

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School

Other names/site number: West End Colored School/Dunbar Colored School/3rd Ward School/3rd Ward Colored School

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 807 & 809 W. Walnut Street.

City or town: Washington State: IN County: Daviess

Not For Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
District	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Object	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OHTER: Gable Front

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK
walls: BRICK
STONE: limestone
roof: ASPHALT
other: SYNTHETICS: vinyl

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Bethel A. M. E. Church, built in 1883, and Dunbar School, constructed about 1890, are historic brick gable-front buildings that served Washington's African American population on the west side of town. The church has historic stained art glass windows and original wood entry doors, though a 1952 front entry addition covers the original entrance. The school was modified after it ceased being used as a school but retains its first story composition and window openings. Both buildings serve the local A. M. E. congregation.

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Narrative Description

Setting

The brick, gable-front church and school buildings are located on the south side of West Walnut Street in Washington's westside neighborhood (photos 01-02). They occupy two lots at the corner of Walnut Street and a north/south alley between NW 8th and NW 9th Streets. A concrete sidewalk is along the street and remnants of a gravel driveway approach are east of the church and led to a former parsonage on the same lot. Concrete sidewalks also lead up to the front entries on the buildings. A long, wood handicap ramp is attached to the front of the church and leads down to the west. A narrow basement stairway enclosure is attached to the back of the church (photo 04). A non-historic metal storage building is behind the school (photo 05) but is of a temporal nature and is not considered a resource on the property.

The property is covered with lawn, and some foundation plantings and shrubbery are around both buildings. A small brick planter with shrubbery and a church sign are just north of the church building along the sidewalk (left side of photo 01).

Beulah A. M. E. Church, Gable Front, 1883/1952. Contributing

The original gable-front, one-story, one-room brick church building was constructed in 1883. In 1952, a gable-front addition was made to the front (north) façade of the building which includes a foyer on the main level and toilet rooms in the basement. The addition incorporated existing, exterior basement stairs along the west end of the north side of the building. At about the same time, an enclosure and basement steps were constructed at the back of the building. See photos 01-04.

The original building features a pair of two-panel wood doors with a stained art glass, full-round transom in its north façade (photo 07). This façade is largely covered by the 1952 addition (photo 09). The church has three wood windows in its east and west walls. The windows have a full-round upper sash composed of stained art glass and a tall bottom sash composed of patterned glass (see photos 06-08). The windows have stone sills and brick arches. Three short wood basement windows are in the west wall. They are divided into two panes. The back (south) façade has a metal door in its east half and a long, narrow basement stair enclosure in its west half (photo 04). The enclosure has a gabled roof and a metal door in its south façade. It is covered with vinyl siding. A brick chimney is centered on the outside of the back façade and features bands of corbelling at the top. The roof features aluminum fascia and soffits and asphalt shingles.

The addition features a front-facing gable, shorter than the original building, which juts out to the west from the original building (photo 01, 04). The addition is composed of random-coursed, rusticated limestone ashlar. It has two basement windows composed of glass blocks in the front (north) façade and a short metal basement window in its west façade. The front façade features a

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pair of metal doors and concrete steps (covered by a wood ramp) centered with the original brick building. Flanking the entry are metal casement windows with metal transom. The casement sashes are divided into three panes, and the transom is divided into two panes of stained art glass. The windows have stone sills and lintels. A narrow wood-louvered attic vent is in the top of the addition's gable and features a stone sill. The addition's roof is also covered with asphalt shingles. A granite cornerstone from 1952 is located in the east end of the front façade and is carved with the words BEULAH A. M. E. CHURCH ERECTED 1883 (see photo 01).

The interior of the original building is composed of a single room (sanctuary, photos 06-07) with a center aisle and two rows of eight pews. A raised, wood altar is centered in the south end of the sanctuary and features a rounded front with historic, carved wood altar rail (photo 08). The altar rail has end newel posts with chamfered edges and ball finials. The rail has turned balusters and Eastlake-style carvings below the top rail. The altar railing and stained art glass windows are the most ornate features of the building. A raised choir loft is in the southwest corner of the sanctuary (photo 08). It features three pews and a simple, front wood railing. The floors are wood and the walls are covered with painted paneling. The ceiling is acoustic tile in a metal grid. The entry and windows retain their historic wood trim. The pews, podium, and communion table are more modern wood features and date to c. 1970.

The front addition contains a foyer with two sets of concrete steps that lead down to the basement (photo 09). The east steps lead down to the women's toilet room (photo 10) while the west steps lead down to the men's toilet room and entry to the basement fellowship hall (photo 11). The original building's basement is divided into a large room with metal pipe columns down the center, a small pastor's office in the front (north) end and a kitchen and mechanical room along the back (south) wall. A doorway to the back staircase leads up from the back wall of the kitchen (photo 12). The walls in the addition are composed of concrete blocks. The exterior walls under the original building are plastered. The interior dividing walls are plywood, and a small pass-through window is between the kitchen and fellowship hall. The basement has a concrete floor throughout. The ceilings are acoustic tiles. A few original pews and the original podium are located in the basement (left side of photo 11).

Dunbar School, Gable Front, c. 1890/c. 1950. Contributing

The gable-front painted brick building is one-story but was originally a full two-story building with three windows on the first and second stories on each side and four windows on the second story of the front façade (the middle two were paired together, see sketch on continuation page). A round vent or window was in the gable, which was replicated when the second story was removed during the 1950s and the building was converted into a mechanic's garage. While it is unclear why the second story was removed, it seems that brick was likely taken down to a course just below the second story windowsills and re-laid since no evidence of fenestration is seen in the façade. The staircase, which was located in one corner off the foyer, was removed and converted into usable space. An individual who remembered attending the school did not recall which side the staircase was located on.

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The building features a base composed of three courses of brick. The front (north) façade features an entry with stone sill and label lintel (right side of photo 02). The entry, which also featured a transom, has been filled in with vinyl siding and a non-historic metal door with window. A late 20th century wood signboard is over the transom area but retains no legible signage. Original round window openings, trimmed with brick and covered with plywood, flank the entry. A third round opening in the gable is also trimmed in brick and features wood louvers. The east and west walls feature three tall window openings with stone sills and lintels (photo 05). While the window openings retain their original size, the middle windows have been filled in with vinyl siding. The flanking windows have small hopper-style wood windows in the bottom of the opening and the top is filled with vinyl siding. The back (south) façade features a wide opening filled with a metal door and vinyl siding in its west half (right side of photo 05). A brick chimney is centered on the back façade. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features metal fascia and soffits.

The interior of the building features a foyer in the front (north) end, and a large meeting hall comprises the remainder of the building (photos 13-14). The meeting hall is composed of one of two classrooms: one was located on each story. A small toilet room (photo 15) and storage closet are on the west side of the foyer, and a kitchen is on the east side of the foyer. A staircase to the second story was once located on one side of the foyer. The rooms feature five-panel wood doors and wood trim, but the remainder of the interior finishes are modern. The floors are concrete, and the walls are covered with drywall or painted plywood. The ceilings are covered with acoustic tiles in a metal grid. A small pass-through window is between the kitchen and meeting hall (right side of photo 14). Most of the changes to the building occurred after it ceased being used as a school.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1883-1971

Significant Dates

c. 1890

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins when the church building was constructed in 1883 by a Black congregation associated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. While it closed briefly in 1971, it reopened in 1976. About 1890, a segregated school was constructed west of the church. The school continued until 1950, after which time it was converted to another use. Therefore, c. 1890 is a significant date during the period of significance. The A. M. E. church purchased the school in the 1970s and uses it for programs and services offered by the congregation.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Consideration A is indicated due to the two buildings' ownership and use by the congregation of Beulah A. M. E. Church. The buildings' origins for use by a Black congregation and segregated school for Black children make the property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places using criterion A under the areas of ethnic heritage and social history for origins of the church and school representing the early African American population of Washington and Daviess County. The two buildings are located on adjacent lots donated by a notable African American family in Daviess County history for use as a church and school. In addition to providing places of worship and education, the buildings played a significant role in the social lives of the African American community in Washington. While it is unclear if the construction of the school building was publicly funded, it is listed under the auspices of the city schools by 1891, so it seems clear that operation of the school was publicly funded.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Overview

Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar (Colored) School testify to the early history of African Americans in Washington's westside neighborhood sometimes referred to as Boxtown. Washington Township in Daviess County had a comparatively large Black population in the 19th century that was served by two churches and a school. The church and school associated with this nomination are located on lots purchased and donated by one of the Black community's leading families to ensure the congregation had a place to worship and their children had a place to be educated. These two public buildings (photos 01-02) are all that remain in Daviess County from this population's heritage aside from nearby Hawkins Cemetery.

African American Settlement in Daviess County

Beulah African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1848 by members who carried their faith traditions from the South to Daviess County by former slaves and descendants of slaves who arrived as early as 1806. Some of the earliest among these families were the Ballow and Hawkins families. These families are represented by two slave-holding families by the same names who had blockhouses erected near or on their property during 1811-1812. The forts were then named for these families, i.e., the Ballow Fort and Hawkins Fort, and were garrisoned by whites and Blacks alike. At these forts were men by the name of Charner, Eli, William, and Joseph Hawkins, and Mason and Fleming Ballow.¹ Eli Hawkins, who moved to the county in 1806, had two enslaved people; William Hawkins had four enslaved people; and William Ballow had four enslaved people.² After Eli Hawkins' death, his widow married a man named Merrill who created difficulties for their slaves. This led to a suit in 1817, brought by those enslaved individuals through a Daviess County abolitionist attorney named Amory C. Kinney. Kinney successfully litigated the case, pointing to Indiana's abolition of slavery in its state constitution. After this, all African Americans in Daviess County were no longer bound by their former slaveholders.³ Amory Kinney was elected judge in Daviess County in 1831.⁴

Daviess County's small, formerly enslaved Black population grew only moderately from the 1810s in the first part of the 19th century. In 1840, there were 25 people who identified as Black; in 1850, there were 44; and by 1860, there were 74 people who identified as Black in the population census.⁵ This was likely a result, in small part, to the 1851 passage of new articles to the Indiana State Constitution that prohibited any new African Americans from settling in the

¹ Goodspeed, pg. 573

² Goodspeed, pgs. 600-601

³ Goodspeed, pg. 601

⁴ Fulkerson, pg. 248

⁵ Early Black Settlements by County; Indiana Historical Society: <https://indianahistory.org/research/research-materials/early-black-settlements/early-black-settlements-by-county/>

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state. Between this legislation and the Fugitive Slave Act, passed by the General Assembly, Indiana was not recognized as a safe place for African Americans to live. The Fugitive Slave Act had ramifications that resulted in free Blacks fearing unlawful capture. This did not, however, hinder the small Daviess County population's desire to establish a church, own property, and see the election of a Black man by the name of Ben Perkins to the Madison Township Board of School Trustees in 1856.⁶ Most of Daviess County's Black population had settled in Washington Township, and some in Reeve Township (members of the Ballow household), and most were engaged in farming.

A few of the county's early African American families played pivotal roles in the 19th century organization of churches and schools. Maybe foremost among these are Jacob and Ellen (Nelly Embry) Hawkins. Jacob Hawkins was born in South Carolina in about 1790, and was a young, enslaved man when he was brought to Daviess County by the Eli Hawkins family in 1806. Jacob Hawkins and another enslaved man named Isaac, took the surname of their slaveholding family. They signed a 90-year indentured servitude contract when they arrived in Indiana because slavery had been prohibited in the Northwest Territory. These contracts were deemed illegal in 1810; however, the practice persisted. Jacob and Isaac Hawkins brought suit against Eli's widow, Catherine and her new husband, William Merrill, to gain their freedom. This issue was heard before the Daviess County Commissioners in 1817 and the commissioners sided with the Black men. From that point, all Blacks living in Daviess County were granted freedom.

Jacob "Jake" Hawkins married Ellen Embry on November 1, 1821, in nearby Vincennes. Jacob Hawkins is listed in the Daviess County 1830 census with his young family that included four children and his wife, all noted as free colored persons. This family grew to include eleven children. In 1837, Jacob Hawkins had saved sufficient funds to purchase a 1,000-acre tract of land west of Washington, Indiana, becoming the first Black person to own land in Daviess County. This proved to be a fortunate decision since portions of the land, later owned by his sons, would be purchased for the Wabash & Erie Canal, the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad, lots for the town of Maysville (3 ½ miles west of Washington), as well as coal mining operations.

Hawkins had already begun to divide portions of his property to his children prior to creating his will at the end of 1863. He died on January 17, 1864, and was buried at his farm in a cemetery that bears the family name. His wife, Ellen, died in 1870 and was buried at the cemetery. Records state that the two lots on which the A. M. E. Church and Dunbar School are located were donated in the 1870s by Jacob Hawkins, so this arrangement must have been made prior to his death, or through funds after the death of his wife in 1870. Many of their children remained in Daviess County and became large landowners, including Charner Hawkins, who became a prominent farmer in the county and a member of the A. M. E. Church and I.O.O.F. Lodge in Washington. Charner Hawkins' land was platted for Maysville when the Wabash & Erie Canal was created along the west edge of Daviess County.

⁶ Goodspeed, pg. 598

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Hawkins Cemetery is a burial ground established by the Hawkins family, c. 1850, on their farm on the northwest edge of Washington and contains about 300 graves of African Americans. The earliest extant stones date to 1851 and 1852 and belong to a child of Charner and Malinda Hawkins and Emeline Ember, probably the mother of Ellen Hawkins, respectively. It is possible that there are graves that date to the late 1830s and 1840s, since the land was owned by the Hawkins family since 1837. Ballow Cemetery in Reeve Township was not exclusively Black, like Hawkins Cemetery, but it also contains the graves of several early Black residents associated with the Ballow family. The only other exclusive African American cemetery in the county is the small Taylor Lyons family cemetery in section 19 of Washington Township. Taylor Lyons and his wife, Ruth, are buried at the site. It is speculated that the graves of 37 children who died in a cholera epidemic are also buried there.⁷

Settlement Churches Established

Beulah A. M. E. Church was established at the home of Jacob Hawkins in 1848 with only a few members. These included several members of the Hawkins family: Jacob and Ellen Hawkins, their children, as well as Manny Ballow, Jesse Perkins, Omely and Charles Delaney, and Archibald Anderson. These early members were joined by Smith and Sarah Hawkins, Phillip and Anna Hardcastle, William and Audia Ballow, Charles and Harriet Howard, William and Mary Graves, Joseph Stewart, Gabriel and Ann Cottee, Elias and Centhia Washington, and Elizabeth Burris.⁸ The Reverend Willis Rivils, D. D., the A. M. E. Bishop from Indianapolis, joined them for their organizational meeting. The African Methodist Episcopal denomination traces its history to 1787 when its founder, Richard Allen, was excluded from a white congregation in Philadelphia of the same Methodist denomination.

For a few years, the newly established Beulah congregation held services in the country, then in 1853, a frame church building was erected one mile west of Washington on land donated from the Jacob Hawkins farm. This location is on the near northwest side of town, near the intersection of County Road S 200 W and Poplar Street. Reverend Thomas Strouthers, who had regularly assembled the congregation since 1848, was appointed its first pastor in 1853. This building was converted to a schoolhouse when a new church building was constructed adjacent to it in 1867. Both were destroyed by fire in 1869 (some accounts give the date as 1872).⁹ After the fire, the congregation met at the home of Mrs. Charles Stewart until 1876. At that time, the congregation began to meet at a school, then located at West 10th Street and McCormick Avenue, northwest of the present building. In the late 1870s, the Hawkins family donated two lots for the use of a church and school. The congregation celebrated the completion of their brick church, which cost \$1,100 to construct, in 1883.¹⁰ See photos 01-04, 06-08. Church membership was 70 in 1886.

⁷ Cemeteries of Daviess County, IN, pg. 201

⁸ Myers, pg. 108

⁹ Goodspeed, pg. 742

¹⁰ Goodspeed, pg. 742

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The only other African American church established in Washington was Second Baptist Church, located northwest of Beulah A. M. E. The church was organized in 1867 by Caleb Naylor, Taylor Lyons, Andrew Sullivan, and others. It was built on Sand Hill adjacent to the city in 1880. It was a frame building that cost \$600 to construct and had a membership of 35 in 1886.¹¹ This church continued at least into the early 20th century,¹² but is no longer extant.

Beulah A. M. E. Church appears on the 1888 plat map of Washington as “Cold. M E Church.” Another church on the southeast corner of McCormick Avenue and 14th Streets is marked “Colored Baptist Church” (no longer extant). A public school building is identified south of the A. M. E. Church at the northwest corner of Hyatt and 8th Streets, and a large graded school was located at the east end of Walnut Street, but no school is located at the 10th and McCormick site mentioned in Myers’ history. On the 1888 plat map of Washington Township, a colored school is located near Hawkins Cemetery just outside of the incorporated area of Washington. This is likely the school identified in the 1886 Goodspeed history of Daviess County, which lists a colored school with two teachers. It also mentions two colored churches in the county, both in the city of Washington.¹³ The first time the property covered by this nomination is shown on Sanborn Maps is 1902. At that time, the school was identified as the 3rd Ward Colored School, two-stories tall with heat stoves and no lights. The Beulah A. M. E. Church is identified to the east with heat stoves and lamps for light. A one-story building with a rear ell is east of the church and served as the parsonage (nonextant).

Settlement School Established

With the end of the Civil War, the influx of Black families into northern states grew tremendously. Daviess County’s population of Blacks nearly doubled from 1860 to 1870, to 129 persons. This more than doubled again by 1880 to 307 persons who identified as Black. This is also reflected in the number of Black children enrolled in Daviess County schools in 1885. Washington Township (outside of the city of Washington) had 15 male and 14 female Black students of 952 total students. The city of Washington had 37 male and 43 female Black students of 1767 total students in 1885.¹⁴ It is presumed that both Washington Township and Washington (city) Black students attended the school located near Hawkins Cemetery during the 1880s, prior to construction of the building next to Beulah A. M. E. Church. The only other school in Daviess County with African American students was located in the town of Montgomery in Barr Township, 7 ½ miles east of Washington, which had just one Black male student of 108 total students.¹⁵

¹¹ Goodspeed, pg. 742

¹² Fulkerson, pg. 206

¹³ Goodspeed, pgs. 715, 742

¹⁴ Goodspeed, pg. 722

¹⁵ Goodspeed, pg. 722

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Dunbar School was a segregated school for Black children, grades 1-8, when it opened about 1890, west of Beulah A. M. E. Church (see photos 02, 05, 13-15). Before the building was named for Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906), the African American poet, it was referred to as the 3rd Ward Colored School and West End Colored School. When constructed, the school was associated with, and likely built by, the A. M. E. congregation, but is referenced in public school reports. The building was two stories tall and had two classrooms, one downstairs and one upstairs, with a front foyer. It appears in a sketch, with the adjacent church, in an 1892 rendering that appeared in a 1992 historical perspective's newspaper.¹⁶ In 1891-92, the Colored School is listed with W. H. Taylor as principal and intermediate teacher, and Laura Anderson as primary teacher. The principal and teachers at Dunbar School in 1897-98 were C. S. Hicks, Principal (Room A) and Laura Hicks (Room W).¹⁷ This was Charles S. Hicks and his daughter, Laura, who lived near the school on Walnut Street in the 1900 census. Both are listed as schoolteachers in the 1900 and 1910 censuses. The Hicks family was a Black family with origins in Canada and Alabama who moved to Washington, Indiana, from Michigan after 1880.

The Black population decreased slightly between 1880 and 1890 from 307 to 271 persons, then grew to 379 in 1900. By this time, the Dunbar School had been constructed on West Walnut Street. The building is described in Fulkerson's history of Daviess County (1915) as a colored school located on West Walnut and 8th Streets, a brick building, two stories high, with two rooms. It was described as not a modern structure. It is interesting to note that Fulkerson's history highlights the modern school buildings constructed over the last couple of decades in Washington, so the contrast is evident.¹⁸ A 1917-1918 directory for school personnel included the "West End Colored School" with Shellie Simuel as teacher.

20th Century Church & School History

The year 1927 was an important one in the history of the church. The church held revival services in March, followed by hosting the Indiana Convention of African Methodist Episcopal Churches in the south half of the state. Because of the capacity of the church building, certain functions were held in the auditorium of Washington's white West End School. Washington's mayor participated in convention events as did Ben Allen who represented the city's commercial and industrial sectors.¹⁹

The 1950s ushered in changes at the church and school. In 1952, the church expanded by adding a front foyer with restrooms and easier access to the basement through an interior staircase (photos 01, 09). Prior to this time, congregants used outhouses on the property and an exterior entrance to the basement fellowship hall. On March 19, 1954, the Washington Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was organized at the church with a large crowd in attendance. The officers for the organization were Donald Bledsoe,

¹⁶ Dunbar School Remembered: <https://Daviesscounty.pastperfectonline.com/Archive/79C503F9-0AAE-4F4B-88E0-519708314558#gallery>

¹⁷ Myers, pgs. 171-172

¹⁸ Fulkerson, pg. 236

¹⁹ Myers, pg. 108

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Alvin Simmons, Martha Granger, Naomi Murray, Carl Cottee, and Edna Isom.²⁰ Church membership and financial constraints caused the building to temporarily close in 1971, but it reorganized and opened again in 1976.

After the 1949-1950 schoolyear, Dunbar School was closed, and the students were integrated with white students in Washington schools. This was already the case with students who moved on from 8th grade at Dunbar to Washington High School. Miss Miley Cottee was the last teacher at the school. One member of the community, and Beulah A. M. E. Church congregant, Richard Wright (born in 1945), recalled that the school was still open when he was a small child in the late 1940s and a staircase located in the front foyer that led to the second story classroom. Wright also recalled segregation policies in the 1960s that didn't permit him to eat at Washington's famous lunch counter, the White Steamer, with his white friends.²¹ The Dunbar School building was remodeled into a mechanic's garage at which time it was reduced in height. Most of the changes to the building date to this time, c. 1950. It was purchased again by Beulah A. M. E. Church to preserve and was converted into a meeting room and program space by the 1970s.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

²⁰ Myers, pg. 108

²¹ Interview with Richard Wright, January 27, 2024

Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School

Name of Property

Daviess County, IN

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Atlas of Daviess County (IN), 1888. Philadelphia: Griffing, Dixon, & Co., 1888.

Beulah A. M. E. Church scrapbook with clippings and sesquicentennial program (1998), on file with the Daviess County Historical Society.

Cemeteries of Daviess County, IN. Vol. V. Barbara Sims Waggoner, 1990-1992.

Dunbar School Remembered: <https://Daviesscounty.pastperfectonline.com/Archive/79C503F9-0AAE-4F4B-88E0-519708314558#gallery>. Accessed April 2, 2024.

Early Black Settlements by County; Indiana Historical Society:
<https://indianahistory.org/research/research-materials/early-black-settlements/early-black-settlements-by-county/>. Accessed April 2, 2024.

Fulkerson, A. O. History of Daviess County (IN). Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen & Co., 1915.

History of Knox and Daviess Counties (IN). Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886.

Interview with Richard "Dickie" Wright, January 27, 2024. Born 1945.

McAlester, Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Myers, L. Rex. Daviess County History. Vol. II. Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Co., 1991.

Sanborn Maps for Washington, Indiana: 1887, 1892, 1896, 1902, 1909, 1921.

United States Federal Census for Washington County, IN: 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School
Name of Property

Daviess County, IN
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 027-663-34185; 027-663-34154.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 483815	Northing: 4278896
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School

Name of Property

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning on the southeast corner of West Walnut Street and the north/south alley west of NW 8th Street, face south and follow a line on the east side of the alley approximately 116' to the north side of the east/west alley south of West Walnut Street. Turn east and follow a line approximately 160' to the east property line of 507 West Walnut Street, then turn north and follow the property line approximately 50' to a jog approximately 13' to the east, then continue north again approximately 66' to the south side of West Walnut Street. Turn west and follow the south side of the street approximately 174' to the east side of the alley, or place of beginning.

These parcels are known as Hyatt's West Point Plat Lots 60 and 61 and 13' of Lot 62 in its northwest corner.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The lots were purchased and donated for the use of an African Methodist Episcopal Church and school, which was named the Dunbar School, for African American students in Washington, Indiana. A parsonage was once located east of the church on Lot 62, and while no longer extant, Lot 62 also contains the church. The church owns the entirety of the property described.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Beulah A. M. E. Church
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-780-1423
date: April 5, 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School

Name of Property

Daviess County, IN

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- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: Daviess State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: January 27, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest along West Walnut Street at front facades of buildings

1 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast along West Walnut Street at front façades of buildings

2 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the back facades of the buildings

3 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the church

4 of 15.

Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School

Name of Property

Daviess County, IN

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the school

5 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south in church sanctuary

6 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest in church sanctuary

7 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at pulpit and altar rail in church

8 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in church foyer

9 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in women's toilet room in church basement

10 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast in church basement fellowship hall

11 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in church basement kitchen

12 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south in school meeting room

13 of 15.

Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School
Name of Property

Daviess County, IN
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north in school meeting room

14 of 15.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west toward toilet room in school foyer

15 of 15.

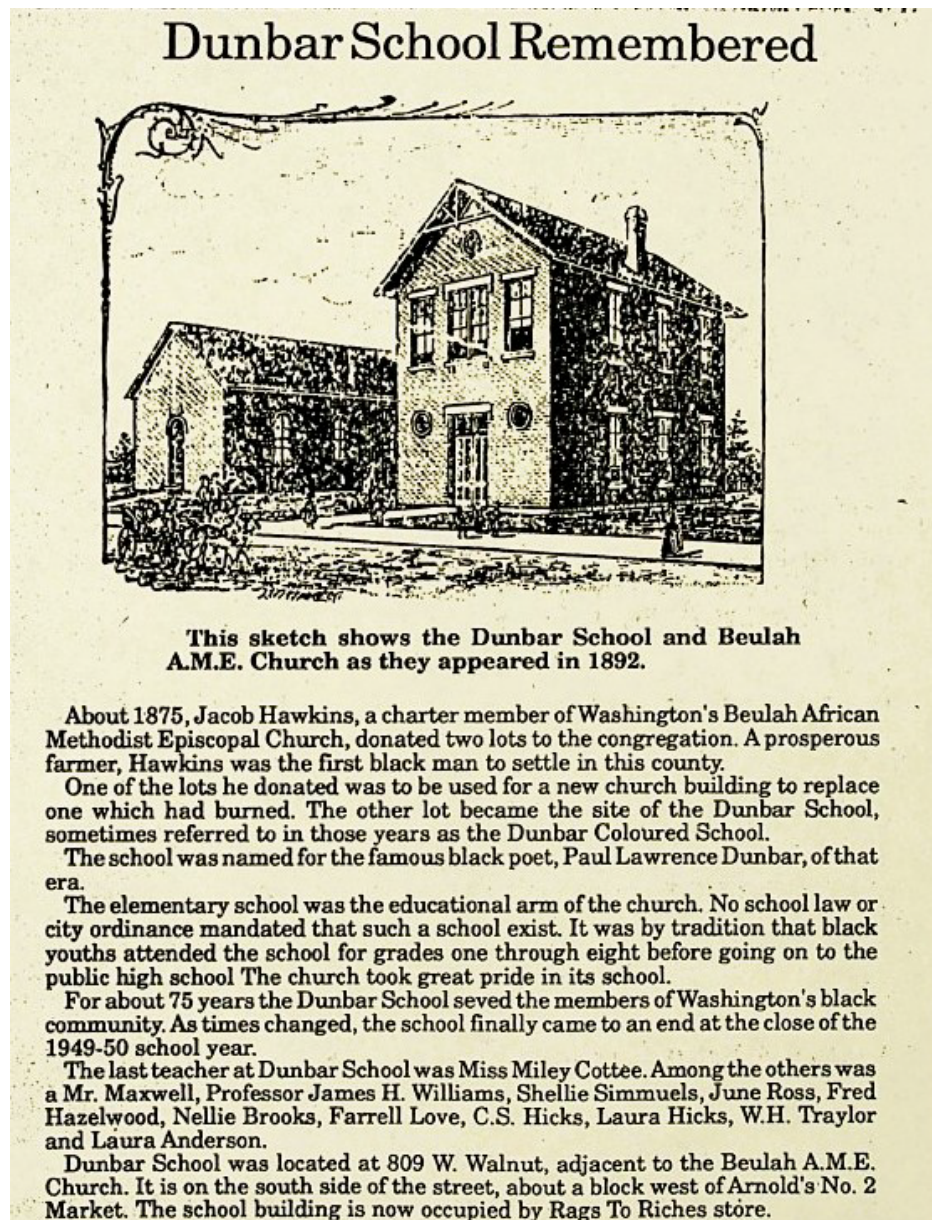
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 23 Beulah A. M. E. Church & Dunbar School, *Davies County, IN*



An 1892 rendering that appeared in a 1992 historical perspective newspaper:

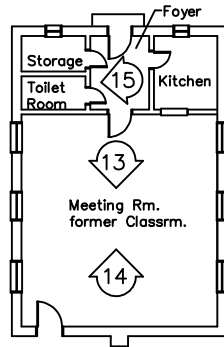
Dunbar School Remembered: <https://Daviesscounty.pastperfectonline.com/Archive/79C503F9-0AAE-4F4B-88E0-519708314558#gallery>

02

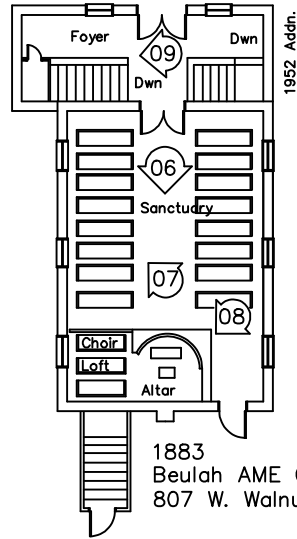
01

West Walnut Street

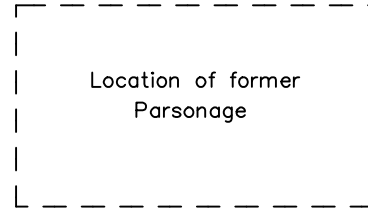
Sidewalk



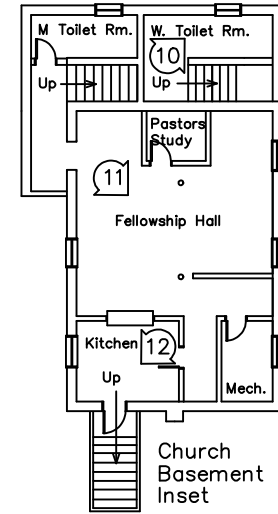
c. 1890 Dunbar School
809 W. Walnut St.



1883
Beulah A.M.E. Church
807 W. Walnut St.



Boundary



Van Trees Avenue

N W 8th Street

Alley

Alley

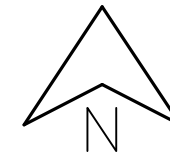
BEULAH A.M.E. CHURCH & DUNBAR SCHOOL

National Register of Historic Places
Site Sketch Map

807/809 W. Walnut St., Washington, Daviess County, IN



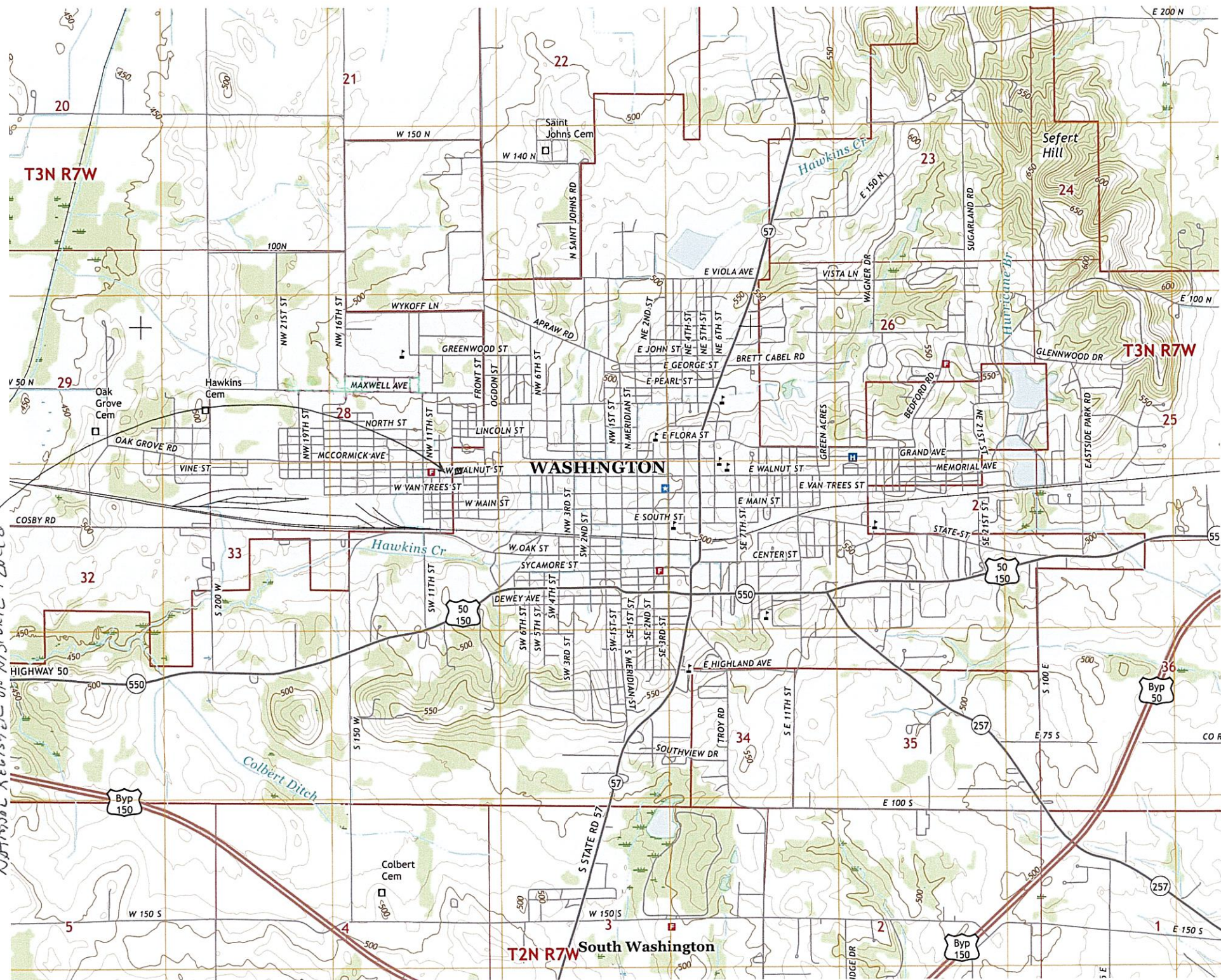
= Photographs



N W 9th Street



BEulah A.M.E. CHURCH & DUNBAR SCHOOL - WASHINGTON, DAVIES Co., IN
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES





IN_DaviessCounty_BeulahAMEChurch&DunbarSchool_0001



IN_DaviessCounty_BeulahAMEChurch&DunbarSchool_0002



IN_DaviessCounty_BeulahAMEChurch&DunbarSchool_0003



IN_DaviessCounty_BeulahAMEChurch&DunbarSchool_0006



IN_DaviessCounty_BeulahAMEChurch&DunbarSchool_0007



IN_DaviessCounty_BeulahAMEChurch&DunbarSchool_0013



IN_DaviessCounty_BeulahAMEChurch&DunbarSchool_0014