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King Hill

The Project by the Numbers:

Centennial Hill

West Montgomery

The Montgomery Advertiser

2,255 structures recorded as part of this project over 950 acres
1,874 of these structures are residences
54 of these structures are still home to religious organizations
93 of these structures are businesses

Note that much of the built environment from the Civil Rights Era persists in these neighborhoods. Over 36% of the buildings this survey documented would contribute to a historic district.

One of the oldest and most well-defined areas is the Centennial Hill neighborhood. This area was settled shortly after the Civil War by freedmen and became the center for African-American economic independence and social success that continued into the mid-20th century. Centennial Hill was the epicenter of African-American entrepreneurship and many of the community's political and religious leaders grew up in the neighborhood, or attended Alabama State College (now University).

West Montgomery is an area of mostly residential homes dating from the early and mid-twentieth century. West Montgomery was the hub for the nationally significant 1955 Bus Boycott. Many residents of West Montgomery decided to take the monumental step of refusing to use the city's bus lines and walk or carpool to work. Their efforts helped kickstart the modern Civil Rights Movement and made people like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a household name.

An area of North Montgomery called King Hill was a small neighborhood that included several influential churches. One notable resident was Claudette Colvin, a young woman who refused to give up her seat on a city bus just months before Rosa Parks' famous act of resistance that helped launched the 1955 Bus Boycott.

The buildings and sites that still exist in these neighborhoods today are tangible artifacts that recall the efforts of every-day people who sacrificed greatly to fight for equality. This project represents a vitally important step towards recognizing these sites and structures as part of our modern history and the history of Civil Rights in the United States. The data from this project will serve future researchers and City government as they seek to preserve and interpret these monuments that played an integral role in our modern world.