

Historic Resources Survey

City of Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama

Bessemer Commercial Historic District

NRHP Historic District Resurvey and Update

July 2023 | Report Number: E1227390



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Historic Resources Survey Report
City of Bessemer NRHP Historic District Update and Resurvey

Prepared for
The City of Bessemer

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Executive Summary

Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Terracon), of Jacksonville, Florida conducted a survey of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed Bessemer Historic District located in the City of Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama (survey area; **Figure 1**). The survey was conducted with the City of Bessemer to fulfill requirements under the City of Bessemer: Economic and Community Development Department Historic Preservation Request for Proposal Solicitation and funded in part by a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC).

The main objective of the project was to conduct a comprehensive resurvey of the district as part of the City of Bessemer's ongoing historic preservation efforts and to guide future investments and development within the district. This objective included an inventory of all buildings, structures, landscapes, and other resources that are 50 years old or older in the district and adjacent to the district. A concerted effort was made to survey up to two-blocks outside of the current Historic District boundary to determine if the boundary could, or should, be altered. Each recorded building was recorded on the Alabama Historic Building Survey Form with an associated photograph(s). An overall large scale digital and hardcopy map will be provided as part of the final deliverable. Work was intended to comply with the minimum field methods, data analysis, and reporting standards embodied in the AHC Architectural Survey Guidelines.

In May 2023, Terracon completed a windshield survey and pedestrian investigation within and adjacent to the NRHP-listed Downtown Bessemer Historic District for historical resources constructed in or before 1973. Data from the Jefferson County Tax Assessor, the AHC – Historic Preservation Map Initiative, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, and historical aerials were collected and cross referenced to ensure the accuracy of information and the correlation with respective buildings. Research conducted at local and state repositories focused on historical context and developmental progression of the County in general. An additional extensive windshield survey was performed in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Downtown District to best determine future survey efforts for significant communities or neighborhoods that appear to retain integrity and have potential for listing as a historic district either nationally or locally.

A total of 379 parcels were identified with the year-built age of 50 years or older, however based on field survey only a total of 295 buildings were recorded as property appraiser parcel data does not always denote the number of buildings associated with the parcels. Based on the survey, the consultant recommends minor alterations to the Historic District boundary. The Period of Significance is recommended to be expanded to include the years of 1887 to 1969. Terracon also identified three areas of interest within Bessemer that may benefit from future survey work (**Figure 1**). Additionally, the consultant identified 16 buildings that may be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Final deliverables include a digital copy of the Alabama Historic Building Survey Forms, maps, images, and all other associated data; and a hardcopy and digital copy of this report, including a resource inventory. A large-scale version of the surveyed resources and an electronic copy of project geographic information system (GIS) data layers is also included with the final deliverables.

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Lastly, to the citizens and property owners within the district and surveyed areas, thank you for allowing us to photograph your historic resources and record pertinent data related to these resources in an effort to assist with future preservation planning activities.

Introduction

Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Terracon), of Jacksonville, Florida conducted a survey of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed Bessemer Historic Districts located in the City of Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama (survey area; **Figure 1**). The survey was conducted with the City of Bessemer to fulfill requirements under the City of Bessemer: Economic and Community Development Department Historic Preservation Request for Proposal Solicitation.

The main objective of the project was to conduct a comprehensive resurvey of the district as part of its historic preservation efforts and to guide future investments and development within the district. In May 2023, Terracon surveyed the Downtown Bessemer Historic District to provide an inventory of all buildings, structures, landscapes, and other resources that are 50 years old or older in the district and adjacent to the district. A concerted effort was made to survey up to two-blocks outside of the current Historic District boundary to determine if the boundary could, or should, be altered. Work was intended to comply with the minimum field methods, data analysis, and reporting standards embodied in the AHC Architectural Survey Guidelines.



Figure 1. Map depicting the survey area, Bessemer National Register Historic District, and parcels 50 years old and older.

Survey Criteria & Methodology

Cultural resource management involves a series of activities carried out in succession. The first activity is a survey, which is a systematic examination of historic resources. A survey is undertaken to determine the nature, extent, and character of historic resources, which includes buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts significant in national, state, or local history. A survey should be clearly distinguished from the registration and protection of historic buildings, which is provided through listings in the NRHP, and, just as importantly, by enacting local historic preservation ordinances where they exist. A survey does not confer any inherent historic significance but is rather intended to serve as a comprehensive overview.

The Importance of Historic Preservation

Arguments on behalf of a program of historic preservation can be placed in two broad categories: (1) aesthetic or social; and (2) economic. The aesthetic argument has generally been associated with the early period of the historic preservation movement; that is, preserving sites of exceptional merit, although this has since been expanded and no longer demands such a high threshold. Early legislation protecting historic resources included the Antiquities Act of 1906 (Public Law 59-209), which authorized the President to designate historic and natural resources of national significance located on federally owned or controlled lands as national monuments; and the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-292), which established as national policy the preservation for public use of historic resources by giving the Secretary of the Interior the power to make historic surveys to document, evaluate, acquire, and preserve archaeological and historic sites across the country.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 created the NRHP and extended this early legislation and definitions to include sites and districts of local as well as national distinction for the purpose of maintaining a federal listing of historic properties by the Keeper of the NRHP. Various other acts and amendments in 1966, 1974, and 1980 strengthened the protection of historic and archaeological resources. Tax credits became available with revisions to the US Tax Code in 1976, 1978, 1980, 1981, and 2017, which provided incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings for income-producing purposes. The 1966 Act also expanded resources that can be included in the NRHP.

While very early preservation focused on resources such as Mount Vernon and Monticello, current criteria allow for a wide range of eligible resources, including (but not limited to) buildings that embody characteristics of an architectural style, resources that represent the work of a master, or those that have contributed to the history of the local community, state, and/or United States.

A strong argument used on behalf of historic preservation is economic. Ours is a profit-oriented society and the conservation of older buildings is often financially feasible and economically advantageous.

We all have places that matter to us – places that define us, places that challenge us, places that bring us together and tell our story. These places help form our identity and our communities. They create opportunities for growth and help us feel at home. They explain our past and serve as the foundation of the future.

Current federal tax law contains specific features that relate to the rehabilitation of eligible commercial and income-producing buildings located in a local certified historic district, or a historic district or individual building listed in the NRHP. Perhaps most notably, the federal government offers tax credits for incurred expenses for certified rehabilitation projects. The current 2017 Tax Reform law provides a twenty percent (20%) credit over five years, or four percent per year.¹

There are additional benefits to historically designated resources, both at the local and national level. Any project that includes federal monies, oversight, permitting, and/or property – or is directly undertaken by a federal agency – is required to take into consideration and attempt to mitigate any impacts the project may have on resources listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP (Section 106). While listing in the NRHP is honorary and carries no associated regulations,² it does require the government to minimize the affect any federal undertaking may have on these resources.

It also must be noted that historic preservation does not seek to block or discourage change. Preservation seeks to reduce the impact of change on existing cultural resources and to direct that change in a way that will enhance the traditional and historic character of an area – in other words, to mitigate change, **not** prevent it. For historic preservation efforts to succeed the efforts must promote economic development that is sympathetic to the existing built environment.

Background Research and Previous Documentation

Minimal identified survey work has been conducted within the survey area regarding extant historical resources. However, downtown Bessemer is listed in the NRHP and as such, has an associated nomination approved by the National Park Service (NPS) in 1992. This document provided baseline data and supplemental information for the survey, possessing valuable information relating to the development of the area and the buildings within the current Historic District boundary. The report is located on file with the NRHP Digital Archive on NPGallery.

Within the City of Bessemer there are currently seven listed National Register properties, including the Downtown Bessemer Historic District (listed in 1992). The other listed resources include individual properties:

Table 1. Listed National Register Properties in the City of Bessemer, Alabama.

Name	Address/Boundary	Style	Year Constructed	Listed
Canaan Baptist Church	824 15 th Street N	--	1961	2005
Dunbar High School	2715 6 th Avenue N	Tudor Revival	1923	2011
Thomas McAdory House	214 Eastern Valley Road	Other	1840	1972
Owen Plantation House	S of Bessemer on Eastern Valley Road	--	1838	1976
Dr. Thomas McAdory Owen House	510 N 18 th Street	Queen Anne	1892	1982
Southern Railway Terminal Station	1905 Alabama Avenue	Mixed, none dominant	1900-1924	1973

¹ For more information, see **Federal Financial Incentives and Programs** section.

² See section **Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Historic Properties**.

Survey Criteria

A survey is a gathering of detailed information on the buildings, structures, objects, sites, and artifacts that have potential historical significance. The information should provide the basis for making judgements about the relative value of the resources. Not all resources identified or documented in the survey process may ultimately be judged “historically significant,” protected by a historic preservation ordinance, or preserved. Still, all such resources should be subjected to a process of evaluation that results in a determination of those which should be characterized as historically significant under either federal and/or local criteria. Resources listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP need not have national significance. Their significance can be at the neighborhood, city, county, state, and/or national level.

The identification of historic resources begins with their documentation through a professional survey conducted under uniform criteria established by federal and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). The term *historic property* is defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or determined eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP as defined as 36 CFR Part 800.16 – Protection of Historic Properties (as amended). An ordinance of state and/or local government may also define a historic property under criteria contained in that ordinance. The information provides the basis for making judgements about the relative value of the resources. Although not all resources identified or documented during a survey may be identified as historic properties, all the resources should be subjected to a systematic process. This results in comprehensive evaluation to provide a determination of those which should be characterized as historic under either federal or local criteria. Within the context of this survey, the terms *historic resource* or *cultural resource* means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, object, or structure constructed in or prior to 1973. The purpose of this survey was to identify historic resources that could be added to or should be removed from the current NR District.

Relatively speaking, few buildings or sites previously surveyed in Alabama are listed in the NRHP, the accepted criterion for what constitutes a significant *historic property*. The NRHP is the official federal list of culturally, historically, or architecturally significant properties in the United States and is maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS. The buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts listed in it are selected under criteria established by NPS. Inclusion is honorary and does not imply protection or control over private properties listed unless federal funds are allocated toward them, or federal actions undertaken. Under current law, commercial and other income-producing properties within a NRHP historic district are eligible for federal tax credits and other benefits if they are first verified as contributing to the other characteristics of the district. Buildings individually listed in the NRHP are automatically considered certified historic structures and, if income-producing, also qualify for federal tax credits. Other benefits are available, including grants and alternative financing measures. Formats for nominating resources to the NRHP include the individual nomination; the historic district, which designates a historic area within defined and contiguous boundaries; and the multiple property submission (or listing), which permits scattered resources that have common links to history, prehistory, or architecture to be included under one cover nomination.

NRHP criteria are worded in order to provide for the diversity of resources in the United States. The following is taken from criteria published by the U.S. Department of the Interior to evaluate properties for inclusion in the NRHP:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, and:

- A) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history;*
- B) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in the past;*
- C) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;*
- D) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.*

Certain properties shall not ordinarily be considered for inclusion in the NRHP. They include cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;*
- b. a building or structure moved from its original location, but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;*
- c. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life;*
- d. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;*
- e. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;*
- f. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or*
- g. a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance*

Typically, a resource need only be 50 years by NPS standards old or more to be recorded, although resources included in surveys that are less than fifty years (for instance, those constructed between 1973 and 1975 as part of this survey) are often included. Resources that meet NRHP listing Criteria G are also often included. The process allows for a more inclusive documentation of resources that could not otherwise be admitted into the NRHP (the AHC's Historic Preservation Files also include those resources that are included in the NRHP). The recordation of a resource recorded with the Alabama Building Survey Form does not carry any associated regulations and does not alter any property rights of the owner. It is simply a record of the building at a specific point in time and includes the opinion of the surveyor regarding condition and integrity.

The inclusion of buildings in the survey was based on criteria established by the U. S. Department of the Interior for listing properties in the NRHP. The NPS is the regulatory body charged with the final evaluation of resources by significance for inclusion in the NRHP. Significance is determined through the

loss or retention of integrity (see **Glossary and Notes** section for a detailed description of integrity and condition). The evaluation is a subjective judgment but is grounded by seven aspects of integrity, which the NPS defines as location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage

The State's criteria for locally designated individual landmarks and districts closely follow that of the NRHP. Local nominations can be proposed by anyone, and property owner permission is not required. Once an Alabama Register nomination form is completed and received, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) will determine if the property meets the established criteria by a staff review committee.

A landmark or landmark site shall meet these following criteria:

- 1. Properties should be at least forty (40) years old or older.*
- 2. Shows the authenticity of its location and construction*
- 3. Conveys a feeling for the time and place of construction*

For preservation purposes, the commission shall identify geographically defined areas within the County to be designated as historic districts and shall cite the guideline criteria upon which such designation shall be made. A historic district is an area or neighborhood that has a concentration of building and associated landscape and streetscape features that retain a high degree of historic character and integrity and represent an important aspect of an area's history. For the Alabama Register, eligible properties must:

- 1. Be at least forty (40) years old and retain and exhibit sufficient integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associated) to convey a sense of history and significance.*

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Jefferson County Historical Commission works to identify and recognize houses, commercial and public buildings, churches, and sites of historic interest and integrity throughout the county. In addition, the commission works to encourage the preservation of these recognized places.³ Through its Historic Marker Program, the County's criteria for locally recognized historic buildings and sites similarly follow that of the NRHP. Many buildings surveyed in downtown Bessemer displayed Jefferson County Historic Markers. Additional information regarding these markers is discussed on **page 60**.

A building or site may qualify for the Historic Marker Program if the following criteria are met:

- 1. Any building or site in the County that retains most of its historic appearance and integrity may qualify. A building does not have to be elaborate or famous or associated with historically significant people or events. Site such as cemeteries or locations of now vanished buildings or events may also qualify.*
- 2. The Jefferson County Historical Commission follows the age criterion of the National Register of Historic Places, i.e., a building or structure must be at least fifty (50) years old to be eligible for a marker.*
- 3. A building or site may be eligible for marking regardless of age if it is associated with major historical figures or events*

³ <https://www.jeffersonhistorical.org/marker.html>

Survey Methodology

There are several methodologies for survey. One approach is the thematic survey, which identifies all historic properties of a specific type. A more common survey is the geographic type, which results in a comprehensive recording of all significant themes and associated properties within established geographic boundaries, such as a subdivision, neighborhood, or city limit.

This survey was performed as a geographic survey. The goal was to identify and evaluate the significance of the historic resources within Bessemer that were constructed in or before 1973. After an initial review of secondary histories, previous surveys, and the AHC building files, additional pre-survey planning included the acquisition of a current property appraiser map, and historic and current USGS maps. Approximate dates of construction were obtained from the Sanborn Map Company published maps and the Jefferson County Tax Assessor to provide baseline data of resources to potentially record. Historical aerial imagery and United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps were obtained to ascertain the nature and extent of resources throughout the project area, and changes to the built environment that have occurred over the past fifty years. Additionally, the National Register Nomination (1992) was utilized for actual year-built dates, identifying alterations, and confirming historic use.

This review suggested 379 parcels within Jefferson County contained historic resources that met the year-built date (1973). To provide the City of Bessemer and the AHC with the most efficient information, a desktop review was performed to help acquire baseline data for the field survey. This number served a general baseline, but based on experience, the survey team expected the overall number of surveyed resources to vary, due to factors such as multiple structures on a single parcel, unrecorded or incorrectly identified demolitions, and unidentified historical resources. As with most surveys, specific requirements were associated with the recordation of historic resources. In this case, not only were significant areas and resources to be surveyed, but they were to be surveyed with special consideration given to those that could be nominated to the NRHP. Terracon provided maps of the intended survey area to the City of Bessemer's Economic Development Director for review and approval based on their needs as it relates to the grant request prior to commencing survey. Terracon staff also performed a cursory review of the area using Google Earth and Google Street View to clarify unknown information obtained from the Property Appraiser.

All information collected in pre-survey planning was transferred into an ESRI GIS database that was closely associated with the AHC geodatabase system in the form of the ESRI Field Maps mobile application (Field Maps) to create working maps with all pertinent information made accessible in the field. Information populated into the survey map included a general building location denoted by the recording point, the address, and year-built date. This information was uploaded into Field Maps by Terracon's GIS team.

The survey team worked in pairs or groups, with one surveyor on each side of the street working parallel to each other. The survey team respected private property rights, recording most resources from the rights-of-way (ROW). In a few cases, property owners invited surveyors onto the property or inside their building, or, conversely, did not want their property recorded or photographed. Wherever the survey team experienced owner resistance, the owner's property rights were respected, and the survey team did not continue recording the resource.

Information collected in the field also included parcel information, architectural data, stylistic influence, address (if different than property appraiser), and current and historic use. Not permitted on private property, the surveyors inspected each building from the ROW, making no attempt to closely inspect foundations or wall framing for conformation of structural integrity. Ghost-line inspections and visual assessments provided information on alterations, additions, and the development over time. The condition of each building, a subjective professional evaluation, was assessed based upon visual inspection of structural integrity, roof surfacing, exterior wall fabric, porches, window treatments, foundation, and the general appearance of the building. Best attempts at identifying the building floorplans were provided in the appropriate field on the Historic Building Survey Form. However, most of the buildings were not entered and therefore the true layout was not known. The field was generally identified as “other.”

Additionally, the remaining historic fabric of the buildings were evaluated from the ROW, provided that this was a visual inspection. Where possible, research was performed using tax assessor data and from the previous nomination (1992) which provided information on alterations to original fabric for some of the buildings recorded within the Historic District. The answers given on the Historic Building Survey Form were either “High,” “Medium,” or “Low.” In some cases, where the surveyor felt that the building retained a combination of choices, a “Medium to High” or “Low to Medium” choice was provided.

Equipment and materials used in the field included data collection devices equipped with a high-quality digital photography camera and loaded with the Field Map application. The devices were further equipped with internet access allowing field research and address verification to be conducted as necessary, and with cloud storage and sync technology that allow immediate access to collected data while in the field. Sync capability allowed surveyors to avoid overlapping and redundancy, thereby reducing the margin for human error. For each building, architectural data and at least one digital image per resource were recorded directly to the Field Maps application. Architectural data was then transferred to the AHC Building Survey form, with one form generated for each resource. In addition to the photographs, architectural features, and mapping, each building location was recorded using the collection device’s ESRI GIS mapping capabilities. This not only allowed for more accurate location data, but also clarification if multiple resources were located on a single parcel.

Extensive additions and modifications, the use of incompatible exterior sidings and windows, and porch removal or enclosure are typical alterations that cause a building to possibly lose its historic character. While some modifications are found to be sensitive to the historic character and do not have an effect on the building’s integrity, other more extreme modifications can diminish the integrity of the resource and therefore alter the significance. Window replacement is common in older buildings as owners often desire a more energy efficient option. Window alterations that retain the fenestration and light pattern as well as using like materials typically do not alter the character of a building. Another sensitive alteration would be the enclosure of a side porch or single-car-garage with the original footprint intact; the resource may be affected but does not necessarily lose integrity. On the other hand, where buildings have had large additions or major alterations to the main façade or materials, or prominent features and the original portion or feeling of the resource has been altered, so that one cannot determine the original from the addition, that is considered diminishing the integrity of the structure.

The survey process also includes evaluating the condition of each building, using assessment standards established by the U. S. Department of the Interior. A subjective evaluation, the condition of each building was evaluated based upon a visual inspection of the structural integrity, roof profile and

surfacing, the integrity of the exterior wall fabric, porches, fenestration and window treatments, foundation, and the general appearance of the building. As surveyors inspected each building from the ROW and made no attempt to examine the interiors of buildings, or closely inspect the foundation or wall systems for the extent of integrity, deterioration, or insect infestation. In addition, the resource condition is further detailed on the Alabama Historic Building Survey form, specifically requiring that definitions of condition be based on the physical condition of the building, not its architectural integrity or alterations. Consequently, some buildings evaluated as "good" may upon further inspection be found in a "fair," or even "poor" condition. In like manner, some buildings labeled as fair may indeed possess substantial integrity of wall framing with only inconsequential exterior fabric deterioration. Intensive level research for individual buildings such as deed research or chain of title as well as the use of city directories were performed modestly.

Architectural significance, historical themes, and dates of construction were assigned and evaluated. Graphs and tables were prepared classifying buildings into a variety of significant aspects, including periods of historical development and architectural styles. Architectural and historical narratives were composed to describe settlement patterns, important events, and the major architectural influences represented in the surveyed area. Historical data was obtained from informants, legal instruments, newspapers, and secondary sources. Based on the evaluation, recommendations for the preservation of these resources were composed. All information was compiled in the using the AHC Historic Building Survey form and this survey report.

Information provided in previous surveys of the town, history books, and AHC Building forms on individual resources were included on the forms where possible, which include details such as architects, past residents, uses and alterations. The recorded forms and associated data are the survey team's opinion (and in consultation with the AHC) based upon field inspection and use of the respective National Register and local-level criteria for determining a structures integrity and significance.

Historical Context

Research methodology used to develop the historical context consisted of examining, compiling, and preparing a historical narrative associated with approximately five hundred years of use and occupation. Research was conducted using the Jefferson County Tax Assessor's Office; AHC Survey and Building Files, Montgomery; the Library of Congress, and various historical books about Alabama, Jefferson County, and the City of Bessemer history. The research furnished contextual references which established historic development patterns, land use, and ownership within local historic districts.

Prehistory

After an increase in human population and growth of local communities, the lifestyles of the indigenous peoples of the midwestern and southeastern United States began to enter into what is known as the Mississippian Period (AD 1000-1550), deriving from the Mississippi River Valley. Many tribes made up the Mississippian Culture and it is important to note that there was never one single tribe, but that these Native societies shared similar traditions and lifestyles. They "lived in fortified towns or small homesteads, grew corn, built large earthen mounds, maintained trade networks, had powerful leaders, and shared similar symbols and rituals."⁴ People were transitioning from a hunter-gatherer and small-scale gardening subsistence pattern to more efforts devoting their time to cultivating crops, such as corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers. The Mississippi River Valley provided the Native peoples with rich soil and an abundance of wild foods. Using a slash-and-burn practice, the Native peoples cleared land by cutting down and burning areas of the forest to plant seeds. After a few seasons of growing crops, they moved on to another area and repeated the process over again. In addition to farming, the Mississippians acquired their food by hunting wild game, foraging, and fishing.

Around 1100 AD, the Mississippian culture spread to what is now Alabama. A well-known Mississippian site called Moundville, located in the central-west region of Alabama, was one of the largest prehistoric Native American settlements in the United States. Using archaeological evidence, it is estimated that 1,000 people lived within Moundville, and by 1300 AD it was the largest town in what is now Alabama.⁵ Moundville, along with many other Native American settlements flourished in its complexity and population. Socio-political structures became more defined. For example, it is believed by archaeologists that people of the Mississippian Culture were organized into chiefdoms, where societies were formed by hierarchical social ranks or status of families and ruled by a single leader, or "chief."⁶ Early accounts of Mississippian chiefdoms in Alabama were recorded by Spanish explorers in the sixteenth century.

The Bessemer Site

The Bessemer Site consists of a cluster of three prehistoric earthen mounds situated near the confluence of Valley Creek and Halls Mill Creek, west of Bessemer. The site is also known as the Jonesboro Mounds or the Talley Mound Group for a previous owner, N.D. Talley. For approximately fifty years, lands around the mounds were cultivated; the land atop two of the mounds were cultivated from 1934 to 1939.⁷

⁴ Blitz, 2013

⁵ Blitz, 2013

⁶ Blitz, 2013

⁷ DeJarnette and Wimberly 1941:3

Archaeologists believe this 69-acre site to be the largest indigenous mound site within present-day Jefferson County. While similar and contemporary to the Moundville Chiefdom along the Black Warrior River (Hale County), the Bessemer Site represents a separate chiefdom.

In the 1890s, the Smithsonian Institution's Mound Exploration project examined and excavated portions of the Bessemer Site (**Figure 2**); Cyrus Thomas recorded these investigations and noted that several locals had previously explored portions of the mounds, causing disturbance to the features.⁸ In 1934, a team of archaeologists from Birmingham-Southern College, led by Carl Guthe, conducted an excavation of the largest oval mound on the site. At the same time, and through 1940, as part of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration (WPA), a team of archaeologists from the University of Alabama's Museum of Natural History conducted extensive excavations of the mounds, destroying most of the earthworks. The team, led by a Bessemer resident – David L. DeJarnette – and Steve Wimberly, determined the site was occupied during the Late Woodland to Mississippian era, dating from AD 1150 to 1250.⁹ Many of the WPA crews were comprised of African American men and women in Alabama.¹⁰



Figure 2. Excavations of the Bessemer Site (University of Alabama 2019; Killian 2016).

The site included three earthen mounds:

JE12: The large two-tiered oval-shaped mound is unique in that it was constructed atop a limestone (Ketona Dolomite) layer placed atop the topsoil for the base of the mound, unlike most mounds in the Southeastern United States¹¹; a three-foot thick layer of sand and interspersed charcoal ash covered the stone foundation (Fill No. 2), topped by red clay (Fill No. 3), mottled in some places by lenses of yellow clay and white sand, charcoal and humus (vegetation and leaf litter). The stone layer covered an area measuring 95 by 80 feet. A description from 1890 indicated the lower tier of the mound had a platform measuring 130 feet by 102 feet and stood approximately ten feet in height; an upper oval platform or oval-shaped "knob" measured 48 by 36 feet wide by eight feet tall with a rounded top (28 feet diameter). The knob contained clay, loam, and sand. A scatter of burned clay with cane marks atop the mound suggests a wattle and daub structure may have been located on the top surface. The Tennessee Coal and Iron (TCI) Railroad cut a segment through the west side of the mound; illicit collection and exploratory digging also damaged portions of the mound.¹² The archaeologists recovered a single (female) burial, lithic artifacts, greenstone, ceramics (pottery), charcoal, red and yellow ochre, and fresh- water shells. Excavation beneath the mound yielded

⁸ DeJarnette and Wimberly 1941

⁹ University of Alabama 2019; DeJarnette and Wimberly 1941; Jenkins and Nielsen 1974:141; Walthall and Wimberly 1978; Welch 1994

¹⁰ Butz 2022

¹¹ University of Alabama 2019

¹² DeJarnette and Wimberly 1941:4-5

an earlier component to the site, represented by lithic artifacts (including projectile points), sandstone and greenstone, pits, a fully articulated canine skeleton burial, a fire basin, a clay seat, and two [possibly bundled] human burials (adult male, adolescent female). Charred wood and cane indicated the wattle and daub structures had been burned. Between 1981 and 1982, a large municipal sewer line was installed in a trench parallel to the railroad.

JE13: A small oblong, or oval-conoidal mound, which contained the remains of twenty-three human burials (i.e., four adult males; three adult females; six adolescent/children; and ten unknown adults), featured a double-walled palisade, which encircled the feature. The mound was described as 90 feet by 61 feet wide by 7.5 feet in height.¹³ Based on excavations, the base of the burial mound sat atop humus, red clay subsoil, and hardpan; what appears to be a stockade or fenced enclosure was noted in the original humus. Two additional layers of construction were added. Fill No. 1 is a three-foot layer of hardpacked dark-gray loam and clay atop the humus of the base layer. Fill No. 2 topped Fill No. 1 and was comprised of several definite loads of red clay. Among the artifacts contained within the mound were shell tempered pottery, limestone discoidal, shell beads, and copper. Erosion of the banks of this mound were noted in the 1930s.

JE14: A rectilinear or pyramidal mound with intact ramp steps were identified as the residential (domiciliary) mound. The mound was described as 120 feet in diameter at the platform base, by 60 feet square, and 11 feet in height. In 1890, Cyrus Thomas excavated a trench, bisecting the center of the mound; at some point between 1890 and 1934, the trench had been reused to bury a farm mule.¹⁴ Excavations in the 1930s indicated the mound was constructed in six stages, beginning with a truncated pyramid with a rhomboidal top measuring 6.2 feet in height; a stepped ramp was located along the southeast corner of the mound extending to the first level of the mound, but the steps were covered with sand. A layer of yellow, brown, and red clay and brown and black loam extended from the surface humus layer (Fill No. 2) and along the top of the initial mound layer (Fill No. 1). A layer of red clay (Fill No. 3) topped the clay and loam surface, topped by another mix of black loam and gray clay (Fill No. 3); the mound reached 8.4 feet in height at this point. Next, a layer of red and yellow clay was added (Fill No. 4), topped by yellow clay (Fill No. 5), and red clay (fill No. 6). The mound included greenstone celt fragments and post molds interpreted as two structures. Like the ceremonial mound, there was evidence beneath the residential mound of earlier structures (i.e., at least 14 rectilinear structures, 3 circular structures, and a stockade or fence enclosure). When Valley Creek was canalized, a portion of the canal traversed the Bessemer Site, just 30 meters south of the mound.

When occupied, the mounds were surrounded by a village comprised of rectangular wattle and daub houses. Numerous features associated with this occupation are noted by but omitted from the report written by DeJarnette and Wimberly (1941); Welch (1994:8, f6) provides a copy of a map from the field notes which depicts many more features in association with the large oval mound. Welch (1994) also describes the occupation as “off-mound and pre-mound.”

¹³ DeJarnette and Wimberly 1941:3, 59

¹⁴ DeJarnette and Wimberly 1941:26

I should also note that I previously¹⁵ presented an interpretation about the chronology of buildings and mounds at Bessemer that is different from what appears here. My previous interpretation was based on a different assumption, specifically that at some moment the layout of the community shifted from a nonaligned cluster of buildings to an arc of buildings ringing a formal plaza. Frankly, this assumption simply presumed the answer to a key question about the site, namely how the layout changed through time. The moral of this story, again, is that we must be explicit and wary about the assumptions we make, and must always remember the contingent nature of our conclusions.¹⁶

Welch (1994) acknowledges that the off-mound structures predate the construction of the mounds. The burial mound (JE13) was the first mound constructed at the site. The earliest structures were constructed near the location of JE14, the pyramidal mound and the rock layer noted within the large oval mound (JE13) served to cap several buildings and features at the site. The oval mound (JE13) was the second mound constructed at the site, while the pyramidal mound (JE14) was constructed last. Outlying lands were used to cultivate crops (corns, beans, squash, sunflower, amaranth, etc.); the Native Americans also hunted local game, fished, and gathered nuts and fruits.¹⁷

The artifacts recovered from the Bessemer Site indicate a long-term occupation, with three phases of mound construction. Grog tempered and shell tempered ceramics, as well as the varying shapes of handles from the jars recovered from archaeological investigations at this location demonstrate the important and changing role the Bessemer Site has in the interpretations of Mississippian Cultural Development within central Alabama. As Welch states, Bessemer is chronologically significant “with the timing of the appearance of social ranking... The Bessemer excavations provide data about the chronological relationship between shell-tempered pottery, mound-top buildings, and elite burial programs.”¹⁸ The site also demonstrates a sense of community living prior to the construction of the mounds themselves, as evidenced by the wall-trench buildings.

Several Southeastern indigenous Tribes have ancestral ties to the lands in Alabama; artifacts recovered from excavations at the Bessemer Site and its surrounding landscape provide a direct link to their heritage.¹⁹ Welch acknowledges that the “Bessemer Site probably will continue to be prominent in discussions of the Mississippian emergence in Alabama.”²⁰

European Contact and the Colonial Era: 1539 – 1776

The lives of Native Americans were dramatically altered after the arrival of European explorers. The land had been tended by Native American peoples until European settlers arrived aware of the rich soils and complex river systems in the State.²¹ Native tribes (Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw) had tended the land for 10,000 years before the Spanish arrived in 1539.²² At this time the tribes primarily farmed corn, beans, peas, pumpkins, and squash but Spaniards introduced horses, pigs, and cattle, thereby permanently altering the agrarian lifestyle of the region.²³ The first Europeans to arrive in

¹⁵ Welch 1990:217-218

¹⁶ Welch 1994:11

¹⁷ University of Alabama 2019

¹⁸ Welch 1994:25

¹⁹ University of Alabama 2019

²⁰ Welch 1994:25

²¹ Alabama Historical Commission n.d., 2

²² Alabama Historical Commission n.d., 3

²³ Alabama Historical Commission n.d., 3, Agricultural Experiment Station of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute 1953, 26

present-day Alabama was the Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto, and his fleet. They entered from present-day Georgia, along the Coosa River traveling south and then heading west along the Alabama River. The indigenous fate was met with violence by de Soto and his men as they were traveling throughout tribal territories within Alabama, burning villages, and murdering their inhabitants. On October 18, 1540, the Spaniards destroyed the tribal capital of Mabila and killed most of the Natives, including their Chief, Tascaluza, whom Tuscaloosa and Tuscaloosa County are named after.²⁴

After several failed attempts at establishing a colony in Alabama, particularly the Gulf Coast region, the Spaniards embarked on a journey to find and destroy a French colony on the Gulf Coast, believed to be somewhere on the lower Mississippi River. The expedition was first led by Juan Enriquez Barroto in 1686 who sailed from the Florida Keys to Mobile Bay. The Spanish governor of Florida at the time appointed Marcos Delgado to continue the quest to find the elusive French colony. Delgado and his fleet travelled north and into the wilderness where they encountered Chacato, Yuchi, Choctaw, and Cherokee towns, claiming they made peace with the various tribes before returning to the Gulf Coast.²⁵

Revolutionary War

The French established a colony at Mobile in 1701, while the British made claims on the land encompassing present-day Jefferson County. By the end of the Revolutionary war, through 1802, Georgia claimed the north half of present-day Alabama and Mississippi, which was identified as the Mississippi Territory (1798-1817). The Alabama Territory existed from March 1817 until December 1819.

After the American Revolutionary War, many veterans relocated to present-day Alabama, migrating from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, settling initially in present-day Madison or Tuscaloosa counties, and throughout portions of central and western Alabama. Many of these veterans – or Patriots – were lower ranking, younger men of colonial birth, who served in state-controlled militias approximately three months, with rare exception of more than eight years of service.

The Revolutionary War Patriots in Alabama (RWPA) database and Thomas M. Owen's *Revolutionary Soldiers in Alabama* list more than 1,200 men, two women, and two "freedmen of color" with ties to the Revolution as living in Alabama.²⁶ To be identified as a Patriot in the State, one had to apply for, transfer, or receive a Revolutionary War pension in Alabama; reside, die, or be buried in Alabama; or have a memorial marker in Alabama. The names of many Patriots are still noted; Elmore, Macon, Marion, Morgan, Henry, St. Clair, Shelby, Sumter, and Greene counties are all named for Patriots.

A group of approximately 100 "Royalist" or "Tory" families traversed Shades Valley, Shades Mountain, the Cahaba River, and onward to the Black Warrior River near present-day Tuscaloosa. Undoubtedly, these individuals passed through the Bessemer area before meeting the *Mvskoke* (Muscogee [Creek]) at Hickory Ground [*Otciapofa*] along the Coosa River near present-day Wetumpka, where they traded with Alexander McGillivray, *Hoboi-Hili-Miko*, the son of Scottish trader Lachlan McGillivray and Sehoy Marchan.²⁷

²⁴ Weddle, 2007

²⁵ Weddle, 2007

²⁶ Owen, 1944 [1911]

²⁷ Franke, 1987 [1950]:21

Although trying to maintain neutrality and sovereignty, Native Americans in the Southeast – such as the *Chahta* (Choctaw), *Chikashsha* (Chickasaw), *Ani-Yunwiya* (Cherokee), and *Mvskoke* found themselves in a political triangle between the American colonies, Britain, France, and the Spanish during various European wars. O'Brien (2007) notes,

The Revolutionary War both threatened the viability of the trade and provided opportunities for Creek men to acquire trade goods by providing military services, especially on behalf of Britain against Spain during the Mobile and Pensacola campaigns of 170-81. Still other Creeks, most notably the mixed-race leader Alexander McGillivray, used the Anglo-American conflict to strengthen their political positions by taking leadership roles in diplomacy. McGillivray continued to gather political power and influence among the Creeks in dealings with the United States after the war. Yet, the Creeks never employed their large population in significant sustained fighting during the war, preferring to protect their sovereignty and trade through cautious participation.²⁸

Patriots and other migrants formed settlements near Tuscaloosa, in Shelby County, and Jonesboro [the precursor to present-day Bessemer].

Statehood & Civil War

As the War of 1812 erupted among the US and Great Britain, Native Americans again attempted to remain neutral, which proved more difficult than prior years. Factions among the *Redsticks* and *Whitesticks* resulted in a divisive civil war among members of the Creek Confederacy. Other attributing factors causing the war include expanding white encroachment and settlement; the development of the Federal Road; shifts in economic disparity; rival allies; and threats to traditional life. Clashes at Fort Mims [Baldwin County], Holy Ground [*Econochaca*, in Lowndes County], Fort Strother at Ten Islands on the Coosa River [St. Clair County], and many others, ultimately ending at Horseshoe Bend [*Tohopeka*] not only propelled Andrew Jackson to the White House, but set the stage for Native American land cessions, such as the Treaty of Fort Jackson (at former Fort Toulouse near present-day Wetumpka, Elmore County) in 1814.

While part of the Mississippi Territory, Monroe County organized out of the Treaty of Fort Jackson. The *Mvskoke* (Creek) land bordered that of the *Chahta* (Choctaw), *Chikashsha* (Chickasaw) and *Ani-Yunwiya* (Cherokee). By 1816, portions of Monroe County were redesignated as Blount County and in 1816, the land encompassing present-day Jefferson County was carved out and named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson.

The Alabama Territory entered the United States as the 22nd state in 1819 and shortly after, Jefferson County officially formed on December 13, 1819. Franke provides a summary of the official boundaries as defined by the State Legislature:

Beginning at a point on Tuscaloosa river, at the mouth of the first large creek below the junction of the Mulberry and Locust forks of said river; thence on a direct line to the Big Pond Spring, at the upper end of Roup's valley; thence southeast to the ridge dividing the waters of Shades Creek from the waters of Cahawba; thence up said ridge to its northern extremity; thence by a direct line to Cedar Mountain; thence the former line dividing Blount from St. Clair County, to a

²⁸ O'Brien 2007

point opposite Hargrove's, leaving said Hartgrove's in Blount county; thence by a direct line to William Dunn's on the Mulberry fork of Tuscaloosa; thence by a direct line to the Sipsey fork, thence down said stream to its junction with the Mulberry; thence down their united stream to its junction with the Locust fork; thence down the same to junction with the Tuscaloosa; thence down the same to the place of beginning.²⁹

The following year, a section of St. Clair County was added to Jefferson County. Carrollville served as the first county seat, but by June 1821, Elyton was set as the Jefferson County Seat. Surveyors began mapping the land, with the first sales taking place in southern Jefferson County by late 1819. What followed was a land rush migration between the 1820s and 1830s known as "Alabama Fever," which brought speculators, gamblers, and a host of others to Jefferson County.³⁰

Of these initial pioneers were John Jones and Caleb Friley, who created a wagon trail stretching between Blountsville (Bear Meat Cabin) southeasterly along the Huntsville Road to the Jones Valley, and a timber stockade known as Jonesboro. There the road split into two branches, leading west to Tuscaloosa and southwest through Rouse's Valley. Additional early pioneers included Samuel and Isaac Fields; Andrew McLaughlin; Thomas Barton; John and Isaac Brown; William Cowden; James Cunningham; Williamson Hawkins; Drayton Nabers; John Owens; Joseph Riley; William C., Henry and James Tarrant; John and James H. Wood; and Jonathan York.

In May 1830, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which authorized the forced and brutal expulsion and relocation of indigenous people – including the Native American Tribes in the Southeastern US – to the "Indian Territory" [Oklahoma]. It is estimated that 23,000 *Mvskoke* were removed between 1830 and 1841; approximately 14,000 *Ani-Yunwiya* in 1838 from the Treaty of New Echota; and *Chahta* with the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek (1830). The result was the formation of multiple Trails of Tears for indigenous people, while also opening land for increased settlement by non-Native peoples.

Among many of the early pioneers to Jefferson County were former Soldiers who had fought with Andrew Jackson during the Creek Wars. The 1830 US Federal Census for Jefferson County, Alabama, noted the 6,845 heads of households, but did not record information regarding industry or manufacturing.³¹ The 1840 Census attempted to document literacy, vocations, and school attendance (grammar schools, common schools, primary schools, academies, universities, colleges, or scholars, as well as those who were illiterate). Additionally, it recorded the number of free white males and females (by ages), free colored persons (by ages), number of enslaved persons (by age), number of individuals employed in mining, commerce, agriculture, trades or manufacturers, navigation of canals, lakes, rivers, and ocean, and the number of professions and engineers. Pensioners from Military Service, especially from the Revolution were identified by name and age. One other section addressed the number of "deaf, dumb, blind, and insane white persons"³²

By the 1850 Census, Jefferson County identified between 871 and 1,002 people in the area, including farmers, teachers, students, clerks, merchants, blacksmiths, mechanics, millers, tailors, shoemakers, hatters, carpenters and cabinetmakers, masons and stonemasons, coopers, lawyers, physicians, clergy or ministers, grocers, tavernkeepers and saloon keepers, saddlers, tanners, stage drivers, poorhouse keepers, ditchers, and laborers. Additionally, there were 2,273 enslaved persons in Jefferson County.

²⁹ Franke 1950:23

³⁰ Franke 1950, 24

³¹ Alabama Genealogy Trails n.d.; US Census 1830

³² US Census 1840

Twenty individuals were identified as mentally or physically disabled, invalids, or inmates. Crops produced in the 1850s included (in order by volume) Indian corn, butter, sweet potatoes, oats, beeswax and honey, wool, rice, cotton, wheat, tobacco, Irish potatoes, cheese, peas and beans, and rye; this resulted in a large quantity of grist- and saw-mills, cotton gins, coal mines, and iron furnaces being established in Jefferson County and the surrounding areas.³³ Other products included meat and fruits.

In Jonesboro, among the first developments were William Rose Sadler's grist mill; Thomas Sadler's tailor shop; and mercantile operated by Samuel Tarrant, John Ayres, John W. Bramlett, Hawkins & Earle, Mark Harris, and Ben McWhorter. The Sadlers were among the first families to settle in the Bessemer area. Construction of the Sadler House began in 1820 by John Loveless. The home was part of their plantation, which encompassed an area of 2,800 acres.³⁴ Still standing today, the two-story wood frame house was listed on the NRHP in 1975. Thomas McAdory owned a large cotton plantation, while John Thomas operated a cotton gin, mill, and raised silkworms. James Tarrant (and his wife Ellen) operated a boarding house and mercantile. An 1854 Business Directory lists three businesses in Jonesboro, owned by J. Hauey, T. Williams, and Wright & Tarrant.³⁵

James Webb Smith Donnell (1820-1877), an officer in W.P. Tanner & Company, owned a plantation named Seclusion at Jonesboro in the 1860s; William Weems served as his partner or overseer.³⁶ The plantation relied on enslaved laborers for picking cotton and cutting timber for railroad crossties, which Donnell sold to the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. During and after the American Civil War, Donnell lost Seclusion, became destitute, and died in bankruptcy.³⁷

Churches

In 1822, Isaac Brown established Canaan Baptist Church (**Figure 3**) in his home. Pastors included John Henry, Hosea Holcombe, Willie Burrus, John Lansing. Brothers Speer and Duncan were the first deacons. By 1827, Canaan became part of the Mount Zion Baptist Association, but withdrew in 1833. In 1850, the church moved to Shades Creek.³⁸



Figure 3. Canaan Baptist Church, Samford University Library, Special Collections & University Archives.

In 1865, Reverend W.M. Grimes, a white minister, created an African American Baptist congregation, also called Canaan Baptist.³⁹ A twin-tower church building was constructed at 824 15th Street in Bessemer in 1889; expanded in 1908; and then clad in brick veneer in 1940. Between 1958 and 1959, the City of Bessemer condemned the church building; this is attributed to fires from two other African American churches and concerns that Canaan's older building would suffer the same consequences [more likely arson].⁴⁰ Between 1960 and 1961, the congregation constructed a new, one-story brick structure, with a basement containing meeting rooms where kindergarten classes were offered for African American children in Bessemer. The sanctuary

³³ Franke 1950, 27

³⁴ Burnett 2011, 12

³⁵ Alabama Genealogy Trails n.d.

³⁶ Bell 1972

³⁷ Bell 1972

³⁸ Lambert 1940

³⁹ Van West, Nelson and White 2004

⁴⁰ Van West, Nelson and White 2004

served as a meeting venue for the Selective Buying Campaign (1962); Southern Christian Leadership Conference (1962); and Project C Demonstrations (1963). By 1964, the congregation and its newest minister (Reverend A.L. Bratcher) became more involved in activism, such as the War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Movement. Among its efforts were the establishment of a Community Action Agency and Community Development Credit Union (CDCU). The CDCU at Canaan Baptist led the national program between 1965 and 1973, instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act (1964) and Voting Rights Act. In 1984, the church added an educational annex, with new office space.⁴¹

Union Baptist Church, just east of Bessemer, formed in June 1834, led by T.D. Armstrong, J.B. Moore, and 18 members from the prior Old Canaan church at Jonesboro.⁴² The congregation met in a log cabin until 1888, when it was replaced by a wooden building. The newest structure was added in 1922. Reverend B. Lockhart and others organized the Hopewell Cumberland Presbyterian Church in October 1823 just three miles south of Bessemer. Lockhart was instrumental in establishing Cumberland Presbyterian Churches at Elyton (Enon), Clayton's Cove (near Clay), and Shiloh (near Leeds).

An 1891 issue of *The Daily Pig* newspaper identified multiple churches in the Bessemer area⁴³:

- St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 5th Avenue and 18th Street; Reverend J. Daley, Pastor [Priest]
- Trinity [Episcopal] Church, Reverend Benjamin Dennis, Rector
- First Baptist Church, Reverend M.M. Wood, Pastor
- Methodist including the Sabbath School and 24th Street Church, Reverend L.C. Branscomb, Pastor
- Presbyterian, Reverend H.W. Flinn, Pastor
- Cumberland Presbyterian at 24th Street, South Bessemer, Reverend J.C. Arnett, Pastor
- Methodist Episcopal Church at the Charleston Block, including Sunday services and school, Reverend J.G. Johnson, Pastor.

Several Secret Societies also operated in Bessemer, including the Bessemer Lodge No. 458, AF&AM (Hall over Nabers, Morrow & Hendon's Drug Store, 19th Street, between Second and Third Avenues); Myrtle Lodge No. 53, Knights of Pythias (Masonic Hall); Bessemer Lodge Knights of Honor (Masonic Hall); Knights and Ladies of the Golden Rule; Bessemer Lodge 108, IOOF (Hall over Rosenbaum's Store); Jonesboro Lodge No. 315 AF&AM (Renner's Hall); and the Bessemer Confederate Veteran's Association ('Squire Jackson's office').⁴⁴

Schools

In 1828, Ninion Tannehill, I.W. Sadler, and other wealthy settlers established another school named Pleasant Hill near Bessemer. Hugh Morrow served as the first teacher, through 1865. Early teachers at Pleasant Hill included Miss Nettie Chappell, Miss Nannie Sadler, and Josh Draper, Ben Hubbard, Thomas

⁴¹ Van West, Nelson and White 2004

⁴² Franke 1950, 31

⁴³ The Daily Pig, June 8, 1891, 3

⁴⁴ The Daily Pig, June 8, 1891, 3

McAdory, William McCloud, Elisha Phillips, and O.W. Sadler. The first white female born in the county in 1818, Martha Prude, reputedly attended this school.⁴⁵

James Tarrant served as the President of the Salem Male and Female Academy; by 1866, Salem Academy merged with Bucksville Academy, forming Pleasant Hill Academy, near McCalla.

In 1888, the city of Bessemer's first public school graded school was erected on the corner of 19th Street and 7th Avenue. Before the building was completed, the school, known as Red Mountain Academy, met in a one room frame building near Thompson Town. A.N. Hendon served as principle, alongside were teachers Miss Hickman and Miss Weaver. One hundred students were enrolled by the 1889 fall session.⁴⁶

The Robert's School, built in 1892, was Bessemer's first "modern" brick schoolhouse, located on the corner of 17th Street and 5th Avenue. The student body had expanded to 435 students enrolled by 1901. Shortly after the Robert's School was opened, an African American school was constructed in 1894 on the corner of Arlington Avenue and 24th Street. Named after the city's second mayor, Charles F. Hard, the Hard School's original buildings are no longer extant due to a fire in 1958.⁴⁷ By the early 1920s, Bessemer opened an African American high school on 6th Avenue and 27th Street. The school was originally known as 'Bessemer Colored High School', but later changed its name in 1928 to honor African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. In 2011, Dunbar High School was listed in the NRHP.⁴⁸

Civil War

The American Civil War erupted shortly after the election of Abraham Lincoln and political tension flared, conflicts regarding "States Rights," and slavery. In December 1860, South Carolina seceded, followed shortly after by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. The states that seceded formed the Confederate States of America (CSA), while the North remained a Union. Jefferson Davis was selected as the President of the CSA with Alexander Stephens being chosen as Vice President. The CSA located the first capitol in Montgomery. In April 1861, the first battles began when Confederates fired upon Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The states of Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina also seceded, joining the CSA. Shortly after, the Confederate capital moved to Richmond, Virginia.

It is estimated that more than 82,500 Alabamians would serve in the CSA. The iron industry and railroads flourished, as both provided support to the CSA. As a result, US Army General James H. Wilson targeted many iron furnaces in Jefferson and surrounding counties.⁴⁹ Although Bessemer had not yet formed by the Civil War era, the area south of Bessemer, known as Tannehill, was home to the only three furnaces works in Alabama at that time. Tannehill was one of the largest producers of iron for the CSA, but by 1865 the furnaces had been destroyed by Federal troops.

Reconstruction Era and the Beginnings of a New City

Following the end of the Civil War in the south, Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction served as an attempt by the Federal government to enforce equal suffrage on former CSA states, including Alabama. Between 1865 and 1874, Federal troops remained in the state to ensure Emancipation (in

⁴⁵ Franke 1950, 36

⁴⁶ Burnett 2011, 77

⁴⁷ Burnett 2011, 82

⁴⁸ Burnett 2011, 87

⁴⁹ Hubbs 2008

accordance with the Thirteenth Amendment) was carried out while a Republican-dominated, Unionist Congress sought to rewrite the Alabama Constitution. These efforts were violently opposed by ex-Confederates, members of the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists. Thus, the Reconstruction Era was wrought with political changes, rapidly pardoning ex-Confederates; reintegrating Alabama (and 10 other states) into the Union; and extending rights to Freedmen.⁵⁰ Racial issues would continue to fester in the South and eventually erupt in the 1950s and 1960s, with the height of the Civil Rights Movement being intrinsically woven into the Alabama's history.

After 1870, the economy stabilized with sharecropping and small farmers that produced and exported cotton crops, which in turn, helped reduce the federal debt and allowed for new economic development, such as railroad construction.⁵¹ The Alabama Great Southern Railroad was built through Jones Valley, approximately one mile southeast of Jonesboro in 1877.

*The Marvel City...
From a Forest to a
Thriving City in a Few
Months*

Exhibitions of the coal and iron resources of the region were showcased at the World's Industrial and Centennial Exposition in New Orleans and the North and South American Exposition between 1884 and 1886. The exhibits garnered national attention from the iron producers of the country as well as Great Britain. Investor and developer, Henry Fairchild DeBardeleben, became a dominant factor early on in developing the coal mining and iron production in the area (**Figure 4**). By 1886, he organized the DeBardeleben Coal & Iron Company and laid the foundation of what would become Furnace Number 1 and 2 in Bessemer. DeBardeleben purchased 4,000 acres of land and began selling commercial lots in April 1887. He was said to have been "full of energy and now possessed of a vision of a gateway city to the Cahaba and Warrior Coal Fields, a 'Marvel City.'"⁵²

Purchasing buildings from New Orleans' 1884 Cotton Exposition, he shipped via the Alabama Great Southern Railroad for reuse in Bessemer. Among these were the Jamaica Building (rolling mill) and the Montezuma Building (Montezuma Hotel). With a fledgling population of 1,000 individuals, DeBardeleben initially planned to name his community Brooklyn; however, he named it to honor Sir Henry Bessemer, a British inventor and engineer of steel making.⁵³

In 1887, President of DeBardeleben Coal and Iron Company and a native of Autauga County, DeBardeleben married Ellen Pratt, daughter of Daniel Pratt. DeBardeleben formed partnerships with Pratt, Truman Aldrich, and James W. Sloss, other early industrialists in Alabama, to develop iron and coal mines in Jefferson County. DeBardeleben would be instrumental in coal and iron mines, coke ovens, and blast furnaces from 1876 through his death in 1910.

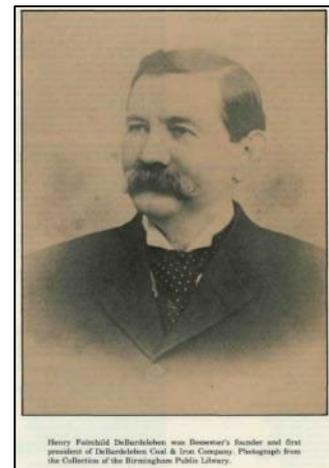


Figure 4. Henry F. DeBardeleben (Slaughter 1987:48).

⁵⁰ Dattel 2008; Fitzgerald 2008

⁵¹ Dattel 2008; Fitzgerald 2008

⁵² Slaughter 1987, 50

⁵³ Bessemer Chamber of Commerce n.d.; Doss 2010; Slaughter 1987

DeBardeleben established the Bessemer Land and Improvement Company, which surveyed the land, laid out the streets and individual lots, and planned the parks; the avenues ran parallel to the alignment of the Alabama Great Southern Railway. Bessemer Land and Improvement Company offered small tracts for rent "on easy terms for gardening purposes".⁵⁴ Sales rose from \$10 an acre to \$18,000 an acre. The

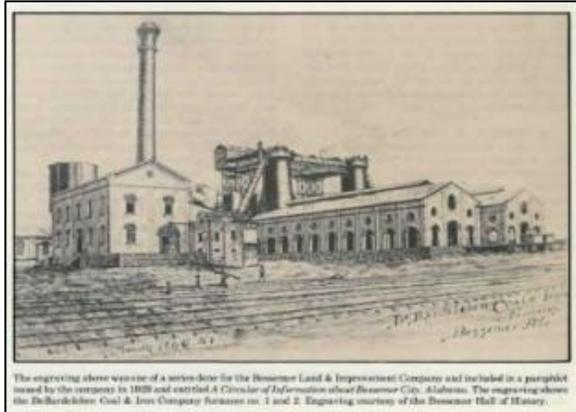


Figure 5. DeBardeleben Coal and Iron Company (Slaughter 1987:50).

population grew tremendously, as did the early crime rate; a police force organized by 1891 under the leadership of Marshal Hart.⁵⁵ A City Charter was finalized in December 1888. Robert M. McAdory served as the first mayor; he and his council incorporated the city on September 9, 1887.⁵⁶

DeBardeleben planned to construct eight iron furnaces, add two railroads to Bessemer, while revitalizing industry already existing in the area. One of the largest furnaces in Bessemer was the Little Belle, constructed in 1889 and put in blast in 1891; he also operated two furnaces as the DeBardeleben Coal and Iron Company. Fledgling industries included the Bessemer Cornice Works; Bessemer Manufacturing Company; Bessemer Fire Brick Works;

The Marvel City Brick Company; Megrue and Company (Brick Yards); Gere & Abbott (Brick Works); Bessemer Brick Company; Bessemer Steam Bottling Works; Bessemer Rolling Mills; Beggs Brothers Foundry and Machine Shops; Bessemer Ice Manufacturing and Storage Company.⁵⁷

Bessemer, while ranked as one of the coming great manufacturing centers, lying as she does in the heart of the great mineral belt of Alabama, has builded a reputation second to none for age; but this is not alone due to her great ore industries. Her retail establishments are first-class... (*The Daily Pig*, 2 JUN 1891:3).

A Fire District extended southeast to northwest from Carolina to Fourth avenues, and then southwest to northeast from 16th to 21st Streets. A commercial intersection at Second Avenue and 21st Street gave way to additional commercial enterprises to 22nd Street, and across tracks to Carolina Avenue, near the first well. Among these at the corner of Carolina Avenue and 22nd Street included: S. Rosen Dry Goods and the Pioneer Saloon.⁵⁸ Additional businesses included L.H. King & Co. Livery and Sale Stable; G.A. Gillett & Co Painters; T.A. Slattery & Brothers Electrotypers and Stereotypers; W.S. McCulley (construction); A.J. Krebs (contractor, builder); The Robinson [A. Robinson & Co] (H. Magill, Proprietor

⁵⁴ The Herald-Journal, 24 OCT 1889:3

⁵⁵ The Daily Pig, 16 JUN 1891:3

⁵⁶ Bessemer Chamber of Commerce n.d.; Doss 2010; Slaughter 1987

⁵⁷ The Herald-Journal, 24 OCT 1889:3

⁵⁸ The Herald-Journal, 24 OCT 1889:3

and R.M. Wilson, Manager); R.J. Tillman Livery; J & P Renner's (grocery); and W.H. Howell (general merchandise). T.B. Ellison served as the manager of the Grand Hotel (demolished in 1987). R.R. Young operated a jewelry house at the Grand Hotel Block.⁵⁹

The intersection 19th Street and Second Street featured an Office Building (1890) which later served as the Bank of Commerce. William and Chollet Berney operated Berney Brothers insurance and First National Bank of Bessemer block, at the corner of Second Avenue and Nineteenth Street.⁶⁰ The bank charter dated to January 25, 1890. Chambers McAdory served as the vice president of the bank while I.S. Chandler was cashier. Directors included McAdory, L.W. Johns, James Trotter, W.S. Ware, P.J. Gillen, and the Berney brothers. Berney Park served as a location for lawn tennis club meetings.⁶¹

Chas. F. Hard and Co., real estate and insurance office was located in the Charleston Block, which was constructed by the Carolina Real Estate Company, at the corner of Second Avenue and 19th Street North (almost out of the center of town).⁶²

By June 1, 1891, Bessemer had its own newspapers, *The Daily Pig*, and the weekly *Bessemer Journal*, published in the Journal Building at the corner of First Avenue and Twentieth Street. The name was based on the success of pig-iron and the seven local iron furnaces. G.H. Davie served as the editor and publisher, who noted,

The PIG is born, and it rests with the people of Bessemer to say whether it will live or die. It will not be run for glory. Thus far the enterprise has met with encouragement, an excellent subscription list having been secured in the short time the canvassers have been out. If the advertisers do as well the success of the PIG is assured.

The reputation of Bessemer abroad depends largely upon the kind support given its newspapers. With poor support, a paper must either be inferior or run at a loss. The PIG will be content with neither of these conditions.

Its managers have decided to give the reading public as good a local paper as possible, and to gradually build up its telegraph and other departments.

It will contain no 'dead' ads. Until legitimate advertising comes in to full up the advertising columns, that space will be occupied with selected reading matter.

The PIG is yours; what will you do with it?⁶³

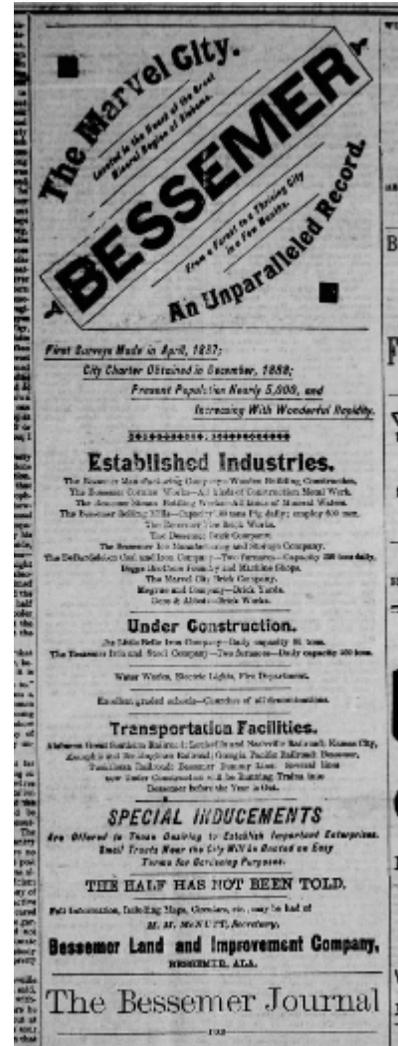


Figure 6. Bessemer Promotional Advertisement (*The Herald-Journal*, 24 OCT 1889:3).

⁵⁹ The Herald-Journal, 24 OCT 1889:3

⁶⁰ The Herald-Journal, 24 OCT 1889:3; The Daily Pig, 9 JUN 1891:2

⁶¹ The Daily Pig, 26 JUN 1891:3

⁶² The Daily Pig, 2 JUN 1891:3

⁶³ The Daily Pig, 2 JUN 1891:2

The McAdory dam provided water via McAdory Springs and Glenn's Spring to the water works company in Bessemer. W.A. McClelland managed the Bessemer Plumbing Company, which specialized in sanitary plumbing, gas, and steam fittings; it was located at the Armory Building, 19th Street, between First and Second Avenues.⁶⁴

In June of 1891, the Howard-Harrison Iron Company shipped 26 rail cars containing 114 36-inch pipe to Baltimore.⁶⁵ Just days later, the building caught fire, burning the gas-house in flames, spreading to cottages beyond the reach of fire hydrants. A portion of the trestle (40 by 95 feet long), two empty flat railcars were also burned. Damages to the uninsured property were estimated at \$5,000. This company would later become known as the US Pipe & Foundry Company.⁶⁶

A financial depression in 1893 had a large impact on Bessemer, as DeBardeleben lost control and a great deal of stock in the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railway Company (TCI). As a result, many mining and mills in Bessemer were taken over by TCI, with a new rolling mill being constructed in Fairfield, Alabama. After being forced to resign and losing his fortune, DeBardeleben set up the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company based in St. Clair County, Alabama. He developed mining operations in different areas of the county.

The 20th Century and the Civil Rights Movement

By the turn of the century, Bessemer made many improvements and developments within the city. Miles of streets, avenues, and sidewalks were graded, and thousands of feet of granite curbing laid.⁶⁷ Three large public schools (Roberts School, Howell School, and Hard School), City Hall, multiple churches, and a growing number of businesses and houses were developed. The residential population within the incorporated limits doubled to 10,000 during the preceding decade.⁶⁸

In 1902, G.M. Torgerson, a Swedish architect who designed many exhibit halls at the 1887 Chicago Exposition, also designed the Berney Bank and a combined City Hall and Fire Department; City Hall burned in the 1930s and was replaced in 1937 in the Art Deco style. By 1905, the Southern Bell Telephone Exchange was constructed by the Bessemer Land & Improvement Company. Workers, known as telephone operators, would connect calls by manually exchanging cords and buttons on switchboards, or "cordboards."⁶⁹ The following year, Andrew Carnegie funds helped Bessemer construct a library. Designed by W.E. Benns and built by Fred Jay, the Carnegie Library (now Chamber of Commerce) is one of Bessemer's most notable buildings, built in the Renaissance Revival style and reportedly based on the Kennedy Library in Spartanburg, South Carolina.⁷⁰

⁶⁴ The Daily Pig, 2 JUN 1891:3

⁶⁵ The Daily Pig, 30 JUN 1891:3

⁶⁶ Encyclopedia.com: United States Pipe and Foundry Company. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/books/politics-and-business-magazines/united-states-pipe-and-foundry-company>

⁶⁷ The Bessemer Weekly 1901, 17

⁶⁸ The Bessemer Weekly 1901, 17

⁶⁹ Burnett 2011, 47

⁷⁰ Downtown Bessemer Historic District 1992, Section 7, 12

By 1913, Bessemer and its suburbs reached a population of 17,667 inhabitants, nearly doubling since the preceding decade.⁷¹ Within only a few years, inhabitants increased to 24,717 within the city proper, including Jonesboro, Brighton, Readers, etc.⁷²

In 1916, the Alabama Great Southern Railway constructed a depot in Bessemer. The depot cost \$30,000 to build and it was designed using modern and classical revival elements. Its broad rooflines with wide overhang, emphasizing horizontality was reminiscent of Prairie style features of the modern movement. Decorative brackets, stone belt courses, and pointed arch window mullions reflected Victorian and Gothic Revival characteristics. It now serves as the Bessemer Hall of History (NRHP 1973), showcasing a wide range of artifacts, photographs, documentation, and memorabilia associated with the areas most prominent or famous citizens.

The Great Depression heavily impacted many Alabamians, with lasting effects for some into the early 1940s. To provide relief for many experiencing economic hardship and poverty, President Franklin Roosevelt initiated the New Deal program, aiming to recover the broken economy and relieve hardships experienced by many US citizens. The New Deal consisted of various programs, including the WPA, the nation's largest employer of the era, who employed millions to carry out public works projects. Within Jefferson County, the WPA employed 9,000 people to work on a multitude of projects, such as sealing abandoned coal mines; improved streets, roads, and bridges; built highways, airport runways, and sanitary sewers; made improvements to schools and recreational facilities; and built health and TB clinics.⁷³ Within Bessemer, the WPA was responsible for the Bessemer City Hall Addition and Auditorium as well as improvements at Cedar Hill Cemetery. During the same decade, transportation improvements were made by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), by planning a Bessemer Super Highway, a two-lane segment of US Highway 11 that would traverse and connect Bessemer and Birmingham. The original configuration of US 11 crossed over multiple railroad lines that connected the coal mines to plants in Fairfield and Bessemer. According to Joe Holley, a former administrator with ALDOT, "the streets were crummy...[and] you almost always got stopped by a train."⁷⁴ Plans were acquired from Germany based on the German autobahn system and rail lines were relocated, many above the roadways. Despite financial constraints caused by the Great Depression, the Birmingham-Bessemer Boulevard, as planners envisioned its name, was the nation's first divided four-lane highway and "was considered a marvel in its time".⁷⁵ Lights were installed in the 1940s and soon, gas stations, subdivisions, drive-in theaters and restaurants were located along the highway.⁷⁶

The Bessemer Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored a lighting project that resulted in 227 highway lights along the Birmingham-Bessemer Boulevard. It was heralded as "marking an epoch in safety engineering. Lights created a "white way" ultimately dotted with gas stations, restaurants, drive-in theatres, and subdivisions. In September 1941, the City Council in Bessemer requested that the Birmingham Electric Company cease operations within this city and asked that "all its facilities be removed".⁷⁷

⁷¹ Bessemer, Alabama, City Directory, 1913

⁷² Bessemer, Alabama, City Directory, 1916

⁷³ Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter 2009

⁷⁴ Norris 2010

⁷⁵ Norris 2010

⁷⁶ Norris 2010

⁷⁷ The Birmingham News, 1 JAN 1942:11



Figure 7. The Lincoln Theatre, 1948. Photo courtesy of Birmingham Public Library Archives.

In 1948, the Lincoln Theatre opened in the heart of Bessemer’s Black business district on First Avenue North (**Figure 7**). Before it became a theatre, the building was a single-story commercial structure with three storefronts. Purchased by local businessman Sam Raine in 1942, Raine commissioned acclaimed architect Charles McCauley to design a 750-seat theatre. McCauley was responsible for designing notable buildings in Birmingham including the City Hall, Temple Beth-El, and the Avon Theatre. Rather than an all-new build, the original building underwent major renovations by increasing the height of the building and adding a balcony and lobby. The Lincoln Theatre was primarily used for Black audiences, who were restricted from entering other theatres

downtown. Additionally, the building was used as a community center for Black residents for events such as fashion shows and church socials. The theatre went through several owners but continued to operate up until the 1970s and 1980s.⁷⁸

Although much attention was focused on cities like Birmingham, Montgomery, and Atlanta during the Civil Rights Movement, residents of Bessemer were actively participating in the movement for justice and equality. Black residents organized and protested in local establishments and churches. Canaan Baptist Church (listed in the NRHP 2005) became heavily associated with the Civil Rights Movement in the early to mid-1960s. Located on the corner of 9th Avenue and 15th Street North, the masonry church is among one of the oldest African American congregations in Bessemer, having occupied the lot since 1889. The original building is no longer extant, but its current structure was constructed in 1960 under the direction of Rev. Dr. J. H. Browder, with George Wilson of Selma, Alabama, as the contractor.⁷⁹ Browder was pastor of Canaan Baptist from 1948 until his death in 1964 and was the key leader in the civil rights associations with the church. Rev. Browder and his congregation gained local popularity for being strong advocates for equal rights, voting rights, and desegregation. He firmly supported local efforts to desegregate schools, particularly after



Figure 8. Figure 7. Looking south on 2nd Avenue North is Downtown Bessemer, Alabama, 1956.

⁷⁸ Lincoln Theatre AHC Historic Building Survey Form

⁷⁹ Canaan Baptist Church National Register of Historic Places Registration Form 2005, Section 8, 2

the Brown v. Board of Education (1954) decision. In 1961 he organized a kindergarten in the new church building for local Black children to meet because at the time there was no educational services available to them. The new building also served as a meeting place to discuss its role in significant Civil Rights events including the Selective Buying Campaign (1962), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Birmingham (1962), and the Project C demonstrations (1963).⁸⁰ The church continued its role of activism after Browder's death in 1964, as it became heavily involved with the federal War on Poverty, with the Economic Opportunity Act (1964). Canaan Baptist became headquarters for the Community Action Agency, establishing a Community Development Credit Union (CDCU) in 1964. As one of the first CDCU centers in the nation, it "provided equal opportunity loans to local residents, who otherwise had difficulty securing loans from local banks for the purchases of houses and the development of local businesses."⁸¹ The Community Action Agency also acted as a resource for congregation members and locals in helping them gain the benefits that were created through the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

Days after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Black across the South had been "streaming into restaurants, barbershops, buses and swimming pools to test their new freedoms."⁸² When a group of nine Black teens in Bessemer decided to sit-in in the "whites only" section of lunch counter, McClellan's (on the corner of Second Avenue and 19th Street), they were met with violence. A group of men with baseball bats approached the restaurant and started to attack the teens. The brawl ended up leaving some of the teens more injured than others, like Eddie Harris, who ended up having a cast covering most of his body. The attack drew the attention of reporters to downtown Bessemer, where authorities had little to say. A group of Black citizens gathered downtown but were quickly dispersed after police forced them to leave.

Bessemer's civil rights movement focused less on street-level protests and more on court battles: lawsuits that sought to open parks to blacks, challenged voting rules and forced the redrawing of political boundaries that kept the majority-black populace out of power.⁸³

Toward the end of the Civil Rights era, Martin Luther King Jr. was brought to the Bessemer Jail in October of 1967 after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld his 1963 conviction on charges for protesting without proper permits. For only a few days, King briefly stayed in jail alongside his brother, A.D. King, and activists Wyatt Tee Walker and Ralph Abernathy.⁸⁴ The arrest prompted demonstrators outside the courthouse, protesting the incarceration of the civil rights leaders.⁸⁵ The jail cell door, in which Dr. King was imprisoned, along with pieces of his correspondence, are currently on display at the Bessemer Hall of History.

Bessemer's predominantly Black commercial district along 1st Avenue N continued to be the center of Black-owned businesses and entertainment throughout the Civil Rights Era and even after the end of segregation.

⁸⁰ Canaan Baptist Church National Register of Historic Places Registration Form 2005, Section 8, 2

⁸¹ Canaan Baptist Church National Register of Historic Places Registration Form 2005, Section 8, 2

⁸² Schuppe 2014

⁸³ Schuppe 2014

⁸⁴ Stein 2013

⁸⁵ Pepler 1967

Pullman Standard Car Company

The Pullman Standard Company (Pullman Standard) organized a plant in Bessemer in October of 1929. At the time, the company was one of the largest builders of railroad cars. Located on the original site of the Bessemer furnaces and rolling mills, which had ceased operation within the same decade, the plant complex consisted of sixteen buildings. Pullman Standard produced several types of freight cars including box, hopper, gondola, and flat. Within a few months of opening, the companies first order consisted of 600 box cars for the National Railways of Mexico.⁸⁶

During WWII, Pullman Standard was involved with wartime industries and was temporarily placed under the control of the U.S. Defense Plant Corporation (DPC). As a federal entity, the DPC allowed companies to buy or lease equipment as a way to keep up with the demands of the war effort without having to dispose of the extra equipment after the war was over. The plant was also utilized to make bomb casings and to produce European freight cars in kit form to be shipped overseas.

When the company was not under control of the DPC, Pullman Standard still produced railroad cars during WWII to private entities. In July 1941, the Southern Pacific and Seaboard [railroad] purchased \$3,250,000 in box cars from the Pullman Standard Car Company plant in Bessemer.⁸⁷ In January 1942, the Louisville and Nashville Railway Company (L&N) purchased 1,475 cars (approximately \$3,000,000) from the Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing Company in Bessemer. George C. Wendling, Division Superintendent, made the announcement of the order of 625 40-foot 6-inch box cars, 750 hopper cars with 50 tons capacity, and 100 50-foot 6-inch box cars; James B. Hill served as President of the railway.⁸⁸



Figure 9. Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing Company's 1,000,000th box car.

By 1951, Pullman Standard produced their 100,000th railroad car and about two decades later, the 200,000th car was produced in 1970. The 1,000,000th freight car was produced by 1979 and is currently on display across from the Bessemer Hall of History. The freight car now houses a working model railroad exhibit that portrays downtown Bessemer around 1950. After being purchased by the Wheelabrator-Frye Inc. in 1981, and later sold the freight card manufacturing plants to Trinity Industries, Inc. in 1984, the company would see continued success through the 1980s. The plant continued its operations until its closing by the mid-1990s.⁸⁹

⁸⁶ Your Rail History 2020

⁸⁷ The Birmingham News, 1 JAN 1942:11

⁸⁸ The Montgomery Advertiser, 1 JAN 1942:3

⁸⁹ Your Rail History 2020

Mining

The coal mining regions of northern and central Alabama have been largely responsible for the industrial boom and flourishing state economy during the late nineteenth century. Early accounts of coal can be traced back to the early 1800s, having been discovered along the state's rivers. As early as the 1830s, coal was being collected from Bibb, Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, and Walker Counties. Four coal fields were soon discovered within the southern end of the Appalachian coal field, an area which spans nearly 70,000 square miles extending from Pennsylvania and Ohio to central Alabama.⁹⁰ The Warrior and Cahaba coal fields are geographically positioned to the northwest and southeast of Bessemer, respectively.

During the Civil War, the Cahaba field became the primary source of coal for the Confederate Arsenal and Naval Foundry.⁹¹ Rail lines throughout the state carried coal and transported it to steamships, bound for other Confederate cities. By the close of the war the coal and iron industries were devastated by a series of cavalry raids by U.S. Army forces under General James H. Wilson.⁹² The coal mining industry did not recover until Alabama's economy began to recover in the mid-1870s. When the Louisville and Nashville Railroad (L&N) finished construction of a main line connecting the Alabama at Montgomery with the Tennessee River in Decatur, railroad officials were optimistic in linking Red Mountain iron ore with the coal of the nearby Cahaba field to promote iron production. Once officials established the Oxmoor furnace, Daniel Pratt and his son-in-law Henry F. DeBardeleben purchased the furnace "in an effort to rebuild central Alabama's industrial economy".⁹³

In 1880, Pratt Coal and Coke Company, which included DeBardeleben, constructed Alice Furnace and produced its first iron. Alice Furnace No. 2 began operations in 1883 after No. 1's initial success. During the remainder of the decade, an additional nineteen furnaces were constructed in the Birmingham area. After Furnace No. 1 was completed in Bessemer and No. 2 was under construction, DeBardeleben established Bessemer Iron & Steel Company in order to build two more furnaces, No. 3 and 4, at the Robertstown site. Located at 12th Avenue near 23rd Street, the furnaces were completed and active by 1890. The fifth furnace, "Little Belle", was constructed near Robertstown under DeBardeleben's newly formed company Little Belle Iron Company. His fifth furnace was responsible for being the first to produce basic iron in Alabama, which consisted of low silicon content that was favorable in creating steel.⁹⁴

The Great Strike of 1894 prompted coal miners across the nation to strike after wages were slashed throughout coal districts in the country. The strike was unsuccessful and DeBardeleben was involved in breaking the strike.

Mining continued to be a successful industry in Bessemer for the remainder of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. In addition to coal, iron ore became a major commodity in the area, with the largest iron ore mine located in Bessemer by 1930. Iron ore mines were among the earliest mines in the area, with the oldest, Sloss No. 1, dating back to 1882 by Sloss-Sheffield Steel & Iron Company. Other mines in the area included TCI's Muscoda Mines, Raimund Mine, and Pyne Mine.⁹⁵ The Pyne Mine

⁹⁰ Day 2008

⁹¹ Day 2008

⁹² Day 2008

⁹³ Day 2008

⁹⁴ Burnett 2011, 18

⁹⁵ Burnett 2011, 24-27

contained the country's deepest ore mine with a 1,280-foot shaft. It was also the largest producer of ore in the nation and the last mine to operate on Red Mountain until its closing in 1971.⁹⁶

In January 1942, Alton Lawrence, international representative, announced that members of the International Union of Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers in the Birmingham-Bessemer area pledged to purchase enough defense "Victory" bonds to cover the costs of four flying fortress bombers this year – one every three months. The mines and factories of Bessemer, like Birmingham, provided support to the War Industry of WWII.

By the early 1950s, Bessemer and its mineral district neighbors continued to be heavily involved in the mining industry. The mineral rich area contributed to Alabama's high ranking in mining production. For example, iron ore deposits in the Bessemer and North Alabama mineral districts was estimated to contain approximately 1,700,000,000 tons of red-ore and around 27,000,000 tons of brown ore.⁹⁷ Coal production in Alabama had yielded 18,000,000 tons in 1950 alone.⁹⁸

Modern Era

After experiencing growth and prosperity during the 1950s, Bessemer would "fall victim to the changes that were affecting cities everywhere in the United States, including the growth of the suburbs, the decline of basic industry, loss of the places of the railroad in the transportation hierarchy, and the scattering of the downtown's functions to other areas both geographic and technological."⁹⁹ In 1960, the estimated population of Bessemer was 36,900.¹⁰⁰ In 1963, a destructive tornado ran through Bessemer with most its damage occurring in the center of the commercial district. One of the buildings that was destroyed was the Frolic Theatre, located near the Lincoln Theatre on 1st Avenue N. As a response to the destruction, the city encouraged property owners and merchants to modernize their buildings, in hopes it would reflect the city's determination to become successful as a modern city. Loans were offered by City Hall to alter the appearance of the "outdated" buildings by removing cornices, screening facades, and any other project that would modernize the commercial district.



Figure 10. Aerial view of Downtown Bessemer, 1960s.

By 1970, the population had decreased in the past ten years down to 33,428 inhabitants.¹⁰¹ Toward the end of the decade and into the 80s, residents were facing mass layoffs within Bessemer's major industries. Furthermore, the residential population continued to decrease to 29,623 by 1980.¹⁰² Iron ore

⁹⁶ Burnett 2011, 27

⁹⁷ Bessemer, Alabama, City Directory 1951

⁹⁸ Bessemer, Alabama, City Directory 1951

⁹⁹ Downtown Bessemer Historic District Nomination Form 1992, Section 8, 3

¹⁰⁰ Bessemer, Alabama, City Directory 1960

¹⁰¹ US Census 1970

¹⁰² US Census 1980

production had depleted, which caused steelmaking and railcar manufacturing industries to cease operations. The loss of such industries led to the deterioration of downtown Bessemer, with many businesses closing. This caused an increase in unemployment for residents and a growing number of vacant storefronts. As Bessemer was noticeably declining in its economic prosperity, it became apparent for some type of city action to focus their efforts to redevelop the downtown and reignite the local economy.

Today, Bessemer's population is estimated to be around 26,000.¹⁰³ "It's tale of boom, bust, and slow recovery mirrors that of Birmingham...".¹⁰⁴ In more recent years, Bessemer has implemented several initiatives to restore its historic downtown area and local economy. The city's Economic Development Department has several programs offered to residents and business owners to improve business development including the Economic Development Loan Program, the Downtown Historic District Façade Grant Program, and the Opportunity Zone Program.¹⁰⁵ The Economic Development Loan Program is designed to provide loans and grants to local businesses to help create jobs for low-to-moderate income residents. The Downtown Historic District Façade Grant Program offers grants to commercial property owners within the NRHP Downtown Bessemer Historic District, aimed at rehabilitating or restoring buildings and storefronts. Façade grant programs are implemented across the nation, promoting historic preservation, tourism, and economic business growth. The Opportunity Zone Program is a state program aimed at offering private investors certain tax benefits if they invest in designated low-income census tracts using investment tools known as Opportunity Funds.¹⁰⁶ The Opportunity Zone includes all of Downtown Bessemer, including the NRHP historic district. Projects within the district include the renovation of the Lincoln Theatre by the Holland Project and the proposed renovation of the former Bessemer City Hall into a mixed use development.¹⁰⁷ As part of the City of Bessemer's PY2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, the Community Development department will focus on utilizing funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program on historic rehabilitation.

¹⁰³ Bessemer, Alabama Census data. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/bessemercityalabama>

¹⁰⁴ Schuppe 2014

¹⁰⁵ City of Bessemer, Alabama, Economic Development

¹⁰⁶ City of Bessemer, Alabama, Economic Development

¹⁰⁷ City of Bessemer, Alabama, Economic Development

Architectural Analysis and Context

Historic buildings in the City of Bessemer model typical architectural styles with some regional adaptations to climate, materials, design, and function. The earliest structures in Bessemer consisted of temporary thatch buildings while settlers established their claims and could save money to build proper houses and structures. Materials from throughout the country became more readily available as faster transportation became accessible to more and more parts of the country through train and auto usage. As communications developed, methods of construction and styles of buildings expanded. Some styles are interchangeable across residential and commercial uses while a few select styles remained more typical of a specific typology. The various architectural styles described below include those prevalent in Bessemer. These styles are representative of resources from the early settlement period to beyond the established period of significance; including representations of the post-World War II era, and contemporary or mid-century modern architectural styles experienced nationally.

Virginia Savage McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture* Second Edition was used to develop the stylistic details of each of the following architectural styles and typical time period of construction. Other sources are cited as such.

The buildings represented in this survey only account for the buildings in the survey area and this analysis is not intended to reflect all of Bessemer.

Art Deco & Art Moderne

These two “Modernistic” architectural styles, popular in the 1920s and 1930s, respectively, represented whimsical forms with curving elements, geometric shapes, linear bands, and diverse materials. According to the description provided in *A Field Guide to American Houses*, the earlier form, Art Deco, was common in public and commercial buildings and defined by a smooth stucco exterior surface, zigzags, chevrons, and geometric motifs on the façade. Towers and other vertical projections give a sense of verticality. Around 1930, Art Moderne became the dominant style and is found more in residential types versus commercial buildings. Common features include an asymmetrical façade, with smooth wall surface, flat roof with coping at the roof line, horizontal grooves or lines in walls and horizontal balustrade. Building designs were unique, less predictable, and established a new brand of architecture. Art Deco and Moderne buildings typically include a featured element with a strong vertical character which could be expressed in the massing of the building, a single projecting feature, or various linear elements.



Figure 11. Example of the Art Deco style: Old Bessemer City Hall at 1800 3rd Avenue N, Je00074.



Figure 12. Examples of Art Deco and Art Moderne style buildings from left to right: 2000 3rd Ave N (Je00099), 1718 4th Avenue N (Je00106), and the Lincoln Theatre at 1926 1st Avenue N (Je00032).

A total of eight buildings were identified as either Art Deco (2) or Art Moderne (6). Examples of the Art Deco style includes the Old Bessemer City Hall (Je00074 **Figure 10**) at 1800 3rd Avenue and the Lincoln Theatre at 1926 1st Avenue N (Je00032; **Figure 11**). Examples of the Art Moderne style shown in **Figure 11** include commercial buildings at 2000 3rd Avenue N (Je00099), 1718 4th Avenue N (Je00106).

Bungalow & Craftsman

Popularized in California, these architectural styles were featured in building plan advertisements and catalogs which made them widely accessible to the public. They were implemented throughout the early twentieth century into the pre-WWII era. Building plans are rectangular or L-shaped under low pitched gable, cross-gable, or hipped roof and details include knee-braces, exposed rafter tails, full front porches under the primary or a secondary roof with corner posts or battered posts and are often set on piers or a ventilated stem wall foundation. Sliding was most often horizontal boards in a clapboard or novelty profile, and windows could be single or paired double hung sash with divided lights on the upper sash. Bungalows have low and simple lines with wide projecting roofs and exposed rafters, with one or two-stories, large porches, and occasional dormers. The Bungalow can be described as a diluted vernacular of the Craftsman style, and the high-styled Craftsman buildings are less common.

Only one resource was identified as a Craftsman style building. An example of a Craftsman style is shown in **Figure 12** and located at 1615 6th Avenue N (Je00140). A total of 13 buildings were identified as examples of the Bungalow style of architecture and a few examples are shown in **Figure 13**, located at 1626 1st Avenue N (Je00026), 1616 6th Avenue N (Je00141), and 1604 5th Avenue N (Je00118).



Figure 13. Example of Craftsman style building: 1615 6th Avenue N, Je00140.



Figure 14. Example of Bungalow style buildings from left to right: 1626 1st Avenue (Je00026), 1616 6th Avenue N (Je00141), and 1604 5th Avenue N (Je00118).

Commercial

Commercial Style architecture, sometimes referred to as the Chicago style after the city where they first appeared in great numbers in the 1890s, reflects advances in construction technology that permitted the creation of very tall buildings, the first skyscrapers in the urban landscape. Commercial architecture features steel skeleton construction, expressed externally as a grid of intersecting piers and cross spandrels, a flat roof with modest cornice, and large bands of windows. Commercial style buildings in Bessemer are rather unassuming compared to larger examples found in other areas of the nation like New York City and Chicago. Examples of the Commercial style in Bessemer, shown in **Figure 14**, include commercial buildings located at 521-531 19th Street (Je00268), 2001 Carolina Avenue (Je00076), 1813 3rd Avenue N (Je0000*), and 1922 3rd Avenue N (Je00092).



Figure 15. Examples of Commercial style buildings: 521-531 19th Street (Je00268), 2001 Carolina Avenue (Je00008), 1813 3rd Avenue N (Je00076), and 1922 3rd Avenue N (Je00092).

Frame Vernacular

Wood frame buildings are a typical building pattern for residential housing. Frame Vernacular buildings generally feature a gable or hip roof, horizontal board siding such as weatherboard or novelty siding, front porches with a separate roof structure, regular window opening patterns, and minor detailing that can include exposed rafter tails, corner boards, and porch brackets and spindles. Plan types are rectangular and are supported with pier system foundations. Porches, symmetrical fenestration patterns, and overhanging eaves allow for maximum ventilation. Solid wood framed buildings lost favor by the 1950s as masonry units (CMU or concrete block) became more economical and popular. Other stylistic influences can be seen to a minor degree, such as Colonial Revival window detailing, and Bungalow or Craftsman knee braces, rafter rails, and cross gable roof patterns. Examples of Frame Vernacular buildings in Bessemer, shown in **Figure 15**, include the Benson-Ruffin House located at 1915 5th Avenue N (Je00130), 612 17th Street N, 611 16th Street N, and 1609 7th Avenue N (Je00162).



Figure 16. Examples of Frame Vernacular style buildings: 1915 5th Avenue N (Je00130), 612 17th Street N (Je00192), 611 16th Street N (Je00186), and 1609 7th Avenue N (Je00162)

Masonry Vernacular

Like Frame Vernacular, Masonry Vernacular is a prominent style found in Bessemer. If not available locally, masonry units could be easily transported by the 1920s when the material started to gain popularity. Some buildings apply details of the Mediterranean Revival or Classical styles popular in the 1920s while others borrow from the Art Deco and Moderne styles of the 1930s and 1940s. Exterior finishes are stucco or masonry veneer including brick, stone, and rough faced concrete block. Locally sourced limestone can be seen in small details or as the primary exterior fabric of many buildings in the downtown area of Bessemer. Brick may be used to form windowsills and lintels as a distinct texture and scale from the smooth faced façade.

Masonry Vernacular structures are typically asymmetrical but maintain regular window openings and by the 1940s, the building form shifted from a rectangular to an L-shaped plan with a shallow roof projecting. Front porches were also typical in residential Masonry Vernacular buildings and more often are inset under the primary roof or cross-gable extension. Examples of Masonry Vernacular style, shown in **Figure 16**, include commercial buildings located at 1724 4th Avenue N (Je00107), 310-312 18th Street N (Je00207), 1820 3rd Avenue N (Goodwyn & Ross Building; Je00080), and 1905 Alabama Avenue (Je00021).

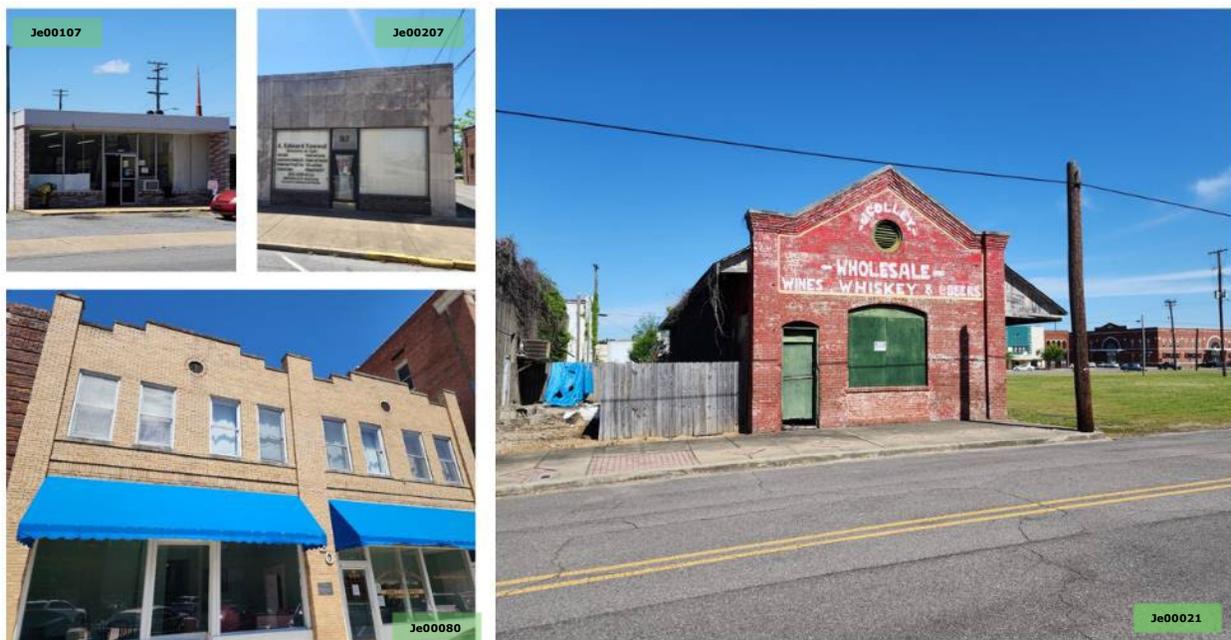


Figure 17. Examples of Masonry Vernacular style buildings from left to right: 1724 4th Avenue N (Je00107), 310-312 18th Street N (Je00207), 1820 3rd Avenue N (Je00080; Goodwyn & Ross Building), and 1905 Alabama Avenue (Je00021).

Mid-Century Modern

The Mid-Century Modern style of architecture primarily dates from the post-World War II era (1945-1960) and is an adaptation of various modernist movements. Frequently referred to as “Contemporary,” it was popular between 1945 and 1990. Buildings were often constructed of concrete block or other masonry units with slab foundations; common features include low-pitched gable or flat roofs with medium to wide overhanging eaves, slanted beam pole supports, smooth stucco exterior, and awning or jalousie windows. Eventually, windows became a key feature of many spaces as they became larger and more prominent, such as trapezoidal windows in gable ends or window walls of single pane fixed glass. Another characteristic often used with this style is decorative grilles or ornamental masonry elements incorporated into the front porch or exterior carport wall and commonly referred to as concrete screen or “breeze” block. The style has a refined simplicity and is found regularly in residential structures in Alabama communities as well as public buildings as architects moved to this style of architecture. Mid-Century Modern buildings that were surveyed in Bessemer are primarily non-residential structures including educational, religious, and office buildings. Examples of the style, shown in **Figure 17**, are located at 1621 5th Avenue N (City of Bessemer School Board of Education; Je00119), 201 17th Street N (Je00187), 1801 5th Avenue N (The Foundry Worship Center; Je00124), and 1719 6th Avenue N (former St. Aloysius Youth Center Building; Je00149).



Figure 18. Examples of the Mid-Century Modern style buildings: 1621 5th Avenue N (City of Bessemer School Board of Education; Je00119), 201 17th Street N (Je00187), 1801 5th Avenue N (The Foundry Worship Center), and 1719 6th Avenue N (former St. Aloysius Youth Center Building; Je00149)

Neo-Classical Revival

The Neo-Classical Revival Style became best known after the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. Elements of classical architecture are utilized in this style influenced by Greek and Roman architecture and characterized by ordered columns, pediments, pilasters, cornices, and moldings. Building features are monumental in size but exhibit classical proportion, scale, and symmetry arranged in a rectangular plan. The early use of this style followed the turn of the 20th-century; however, more subtle examples of the style can be seen in the 1950s. Civic structures, banks, and government buildings commonly rely on the imposing nature of Neo-Classical architecture to convey strength and security. Examples of Neo-Classical Revival style resources in Bessemer, shown in **Figure 18**, are the Bessemer Courthouse, located at 1801 3rd Avenue N (Je00075); the First Methodist Church, located at 1817 Arlington Avenue (Je00002), the AGS Freight Depot, located at 2 18th Street N (Je00199), and 1601 6th Avenue N (Je00135).



Figure 19. Examples of Neo-Classical Revival style buildings: 1801 3rd Avenue N (Bessemer Courthouse), 1817 Arlington Avenue (First Methodist Church), 2 18th Street N (AGS Freight Depot), and 1601 6th Avenue N

Unique Resources

The styles previously described make up the majority of resources in Bessemer, however, there are a few, less popular styles, that were identified during the survey. The unique resources located in Bessemer (**Figure 19**) include Mission, English Tudor Cottage, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Renaissance Revival.



Figure 20. Unique Resources in Bessemer, Left to Right: 421 20th St N (Richardsonian Romanesque; Je00282), Carnegie Library at 317 18th St N (Renaissance Revival), St. Aloysius Catholic School at 1701 6th Ave N (Mission; Je00146), and WOCO-PEP Station at 2 19th St N (English Tudor Cottage; Je00227).

Other and Mixed

There are instances when a structure’s style is not clearly defined for various reasons. In this survey, two different terms were used to differentiate, “Other” and “Mixed, none dominant”. The “Other” style classification was used to describe structures that have been significantly altered to the point where the original style of the building is no longer evident. Examples of the Other style, shown in **Figure 20**, feature buildings with their original façade completely covered, rooflines altered, and/or additions to the façade.



Figure 21. Examples of Other styles in Bessemer, Left to Right: 1911 2nd Avenue N, 1927 2nd Avenue N, PNC Bank/Bessemer Family Foot Clinic at 1711 4th Avenue N, and the Cherner Building at 2007 2nd Avenue N.

There are instances when a building’s style is not clearly defined for various reasons. In this survey, a structure identified as “Mixed, none dominant” has significant elements from two or more styles, to the extent that none dominate. This identification was used sparingly. Examples of the Mixed style, shown in **Figure 21**, include the Sweet Home (Je00002), which features a mix of Neo-Classical Revival and Queen Anne Revival details. Another example is one of the buildings utilized at the building located at 1718 7th Avenue N (Je00176), showing features of Vernacular, Neo-Classical Revival, and Bungalow/Craftsman styles. The Southern Railroad Passenger Station (Je00022; now the Bessemer Hall of History), features Prairie and Victorian characteristics.

Table 2. Resources Identified as having Mixed Architectural Styles.

Site ID	Property Name/ Address	Styles	Year Built
Je00003	Sweet Home 1830 Arlington Avenue	Neo-Classical Revival, Queen Anne Revival	1906
Je00022	Southern Railroad Passenger Station/ Bessemer Hall of History 1905 Alabama Avenue	Prairie, Victorian	1916
Je00176	1718 7 th Avenue N	Frame Vernacular, Neo-Classical Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman	1920



Figure 22. Examples of Mixed, none dominant style resources in Bessemer, Left to right: Sweet Home, Shining Stars Academy DC, and Southern Railroad Passenger Station/ Bessemer Hall of History.

There were three non-building resources identified, included in **Table 3**. These resources are included within the proposed NRHP District, including DeBardeleben Park, the Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument, and the Pullman Standard box car.

Table 3. Recorded Non-Building Resources.

Site ID	Name	Address/Location
Je00023	Pullman Standard Box Car	Located adjacent to the Bessemer Hall of History
Je00063	DeBardeleben Park	1602 3 rd Avenue N
Je00064	Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument	Centrally located within DeBardeleben Park

Churches

A total of nine churches or church related buildings were surveyed as part of this project. Located both in the current district and within the proposed boundary expansion, these buildings represent a moderate range of architectural styles, congressional make up, and social roles. The majority have not been previously documented, with the exception of First Presbyterian Church and World Wide Tract Ministry, which was historically of commercial use. None of the buildings are listed in the NRHP, however, some appear to have integrity and significance and may be worthy of recognition. The First Methodist Church, located at 1817 Arlington Avenue, is an impressive example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture that is consistent with other buildings of the same style across the nation during its period of construction. Examples of the recorded churches in Bessemer are located in **Figure 22** and a complete list is shown in **Table 4**.



Figure 23. Churches of Bessemer, Left to Right: The Foundry Worship Center, First Methodist Church, Grace and Truth Apostolic Church, First Presbyterian Church, The Foundry (related building), Love City Fellowship, and First Seventh Day Adventist Church

Table 4. Recorded Churches in Bessemer.

Site ID	Property Name/Address	Address	Style	Year Built
Je00002	First Methodist Church	1817 Arlington Avenue	Neo-Classical Revival	1916
Je00038	Raising The Standard Ministries, Inc.	1701 2 nd Avenue N	Masonry Vernacular	1955
Je00073	First Presbyterian Church	1725 3 rd Avenue N	Neo-Classical Revival	1963
Je00094	World Wide Tract Ministry	1925 3 rd Avenue N	Masonry Vernacular	1924
Je00100	Love City Fellowship	1601 4 th Avenue N	Mid-Century Modern	1952
Je00123	First Seventh Day Adventist Church	1729 5 th Avenue N	Masonry Vernacular	1955
Je00124	The Foundry Worship Center	1801 5 th Avenue N	Mid-Century Modern	c1966
Je00156	The Foundry (related building)	1816 6 th Avenue N	Masonry Vernacular	1924
Je00191	Grace and Truth Apostolic Church	600 17 th Street N	Frame Vernacular	1955

Open Spaces

One open space was surveyed as a part of this project: DeBardeleben Park, which is located south of the current NRHP district as well as the southern portion of the entire survey area. Alex Bradford Park, located southeast of the current NRHP district and survey area, was not surveyed due to its non-historic age, however the park is worthy of mentioning as an important space for the community.

DeBardeleben Park, shown in **Figure 23**, is bounded by 17th St N, 2nd Ave N, 16th St N, and 3rd Ave N. It was named in honor of Bessemer's founding father, Henry Fairchild DeBardeleben, who helped pave the way for the development and successes of the Marvel City. DeBardeleben Park is a public park, maintained by the City of Bessemer, encompassing an area of 2.75 acres. It has been an important feature of the city for over a century and can be seen on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as early as 1904. The earliest map depicts the park as a structurally undeveloped



Figure 24. View from within DeBardeleben Park, showing the pavilion, sidewalk, and green space. Inset is the Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument.

Block 244, and it is not until the 1908 Sanborn when it is labeled as "Park", then in 1924 as "City Park".¹⁰⁸ Rectangular in shape, the park features a paved sidewalk along the perimeter as well as crossing through the park, forming an X. Mature oak and pine trees are scattered throughout, and flowers and shrubs are located in masonry planter boxes. Located in the south end of the park is a pavilion, providing a space for music, festivals, and community events. The center of the park showcases a World War I monument, The Spirit of the American Doughboy (**Figure 23**), sculpted by prominent American sculptor Ernest Moore Viquesney. The monument depicts a WWI soldier holding a rifle in one hand and a grenade in the other hand raised up. The sculpted portion of the monument is made of bronze and is placed on a masonry base with four faces. Originally, the sculpture was located at the corner of 19th Street and Carolina Avenue during a street-widening project in 1969.¹⁰⁹ It underwent restoration in 2015 and was removed from the park during the restoration. It was replaced and now is a Today, the park still remains as an important recreation space for the community.

Further to the east, located just outside of the NRHP district boundary, and bound by 19th St N to the north, Carolina Ave to the east, 18th St N to the south, and 1st Ave N to the west, is the Alex Bradford Park (**Figure 24**). The park is named for Bessemer native and popular multi-talented artist, Alex Bradford. Popular in the mid to late twentieth century, Bradford was a composer and singer of gospel

¹⁰⁸Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama, Jul, 1904; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama, Aug, 1908; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama, De, 1924

¹⁰⁹ Reed 2015

music and a Broadway actor. Alex Bradford Park is a small public park, maintained by the City of Bessemer, encompassing an area of 1.04 acres. It features several picnic tables, benches, a water fountain, an open green space, and a small pavilion.



Figure 25. View from within Alex Bradford Park

Survey Analysis and Results

Note: this section only refers to surveyed resources and is not intended to reflect all of Bessemer.

The historic architecture of Downtown Bessemer is representative of national and statewide trends in architecture during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Based on survey criteria, 300 resources were surveyed and were recorded with the AHC's Historic Building Survey Form.

Analysis of Survey Findings

The following analysis includes a statistical review of the survey findings and, when coupled with the **Historical Context and Architectural Analysis** section, is a narrative of the historical evolution of the architectural styles documented. A comprehensive inventory of buildings located within the current and proposed Historic district is located in **Appendix A** and the remaining resources not within the Historic District, or potential boundary, is located in **Appendix B**. A digital large large-scale map is located in **Appendix C**. A digital version of this map will also be provided with this report document.

Bessemer is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountain Range, approximately 13 miles southwest of downtown Birmingham and 40 miles northeast of Tuscaloosa. The city encompasses an area of 45 square miles, about a third of the area of Birmingham. Bessemer is considered to be a suburb of Birmingham, however, during Bessemer's early stages of development the two were considered to be major rival cities. As of 2020, the residential population of Bessemer was approximately 26,000.¹¹⁰ Major industries for the city include educational services, health care, and social assistance. Although Bessemer is no longer a leading industrial site, its built environment reflects its significant past associated with its distinct architecture and as an industrial center of the New South. The commercial buildings that line the streets of the Downtown Bessemer Historic District offer a unique glimpse into what the area may have looked like during different stages of its development. While a number of buildings have been demolished or their facades altered over time, Downtown Bessemer Historic District has remained relatively safe from modern development that can be seen in many other commercial districts across the nation.

The project scope required that the NRHP-listed Bessemer Historic District be surveyed to determine if the district could be expanded, both in its physical boundaries and its period of significance. It was determined that the surveyed area should consist of the Historic District and two-blocks in each direction to account for any physical boundary expansion. The survey area was primarily bounded by 7th Avenue N to the west, 16th Street N to the south, Carolina Avenue to the east, and both the CSX and Norfolk Southern railways to the north (**Figure 1**). The majority of buildings recorded were commercial in nature, however, a number of residential buildings were recorded in the southwestern portion of the survey area. The survey area also included the recordation of churches, educational, and civic buildings. Furthermore, one park (DeBardleben Park) and one monument (Spirit of the American Doughboy) were recorded.

Initially, an estimated 379 parcels were provided that met the year built criteria for the survey. However, upon field investigation 295 buildings were recorded. Seven historic age resources were identified in

¹¹⁰ U.S. Census 2020

parcels that contained “0” for the year built and five historic-age resources were located in parcels that contained a year built of 1974- 2021. Uniquely, a total of five historic-age resources that were located in parcels with inconsistent year-built data proved to be resources that appear to be significant and eligible for recognition at the local, state or national level (**Table 5**). The more accurate year-built column was provided by research, use of Sanborn maps, the NR nomination (1992), and/or historic aerial imagery¹¹¹.

Table 5: Recorded Historic Resources that were within Non-Historic Parcels

Site ID	Property Name/ Address	Listed Parcel Date	Year Built	NRHP Eligibility Status
Je00024	Bessemer Electric & Water Service Building, 1600 1 st Avenue N	“0”	c1960	Potentially Eligible
Je00063	DeBardeleben Park	“0”	c1888	Contributing (to district)
Je00064	The Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument, DeBardeleben Park	“0”	1922	Potentially Eligible
Je00074	Old Bessemer City Hall, 1800 3 rd Ave N	1980	c1938	Contributing (to district)
Je00075	Bessemer Courthouse, 1801 3 rd Avenue N	“0”	1919	Contributing (to District)
Je00105	1714 4 th Avenue N	“0”	c1960	Contributing (to district)
Je00119	City of Bessemer School Board of Education Building, 1621 5 th Avenue N	“0”	c1967	Potentially Eligible
Je00146	St. Aloysius Catholic School, 1701 6 th Avenue N	1982	1913	Potentially Eligible
Je00149	St. Aloysius Youth Center Building, 1719 6 th Avenue N	1982	c1960	Other
Je00189	Old Board of Education Building, 412 17 th Street N	“0”	1936	Potentially Eligible
Je00295	Bessemer Public Library	“0”	1910	Potentially Eligible

Approximately 67% of the recorded buildings are vernacular in style, rather the buildings are simplistic and unadorned. Vernacular buildings are not necessarily attached to a specific time period and are somewhat “unique” styles as they are not “true” or “academic” styles. In the case of this survey, as it was a survey of a downtown commercial area, the Frame Vernaculars (15.5%) are more typical in residential areas. Fires in downtown cores around the turn of the century were quite common. After such a disaster, most of the buildings were reconstructed of masonry materials (usually brick). Given the survey area and Bessemer’s history, the majority of the buildings recorded are Masonry Vernacular, roughly 52%. This is in keeping with the historical narrative of Bessemer’s founding fathers and growth of the ‘Marvel City.’

The remaining buildings exhibit high styles common to their period of construction and architectural evolution, including Commercial, Colonial Revival, English Tudor Cottage, Greek Revival, Industrial Vernacular, Mission, Neo-Classical Revival, Queen Anne, Renaissance Revival, and Richardsonian Romanesque. These classical and revival styles of architecture contribute 15% (**Figure 26**) to the total of recorded buildings. The expanded time period in which to survey (up to 1973) contemporary architectural styles provided for the recordation of Art Deco, Bungalow and Craftsman, Minimal Traditional, Moderne, Mid-Century Modern, and Ranch styles, depicting the City’s progression into the modern age of architecture. While the recorded contemporary resources make up approximately 14%

¹¹¹ Historical aerial imagery was provided by the University of Alabama Air Photo Archive, <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/index.html>

of the recorded buildings. The remaining 4% is attributed to buildings identified as mixed (none dominant), no style, or other.

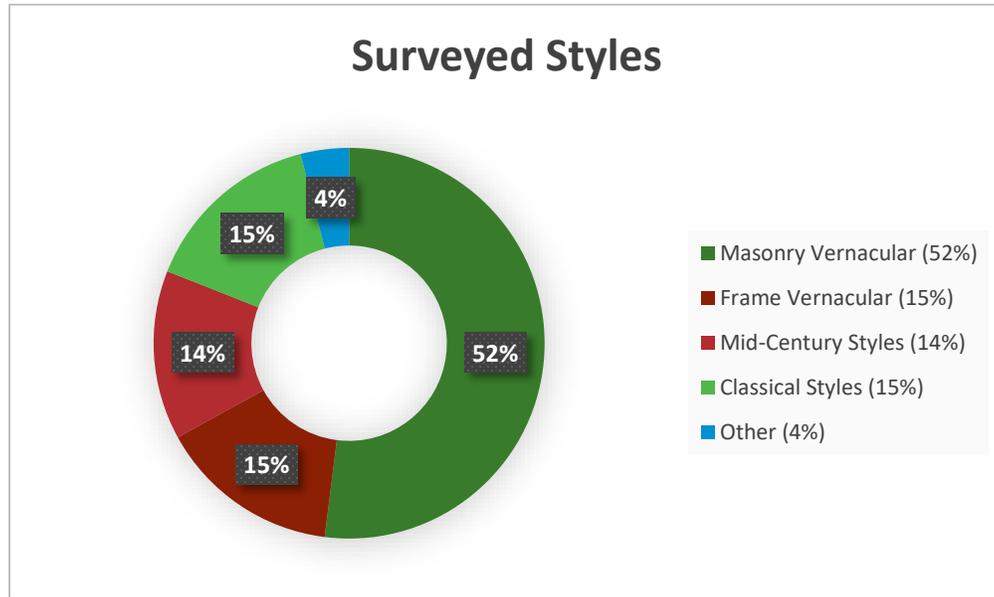


Figure 26. Surveyed Architectural Styles of entire survey area

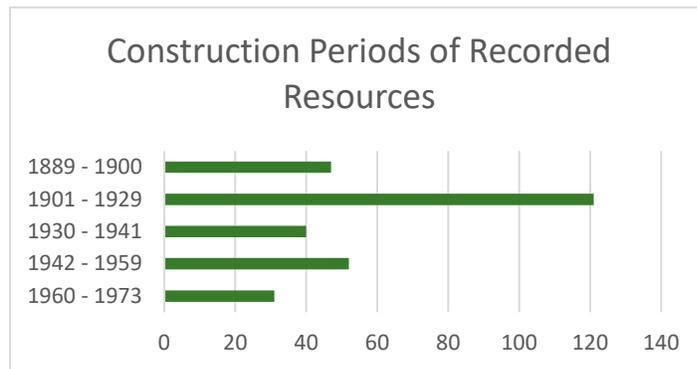


Figure 27. Construction periods of recorded resources in Bessemer

As seen in **Figure 27** there was significant construction between 1901 to 1929. During this time period, approximately 42% of all surveyed buildings were constructed. The construction period preceding the twentieth century and subsequent periods after 1929 show relatively similar amounts of building construction. During Bessemer’s earliest years, 16% of surveyed buildings were constructed by 1900. The oldest surveyed buildings, built in 1889, are the former Bessemer Land & Improvement Co. (now Regions Bank; Je00250) and the Berney

Bank Block building (Je00235). Between 1930 and 1941, approximately 14% of the buildings were constructed and 18% between 1942 and 1959. The most contemporary buildings, built between 1960 and 1973, make up about 11% of the total buildings surveyed.

For each resource surveyed, a condition assessment was made, with the purpose of identifying the condition of its physical state. Condition types are designated into six categories: excellent, good, fair, poor, ruinous, and demolished. As shown in **Figure 28**, very little resources were identified as excellent (1%). Just over a quarter (26.7%) of the resources are in good condition and over half (55.8%) are in fair condition. Resources identified as deteriorated make up 8.8% of the total. Only 1 resource was in ruinous condition (<1%) and 24 resources were demolished (7.5%).

Based on a preliminary windshield survey and research, additional areas may be worthy of future survey, including the residential neighborhoods directly east and south of the Downtown Historic District. Located northwest of the Historic District, north of 22nd Street N and east of I-20, appears to be a dense residential neighborhood (**Figure 29**).

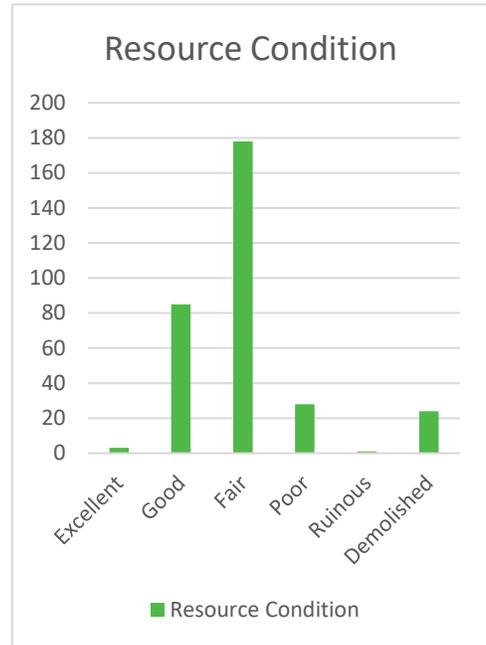


Figure 28. Resource condition assessment of surveyed resources

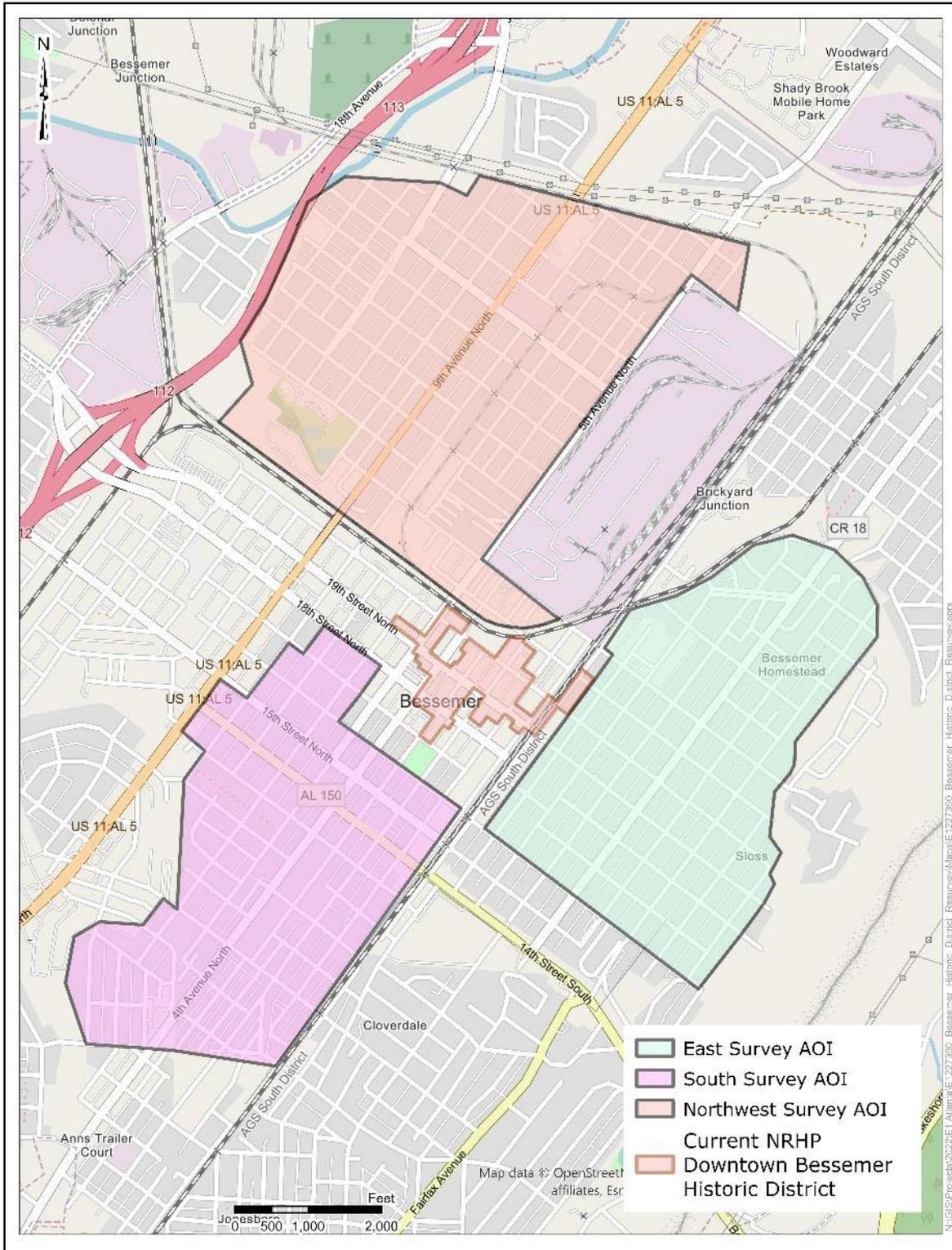


Figure 29. Future survey efforts based on windshield survey adjacent to the Downtown Commercial Historic District.

Potentially Eligible Resources

Each recorded resource was evaluated for listing in the NRHP in one of seven ways:

- Listed
- Eligible
- Potentially Eligible
- Not Eligible
- Contributing (to district)
- Not Contributing (to district)
- Other

It was determined that resources within the Historic District, or within the proposed Historic District boundary would be identified as “Contributing (to district)” or “Not Contributing (to district)”. All other resources were identified as “Listed” if the building is currently listed in the NRHP; “Eligible” if the building appears to be eligible for listing in the NRHP and it is already listed in the Alabama Register; “Potentially Eligible” if the resources appeared to be eligible for listing on some level, but otherwise known to be listed on a local, state, or national list; and “other” for those resources that may be contributing to a district, if a district was present (in the case of the Areas of Interest, shown on **page 53**. Additionally, the resources located in the Areas of Interest that do not appear to be contributing to that area, were marked as “Not Contributing (to district).”

During the survey, the following historic resources appeared to be significant resources and appeared to meet NRHP criteria for listing, either for their individual architectural style, or based on limited research (**Table 6**). With more information and documentation, these resources may be eligible for listing in the Alabama Register and/or the National Register. On the local level, if the city were to create a significant landmark list of resources, it is the opinion of the consultant that the following could be considered for that list.

Table 6. List of Potentially Eligible Buildings for Local Landmark Status. Shaded buildings are those already included in the proposed NRHP District.

Site ID	Property Name/Address	Style	Year Built	Condition	NRHP Criteria
Je00001	1414 2 nd Avenue N		1926		A, C
Je00002	First Methodist Church 1817 Arlington Avenue	Neo-Classical Revival	1916	Good	A, C
Je00003	Sweet Home* 1830 Arlington Avenue	Mixed Styles	1906	Good	C
Je00022**	Southern Railroad Passenger Station/ Bessemer Hall of History 1905 Alabama Avenue		1916		C
Je00023	Pullman Standard Box Car	N/A	1979	Fair	A
Je00024	Bessemer Electric & Water Services Building 1600 1 st Avenue N	Mid-Century Modern	c1970	Good	A, C
Je00032	Lincoln Theatre 1926 1 st Avenue N	Art Deco	c1948	Fair	A, C
Je00064	The Spirit of the American Doughboy Memorial, DeBardeleben Park	Statue	1922	Good	C
Je00119	City of Bessemer School Board of Education 1621 5 th Avenue N				C
Je00146	St. Aloysius Catholic School	Mission	1913	Good	C

Site ID	Property Name/Address	Style	Year Built	Condition	NRHP Criteria
Je00189	1701 6 th Avenue N Old Board of Education Building 412 17 th Street N	Neo-Classical Revival	1936	Good	A, C
Je00199	AGS Freight Depot 2 18 th Street N	Neo-Classical Revival	c1924	Poor	A, C
Je00210	Carnegie Library 317 18 th Street N	Renaissance Revival	1907	Good	A, C
Je00227	WOCO-Pep Station 2 19 th Street N	English Tudor Revival	1928	Good	A, C
Je00243	Realty Building 304 19 th Street N	Masonry Vernacular	1915	Good	A, C
Je00295	Bessemer Public Library 400 19 th Street N	Neo-Classical Revival	1910	Excellent	A, C

*This building has received recognition and is listed on the Alabama Register.

**This building is listed in the NRHP.

Residential Area Analysis

As part of the survey scope, areas adjacent to the Downtown Commercial Historic District were surveyed to determine if they were eligible for inclusion within the current historic district (**Figure 30**). This area did not prove to be eligible for listing within the current downtown Historic District. The residential neighborhood is comprised of late nineteenth to mid twentieth century houses and is in a grid-like pattern, with rectangular blocks and buildings closely spaced together, with small front yards and shallow setbacks and roughly bounded by 18th Street N to the north, 5th Avenue N to the east, 16th Street N to the south, and 19th Alley to the west. A total of 54 buildings were surveyed, two were previously demolished, and one building was not recorded due to owner refusal (**Figure 31**). Most buildings within this area survey are residential (81.5%), and the remainder consists of commercial (13%), religious (1.9%), and educational (3.7%) buildings. Three (5.6%) of the commercial buildings were historically residential but have been converted into office use. One of which, Dr. Thomas McAdory Owen House (Je00213) was listed in the NRHP in 1982. Three additional resources (Je00119, Je00146, and Je00189) appear to be significant and may be eligible for listing in the National Register, the State Register, or on the local level. These resources are included in **Table 6** on **page 51**.

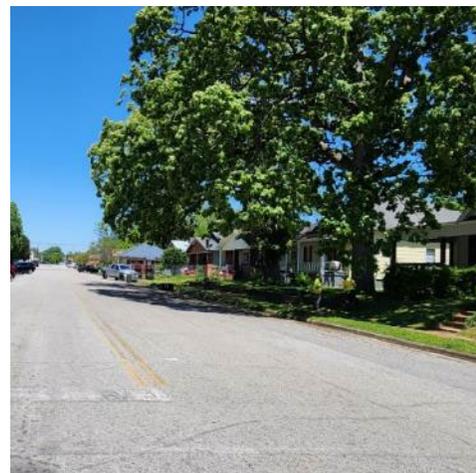


Figure 30. View of houses along 6th Avenue N, facing south.

Construction dates within the survey area range from 1900 to 1965. The buildings are frame and masonry vernacular, as well as high style architecture that was consistent with local and national trends of that time, including Neo-Classical Revival and Queen Anne Revival. By the early twentieth century, more modern styles began emerging such as Bungalow, Craftsman, and Minimal Traditional. The highest percentage of construction takes place in the 1920s with approximately 72% of the buildings constructed within that decade year. Contemporary styles such as Mid-Century Modern and Ranch appear post-World War II. Of the surveyed resources in this area, few were built after the war, with only 11% of buildings constructed between 1955 and 1965. Many buildings are Frame Vernacular (53%), followed by Bungalow (13%) and Masonry Vernacular (11%). The remaining 23% of buildings consist of nine

Bessemer Downtown Historic District Survey Analysis

The Downtown Bessemer NRHP district is located in the central area within the City of Bessemer. The district itself is irregularly shaped and its boundaries are described as “10 complete blocks and parts of 10 others in the downtown Bessemer area, bounded on the southeast by Carolina Avenue, on the northwest by Fifth Avenue with one extension at 19th St. to Sixth Ave.,; on the southwest by 17th St. with an extension between 2nd & 3rd Avenues to include the city park, and on the northeast by 20th Street with an extension along 2nd Avenue to 21st St.”¹¹² It is understood that the 1992 nomination amended the district to **not** include the Park as to match the 1992 map. The historic district remains primarily commercial, with the exception of the Benson-Ruffin House located at 1915 5th Avenue N. Located in the southern end on 3rd Avenue N is a row of three historically residential buildings. Two of the buildings are currently vacant, and one of the buildings has been converted into commercial use (The Western Star, former Charleston House).

At its inception, Bessemer was originally centered around the rolling mill, the Little Belle Furnaces, and the railroad. Commercial properties were mostly situated along 2nd Street and Carolina Avenue including the still standing Berney Bank Block on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 19th Street.¹¹³ By 1895, the commercial center of town was located in the north to northeast area of the current historic district at Second Avenue and 21st Street, continuing to 22nd Street and across the railroad tracks to Carolina Avenue. Eventually the 2nd Avenue and 19th Street intersection became the primary commercial area. Today, 19th Street N remains the main street corridor of the downtown Bessemer commercial area with concentrations of commercial buildings along 2nd and 3rd Avenues between 18th and 20th Streets.

Within the boundary of the listed Downtown Bessemer Historic District the recorded buildings are classified into three architectural categories: Late 19th Early 20th-Century Commercial, 20th Century Classical Revival, and Modern Movement. Several architectural styles make up these categories ranging from the earliest styles of Richardsonian Romanesque and Neoclassical to Commercial and more Modern styles such as Art Deco. There are several notable resources within the district, including the Carnegie Library (now the Chamber of Commerce), Diana Hall, Old Bessemer City Hall, Lincoln Theatre, and the Southern Railroad Passenger Station (now the Bessemer Hall of History). The original nomination consisted of 70 contributing buildings, 71 non-contributing buildings, and six non-contributing sites and included a period of significance of 1887 to 1941.

Of the 70 contributing buildings from the original nomination, 12 of those have been demolished. Of the 71 non-contributing buildings, 9 of those have been demolished. The majority (approximately 92%) of contributing buildings from the original nomination still remain as contributing resources to the district. Only five (eight-percent) buildings changed from contributing to non-contributing due to major alterations to the façade and/or side elevations. Contrary to the contributing buildings from the original nomination, over half (56%) the buildings of the non-contributing buildings were determined to be contributing upon survey investigation. Since the 1992 nomination, some of the non-contributing buildings that had major façade alterations have since been reversed, revealing original fenestration, architectural details, and exterior material that was previously covered.

It is important to note that several properties from the original nomination were documented as one resource but consisted of an entire block or row of commercial properties. For example, the J.C. Curry

¹¹² Downtown Bessemer Historic District NRHP Nomination Form 1992

¹¹³ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama, Apr 1888, Sheet 1

Block/Commercial Row on 505-515 19th Street N was originally documented as one property, however, upon our survey investigation it was determined the commercial row should be recorded as six separate buildings. Often, adjacent properties that were originally documented as separate resources were combined into one recorded resource. The reason in doing so was either because the separate properties were within one single building, or the adjacent properties appeared as though it was one single building due to symmetrical facades or seamless transitions between facades making separate structures appear indistinguishable. An instance of this occurring is with the Old Bessemer City Hall (1800 3rd Avenue N) and the adjacent building (formerly the Neal Electric Co./City Hall Annex) at 1810 3rd Avenue N, which were originally documented as two separate buildings, but were determined to be recorded as one building during this survey. The exterior fabric and brickwork pattern, window material, and entry details of the property on 1810 3rd Avenue N is consistent with the 1800 3rd Avenue N property.

The current survey recorded buildings with a year-built date up to 1973. Within the district and those buildings adjacent to the district, a total of 94 buildings were constructed between 1942 to 1973 and only five of the surveyed buildings were constructed in the 1970s. The original nomination documented eighteen buildings that were non-historic age at the time (post 1941). Of those, 15 buildings met the current year-built requirement of 50 years or older and were able to be surveyed. The remaining three buildings were constructed after 1973 and were not included in part of this survey.

During this survey, a total of 120 resources were recorded within the boundary of the NRHP district. Of those, 78 contributing buildings within the current Historic District boundary (with the caveat that an amended Period of Significance be accepted), 42 non-contributing buildings. Four of the 78 contributing buildings appear to be significant and eligible individually. These resources could be eligible for listing in the National Register, the Alabama Register, or as local landmarks (**Figure 33**).

Stated within the Bessemer National Register nomination, “a predominantly Black commercial district along First Avenue between 18th and 20th Streets, turning the corner of 19th and extending up part of the block.” The extant recorded resources range in year built from 1890 to 1930 and it appears as though only three of the original contributing resources remain. Additionally, through research using Sanborn Maps and Polk City Directories, it appears as though the resources along Carolina Avenue from 21st Street S to 20th Street S also consisted of African American businesses and social buildings. In the 1950s, the Star Theatre and the Negro Free Public Library (2009 and 2011 Carolina Street, respectively) were located in the commercial block along Carolina Street (**Figure 32**).



1929 Thaxton Charlie
 1931ΔCrescent Hotel
 †S 20th intersects
 2001ΔG&D Super Mkt
 2001½ Hood David H ir (c) lwyr
 ΔMatthews Herbert O (c) phys
 2003 Selman Eva W Mrs used clo
 2005ΔHarris Philip (c) restr
 2007ΔPierce Geo W (c) restr &
 billiards
 2009-09½ΔStar Theatre (c)
 2011 Star Barber Shop (c)
 2013ΔSeegar Widg Co
 2015ΔSilver Moon Cafe (c)
 ΔCola Dixie (c) ©
 2017ΔLong & Sons clns (c)
 2019 Blevins Lillie M Funeral
 Home (c)
 2023 Good Luck Shoe Shop (c)
 2025ΔSmith Eston (c)
 2027ΔRobinson Anna (c)
 2029ΔGuyton Prntg Co
 †S 21st intersects
 2101ΔManzella Gro
 2101½ΔStone Jack D
 Woods Hughey
 2103ΔFinocchio Nick whol ice
 cream
 2107ΔGray John H (c) ©
 2109ΔDeffrank Paul © shoe repr
 2113 Mareno Louis confr
 2115 Brewer Frank J jr
 2118 Brewer Mae B Mrs

Figure 32. Excerpt of the 1951 Bessemer, Alabama City Directory, p. 96

Demolished Structures

There has been an expected amount of demolition within the survey area (**Table 7**). It was determined there are 24 buildings that have been demolished. Of those, 21 were within the current NRHP Historic District and were previously documented and three were outside of the Historic District.

Table 7. Demolished buildings within survey area

Address	Year Built	Previous Eligibility
2101-2103 Carolina Avenue	1888	Contributing
1818 1 st Avenue N	c1905	Contributing
1822 1 st Avenue N	c1915	Non-Contributing
1824 1 st Avenue N	1887	Non-Contributing
1828-1830 1 st Avenue N	1890	Contributing
1908-1910 1 st Avenue N	c1910	Contributing
1912 1 st Avenue N	c1910	Contributing
1809 2 nd Avenue N	1926	Contributing
1813-1831 2 nd Avenue N	1887	Non-Contributing
1903 2 nd Avenue N	Unknown	Non-Contributing
1905 2 nd Avenue N	c1888	Non-Contributing
1930 2 nd Avenue N	c1979	Non-Contributing
1816 3 rd Avenue N	c1917	Non-Contributing
1819-1829 4 th Avenue N	c1920	Non-Contributing
1919 5 th Avenue N	c1895	Contributing
512 17 th Street N	1920	Not within district
609 17 th Street N	1900	Not within district
617 18 th Street N	1930	Not within district
108-110 19 th Street N	1889	Contributing
112-116 19 th Street N	c1902	Non-Contributing
316 19 th Street N	c1910	Contributing
414-416 19 th Street N	c1903	Contributing
101-111 20 th Street N	c1928	Contributing
401-411 20 th Street N	1891	Contributing

Conclusions & Recommendations

A historic properties survey constitutes the indispensable preliminary step in a community's preservation program. It provides the historical and architectural database upon which rational decisions about preservation can be made. Further progress in preserving historically, architecturally, and culturally significant resources will depend on the decisions of County officials and residents. To assist them in deciding what steps they can take, Terracon presents the following recommendations, which are based on the team's assessment of the County and its resources and their familiarity with the current status of historic preservation in Alabama and that nation.

Downtown Bessemer Historic District Recommendations

It is the consultant's opinion that the district should be amended to reflect the growth that continued after 1941 to include the contributing resources that fall between the proposed new period of significance of 1887 to 1969, the most recent date of buildings in the district with sufficient integrity.

The new proposed boundary, shown in **Figure 34**, consists of an expansion of the district predominantly along the southern portion of the original boundary, south along 5th Avenue N to 16th Street North to encompasses the office and commercial buildings, as well as DeBardeleben Park. It is understood that the 1992 nomination amended the district to **not** include the Park as to match the 1992 map, however, this proposed district includes the Park as a contributing site.

A total of 156 resources were recorded within the newly proposed Historic District boundaries (including the current boundary). This boundary and the updated period of significance provide for 104 contributing buildings, 49 non-contributing buildings, two objects (The Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument and the Pullman Standard Train Car), and one site (DeBardeleben Park). A total of 118 buildings within the proposed new district boundary were built prior to 1941 (37 of which are considered not contributing), while the remaining 35 were constructed after 1941 (12 of which are considered not contributing). Resources constructed after 1941 account for approximately 25% (15% contributing; 10% non-contributing) of the total resources in the proposed district. The non-contributing buildings consisted of buildings that did not meet the NRHP criteria because of extensive alterations, or those buildings constructed after the established period of significance.

Resources that were identified as being "potentially eligible" refers to their individual eligibility. Those resources (seven in total) should also be considered to be contributing to the Historic District. Some of the boundary discrepancies, for example along 20th Street N, are due to the use parcel boundaries for the proposed district boundary and not a general line along the mapped street. The district was not expanded along the northern boundary with the same effort as other boundaries as it was determined the railroad tracks made for a clear northern boundary, however, the field team did perform a windshield survey to verify this information while on site.

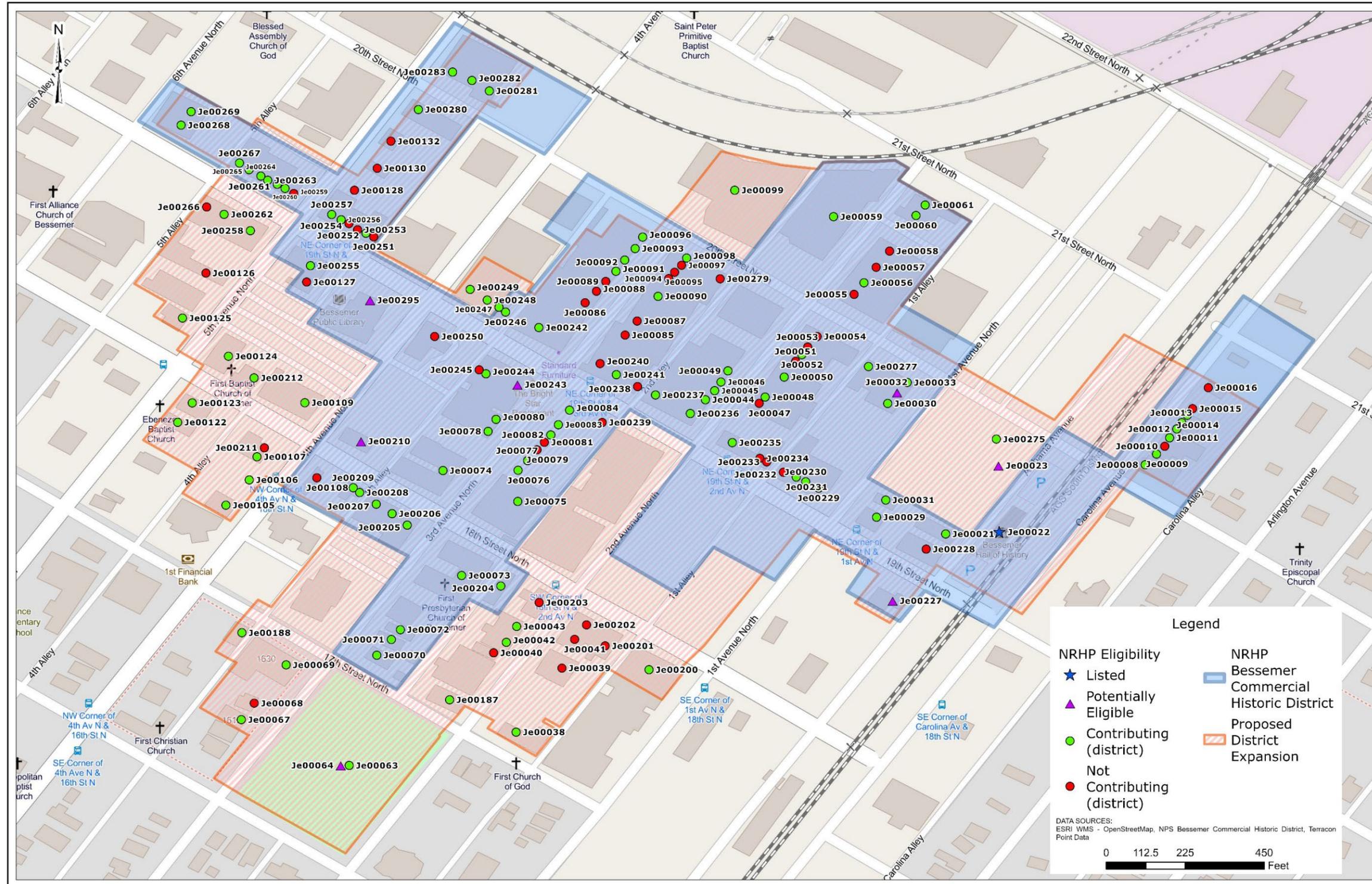


Figure 34. Surveyed resources within downtown Bessemer. Map depicts the 1992 NRHP District Boundary and the 2023 Proposed Boundary expansions. Additionally, the map depicts those resources that are contributing and non-contributing to the proposed district.

Jefferson County Historic Markers

The survey team observed distinctive plaques on buildings of significance throughout the survey area denoted as important by the Jefferson County Historical Commission. The Jefferson County Historical Commission “works to identify and recognize houses, commercial and public buildings, churches, and sites of historic interest and integrity throughout Jefferson County...[and] works to encourage the preservation of these historically important places.”¹¹⁴ Older plaques consisting of plastic or wood material appear to be in poor condition and may deserve a replacement (**Figure 35**).



Figure 35. Example Jefferson County Historical Commission signage. From left to right: Wooden signage located on 1900 2nd Avenue N (facing 19th Street); plastic signage in good condition located on the Wunderlich-Warlick Garage building (210 18th Street N); and a deteriorated plastic sign located on the First Presbyterian Church building (1725 3rd Avenue N).

Other signage located on important buildings were represented as bronze plaques (**Figure 36**) detailing a short building history and significance. While these plaques are informative, they do not denote an association with a local history organization or government office. It is apparent to the passerby that these denote significance and could be the start of a guided or self-guided walking tour if a pamphlet or document was created. This list could also be housed on the City’s Historic Preservation website to encourage local tourism and sightseeing.

¹¹⁴ Jefferson County Historical Commission. “The Historic Marker Program.” <https://www.jeffersonhistorical.org/marker.html>



Figure 36. Example bronze plaque signage on buildings in the Downtown Historic District. From right to left, the Cherner Building plaque, the WOCO-PEP Station plaque, the Carnegie Library plaque, and the Realty Building plaque.

Summary of Recommendations

This section contains a summary of the recommendations that the City of Bessemer can adopt and employ as a part of its preservation program.

1. Copies of this report and AHC Architectural Forms generated from the survey should be placed in the collection of the Bessemer Public Library and the Bessemer Hall of History, as well as offered to local college libraries and additional historical societies or repositories. Any subsequent surveys should also be made available to the public in digital format (at minimum).
2. City staff, elected officials, and residents should utilize the information contained in this report, becoming better aware of the downtown's historic building fabric and act to protect those historic resources. The City can offer this and additional information (on aspects like aesthetic benefits and financial incentives) through a variety of means, such as public meetings, mailings, newspaper articles, community blogs, a dedicated webpage, and the publication of guidebooks and/or pamphlets.
3. Historic Preservation is one strategy to help implement sustainability. Rehabilitating and adaptively reusing buildings is a way to "recycle" extant infrastructure. Historic buildings were designed to adapt to their environment, and, because of this, they are often energy efficient in

their design. For instance, historic structures were designed with energy-saving qualities including operable windows placed to allow for cross-breezes, ample natural light, wide overhanging eaves, or heavy masonry walls. As long as a proposed measure does not diminish the historic character of a building or endanger historic materials, then improving the energy efficiency of a structure will meet the SOI Standards for Rehabilitation.¹¹⁵ Terracon recommends the City encourage the preservation and reuse of traditional historic resources.

4. The City should be commended for its creation and implementation of their historic preservation ordinance and Historic Preservation Commission. However, the use of the National Register Districts as boundaries for the implementation of local governance is not what the NPS intended when they created this process. The City should strongly consider the **creation of local historic districts**. This may go a long way to helping local citizens understand that a National Register District is strictly designation and acknowledgement of historic significance, with no ability to tell private owners what they can (or cannot) do with their properties.¹¹⁶ The creation of Local Historic Districts will allow the City to appropriately apply rules and guidelines for buildings within the defined local districts as to how they can be added or altered through the established Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications. Local historic district boundaries need not be the exact boundary of the National Register Districts; however, they can be. Local districts can even use the same established criteria as the National Register.
5. The City's code does not outline a local landmark process (individual or district). The City should consider the creation of local process that would allow for the designation of significant historic structures that would be similar to the NRHP process, but performed on the local level. Many cities have local landmarking guidelines that follow National Register criteria.
6. The Historic Preservation Commission should continue to undergo annual training to stay up to date on current issues and best practices, in addition to on-boarding training to have a full understanding of powers and operation. All Board members should attend at least one CLG workshop during their term. Technical assistance and training opportunities are offered by the Alabama Historical Commission and regional trainings are held each year. CLGs may also request individual on-site trainings for their local historic board. Other trainings are available through the National Preservation Institute, American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA), and the Library of Congress.¹¹⁷
7. The Downtown District would benefit from additional or **more apparent street signage**, both for pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Examples of historic street signs and Wayfinding placards can also provide historical information that would provide unique stops along potential walking tours.
8. The Downtown Commercial District is fortunate enough to have multiple buildings recognized by the Jefferson County Historical Commission. However, some of these signs are in deteriorated condition and are no longer legible. The City should reach out to the Jefferson County Historical Commission to acquire **replacement signage**. It may also benefit the District to create a list

¹¹⁵ National Park Service. "Energy Efficiency, Sustainability, and Green Building Practices in Historic Buildings." 15 September 2022. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/taxincentives/energy-efficiency-sustainability-green.htm>

¹¹⁶ Unless government funds are provided or federal permitting is required; and, even then, the National Register only requires that avoidance be attempted, and if the historic property is not avoidable, mitigative strategies are

¹¹⁷ An extensive list of organizations that offer trainings and education has been compiled by the National Preservation Institute can be found [here](#).

of buildings that have been acknowledged by the Commission and post this information on the City of Bessemer’s Historic Preservation Commission website. Additionally, these recognized buildings might offer a unique start at creating a walking tour or a pamphlet for visitors to guide themselves.

9. The City of Bessemer has a rich stock of historic residential buildings. Terracon recommends the city pursue funding for **Future Survey** efforts to include those historic neighborhoods or areas surrounding the commercial downtown, see **Figure 29**.
10. The Historic Preservation Commission should review the proposed recommendations to the Historic District and take action if the proposed recommendations are accepted.
11. **Mothballing vacant buildings** as part of the building inspection or code enforcement departments to deter illegal inhabitation or vandalism of these buildings. Mothballing protects the resource for future investment.
12. The City should look into establishing a **Façade Grant Program** to incentivize property owners to perform historically accurate, design sensitive improvements to their store fronts and/or building façade.
13. The City could establish a demolition review requirement for all structures recorded in the AHC Architectural Forms, or are 50 years old or more, to have an updated (or completed) AHC Architectural Form on record with the City prior to demolition. The form should include architectural descriptions and the appropriate associated data, including maps and photographs.
14. Broadly speaking, the city should incorporate historic preservation initiatives and plans. For example, historic preservation should be integrated into a Historic Preservation Overlay District within the Zoning, Land Use, Community Redevelopment Agencies, and Comprehensive Plans. The City should develop a Historic Preservation Master Plan or Element within the City’s Comprehensive Plan. A Preservation Master Plan should outline short-term and long-term goals for designated historic properties and districts.
15. The city should consider resiliency planning in reference to historic resource protection. Flooding, tornadoes, and increased storm severity are all threats to historic structures. The city should identify resources at risk and develop a mitigation plan to lower those risks during these natural disasters. This can include programs focused on storm preparation for historic resources to prevent structural damage from neglect and high winds. Older buildings are often the most vulnerable with historic proximity to the water and outdated water systems. The city should incorporate the best practices for historic resources and resiliency into their initiatives and plans, where feasible.

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Glossary and Notes

A **recorded resource** is a resource documented as part of this survey on the AHC Historic Building Survey Form. Recorded resources are both updates and originals.

A **surveyed resource** is a resource that was surveyed as part of the windshield and/or pedestrian survey but was not recorded on a AHC Historic Building Survey Form.

The **National Register of Historic Places** is an official list of sites and properties throughout the country that reflect the prehistoric occupation and historical development of our nation, states, and local communities. It includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have been identified and documented as being significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture.

The term **integrity** indicates that sufficient original building fabric is present to convey the property's historic and architectural significance. The National Register breaks integrity into seven aspects or qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The **condition** of a structure is not the same as the **integrity**. The condition of a resource refers to its physical state. A resource that had been largely unaltered but not maintained would have high integrity but be in a deteriorated condition. A resource's condition does not necessarily impact the integrity, but it does threaten its longevity.¹¹⁸

The National Park Service lists four approaches to the treatment of historic properties. They are:

- **Preservation**, which focuses on maintaining and repairing existing historic materials and retaining the property's form as it has evolved over time
- **Rehabilitation** acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character
- **Restoration** identifies a particular period in the building's history and removes evidence of other periods
- **Reconstruction** recreates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes

The consultant made a best effort to identify any spelling errors in the AHC Historic Building Survey forms, but any mistakes are unintentional.

This survey did not include exhaustive research on every resource, and as such the AHC form does not represent the totality of information about each recorded resource. Additionally, it should be noted that the recorded AHC forms and associated data are the consultant's opinion based upon field inspection and use of the respective National Register and local-level criteria for determining a structure's integrity and significance. For each form recorded with this survey, further research could yield more information on its architectural style, historical significance, and designation.

¹¹⁸ Details regarding integrity and condition come from UNESCO (Denyer) and the Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Appendix A

Inventory of Resources within the Proposed Historic District

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00008	Romano Block/Carolina Grocery/Ronald's Motorcycle Sales	2001 CAROLINA AVE	1924	Commercial	Rommano Block building, two-story masonry commercial building with symmtetric fenestration along 2nd floor, altered store front at first floor; bay openings long east elevation	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00009		2005 CAROLINA AVE	1944	Masonry Vernacular	single story masonry building with altered storefron windows; concrete block exterior	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00010		2007 CAROLINA AVE	1945	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story concrete block commercial building located in commercial strip. Currently vacant and in deteriorated condition.	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00011	Masonic Lodge, former Star Theatre	2011 CAROLINA AVE	c1950	Masonry Vernacular	2-story masonry building with casement windows, concrete block exterior, central enclosed entry, former theatre for African Americans, later Masonic Lodge	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00012	A. D. Green Reupholstery, former Star Barbershop, former City Negro Free Library	2011 CAROLINA AVE	c1950	Masonry Vernacular	Small masonry vernacular building located in commercial building block, appears to be constructed on concrete block and has square vents	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00013	B&W Auto Repair	2013 CAROLINA AVE	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular building with a built-up roof, rusticated concrete block and wood exterior,	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00014		2015 CAROLINA AVE	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular building with a built-up roof, brick exterior, arched brick entry opening	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00015	Longs Color Tone Cleaners	2017 CAROLINA AVE	1940	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, concrete block exterior, cantilevered metal awning	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00016		2023 CAROLINA AVE	1953	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry building with gable roof and shaped parapet along 2 story; side facing gable along single story wing; appears to be painted bloack obscuring windows and other features	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00017		2029 CAROLINA AVE	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular building missing entry doors, windows, and roof. Integrity lost.	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00021	J. Colley Wholesale	1905 ALABAMA AVE	1925	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a gable roof and shaped parapet facade and rear face, multiple garage bays on side elevation	Fair	Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00022	Southern Railroad Passenger Station/ Bessemer Hall of History	1905 ALABAMA AVE	1916	Mixed, none dominant	170 foot-long building constructed of buff-colored brick and concrete with copper trim and heavy tile roof. Three brick chimneys located on roof ridge	Excellent	Listed
Je00029	R.L. Lumzy Funeral Service	1901 1ST AVE N	1925	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, cornice detail, and recessed corner entry	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00030	The Back Porch	1924 1ST AVE N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat (built-up) roof, shaped parapet, brick herringbone detail, recessed entry	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00031		1907 1ST AVE N	1905	Masonry Vernacular	Tall single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, chamfered corner entry, and brick course detail	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00032	Lincoln Theatre	1926 1ST AVE N	1948	Moderne	Moderne theatre building with a flat (built-up) roof, glazed tile exterior on facade, central ticket booth with wood door entries on each side, fixed display windows	Fair	Potentially Eligible
Je00033	Sam Dunn's Saloon	1930 1ST AVE N	1930	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with brick corbeling detail, original fenestration pattern and upper floor windows, decorative window crowns and segmental arches, facade entry and windows are replacements	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00044	McLellan's	1904 2ND AVE N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, buff brick, recessed entries and storefront windows	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00045	Randle Building/ The Everything Store	1908 2ND AVE N	1924	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a flat roof, shaped parapet, brick corbeling detail, segmental brick window arches, recessed entry	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00046	Simmons & Buck Building	1910 2ND AVE N	1924	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a flat roof, shaped parapet, projecting piers with stone caps, brick and stone details	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00047		1911 2ND AVE N	1930	Other	Facade completely altered by sheets of tile and wood covering original details and material	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00048		1913 2ND AVE N	c1889	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a built-up roof, cornice detail, recessed entry with display windows	Fair	Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00049		1914 2ND AVE N	1924	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a flat roof and shaped parapet, decorative brickwork and iron surrounding upper windows, recessed entries and display windows on ground level	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00050	United Textiles	1917 2ND AVE N	1955	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, grouped fixed windows across ground floor on facade, large section of facade above ground floor covered with metal	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00051		1923 2ND AVE N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular building with a built-up roof, stucco exterior, and symmetrical facade	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00052		1925 2ND AVE N	1930	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a built-up roof, elaborate cornice detail, band of decorative metal between floors	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00053	Joan B. Singleton Attorney	1927 2ND AVE N	1930	Other	Two-story commercial building with facade heavily altered with corrugated metal covering and tile covering the majority of exterior	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00054		1931 2ND AVE N	1940	Masonry Vernacular	Facade infilled with concrete block with the exception of a detailed cornice and brick corbeling	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00055	Simmons Sporting Goods	2001 2ND AVE N	1952	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with built-up roof, scored concrete and brick exterior	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00056		2003 2ND AVE N	1926	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a built-up roof, brick cornice detail, original fenestration pattern on upper story with brick corbeling and window crown detail, window openings infilled	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00057	Cherner Building	2007 2ND AVE N	1925	Other	Highly altered commercial building with new facade face, windows, entry, porch and other details	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00058		2007 2ND AVE N	1925	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, altered facade that has been infilled with scored concrete	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00059	Bessemer Cornice Works/ Long-Lewis Hardware Company	2016 2ND AVE N	1900	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a flat roof, dentil cornice detail, brick and rusticated concrete block exterior, flat canopy across facade, arched window lintels above second-story treatments. South elevation face has been	Poor	Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00060	Jeff Clay & Sons	2023 2ND AVE N	1906	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof and shaped parapet, brick structure with metal veneer on facade mimicking rusticated brick	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00061		2027 2ND AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, stucco and brick exterior, recessed entries and boarded up display and transom windows	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00070	Gason's Florist, former Hollingsworth House	1701 3RD AVE N	1898	Neo-Classical Revival	two-story Neoclassical residence, altered in the 1930s as an apartment and altered again in the 1970s as a commercial building	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00071	Hollingsworth Rental House	1705 3RD AVE N	c1902	Colonial Revival	2.5 story Colonial Revival residential buiding with multiple rooflines, gable dormer, wood siding, open front porch with short square columns and brick piers	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00072	The Western Star, former Charleston House	1709 3RD AVE N	1900	Frame Vernacular	Two-story Folk Frame Vernacular residential building with a front gable roof, open porch under hip roof, 2/2 windows	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00073	First Presbyterian Church	1725 3RD AVE N	1963	Neo-Classical Revival	U-plan church Neo-Classical Revival church complex featuring gable rooflines, red brick exterior, portico entry, steeple, oriel window, arcaded brick walkway	Excellent	Contributing (district)
Je00074	Old Bessemer City Hall	1800 3RD AVE N	c1938	Art Deco	Three-story Art Deco style brick building with an attached clock tower, emphasis on verticality, full-height limestone faced detailing surrounding entry	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00075	Bessemer Courthouse	1801 3RD AVE N	1919	Neo-Classical Revival	3.5-story Neo-Classical government building with a flat roof, limestone dentil and coursework, brick exterior with brick pilasters, inset Ionic columns	Excellent	Contributing (district)
Je00076	Bains and Terry Attorneys at Law	1813 3RD AVE N	1910	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a flat roof, dentiled and bracketed cornice, fixed storefront and transom windows, recessed entry	Excellent	Contributing (district)
Je00077	Killings & Poe LLC Attorneys At Law	1815-1817 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with two storefronts, a flat roof, buff brick exterior with brickwork detail, large fixed windows	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00078	Law Offices	1818 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick details on facade, altered first-story with glass block and replacement windows and door	Fair	Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00079	Bessemer Finance	1819 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, permastone facade exterior, recessed entry	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00080	Goodwyn & Ross Building	1820 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof and shaped parapet, brick exterior, double store-front with display windows on first-story, symmetric 1/1 wood windows on second-story	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00081	Law Offices Ginette A. Dow	1821 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, fixed metal display windows flanked by entry doors, cantilevered metal awning	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00082	Reed Law Firm P.C.	1823 3RD AVE N	1900	Commercial	Single-story Commercial building with a flat roof, wood entablature detail, symmetrical facade, wood windows and door	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00083	Cake Creations / Law Offices	1825-1827 3RD AVE N	1910	Commercial	One-story Commercial building with two storefronts, featuring a flat roof, fixed display and transom windows, wood door entries	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00084	The Good Art Company	1829 3RD AVE N	1900	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with multiple storefronts on 19th St and 3rd Ave. The building features a brick exterior and limestone course and original cornice detail that is still intact.	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00085	The Everything Store	1909 3RD AVE N	c1890	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, upper half of facade covered in metal, cantilevered metal awning, grouped display windows, recessed entry	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00086	Legacy Smart Venue	1910 3RD AVE N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, bottom half of facade sloping inward creating a recessed entry in the center	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00087		1911-1913 3RD AVE N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, altered facade that has been partially covered with pressed metal and windows infilled,	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00088		1914 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building, imposing wood shingle awning above ground floor, brick course detail along roofline, awning windows on second-floor	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00089		1916-1918 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building, pressed metal exterior added to original facade, cantilevered awning, grouped fixed windows	Fair	Not Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00090	McAdory Building	1919 3RD AVE N	c1905	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a large pedimented gable breaking the parapet over central section, dentil cornice detail, corbeled brick detail, crested limestone window heads	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00091	Credit Bureau of Bessemer Inc. / National Application Processing & Screening, Inc.	1920 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick pattern detail on upper facade, recessed entry flanked by display windows, corrugated metal covering original transom	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00092	Just In Time Legal Solutions, Inc	1922 3RD AVE N	1900	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a symmetrical facade, dentil and corbeled brickwork, segmental brick arches above hung windows, stone dentil cornice detail, band of fixed windows above ground floor	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00093	American Legion Post 149	1924 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, symmetrical facade	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00094	World Wide Tract Ministry	1925 3RD AVE N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, recessed lower half of facade, multicolored panels covering upper transom	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00095		1927 3RD AVE N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, recessed brick detail on upper facade, central door, garage bay, and fixed triangle windows across transom	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00096	Elrod Mobility	1928-1930 3RD AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building, segmental brick arches above windows on second floor, brick coursework detail near roofline, recessed entries including a chamfered corner entry	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00097		1929 3RD AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, permastone exterior, recessed entry	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00098	Pinktopps	1931 3RD AVE N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, and symmetrical facade with display windows	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00108	BC Luxury Shop	1731 4TH AVE N	1900	No Style	Highly altered commercial building with an irregular form, stucco exterior, and cross gable roof	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00127		1829 5TH AVE N	1956	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with brick with facade addition, dilapidated exterior, casement windows	Poor	Not Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00128	Zeigler Meat Company; Amison's Transmission & Automotive	1909 5TH AVE N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a brick exterior, flat (built-up) roof, and asymmetrical facade	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00130	Benson-Ruffin House	1915 5TH AVE N	c1895	Frame Vernacular	Folk Victorian characteristics including a moderate to steep pitched gable on hip roof, shingle detail on gable end, open porch with decorative metal railing	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00132		1925 5TH AVE N	1968	Masonry Vernacular	Concrete block commercial building with a flat parapet facade	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00204	Parkwood Place	210 18TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, shaped parapet, brick structure and exterior, inset facade windows and entry	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00205	Attorneys at Law	300 18TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, sections of limestone bands on facade, diamond detail near roofline	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00206	Kaylyn's "Food For The Soul" / Brobston & Brobston P.C. Attorneys at Law	304-306 18TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building, limestone faced facade, large display windows	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00207	A. Edward Fawwal Attorney at Law	310-312 18TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with limestone faced facade, display windows, flat roof	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00208	Alabama Title & Trust Building	314 18TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building, flat roof with pointed parapet, pediment door surround entry with Doric columns	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00209	Paula F. Lampkin Attorney at Law	316 18TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, symmetrical facade	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00210	Carnegie Library	317 18TH ST N	1907	Renaissance Revival	One-story red brick building with limestone window and door trim, tripartite arcade with limestone trim and short round columns, raised foundation, shaped parapet, brick quoins.	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00227	WOCO-PEP Station	2 19TH ST N	1928	English Tudor Cottage	Good example of English Cottage/Tudor style gas station from the 1920s; brick exterior, brick chimney along eastern facade, boarded openings; high pitch cross-gable roof, porte-cochere over service area	Good	Potentially Eligible

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00228	Pasquels Row	7 19TH ST N	1905	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with four storefronts, a flat roof with taller facade, fixed display windows, metal sheets covering top half of facade, and a flat metal awning across facade	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00229	Disco Stores Discount	103 19TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular building with two storefronts, a built-up roof, asymmetrical facade, brickwork detail	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00230	Motherland Braids	105-107 19TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, large display windows, metal covering transom with attached cantilevered awning	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00231	Alternative Justice Bail Bonding Agency	107 19TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, large display windows, wood covering upper transom lights, brickwork detail	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00232	Bistro on Nineteenth	109 19TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry commercial building with a flat roof and parapet with decorative caps	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00233	Tax Enterprise	113 19TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof and shaped parapet, stucco exterior, fixed storefront windows	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00234	JM Bail Bonding, Inc.	115 19TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, brick and stucco exterior, central entry flanked by fixed windows	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00235	Berney Bank Block	1905 2ND AVE N	1889	Richardsonian Romanesque	Richardsonian Romanesque commercial building with a built up and mansard roof, rounded corner, detailed brickwork, original fenestration pattern on upper story	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00236		1900 2ND AVE N	1890	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a flat roof, decorative brick corbeling and segmental arches above multilight awning windows, decorative iron detail inset below cornice, altered storefront	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00237	McClellans/ Save The Youth	211 19TH ST N	1900	Moderne	Two-story Moderne commercial building with a flat roof, symmetrical facade with a narrow strip of 1/1 windows on second-story	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00238	The Grand Shoe Repair/ Collier's Barber & Style	213 19TH ST N	1924	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with two storefronts, a flat roof, vertical metal sheets covering 2/3 of facade, cantilevered awning,	Good	Not Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00239	Farmers Insurance/Just Salads	214-216 19TH ST N	1920	Commercial	Two-story Commercial building with a flat roof and shaped parapet, crested window lintels, ground floor facade altered with new windows and entries	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00240	Sweatman-Trotter Building/Grand Theatre	219 19TH ST N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, pressed metal covering much of facade, cantilevered awning, grouped display windows, recessed facade	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00241	Memory Lane 205	217-219 19TH ST N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brickwork cornice detail, grouped metal display windows, divided transom lights across facade	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00242	Standard Furniture	301 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, multiple cloth awnings above display windows, brick exterior	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00243	Realty Building	304 19TH ST N	1915	Masonry Vernacular	Four-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, display windows on the ground floor, 1/1 windows on upper floors, band of limestone detail near roofline, projecting pilasters	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00244		310 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building, flat roof, asymmetrical facade, brick exterior	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00245	The Bright Star Catering Company	312 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, fixed metal windows, and tile and brick veneer facade exterior	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00246	Liberty Tax Service	315 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, original fenestration pattern, brick detail on facade, recessed entry and display windows	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00250	Regions Bank	324 19TH ST N	1889	Neo-Classical Revival	Neo-Classical Revival bank building with the facade completely faced in limestone, Doric columns dividing each bay on facade, arched entry	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00251	MeMe's Coffee & Deli	415 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial brick building, brick quoins on facade corners, symmetrical facade	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00252		417 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular brick commercial building, brick detail on cornice and upper facade	Good	Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00253	William E. Parsons, Jr Certified Public Accountant	419 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial brick building, symmetrical facade with central door flanked by display windows, awning roof	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00254	PAC Insurance Agency, Inc.	421 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular brick commercial building, symmetrical facade with fixed display windows and paired commercial doors, hip awning	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00255	Varner's Custom Paint & Body	428 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial brick building with multiple bays separated by brick pilasters, covered carport	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00256	M & M Appliances	429 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular brick commercial building, brick quoins on corner, brick diamond pattern on facade above awning	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00257	Bessemer Beauty Supply	431 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial brick building, brick quoins, short Corinthian column on facade corner, symmetrical facade	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00259	R. R. Brown, James Stewart, Dave Lee, Attorneys at Law	501 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Stucco commercial building with chamfered corner entry, large storefront windows	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00260		505 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building with flat stone-capped parapet, friezeband brick detail	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00261		505 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building with stone-capped parapet, friezeband brick detail, storefront windows and commercial door	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00263	Kutz & Kurlz	507 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building with stone-capped parapet, friezeband brick detail, storefront windows and commercial door	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00264		509 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building with stone-capped parapet, friezeband brick detail, storefront windows and commercial doors	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00265	Lovely Nails	511 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building with stone-capped parapet, friezeband brick detail, storefront windows and commercial door	Fair	Contributing (district)

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County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00267		515 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building with stone-capped parapet, friezeband brick detail, storefront windows and commercial door	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00268	Diana Hall	525 19TH ST N	1925	Commercial	Two-story commercial style building with brick patterns, wood cornice detail, brick pilasters, segmental-arched windows alternate, band of stucco and brick detail	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00269		525 19TH ST N	c1925	Commercial	Single-story garage with a crested parapet, brickwork detail below parapet and on pilasters	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00276	Empire Lounge	310 20TH ST N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, much of facade boarded up	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00277	Garrett's Place	112 20TH ST N	1890	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, brick exterior, cornice detail and pilaster capital ornamentation, cantilevered awning with dentil underside	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00278		316 20TH ST N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Tall one-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, garage bay, windows infilled	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00279		212 20TH ST N	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, concrete pilasters that curve outward, curved roofline on side elevation	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00280		416 20TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry commercial building with a brick and concrete block exterior, brick pilasters equally spaced out across facade that have been parged over, vertical fixed windows with smaller rectangular fixed windows above	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00281	Gibson Sheet Metal Works	417 20TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building w/ arched brick door surround, wood and metal infill	Poor	Contributing (district)
Je00282		421 20TH ST N	1910	Richardsonian Romanesque	Brick commercial structure with large, arched wooden garage door, segmental brick detail above entries and windows, recessed cornice detail	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00283		423 20TH ST N	1910	Masonry Vernacular	Recessed brick cornice detail, segmental arch detail above entry and fixed window	Fair	Contributing (district)

Downtown Bessemer Historic District

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00295	Bessemer Public Library	400 19th Street N	c1910	Beaux Arts Eclectism	Tall single-story Neo-Classical Revival style building with a dominant full-height entry supported by unfluted Ionic columns, a roof line parapet, a rusticated facade, pedimented and rounded arch window openings with balustrade	Excellent	Potentially Eligible

Proposed Historic District Expansion

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00023	Pullman Standard Train Car	ALABAMA AVE	1979	Not Applicable		Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00038	Raising The Standard Ministries, Inc.	1701 2ND AVE N	1955	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular Church building with a moderate and steeply pitched cross-gable roof, pointed arch stained glass windows and pointed arch entryway , brick pilasters along elevations and facade	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00039	Piper Place West	1711 2ND AVE N	1973	Neo-Classical Revival	Neo-Classical Revival commercial building with a gable on hip roof, symmetrical facade, brick exterior, 12/6 windows, wood door with broken pediment and sidelight detail	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00040		1714 2ND AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residential building with a gable roof, brick and vinyl siding, and an enclosed porch	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00041		1717 2ND AVE N	1947	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with two storefronts, a flat roof, hipped awnings	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00042	Harper Suites	1720 2ND AVE N	1964	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a flat roof, concrete block structure with brick and metal panel facade, portion of facade is recessed with large fixed windows and entry	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00043	Attorney at Law	1724 2ND AVE N	1969	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, asymmetrical facade, brick exterior, and recessed porch and entry	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00063	DeBardeleben Park	1602 3RD AVE N	c1888	Not Applicable	Designed sidewalks surrounding the park and diagonally within the park; centrally located pavillion and American Doughboy statue was placed at the center of the park in 1969.	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00064	The Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument	1602 3RD AVE N	1922	Not Applicable	One of the few official (140 known) Viquesney Doughboy sculptures, one of three in Alabama	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00067	Alabama Abuse Counseling Center	1612 3RD AVE N	c1904	Neo-Classical Revival	Neo-Classical Revival residence with upright a wing gable, brick exterior open porch with tapered wood columns, dentil cornice detail	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00068	Hall & Tucker, LLC	1616 3RD AVE N	c1908	Frame Vernacular	Two-story Frame Vernacular residence with a hip roof, enclosed front porch, stucco exterior	Good	Not Contributing (district)

Proposed Historic District Expansion

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00069	Southern Bell Telephone Company Dial Exchange Building	1630 3RD AVE N	1949	Moderne	Two-story commercial building with a flat roof, brick exterior, 12/12 wood and brick infill windows, band of stone along exterior walls	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00099	Omni Foods	2000 3RD AVE N	1948	Moderne	Moderne style warehouse with a flat roof, brick exterior, curved exterior corner, limestone course along facade	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00105	Law Office of L. Kenneth Moore, Jake V. Bivona, and Stephen H. Jones	1714 4TH AVE N	c1967	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular building with mid-century characteristics including a flat roof, fixed vertical windows, brick and breezeblock wall projections	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00106	American Auto Paint & Supplies, former Greyhound Bus Terminal	1718 4TH AVE N	c1950	Moderne	Moderne commercial building with flat roof, brick exterior, curved corner, corner entry, flat awning with curved corner	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00107	Crystal Coin Laundromat	1724 4TH AVE N	1969	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, symmetrical facade, brick wall projections on corners of facade	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00109	The Foundry Women's Center	1800 4TH AVE N	1949	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern masonry building with a flat roof, vertical fixed windows, and a projecting gable on facade	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00122		1723 5TH AVE N	1955	Tudor Revival	Tudor Revival residence with steeply-pitched intersecting gables, brick exterior and chimney, arched entry, open front porch	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00123	First Seventh Day Adventist Church	1729 5TH AVE N	1955	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular church building with a front gable roof, a smaller enclosed front gable on facade with paired arched entryways, small arched entryways on side elevations, arched stained glass windows, partial gable	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00124	The Foundry Worship Center, former First Baptist Church	1801 5TH AVE N	c1966	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern church building with a symmetrical facade, flat roof and low-pitched parapet, stucco tiles flanked by full-height brick pilasters, vertical multilight awning windows on side elevations	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00125	Acoff Law Firm	1804 5TH AVE N	1900	Frame Vernacular	Folk Frame Vernacular residence turned office with intersecting gables, asbestos exterior, wood shingle and half-timber detail on gable ends, and an open porch under a hip roof	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00126	Alabama Drilling & Saving Inc.	1820 5TH AVE N	1952	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular building with a flat roof, concrete block structure and exterior, and multiple garage bays	Fair	Not Contributing (district)

Proposed Historic District Expansion

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00187	Pitts & Zanaty, LLC	201 17TH ST N	1965	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a flat roof with wide overhang, exposed rafters, brick and wood exterior, multiple entries with commercial doors and fixed windows	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00188	Marvel City Federal Credit Union	316 17TH ST N	1930	Frame Vernacular	Folk Victorian characteristics , multiple rooflines, gable returns and wood lattice detail near gable end pitch, wood siding	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00200		105 18TH ST N	1935	Mid-Century Modern	One-story Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a flat roof, brick pilasters with stone caps, glass block windows, and a brick and stucco facade	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00201		114-118 18TH ST N	1966	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with two storefronts, featuring flat roof, brick and stone exterior, paired wood doors and commercial metal and glass door entrances	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00202	Guster Law Firm, LLC	124 18TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with Mid-Century feeling, multiple flat rooflines, fixed windows, and a brick exterior	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00203	Truist	200 18TH ST N	1953	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick and stucco exterior, grouped fixed windows on facade	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00211	Sneaky Pete's	400 18TH ST N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, corner entry, aluminum siding	Good	Not Contributing (district)
Je00212	The Foundry	18TH ST N	c1966	Masonry Vernacular	Four-story Masonry Vernacular building with brick and stucco panel exterior, 1/1 vinyl windows, exterior metal stairwell	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00247	A.R.K. Designs & Alterations by Gail	317 19TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, recessed entry, divided transom light	Good	Contributing (district)
Je00248	This and That	319 19TH ST N	1962	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with two storefronts that both consist of recessed entries, fixed display windows, and a shared metal awning across facade	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00249	Standard Furniture	331 19TH ST N	1962	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a flat roof, boxed awning creating wide overhang, grouped fixed windows, recessed entry	Fair	Contributing (district)

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County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00258	Bessemer Glass	500 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with brick exterior and brick pilasters, grouped display windows, wood door entry flanked by wood sidelights and transom light above	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00262	Bessemer Glass	506 19TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a brick exterior, brick pilasters, display windows, and altered transom windows with metal infill	Fair	Contributing (district)
Je00266	20/20 Optical	512 19TH ST N	1921	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a brick exterior, symmetrical facade, grouped display windows and paired commercial doors	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00275	Cook's Cry Cleaners/ Carnegie Public Library Negro Branch (c1960)	4 20TH ST N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Two-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, chamfered corner entry, and brick exterior	Poor	Contributing (district)

Appendix B

Inventory of Resources not within the Proposed Historic District Inventory

Overall Bessemer Survey Area

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00004	Jefferson County Department of Huan Resources	1601 CAROLINA AVE	1969	Masonry Vernacular	single masonry buildings in an irregular pattern, rear set building is 2-story, gable roofs, multiple entry doors	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00005	Eagle Automotive Group	1623 CAROLINA AVE	1969	No Style	Rectangular tall single story building with minimal characteristics or details; rear concrete block tower under shed corrugated metal roof	Good	Not Eligible
Je00006	A&R Thrift Store	1809 CAROLINA AVE	1964	Masonry Vernacular	single story rectangular commercial building, with masonry exterior, possibly faux brick; flat roof with parapet and concrete caps	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00007		1901 CAROLINA AVE	1971	Masonry Vernacular	rectangular single story masonry building with minimal architectural details, pent roof over entry	Poor	Not Eligible
Je00018	R & B SS	2109 CAROLINA AVE	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Single-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a built-up roof, brick and metal veneer on facade, cantilevered metal awning	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00019		2135 CAROLINA AVE	c1950	Frame Vernacular	Wood frame house in deteriorated condition; gable roof with gable roof extension over partially enclosed front porch; concrete block piers; 2 concrete interior chimneys	Poor	Not Eligible
Je00020	Superior Event Center	1800 ALABAMA AVE	1968	Masonry Vernacular	simple rectangular masonry building with brick exterior, flat roof with a parapet, and enclosed/altered facade on main facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00024	Bessemer Electric & Water Services	1600 1st AVE N	c1960	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a flat (built-up) roof, emphases on horizontality, ribbon of metal windows,	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00025		1622 1ST AVE N	1940	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a double front gable roof, aluminum and brick siding, wrap-around scalloped awning	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00026		1626 1ST AVE N	1945	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a double front gable roof, aluminum siding, interior brick chimney, enclosed front porch, side facing door	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00027		1630 1ST AVE N	1935	Frame Vernacular	One-story Frame Vernacular residence with a double front gable roof, 4/1 windows, vinyl siding, and an open front porch	Fair	Not Eligible

Overall Bessemer Survey Area

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00028	Brown Beauty and Barber school	1724 1ST AVE N	1964	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building with multiple flat rooflines, brick exterior, asymmetrical facade with recessed sections, tall garage bay	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00034		2124 1ST AVE N	1945	Masonry Vernacular	One-story Masonry Vernacular commercial building in ruinous condition, multiple garage bays and entries on facade, flat roof missing in some sections	Ruinous	Not Eligible
Je00035		1601 2ND AVE N	1973	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a flat roof, irregular and symmetrical form, stucco exterior, sharp edges	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00036	Law Offices of E. Stewart Kimbrell, Pete Short, Eric L. Toxey, Chris L. Davis, and M.	1621 2ND AVE N	1964	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a shallow-pitched gable on hip roof, wide roof overhang, brick projections between grouped fixed facade windows,	Good	Not Eligible
Je00037		1631 2ND AVE N	1938	Frame Vernacular	Two-story Frame Vernacular residential building with multiple rooflines, vinyl siding, asymmetrical facade, interior brick chimney, and a portico porch	Good	Not Eligible
Je00062	Law Office of Cliff Hardy	1600 3RD AVE N	1930	Frame Vernacular	Two-story Frame Vernacular residential building turned into office, enclosed porch with brick columns, 3/1 wood sash windows, roof brackets on facade	Good	Not Eligible
Je00065		1604 3RD AVE N	c1913	Queen Anne (Revival)	Queen Anne residential building with multiple rooflines, large open porch under hip roof, asymmetrical facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00066		1608 3RD AVE N	c1904	Bungalow	Two-story Bungalow with double gable roof, open front porch with hip roof, asymmetrical facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00100	Love City Fellowship	1601 4TH AVE N	1952	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern religious building with cross-gabled roof, arcaded brick walkway, metal casement windows, limestone entry surround	Good	Not Eligible
Je00101	LaCole's & Ann's Florist	1604 4TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residential building turned into commercial use with a hip and gable roof, vinyl siding, and asymmetrical facade	Good	Not Eligible
Je00102		1619 4TH AVE N	1905	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with multiple rooflines, pent roof under front gables, open porch with brick columns, multiple brick chimneys	Good	Not Eligible

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County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00103	1st Financial Bank	1630 4TH AVE N	1963	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with flat (built-up) roof, horizontality, facade features a curved metal and stucco face with grouped fixed windows and arched awnings	Good	Not Eligible
Je00104	PNC Bank / Bessemer Family Foot Clinic	1711 4TH AVE N	1956	Other	Highly altered facade and roof, indistinguishable from original appearance	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00110		1906 4TH AVE N	1950	Moderne	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, tile exterior, fixed metal replacement windows and entrances, metal awnings above windows and doors	Good	Not Eligible
Je00111	Bradley Real Estate & Insurance Co.	1911-13 4TH AVE N	c1940	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building divided into two storefronts. The left side of the facade has been altered with glass block and Doric columns. The right side of the facade is not as altered, but windows and entry has been	Good	Not Eligible
Je00112		1915 4TH AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, symmetrical facade, and concrete block and brick exterior	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00113	H3W	1917 4TH AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, concrete block structure, altered facade with added wood planks	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00114		1927 4TH AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, symmetrical facade, and brick structure	Good	Not Eligible
Je00115	Pro Graphix	1930 4TH AVE N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular brick building with a flat roof, brick pilasters, garage bay, and brick infill	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00116	K & C All Occasions Event Center	1932 4TH AVE N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat roof, brick structure and exterior, and asymmetrical facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00129		1912 5TH AVE N	1900	Bungalow	Bungalow dwelling with cross-gabled roof, open front porch with brick piers and railing, drop siding, two brick chimneys	Poor	Not Eligible
Je00131		1916 5TH AVE N	1966	Masonry Vernacular	Concrete block commercial building with a brick facade and large storefront windows	Fair	Not Eligible

Overall Bessemer Survey Area

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00133		1930 5TH AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Brick commercial building, large store front windows, garage door opening with metal gate attached	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00152	The Foundry Men's Center	1804 6TH AVE N	c1940	Mid-Century Modern	Masonry building consisting of CMU and a flat roof; windows angeled and projecting out from building	Good	Not Eligible
Je00153	Eagles Nest	1804 6TH AVE N	1940	No Style	Two-story building with a symmetrical facade, front gable roof, brick exterior on facade and pressed metal on side elevations	Good	Not Eligible
Je00154		1809 6TH AVE N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a shaped brick parapet roof, tall storage bay central on facade, single multilight metal windows, corrugated metal exterior	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00155		1813 6TH AVE N	c1950	Industrial Vernacular	Industrial Vernacular building with a low-pitched gable roof, corrugated metal exterior and tall storage bag central on facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00156		1816 6TH AVE N	1934	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular church building with a gable roof slightly projecting outward, multilight fixed and casement wood windows	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00157	Industrial Machine & Fabrication Inc.	1817 6TH AVE N	1947	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a shaped brick roof parapet, an entry bay and two storage bays	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00158	Metro by TMobile	1824 6TH AVE N	1965	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with an L-plan form, flat roof, and metal multilight awning window walls and grouped fixed windows,	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00159		1920 6TH AVE N	1970	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry auto shop with mid-century influence, multilight glass garage doors, flat roof, brick exterior with corrugated metal along roofline	Good	Not Eligible
Je00160		1927 6TH AVE N	1957	Masonry Vernacular	Concrete block commercial building with a symmetrical facade, arched windows, gable on shed awning	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00178		1821 7TH AVE N	1960	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a cross-gabled roof, vinyl siding, asymmetrical facade	Fair	Not Eligible

Overall Bessemer Survey Area

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00179		1833 7TH AVE N	1930	No Style	Brick veneer across asymmetrical facade, vertical wood siding on side elevations	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00180		1912-1914 7TH AVE N	1965	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a brick veneer on concrete block facade, large storefront windows have been infilled	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00181	Kingdom Customs	1917 7TH AVE N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with symmetrical facade, brick exterior, central entry with rounded brick stoop	Good	Not Eligible
Je00182	Kingdom Customs	1919 7TH AVE N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular building with a brick on concrete block facade, corrugated metal covering windows, replacement panel door	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00183	Fountain Building Supply	1918 7TH AVE N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial structure, highly altered facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00184	Mike's Welding	1930 7TH AVE N	1930	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with garage door central on facade, 1/1 and 6/6 metal windows	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00185	Fountain Building Supply	2000 8TH AVE N	1965	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry commercial building with altered facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00199	AGS Freight Depot	2 18TH ST N	1900+	Neo-Classical Revival	2 story depot building with single story rectangular freight dock at rear along railroad; office building consist of brick exterior and flat roof with parapet and concrete caps; triangular pediment centrally located along parapet on facade,	Poor	Potentially Eligible
Je00214	Law Office of Horace W. Kynard	517 18TH ST N	1920	Bungalow	Bungalow style building with a symmetrical facade, dutch gable roof, vinyl siding, and vinyl sash windows	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00216		525 18TH ST N	1950	Industrial Vernacular	Industrial Vernacular building with a low-pitched gable roof, predominantly metal exterior with a band of brick along south elevation and section of facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00217	Bail Bonding Solutions	615 18TH ST N	1940	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a front gable roof, brick exterior, asymmetrical facade	Fair	Not Eligible

Overall Bessemer Survey Area

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00221		625 18TH ST N	1930	Bungalow	Bungalow style residence with a hip roof, exposed rafter tails, full-width open porch	Good	Not Eligible
Je00270		601 19TH ST N	1950	No Style	Commercial brick building with corrugated metal exterior on upper half, brick pilasters flanked by grouped storefront windows	Good	Not Eligible
Je00271		615 19TH ST N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a symmetrical facade, central entry flanked by storefront windows with decorative wood detail below, awning porch with original cornice detail	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00272	The Christian Bookstore & More	618 19TH ST N	1973	Masonry Vernacular	L-shaped Masonry Vernacular commercial building with brick veneer facade, grouped fixed windows, and paired commercial door entry	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00273	Davis Muffler & Brake Service	701 19TH ST N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular brick building with fixed storefront windows across facade and corner	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00274	YNI Center	711 19TH ST N	1935	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building, highly altered facade with stucco exterior, brick pilasters, storefront windows	Good	Not Eligible
Je00284	Manufacturers Packaging	501 20TH ST N	1948	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry commercial building with flat corner of facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00285	Kerry's Car Care	514 20TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry commercial building with an asymmetrical facade, metal gate garage entry, brick, wood, and metal infill	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00286		524 20TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Concrete block masonry vernacular commercial building made of concrete block, front gable, asymmetrical facade	Poor	Not Eligible
Je00287	Torme Associated Foods	527 20TH ST N	1955	Masonry Vernacular	Concrete block commercial building, full-length metal awning across facade	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00288	Tommie's House of Beauty & Barber	1931 6TH AVE N	1955	Masonry Vernacular	Stucco commercial building with a chamfered corner entry, grouped 1/1 buildings	Fair	Not Eligible

Overall Bessemer Survey Area

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00289		600 20TH ST N	1958	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry commercial building with concrete block and metal exterior, brick veneer along roofline	Poor	Not Eligible
Je00290	Star Fire	630 20TH ST N	1948	Masonry Vernacular	Commercial brick building with altered facade, large storefront windows have been infilled	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00291		631 20TH ST N	1967	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry commercial structure with metal facade, minimal features	Good	Not Eligible
Je00292	Fountain Building Supply Inc.	731 20TH ST N	1950	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with stepped parapet brick facade, concrete block structure, gable roof, infilled storefront windows, garage entry	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00293		123 21ST ST N	c1950+	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular warehouse building with a flat roof, brick and metal exterior, an multiple garage bays	Poor	Not Eligible
Je00294		6 22ND ST N	c1950	Frame Vernacular	Wood frame residential building with main gable roof, gable extension over open, single story porch, horizontal wood siding, cornerboards; replacement windows; a fair to deterioriated condition.	Fair	Not Eligible

East Survey AOI

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00002	First Methodist Church	1817 ARLINGTON AVE	1916	Neo-Classical Revival	Neo-Classical church dominated by full-height entry, covered in Franklin County limestone with large portico, Corinthian columns, cross-gabled roof with slate tiles, and sash and fixed windows; rusticated stone at foundations	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00003	Sweet Home	1830 ARLINGTON AVE	1906	Mixed, none dominant	Mixed architectural styles: NeoClassical and Queen Anne details, two colossal porticos, octagonal turret, decorative windows, triangular pediments over entries	Excellent	Eligible

South Survey AOI

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00001	Fountain of Life Ministries	1414 2nd AVE N	1923	Art Deco	Art Deco style building with a built-up roof and multiple rooflines, symmetrical facade with arched limestone entryway beneath a limestone bay window, grouped 1/1 windows inset in limestone and flanked by brick	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00117	The Law Center For Civil & Criminal Justice	1600 5TH AVE N	1920	Greek Revival	Greek Revival residence turn into off use with a hip roof an hip dormers, full-width open porch with square columns, symmetrical facade, diamond pattern muntins, asbestos siding, 3 interior brick chimneys	Good	Other
Je00118		1604 5TH AVE N	1910	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a front gable roof with wide overhang, exposed rafters, roof brackets, full width porch with brick columns	Fair	Other
Je00119	City of Bessemer School Board of Education	1621 5TH AVE N	c1965	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern educational building with a flat roof, emphasis on horizontality, a brick exterior, metal awning windows,	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00120		1705 5TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	2.5 story Frame Vernacular residential building with a gable and hip roof, vinyl siding, and an enclosed porch under a hip roof	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00121		1711 5TH AVE N	1930	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a central gable on steeply pitched hip roof, asbestos siding, wrap around porch under principle roof, recessed panel detail on frieze	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00134		1600 6TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Two-story Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable, roof brackets, exposed rafter tails, 4 brick chimneys, two-story porch	Poor	Other
Je00135		1601 6TH AVE N	1900	Neo-Classical Revival	Neo-Classical Revival residence with intersecting-gables and multiple rooflines, open front porch with decorative columns, dentil detail on soffits, bay window, gable dormers	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00136		1604 6TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with Bungalow elements including exposed rafter tails, roof brackets, and square brick porch columns, 6/1 windows, original sidelights and transom lights	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00137		1605 6TH AVE N	1960	Ranch	Ranch style residence with a low-pitched hip roof, asymmetrical facade, attached carport, open porch with decorative metal supports, picture window	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00138		1608 6TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a hip on hip roof, aluminum siding, full-width open porch under hip roof and scalloped awning	Fair	Not Contributing (district)

South Survey AOI

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00139		1612 6TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Folk Frame Vernacular residence with a pyramidal roof, intersecting gables, open front porch with square columns, vinyl siding on asbestos	Fair	Other
Je00140		1615 6TH AVE N	1920	Craftsman	Craftsman style residence with a double front gable roof, gable returns and wide overhang, attached carport, two-story rear addition with wood siding, brick exterior with brick patterns, open front porch with prominent brick	Fair	Other
Je00141		1616 6TH AVE N	1920	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a double gable roof, open front porch with square columns, wood siding, exterior brick chimney, boxed eaves	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00142		1619 6TH AVE N	c1930	Minimal Traditional	Minimal Traditional residence with an intersecting gable roof, no overhang, aluminum siding, exterior brick chimney	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00143		1620 6TH AVE N	1920	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a front gable on hip roof, brick piers, shingle siding	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00144		1625 6TH AVE N	1900	Queen Anne (Revival)	Queen Anne (Revival) residence with multiple rooflines, irregular form and asymmetrical facade, wood siding	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00145	The Foundry Dental Care	1700 6TH AVE N	1957	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat and shed roof, chamfered corner, asymmetrical facade, fixed windwos	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00146	St. Aloysius Catholic School	1701 6TH AVE N	1913	Mission/	Mission style educational building with a hip roof and shaped parapets, wide overhanging eaves, brick exterior, original fenestration pattern, wood roof brackets, pointed arch entryway	Good	Potentially Eligible
Je00147		1716 6TH AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular duplex with a low-pitched gable roof, exposed rafter tails, brick exterior with brick pattern detail on gable end, open front porch, 4/1 windows	Fair	Other
Je00148		1717 6TH AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular residence with front gable roof, brick and vinyl exterior, full width open porch	Fair	Other
Je00149	St. Aloysius Youth Center Building	1719 6TH AVE N	c1960	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern educational building with flat rooflines, wide overhang, multiple sections of double hung and fixed windows, brick pilasters between windows on elevations	Fair	Other

South Survey AOI

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00150	Esther Dorm	1720-1722 6TH AVE N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular duplex with a low-pitched front gable roof, exposed rafters, brick exterior with brick pattern detail on gable end, 4/1 windows	Fair	Other
Je00151	William G. Martin Family Dentistry	1729 6TH AVE N	1965	Mid-Century Modern	Mid-Century Modern commercial building with a flat roof and taller wall projections, brick exterior, recessed entries and porches	Good	Other
Je00161		1605 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influence including hipped roof with smaller gable, bay window, open porch with decorative railing, asymmetrical facade, interior brick chimney	Good	Other
Je00162		1609 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a hip on hip roof and offset small front gable, asymmetrical facade, asbestos siding	Fair	Other
Je00163		1615 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular duplex with a front gable roof, symmetrical facade, painted brick exterior	Fair	Other
Je00164		1619 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular duplex with a front gable roof, symmetrical facade, brick exterior with diamond detail on gable end	Fair	Other
Je00165		1621 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular duplex with a front gable roof, brick and wood siding, full-width open porch with brick columns	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00166		1700 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable roof, asymmetrical facade, open front porch under gable roof	Fair	Other
Je00167		1701 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable roof, exposed rafter tails, open front porch with brick piers and square wood columns, drop wood siding	Fair	Other
Je00168		1705 7TH AVE N	1920	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a low pitched cross-gable roof, knee braces, exposed rafter tails, drop siding, open front porch with concrete block piers and wood columns	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00169		1708 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable roof, exposed rafter tails, symmetrical facade, and asbestos siding	Fair	Not Contributing (district)

South Survey AOI

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00170		1709 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a steeply pitched hip roof and front gable, asymmetrical facade, open front porch, wood siding and shingles	Good	Other
Je00171		1712 7TH AVE N	1925	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a hip roof and hip dormer, exposed rafter tails, full-width open porch with prominent masonry piers and columns, rusticated concrete block and smooth concrete block siding	Fair	Other
Je00172		1714 7TH AVE N	1920	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a hip roof and smaller front gables, wood shingle siding, brick arch entryway	Fair	Other
Je00173		1715 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable roof and offset gable roof above an open front porch, asymmetrical facade, vinyl siding	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00174		1716 7TH AVE N	1920	Neo-Classical Revival	Neo-Classical Revival residential building with a hip on hip and front gable roof, recessed entry with decorative door surround, enclosed porch under hip roof	Fair	Other
Je00175		1717 7TH AVE N	1957	Ranch	Ranch residence with a gable on hip roof, wide overhang, recessed entry, picture window, and brick exterior	Fair	Other
Je00176		1718 7TH AVE N	1920	Mixed, none dominant	mixed styles showing features of Vernacular, NeoClassical, and bungalow/craftsman	Good	Other
Je00177		1721 7TH AVE N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Folk Frame Vernacular with a steeply pitched hip roof and offset front gable, open front porch, asymmetrical facade	Fair	Other
Je00186		611 16TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable roof, wide overhang, full-width open porch under hip roof, wood siding, interior brick chimney 2/2 windows	Fair	Other
Je00189	Old Board of Education Building	412 17TH ST N	1936	Colonial Revival	Two-story Colonial Revival building with a center and side gable roof, brick exterior, symmetrical facade with 6/6 windows and portico door surround, dentil course detail, interior brick chimney	Fair	Potentially Eligible
Je00190		429 17TH ST N	1955	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular duplex with a shallow gable on hip roof, double diamond concrete block exterior, full-width flat metal awning with decorative iron supports	Fair	Not Contributing (district)

South Survey AOI

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00191	Grace and Truth Apostolic Church	600 17TH ST N	1955	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular church building with an irregular roofline, brick and faux stone exterior, multiple window types, asymmetrical facade	Fair	Other
Je00192		612 17TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a gable on hip roof, exposed rafter tails, wood siding, open front porch with full-height brick columns	Fair	Other
Je00193		617 17TH ST N	1920	Bungalow	Bungalow residence with a clipped gable roof, exposed rafter tails, full-width porch partially enclosed with brick piers and brick columns	Poor	Other
Je00194		620 17TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable and wing, asymmetrical facade, enclosed front porch	Fair	Other
Je00195		624 17TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular duplex with a steeply-pitched hip roof and center gable, asymmetrical facade, and full-width open porch under hip roof	Fair	Other
Je00196		630 17TH ST N	1930	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a hip and gable roof, symmetrical facade, and asbestos and vinyl siding,	Poor	Not Contributing (district)
Je00197		711 17TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable roof and an offset front gable roof, asymmetrical facade, recessed entry, aluminum siding	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00198		715 17TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a front gable roof, open front porch under main roof, asymmetrical facade, and vinyl siding	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00213	Owen, Dr. Thomas McAdory, House	510 18TH ST N	1900	Frame Vernacular	Folk Frame Vernacular residence turned into office use, with multiple roof lines, irregular form and asymmetrical facade, enclosed wrap around porch	Fair	Listed
Je00215	Law Offices	518 18TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence turned into an office with a front gable and gable extension roof, altered facade, vinyl siding, replacement entry	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00218		616 18TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a steeply pitched front gable roof and low pitched front gable roof above enclosed porch, aluminum siding and original wood shingles on gable end	Fair	Other

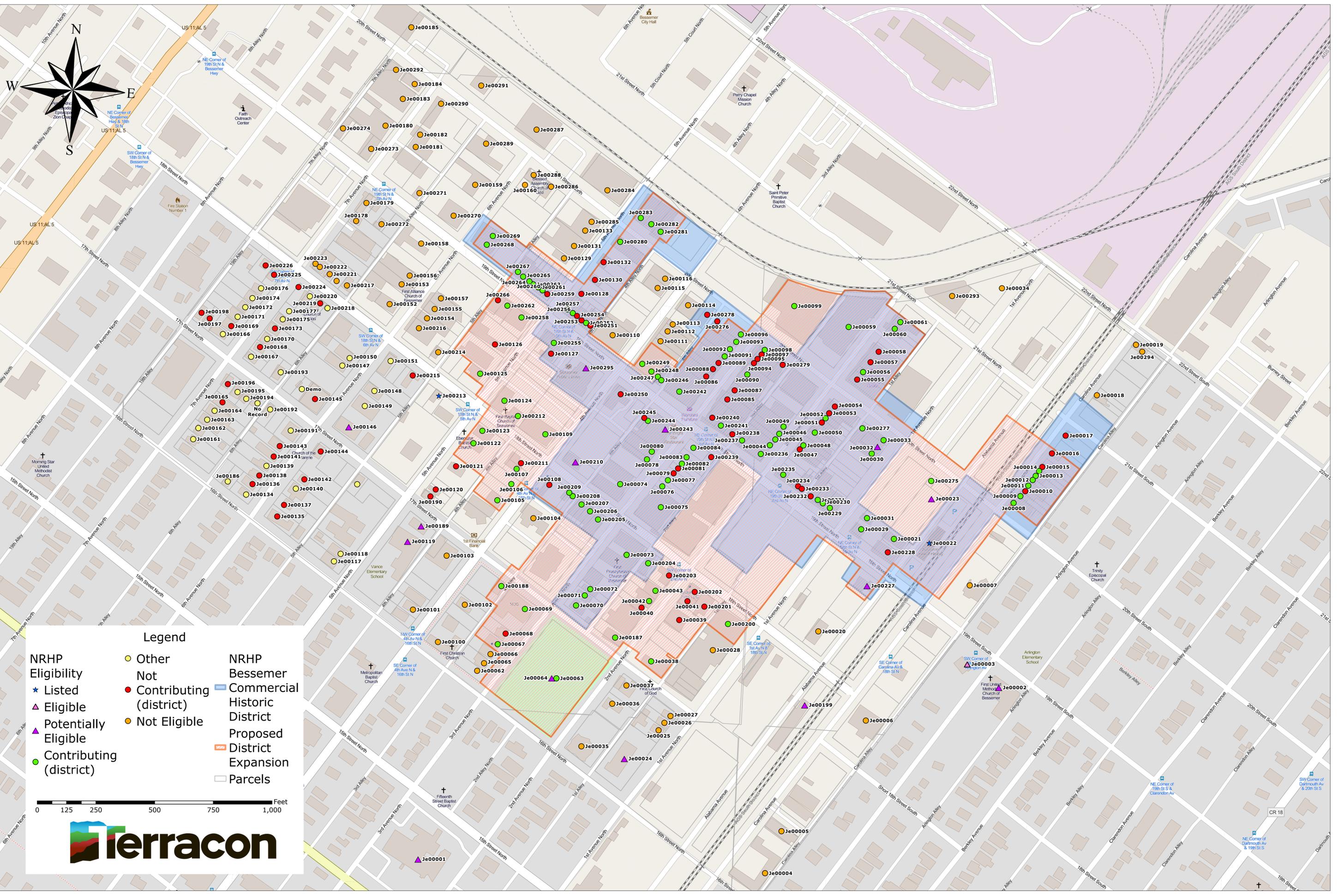
South Survey AOI

County: Jefferson

Site ID	Property Name	Address	Year Built	Architectural Style	Architectural Description	Resource Condition	NRHP Eligibility
Je00219		620 18TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with a clipped gable roof, open front porch with clipped gable roof, wood drop siding	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00220		624 18TH ST N	1920	Frame Vernacular	Folk Frame Vernacular with steeply pitched hip roof with smaller front gables, asymmetrical facade, metal siding, screened in porch under shed roof with brick piers and battered columns	Fair	Other
Je00222		629 18TH ST N	c1950+	Masonry Vernacular	Simple commercial brick structure, large windows have been boarded up, original entry replaced	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00223	Preston Law Office	629 18TH ST N	c1950+	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial structure with a brick exterior, stepped parapet facade, storefront windows with some infilled	Fair	Not Eligible
Je00224		630 18TH ST N	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a flat (built-up) roof, concrete block and brick exterior, boarded up windows	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00225		700 18TH ST N	1900	Frame Vernacular	Frame Vernacular residence with multiple gable rooflines, a shed roof above an open front porch, and a bay window on the side	Fair	Not Contributing (district)
Je00226	Alexander's Barber Shop & Car Wash	712 18TH ST N	1900	Masonry Vernacular	Masonry Vernacular commercial building with a side gable roof, brick and vinyl siding, open front porch under shed roof with large brick columns	Fair	Not Contributing (district)

Appendix C

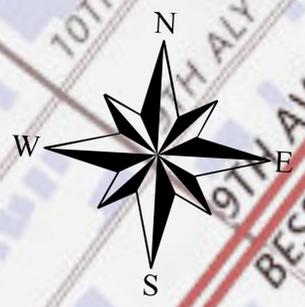
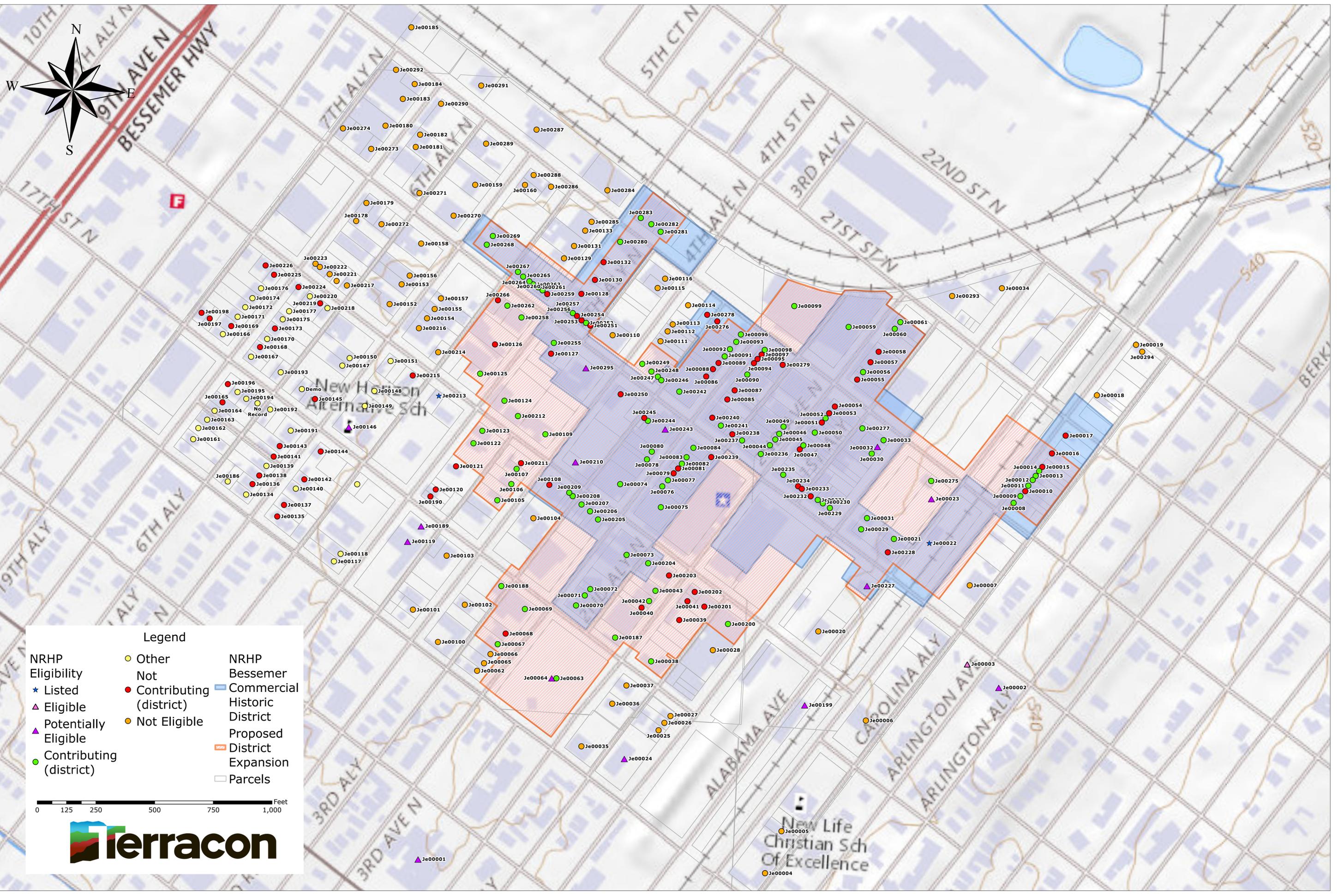
Historical Resources Survey Map



Legend

NRHP Eligibility	● Other	NRHP Bessemer
★ Listed	● Not	Commercial Historic District
▲ Eligible	● Contributing (district)	Proposed District Expansion
▲ Potentially Eligible	● Not Eligible	Parcels
● Contributing (district)		

0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet



- Legend**
- NRHP Eligibility
 - ★ Listed
 - ▲ Eligible
 - ▲ Potentially Eligible
 - Contributing (district)
 - Other
 - Not
 - Not Eligible
 - NRHP Bessemer Commercial Historic District
 - Proposed District Expansion
 - Parcels

New Horizon
Alternative Sch

New Life
Christian Sch
Of Excellence