

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Dunbar Historic District

AND/OR COMMON  
and Expansion of the Dunbar, Paul Laurence, House Nomination

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER (for three blocks North  
North Summit Street from West Third Street)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Dayton

VICINITY OF  
III

STATE  
Ohio

CODE  
037

COUNTY  
Montgomery

CODE  
113

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
See Continuation Sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. The Montgomery County Recorders Office

STREET & NUMBER  
451 West Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Dayton

STATE

Ohio 45422

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Montgomery County Landmarks Committee Report

DATE

1 June 1968

FEDERAL STATE  COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Montgomery County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

7 North Main Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

11-15 North Summit is a typical High Victorian Italianate brick double house. It sits on a high rockfaced stone foundation with water table directly at the sidewalk. It is essentially rectangular with polygonal bay on each side. The main entrances lead off the porches into the front facing diagonal of each polygonal bay. The porches are badly deteriorated with only remnants of the original pillars. The front two bays are double windows with 1/1 double hung sash and joined metal caps of shouldered moulding and gable with incised decoration. The metal eaves have boxed cornice with frieze and brackets. The roof is truncated hip with roll roofing. The side has a window bay to front and rear of the polygonal bay. There is a frame addition on each side at the rear.

33 North Summit is a brick High Victorian Italianate house. It has an irregular plan starting from a cruciform central mass. The foundation is rockfaced stone with water table. The central two bays advance with a one-story polygonal bay with pilasters, arched wood trim, semicircular 1/1 double hung sash windows and box cornice. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash with stone lintels and sills. A door has been added on the left face of the pavilion. A transomed doorway leads off a wrought iron renovated porch in the right front reentrant angle. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingle.

1505 West Second Street is a brick High Victorian Italianate house. It has an irregular plan resting on a rockfaced stone foundation with water table. The right two bays of the three bay facade elevation advances. The doorway in the right bay is badly renovated. The center bay has a shallow pavilion with two-story polygonal bay. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash with shaped, decorated and labeled metal caps. The box cornice has brackets on a frieze. The east side has a polygonal bay with stick bracketed porch in the rear reentrant angle.

203 North Summit is an essentially T-shaped plan sitting on a rockfaced foundation with water table. The center bay of the three bay elevation advances with mullion windows having 1/1 double hung sash and shaped, panelled, decorated and labeled metal caps. The entrances are in the facade and side planes of the left reentrant angle. A porch on the left has brick piers replacing the pillars but the incised decorated aileron has survived. The eaves are metal with bracketed box cornice and rosettes on a frieze. The roof is hip with prominent inside wall chimneys. The left wing has diagonal corner bays, a corbelled and panelled chimney and small pane aileron windows. There is a remnant of an iron fence extending along the Second Street side.

128 North Summit is a frame Eastlake sitting on a stone foundation. It has novelty siding and a polygonal pavilion on the north side. Doorways with blind transoms and shaped decorated cap lead off the porch in the reentrant angle. The front porch is Eastlake with turned pillars, decorated structural brackets, pendants and bracketed cornice. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash with shaped moulded caps and blinds. The eaves have box cornice with Eastlake decorated brackets on a frieze. The north rear has a two-story porch with steps and a summer kitchen trellis. There is a wrought iron fence. This is the best preserved property in the district.

# SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1870 - 1918

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dunbar Historic District is an extension of the Paul Laurence Dunbar House listed on the National Register. The district consists of architecturally significant buildings of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. These buildings are historically and visually related to the Dunbar House. They contribute to the interpretation of the Dunbar House which is a nationally significant site in the history of literature.

Paul Laurence Dunbar was born on Howard Street, June 27, 1872, in Dayton's East Side to Matilda and Josiah Dunbar, both of whom had begun life as slaves. Josiah, a plasterer by trade, had traveled the underground railway and later served in the Union Army. Matilda, a widow with two children, came to Dayton after the Civil War. Paul's parents separated and Matilda took in laundry to support her family. Matilda, prompted by early memories of the master reading aloud to his family, taught herself to read. Paul's early interest in poetry, and his intense desire for education, may have stemmed from his mother's stories.

In the Dayton of the 1880's few young people, black or white, continued their education beyond the fifth or sixth grade. Paul attended Central High School. He was popular among his fellow students despite his mother's misgivings about his being the only black student. His writing ability won him the editorship of the school paper, and his personality and wit the presidency of a school club, the Philomatheans. His poetry appeared in the Journal, a Dayton newspaper, and Orville and Wilbur Wright's West Side News. A bright future seemed assured.

Graduation, however, brought reality. Jobs were difficult to find. Dunbar was too well educated for the work traditionally held by blacks, and too black for positions his education warranted. A job in the shipping department of National Cash Register Company was short-lived because of Paul's frail health, possibly the tuberculosis which later ruined his life. The only work he could find was that of elevator operator in the Callahan Building at four dollars a week. He dreamed of college but was never able to reconcile his dream with the need to earn a living for himself and his mother, even when others offered him financial aid. One of the most popular forms of entertainment in the late 19th century was public readings. Paul's excellent reading voice made him a natural performer. His speaking earned him extra income and served to introduce his poetry to the public.