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#### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# 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 Anderson-Coward House

and or common Justine's Restaurant

# 2. Location

street & number 919 Coward Place

Memphis

vicinity of

county

She1by

N/A

state

city, town

Tennessee <sub>code</sub> 047

# 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	_X_ occupied	agriculture	museum
district X_ building(s)	<u>    X    private</u>	unoccupied	_X_ commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	<mark>₩ / A</mark> in process	$\underline{X}$ yes: restricted	government	scientific
•	M/A being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	-	no	military	other:

# 4. Owner of Property

name	Mr. and Mr	rs. Dayton Smith	
street & number	5280 Rich	Road	
city, town	Memphis	N/A vicinity of	state Tennessee 38117
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Description	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Office of the Shelby Co	unty Register
street & number		160 N. Main	
city, town		Memphis	state Tennessee 38103
6. Rep	resentatio	n in Existing Su	rveys
title N/A	ł	has this property	been determined eligible? yes $\underline{X}$ no
date N/A		N/A	federalstatecountylocal
depository for su	urvey records N/A		
city, town N/A			state N/A
	-		

# 7. Description

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Anderson-Coward House was constructed ca. 1852 in the Italianate style. The two story load-bearing brick structure is located at the intersection of Coward Place and East Street in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. Originally L-shaped in plan, the building received several additions prior to 1910 and was renovated for use as a restaurant in 1958. The Anderson-Coward House displays a high degree of quality in its styling and is a good example of stylistic changes over time in a building.

date .

The front (northern) facade is divided into five bays, with the entrance in the center bay. The surface of the brick facade is covered with a layer of finely textured stucco, scored in imitation of coursed, dressed-face ashlar. The fenestration on the first and second stories is comprised of 6/6 double hung sash windows that feature elaborately designed pediments. Windows on the first floor are capped by scroll pediments that contain a garland and anthemion in the frieze. Scroll brackets ornamented with anthemions support the scroll pediments. The windows on the second story are capped by flat pediments embellished with a grape and vine motif in the frieze. The pediments are crested with a finely detailed egg and dart molding and supported by detailed anthemion scroll brackets. Above the windows on the second story are five evenly spaced bull's-eye attic vents, each covered with a cast iron grate designed in a four leaf clover motif. Above the bull's-eye vents is a simple cornice located on a parapet wall. The cornice features paired scroll brackets that support the deep eaves. The trabeated double leaf entry is enhanced by the same motif as the windows. Two electric carriage lanterns are located on each side of the entry while an elaborate filigree metal balustrade surrounds the stoop porch. A one story flat roof porch, located at the western edge of the facade was enclosed ca. 1905-1910. A single 6/6 double hung sash window with a scroll pediment is located here. During the 1958 renovation eight windows on the facade were repaired to match the only original window cornice remaining.

The original L-shaped plan of the structure continues along the six bay eastern elevation. The front third of this elevation displays a continuation of the ornamental parapet wall cornice used on the facade, including the bull's-eye vents. The remainder of the eastern wall eliminates the parapet at the eaves, instead displaying a low pitch hip and gable roof. Unlike the facade, the eastern wall was never stuccoed and its exposed pattern of common bond brick remains unpainted. Most of the fenestration on the eastern elevation is 6/6 double hung sash windows from the ca. 1958 renovation, though a few of the 1/1 double hung sash windows remain from the ca. 1905-1910 renovation of the structure. A one story ca. 1978 brick addition is visable from this view.

The rear (southern) elevation displays little original material due to many additions over time. The main feature of the rear facade at present is a one story U-shaped addition that was placed on the structure as a service wing for its use as a restaurant in ca. 1978.

The side (western) elevation also displays many layers of alterations that have nearly filled in the original L-shaped plan of the structure. It is apparent that the original appearance of this facade reflected a continuation of the design of the northern facade, perhaps indicating that the grounds in this area of the property were formally designed for gardens. A major two story addition was placed on the inside of the L-shaped plan in ca. 1905-1910, thus filling out the plan as a rectangle. Another major feature of the western elevation is a two story bay window, which was added to the rear corner of the major addition in ca. 1905-1910.

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Anderson-Coward House Item number 7 Page 2

The interior of the Anderson-Coward House retains a great deal of its historic integrity in spite of many phases of remodeling that have occurred in its life. Each phase of remodeling has left important clues to the evolution of the structure as it grew and changed to fit the needs of its occupants. Most of the important elements of these periods have been carefully retained. New elements were introduced to the structure only when original or subsequent materials of value were missing.

The original L-shaped plan of the structure was laid out with a central hall and stair core. The entrance hall divides the formal spaces of the home from the informal spaces. The hall is designed with restraint. The major features include the paneled pilasters of the door surrounds which support simple friezes. Wide cornices decorated with complex moldings are carried from the walls to the ceilings thus lessening the sense of height from the tall ceilings of the interior. A focal point of the hall is the three run stair. The original balustrade of the stair had been replaced in the early twentieth century. During the 1958 renovation of the property, the later stair was replaced by an elaborate wrought iron stair that features a crest design. The stair was salvaged from the old Gayoso Hotel (now part of Goldsmith's Department Store on Main Street, Downtown Memphis), dating from ca. 1885.

To the right of the entrance hall lies the formal parlor, easily the most elaborate room in the structure. The room features an elaborate cornice executed in a complex Baroque design highlighted with cherubs and foliated scrolls. A large ovaloid ceiling medallion follows a similarily complex Baroque design. The plaster cornice and medallion probably date from the post-Civil War period, and were probably installed by the Coward family in ca. 1875-1880. Beyond the formal parlor lie the rooms of the ca. 1905-1910 additions. The simple Colonial Revival doorways with their bull's-eye corner blocks appear in stark contrast of simplicity when compared with the elaborate styling of the parlor.

To the left of the entrance hall lie the less formal living spaces of the structure. The front informal parlor contains much of its original detailing, though it is much more restrained than in the formal parlor. Complex moldings surround the door and windows in wide bands that form simple, but elegant details. Similarily, wide bands of moldings decorate the cornice and the ceiling. The same treatment is carried into the informal sitting or dining room that lies beyond the parlow through the wide connecting doorway that may once have contained pocket doors.

The rear portions of the ell once served as the service wing for the home and now contain the kitchen, pantries and storage areas for Justine's Restaurant. While many details from the original structure remain in these areas, the majority of detailing appears to remain from the ca. 1905-1910 remodeling of the property by the Johnston family.

None of the associated outbuildings for the property are extant, having been demolished to clear the way for parking and garden spaces associated with the restaurants day-today affairs. In their place, large open-air gazeboes now grace the grounds and provide an impressive setting for many important local social affairs, including, until 1984, the welcoming party for the annual visit of the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York during its yearly tour. Small shrubs, patio stones, and wrought iron gates from another residence enhance the setting of the Anderson-Coward House.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric		Iandscape architecture	e religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500–1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	X architecture	education	military	social/
1700–1799	art		music	humanitarian
_X 1800–1899	<u>X</u> commerce	exploration/settlement	t philosophy	theater
_ <u>X</u> 1900–	communications	industry invention	politics/government	transportation other (specify)
		······		

Specific dates ca. 1852-1936 Builder/Architect unknown

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Anderson-Coward House (ca. 1852) is being nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its historical and architectural significance in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. The house presents an excellent example of the adaptation of changing architectural styles over time. One of the few extant antebellum Italianate residences in the area, the Anderson-Coward House was embellished and enlarged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Historically, the house is important for its association with several prominent businessmen in Memphis, such as Nathaniel Anderson, H.M. Grosvenor, Samuel Coward, and Robert Johnston. The house retains much of its original character.

The original property for the Anderson-Coward House was purchased by Mildred Moon Anderson in April of 1843 as a three acre subdivision of Dr. Nathaniel Ragland's (d.1848) extensive plantation lands. The property occupied an awkward corner of Ragland's estate, being a triangular tract cut off from the rest of Ragland's lands by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. It was also bounded on the north and east by the line of the Pigeon Roost Road (also known as the Memphis-Lagrange Road, and now Lamar Avenue), which was one of the busiest and most important transportation arteries for the area at that time. Local tradition states that Mrs. Anderson and her husband, Nathaniel Anderson (1796-1867) set about the development of the property by having the current structure designed and built in ca. 1843-1844. While the Andersons may have developed the property with some form of structure, the little remaining historical records point to a much later date for the construction of the existing structure most likely in the period 1851-1852. City directories, census records and newspaper accounts from the period clearly show that Nathaniel Anderson maintained his principal residence on Union Avenue in what was then the City of South Memphis, Anderson's Union Avenue home was totally destroyed in a fire in 1850. It is much more likely that construction of the existing residence began soon thereafter. The Memphis City Directory for 1855 lists the address of Nathaniel Anderson as Pigeon Roost Road for the first time. 

The original owner of the Italianate style Anderson-Coward House was Nathaniel Anderson, a major figure in the growth and development of the City of Memphis and Shelby County from its earliest days. Anderson and his wife Mildred Moon Anderson (b. 1800) came to Memphis from Virginia in 1823, and quickly rose in stature as prominent citizens. In 1827, Anderson opened the City Hotel, which was regarded as the first true hostelry in Memphis. His primary occupation was that of a cotton broker and banker, dividing his time and energies between his Memphis office and a branch in New Orleans. Like many of his contemporaries, Anderson answered the call for volunteers to serve in the Mexican War of 1846 and was stationed as Quartermaster at Point Isabel during the conflict. Upon his return he founded the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank, serving for a number of years as its first president. He advocated for, planned, and served as the first president of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce (originally known as the Businessman's Club). Anderson retired from his banking position in ca. 1856 due to ill health, sold his home on the Pigeon Roost Road, and retired to his plantation nine miles south of the City of Memphis. He died at this place in March of 1867.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

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### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Anderson-Coward House Item number 8



Nathaniel Anderson sold his country estate to H.M. Grosvenor (1815-1866), who was a significant local merchant in household furnishings and decorations. By this time, the rapid growth of the City of Memphis had begun to alter the area surrounding the Anderson-Coward House from rural to a more suburban character, at least from the perspective of the mid-nineteenth century. The large plantation lands that once surrounded the Anderson-Coward House began to give way to smaller estate lands, which in turn were subdivided in the late 1880s and 1890s to form the current residential areas of Midtown Memphis. The growth of the city and the improvement of the road systems made commuting to the downtown area viable in the mid-1850s, thus adding to the desirability of the Anderson-Coward House as a residence for the wealthy businessman.

H.M. Grosvenor came to the Memphis area in ca. 1845 from Massachusetts. Though little is known about his family origins or his life in Memphis, he established an active trade in a furniture business that experienced phenomenal growth throughout the 1840s and 1850s. He was obviously a flamboyant character, given his habit of taking out large newspaper advertisements and city directory advertisements to increase his business.

Grosvenor's retail enterprise was devasted by the onset of the Civil War and the subsequent fall of the City of Memphis to Union troops in 1862. Grosvenor's difficulties were compounded by the death of his wife Martha in December of 1864. Undaunted, Grosvenor mortgaged his home to William D. Coward for \$7,000 in May 1866 in order to raise capital for his new business, the Southern Carpet Store. (The trustee for the mortgage agreement was Samuel H. Coward). The business flourished for a brief time before Grosvenor's death of a "brain seizure" later that year.

William D. Coward took possession of the property to settle Grosvenor's default of his deed of trust note against the property on January 1, 1867. The property was deeded to Coward's son, Samuel Holliday Coward in April of 1868 in "consideration of legal services performed and rendered by said Samuel H. Coward in obtaining possession of the property mentioned." Samuel Coward then mortgaged the property from his father.

Samuel Holliday Coward (1835-1894) was born in Tipton County, Tennessee as the son of a prosperous planter. Coward attended Union University at Murfreesboro, where he received a Bachelor of Law degree. He returned to Memphis to begin his practice and soon acquired a high reputation for his abilities in the legal profession. Coward began to live in the old Anderson place in mid 1868, while maintaining an office on Jefferson Street. He married Ida C. Carrol in 1874, and repaid the mortgage to his father in 1875. Extensive alterations were made to the home within the next few years, including some of the infill of the inside portion of the L-shaped plan. Part of this work probably included the plasterwork of the formal parlor. The estate became the site of many impressive social affairs during the later part of the nineteenth century.

Upon the death of Ida Coward in 1904, the property was inherited by Elizabeth Coward, the only daughter of Samuel and Ida Coward. Elizabeth Coward had become the wife of the prosperous lawyer and banker Robert O. Johnston in 1901, and they continued to occupy the family home throughout the rest of their marriage. The Johnston's made extensive

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Anderson-Coward House Item number 8 Page 3

alterations and improvements to the property during the early part of the twentieth century, including the major additions to the inside of the original L-shaped plan of the house in ca. 1905-1910.

The encroachment of the suburban development of Midtown Memphis had begun to place great pressure on the property by the 1890s. The long drive for the property once terminated at the present intersection with Crump Boulevard, and served as a benchmark for the eastern boundary of the city of Memphis. In 1899, the annexation of the present Midtown area surpassed this area by nearly a mile to the east. The Coward and Johnston families succumbed to the pressures of the surrounding development, thus slowly replacing the extensive grounds of the estate with the current grid pattern of streets. Remaining in testimony of the old drive is the designation of the street name Coward Place, which terminates near the front door of the Anderson-Coward House.

The Johnston family retained possession of the property until 1957, when it was purchased by its present owners. They purchased the old home as the new location for their exclusive Continental-style restaurant. The renovation of the Anderson-Coward House was accomplished with great sensitivity to introduce its modern function with as little disruption of its historic qualities as possible. Great care was exercised in removing later alterations and additions to the property only where necessary. New materials were crafted to replace missing details whenever needed. The late Victorian porch that once ran across two-thirds of the facade was removed when evidence was uncovered to indicate the presence of an earlier stoop porch. Materials salvaged from other structures of a contemporary age to the Anderson-Coward House were introduced only as a last resort, such as the elaborate interior stair balustrade from the Gayoso Hotel in Memphis. Other features, such as the elaborate wrought iron courtyard gates and window grates of the facade were salvaged from the Hewlett Home, which stood on Vance Avenue until ca. 1956.

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Anderson-Coward House Item number 9 Page 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Anderson-Coward House Item number 10

Page

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is roughly triangular in shape and 1.56 acres in size. It is bounded on the southwest by the Southern Railway line, on the north by adjacent property lines and Coward Place, and on the east by East Street. It includes all land within the confines of Lots 17 and 18, Coward Subdivision, City of Memphis. This is sufficient land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the Anderson-Coward House (See tax map).

2

