault and refused to admit any African Americans on the jury no matter their qualifications. Most notably, the trials cast an international light on racial inequities, foreshadowing the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. The case also reached a wide audience as the inspirational basis of Harper Lee's Pulitzer prize-winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

²² Daren Salter, "The Scottsboro Trials," at the Encyclopedia of Alabama, <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.; Siebenthaler.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 33

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Despite this negative attention on Decatur and northern Alabama during the 1930s, the region was also the beneficiary of a major project via Roosevelt's New Deal program. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was created in 1933 as part of FDR's "First One Hundred Days." While today TVA is mainly viewed as a producer of power, its original purpose aimed to improve quality of life across a rural, often impoverished, region. This goal was multi-pronged and included flood control, conservation of natural resources, instruction in modern farming practices, fertilizer production and improved navigation of the river, in addition to providing electricity. Thus, TVA was a vehicle of reform.²⁶

The river had long determined growth in Decatur and the whole Tennessee Valley. It allowed for transportation of agricultural and industrial products, and it also penetrated life in a cultural realm, as religious affiliations used the river for group baptizing.²⁷ Yet, the river presented negative impacts, as evidenced in problematic navigation during low water. In the summer, the river was the source of malaria, transmitted by mosquitoes. In other areas, flooding wiped out crops and caused detrimental conditions for good health. In Decatur, the presence of the World War I munitions plant drew attention to Muscle Shoals for the implementation of a far-reaching federal project.

The multi-faceted program of TVA evolved from Nebraska Senator George Norris' idea to use the federal munitions base at Muscle Shoals as the foundation of a regional development plan. Since the end of WWI, the Muscle Shoals facility had sat idle, and Norris had attempted to push through legislation in 1928 and 1930 for the government to purchase and re-develop the site. Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover, respectively, vetoed the bills. However, as Roosevelt developed new programs to revitalize the nation's economy, the north Alabama site found new purpose.²⁸

President Roosevelt described the ambitious project as a social experiment, coupling improvement of both the land and the lives of the people working it. By the 1930s, it was clear that much of the nation's farmland had not been properly managed. A report from the USDA noted that 75-100% of topsoil had eroded from some 11 million acres due to flooding and agricultural use. TVA's goal was improvement of quality of life through progressive management of natural resources. The flood control afforded by TVA's series of dams along the river brought stability to the lives of thousands of families. Farmers were then able consistently to apply modern farming methods aimed at soil improvement, thus improved crops. TVA worked with the CCC in planting 50 million trees across the TVA region by 1939, further assisting in soil conservation. TVA's hydroelectric power plants brought electricity to 668,000 households by 1946.²⁹

Simultaneously, Decatur further developed its industrial base. With TVA's improvements to navigation on the Tennessee River, as well as the abundant and inexpensive electricity it provided, Morgan County experienced a shift from an agricultural economy to one of industry and manufacturing. By 1940, Decatur had forty-one industrial plants manufacturing cotton textiles, fertilizer, brick, boats and steel barges and six

²⁶ Carol Van West, *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001), 9.

²⁷ Roy Johnston, telephone interviews.

²⁸ *A Brief History of Decatur, Alabama*, 11.

²⁹ West, 9-11, 212-214.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 34West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

wholesale warehouses. The city also offered residents and visitors several retail stores, three hotels and other inns, and the Princess Theatre, remodeled in the popular Art Deco style.³⁰

These years also witnessed new construction in the northwest neighborhood of Decatur. Many of the area's African-American residents found employment in the nearby industries along the river. New dwellings built in the Bungalow style and vernacular designs such as Pyramid Square and Gable Front were built during the 1930s and 1940s in the Old Town neighborhood. During this period, two major industrial employers in Decatur were Ingalls Ship Building Company and the Decatur Iron and Steel Company. They manufactured a variety of barges, ferries, and tow boats. These were used in the transportation of grain, coal and iron ore. Both companies contributed significantly to the war effort. Decatur Iron and Steel supplied the U.S. Army with thirty-three tow boats and thirty-three landing craft for tank transport. Eleven more of the latter went to ally Great Britain. Some of these were converted into armored landing craft for the Normandy invasion. Many other landing craft from Decatur were used as well at Normandy and through the Pacific. Ingalls Ship Building, located on Market Street, employed 1500 workers at this time and built over 100 barges and twenty small (176-foot) freighters during the war.³¹

For the most part, residents of the Northwest Decatur neighborhood in the 20th century held middle-class and working-class occupations such as teacher, laborer, and merchant. Because of Decatur's transportation heritage a number of residents were employed by the rail lines. However, prominent African-American doctors also resided here. There were several social buildings constructed in the neighborhood. One of these, the George W. Braxdell Lodge [inv. # 37], still remains standing on Church Street. This lodge housed a fraternal organization providing services in the community. Another lodge, the United Brothers of Friendship was another benevolent and social organization, and the lodge building stood on Grove Street, south of Walnut (now razed).

Following World War II, Decatur continued to grow. As occurred across the country during this period of national prosperity, residents and businesses relocated from inner city neighborhoods and commercial districts to suburban developments, strip shopping center, and retail malls. In Decatur, Second Avenue, the historic business district, suffered from out-migration, and historic buildings became vacant and neglected. Residential neighborhoods also experienced deterioration of older buildings. Many homes in the northwest neighborhood were razed, resulting in many vacant lots. As part of urban renewal efforts, a large area of the neighborhood south of NW Vine Street was cleared to make way for new federally subsidized housing known as the Cashion Homes. These housing units have since been removed.

Urban planning and renewal efforts in the 1960s and 1970s attempted to lure shoppers back to downtown by covering historic facades with concrete canopies to mimic suburban shopping designs. The late twentieth century witnessed the loss of many older dwellings in the Northwest neighborhood as a result of fire or neglect. The central section of the neighborhood was especially hit hard by urban renewal projects and this area contains both modern dwellings as well as vacant lots. Despite these losses there remains a strong sense

³⁰ "Albany Heritage Commercial Historic District," National Register form, Section 8, Page 21; Siebenthaler.

³¹ *A Brief History of Decatur, Alabama*, 12.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 35

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

of community, and efforts are underway to preserve the existing housing stock, as well as revitalize the overall neighborhood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 36

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Albany Heritage Commercial Historic District," National Register form, Section 8, 19.

A Brief History of Decatur, Alabama. Decatur: River City Kiwanis Club, 2004.

Bailey, Richard. *Neither Carpetbaggers Nor Scalawags: Black Officeholders During the Reconstruction of Alabama, 1867- 78.* Montgomery, Louisville: New South, Inc., 2010.

"Decatur Then," at http://www.decaturlabamausa.com/livework/decaturl_then.html.

Johnston, Roy. Telephone interview. February 4 & 5, 2010.

Lawless, Sarah. "Decatur." Encyclopedia of Alabama at <http://www.Encyclopediaofalabama.org>.

Lehman, Tim. *Public Values, Private Lands: Farmland Preservation Policy, 1933-1985.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.

Mather, Frank Lincoln, ed. *Who's Who of the Colored Race.* Chicago: published by author, 1915.

McDaniel, Deangelo. "Chronicle of a Special Decatur Family." *Decatur Daily Newspaper.* July 14, 2008.

Ragland, Dr. Wyl. Personal Interview, 18 February 2010

Ruffin, Herbert G. "Great Migration." At [http://www.decaturlabamausa.com/live work/ decatur_then.html](http://www.decaturlabamausa.com/live%20work/decaturl_then.html).

Salter, Daren. "The Scottsboro Trials." Encyclopedia of Alabama at <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article>

Siebenthaler, Donna J. "Morgan County." Encyclopedia of Alabama, at <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article>.

Sykes, Alice. Genealogical research notes, 2004.

Towns, Peggy Allen. Personal Interview, 18 February 2010.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 37

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Wayman, Alexander Walker. *Cyclopaedia of African Methodism*. Baltimore: Methodist Episcopal Book Depository, 1882. Electronic edition, available at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/church/waymanencyc/wayman.html>

West, Carroll Van. *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001.

Wirey, Philip. Decatur, Alabama, Historic Walking Tour.

_____. King's Memorial History Night Talk, October, 2004.

_____. Personal Interview, 18 February 2010.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 38West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at a point where NW Vine Street and NW Newcomb Street intersect, proceed west along NW Vine Street approximately 1340' to the western property line of 1016 NW Vine Street, then turn northeast and proceed along the rear property lines of the NW Cashin Street addresses (odd numbers) for approximately 1340' to NW Church Street and turn southeast. Proceed on NW Church Street approximately 700' to the western property line of 728 NW Church Street and turn northeast and proceed to the rear property line of 728 NW Church Street. Turn southeast and proceed along the rear property lines of NW Church Street addresses (even numbers) for approximately 575' to NW Newcomb Street. Turn southwest and continue along NW Newcomb Street approximately 175' to the northern property line of 621 NW Church Street. Turn southeast and proceed along this property line, then turn southwest and proceed along the rear property line of 621 NW Church Street, then turn northwest and proceed along the southern property line of 621 NW Church Street to NW Newcomb Street. Turn southwest and proceed along Newcomb Street for approximately 285' to the northern property line of the Newcomb Street Church of Christ at 728 or 726? NW Newcomb Street. Turn southeast and proceed along this property line, then turn southwest and proceed on the rear property line, then turn northwest and proceed along the southern property line to NW Newcomb Street. Turn southwest and proceed along NW Newcomb Street for approximately 270' to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Historically, Decatur's African American neighborhood first began development following the Civil War. Since then, this area west of the Southern Railway line became increasingly populated into the mid-twentieth century. The general neighborhood extended to Market Street on the northeast, where residents found employment in the industrial sector, Railroad Street on the southeast, Vine Street on the southwest, and Cashin Street on the northwest. During the mid-twentieth century, however, a federal housing project was erected and later razed within the central portion of this large area, leaving a void for late-twentieth century development. Additionally, some buildings, both residential and commercial, were abandoned and demolished during this period. As a result, the entire neighborhood no longer represents the period of significance.

The two largest concentrations of properties retaining integrity in the neighborhood are designated as the West Old Town Historic District and the East Old Town Historic District. These two areas are separated by blocks of post-1962 dwellings. Because of the large number of modern dwellings in the central section of the neighborhood, two districts are eligible rather than one. The boundaries for the West Old Town Historic District are drawn to encompass one of the two largest contiguous collections of residential architecture relating to the city's historic African-American neighborhood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 39

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

UTM REFERENCES CONTINUED

E.) 16 E 500757 N 3830604

F.) 16 E 500728 N 3830632

G.) 16 E 500672 N 3830581

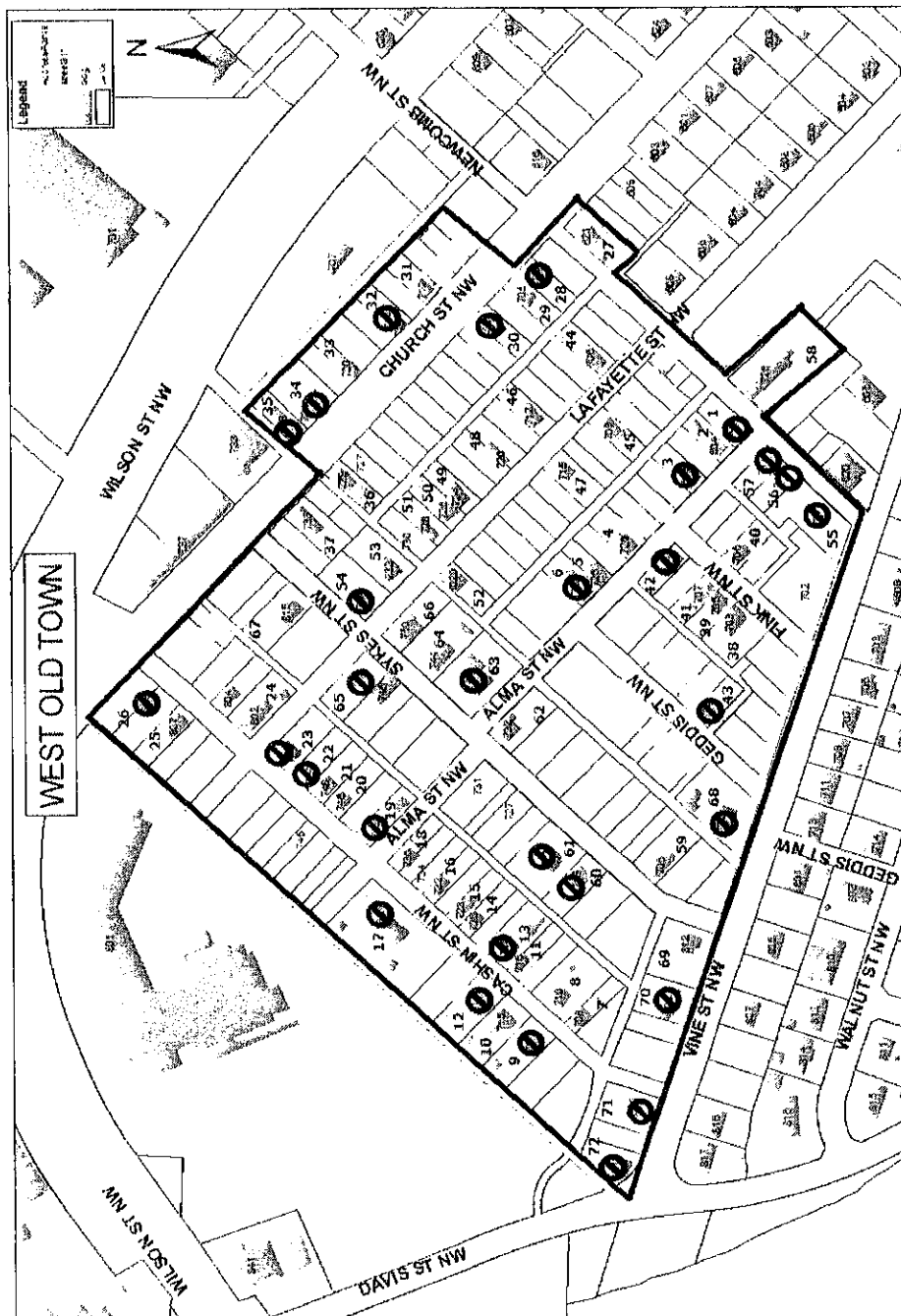
H.) 16 E 500348 N 3830690


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 40

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama



Resources are numbered according to the inventory list above. NC resources are marked with . Contributing resources are not marked.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Information Page 41

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

Photos by: Thomason and Associates
Date: February & March, 2010

Photo No. 1: Streetscape, 600 block of Alma Street, view to NW
Photo No. 2: Streetscape, 700 block of Church Street, view to W
Photo No. 3: Streetscape, 700 block of Fink Street, view to N
Photo No. 4: Streetscape, 700 block of Lafayette Street, view to SE
Photo No. 5: Braxdell Lodge, 817 Church Street, view to S
Photo No. 6: Newcomb Street Church of Christ, view to SE
Photo No. 7: 732 NW Lafayette Street, view to N
Photo No. 8: 733 NW Church Street, view to N
Photo No. 9: 802 NW Cashin Street, view to SE

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

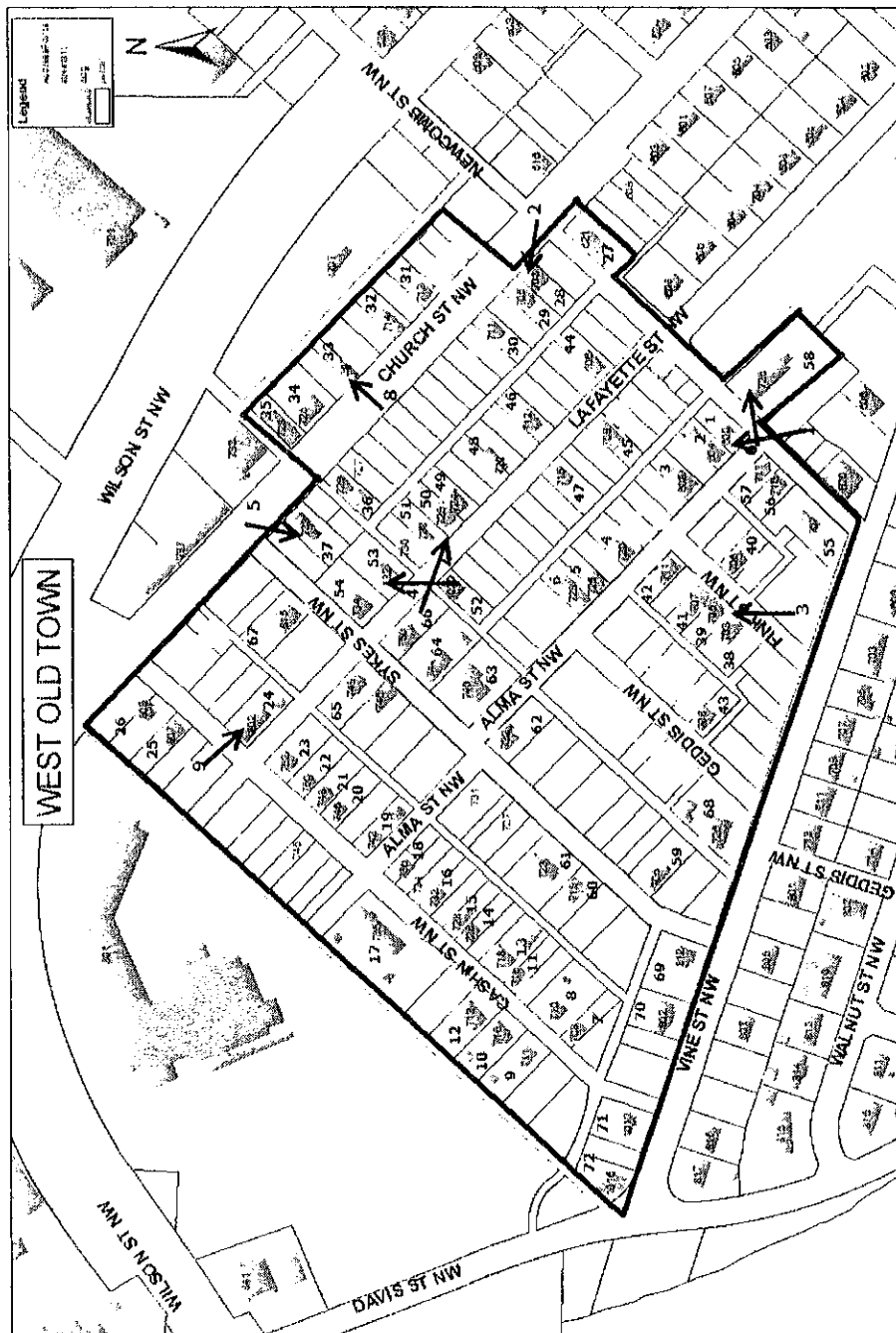


Photo key depicting point of view

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Additional Information Page 43West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

| | Location/Resource name | C/NC | Owner & address (if different) |
|-----|---|------|--|
| 1. | 600 Alma Street. Buford Gaiter-Theophilus Bumpus House. | (NC) | Mitchell Bridgeforth & Marsha Jones 20337 Winfred Dr. Tanner, AL 35671 |
| 2. | 604 Alma Street. Andrew Cargle House. | (C) | Lester J. Morris 801 Canterbury Ave. SW Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 3. | 608 Alma Street. Fred Cowley House. | (NC) | Dovella Cowley |
| 4. | 720 Alma Street. of J.W. Powell House. | (C) | Joyce Parker Burrell 424 13 th Ave. NW Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 5. | 726 Alma Street. Mrs. Hattie Haynes House. | (C) | Charlotte Williams 536 Crest Street Florence, AL |
| 6. | 728 Alma Street. | (NC) | Church of God in Christ 1528 Sherman Street SE Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 7. | 708 NW Cashin Street. Ellie Matthews House. | (C) | Carrie Mae Matthews |
| 8. | 710 NW Cashin Street. | (C) | Phil Birgans 112 Church Street NW Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 9. | 711 NW Cashin Street. Mattie L. Matthews House. | (NC) | James Roy Goddard 31279 Valley Lane Prospect, TN 38477 |
| 10. | 715 NW Cashin Street. Cleo Spraggins House. | (C) | Ellie Matthews Jr. |
| 11. | 716 NW Cashin Street. Katie A. Foster House. | (C) | Ellie Matthews Jr. 715 Cashin Dt. NW Decatur, AL |
| 12. | 717 NW Cashin Street. | (NC) | Thomas E. Garrett 1008 Clarkview St. Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 13. | 718 NW Cashin Street. | (NC) | Ruby Mae Gaines |
| 14. | 726 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Sarah Hatchett House. | (C) | Connie Peck 213 Oak Street NE |
| 15. | 728 NW Cashin Street. R.E. Summers House. | (C) | Jennifer Evette Thompson 705 Vine Street NW Decatur, AL 35601 |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Additional Information Page 44West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

| | | | |
|-----|---|------|---|
| 16. | 732 NW Cashin Street. George Wakefield House. | (C) | Milam Eady c/o U.J. Oates 15090 Hwy. 72 West Tuscumbia, AL 35671 |
| 17. | 735 NW Cashin Street. Samuel Vinson House. | (NC) | Countess Vinson |
| 18. | 736 NW Cashin Street. Albert Wright House. | (C) | Jefferson Mattie c/o Gloria Grider 9611 Discover Rise Converse, TX 78109 |
| 19. | 742 NW Cashin Street. Fred Cowan House. | (NC) | Preston O'Neal Banks |
| 20. | 746 NW Cashin Street. William Holden House. | (C) | Mitchell Bridgeforth & Marsha Jones 20337 Winfred Dr. Tanner, AL 35671 |
| 21. | 748 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Georgia M. Hill House. | (C) | Chinetha & Charles Baker 3118 Battlement Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603 |
| 22. | 750 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Edna Priest House. | (NC) | Mitchell Bridgeforth 20337 Winfred Dr. Tanner, AL 35671 |
| 23. | 752 NW Cashin Street. William Edmondson House. | (NC) | Adrian Wray 1207 Old Trinity Road Trinity, AL 35673 |
| 24. | 802 NW Cashin Street. Claude Stevenson House. | (C) | Tobia N. Joseph 2311 Elliott Street SE 03030730060060000 |
| 25. | 807 NW Cashin Street. Collis Stevenson House. | (C) | Ola Sanders Stevenson P.O. Box 663 Decatur, AL 35602 |
| 26. | 809 NW Cashin Street. Mrs. Samella Brown House. | (NC) | Arnell R. Collier 401 Brierwood Dr. Columbia, TN 38401 |
| 27. | 621 NW Church Street. Frederick Dankins House. | (C) | Oscar Goodwin 2501 Ashmor Place SE 0304182001009000 |
| 28. | 703 NW Church Street. J.T. Priest House. | (NC) | John L. Stevenson 121 4 th Ave. NW Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 29. | 705 NW Church Street. Charles Lee House. | (C) | William Robinson |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Information Page 45

West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

| | | | |
|-----|---|------|--|
| 30. | 711 NW Church Street. A.C. Ruffin House. | (NC) | Hillman H. Locklayer 1909 County Road 439 Hillsboro, AL 35643 |
| 31. | 712 NW Church Street. John Allison House. | (C) | Mitchell Bridgeforth 20337 Winfred Dr. Tanner, AL 35671 |
| 32. | 714 NW Church Street. Charles Horton House. | (NC) | Franzetta Fletcher |
| 33. | 720 NW Church Street. Jas. Hobbs House. | (C) | Edward & Brenda Greene 132 Moore Road Somerville, AL 35670 |
| 34. | 726 NW Church Street. | (NC) | Darlene Wynn |
| 35. | 728 NW Church Street. Mattie Cornwell House. | (NC) | Karlan & Barbara Fletcher 621 14 th Ave. SW Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 36. | 733 NW Church Street. J.D. Bryant House. | (C) | Emma Kate & Mosley Calloway |
| 37. | 817 NW Church Street – George W. Braxdell Lodge. | (C) | George W. Braxdell Lodge |
| 38. | 703 NW Fink Street. Jas. Perry House. | (C) | Katie Sails |
| 39. | 705 NW Fink Street. W.H. Dobbins House. | (C) | Billy Ray Young 78 1 st Ave. Hillsboro, AL 35643 |
| 40. | 706 NW Fink Street. Clifton Cooper House. | (C) | Lester Morris 801 Canterbury SW Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 41. | 707 NW Fink Street. Matthew Troupe House. | (C) | Dinah Rogers Lyle |
| 42. | 711 NW Fink Street. Albert Pickett House. | (NC) | Mary Sue Mosley |
| 43. | 708 Geddis Street. | (NC) | Estella Waltina Jones |
| 44. | 706 NW Lafayette Street. Frances & John Weams House | (C) | Hattie Mae Turner |
| 45. | 709 NW Lafayette Street. | (C) | Claude & Lassie Stevenson |
| 46. | 712 NW Lafayette Street. A.L. Holmes House. | (C) | Sherman & Hattie Mae Allen |
| 47. | 715 NW Lafayette Street. Mrs. Aray J. Tatum House. | (C) | Anthony & Teresa Balentine c/o Estella Lewis 103 Hightower Rd. |
| 48. | 720 NW Lafayette Street. Joe Irvin House. | (C) | Mack I Lewis & Michael O. Irvin |
| 49. | 724 NW Lafayette Street. Epsie Burns House. | (C) | Devaki D. Barker 2019 Lowery St. SW |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Additional Information Page 46West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

| | | | |
|-----|---|------|---|
| 50. | 726 NW Lafayette Street. Mitchell Beaufort House. | (C) | Gregory Jackson 1420 Lake Pointe Dr. SW Decatur, AL 35603 |
| 51. | 728 NW Lafayette Street. Della Moore House. | (C) | Gregory Jackson 1420 Lake Pointe Dr. SW Decatur, AL 35603 |
| 52. | 729 NW Lafayette Street. Oscar Reed House. | (C) | Bessie Lee Sanders 223 7 th Ave. NW |
| 53. | 732 NW Lafayette Street. Martin E. Queen House. | (C) | State of ALA c/o Eddie Taylor 108 Poplar Court SE |
| 54. | 734 NW Lafayette Street. R.L. Crump House. | (NC) | Mollie Thomas |
| 55. | 707 NW Newcomb Street. | (NC) | George W. Franklin |
| 56. | 715 NW Newcomb Street. | (NC) | Larry Watkins 1564 County Road 439 |
| 57. | 717 NW Newcomb Street. | (NC) | Mitchell Bridgeforth 20337 Winfred Dr. Tanner, AL 35671 |
| 58. | 726 NW Newcomb Street. Church of Christ. | (C) | Newcomb Street Church of Christ |
| 59. | 706 NW Sykes Street. Mrs. Mattie Black House. | (C) | Lorraine Black |
| 60. | 719 NW Sykes Street. | (NC) | Peronica & Zachary Porter |
| 61. | 723 NW Sykes Street. | (NC) | Glendora Goode |
| 62. | 732 NW Sykes Street. | (C) | Justin Stovall 606 Lafayette Street NW Decatur, AL 35601 |
| 63. | 740 NW Sykes Street. | (NC) | Yvonne Marie & Archie Olden Elliott, Jr. P.O. Box 2956 Decatur, AL 35602 |
| 64. | 744 NW Sykes Street. Archie Elliot House. | (C) | Yvonne Marie & Archie Olden Elliott, Jr. P.O. Box 2956 Decatur, AL 35602 |
| 65. | 749 NW Sykes Street. Paul Anderson House. | (NC) | Oscar Goodwin 2501 Ashmor Place SE |
| 66. | 750 NW Sykes Street. S.A. Garth House. | (C) | Mable & D.O. Foster |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Additional Information Page 47West Old Town Historic District
Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

| | | | |
|-----|--|------|--|
| 67. | 815 NW Sykes Street. James Hall House. | (C) | Leona & Ira Robert Wright P.O. Box 387 Decatur, AL 35602 |
| 68. | 726 NW Vine Street. I.L. Turner House. | (NC) | Juanita Turner |
| 69. | 812 NW Vine Street. Leroy Clark House. | (C) | Theresa Joseph 536 Crest Street Florence, AL 35630 |
| 70. | 902 NW Vine Street. | (NC) | Larry & Venetta Watkins 1564 County Road 439 Hillsboro, AL 35643 |
| 71. | 1012 NW Vine Street. | (NC) | Ella Mary Taylor |
| 72. | 1014 NW Vine Street. | (NC) | Millard & Dora Powers 633 Canterbury SW Decatur, AL 35601 |