Contract Publication Series 14-169

SURVEY OF CABELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SITES

by
Trent Spurlock, MHP

Prepared for

Cabell County Board of Education

Prepared by

cra
cultural resource analysts, inc

Kentucky | West Virginia | Ohio
Wyoming | Illinois | Indiana | Louisiana | Tennessee
Utah | Virginia | Colorado

Contract Publication Series 14-169

SURVEY OF CABELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SITES

By

Trent Spurlock, MHP

Prepared for

Howard Seufer, Jr.
Bowles Rice Attorneys at Law
600 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25301
Phone: (304) 347-1776
hseufer@bowlesrice.com

William A. Smith, Superintendent
Cabell County Public Schools
2850 5th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25702
Phone: (304)528-5043
wsmith@access.k12.wv.us

Prepared by

Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.
151 Walton Avenue
Lexington, Kentucky 40508
Phone: (859) 252-4737
Fax: (859) 254-3747
Email: cmniquette@crai-ky.com
CRA Project No.: K14B002

_____

Elizabeth G. Heavrin, M.H.P.
Principal Investigator

July 22, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF FIGURES

Introduction

The "Memorandum of Agreement Among the Board of Education of the County of Cabell, the West Virginia School Building Authority, and the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Demolition of the West Virginia Colored Orphan's Home and the Construction of a New Middle School at University Heights, Cabell County, West Virginia" states in Stipulation IX that the Board of Education will engage a person or persons meeting the Secretary of the Interior's qualifications to identify and record sites that are historically associated with the African American experience in Cabell County. In February 2014, the Board hired Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA) to address Stipulation IX of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) including identifying and recording significant African American historical sites in Cabell County. The work presented herein was completed between February and May 2014 by CRA's staff of qualified historians and architectural historians. As described below, this work would not have been possible without the assistance of several individuals, most notably Drs. Ancella R. Bickley and Cicero M. Fain. CRA extends gratitude for their valuable time and insight that contributed to the success of this project.

Methodology

CRA team members began the project by first conducting a literature review to identify previously-recorded historic sites identified with the African American experience in Cabell County. This included a review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database to identify individual sites and historic districts with such associations. Four sites were identified as previously listed in the NRHP in Cabell County that met the search parameters: the Barnett Hospital and Nursing School (1201 Seventh Avenue, Huntington); Douglass Junior and Senior High School (Tenth Avenue and Bruce Street, Huntington); the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home (3353 U.S. Route 60, Huntington); and the Albert Gallatin Jenkins House (8814 Ohio River Road). The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was razed for the construction of the new Huntington East Middle School while the other three NRHP listed sites remain extant.

Concurrent with the literature review, letters were mailed to the consulting parties that participated in the development of the MOA to request information on additional significant African American sites. Eleven letters were mailed to the consulting parties, including the Huntington Historic Landmark Commission and the Cabell County Historic Landmark Commission. Follow up telephone calls were made to a number of the consulting parties to discuss information concerning sites and to obtain contact information for other possible informants.

Drs. Ancella R. Bickley and Cicero M. Fain were identified during the literature review as having researched the African American experience in Huntington. Dr. Fain's thesis, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900" and dissertation, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929," both investigated the lives of black residents living in Huntington, with his thesis examining the years from Huntington's founding through the turn of the twentieth century. Dr. Fain's dissertation also began with Huntington's founding but continued its examination through the first quarter of the twentieth century.[1] Drs. Bickley and Fain, although no longer living in West Virginia, were contacted by CRA staff for additional possible sources of information and sites that may warrant further investigation. Both provided possible contacts and sources to examine during the research phase of the survey.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History's State Historic Preservation Office was contacted for additional information concerning resources that may have been previously surveyed

[1] Cicero M. Fain, III, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," Masters thesis, Ohio State University, 2003; Cicero M. Fain, III, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929" Ph.D.diss., Ohio State University, 2009.

with connections to Cabell County's African American experience. Members of CRA's staff conducted research in Lexington, Kentucky, at the University of Kentucky's Special Collections Library and searched online for web-based sources of information. While in Huntington, CRA staff members examined primary and secondary sources at Special Collections in the Morrow Library at Marshall University, the local history room at the Cabell County Public Library, and at the KYOWVA Genealogical and Historical Society. Staff members at each of the institutions were helpful with their assistance and knowledge of the area. After an initial examination of previously conducted research, CRA staff members visited sites associated with Cabell County's African American history. These sites were comprised of those previously listed in the NRHP, discovered during the research phase, and identified by informants. The individual buildings were photographed and the surrounding neighborhoods were assessed as to the alterations that have taken place over the past 50 years, such as the loss/replacement of original materials and building stock. If possible, informants at the individual sites were questioned as to the history of the structures. Additional research was conducted after the sites were initially surveyed and photographed.

This report contains a physical description and brief history of each recorded property. In addition, the report addresses the significance of each property to Cabell County's African American community, the potential for each site to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, and current preservation threats and opportunities for each site. Discussion focuses on the key goals of the study, which are to identify important sites and illuminate their often-forgotten history to enable future recognition and promote preservation, not to provide full NRHP evaluations. However, a note on potential NRHP eligibility is included because NRHP listing can be an important tool for generating public support and community pride; it provides a modicum of protection by requiring that impacts to listed and eligible properties are considered before implementing any federally funded or permitted project; and it may be required for procuring funds through preservation grants and tax credits. In general, in order for a property to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, it must be at least 50 years old and possess both historic significance and integrity. Significance may be found in three aspects of American history recognized by these NRHP Criteria:

A. association with historic events or activities;

B. association with important persons; or

C. distinctive design or physical characteristics.

A fourth criterion, Criterion D, or the potential to yield important information in prehistory or history, is typically reserved for archaeological sites and not used for aboveground resources. A property must meet at least one of the criteria for listing. Integrity must also be evident through historic qualities, including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Limitations for a project of this nature are to be expected, including the time allotted for research. One of the major constraints encountered for this project is the lack of existing information and research on the everyday lives of Cabell County's black citizens from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This is not surprising, as historical information pertaining to the African American experience, especially in the south, in the past has been relegated to early histories written and controlled by white authors who normally dismissed the contributions of African Americans. But recent studies have made inroads into the accomplishments and history of the everyday lives of African Americans. Carter G. Woodson, Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. Dubois, and others began addressing the national importance of black history in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Over the past decades inroads have been made to understanding Cabell County's African American history through the research and writings of Drs. Fain and Bickley, local historian Karen Nance, and others, and through the efforts of local groups such as the Carter G. Woodson Memorial Foundation and the KYOWVA Genealogical and Historical Society. Their work has been essential to CRA's

efforts. Information from area informants has also been critical to the success of this project, as the local community is cognizant of the sites recognized as significant to the African American experience.

Another major limitation for the survey is the high rate of loss of historic sites identified with Cabell County's African American community. This includes the recent losses of public buildings such as the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home and the State Industrial Home for Colored Girls, both formerly situated along Norway Avenue, and the Barnett Elementary School along Sixteenth Street (present-day Hal Greer Boulevard). Neighborhoods have also lost a substantial amount of building stock in areas historically associated with African American housing and commercial establishments, such as along Sixteenth Street, Eighth, Ninth, and Artisan Avenues, and Seventh Avenue near the former Barnett Hospital and Nursing School. Numerous houses along Eighth, Ninth, and Artisan Avenues between Sixteenth and Twentieth Streets have been razed for new housing or simply left with empty lots. Other black neighborhood institutions, such as the Barrett Center and the J. W. Scott Community Center continue to provide services to the neighborhood but under different organizations. These limitations hamper the depth of research available and the number of remaining structures that provide the physical manifestation of Cabell County's African American community's history.

Summary of Previous Research

Research over the past two decades has brought to light the significant contributions Cabell County's African American residents have provided to the culture and growth of the area since Huntington's establishment. The segregated nature of post-Civil War Cabell County provided the impetus for the black community to be self-reliant in the creation of separate religious, civic, and social institutions along with commercial and educational facilities. After the first institutions were established, leadership in the African American community quickly began to voice their opinions concerning the lack of educational, political, employment, and professional opportunities open to African Americans in the community.

Four sites in Cabell County have been previously listed the NRHP in recognition of their association to African American history and achievements in the county. One site is an example of a pre-Civil War plantation that exploited slave labor to support the lifestyles of the owners. Three of the listed sites convey methods in which the African American community created opportunities for themselves despite continuing discrimination. The first, the Albert Gallatin Jenkins House, was listed in 1978 for its association with Albert Gallatin Jenkins, politics and government, and for its architecture. The Albert Gallatin Jenkins House is located in the northern portion of the county approximately sixteen miles northeast of Huntington to the north of West Virginia Route 2. Although not officially listed in the NRHP for its association to African American history, the house and plantation have been recognized as having one of the largest concentrations of slaves in Cabell County prior to the Civil War utilized to operate the substantial farming operations of the plantation that was comprised of more than 4,000 acres.[2] The Douglass Junior and Senior High School, located at 1448 Tenth Avenue, Huntington, was listed in the NRHP on December 5, 1985, under Criterion A for its association to black history and education. The school, built circa 1924 to 1926, operated as a segregated educational facility until its closure in 1961 with the final integration of the local public

[2] James E. Harding, Albert Gallatin Jenkins House, or Green Bottom, National Register of Historic Places nomination (Charleston, WV: Historic Preservation Unit, West Virginia Department of Culture and History, 1977): 8:1–8:2; Stuart McGehee, "Black Folk at Green Bottom: From Slavery to Freedom on the Ohio Frontier" (Institute, WV: West Virginia State University, n.d.): 7, electronic document, located on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District website, http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/2006%20History%20of%20Slavery%20At%20Jenkins%20House2.pdf, accessed May 2014.

school system.[3] The Barnett Hospital and Nursing School, situated at 1201 Seventh Avenue, Huntington, was listed in the NRHP at both the state and local levels of significance on December 30, 2009 under Criterion A for its association with medical history, and Huntington's and West Virginia's African American history, and under Criterion B for its association to Dr. Clinton Constantine "C. C." Barnett, an African American doctor and son of one of the first black leaders in the community, Reverend Nelson Barnett. Dr. C. C. Barnett also served as Superintendent of Larkin State Hospital, originally a segregated hospital for the treatment of nervous disorders.[4] The fourth site listed in the NRHP for its association with African American history in Cabell County is the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home, later renamed the West Virginia Colored Children's Home. The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was listed in the NRHP in 1997 under Criteria A and C with statewide significance. According to the nomination, the institution was listed "under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Education and Ethnic Heritage as a physical representation of the institution's longstanding role in the provision of social services and education to the state's black community."[5] Additionally, the main building was considered significant under Criterion C for Architecture because of its design utilizing the Classical Revival-style for an institutional structure built in the early 1920s. The structure, formerly located at 3353 U.S. Route 60, Huntington, was erected circa 1922 to 1923 and demolished in 2011 for the construction of the new Huntington East Middle School.[6]

Some of the most exhaustive resent research into the history of Cabell County's African American community has been undertaken by Dr. Cicero Fain III, a former resident of Huntington. Dr. Fain's 2003 thesis for Ohio State University, entitled "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," examines the African American experience in Huntington during the first thirty years of the city's existence. In 2007, Dr. Fain published a journal article expanding the time period of his study of the African American experience in Huntington to the first three decades of the twentieth century titled "Black Response to the Construction of Colored Huntington, West Virginia, during the Jim Crow Era." In 2009, Dr. Fain continued his research into Huntington's segregated past with his Ohio State University dissertation, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929." In a journal article published in 2011, Dr. Fain looked further to the past to examine African Americans living in Cabell County from 1810 through 1865. A second article in 2011 addressed the years immediately following the Civil War in Cabell County, titled "Early Black Migration and the Post-emancipation Black Community in Cabell County, West Virginia, 1985–1871."[7]

Dr. Ancella Bickley has written numerous articles concerning African American history and individuals in West Virginia. In 1991 she and Joe William Trotter, Jr., edited a publication comprised of papers presented at the first two conferences examining black history in West Virginia. One of the papers in this compilation was presented by Dr. Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience." Other publications by Dr. Bickley utilized for this project include *Our Mount Vernons: Historic Register Listings of Sites Significant to the Black History of West Virginia* (editor); a journal

[3] Alan B. Gould, Douglass Junior and Senior High School National Register of Historic Places nomination (Huntington, WV: Marshall University, 1985): 7:1, 8:1.

[4] Karen N. Nance and Erin Riebe, Barnett Hospital and Nursing School National Register of Historic Places nomination (Barboursville, WV: 2009), 8:1, 8:8, electronic document, located on the National Register of Historic Places website, http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natregsearchresult.do?fullresult=true&recordid=1, accessed March and April 2014.

5 Lisa Adkins, West Virginia Colored Children's Home National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Charleston, WV: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, 1997), 8:2.

[6] Ibid., 7:2, 8:2.

[7] Cicero M. Fain, III, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," Masters thesis, Ohio State University, 2003: 1; Cicero M. Fain, III, "Black Response to the Construction of Colored Huntington, West Virginia, during the Jim Crow Era," *West Virginia History A Journal of Regional Studies*, New Series, Volume 1, No. 2 (Fall 2007): 1; Cicero M. Fain, III, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929," Ph.D.diss., Ohio State University, 2009; Cicero M. Fain III, "The African American Experience in Antebellum Cabell County, Virginia/West Virginia, 1810–1865," *Ohio Valley History* Volume 11, No. 3 (Fall 2011): 3–23; Cicero Fain, "Early Black Migration and the Post-emancipation Black Community in Cabell County, West Virginia, 1865–1871," *West Virginia History A Journal of Regional Studies*, New Series, Volume 5, No. 2 (Fall 2011).

article concerning the life of Carter G. Woodson; and entries in a publication detailing African American architects that practiced throughout the nation from after the Civil War through the Second World War.[8]

Additional previous research in Cabell County examining the lives of African Americans has also been conducted by residents of the county, such as Karen Cartwright Nance and Edna Duckworth. Jeanette M. Rowsey recently completed a history of Barboursville, the second county seat, which includes references to black residents. An unpublished paper by Jacqueline A. Housel from 1998, located at the Cabell County Public Library's local history room, comparing two parallel streets in a segregated portion of Huntington was identified during the records review. A number of technical reports have been completed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, concerning the history, residence, and archaeological surveys conducted at Greenbottom (also referred to as Green Bottom), the residence of Albert Gallatin Jenkins, such as Stuart McGehee's "Black Folk at Green Bottom: From Slavery to Freedom on the Ohio Frontier."[9]

Brief Overview of Cabell County's African American History

Cabell County was created in western Virginia from Kanawha County in 1809. Named after a former Virginia governor, the county's first seat of government was located in Guyandotte situated east of the Guyandotte River as it empties into the Ohio River. The Ohio River serves as the northwestern boundary of Cabell County (Figure 1). The county seat was moved five years after the county's creation to Barboursville, named after another Virginia governor. In 1810, the nearly 3,000 residents of the county included 221 slaves, or 7.5 percent of the county's population. Guyandotte and Barboursville prospered with their access to the Ohio River and the completion of a turnpike that extended to the James River. The local economy relied heavily on farming but the sale of timber also provided income. The county's slave population decreased by two over the ensuing five years with ownership of the 219 individuals spread among 89 slave owners. The federal census indicates the number of slaves in the county increased steadily from 1810 to 1840, 9.5 percent of the county's population comprised of enslaved residents in 1830. With 567 enslaved people living in Cabell County in 1840, the percentage of enslaved residents actually decreased to 6.9 percent as the number of whites increased at a greater rate over the preceding ten years. The county's overall population decreased to 6,299 in 1850 with the creation of neighboring Wayne and Putnam Counties in the 1840s. The enslaved population comprised 6.1 percent (389 people) of the county's residents in 1850, which included nearly 1,000 people living in Guyandotte.[10]

[8] Ancella Radford Bickley,"Black People and the Huntington Experience," In *Honoring Our Past, Proceedings of the First Two Conferences on West Virginia's Black History*, edited by Joe William Trotter, Jr. and Ancella Radford Bickley (Charleston, WV: Alliance for the Collection, Preservation, & Dissemination of West Virginia's Black History, 1991): 123–155; Ancella R. Bickley,, editor, *Our Mount Vernons: Historic Register Listings of Sites Significant to the Black History of West Virginia* (Huntington, WV: Carter G. Woodson Memorial Foundation and the Drinko Academy at Marshall University, 1997); Ancella R. Bickley,"Carter G. Woodson: The West Virginia Connection," *Appalachian Heritage* 36, no. 3 (Summer 2008): 59–69, 120. Electronic document, http://ezproxy.uky.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/220333792?accountid=11836, accessed May 2014; Ancella Bickley, "Carl Eugene Barnett (1895–1978)," in *African American Architects, A Biographical Dictionary 1865–1945*, Dreck Spurlock Wilson, editor (New York, NY: Routledge, 2004): 32–34.

[9] Jacqueline A. Housel, "Side-By-Side: A 1910 Comparison of Two Avenues in Huntington, WV," 1998, located at the Cabell County Public Library local history room, vertical files, Huntington, West Virginia; Stuart McGehee, "Black Folk at Green Bottom: From Slavery to Freedom on the Ohio Frontier" (Institute, WV: West Virginia State University, n.d.): 7, electronic document, located on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District website, http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/2006%20History%20of%20Slavery%20At%20Jenkins%20House2.pdf, accessed May 2014.

[10] S. Allen Chambers, Jr., *Buildings of West Virginia* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2004): 239; Fain, "The African American Experience in Antebellum Cabell County, Virginia/West Virginia, 1810–1865," 3–5, 9.

Figure 1. Map showing the location and current boundaries of Cabell County, West Virginia.

In 1815, the farm at Greenbottom was operated under the ownership of Wilson Cary Nicholas and the labor of eighteen slaves. Greenbottom is situated northeast and approximately 15 miles from Guyandotte on the south bank of the Ohio River. The number of slaves at the farm increased to 53 by 1820, indicating that the large farm operation contained almost fourteen percent of the enslaved population of the county. William Jenkins, born in 1777, sold his home and farm in Rockbridge County and in 1826 purchased over 4,000 acres along the Ohio River in the area of Greenbottom. Much of this was fertile river bottom land in the northern portion of present-day Cabell County. The owner of the vast agricultural enterprise benefited from the work of slave labor, building his federal-style two-story brick residence overlooking his fields and the Ohio River. With access to the Ohio River adjacent to the Greenbottom farm, the Jenkins could easily ship his agricultural products either up or down river. Federal census records indicate that, in 1840, there were 37 enslaved persons living at Greenbottom. Records just prior to the Civil War indicate the farm's diversified production including wheat, corn, wool, butter and livestock such as horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs. While the location of the Greenbottom farm adjacent to the Ohio River provided easy transportation options for the production of the farm, it also served as an enticement for enslaved persons to cross the river and access the opposite river bank to escape to the free state of Ohio. Prior to the taming of the Ohio River with locks and dams the watercourse could easily be forded in times of drought. Greenbottom's owner, along with many slave owners in Cabell County prior to the Civil War, was often in search of their enslaved property that had crossed the river in search of freedom.[11]

The community of Credo, west of Barboursville and Guyandotte, was created in 1857 by abolitionists. The leader of this group was Eli Thayer, a Congressman from Massachusetts. Members of this community provided assistance to fleeing slaves across the river to present-day Proctorville, Ohio. From here some were assisted further on their journey by the Underground Railroad. The Williams-Marcum House near the western edge of present-day Cabell County and Four Poll Creek is also thought to have served as a stop along the Underground Railroad.[12]

[11] McGehee, 7–8, 18, 21, 25–26.

[12] Fain, "The African American Experience in Antebellum Cabell County, Virginia/West Virginia, 1810–1865," 11; Ancella Radford Bickley,"Black People and the Huntington Experience," 127–129; Marshall University, "Underground Railroad Tri-State Area," tour brochure, n.d., located at Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

Other than escaping across the river, either on their own or with assistance provided by those along the Underground Railroad, cases of manumission did occur in Cabell County. Freed slaves, or those that had purchased their freedom from their owners, were forced by Virginia law to leave the state. This provided a hardship to those who did not want to leave their families or cross the river to live at a new and unfamiliar place. One of the largest examples of manumission in Cabell County occurred when fifty-one slaves were freed by Sampson Sanders in 1849 and provided $15,000 for them to relocate to Michigan. Sanders also provided tools and materials for the former slaves' journey and also lawyers to assist in the purchase of land for their new homes.[13]

Cabell County had never been a large slave holding county prior to the Civil War. The enslaved population of the county was 4.1 percent in 1860 just prior to the war, or 329 residents out of over 8,000 throughout the county. The new state was created from the western portion of Virginia in 1863, the same year as the Emancipation Proclamation. Since the slaves in newly formed West Virginia were not located in a state in rebellion with the Union, they were not freed with the Proclamation but only after the state legislature passed a bill in 1865 just prior to the war's conclusion. During and after the Civil War the number of African Americans living in Cabell County declined precipitously as this newly freed population moved to areas with greater opportunities and without the harsh memories and lingering prejudices of slavery. In 1870, only 123 African Americans lived in Cabell County. But this was soon to change with the arrival of the railroad and its necessity for a large workforce.[14]

Connecticut native Collis P. Huntington's actions were to have significant impacts on Cabell County's future. Born in 1821, Collis P. Huntington worked various jobs, including that of a peddler merchant before heading to California during the Gold Rush. Huntington continued to operate as a merchant before forming a partnership with three other merchants to construct a short line railroad. The partnership, known as the "Big Four," included Leland Stanford who later served as governor of California and in the U.S. Senate and established Stanford University. The Big Four created the Central Pacific which connected to the Union Pacific in 1869 to create the first transcontinental rail line. The Southern Pacific was also created by the Big Four. But Collis P. Huntington's railroad appetite was not yet sated, as he purchased the Chesapeake and Ohio (C & O) Railroad without the help of partners. His goal, similar to George Washington's dating to the eighteenth century, was to extend the railroad to connect the James River with the commercial markets along the Ohio River. The new railroad line would extend from Richmond, Virginia, and continue through the New River Valley to its terminus along the Ohio River, through territory filled with natural resources ready to be harvested and extracted such as timber, coal, oil, and iron. The Kanawha Turnpike, running through Barboursville, provided an existing passage for laborers and materials. Collis P. Huntington's next decision was the location for the terminus of his new railroad line. The railroad owner visited Guyandotte in 1869 and decided on a large floodplain in Cabell County that contained the small community of Maple Grove as the location for his new railroad terminal and city. With its terminus in Cabell County, the C & O Railroad would be situated between two of the largest cities along the Ohio River, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. Through the Central Land Company headed by Collis P. Huntington, approximately 5,000 acres were purchased along the floodplain between 1869 and 1871, with the city of Huntington, named after its founder, incorporated in late 1871. Rufus Cook surveyed and platted the new city, also in late 1871, utilizing perpendicular streets in a grid pattern for the level portion of the floodplain. The streets continued southward from the river banks to the rolling hills above the plain. Cook's plan for the city included wide avenues and boulevards. Crews were hired to clear off the four miles of floodplain before the new city and its railroad support buildings could be constructed. Necessary buildings for the railroad were constructed at a frantic pace, including the roundhouse, manufacturing facilities for building freight and passenger cars, a foundry, a lumber

[13] Fain, "The African American Experience in Antebellum Cabell County, Virginia/West Virginia, 1810–1865," 6–7; Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," 126.
[14] Fain, "The African American Experience in Antebellum Cabell County, Virginia/West Virginia, 1810–1865," 13, 18; Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," 132–133.

house to dry wood for construction and ties, and various buildings providing support services such as blacksmith shops. Besides building the infrastructure for the railroad facilities, manpower was necessary for the construction of the railroad around the mountains, beside rivers, and actually tunneling through the mountains. According to Dr. Fain, the railroad employed 5,000 African American workers to construct the line, with approximately 20 percent of the total laboring near Huntington. In early 1873 the first train reached the Ohio River city, traveling from Richmond, Virginia through the Kanawha and New River Gorge valleys.[15]

The construction of the railroad reversed the out migration of African Americans from West Virginia that started with the Civil War. European immigrants and white residents still probably outnumbered black employees of the railroad, but the lure of well-paying employment opportunities provided the incentive for African Americans to return to West Virginia. One of the soon-to-be early African American leaders of the new community arrived in the Huntington area from Buckingham County, Virginia. Nelson Barnett reached the area in 1871, preaching at various churches in the Ohio Valley and taking a job with the railroad. He returned to Virginia to entice to former neighbors to follow him back to Huntington where employment opportunities awaited. Returning to Huntington with Barnett was his brother-in-law, James Henry Woodson, the father of Carter G. Woodson, the future "Father of Black History." James Henry Woodson had previously worked on the newly established railroad in West Virginia in 1869 but quickly returned to his home in Virginia. There were no social institutions for the newly emigrated black residents of Cabell County, such as churches, schools, social and civic organizations. Therefore these new residents had to rely on familial ties to stand against the racial prejudices of their employers, fellow employees, and neighbors.[16]

Some of the African Americans that moved to Huntington soon after its creation lived in an area of town known as The Patch, which was located near Second Avenue between Eighth and Eleventh Streets. The Patch was situated near the railroad shops making the area convenient for newly arriving laborers. Still, there were no black religious institutions in the city. African American communities had been established since the early nineteenth century north of Cabell County in Ohio and Underground Railroad stops included sites in nearby Ironton, Burlington, and Proctorville. The Macedonia Church was an African American church founded in 1813 near Burlington but later moved to Proctorville. Mt. Olive Baptist Church was established in 1872 in Huntington and was later renamed First Baptist Church. Reverend Nelson Barnett was one of the organizers of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, located in a log house along Seventh Avenue, and a pastor from Proctorville, Ohio served in an advising capacity to the newly formed congregation. African American Methodist and Baptist parishioners appear to have met together for a time on a ridge south of Huntington near the present-day Spring Hill Cemetery. The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church was established between 1871 and 1874 (different sources have varying dates) and later was renamed the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. The first church was located near Sixteenth Street and Eighth Avenue in an area that was beginning to serve as one of the centers of the black community in the new city. The churches formed the first physical social institutions for African Americans in Huntington. Meanwhile, some black residents began to operate commercial establishments in the city.[17] Dr. Fain describes one such entrepreneur, Robert Long, who operated several establishments such as "a barbershop, a restaurant, a billiard parlor, and owned several other properties, including a building he contributed to the city for an African American school."[18] It appears Long lived in the community for only a short time.

[15] James E. Casto, *Huntington An Illustrated History* (Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1985): 24; Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 12–14, 17; Fain, "Early Black Migration and the Post-emancipation Black Community in Cabell County, West Virginia, 1865–1871," 30, 35–36, 38; Chambers, 242.
[16] Fain, "Early Black Migration and the Post-emancipation Black Community in Cabell County, West Virginia, 1865–1871," 46, 49–50; Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 14–15, 35, 37, 40.
[17] Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 38, 43, 47–48, 66–67.
[18] Ibid., 67.

The 1877 Illustrated Atlas of the Upper Ohio River Valley by E. L. Hayes includes a map of Huntington. A portion of the map shows the C & O Railroad splitting the city in half as it extends to the east and west while spur lines encircle the central portion of the city and run along the river bank to a wharf and depot (Figure 2). The atlas depicts numerous buildings along the east-west Second through Fourth Avenues, although it is very doubtful that all structures are indicated on the atlas. A chapel is illustrated in the middle of Fifteenth Street just north of the railroad tracks but it is unclear if this is a white or black church. South of the railroad tracks along Sixteenth Street (although the street does not extend south of the tracks on the map) is a "Colored Church" which is probably the first location of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church. A large tract to the west of the church is owned by C. F. Parsons, who has a large residence/structure north of the railroad tracks along Sixteenth Street. The first building of the State Normal School (later to become Marshall University) is also on the east side of Sixteenth Street. Large portions of land that have not been subdivided into lots are shown as owned by the Central Land Company of West Virginia. The platted portion of the map extends eastward to near the Guyandotte River. The C & O Railroad shops and roundhouse are included in this portion of the map not shown in Figure 2. A cemetery, which may be present-day Spring Hill Cemetery, is indicated on another map south of Twenty-Fourth Street.[19]

The first school for African Americans in the area was opened in 1873 in a log structure on Cemetery Hill near Spring Hill Cemetery. White constituents were opposed to integrated schools and, in 1866, the state legislature discussed a bill that eventually passed setting the amount of tax money that would be allocated to black schools. The schools had to be created if there were more than twenty students who could attend them. Because of the low number of black children that could attend the new school the communities of Guyandotte and Huntington had to share the school. Reverend Isaac Vinton (I. V.) Bryant was the first teacher at the new school. Robert Long donated a building later in 1873 on Twelfth Street for the first African American school in Huntington. The school building could also be used as a church. The school moved to various locations in the city over the next few years and ended up at the end of Fifteenth Street near Seventh Avenue in an area referred to as Holderby Grove. This may be the chapel building shown on the 1877 atlas (Figure 2). In December 1875 the school was serving thirty students although daily attendance was lower.[20]

The Central Land Company sold a lot to Mt. Olive Baptist Church for the location of a new church building. The new sanctuary was erected from 1879 to 1880 at 834 Eighth Avenue. Renamed First Baptist Church, the religious building's new location was at the western edge of the residential area that contained many of the city's African American residents. Sixteenth Street and Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church served as the eastern edge of this residential area, as black residents began to move south of the C & O Railroad tracks and away from the commercial activities found along the river bank and in the city's business core.[21]

According to Dr. Fain, the county's population doubled between the federal census in 1870 and 1880 because of the establishment of Huntington and its industrial and commercial growth caused by the C & O Railroad's terminus in the city. Slightly more than 13,700 people lived in Cabell County with 23 percent living in Huntington. Fifty-four percent of the county's African American population of 902 residents lived in Huntington. Unfortunately higher paying supervisory and professional jobs were not within the grasp of the city's black population because of a lack of educational opportunities and the prejudices of the day. Many of the black male population were employed in kitchens, on paddle boats, stables and hotels while women worked as domestics or washing laundry. Twenty-three occupations for African Americans are listed in the 1880 census, including cigar makers and laborers, which comprised the largest percentage of workers. As evidence of the employment opportunities in

[19] E. L. Hayes, *Illustrated Atlas of the Upper Ohio River Valley From Pittsburgh, PA to Cincinnati, Ohio* (Philadelphia, PA: Titus, Simmons, and Titus, 1877): 169, 172, 174, located at the University of Kentucky Special Collections Library, Lexington, Kentucky.
[20] Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 69–71.
[21] Ibid., 77.

the county with the arrival of the railroad, only six African Americans in the county listed their employment as working on a farm.[22]

The African American population continued to increase in the city throughout the next three decades. In 1890, there were 1,231 black residents in Huntington comprising eight percent of the city's population. Because of a long economic depression in the 1890s the number of black residents declined slightly in the city. As a percentage of Huntington's population the number of African American residents increased to over ten percent.

By 1902, much of the original grid plat of Huntington north of the railroad tracks had buildings lining the streets (Figure 3). There were two major streets leading south from the central portion of the city, including Sixteenth Street. Structures had begun to be built along Eighth Avenue south of the railroad tracks between Sixteenth and Twentieth Streets. Huntington had already far surpassed its neighbors in size, with Guyandotte to the east and Central City to the west. The number of black residents increased to 2,140 in Huntington according to the 1910 federal census although as a percentage of the city's total population the number decreased to slightly below seven percent. It was during these years that new civic institutions were created by African Americans to supplement the churches as places where they could freely socialize and have an impact in the public's perception and politics in the white sphere of influence. Fraternal societies were formed by African Americans who were normally excluded from white organizations. These societies included such organizations as the Household of Ruth, Odd Fellows, Masons, Knights of Pythias, and others. The first reception and banquet for the Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) took place at the Knights of Pythias Hall in June 1908, the same year the organization was established in Huntington. The Knights of Pythias Hall, or K. of P. Hall, was located on Ninth Street between Second and Third Avenues. Professor J. W. Scott was the president of the organization.

There were no black property owners in the city in 1880, but by 1890, there were twenty-three. A group of African Americans owned an area along Norway Avenue known as "The Forty Acre Field" that included agricultural endeavors. A black family occupied Johnson Hollow (also known as Johnson Heights) in a hollow between the Guyandotte River and Ohio River beginning in the early 1880s, if not sooner. McGathic, an escaped slave, took the name James Johnson and began buying land in the hollow in 1881. Succeeding generations of the Johnson family continued to live in the hollow for a number of years.[23]

The first black high school in Huntington was erected at the intersection of Eighth Avenue and Sixteenth Street in the early 1890s. Named after Frederick Douglass, the school was led by William T. McKinney and then Carter H. Barnett, the son of Reverend Nelson Barnett. The first class to graduate was in 1893 with three graduates. Carter G. Woodson, son of James Henry Woodson, graduated from Douglass High School in 1896 and returned to serve as the school's principal in 1900. Because of the increasing number of students, additions to the school building were erected in 1905 and 1913. Douglass High School was the only school to serve African Americans in the city although other elementary schools were operating near the turn of the twentieth century, such as at the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church's parochial school, the Richmond Street School (in Guyandotte), and the McKinney school serving black children in western Huntington. African Americans continued to move to the area near Douglass High School south of the railroad tracks and between Sixteenth and Twentieth Streets.[24] According to Dr. Fain, "By the turn of the century, this area essentially

[22] Ibid., 78–79.

[23] Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 103; Ancella Bickley and Newatha Johnson Perry, "McGathic-Johnson," in *The Heritage of Cabell County, West Virginia, Vol. 1*. by County Commission of Cabell County (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1996): 215; Edna Duckworth, "A Black History of Huntington," n.d., located in Manuscript Collections D, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

[24] Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 86, 93, 103, 108–111; Ancella Radford Bickley,"Black People and the Huntington Experience," 137–138, 140; United States Geological Survey, 1902 (reprinted 1910), Guyandot, West Virginia-Ohio, 15-minute topographic quadrangle map, Washington, D. C.; "First Annual Reception and Banquet to

encompassed the locus of black Huntington."[25] A portion of the 1904 Sanborn Insurance Company Map shows the Douglass High School at the southwest corner of the Eighth Avenue and Sixteenth Street intersection (Figure 4). The C & O Railroad freight tracks extend along Sixteenth Street. On the opposite side of Sixteenth Street from the school is the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church. The majority of structures aligned along Eighth Avenue between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets are dwellings, indicated by a "D.," while a grocery store is situated near the church. Besides property ownership, employment opportunities were also increasing for black residents, although they continued to be tempered by the racial prejudices of the time. The first African American attorney was admitted to practice law in Cabell County in the mid-1890s. Other professionals found work in Huntington as teachers and even a lone doctor. Black males continued to work as laborers but also as contractors, street pavers, masons, barbers, janitors, waiters, cooks, and owners of commercial establishments.[26]

In 1911, the Y. M. C. A. of Huntington published a bulletin by Professor J. W. Scott entitled *Progress of the Huntington Negro*. Professor Scott enumerates a number of industries in the county such as the railroad car manufacturing and repair plants, a pottery, a veneering plant, lumber firms, and furniture factories. Huntington's progression included 12 miles of street car lines, 30 miles of paved streets, telephones, municipal water, and electricity. Between 1900 and 1911, according to Professor Scott, approximately 140 pieces of real estate were purchased by African Americans in Huntington. Some of the most recognizable purchasers of property include: Professor J. W. Scott; Dr. C. C. Burnett; C. S. McClain (funeral home operator); C. E. McGhee (established the African American Orphans' Home); and Reverend A. D. Lewis. Four African American churches with approximately 700 members were located in the city, including: First Baptist Church, the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, and Young Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. African American fraternal societies in the city consisted of: St. Lukes Lodge; the K. of P. Number 5; the K. of P. Number 76; the Y. M. C. A.; Household of Ruth; the True Reformers Lodge; the K. of P. Brass Band; the Elks Lodge headed by Dr. C. C. Barnett; the Odd Fellows (Grand United Order of Odd Fellows); and the Masonic Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. Professor Scott also expresses the needs of the city's black community including additional businesses such as a grocery, hotel, clothing store, and laundry. Existing commercial establishments for the African American community were comprised of a funeral home, five barbershops, a carpet cleaning business, and a restaurant.[27]

According to Dr. Fain, the only southern state that increased its population between 1890 and 1910 was West Virginia. By 1920 Huntington was the second largest city in West Virginia. According to the 1920 census, Huntington's population was over 51,000 while African Americans comprised 5.6 percent of this total or 2,883 residents. Through the 1920s boom to the start of the Great Depression, both Huntington and its black population surged, with more than 75,500 total residents including 4,630 African Americans (for 6.1 percent of the city's total population). By 1930, Huntington was the state's largest city and included the second largest population of African Americans in the state. Even with this significant number of black residents in the city, white residents retained a large majority in numbers and in the political and business circles of the county.[28]

One instrument utilized to direct African Americans into certain residential areas was the use of restrictive covenants in deeds that indicated the property (land and/or residence) could not be sold to a

---

be given by the Y. M. C. A." brochure, 1908, located at Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia; Edna Duckworth, "A Black History of Huntington," n.d., located in Manuscript Collections D, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

[25] Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 110.

[26] Fain, "The Forging of a Black Community: Huntington, West Virginia, 1870–1900," 111, 115; Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1904): Sheet 14.

[27] J. W. Scott, *Progress of the Huntington Negro* (Huntington, WV: Y. M. C. A. of Huntington, 1911): 1–2, 5–11, 13.

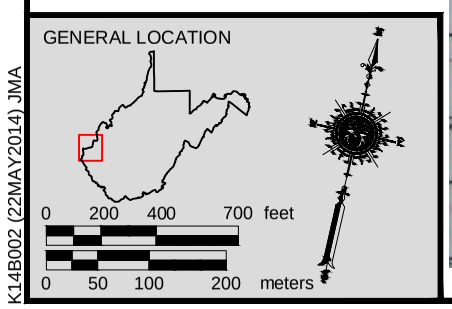
[28] Fain, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929," 295; Fain, "Black Response to the Construction of Colored Huntington, West Virginia, during the Jim Crow Era," 1–3.

person of color. Huntington was in no way alone in the use of such covenants, which were in use in many areas of the nation. The use of restrictive covenants limited the areas in which African Americans could live and perpetuated the segregated practices throughout the Jim Crow years extending from the end of Reconstruction in the 1870s through the civil rights movement in the mid-twentieth century. While the covenants may have kept black residents from residing in other portions of the city and redlined the areas in which whites wanted them to live, these residents continued to build and buy dwellings in areas close to Sixteenth Street. Addition Number 1, platted in 1880, was a racially integrated development situated south of the railroad tracks between Sixteenth and Twentieth Streets and included Eighth, Ninth, and Artisan Avenues. A portion of this area is depicted in Figure 4. Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church was located at the intersection of Sixteenth Street and Eighth Avenue but a new building was under construction in 1917, further to the east along Eighth Avenue. Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was built in 1924 in Addition Number 1 along Ninth Avenue. The lot size in portions of Addition Number 1 was very narrow, allowing for shotgun houses with little yard area. The smaller lot sizes, possibly created by the division of original lots by speculators, allowed both white and black potential buyers to purchase less expensive houses than would have been constructed on the larger lots. The 22-acre Holderby Addition was subdivided in 1903 and was situated further south between Eleventh and Thirteenth Avenues and to the east of Sixteenth Street. This subdivision offered amenities such as wide avenues and rear alleys and easy access to the nearby streetcar line. The Holderby Addition's lots also contained restrictive covenants that they could only be sold to whites, thereby precluding African American ownership in the development. Ceramic Addition was situated between Addition Number 1 and the Holderby Addition to the east of Sixteenth Street. The Ceramic Addition was comprised of excess property that was purchased for the Huntington China Company which was located along the east side of Sixteenth Street and between Doulton and Charleston Avenues. In 1910, Artisan Avenue between Sixteenth and Twentieth Streets was comprised of dwellings owned by white (60 percent) and black (40 percent) residents although the same area of Daulton Avenue had homes that were nearly all owned by white residents. Artisan Avenue in Addition Number 1 was home to a diverse group of African Americans including a minister, teacher, doctor, hotel cook, city driver, bellboy, watchman, and plasterers, while most were laborers for the railroad. Of the thirteen employed women most washed clothes for wealthier whites. By 1920, Artisan Avenue had more black (60 percent) than white (40 percent) residents and the African American households tended to be grouped in the middle of the street rather than at the ends near the intersections. Platted just two years after the Holderby Addition by a former Confederate, Washington Place was developed as a segregated subdivision for black residents. White residents also purchased lots and homes in the development. Washington Place was bounded by Sixteenth Street to the east, Shelton Lane (present-day Fourteenth Street) to the west, Eighth Avenue to the north and the alley to the south of Eleventh Street.[29]

New state-sanctioned and locally-created African American institutions continued to be erected in Cabell County during the first four decades of the twentieth century. The Reverend Charles McGhee established the West Virginia Normal and Industrial School for Colored Children in Central City, immediately west of Huntington, circa 1900. Circa 1904, McGhee purchased land along Norway Avenue and constructed a new building for his facility. In 1911, the state purchased the facility and renamed it the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home. The institution's building was expanded between 1919 and 1920, but was razed by a fire in 1920. A new, three-story, Classical Revival-style building was opened in late 1923 to replace the former orphans' home. This facility operated until 1956 after the U. S. Supreme Court's ruling ending segregation of educational facilities. The former orphans' home was demolished for construction of the new Huntington East Middle School that

[29] Fain, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929," 295, 315–316, 318–321; Fain, "Black Response to the Construction of Colored Huntington, West Virginia, during the Jim Crow Era," 1, 11–13; Housel, n.p.

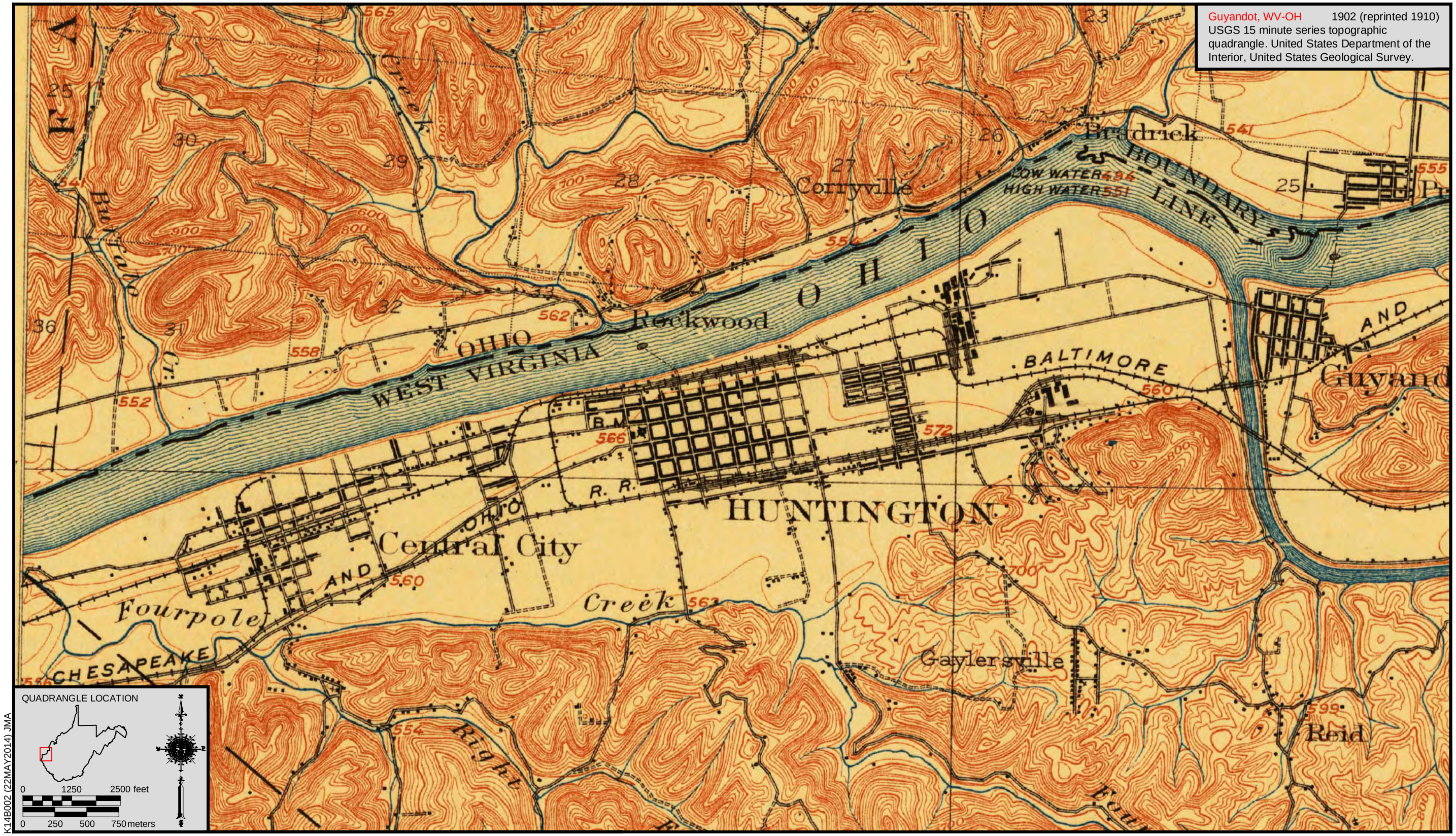
Illustrated Atlas of the Upper Ohio River Valley From Pittsburgh, PA to Cincinnati, Ohio 1877
E.L. Hayes
Titus, Simmons, and Titus
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 2. Portion of 1877 Illustrated Atlas of the Upper Ohio River Valley, showing developed and undeveloped areas of Huntington along with chapel and colored church near the railroad tracks at Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets.

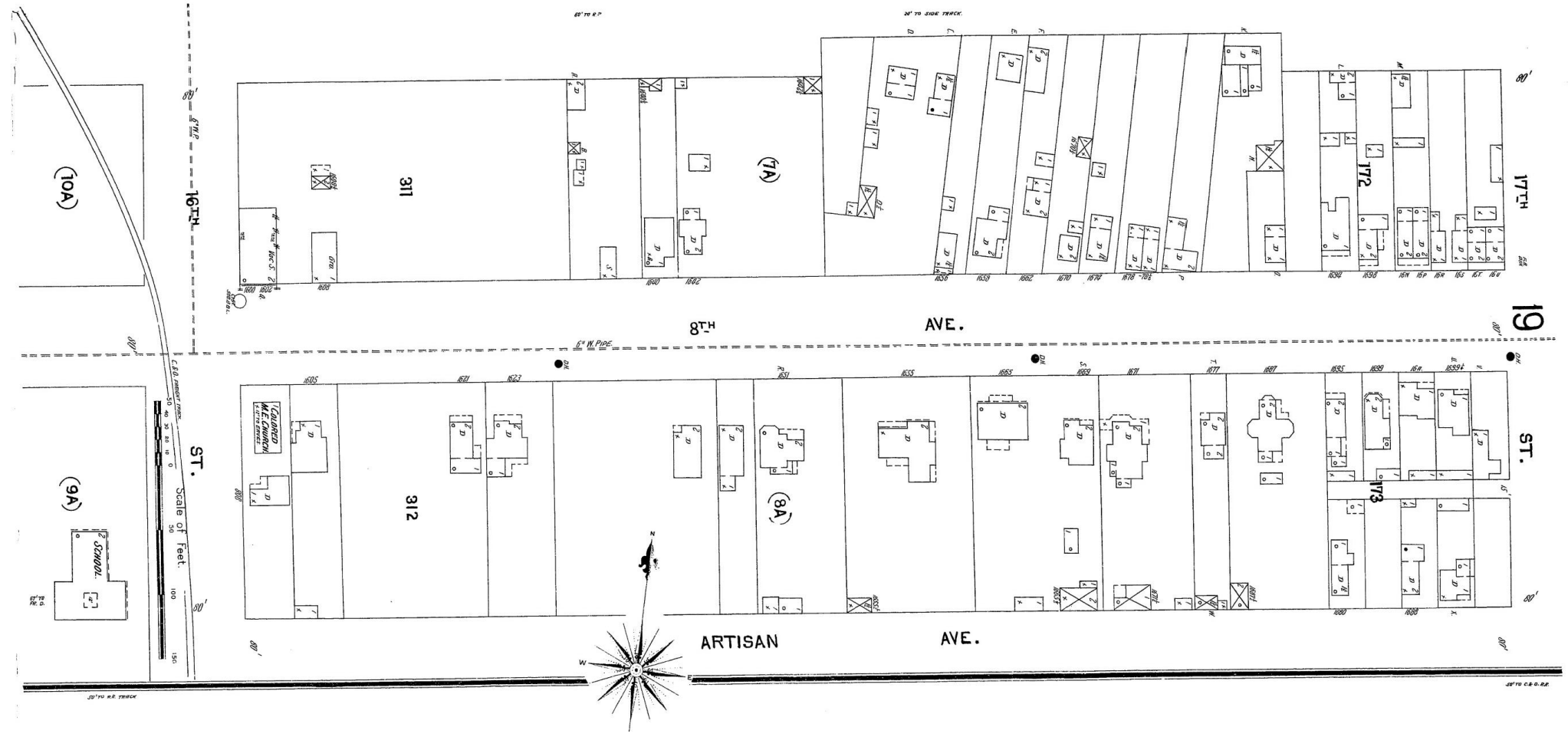
Guyandot, WV-OH 1902 (reprinted 1910)
USGS 15 minute series topographic quadrangle. United States Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey.



K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 3. Portion of 1902 (reprinted 1910) Guyandotte, West Virginia-Ohio, 15-minute topographic quadrangle map, showing the development of Huntington's streets and areas outside the city.

Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia 1904
Sheet 19
Sanborn Map Company
New York, New York



K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 4. Portion of 1904 Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, showing residential development along Eighth Avenue and Douglass High School and Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church at intersection with Sixteenth Street.

opened in January 2014.[30] A second three-story building was erected on the property of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home but on the opposite side of Norway Avenue. The State Industrial Home for Colored Girls opened in February 1926. This building was demolished circa 2010.[31] The first hospital administered by African Americans was created in 1912 by Dr. C. C. Barnett (son of Reverend Nelson Barnett) and his wife. The hospital was utilized by local African Americans and was recognized by both the federal government and the C & O Railroad. A nursing school was established in the hospital in 1918, and the Barnett Hospital, located at the intersection of Twelfth Street and Seventh Avenue just north of the railroad tracks, was greatly enlarged in 1925.[32] A new, three-story Douglass Junior and Senior High School was constructed between 1924 and 1925 by an Ohio firm between Bruce and Douglas Streets in the Washington Place subdivision. With the construction of the new school, the previous Douglass High School at Sixteenth Street and Eighth Avenue was renamed the Barnett School (demolished in recent years) and continued to serve African American elementary students. Additions were later constructed to the Douglass Junior and Senior High School, including an auditorium and gymnasium.[33]

Local educational and assistance programs also were created in the 1930s because of the hardships caused by the Great Depression. The J. W. Scott Community Center, named after former principal of Douglass High School and a leader in various social and civic clubs, was established in 1928 just prior to the start of the Great Depression, under the leadership of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church's pastor, Dr. Miles Fisher. The center's purpose was to provide black youth and adults a social gathering place to take part in activities for self-improvement. The organization moved to Eighth Avenue between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets in 1937 before arriving at its final location in 1948 at 1637 Eighth Avenue just west of Sixteenth Street. The purpose of the organization changed over the years from principally serving African Americans to serving all members of the local community. The J. W. Scott Community Center offered educational and recreational activities and space could be rented for social functions such as luncheons, receptions, or other gatherings. In 1951, the Child's Development and Improvement Club was established at the J. W. Scott Community Center to assist children from age seven to twelve to appreciate various forms of art including music, plays, and dancing.[34]

The Barnett Child Care Center, named for Reverend Nelson Barnett, began in the early 1930s at the Barnett School at the intersection of Eighth Avenue and Sixteenth Street. The program was established by a former graduate of Douglass High School and initially had six children whose mothers were able to find employment because of the efforts of the child care center. The center moved to various locations through the first years of its existence, including the rear of Ebenezer

[30] Lisa Adkins, West Virginia Colored Children's Home National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Charleston, WV: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, 1997), 8:3–8:4, 8:9; House Bill No. 17, Chapter 24, *Establishment of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home*, Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, 30th Regular Session (1911), online resource, http://www.wvculture.org/history/africanamericans/wvcoloredorphans01.html, accessed March 2014; State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Sixth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1920, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 357; "Board of Control to Rebuild Home of Negro Orphans," *Huntington Advertiser*, April 6, 1920; State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Eighth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1922 to June 30, 1924, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 317; Ancella R. Bickley, editor, *Our Mount Vernons: Historic Register Listings of Sites Significant to the Black History of West Virginia*, 123.

[31] "Asks Bids on New State Building," *Charleston Gazette*, April 10, 1924; "New State School Work Progresses," *Charleston Gazette*, September 16, 1925; "Home for Negro Girls May Open in February," *Charleston Daily Mail*, January 3, 1926.

[32] Karen N. Nance and Erin Riebe, Barnett Hospital and Nursing School National Register of Historic Places nomination (Barboursville, WV: 2009), 8:5–8:10, electronic document, located on the National Register of Historic Places website, http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natregsearchresult.do?fullresult=true&recordid=1, accessed March and April 2014; Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," 147; Rikki Miller, "Answering the Call: The Creation and Cultural Significance of the Barnett Hospital," 2011, electronic document located on "The Carter Woodson Project" website of Marshall University, http://www.marshall.edu/carterwoodson/rikki_miller.asp, accessed April and May 2014.

[33] Alan B. Gould, Douglass Junior and Senior High School National Register of Historic Places nomination (Huntington, WV: Marshall University, 1985): 7:1.

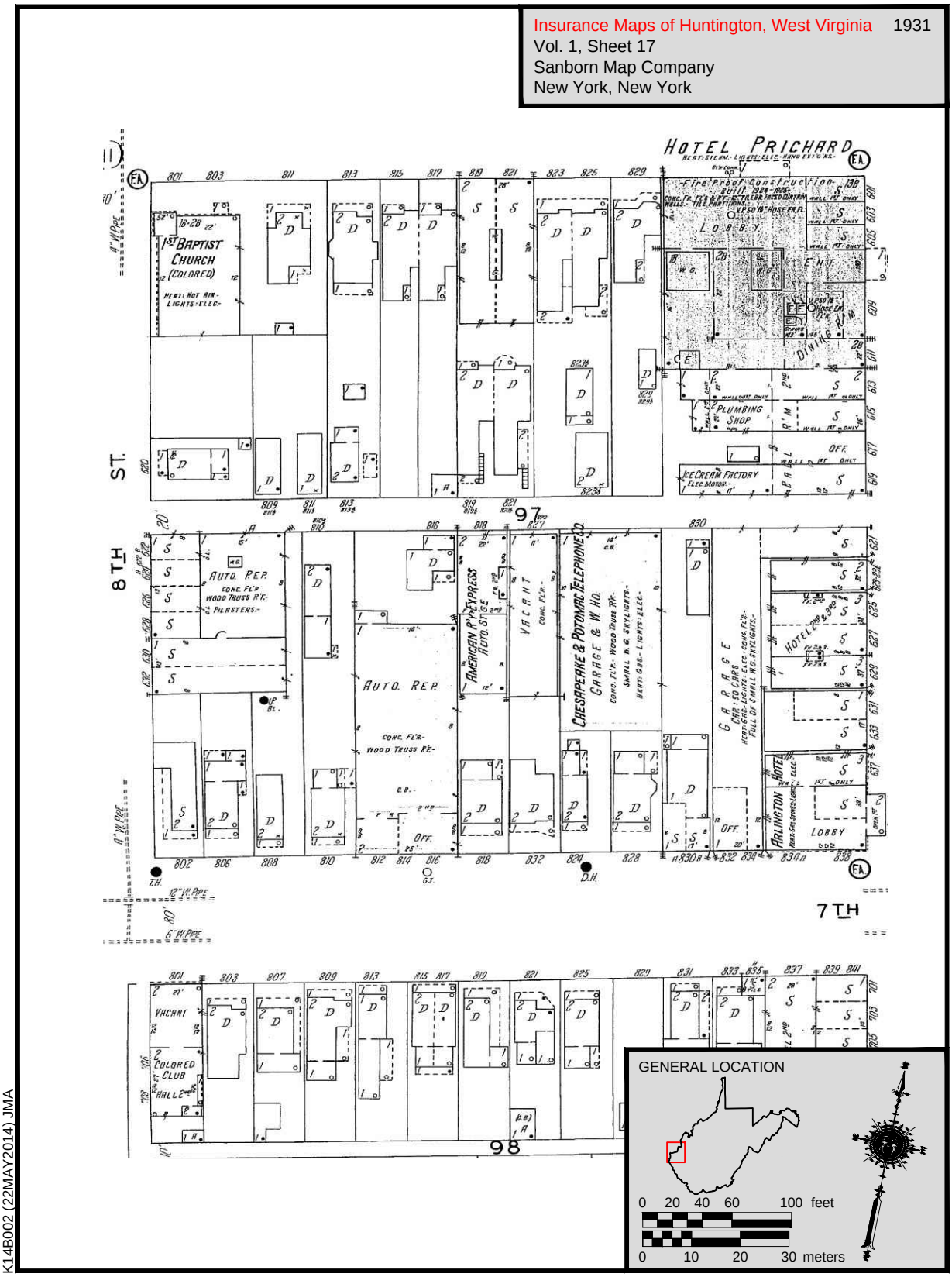
[34] "J. W. Scott Community Center," brochure, n.d., located in the Carl Burrows Papers at Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia; "History and Purposes of the C. D. I. Club," brochure, n.d., located in the Carl Burrows Papers at Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

United Methodist Church. For a time during the Great Depression the operation received federal funding as a Lanham Act Nursery. After federal funding ended, the program relied on local citizens, businesses, and community clubs for operating funds. The Barnett Child Care Program was incorporated in 1954 and it moved to its last location at 1524 Tenth Avenue in 1978 at the intersection of Sixteenth Street and near the A. D. Lewis Community Center. A program from 1999 indicates that the facility offered a playground and educational experiences.[35] As stated in the program, "Barnett's educational philosophy embraces the traditions, scholarship, and art of all cultures; but it emphasizes the African-American culture to which its founders belonged."[36] The Barnett Child Care Center closed in 2008 but the building continues to house public educational services such as a computer lab, areas for public meetings, and a community garden.[37]

In the 1920s a court case that started in Huntington rendered a legal decision that abolished the use of restrictive covenants in West Virginia based on ethnicity. A black couple purchased property in Huntington in 1926 that had been subdivided with restrictive covenants in 1920. A white neighbor brought a legal suit against the African American couple and won the case, resulting in the couple receiving an eviction notice and notification that their deed was not legal. The Huntington branch and the state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) then became involved and filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, who in 1929 reversed the previous court finding. This legal case abolished the legal standing of using restrictive covenants as a means of perpetuating segregation in home ownership.[38]

First Baptist Church constructed a new building in the 1890s on the north side of the railroad tracks near the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street.[39] The area around First Baptist Church was becoming more commercialized by the early 1930s, with fewer residences in the vicinity (Figure 5). The C & O Passenger Station was located on Seventh Avenue near the church and explains the number of hotels in the vicinity. A number of auto repair shops and garages were also in the area. A "Colored Club" was located at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Sixth Street.[40] By 1931, the northern portion of the Washington Place subdivision, west of Sixteenth Street, had been nearly fully developed, primarily with residences (Figure 6). The majority of business establishments were aligned along Sixteenth Street, along with the Barnett School. An overall sewing factory was situated on Eighth Street and would have provided employment for area women. The Douglass Junior and Senior High School, prior to its additions, is located along Tenth Avenue.[41] The opposite side of Sixteenth Street was also lined with businesses, as was the western portion of Eighth Avenue's north side between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets (Figure 7). The northwest portion of Addition Number 1, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, is nearly filled with development, including housing with various size lots. African American institutions situated along this portion of Eighth Avenue included Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, the Home for the Aged and Infirm, and New Bethel Baptist Church.[42] The northwestern portion of the Ceramic Addition, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets and Ninth and Doulton Avenues, was also nearly fully developed with residences

[35] Barnett Child Care Center, "Ninth Annual Barnett Child Care Center Juneteenth Festival, From Whence We Came…," program, 1999, n.p., located at Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.
[36] Ibid.
[37] Bill Rosenberger, "Barnett Child Care Center selling all," Herald Dispatch, July 20, 2008; City of Huntington, Department of Development and Planning, *Plan2025: The Future of Huntington* (Huntington, WV: City of Huntington, 2013), 67.
[38] Fain, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929," 336–338; Fain, "Black Response to the Construction of Colored Huntington, West Virginia, during the Jim Crow Era," 14.
[39] First Baptist Church, "First Baptist Huntington History," electronic document, http://www.firstbaptisthuntington.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=185, accessed April and May 2014;
[40] Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume One* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931): Sheet 17.
[41] Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume One* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931): Sheet 28.
[42] Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume Two* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931): Sheet 311.



K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 5. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume 1, 1931, showing First Baptist Church at corner of Eighth Street and Sixth Avenue and mixture of residential and commercial structures in the vicinity.

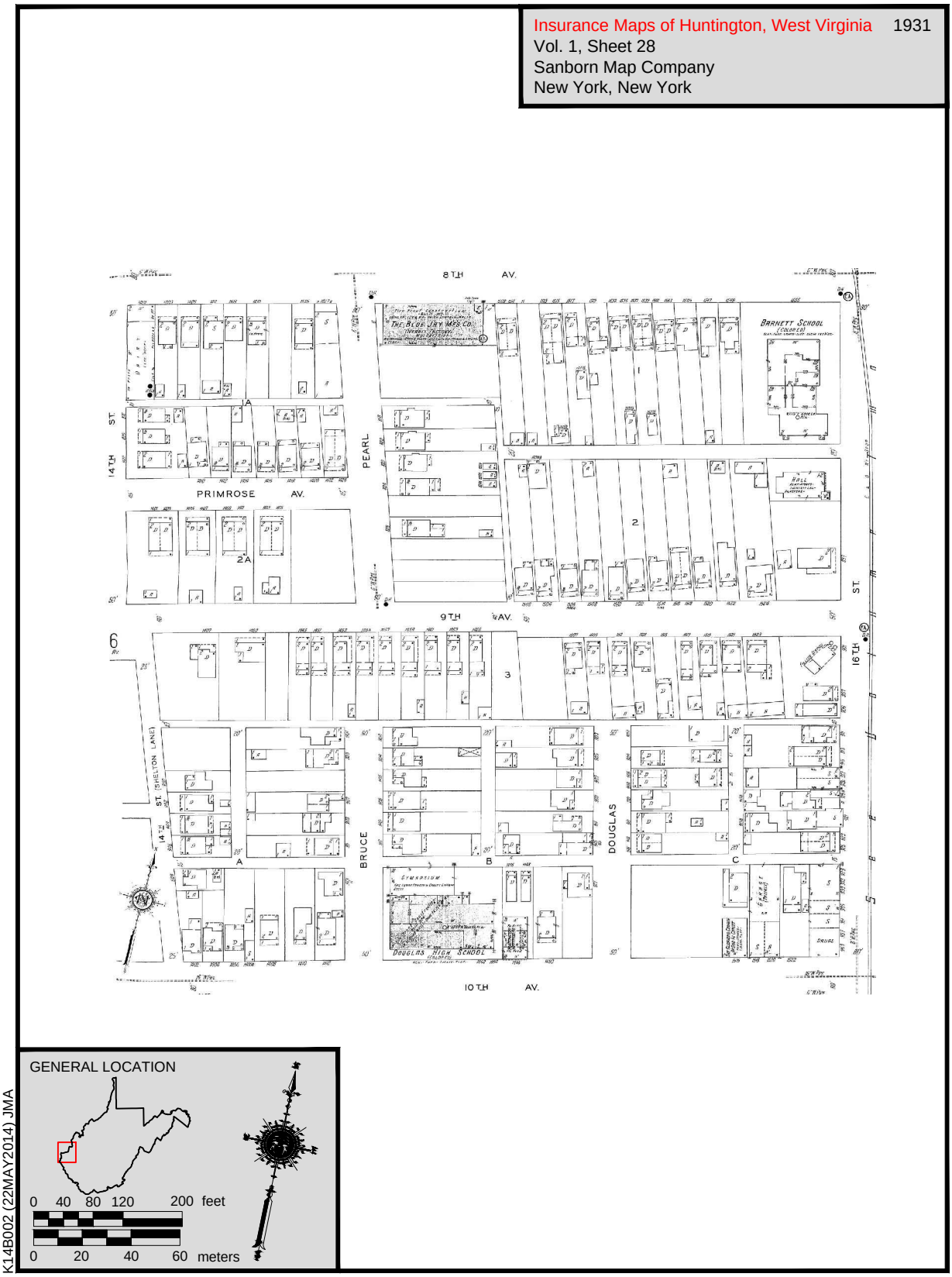
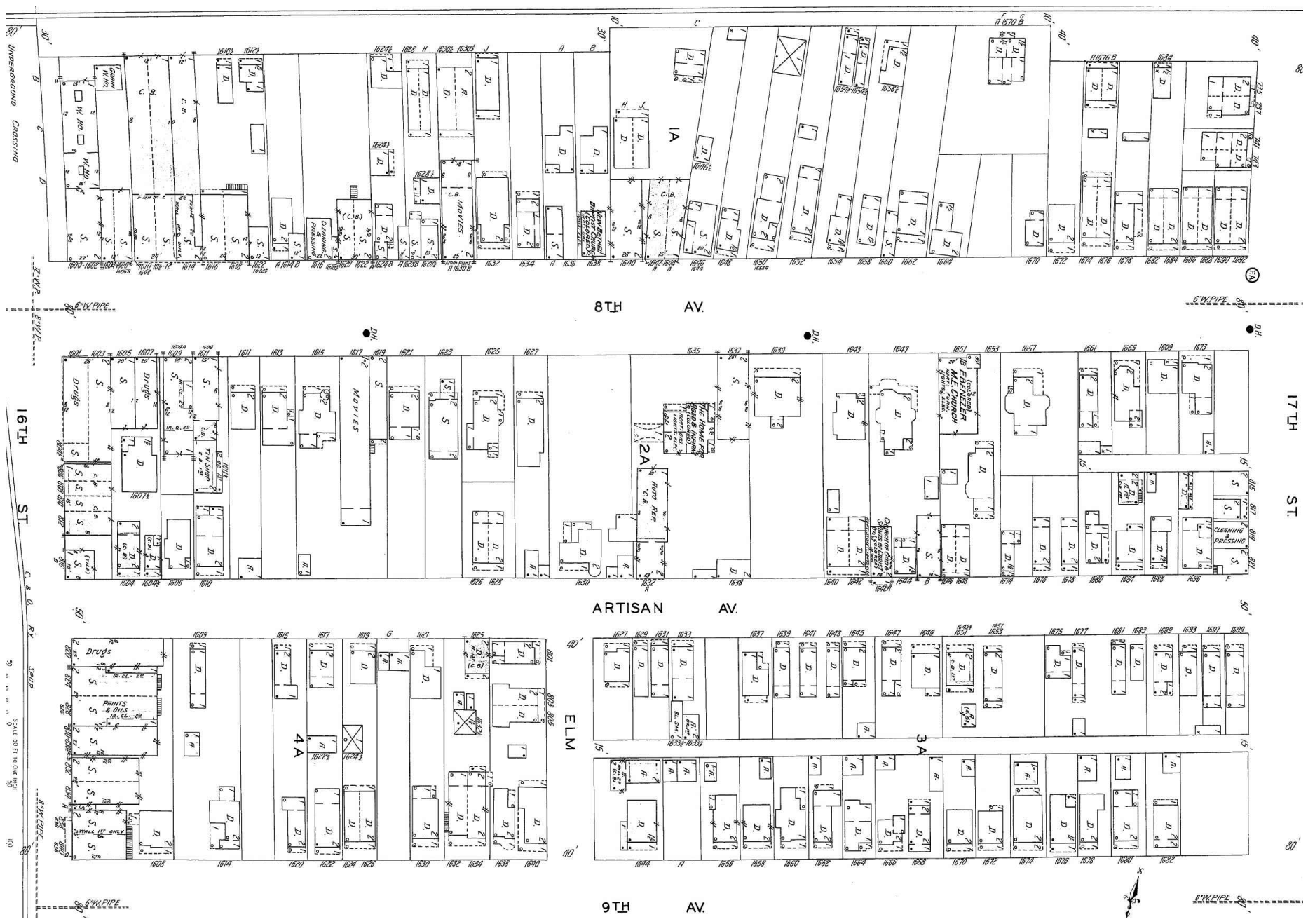
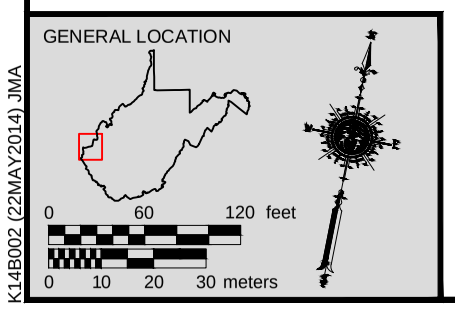


Figure 6. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume 1, 1931, showing Barnett School at corner of Sixteenth Street and Eighth Avenue and development of the northern portion of Washington Place subdivision, including Douglass Junior and Senior High School.

Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia 1931
Vol. 2, Sheet 311
Sanborn Map Company
New York, New York





K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 7. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume 2, 1931, showing businesses along east side of Sixteenth Street and north side of Eighth Avenue in northwest portion of Addition Number 1, including residential development and Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church.

by 1931 although, as previously described, Sixteenth Avenue remained a commercial corridor (Figure 8). The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (indicated as Second Baptist Church on Figure 8) has the largest footprint of any building in the area. This area exhibits wide alleys paralleling the avenues and wider house lots, although some have been divided into two lots.[43]

A few noticeable changes had occurred within the northern portion of Washington Place subdivision after World War II and the beginning of the 1950s. The St. Peter Claver Church and School had been introduced to the area along with the auditorium addition to Douglass Junior and Senior High School and an annex situated to the east of the school (Figure 9). Veterans' temporary housing had also been constructed between the high school and its annex. A two-story addition had also been constructed on the Barnett School.[44] Few changes occurred over the next four years except the addition of the gymnasium to the Douglass Junior and Senior High School (Figure 10).[45]

A substantial change had occurred in the Addition Number 1 area between 1931 and 1950. This was the removal of the majority of structures on the block between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets and Artisan and Eighth Avenues for the construction of the Washington Square public housing development that opened in 1940 (Figure 11). This was one of three public housing developments constructed in Huntington at the same time, including Northcott Court (named for a local banker and civic leader) and Marcum Terrace (named for another local civic leader). These were segregated housing developments, with Marcum Terrace and Northcott Court originally built for white occupation and Washington Square (named for an educational leader in Huntington) originally to house African Americans. A few structures were left standing within the Washington Square development, including Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, the J. W. Scott Community Center (shown as "social center" on Figure 11), and a club adjacent to the J. W. Scott Community Center. A number of clubs, restaurants, a movie theater, and other businesses remained at the western end of Eighth Avenue near Sixteenth Street and along Sixteenth Street catering to the needs of the local African American neighborhood.[46] By 1954, a municipal swimming pool had been constructed on a large undeveloped lot to the south of Douglass Junior and Senior High School along Eleventh Avenue (Figure 12). This large lot was used as the high school's athletic field and later for A. D. Lewis Community Center. The municipal swimming pool, later to become part of the A. D. Lewis Community Center, offered local youths the opportunity to swim in a public pool. Many of the area public pools were off limits to African American children during the years of segregation. The swimming pool at Ironton, Ohio, was open to African Americans on Mondays. Camden Park, the local amusement park, was open only one day of the summer to African Americans.[47]

The Supreme Court's decision in Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954 legally ended segregation of educational facilities but, as with many legal matters, the actual integration of schools was not fully realized for years after the court's ruling. In Huntington, the African American institutions such as Barnett School and McKinney Elementary were closed and the students integrated into existing white schools. The same occurred at the Douglass Junior and Senior High School, which eventually closed in 1961. It is important to remember the status these educational facilities held in the African American community, as they served as strong ties and points of pride to this community. These schools provided after school activities that included children and their parents, such as the

[43] Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume Two* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931): Sheet 312.
[44] Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume One* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931 revised to 1950): Sheet 28.
[45] Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume One* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931 revised to 1954): Sheet 28.
[46] Huntington West Virginia Housing Authority, "Communities," 2014, http://www.huntingtonhousing.com/communities.shtml#WS, electronic document, accessed April and May 2014; Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume Two* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931 revised to 1950): Sheet 312.
[47] Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," 141; Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume One* (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1931 revised to 1954): Sheet 39.

Barnett School Orchestra, the Douglass High School Band, football and basketball games, the marching band, and dramatic plays and musicals. The basketball team advanced to the black national tournament four times. The football program won eleven state championships among African American schools.[48] As former Douglass High School graduate James Venable stated, "Along with the churches, it was the glue that held the black community together."[49] Douglass High School graduate Hal Greer was to become Marshall University's first black athlete and went on to play basketball professionally for fifteen years. Sixteenth Street was renamed Hal Greer Boulevard in his honor on July 1, 1978.[50] As Hal Greer stated at the time, "That's 'The Block,' my old hangout. That's where I learned to play basketball. That's where I learned to survive. At the Scott Community Center on a dirt court."[51]

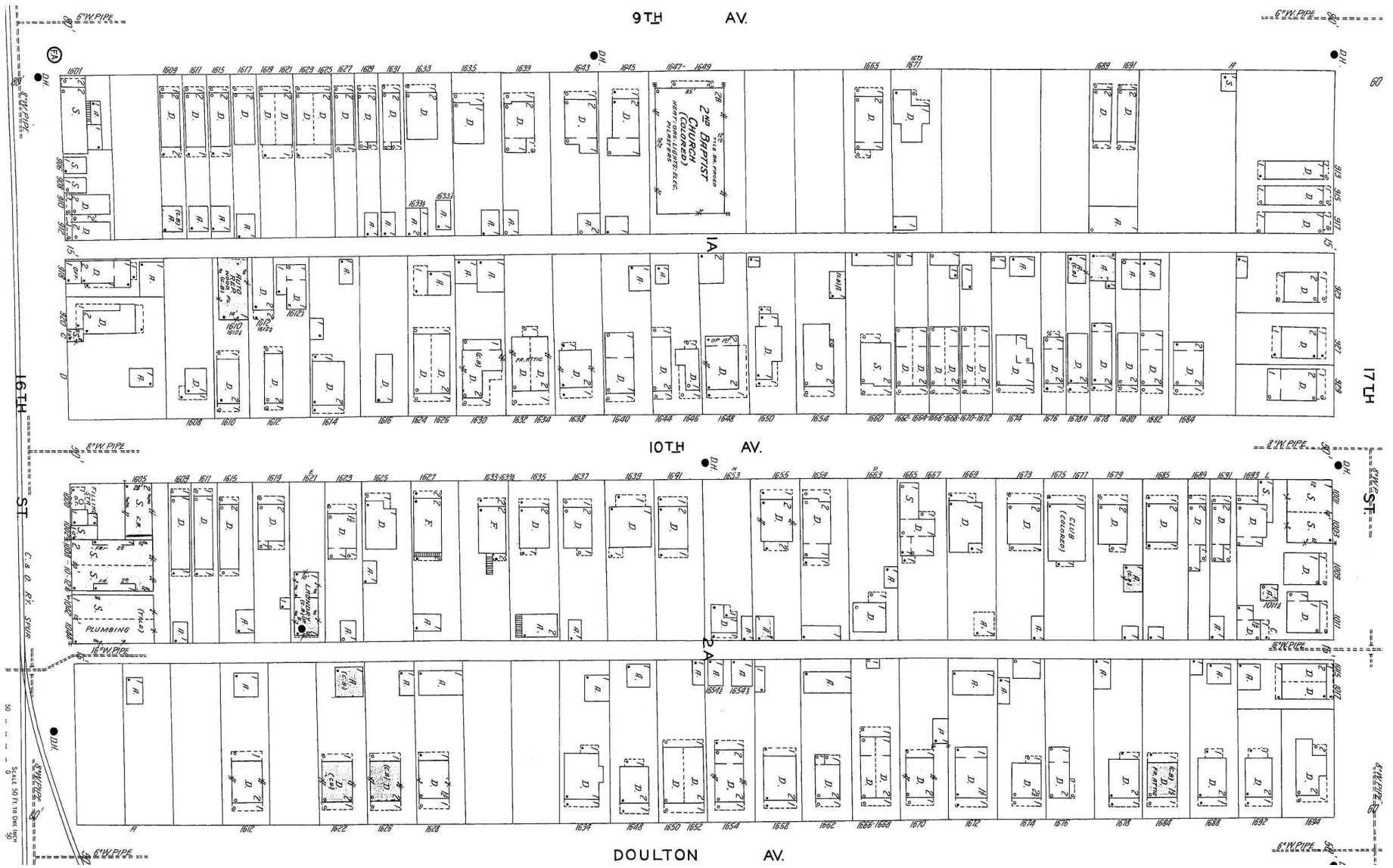
Demonstrations associated with the Civil Rights movement were initiated by a small group of Marshall University students in the early 1960s. A sit-in demonstration first occurred at Bailey's Cafeteria, a popular restaurant that served only whites. The first demonstration began with a group of white students entering the restaurant followed by a group of African American students who were not served. The students all sat together and the whites shared their food with the black students, creating a share-in demonstration. Picketing and a legal case followed, leading to the integration of the restaurant to avoid further confrontation. Demonstrations took place at another establishment, leading to violence towards the sit-in participants. Integration of most commercial establishments took place after passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Supreme Court's ruling on the law.[52]

The end of segregation had unintended consequences for Huntington's active African American business community. The closure of the black schools was a loss for the community, but the integration of businesses that previously were not open to African American shoppers meant that they could now frequent stores in the downtown commercial district that had been previously closed to them. With greater shopping opportunities for these consumers, existing African American businesses began to fail and close. These closures especially impacted the commercial establishments along Sixteenth Street and Eighth Avenue near Sixteenth Street. Dr. Ancella Bickley states: "After some local strife, public accommodations in Huntington were integrated with a resulting loss of those black businesses which had formerly served the black community exclusively. Housing patterns were modified somewhat and black people began to move into areas of the city from which they had been formerly excluded."[53]

In recent years, Cabell County's African American community has lost a number of important institutions. The Barnett School was demolished and replaced by an auto parts store. The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home and the State Industrial Home for Colored Girls were both recently razed. The J. W. Scott Community Center continues to operate along Eighth Avenue, but under the control of Goodwill Industries. The Barnett Child Care Center has also ceased operations. Currently, the larger West Fairfield neighborhood is roughly bounded by Eighth Avenue to the north and Washington Boulevard to the south while Twelfth and Twentieth Streets serve as the east and west boundaries. The African American core of this neighborhood from Sixteenth Street to Twentieth Street and along Eighth, Artisan, and Ninth Avenues has lost dwellings that have been razed because of deferred maintenance brought on by the economic decline of the area. The destruction of portions of the building stock results in empty lots and newer residences, often not in keeping with the design and materials of the original homes.

[48] Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," 149, 151; Joseph Platania, "Getting Ready for Life: The Douglass High School Story," *Goldenseal* 19, no. 1 (Spring 1993): 25, 28; "Dedication Hal Greer Boulevard, 'A Dream Come True,'" program, 1978, located at Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.
[49] Joseph Platania, "Getting Ready for Life: The Douglass High School Story," *Goldenseal* 19, no. 1 (Spring 1993): 28.
[50] "Dedication Hal Greer Boulevard, 'A Dream Come True,'" program, 1978, located at Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.
[51] Ernie Salvatore, "Hal Greer Boulevard Stretches Across Nation," *Herald Dispatch*, May 14, 1978.
[52] Isaac McKown, "Sit-In Demonstrations Challenge Huntington's Racial Status Quo," electronic document located on "The Carter Woodson Project" website of Marshall University, http://www.marshall.edu/carterwoodson/isaac_mckown.asp, accessed April and May 2014; Jim Ross, "Time to Forgive," *Herald Dispatch*, March 10, 1996.
[53] Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," 151.

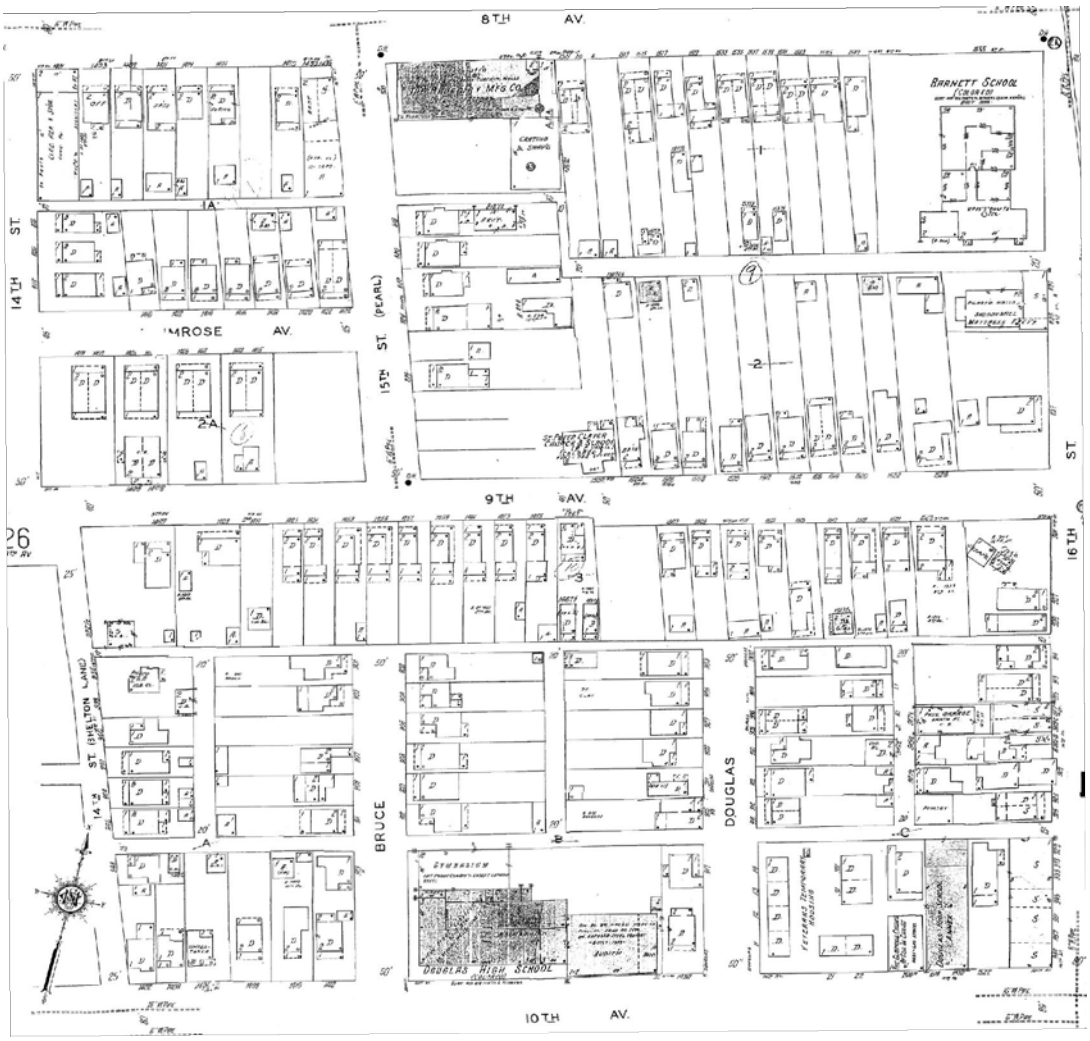
Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia 1931
Vol. 2, Sheet 312
Sanborn Map Company
New York, New York

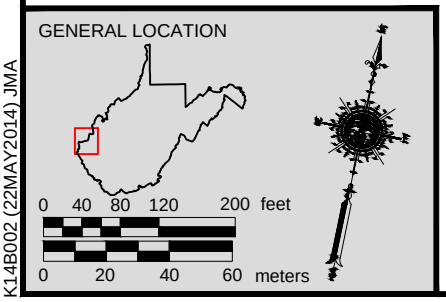


K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 8. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, Volume 2, 1931, showing northwestern portion of Ceramic Addition between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets depicting residential development, wide lots, and the location of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Insurance Maps of Huntington, 1931 (revised 1950)
West Virginia
Vol.1, Sheet 28
Sanborn Map Company
New York, New York

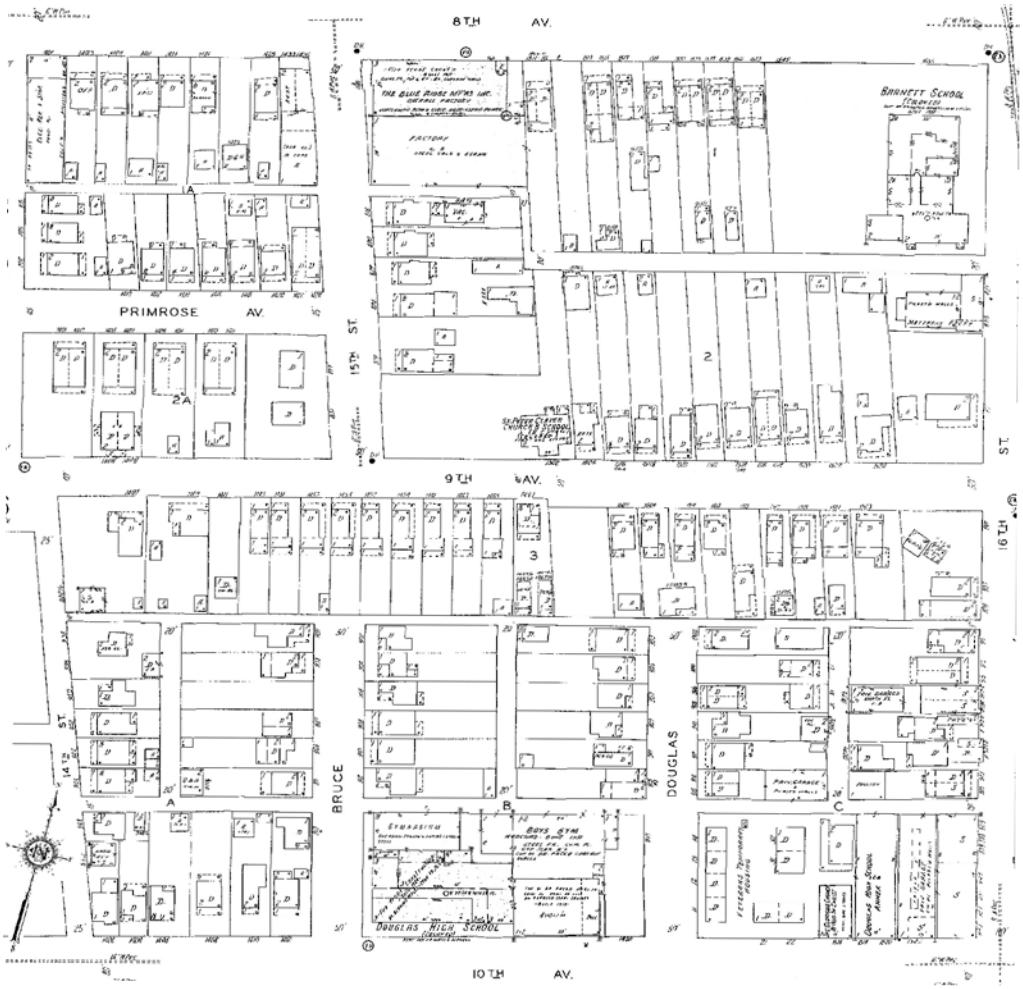


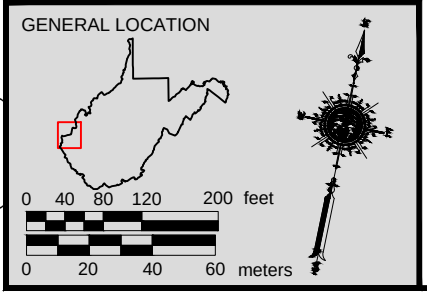


K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 9. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, revised 1950, showing northern portion of Washington Place subdivision with additions to Barnett School and Douglass Junior and Senior High School (including annex), and introduction of St. Peter Claver Church and School.

Insurance Maps of Huntington, 1931 (revised 1954)
West Virginia
Vol. 1, Sheet 28
Sanborn Map Company
New York, New York

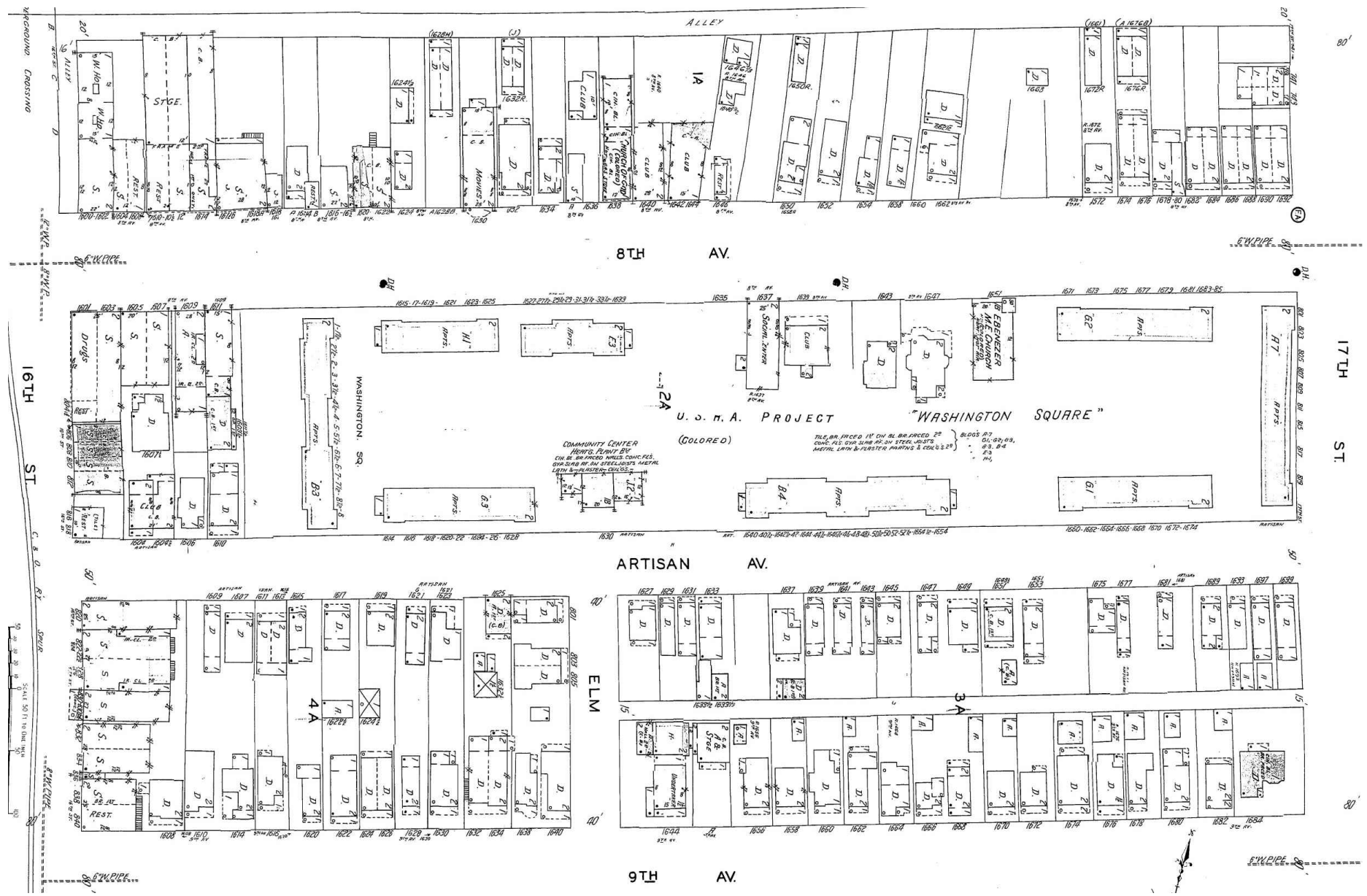




K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 10. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, revised 1954, showing northern portion portion of Washington Place subdivision completely developed and gymnasium addition to Douglass Junior and Senior High School.

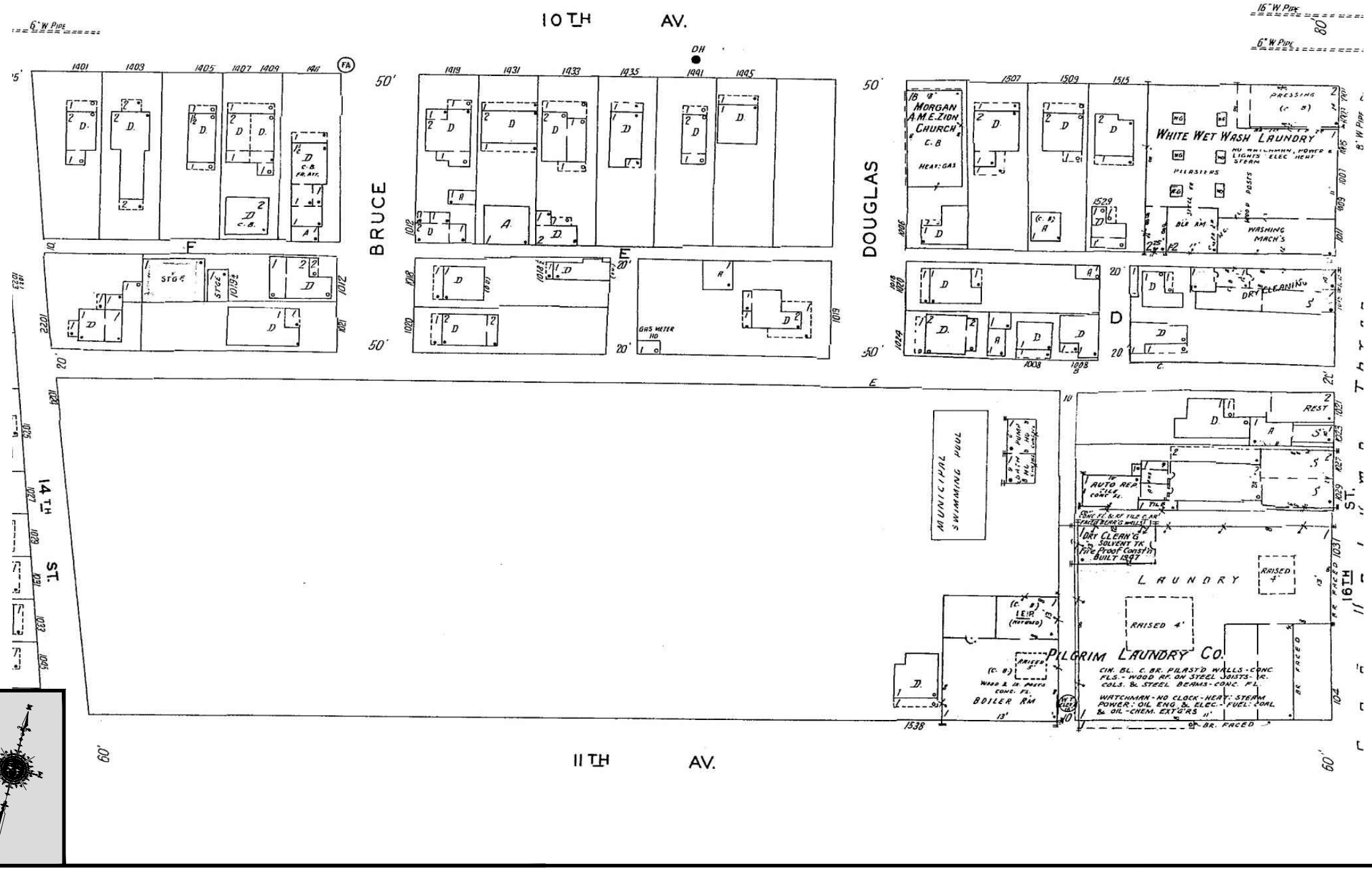
Insurance Maps of Huntington, 1931 (revised 1950)
West Virginia
Vol.2, Sheet 312
Sanborn Map Company
New York, New York



K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 11. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, revised 1950, showing businesses along north side of Eighth Avenue and east side of Sixteenth Street and introduction of Washington Square public housing development.

Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia
Vol. 1, Sheet 39
Sanborn Map Company
New York, New York



K14B002 (22MAY2014) JMA

Figure 12. Portion of Insurance Maps of Huntington, West Virginia, revised 1954, showing large undeveloped athletic field and new municipal swimming pool (later to become part of A. D. Lewis Community Center) south of Douglass Junior and Senior High School.