

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Raleigh-South Park Historic District, Wake County

Section number 7 Page 3

well kept, and many feature flower gardens. Dwellings located along such primary thoroughfares as E. Hargett St. and S. Blount St. tend to have sidewalks and larger front yards. Some of the secondary streets in the southern portion of the district, where the greater concentration of blacks has historically occurred, were paved only within the past two decades and do not have sidewalks. Mature hardwood trees contribute greatly to the appeal of the area and appear most frequently in the east end of the district.

Most of the houses in the district were built from around 1900 to 1940; approximately twenty percent date to the nineteenth century. The area is composed of a grid of streets, parts of which developed at different times in Raleigh's history. The area north of E. South St. and west of S. East St. is part of Raleigh's original city limits. A majority of the houses in this area and the area around Shaw University were constructed prior to 1915. One structure has been dated ca. 1850 and many were built prior to 1900. The part of the district south of and including Bledsoe Ave. is in South Park. Development of this area began with the subdivision of lots in 1907. Whereas numerous houses have been dated prior to 1900, and many were built between 1900 and 1920, the great majority of extant houses were constructed in the 1930s and later. The East Raleigh area is composed of portions of the historic neighborhoods of Smith-Haywood and St. Petersburg which developed after the Civil War. Most of the extant houses in this area, especially those along S. Swain and S. Haywood St., have been dated prior to 1920. Watson's Addition was subdivided in the 1890s. The western-most portion of this tract is included in the district and lies along E. Lenoir St. Many houses in this area date from between 1900 to 1915.

Research shows that whites were located in some areas of the district, especially above E. Davie St., up until the late 1930s and 1940s. Enclaves of whites existed on Smithfield St. and S. Blount St. before 1940. The district is now predominantly occupied by Raleigh's black citizens. In the district are dwellings characteristic of traditional Southern house types. Although rental housing for working-class people predominates, the East Raleigh-South Park Historic District also includes residences of the early twentieth-century black middle class.

The vast majority of the buildings in the district are of a popular, or vernacular, type. Two of the most distinctive types of houses are the Shotgun and the Triple A, which, together, compose one-third of the district. Another type is the side-gabled house, which usually is two rooms wide and two or three room deep. Older houses of this type are single pile and include such variants as the saddlebag. The front-gable house is another type which appears frequently in the district. It is usually three bays wide and two or three rooms deep. Front-gable houses appear most frequently in the South Park area. Other types of houses include the hipped-roof house and the I-house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage
Education
Community Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1850; ca. 1855;

ca. 1865-1941

Significant Dates

1866

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Edward, Gaston A., architect

Wilcox, Lucius, builder

Lightner, Calvin E., builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

The East Raleigh-South Park Historic District has statewide significance as the largest historic black neighborhood in Raleigh, the state's capital, and one of the largest and most historic, relatively intact urban black residential and cultural concentrations in North Carolina. Beginning with the Reconstruction period when droves of freedmen from a wide region of the state gravitated to Raleigh, the availability of cheap land and the emergence of three prominent black institutions southeast of the capital -- Second Baptist Church (now Tupper Memorial), Shaw Collegiate Institute (later Shaw University) and the School for the Negro Deaf, Dumb and Blind -- sparked the beginning of the development of the predominantly residential neighborhoods today known as East Raleigh and South Park. Of the three, Shaw became the strongest force in attracting newcomers to the area, particularly South Park after 1900. Initially, saddlebag cottages and shotguns housed the newcomers on lots subdivided from former antebellum plantations located near the original Raleigh city limits by both white and black developers such as Richard B. Haywood and E. A. Johnson, respectively. Remaining throughout the district are remnants of this housing as well as several antebellum houses. Two in particular, the Womble House of ca. 1850 on E. Hargett St. and the Rogers-Bagley-Daniels-Pegues House of ca. 1855 on E. South St., are architecturally important Greek Revival and Greek Revival/Italianate buildings that recall the district's antecedents as the locale of plantations. As Shaw produced the black leadership that became the community's professional elite -- including doctors, pharmacists, attorneys, educators, ministers and politicians -- southeastern Raleigh's housing stock began to reflect the area's diversification. Beginning in the 1890s a more substantial house type, the side-gable cottage with decorative front gable, emerged as the dominant residence for this community's professional black citizens. This "triple-A" house with a modest Victorian porch as well as hipped-roof cottages, eclectic Victorian dwellings, bungalows and

☒ See continuation sheet