Another Native Son: An Interview with Charles Edward Wright

CAROLYN VANCE SMITH

Charles Edward Wright of Natchez, Richard Wright’s cousin, is widely known as the Wright family historian. For years, Charles Wright and his wife of forty-four years, Cora Wright, have researched the family tree, tying oral histories to provable fact. One avenue was during 2007, when they attended a free monthly series of discussion sessions led by Jerry W. Ward, Jr., a retired professor at Dillard University in New Orleans. Called “Reading Richard Wright on the Eve of His 100th Birthday,” the sessions were devoted to reading and studying all of Richard Wright’s works. Charles Wright was a member of the committee that developed the reading series.

In early 2008, Charles Wright spearheaded the “Richard Wright Ramble,” the first-ever tour of physical sites associated with his world-renowned cousin and the Wright family. The ramble, suggested by the 2008 NLCC program advisor, Jerry Ward, took place on February 23, 2008, during the 19th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. The tour complemented the conference theme, “Richard Wright, the South, and the World: A Centennial Celebration,” and was enjoyed by hundreds of participants.

Charles Wright attended public schools in Natchez and is a graduate of Allied Institute of Technology in Chicago. A platoon sergeant in the US Army, he is a Vietnam veteran who participated in Delta Storm and retired from the National Guard in 1992. For years he worked as plant manager for Waste Water Treatment at the Natchez Water Works. He is an active member of the Advisory Board of the Natchez Literary and
Cinema Celebration and the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American History and Culture. He is also a member of Sons and Daughters of United States Colored Troops and is frequently invited to speak about Richard Wright and his family.

A map related to Charles Wright's "Richard Wright Ramble" appears in this issue of the *Southern Quarterly* in Appendix A (page 183). It is marked with key historical places associated with Richard Wright and his family. The tour, best taken by vehicle, covers about thirty miles round-trip from downtown Natchez. Detailed directions and comments about the significance of each stop are included with the map.

The following interview was conducted in September 2013.

_Copiah-Lincoln Community College_

Charles Wright (left) with a portrait of Richard Wright and portraitist Katherine Buchanan, 17 March 2011. Courtesy of photographer Keith Buchanan.
CVS: Please give some background about the Wright family.

CEW: Richard Wright was my mother’s first cousin and my first cousin, once removed. As a child, I was introduced to my entire family, cousins, aunts, uncles. I lived in town but often visited my family in the country. The elders told stories about Nathaniel Wright, James Wright, and George Wright, three brothers who were slaves who first came to Adams County, Mississippi. They also talked about Richard Wright, our famous relative. My mother, born August 11, 1914, in Adams County, was Evelyn Wright. Her given name was Evalina, and her nickname was Lina. Her father was Uriah Wright, a son of Nathaniel Wright, one of the three slaves who were brothers. Nathaniel Wright was born about 1842, and his wife, Laura Calvit Wright, was born about 1849 in Mississippi. She was three-fourths Choctaw Indian. They were married on Rucker Plantation in 1866. My grandfather, Uriah Wright, was born in Adams County about 1879. Uriah’s younger brother was Nathan Wright, whose nickname was “Naze.” Uncle Naze was born in Adams County about 1882. Uncle Naze’s first son, Richard Nathaniel Wright, was born September 4, 1908, also in Adams County. Both my mother, Evelyn Wright, and her first cousin, Richard Wright, were grandchildren of a slave, Nathaniel Wright.

CVS: How did Nathaniel Wright, the slave, get to Natchez?

CEW: Nathaniel Wright and his two natural brothers, James Wright and George Wright, were slaves in Virginia for a plantation owner who had land holdings all over the South. In the 1850s, they were transported down the Mississippi River to Natchez to work on Rucker Plantation in Adams County. We don’t know the exact year. Their parents did not come with them. They were allowed to keep their first name and their last name.

CVS: How old was Nathaniel when he arrived in Natchez?

CEW: He was a teenager, maybe fifteen to eighteen years old. The US Census of 1870 indicates Nathaniel Wright was twenty-eight years old that year, meaning he was born about 1842. If the brothers arrived in Natchez in 1858, Nathaniel must have been sixteen years old. The 1870 census further indicates that George Wright was thirty-six years old, meaning he was born about 1834. For some reason, that census does not list James Wright. The 1870 census also says Nathaniel and George were born in
Mississippi. But this is not right. The brothers came from Virginia and were most likely born there.

**CVS:** Why is Forks of the Road an important historical site for Natchez residents?

**CEW:** Even though on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, slavery did not end on that date. It was that summer, after the fall of Vicksburg, when the Union Army took control of Natchez, that slaves in Adams County were freed. The three Wright brothers left Rucker Plantation and joined the Union Army at an enlistment station at Forks of the Road. Before 1863, this was the site of one of the largest slave markets in the South, but when slavery was abolished, of course, the slave market was closed. This area is important to the Wright family for another reason. The Forks of the Road was also a neighborhood which had homes on two alleys, O’Ferrall Alley and Golds Alley. I was born there on September 2, 1946. I lived with my mother, her mother, Patsy Williams, and my siblings on O’Ferrall Alley. My mother was a single parent who named me after her family, the Wrights. As a child, I played where the slave market once stood.

**CVS:** How long did the three Wright brothers stay in the Union army?

**CEW:** Not too long after joining, George and James left the army, but Nathaniel remained until he was honorably discharged in August 1866. Later on, his brothers were also honorably discharged. James was later buried in the Natchez National Cemetery as a US Color Troop, marker 3316. We lost track of George.

**CVS:** What did Nathaniel do when he got out of the Army?

**CEW:** He returned to Rucker Plantation, just off Highway 84 in northeast Adams County, Mississippi, where Wright family members lived.

**CVS:** Why do biographies state that Richard Wright was born and lived in Roxie, Mississippi?

**CEW:** The Wrights never lived in Franklin County, where Roxie is located. That town is across the county line from Adams County. The error
probably occurred because some of the Wright family received mail on a rural route that originated in Roxie. But no one in the Wright family ever lived there.

**CVS:** On Highway 84, near Dunbarton Road, is a Mississippi Department of Transportation memorial marker honoring Richard Wright. When was this marker placed there?

**CEW:** It occurred at the conclusion of the Richard Wright Ramble. Julia Wright, Richard’s daughter, came from Paris to participate in the 2008 Celebration and in the highway marker dedication. All sorts of dignitaries were there, including US Senator Thad Cochran, former Mississippi Governor William Winter, Mississippi Highway Commissioner Wayne Brown, and Natchez Mayor Philip West. Many members of the Wright family were there, too, especially to watch Julia unveil the marker.

**CVS:** Is Highway 84 the same route the Wrights took when going to Natchez from Rucker Plantation?

**CEW:** It is close to the old route. Today’s four-lane Highway 84 is rather new. The old two-lane Highway 84 road runs nearby, with parts sometimes curving to the north of the new highway and sometimes to the south of it.

Richard Wright Memorial Highway sign. The marker was placed on Highway 84 near Cranfield and other Adams County sites associated with the Wright family. Courtesy of the Southern Literary Trail.
CVS: What happened to Nathaniel Wright when he returned after the Civil War?

CEW: He went to Rucker Plantation to farm as a sharecropper. In 1867, he married Laura Calvit, who was three-fourths Choctaw Indian. They lived in a small, rented cabin and were very poor. Since the land would not support them, Nathaniel and Laura Wright moved their family to Travelers Rest Plantation, not far away, where he also sharecropped. They lived in a small, rented cabin. Their first child, Solomon, was born about 1870. Their other children were Fannie, born about 1873; Betsey, born about 1875; Uriah, born about 1879; James and George, born between 1879 and 1881, and Nathan, called Naze, born about 1882. As they grew up, Nathaniel’s sons also became sharecroppers on plantations in Adams County.

CVS: What happened to Richard’s father, Naze Wright?

CEW: About 1907, Naze married Ella Wilson of Natchez, a school teacher who was born about 1879. Her parents were Richard Wilson and Margaret Bolden Wilson. Richard Wilson, born a slave in 1847 in Wilkinson County, Mississippi, later joined the Union navy, though claims for a pension were denied because of confusing evidence. After the Civil War, he returned to Wilkinson County, where he married Margaret Bolden in 1871, a woman “nearly as white as a Negro can get without being white,” as my cousin Richard wrote in Black Boy. The Wilsons moved to Natchez in the 1890s.

CVS: Where did Naze and Ella Wright live?

CEW: They lived on Travelers Rest Plantation, near the rest of the Wright family. Poverty followed them. Ella helped Naze in the fields during planting and harvest time and taught school in the winter. In Twelve Million Black Voices, which was published in 1941, Richard Wright wrote that sharecropping was similar to feudalism. As a sharecropping family, the Wrights suffered. The first son of Naze and Ella, Richard Nathaniel Wright, was born Sept. 4, 1908, on Travelers Rest Plantation and named after his two grandfathers, Richard Wilson and Nathaniel Wright. The family cabin is no longer standing, but other buildings on the property today are similar to what the Wright home looked like. One abandoned
house faces the new Highway 84 on the south near the turn onto Dunbarton Road. It is in very bad condition.

**CVS:** Did Richard have siblings?

**CEW:** Yes, his brother, Leon Alan, was born about two years after Richard. Later, his father had a daughter, Joan, by another woman, so she was a half-sister to Richard and Leon.

**CVS:** Describe the Wright family’s life in the country.

**CEW:** It was extremely hard. Naze tried to farm but was always in debt. One record shows he had only three mules and $150. Later on he had nothing. The family often depended on others for their basic necessities. They all knew hunger. Little Richard Wright knew hunger and was so haunted and embittered by it that he wrote about it in *Black Boy*: “Hunger stole upon me so slowly that at first I was not aware of what hunger really meant. Hunger had always been more or less at my elbow, but now I began to wake up at night to find hunger standing at my bedside, staring at me gauntly.” When Richard was a child, his father abandoned the family, leaving them with no money for food. Richard wrote, “As the days slid past, the image of my father became associated with my pangs of hunger, and whenever I felt hunger I thought of him with a deep biological bitterness.” Julia Wright remembered her father’s intense interest in food. She said he “loved turnip greens all his life, yearned for it, especially the ‘pot liquor.’” She said he particularly loved banana ice cream, chocolate layer cake, lemon meringue pie, cornbread, and “Brown Betty.” She also recalled the meal in *Black Boy* when Richard’s mother made soup and a big platter of fried chicken, and Richard was so afraid the preacher would eat all the chicken!

**CVS:** Did the families living on these plantations go into Natchez to attend church?

**CEW:** No, it was too far. Many of the Wrights went to Greater Robinson Chapel Baptist Church on Robinson Road, not far from where they lived. Today’s church is not the original church. The first one was built in 1874. The church is named after the road’s first name. It is now called Hobo Fork Road.
CVS: Why was the name of the road changed?

CEW: The reason is interesting. On the south side of today's Highway 84, and parallel to it, is the original east-west road, called Meadville Road and Old Highway 84. For decades, east-west railroad tracks have run parallel to Meadville Road. There is a deep curve in both the road and the railway as they cross Robinson Road. The name changed because hobos gathered at the crossing. They knew the train had to slow down at the curve; they could easily hop a train there and get a free ride.

CVS: Where did the Wright family bury their dead?

CEW: Members of the Wright family are buried at Rowan Cemetery. Naze Wright, Richard Wright's father, is buried there in an unmarked grave. Naze's father and his brothers are also buried there in back on the right side. Newer Wright graves are located in the front of the cemetery, which makes them easily visible.

CVS: Were there schools on the plantation?

CEW: There were not many school buildings in the country. Black children were taught in churches. Ella Wright taught school off and on at Tate
Magnolia Baptist Church, in the original church building, which was built in 1868. We know that by 1940, the building was dilapidated because when Richard Wright visited that summer, he went to take pictures of the place where he was born and the church he attended, but he found both sites in very bad shape. Tate Church today is a modern building.

**CVS:** Did the Wrights stay on Rucker Plantation their whole lives?

**CEW:** Nathaniel, the slave, died on Rucker, but others in the family, such as Naze and Ella Wright, moved away, to the Cranfield community, Travelers Rest Plantation, or elsewhere.

**CVS:** Who lived in the Cranfield community?

**CEW:** My Aunt Margaret Wright, a lady we called “T,” lived on Cranfield Road. Living with her at one time was Naze Wright, Richard Wright’s father. When Richard visited his father there in 1940, he brought him a set of false teeth. Uncle Naze, however, never wore them since they did not fit. He threw them into a tree in the woods. The family still laughs about this story.

**CVS:** When did Richard Wright meet with success? And how did the Wright family respond?

**CEW:** His short stories were first published in the 1930s, and one, “Fire and Cloud” won $500 in 1937 in a contest sponsored by Story magazine. That was good money during the Depression. Uncle Tom’s Children, a collection of four novellas, came out in 1938 and was an immediate hit. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote about it in her national newspaper column, and The Nation called it one of the top ten best books of the year. Richard earned a lot of money from sales of that book, and then he was chosen for a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1939. He was able to concentrate on his first novel, Native Son, which was published on March 1, 1940. It, too, was a huge hit, winning Book of the Month Club honors and praises from reviewers across the world. It sold 200,000 copies within weeks, and Richard became famous. A movie was later made from the novel. After more of Richard’s books were published, including Black Boy in 1945, “T” displayed them all on a table in her home on Cranfield Road. She was very proud of him. In the summer of 1940, when Richard was returning from Mexico, he stopped in Natchez to see members of the family. After
meeting with his father, he wrote that he found him “toothless, bald, and bent over his hoe.” Some say Richard was shocked at the poverty and misery that still existed on the farm. He stayed overnight in town with a cousin and left the next morning, choosing not to attend a big family reunion at Cranfield that day. Instead, he flew to Atlanta and on to New York. He never returned to Natchez.

CVS: What specific influence did the Cranfield area have on Richard Wright’s works?

CEW: One influence was the sound of trains running east and west near Cranfield. When he lived in the country, Richard often heard the train whistle and sounds of the rumble and clacking of wheels. The sounds entertained him during the late hours of the night. He lay in his bed on lonely nights and listened. The sounds signaled freedom. For instance, in “Almos’ a Man,” Dave jumps on a boxcar and escapes a harsh sentence. In “Big Boy Leaves Home,” Big Boy is hiding from white men out to kill him, when he “heard number nine, far away and mournful.” The sound made him remember when he “wuz Casey Jones n wuz speedin’ it down the gleamin’ rails of the Southern Pacific.”

CVS: Where is Travelers Rest Plantation and which Wrights lived there?

CEW: It is less than a mile west of the Cranfield area. It is where Naze and Ella Wright went when they left Rucker Plantation. They moved there to sharecrop and to live in a small cabin. In the years that Naze and Ella and their sons lived on Travelers Rest Plantation, the road to Natchez was dirt and gravel until after the 1930s. People in the country had no transportation except by mule or wagon or by walking. They did not go to town very often. It was too far and took too long and they did not have money to spend.

CVS: From your perspective as a family member, how did these plantation experiences surface in Richard Wright’s work?

CEW: They show up in several places. One is in a draft of Black Boy: “I seem to remember a doorway looking out towards fields and sky. I remember most from my first years... people, objects, landscapes, movement, color, black faces, trees, bonfires, plowed fields, barnyard fowl,
movements of birds and leaves..." The experiences also show up in such stories as "Big Boy Leaves Home," when four black boys living in the country go swimming in a white man's swimming hole, and in "Almos' a Man," when Dave as a teenager plows the field behind a mule.

**CVS:** What happened to the cabins and other buildings on Travelers Rest that are associated with the Wrights?

**CEW:** Most of the cabins are gone. They either burned or fell in. The main house is still standing. For years, Grandma Laura worked there as a maid. You can barely see the house from Dunbarton Road. It is a private home and not open to the public. Not much farming goes on there today.
On both sides of Dunbarton Road are wooded areas. Much of the land has been sold, divided, and leased for hunting camps.

**CVS:** Your tour includes the ACE Theatre in Natchez. What connection is that to Richard Wright’s work?

**CEW:** After Richard’s novel, *Native Son*, became such a success, a movie was based on it. Richard acted in the movie as Bigger Thomas, the main character. In the early 1950s, the ACE Theatre in Natchez was where black people went to see movies. In fact, ACE stands for All Colored Entertainment. I was a child at the time. Before I went to see the movie, one of my teachers reminded me that Richard Wright was my cousin. As I watched the movie, I realized how much Richard Wright’s voice sounded like my uncles’ voices. The ACE movie theater closed in 1955.

**CVS:** What significance does the Rhythm Nightclub have in your tour?

**CEW:** When Richard visited Natchez in the summer of 1940, the city was still in shock over the 209 people who had died in a fire at the Rhythm Nightclub, a dance hall for black people, on April 23. A famous band leader was booked to play a one-night engagement at the club that night. More than 700 of Natchez’s black residents were packed into the small club. To keep people from entering without buying a ticket, the club’s windows were boarded up. Only the front door was used to come and go. Spanish moss was hung from the rafters to decorate the club. Because bugs lived in the moss, a spray was applied to kill them. When a fire broke out, the moss immediately caught fire, leaving only one way to get out. People panicked and died from burns or asphyxiation. The town was horrified over the loss of so many people, most of whom were prominent in the black community. The fire is still listed as the second deadliest nightclub fire in United States history.¹

**CVS:** How did Richard Wright learn about this tragedy?

**CEW:** It was in the news all over the country, but when he visited Natchez in 1940, he was able to get all the details. Across the street from the nightclub is Mackel Funeral Home, which in 1940 was the elite funeral parlor for blacks. The funeral home staff comforted families after the fire and helped them. The fire is described in Richard’s novel, *The Long
Dream, which came out in 1958 and is set in Natchez. The main character, Fishbelly, is resting on the grass underneath an elm tree near the Grove, a dance club: “Fishbelly could see golden lights gleaming through the wooden beams and the thick-hanging moss suspended from the tin roof. Thunderous jazz rocked hypnotically...Then he was staring at a strange, faint radiance in the sky above him; it was as though a full moon had burst from behind a dark bank of clouds. He thought he heard a muffled scream...The music had stopped... The wind wafted him a whiff of smoke. He was hearing piercing screams now and the bluish light became a radiant sea of orange-colored flames roiling upward toward the sky.”

CVS: Also on the Ramble is the home of Richard Wright’s grandparents, the Wilsons, his mother’s parents. Where did they live?

CEW: They lived at 20 East Woodlawn Street in a neighborhood just a few blocks from the Mississippi River. As a small child, Richard visited Richard and Margaret Wilson. The 1910 census shows his mother living there. Richard was two years old then, which was the year his brother Leon was born; it seems likely that all three of them were living there. The census does not list Naze living there though. Instead, it shows him
living in Adams County. Ella, Richard, and Leon all lived at the Wilsons’ home until about 1913.

CVS: Is this house included in any of Richard Wright’s works?

CEW: Yes, in *Black Boy* he tells about playing with fire at his grandmother’s home while she was sick in bed. He was four years old at the time and set some curtains on fire “to see how they would look when they burned.” With part of the house burning, his grandmother had to be moved suddenly. Richard’s mother was so angry, and terrified for his safety, that she beat him. “I was lashed so hard and long that I lost consciousness,” he wrote. “A doctor was called and he ordered that I be kept abed, that my very life depended upon it. For a long time I was chastened whenever I remembered that my mother had come close to killing me.”

CVS: How does the Mississippi River figure in Richard Wright’s stories?

CEW: Since the Wilson home is just a few blocks from the river, and since the family traveled by riverboat at least once, the river was very much a part of Richard Wright’s memories. He refers to it particularly in his story, “Down by the Riverside,” set during the devastating flood of 1927. He also writes of it in *Black Boy*: “There was the vague sense of the infinite as I looked down upon the yellow, dreaming waters of the Mississippi River from the verdant bluffs of Natchez...One day my mother told me that we were going to Memphis on a boat, the *Kate Adams*, and my eagerness thereafter made the days seem endless.” That was about 1913, when Naze, Ella, and the boys traveled to Memphis. Richard Wright departed from Natchez but then he forever took it with him.

**Notes**

1For more on the Rhythm Nightclub fire, see “The Natchez Fire: African American Remembrance through Interviews, Photographs, and Songs” by Vincent Joos (*Southern Quarterly* 50.2: 49-73).
APPENDIX A

The Richard Wright Ramble

CHARLES WRIGHT

with assistance from Cora Wright and Carolyn Vance Smith
RICHARD WRIGHT RAMBLE MAP
Adams County, Mississippi

LEGEND
1. Forks of the Road
2. Richard Wright Memorial Highway Marker
3. Rucker Plantation
4. Robinson Chapel Baptist Church
5. Rowan Cemetery
6. Tate Magnolia Baptist Church
7. Cranfield Road
8. Railroad
9. Travelers Rest Plantation
10. ACE Theatre
11. Rhythm Night Club
12. 20 East Woodlawn
13. Natchez Museum of Afro-American History and Culture
14. Richard Wright Historical Marker
Directions and Annotations
for the Richard Wright Ramble Map

For more information about the sites below, see comments by Charles Wright on pages 117-30.

SITE 1: FORKS OF THE ROAD
Directions: At the intersection of Saint Catherine Street and Liberty Road, about 1.5 miles east of the Mississippi River, is the site of what was, until 1863, one of the largest slave markets in the South. It is also the site where three Wright brothers, former slaves, joined the Union Army. Charles Wright was born and lived nearby.

SITE 2: HISTORIC MARKER ON U.S. HIGHWAY 84
Directions: From Forks of the Road, go north on Highway 61 about 4.5 miles to Washington, Miss. Turn east on Highway 84 and go just past the sign for Dunbarton Road. A blue Mississippi Department of Transportation marker memorializing Richard Wright is on the south side of the highway, unveiled during the 2008 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

SITE 3: RUCKER PLANTATION
Directions: On Highway 84, turn north onto State Park Road, north of Dunbarton Road. The Natchez State Park is on the west side of State Park Road and is on the former site of Rucker Plantation, where the Wright family worked first as slaves and then as sharecroppers.

SITE 4: ROBINSON CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Directions: Turn around on State Park Road and go to Highway 84. Turn east and go about one mile. Turn north on Hobo Fork Road and go about one mile. The church, on the west side of the road, is on the spot of the original church that many Wright family members attended.

SITE 5: ROWAN CEMETERY
Directions: Turn around at Robinson Chapel Baptist Church and go south on Hobo Fork Road one-half mile. On the east side of the road is Rowan Cemetery, where several Wright family members are buried, including Richard Wright's father, Naze, in an unmarked grave.
SITE 6: TATE MAGNOLIA BAPTIST CHURCH
Directions: On Hobo Fork Road, go south to Highway 84. Turn east. Go about one mile to Tate Road. Turn north on Tate Road and go about one mile on a gravel road. The church, on the east side of the road, is on the site of the original building where Richard Wright’s mother, Ella, taught school.

SITE 7: CRANFIELD ROAD
Directions: On Tate Road, turn around and go south to Highway 84. Go across the four-lane Highway 84 and continue south to Old Highway 84#3. Turn west and go 1.5 miles. Turn south on Cranfield Road and go about .5 mile. Stop at the water tower, near the site of the home of Margaret Wright, where Richard Wright visited his father, Naze Wright, in 1940.

SITE 8: ALONG THE RAILROAD TRACKS
Directions: Turn around on Cranfield Road and go to Old Highway 84#3. Turn west and go about .75 of a mile. Notice the railroad tracks running parallel to the road on the south side. Sounds from train traffic are mentioned in many of Richard Wright’s works. At Winding Road turn north and go to the four-lane Highway 84.

SITE 9: TRAVELERS REST PLANTATION
Directions: From the intersection of Winding Road and the four-lane Highway 84, go west on Highway 84 for about .75 of a mile. Turn south at Dunbarton Road, a paved road that becomes a gravel road. Naze, Ella, Richard, and Leon Wright lived on Travelers Rest Plantation, where Naze was a sharecropper and where Richard’s grandmother, Laura, was a maid in the main house.

SITE 10: ACE THEATRE
Directions: On Dunbarton Road, turn around and go north to the four-lane Highway 84. Turn west and go to Highway 61. Turn south and go into Natchez. Stay on Highway 61 as it turns into D’Evereux Drive and later into Saint Catherine Street. Stop at 39 Saint Catherine Street, site of the former ACE Theatre. As a child in the 1950s, Charles Wright saw his cousin Richard Wright perform the role of Bigger Thomas in a film version of Native Son in this theatre.
SITE 11: RHYTHM NIGHTCLUB
*Directions:* Go west to #5 Saint Catherine Street, site of the Rhythm Nightclub, which burned in 1940, killing 209 people. Richard Wright wrote about this tragedy in *The Long Dream.*

SITE 12: 20 EAST WOODLAWN STREET
*Directions:* From Saint Catherine Street, turn north onto Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Street and go about one mile. Turn west on East Woodlawn Street and stop at 20 East Woodlawn, home of Richard Wright’s mother’s parents, Richard and Ella Wilson. A Mississippi Department of Archives and History historic marker honoring Richard Wright is in the front yard.

SITE 13: NATCHEZ MUSEUM OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
*Directions:* From 20 East Woodlawn Street, go east to Martin Luther King, Jr., Street. Turn south and go to Main Street. Turn west and go to 301 Main Street. An exhibit in the museum is dedicated to Richard Wright.

SITE 14: RICHARD WRIGHT HISTORIC MARKER ON BROADWAY STREET
*Directions:* From 301 Main Street, go west on Main Street to Broadway Street. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History historic marker was placed on the Natchez Bluff on June 9, 1990, a project of the first Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.