

PH0501395

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 21 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 9 1978

**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 **Litterer Laboratory**

AND/OR COMMON

same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

631 Second Avenue South

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Tennessee

VICINITY OF

CODE

47

COUNTY

Davidson

CODE

037

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Don Shaw

STREET & NUMBER

27 Washington Park

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Davidson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

March 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Litterer Laboratory is a three-story red and buff brick building set on a base of rock-faced stone. The building is comprised of two main sections, a rectangular block facing Second Avenue which housed labs and classrooms of the Vanderbilt Medical School, and a large polygonal projection at the rear housing two amphitheatres for dissections and large lectures. At the center of the Second Avenue facade is a slightly projecting tower over the main entrance which rises a half story above the building's third story. The corner stone bears two dates: 1850, the year the University of Nashville founded the city's first medical school, and 1895, the year of the building's construction. The building, until recently, was owned by a plumbing supply company, which enlarged the three first floor windows to the right of the entrance by lowering the sills. The company was also responsible for painting the first floor facade with signs. The building has recently been sold, and the new owners plan a careful cleaning.

Buff brick, contrasting with the red, is the main source of decorative detail, most of which is concentrated on the classroom block. The buff brick forms quoins at the corners of the building and the tower, and decorative panels between the second and third story windows and above the third story. A simple metal cornice crowns the building with the exception of the tower which has projecting eaves. A stone string course runs between the first and second floor on the classroom block. Paired stone Tuscan columns supporting an entablature decorate the main entrance.

Though smaller in scale, the building, particularly the classroom block, bears earmarks of the Chicago commercial style. The arched windows, simple wall treatment, and modest cornice impart the feeling of the commercial style in spite of the isolated classical details. A simple and straight forward approach is evident on the interior as well. Woodwork (door and window facings and stairways) is very simple. The walls are exposed red brick. On the first floor, glazed white brick is employed up to chair-rail height, and a terra cotta egg and dart molding provides a decorative touch at the ceiling. The whole is a direct and functional approach to a college laboratory and classroom building with simple yet elegant detailing.

8 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 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rutledge Hill area, lying several blocks south of downtown Nashville, was, during the nineteenth century, a center of higher education, as well as one of the city's most prestigious residential suburbs. The present Vanderbilt University and George Peabody College had their beginnings on Rutledge Hill as did Montgomery Bell Academy, a secondary school for young men. The University of Nashville, which no longer exists per se, was also located on Rutledge Hill. It was established by the North Carolina Legislature in 1785, before Tennessee had become a state. The Litterer Laboratory Building, once part of the Vanderbilt University Medical School, is one of only two buildings left of the Rutledge Hill educational complex.

In 1850 the University of Nashville established a medical school. Several years later the newly reorganized Vanderbilt University sought to establish a medical school as well. An agreement was made with the University of Nashville in 1874 under which the two universities shared the same medical department. The arrangement continued until 1895 when Vanderbilt broke away to form its own school. Shortly thereafter, the University of Nashville built the Litterer Laboratory building. In 1915, William Litterer, for whom the building was subsequently named, bought the laboratory and gave it to Vanderbilt, which continued to use the building until 1925 when its medical school was moved to the University's West Nashville campus.

William Litterer, a wealthy businessman, was born in Germany and had come to Nashville in 1855. His business interests were diverse, including a river steamboat operation, a wholesale drug business, the presidency of Nashville Milling Co. and interests in banking and the Cumberland Telephone Company. He was also active in Nashville politics, serving on the Board of Aldermen and the City Council. In 1891 he was elected to serve out the term of Mayor C. P. McGarver who had resigned.

The Litterer Laboratory's significance lies in its historical associations and, to a degree, in its architecture. The building is the only structure associated with William Litterer standing in Nashville and one of only two buildings left of the considerable educational complex which once stood on Rutledge Hill. Architecturally, the building's functional simplicity is significant in that such design was rarely seen in Nashville in the late nineteenth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crew, H.W. The History of Nashville, Tennessee. 1890. Reprint. Nashville: Charles Elder, 197.
 Davis, Louise, "Silk Hats and Calomel", The Tennessean Magazine, Feb. 23, 1975.
 Graham, Eleanor (ed.), Nashville: A Short History and Selected Buildings, Nashville, 1974.
 Waller, William, (ed.) , Nashville in the 1890s. Nashville: Vanderbilt Universtiy Press, 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	5	2	0	6	6	0	4	0	0	0	8	6	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot 120' x 150', bounded on the northeast (120' side) by Second Avenue, South, and on the southeast (150' side) by Elm Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David H. Paine

ORGANIZATION

Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson Co. Historical Comm. March 28, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

215 Stahlman Building

TELEPHONE

615-259-5027

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hargen

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

7/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles [Signature]

DATE

1.9.78

DATE

1.6.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER