

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000314

Date Listed: 4/17/92

McConnell, Chancellor T. M., House
Property Name

Hamilton
County

TENNESSEE
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Gen Patricia Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

4/17/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to show the period of significance as a range of years extending from ca. 1885 to ca. 1930. This change was made to include the c. 1920 construction date of the contributing carriage house/garage within the period of significance

The change was confirmed by phone with the Tennessee SHPO (4/21/92).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name McConnell, Chancellor T. M., House other names/site number Burt House; Erwin House

2. Location

street & number 517 East Fifth Street city, town Chattanooga state Tennessee code TN county Hamilton code 065 zip code 37402

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal. Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 2, Noncontributing 0, Total 2.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission. Date: 2/24/92.

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: _____ Date: _____ State or Federal agency and bureau: _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: [X] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet. [] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet. [] determined not eligible for the National Register. [] removed from the National Register. [] other, (explain:)

Patrick Andrews 4/17/92 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwellingDOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwellingDOMESTIC: secondary structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italian villa

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation POURED CONCRETEwalls BRICKroof ASPHALTother BRICK**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Chancellor T.M. McConnell House, located at 517 East Fifth Street in Chattanooga, was built circa 1885 as an Italian Villa influenced home for Chancellor T. M. McConnell. Several generations of the McConnell family have occupied the house: the T. M. McConnell's, the Sam Erwin's, and then Colonel and Mrs. Wilkie Burt. The Burt's continued to live in the house during the winter months even after it was converted into apartments circa 1930.

The two-story brick house is situated on a hilly, tree shaded lot of approximately one-half acre. A brick walk leads from the iron gate in the concrete retaining wall to the house. A brick wall lines the driveway leading to the carriage house at the rear of the west elevation. The brick, hipped roofed carriage house/garage, built circa 1920, has large wooden doors, now removed and placed inside the structure.

The south facade of the house is distinguished by a centrally located tower that is embellished with a mansard roof of patterned fish scale shingles and arched windows with hoodmolds set into the four sides of the tower. The first floor front porch has an open spindlework frieze supported by square wooden chamfered columns set on square wooden piers; matching engaged columns are attached to the house. All of the porch features are circa 1885. This porch originally extended uninterrupted across the facade but is now cut into two sections by a two-story projecting central tower, skillfully created in the circa 1930 conversion with brick quoins and bracketed cornice detailing that exactly matches the original portions of the house. This projecting entrance bay also features multi-light glass exterior doors and a small iron balcony with double-leaf doors. Also visible on the facade is a basement door labeled "Office" in a hand painted sign. This basement door and window are located underneath one side of the front porch, which is supported by wide, massive brackets, both underneath it and above it to support the porch's roof.

On three sides of the house, there are wide overhanging eaves with ornate Italianate paired brackets, brick hoodmolds with carved keystones over round arched windows, and a heavy medallioned cornice. The fourth side, the rear elevation, has been altered by the placement of stucco over the original features and by simple stuccoed additions, such as a circa 1930 enclosed sleeping porch.

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The mansard and cross gable roofline is punctuated by wall dormers on the south and west elevations. Five brick chimneys extend above the roofline. A stone belt course defines the structure on the south, west, and east elevations, but ends at a point on the west elevation.

The windows of the facade, all original, are symmetrically arranged, with first floor nine-over-nine light windows extending to the floor. The second floor two-over-two light windows on the south and east elevations are placed exactly over the first floor windows.

The west elevation of the Chancellor T.M. McConnell House has a projecting bay matched symmetrically on the east side by a similar bay. There are three first floor windows of nine-over-nine lights and second floor paired windows of one-over-one lights situated under a wall dormer supported by heavy paired brackets. Also on the second floor, there is a small casement window with a stone lintel adjacent to the cornice. Basement windows are visible beneath the stone belt course.

The east elevation has basement, first floor, and second floor windows all lined up. Only one window is composed of nine-over-nine lights; the rest of the windows are two-over-two, with the basement windows being shorter in length and without the hoodmolds. Also present on the east elevation is a small Victorian shed-roofed porch, now supported by square brick columns. An enclosed sleeping porch is at the rear of the east elevation on the second floor. A paneled wooden door leads to the basement from this elevation.

The interior spaces of the house are generously proportioned with very high ceilings. Entering the ornately carved original wood-and-glass front door with paneled wood surrounds, there is a wide hallway extending the length of the house, with wide entries on the left and right leading to parlors, the one on the right now being used as a bedroom. The rooms are all large, with hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and windows extending all the way to the floor at the front of the house. The original chandeliers, now electrified, are still in place in many rooms, and almost every door in the house still has its original hardware. The interior doors are either solid wood four-paneled doors, multi-light glass-and-wood doors, or, in two rooms, plain solid wood doors. The communicating doors between bedrooms and the bathroom also feature a transom with two lights.

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Multi-light double-leaf leaded doors of approximately nine feet in height separate the parlor from the dining room and the hallway from a bedroom. A plaster arch is located in the center of the downstairs hallway. The dining room is located in the bay which protrudes from the west elevation, and is graced by a small rounded niche with a hand-painted mural depicting a Roman scene. All four of the original fireplace mantles are wood with tiled hearths. The one altered fireplace, a circa 1930 corbelled brick mantle located in the first floor front bedroom, has a distinctly Arts and Crafts stylistic influence.

There is one downstairs bathroom located at the rear near the side porch. It has a tiled floor and its original pedestal sink, bathtub, and toilet. A built-in cabinet was added in one corner.

In the narrow back hallway leading to the kitchen and back door is an elaborate glass fronted built-in china cupboard with Queen Anne furniture detailing. The kitchen is small, probably in its original location, with a wood stove hole accessible from the porch (located on the east elevation) or from the back bedroom.

The first floor contains a total of eight rooms plus the hallways, not including the enclosed sleeping porch. The sleeping porch is accessible from the porch, located on the east elevation or from the back bedroom. No major alterations were done to the first floor of the house during its adaptation to apartments, with the exception of the relocation of the staircase into the new central projecting bay. The entire first floor is now used as one apartment.

On the second floor, there have been a few alterations to the original interior spaces in order to accommodate two separate apartments, Apartment A and Apartment B. The circa 1930 stairway leading to a narrowed upstairs hallway has simple wood newel posts and plain square wooden spindles and rails. It is located in the circa 1930 two-story central projecting bay, and the landing of the staircase is where the double-leaf doors open onto an ornamental iron balcony. The original staircase of the house, no longer extant, was located at the rear of the wide downstairs entrance hallway.

Entering Apartment A through a circa 1930 solid wood door, there is a hallway with an arch cut into the plaster walls. From this hallway you can reach the bathroom, with its circa 1930 fixtures and small square tile floor. There is also built-in wall storage and a closet in this hallway. A second hallway runs parallel to this small hallway, leading to four more rooms in Apartment A. These rooms have hardwood floors, paneled wooden or

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multi-light circa 1930 doors with glass doorknobs, plaster walls and ceilings, transoms located over most of the doorways, and wide wooden baseboards and crown molding identical to those featured downstairs. However, the plaster on walls in two rooms has come off, exposing the brick.

Two of the rooms, apparently intended as bedrooms, feature large walk-in closets. The first room, located at the southwest corner, features multi-lighted double-leaf doors and a multi-light transom leading out to the roof of the front porch. There is also a small four-and-four light casement window with molded wood trim, a walk-in closet, and multi-light entrance door to the room. The next room, located in the projecting bay of the west elevation, features paired one-over-one windows, a walk-in closet with four paneled door, and a transomed four paneled door leading out to the hallway. A third room has paired six-over-six light windows and is apparently part of a later circa 1930 addition to the upstairs rear of the house.

Another added room at the rear of Apartment A is used as a kitchen and has two six-over-six windows. At the end of the long hallway outside the kitchen is an area with three small closets with single panelled doors and a blocked off four panelled wooden door which would lead out to the rear elevation of the house.

Apartment B can be reached through a screened in back porch at the rear of the house or through the above-mentioned hallway leading from the staircase. Upon entering Apartment B from this hall, you are in a long hallway with three rooms leading off from it.

Entering the first room, there is a walk-in closet, hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, two-over-two light windows, wide circa 1885 baseboards and crown molding, and a transomed entrance to a tiled bathroom. The bathroom is a wedge-shaped room with transomed, paneled wood doors leading to one room on each side. Extant are the original toilet, pedestal sink, and cast iron tub with center valve labelled "waste". There is one large two-over-two light window in the bathroom.

Passing through the bathroom, there is another bedroom with two walk-in closets with paneled wood doors, hardwood floors, plaster on lathe walls and ceiling, and two two-over-two light windows. The light fixture, now electrified, appears to be original to the house. The door leading back out into the long hallway is a four-paneled wooden door. This bedroom is

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located in the projecting bay of the east elevation. There are no upstairs fireplaces, but the curve of the plaster walls clearly indicates the locations of the flues.

From the hallway, there is a transomed entrance into another room, smaller in dimensions than the two bedrooms previously described, which leads into the kitchen and also allows access to the roof of the Victorian porch. This room has hardwood floors, four panelled wooden doors, and a multi-light glass-and-wood door that probably dates to the circa 1930 conversion.

Entering the kitchen from this room, there are three six-over-six light windows. There are built-in kitchen cabinets and a sink. A simple piece of painted 1" X 6" lumber suffices as a baseboard. A glass-and-wood panel door leads from the kitchen to a screened in porch. This porch contains access doors to both apartments, and an additional glass-and-wood panel door leads back into the entrance hallway of Apartment B. Also visible is a six-over-six light window with translucent glazing that services the bathroom of Apartment A.

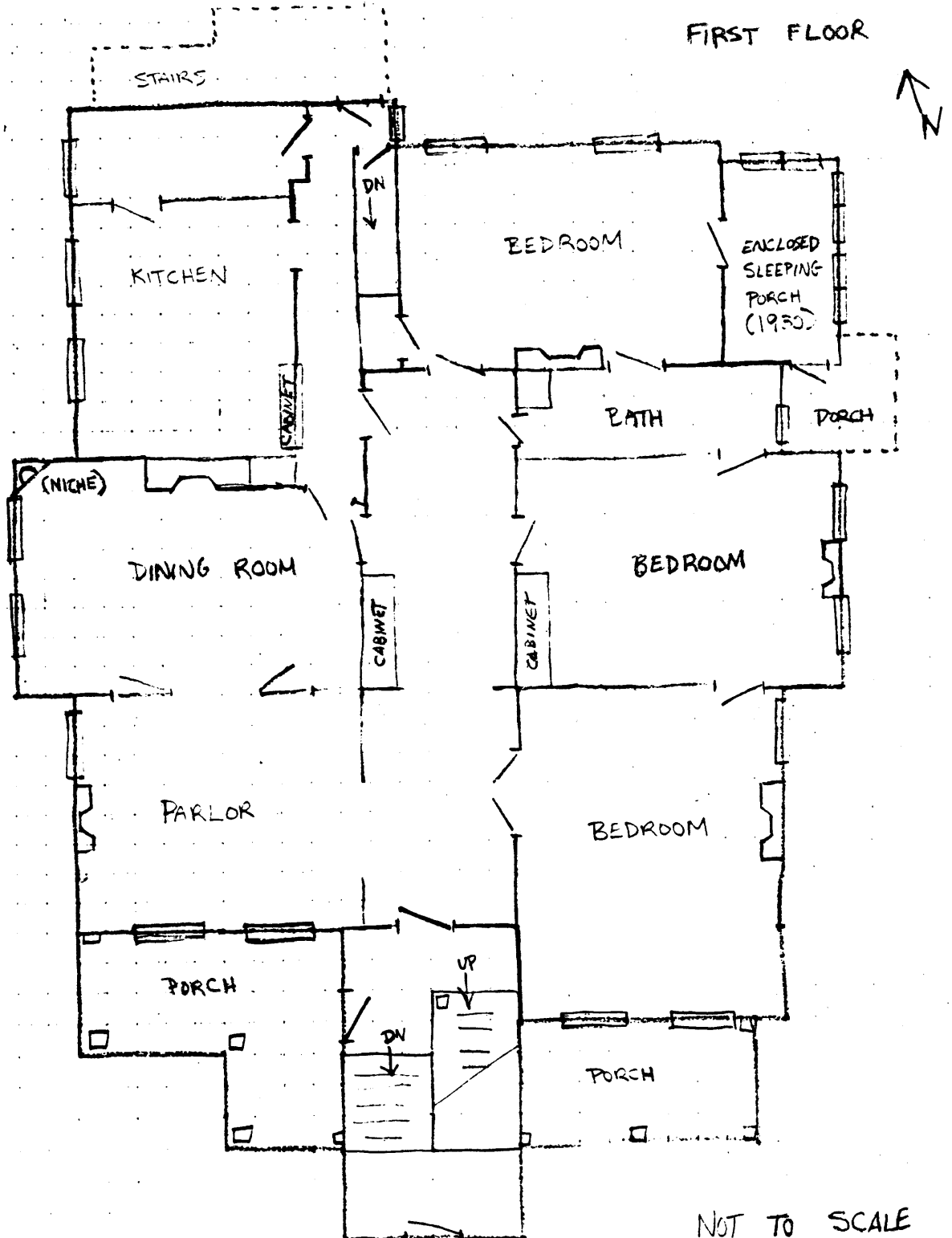
The upstairs rooms of the house total ten in number, not including the hallways. The main alterations done to the upstairs during its adaptation into apartments include the changes in the hallways, the creation of another upstairs bathroom (in Apartment A), and the creation of two kitchens (located in rooms added to the rear elevation). In addition, access to the tower is reached through a small closet located in the hallway leading from the staircase. The tower room has hardwood floors, plaster on lathe walls and ceilings, and four arched two-over-two light windows from which you can view the Tennessee River.

The full basement has eight rooms with masonry floors, and is reached from one access door on the first floor interior (previously described) or four exterior access doors. The room accessed from the facade of the house has two two-over-two light windows with interior shutters and an Italianate cast iron mantle for the fireplace. The room accessed from the rear elevation also has a cast iron mantle and one two-over-two light window.

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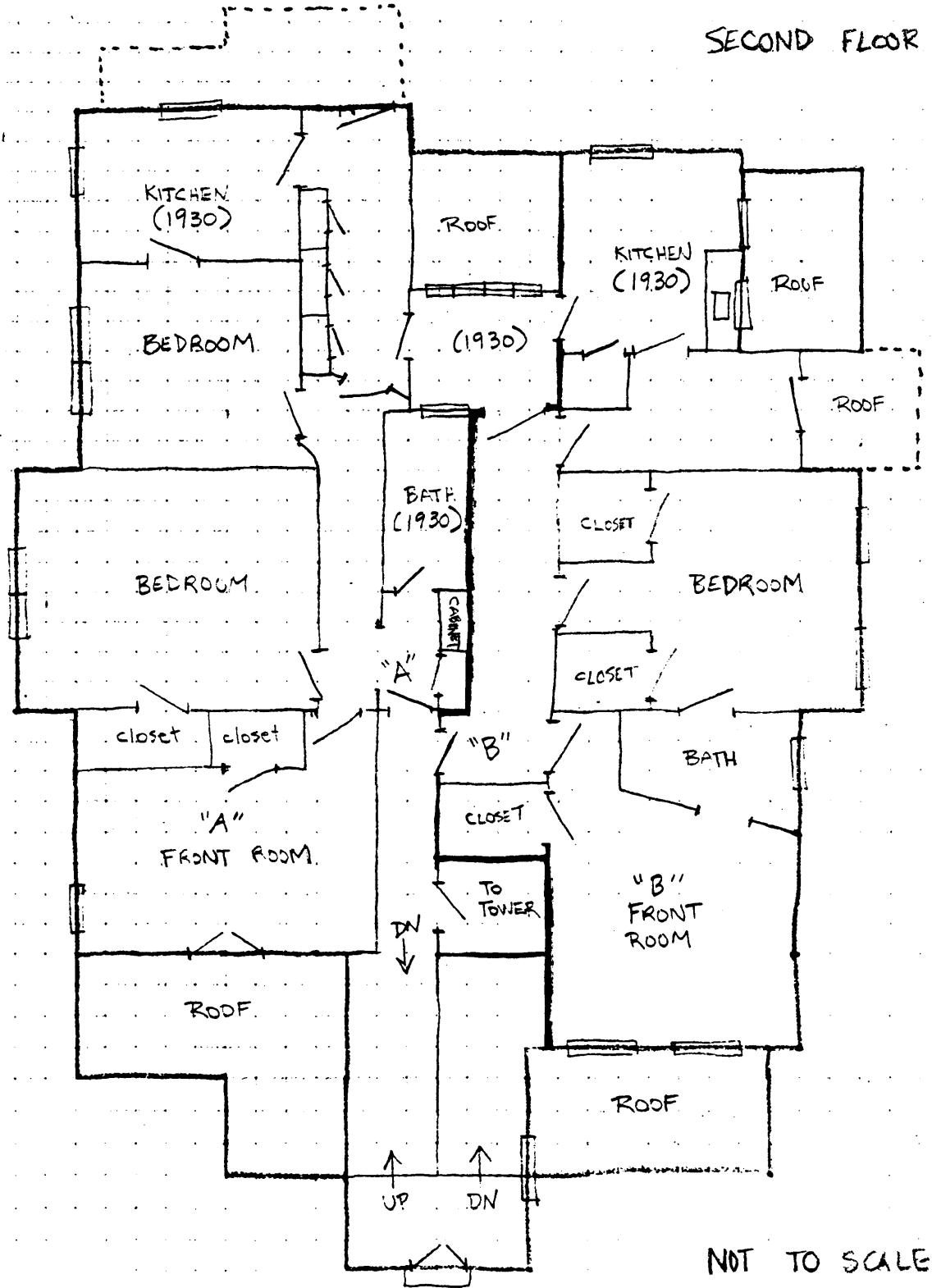
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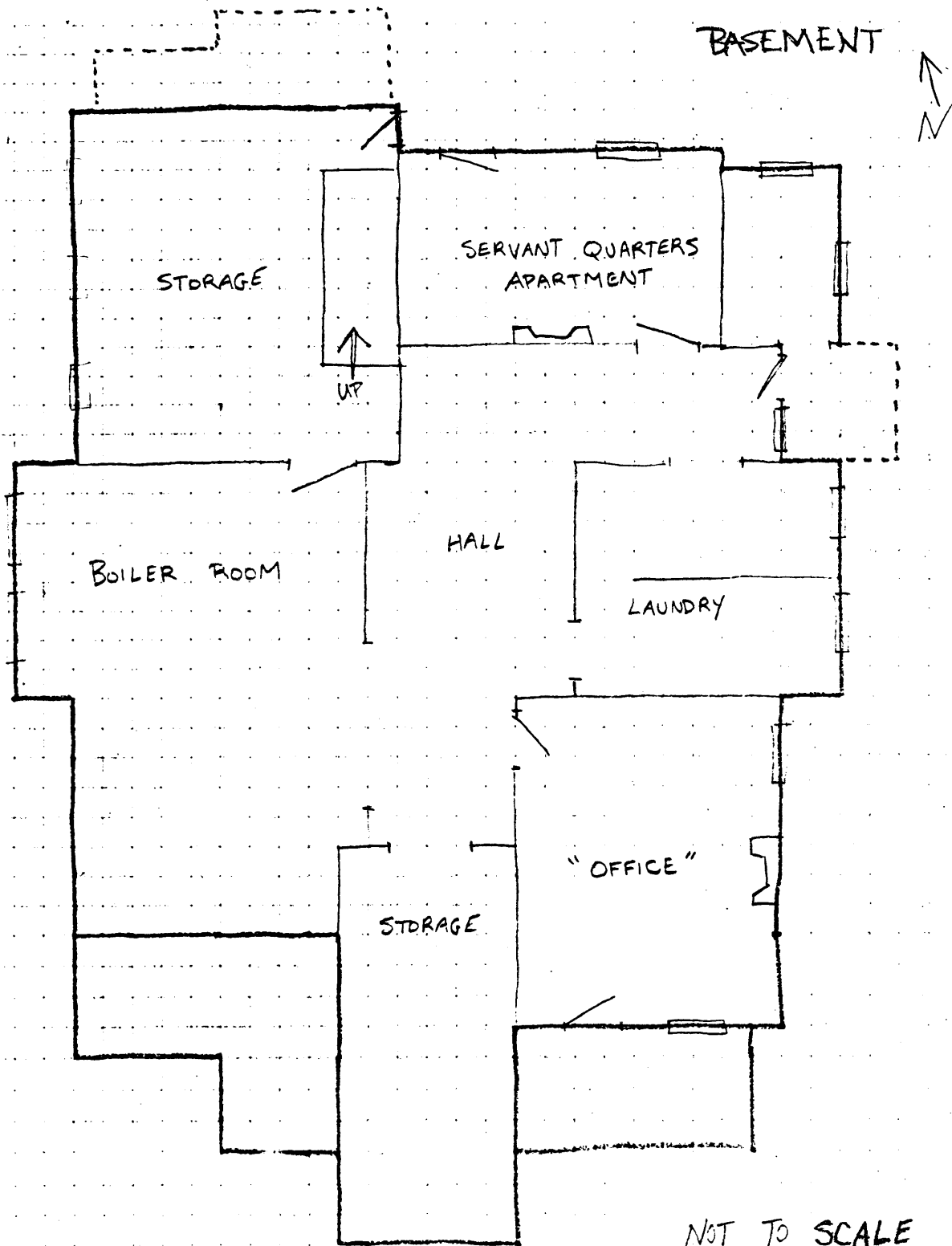
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8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1885; ca. 1930

Significant Dates

ca. 1885
ca. 1930

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Chancellor T. M. McConnell House is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its significance to Chattanooga in architecture as an example of an Italian Villa style residence with twentieth century modifications. Constructed during the prosperous 1880s and adapted into apartments during the 1930s, the building retains many of its original features from both these eras.

The house was built in the late 1880s for Chancellor T. M. McConnell, a prominent Chattanooga businessman. McConnell, born on a farm in Grainger County in 1831, became a lawyer by clerking in a general store and studying law at night. He was a Confederate soldier who rose to the rank of major. After the war, he practiced law, worked as a traveling salesman, and eventually settled in Chattanooga where he became Clerk and Master, and later became Chancellor. He also owned the McConnell Block.

The house on East Fifth Street became one of a line of impressive residences on a steep site commanding a view of the Tennessee River. Artisans from Cincinnati were brought in to do frescoes on the ceilings of the parlors and long hallway. These artisans are probably the ones responsible for the hand-painted semicircular niche located in the downstairs dining room, still extant and in excellent condition.

The house was passed on to the Chancellor's son-in-law, Clerk and Master Sam Erwin. To this day, many Chattanooga residents call it the Erwin House, and it is referred to as the Erwin House in the city's preservation plan. The house then passed to the Chancellor's granddaughter and her husband, Colonel and Mrs. Wilkie Burt. According to research derived from Sanborn maps and city directories, the house was later converted to apartments and enlarged some time during the 1930s.

The McConnell House retains most of the original elements which characterize it as a house of the Italian Villa style, and it is one of the finest examples of High Victorian housing in the Chattanooga area. The

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately .5 acre

UTM References

A

1	6	6	5	4	8	0	0	3	8	7	9	7	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Chattanooga 105SE

Verbal Boundary Description

The McConnell House is bounded on the south by East Fifth Street, on the east by private property lines and an alley on the north by private property lines and an alley the west by a private property line. See accompanying Hamilton County tax map #135-M, section H, parcel 25.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are sufficient to protect the historical and architectural significance of the property. The boundaries include the parcel associated with the land.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wanda Johnson
organization Hulan Johnson, Inc. date September, 1991
street & number P.O. Box 245 telephone (615) 389-6131
city or town Wartrace state TN zip code 37183

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central tower with its fish scale shingled mansard roof, the articulation of the windows and doors, the paired brackets and wide overhanging eaves, and many other architectural details reflect the influence of Italian Villa style. Important interior features of the building include a hand painted niche, built-in cabinets, fireplace mantles, and generously proportioned rooms. Chattanooga experienced a construction boom during the 1880s and 1890s, and many fine homes were built during this time. For example, at 427 East Fifth Street, the circa 1883 Gaskill House (NR 12/6/79) also exhibits Italianate detailing. The Brabson House at 407 East Fifth Street (NR 4/11/73) is another landmark house located in this impressive row on East Fifth Street. Originally built in 1857-1858, the house was changed in the 1880s and in the early twentieth century and it retains features from all of these eras.

The materials, workmanship, and construction methods are unaltered in most of the McConnell House with the exception of the central projecting bay so skillfully added during its circa 1930s conversion that it appears to be original to the structure. The brick, brick quoins, and cornice detailing match exactly the original features, and the bay stylistically is not in disagreement with a High Victorian period house. Other changes made during this period at the rear elevation of the house are unobtrusive. During the 1930s when its neighboring houses were being torn down and replaced by apartment buildings, such as the Jefferson Apartments and the Wanda Apartments at 501 and 507 East Fifth Street, respectively, the McConnell House weathered the times by its skillful adaptation into apartments.

In recent months, the house is again the focus of interest due to an infill housing strategy being planned for the urban district bounded by Fourth and East Fifth Streets and Lindsay and Houston Streets. The Board of Directors of the Lyndhurst Foundation ordered the preparation of the study in the summer of 1991 through matching funds from the Foundation and the Urban Design Consultancy. The Lyndhurst Foundation has purchased the Burt House as a key feature to this plan. The appropriate restoration and reuse of the structure is an essential element in the stewardship of historic preservation in Chattanooga.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Landmarks Survey and Preservation Plan.
Chattanooga -Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission.
Chattanooga, TN.

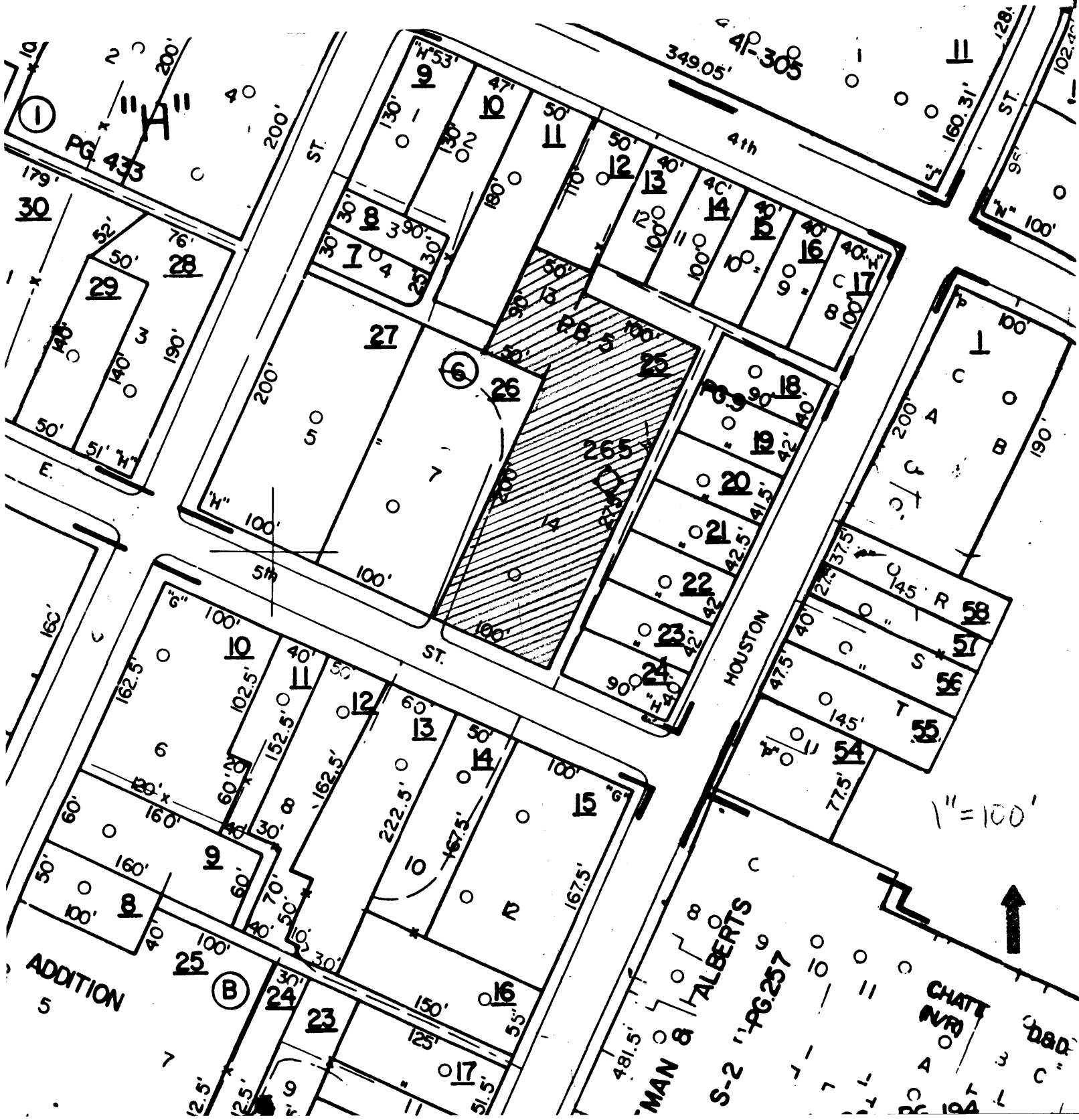
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McConnell, Chancellor T. M., House

McConnell, Chancellor T. M., House
517 East Fifth Street
Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee
Photos by: Lynn Hulan
Date: November 1991
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Facing north, south facade
#1 of 10

Facing northeast, west elevation
#2 of 10

Facing west, east elevation
#3 of 10

Facing east, west elevation
#4 of 10

Facing south, north elevation
#5 of 10

Facing north, south facade/outbuilding
#6 of 10

Interior detail, entry door, first floor
#7 of 10

Interior detail, second floor
#8 of 10

Interior detail, second floor
#9 of 10

Interior detail, second floor
#10 of 10