

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

Alabama Historical Commission
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Dale Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fort Dale Street, 109-525

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

— VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Butler

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Butler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

H.A.B.S. (1) #18 - Dunklin-Kendrick House

DATE

1935

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Dale Street District includes 5 blocks of one of Greenville's oldest streets, with 32 structures, twenty dating from 1850 to the 1930's. Of these twenty considered significant, four were built during the antebellum period. Only one of the recent structures is a commercial building; the remainder are private dwellings.

The antebellum homes include three excellent examples of Greek Revival architecture, with only minor alterations and additions made to the structures over the years. The Katie Lane Sherling House (#1) has large square front columns and delicate geometric balustrade on high-set foundations; also on a high foundation is the Greek Revival influenced cottage, the Thames-Hartley-Carr House (#15), with plain clapboard siding and four end chimneys. By far the most impressive is the Dunklin-Kendrick House (#18), a two-story structure with large Corinthian columns, wrought iron balustraded balcony, with beautifully landscaped grounds surrounding the building.

The Cheatham Home (#8), renovated from the carriage house of the former Judge Richardson estate, is designed in the shape of a Greek cross and was built c. 1860 of slave-made brick, with walls over 13 inches thick.

Approximately 45% of the significant structures were built between 1868 and 1900, a period of major economic growth in Greenville as the region recovered its losses suffered during the Civil War. Built and occupied by some of the most prominent citizens of the county, these homes are of various styles. The Griffith House (#17) is an outstanding two-story structure that is the community's only example of Second Empire architecture, designed by the builder from homes seen in Mobile, Alabama, just after the war. This dwelling has walls of slave-made brick, over 13 inches thick, constructed of the same materials as the Cheatham House. The McGehee-Cates House (#20) was built in 1868 with Greek Revival influences of Corinthian columns and near-encircling balustraded veranda.

The Steiner House (#32) and the Cater-Moody House (#10) were built early in the 1870's in similar rectangular shape with weatherboard and clapboard siding. Both have had gables and columned verandas added, though still retaining basic inner elements. The Powell-Dees House (#13) was also constructed during this period, with wide vertical siding and a steep hip roof of pressed tin shingles.

Greenville's single outstanding example of Gothic Revival architecture is the two-story John Sherling House (#2), with details such as high-peaked gables with bargeboard and pendants, balustraded veranda with gingerbread trim and delicate columns connected by open-eaved arches. The main portion of the dwelling has vertical wood siding, but the rear addition is weatherboard.

The 1880's and 1890's gave the district several homes with numerous gables, multiple-window bays and weatherboard or shiplap siding, such as the Till-Cureton-Dykes House (#6), the Glass-Carter-Williamson House (#28) and the Lewis-Chambliss House (#14). The latter two have diamond-shingled gable ends.

Of the total significant structures, around 35% were built after 1900 and up until the 1930's. The Laseter-McGough House (#27) is notable for its full width veranda with Ionic columns, the sides of which have been closed in from its original 3-sided design. The Mixon House (#29) and the Winter-Alexander House (#7) have combination hip-and-gable roof, shiplap siding and porches with double box columns on piers. The Daniels-Leverette House (#12) is a Greek Revival cottage of the 1920's. Another structure of the 1920's is the Bungalow-influenced Whittington-Ernest-Abraham House (#19).

The two most recent of the significant structures were both constructed on the sites of older antebellum mansions that had burned. The Blackwell House (#3) and the Zeigler House (#9) are 1930's dwellings in English Tudor style, with two-stories and one-and-a-half-stories respectively. Both are built of brick with half-timbering details.

13. Powell-Dees House (521 Fort Dale): c. 1875; 1-story, wide vertical wood siding, combination pyramidal and gable roof composed of pressed tin shingles, pyramidal cross gable dormers, L-shaped porch with square double columns on brick piers, main entrance is a single French door with transom and sidelights.
14. Lewis-Chambliss House (525 Fort Dale): c. 1900; 1-story, frame, weatherboard siding, combination hip and gable roof, small diamond wood shingles under front "T" gables, porch added later with slender square columns on brick piers and a side entrance, carport added onto original front entrance.
15. Thames-Hartley-Carr House (520 Fort Dale): c. 1850; Greek Revival cottage influence; 1-story, frame, wood clapboard siding, gable roof with center front gable over shed roof full front porch, 6 latticed wood columns are altered from original columns, connected by simple balustrade, 4 end exterior chimneys, 2 full-size basement rooms originally used as servants' quarters have fireplaces from these chimneys, rear additions.
17. Griffith House (508 Fort Dale): 1868; Second Empire influence; 2-stories, plastered brick, mansard roof with wall dormers, L-shaped porch with fluted Doric columns and masonry balustrade is addition to original structure, also southeast wing was added with sunroom and sleeping porch.
18. Dunklin-Kendrick House (504 Fort Dale Road): 1857; Greek Revival; 2-stories, combination wide horizontal siding and weatherboard, mansard roof, full width front 2-story portico with 4 fluted Corinthian columns, small balcony centered over front entrance has iron grillwork balustrade, front windows have 12/12 lights, 2 end exterior chimneys and 1 interior chimney, rear additions.
19. Whittington-Ernest-Abraham House (500 Fort Dale): late 1920's; Bungalow influence; 1-story, clapboard siding, combination hip and gable roof, center front gable over full width porch with brick end columns, a 3-window bay on either side of front entrance, 4 end exterior chimneys, porch screened-in (date unknown) and additions made to rear.
20. McGehee-Cates House (410 Fort Dale): 1868-69; Greek Revival influence; 1-story, frame, weatherboard siding, gable roof, 3-sided shed roof porch with modified square Corinthian columns connected by a balustrade, double bracketed cornices extending up end gables, rear porch closed in with rooms added.
27. Laseter-McGough House (322 Fort Dale): 1911-12; Greek Revival influence; 1-story, combination weatherboard and aluminum siding, hip and gable roof composed of pressed tin shingles, full width front porch with slender Ionic columns was originally on 3 sides of structure with sides closed in c. 1920, offset front entrance added in matching style of main front entrance, rear additions and aluminum siding added partially to exterior in the 1960's.
28. Glass-Carter-Williamson House (318 Fort Dale): c. 1890; 1-story, weatherboard siding, gable roof, twin front gables with small diamond wood shingles, narrow vertical cross-strips at joining of short weatherboard siding ends, carport added to southeast side.

29. Mixon House (312 Fort Dale): 1918; Bungalow influence; 1-story, wood shiplap siding, low pyramidal roof with triangular front gable dormer, L-shaped porch partially screened with columns consisting of 2 square wood posts under a lintel and resting on a brick pier, rear additions.
32. Steiner House (214 Fort Dale): c. 1875; 1-story, frame, wood clapboard siding; combination mansard, hip and gable roof; L-shaped porch with slender Doric columns and connecting balustrade; offset front gable projects as a square bay with 2 windows, corner brackets and dentils, panelled above watertable; gable additions at front and side have scroll trim at apex with T-braces, rear wing of porch walled in as breakfast room, kitchen and storage room additions made at rear, full basement with central interior hall stairway.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

4. Apartment Building (315 Fort Dale): 1940's; 2-stories, wood shiplap siding, gable roof, 4 interior chimneys, exterior stairway.
5. Henson House (317 Fort Dale): 1949; 1-story, brick veneer, gable roof, center front gable with large bay window, 1 central interior chimney.
11. Moorer House (505 Fort Dale): 1940's; 1-story, asbestos siding, gable roof, front portico with 2 columns, 1 end exterior chimney.
21. Huguley House (408 Fort Dale): 1950's; 1-story, brick veneer, hip roof, central front bay window, iron grillwork columns on southeast front.
22. Kierce House (402 Fort Dale): 1939; 1½-stories, wood shiplap siding, gable roof, full width front porch with 4 square columns and wood cresting, 3 gable dormers, end chimneys.
23. Burke House (400 Fort Dale): 1937; 2-stories, brick with vertical wood siding, gable roof.
24. Noe House (330 Fort Dale): 1937; 1-story, wood shiplap siding, gable roof, central front portico with square columns.
25. Coker House (326 Fort Dale): 1939; 1-story, wood shiplap siding, gable roof, small gabled archway over offset front entrance, 2 interior chimneys.
26. E. T. Carter House (324 Fort Dale): c. 1939; 1-story, wood shiplap siding, modified gable or catslide roof, central front portico with 4 square columns and ironwork cresting, 1 central interior chimney.
30. Apartment House (224 Fort Dale): 1940's; 2-stories, wood shiplap siding, gable roof, exterior stairway.
31. Mental Health Center (216 Fort Dale): 1950's; 1-story, brick veneer.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		(local history)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic significance of the Fort Dale Street District lies in its reflection of the economic growth of Greenville during the period from 1850 to the 1930's, with urban development ending the large plantations and pre-Civil War lifestyles of many of the county's prominent citizens. Approximately one-third of the significant residences of the district were originally set on spacious family estates built by members of some of the earliest pioneer families, and surrounding homes were constructed by other family members as part of the same estates. This gives an architectural view from generation to generation in side-by-side structures. Later homes continue on through Victorian and English Tudor styles, some having cottage and bungalow influences, but all being substantial well-kept homes built by upper middle class landowners and merchants. The twenty significant structures on Fort Dale Street are located from north to northwest of Commerce Street and include several of the oldest and most notable residences in the city.

Early in 1818 several families came from Georgia down the Old Federal Road through Alabama, looking for a place to settle. After entering the borders of present day Butler County, they left the Federal Road at Fort Dale and travelled south for about five miles, stopping and choosing a site where there was a flat tableland and a fine spring. This settlement was to become the town of Greenville, with Fort Dale Street laid out along the original wagon road into the community. The town plan was completed and the streets formally laid out in 1822, just one year after Greenville was chosen as the county seat for Butler County. A stage line for travelers and mail was soon established between Montgomery and Mobile, travelling the Old Federal Road weekly and passing through a large part of Butler County. With the stage line and the new communication and transportation, Greenville's urbanization began. Many of the prominent families from pioneer days began to build larger, more affluent homes, including the 1850's dwellings of the Thames family (#15), Dunklin (#18) and Parmer (#1). J. F. Thames was a major contributor to the construction of the first Baptist Church in Greenville, in 1854, and served two terms as mayor of the city in 1878-79. Three Dunklin brothers were among the South Carolina settlers who chose the name of Greenville for the town, arriving in January 1819 with a wagon train of eight families. One of the brothers, Joseph, was a member of the Board of County Commissioners which was to choose Greenville as the county seat. Joseph and James L. Dunklin, who built his residence ^{on the lot} known as the Dunklin estate, were county officers for several terms each, beginning in the 1840's. Ephraim Parmer is said to have built the first frame residence in the village, and to have given the land for the courthouse.

The next generation continued to build large homes in illustration of the community's prosperity. Samuel Oliver was a state senator in 1836, and the house (#32) that was built on his lot was occupied in turn by the Wimberly and Steiner families, both wealthy and successful families who played leading parts in Greenville's history. The Parmer family's Greek Revival home passed through the well-known local families of Gandy and Wimberly to Judge L. M. Lane, who was in partnership in a law firm with the famous Colonel Hilary Herbert. Col. Herbert--Greenville's most distinguished citizen--was Secretary of the Navy in Grover Cleveland's cabinet, a colonel in the Confederate Army, and a congressman.

He owned the lot beside Judge Lane's, and in 1871 sold it to his sister, Mrs. Buell, who built Greenville's finest Gothic Revival structure on the lot (#2).

The Cheatham House (#8) was the carriage house of the huge estate then owned by Judge Julius Caesar Richardson. The home was renovated in 1939 from the original 1860's brick structure, which is in the shape of a Greek cross. Its walls are over 13 inches thick. Also constructed of the same slave-made brick is the Griffith House (#17), Greenville's only dwelling of Second Empire architectural influence. This two-story home was built by James Law Dunklin as a wedding gift to one of his daughters in 1868, on a lot adjoining that of his own home. The paternal Dunklin home (#18) is in itself one of the impressive examples of Greek Revival architecture in the county. Several years later J. L. Dunklin gave the 2 acres of land facing his home across Fort Dale Street to another daughter on the occasion of her marriage to a promising young lawyer, James Padgett. Here the young couple built a less pretentious dwelling of weatherboard (#10). Padgett for a time was in the law firm with Jonathan L. Powell until the election of Powell as Probate Judge. Powell built his residence of wide vertical siding and cross gable dormers on the west side of the Dunklin estate (#13).

W. W. Wimberly built an elaborately decorated one-story Greek Revival home on the lot to the east of the Dunklins in 1868 (#20). Wimberly and his son, Mac, were wealthy Greenville businessmen and leaders in commerce for many decades of the city's history. The Thames family's Greek Revival cottage (#15) was bought by another prosperous local businessman, Hilary Hartley, known in 1885 as one of the wealthiest men in the county.

The 1880's and 1890's continued to bring citizens into the county. From a total of 31 households in Greenville revealed by the census of 1850, the community had grown to a population of 4000 inhabitants by 1885. The railroad, completed in 1861, did not begin to flourish until after the Civil War, when commerce and trade gradually regained momentum, but by 1885 the Mobile and Montgomery Railroad had become a major source of industrial growth. Cotton milling, iron works and the lumber trade all depended on the railway as they contributed to the city's prosperity.

The Glass-Carter-Williamson House (#28) and the Till-Cureton-Dykes House (#6) were constructed during the industrial boom brought by the railroad. J. G. Till owned and operated a large cotton mill beside the rails, and built his home beside his business. The two houses are simply styled with gabled roof and wood siding.

Greenville, and Fort Dale Street, continued to grow. The turn of the century carried on the style of smaller comfortable dwellings such as the Lewis-Chambliss House (#14), owned for many years by Hurley Lewis, Butler County Superintendent of Education for over two decades. World War I brought newcomers to the town, one of whom, L. H. Black, built several cottage-influenced residences in various locations. The Mixon House (#29) is a sturdy example. The Whittington-Ernest-Abraham House (#19) was built by Dr. Whittington in bungalow style, in the 1920's. Also built in this period is the Daniels-Leverette House (#12), a modest Greek Revival cottage.

One exception to the prevailing style on Fort Dale Street during this period is the Laseter-McGough House (#27), built around 1912 by Edward Laseter. Decorative wood carvings and moldings are used extensively throughout the large one-story Greek Revival-influence structure, which has front Ionic columns and a pressed tin shingle roof with scroll-design ridge ends. Mr. Laseter employed nearly every style of decorative trim, since even the door panels and transoms are elaborately carved and framed. His was one of the last large homes to be built on the street.

The large estate lots were gradually being broken up into smaller parcels as the town expanded and Fort Dale Street became more populous. The Winter-Alexander

House (#7) was one of the first homes built on the street after the road was paved in 1927. It stands on the last corner of what was once the vast Richardson estate, with buildings now resting on the sites of orchards, stables, fields, servants' quarters, greenhouses, wine cellars and horse-racing tracks. The Zeigler House (#9), an English Tudor dwelling of the 1930's, stands on the site of the Richardson plantation home. The newer house still has the drainage walks from the original lot, placed to divert rainwater from the lower story of the antebellum home.

Another notable home of the 1930's is the Blackwell House (#3), also in English Tudor style, which was built on the site of two older Peagler family homes that burned. Mrs. Blackwell is a third-generation descendant of the original builders in the Peagler line, who included several noted doctors and businessmen of the county.

From the days of the first pioneer families who came in on the wagon trail that was to become Fort Dale Street, the district has retained its attractive atmosphere of comfortable older homes, strong family ties and upper middle class prosperity. Although several of the significant structures are now used as rental properties, they have been fairly well kept and for the most part retain original features and styles. The newer residences on the street are mainly one-story dwellings, several being constructed in the earlier architectural styles of the older homes and therefore not detracting from the appearance of the district as a whole. The original plantations and vast landholdings are gone forever, but their influence and charm remains in the Fort Dale Street District of Greenville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 26 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Greenville: East & West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	5	3	5	5	0	0	3	5	2	1	7	0	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

B

1	6	5	3	5	5	6	0	3	5	2	1	4	4	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

C

1	6	5	3	5	5	0	0	3	5	2	1	4	4	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

D

1	6	5	3	4	8	4	0	3	5	2	2	0	6	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

E

1	6	5	3	4	8	4	0	3	5	2	2	1	8	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

F

1	6	5	3	4	9	6	0	3	5	2	2	1	6	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

G

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

H

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Annie Crenshaw, Resources Coordinator Aide

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

March 20, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama

12 FOR ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION USE ONLY

Staff Member _____

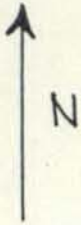
ADDED _____

Number _____

Thematic Category _____

National Register Potential _____

Added to National Register _____

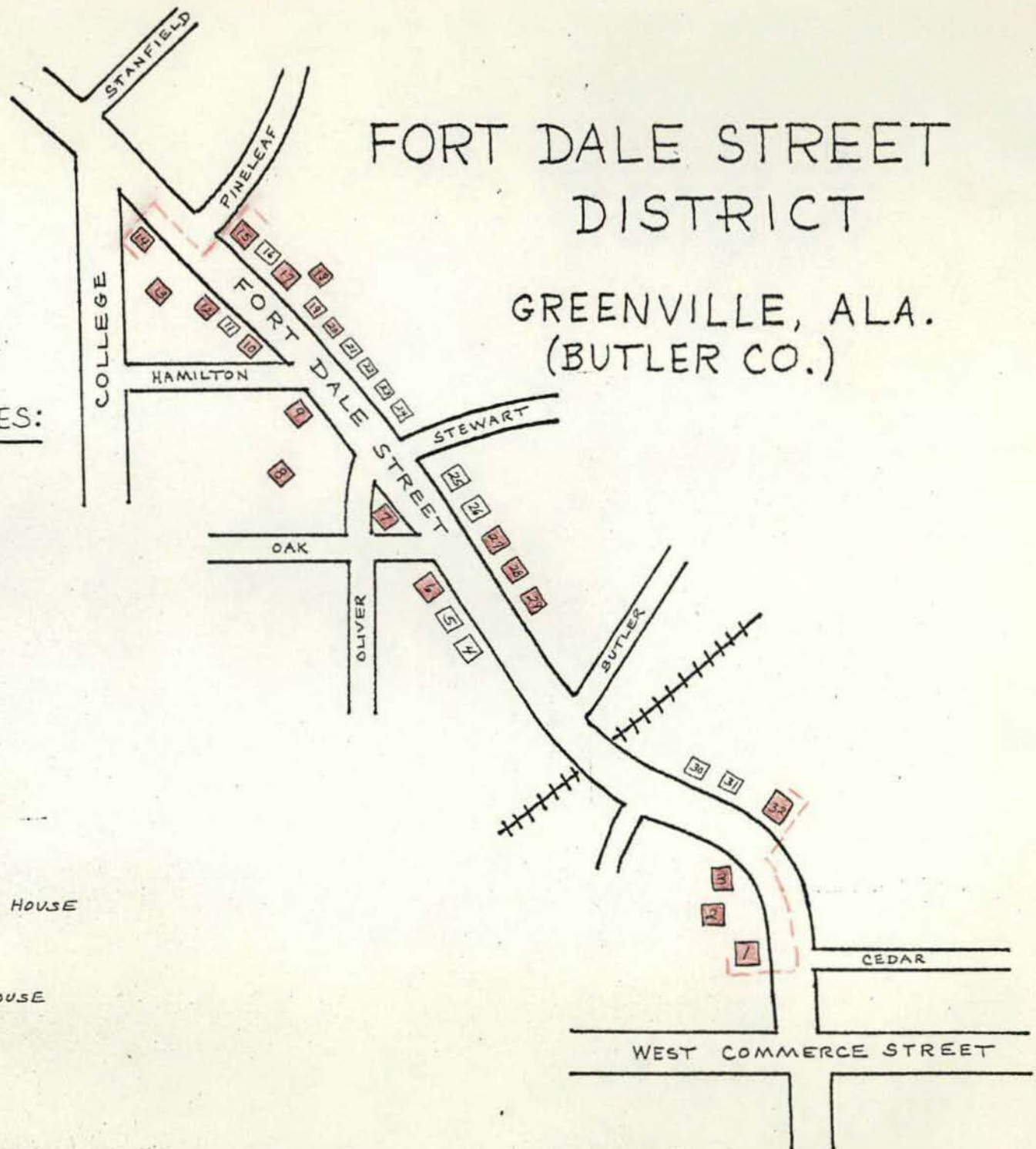


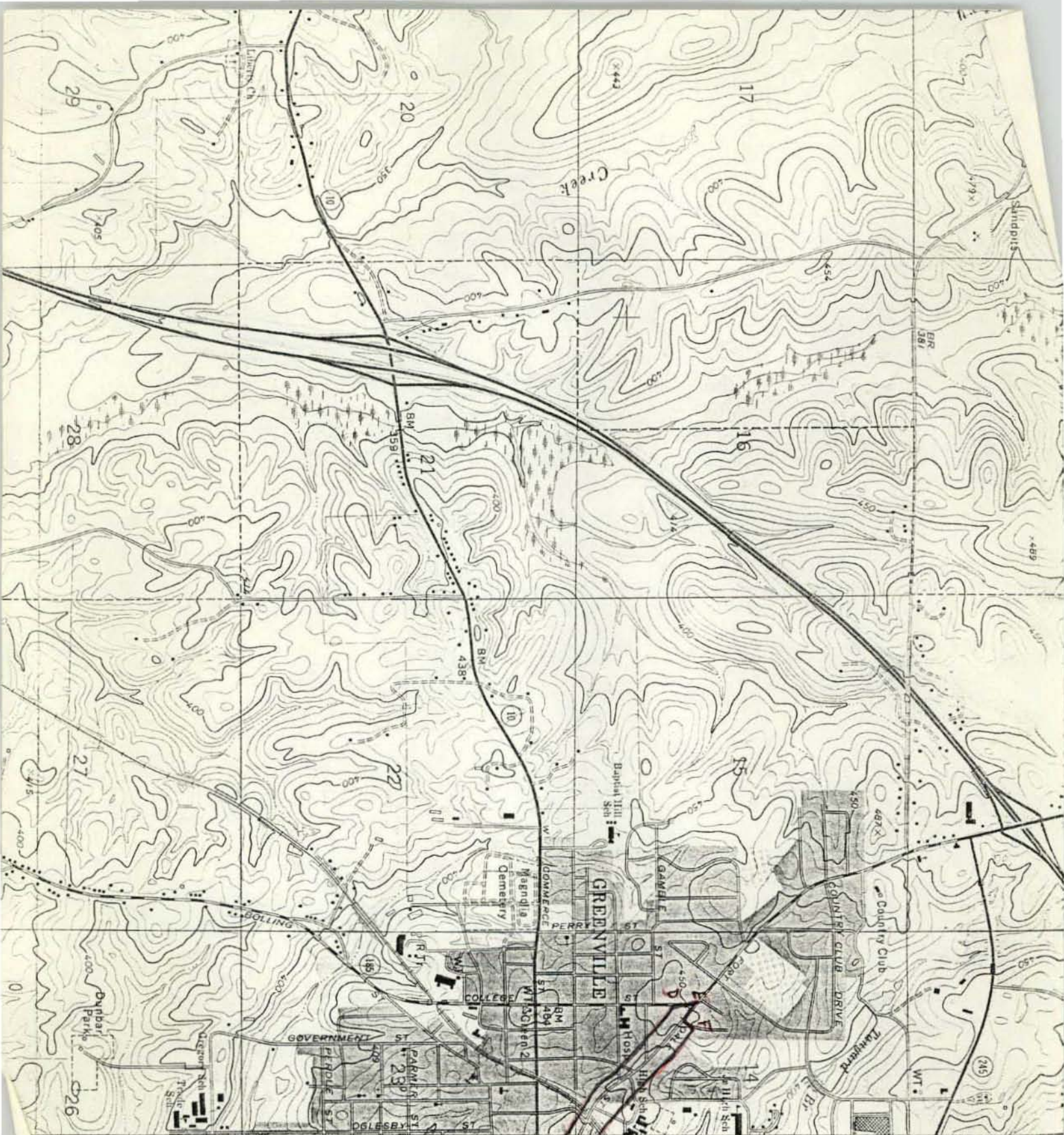
FORT DALE STREET DISTRICT

GREENVILLE, ALA.
(BUTLER CO.)

■ CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

1. - KATIE LANE SHERLING HOUSE
2. - JOHN SHERLING HOUSE
3. - BLACKWELL HOUSE
6. - TILL-CURETON-DYKES HOUSE
7. - WINTER-ALEXANDER HOUSE
8. - CHEATHAM HOUSE
9. - ZEIGLER HOUSE
10. - CATER-MOODY HOUSE
12. - DANIELS-LEVERETTE HOUSE
13. - POWELL-DEES HOUSE
14. - LEWIS-CHAMBLISS HOUSE
15. - THAMES-HARTLEY-CARR HOUSE
17. - GRIFFITH HOUSE
18. - DUNKLIN-KENDRICK HOUSE
19. - WHITTINGTON-ERNEST-ABRAHAM HOUSE
20. - MCGEHEE-CATES HOUSE
27. - LASETER-MCGOUGH HOUSE
28. - GLASS-CARTER-WILLIAMSON HOUSE
29. - MIXON HOUSE
32. - STEINER HOUSE





(GREENVILLE EAST)
3647 I SE

1.9 MI. TO U.S. 31 AND ALA. 3

1.6 MI. TO ALA. 10