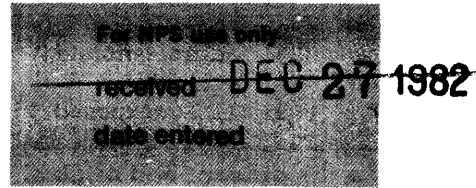


EXP. 12/31/84

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 Dr. S.M. Miller Building

and/or common Knoxville Business College (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 209 West Church Street N/A not for publication

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Tennessee code 047 county Knox code 093

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. D.A. Cooper, President

street & number Knoxville Business College
P.O. Box 3369

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37917

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar of Deeds, City-County Building

street & number 400 Main Street

city, town Knoxville state Tennessee 37901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Knoxville, Fifty Landmarks has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Knoxville Heritage, Incorporated

city, town Knoxville state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

209 West Church Avenue, currently known as Knoxville Business College, is a brick and stone 1900 townhouse structure of three stories plus basement located in the central business district area of Knoxville, Tennessee. The building is located immediately adjacent to the sidewalk of a busy street in a densely developed area; however, a number of buildings in the immediate vicinity are of complementary scale and character. The publicly accessible facades are essentially unaltered. Designed in potpourri of elements from various Victorian styles, the building is highly unusual due to the power and charm of its basically simple design, especially the main entryway. The building is rectangular in plan, with a flat composition roof. The interior has undergone various remodelings; any extant historic finishes are either lost or hidden. Originally, the building probably had a rear yard. Prior to 1917 a two story addition was constructed that filled all of the long narrow lot except for the rear twenty-five feet. Sometime after 1917, a third story was added to the two story portion, and a one and two story shed type structure filled the remaining lot area. The building is structurally in very good condition. The building is located on the north side of Church Avenue between State and Gay Streets, in the central business district of Knoxville, Tennessee, only one block away from the location of the first settlement of Knoxville. The immediate area is densely developed with primarily commercial uses. Adjacent to 209 on either side are buildings of complementary scale. Unusual is the fact that the buildings to the right are also of residential character. In the same general area are other buildings with architectural and/or historical significance. The other side of the street contains either buildings of relatively recent construction or parking lots. The building retains its architectural integrity.

The front facade of the building is designed in a highly eclectic yet sophisticated Victorian style, with various elements drawn from Art Nouveau, Richardsonian, and Italianate styles. The facade is organized with three bays horizontally, formed by window and door openings aligned both vertically and horizontally. At the base, two small openings with segmental stone lintels provide light to the basement level. On the main floor level, the left bay contains a circular shaped entryway in stone. The circle is ingeniously segmented to form an impost which allows passage, and at the same time provides a handrail. This "rail" is stone, elaborately carved with flower and vine motifs and the street number "209". The other two bays at this level each contain a window opening with stone semi-circular head and one over one sash. On the second level each of the three bays contains a window opening with segmented stone arch; and the third level also has one window per bay with flat stone arches. All windows have one over one wood sash. An elaborate marble entablature and heavy overhanging metal cornice caps the building. The windows all have simple, smooth stone projecting sills. The other surfaces and window surround are of a rough quarry faced coursed ashlar. The entire composition, especially the unusually designed entryway, the progression of window heads from round to flat, and the finishes provides an overall composition of delight and surprise, with an impact much greater than the size of the building. The only alteration that has occurred to the front is the relatively recent aluminum entry door. As this door is recessed behind the entryway, its impact on the integrity of the original design is only minor. The architect of the design is not known.

The west facade is primarily a shared party wall with an adjoining building. A small part of the upper portion of this wall, with no openings, is visible above the roof line of the adjoining building. This wall is of red brick with a red tile parapet cap.

The north, or rear elevation, is only visible from a very narrow alley. At the rear is a one story shed, with two metal windows and a doorway, constructed of concrete block. Above this shed is visible a small portion of the wall of a two story shed; above this shed is visible the rear portion of the three story portion of the building, of brick with two windows and a door of very simple utilitarian design.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

209 West Church Avenue

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The east elevation is visible only from a very narrow areaway; a metal fire escape fills a portion of this areaway. In the middle of this elevation is a one bay deep recess in the wall, two bays wide. The walls of this elevation are of red brick with a number of regularly spaced simple window openings. The upper three feet of the wall has been parged to the red tile parapet cap. The wall is of very simple utilitarian design with no distinguishing features.

The interior of the building has been altered many times, currently it contains offices and classrooms for the business college. Alterations occurred in various years as the original residential portion for the doctor's residence was broken up into apartments and then eventually altered again for the current use. There are no distinguishing features visible on the interior at this time.

There are no other dependencies or outbuildings associated with the structure.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Nominated under criteria category "C"

209 West Church Avenue, currently known as the Knoxville Business College Building, is an architecturally distinctive townhouse structure built in 1900 in the central business district of Knoxville, Tennessee. As was typical of the time, the building was built to house a doctor's office and residence by Dr. S.M. Miller and S.R. Miller. Dr. Miller was a highly respected and prominent physician. Although there were at one time many similar buildings in the central business district housing doctors' offices/residences, 209 is now one of the very few left standing. In addition, the design of the front facade is most unusual, especially the Art Nouveau derived entry way. The high quality of the design is at least equal to other similar period structures in the city and state. The immediate area contains other structures compatible with the character and period of the building. From 1901-1944 the building housed doctors' office(s), residence(s), and/or apartments. Knoxville Business College has occupied the building from 1944 to the present.

In 1899, Dr. S.M. Miller and S.R. Miller purchased the lot and a one story building at 209 Church Avenue, located next door to Dr. Miller's then office and residence at 211 Church. By 1901, Dr. Miller was practicing on the ground floor of the new building on the lot, and his residence was on the upper floors. Dr. Miller was president of the state and local medical associations, and a fellow of several national medical associations. He lived and practiced in the building until his death in 1916, and was very respected in the community. From 1916 until 1944, the building housed other physicians' offices and apartments. Occasionally, but not always, the physician would also live in the building. From 1921-1944 the building was also known as the Martha Apartments. From 1944-1982 Knoxville Business College, an organization established in 1882, the oldest surviving independent business college in the State of Tennessee, occupied the building. The architect and builder have not been definitely established; however, it is known that the Knoxville architectural firm of Gredig and Lynn did provide architectural services for some building to S.R. Miller about that time.

Architecturally, the building is significant both for the quality of the design of its facade, and as a rare, surviving local example of the once prevalent combination of doctor's office/residence. While not attributable to any one specific "style", the design is outstanding for the overall composition and for specific details. The Art Nouveau derived design of the entry way is especially fine and rare, not only locally, but in the state. The impact of the design is also enhanced by the minimal alterations that have occurred to the facade. The building also benefits from and contributes to the quality of the built environment in the immediate vicinity; there are a number of buildings of similar scale and age near by. While at one time within the central business district there were many buildings built especially for physicians' office/residence, only a few remain. 209 is an especially distinguished survivor, both compared to the ones remaining and to the other known design of buildings now lost.

Currently the building is in very good condition structurally; services are in fair condition. The building is to be made available for rehabilitation when Knoxville Business College occupies a new building under construction at the time of this nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Knoxville City Directories
Medical Men and Institutions of Knox County, by Dr. Samuel Platt, 1976.
Knoxville, Fifty Landmarks, Knoxville Heritage, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.5

Quadrangle name Knoxville, TN.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	36	9	5	0	3	9	8	3	6	7	0
Zone		Easting			Northing								

B

Zone		Easting			Northing								

C

Zone		Easting			Northing								

D

Zone		Easting			Northing								

E

Zone		Easting			Northing								

F

Zone		Easting			Northing								

G

Zone		Easting			Northing								

H

Zone		Easting			Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The property nominated is 145' x 26', as shown on the Knox County property tax map 95I; the property is essentially the footprint of the building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald E. Childress, Principal

organization Childress and Associates, Architects date September 18, 1982

street & number 524a South Gay Street, P.O. Box 2641 telephone (615) 523-1917

city or town Knoxville state Tennessee 37901

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Bryan

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 12/15/82

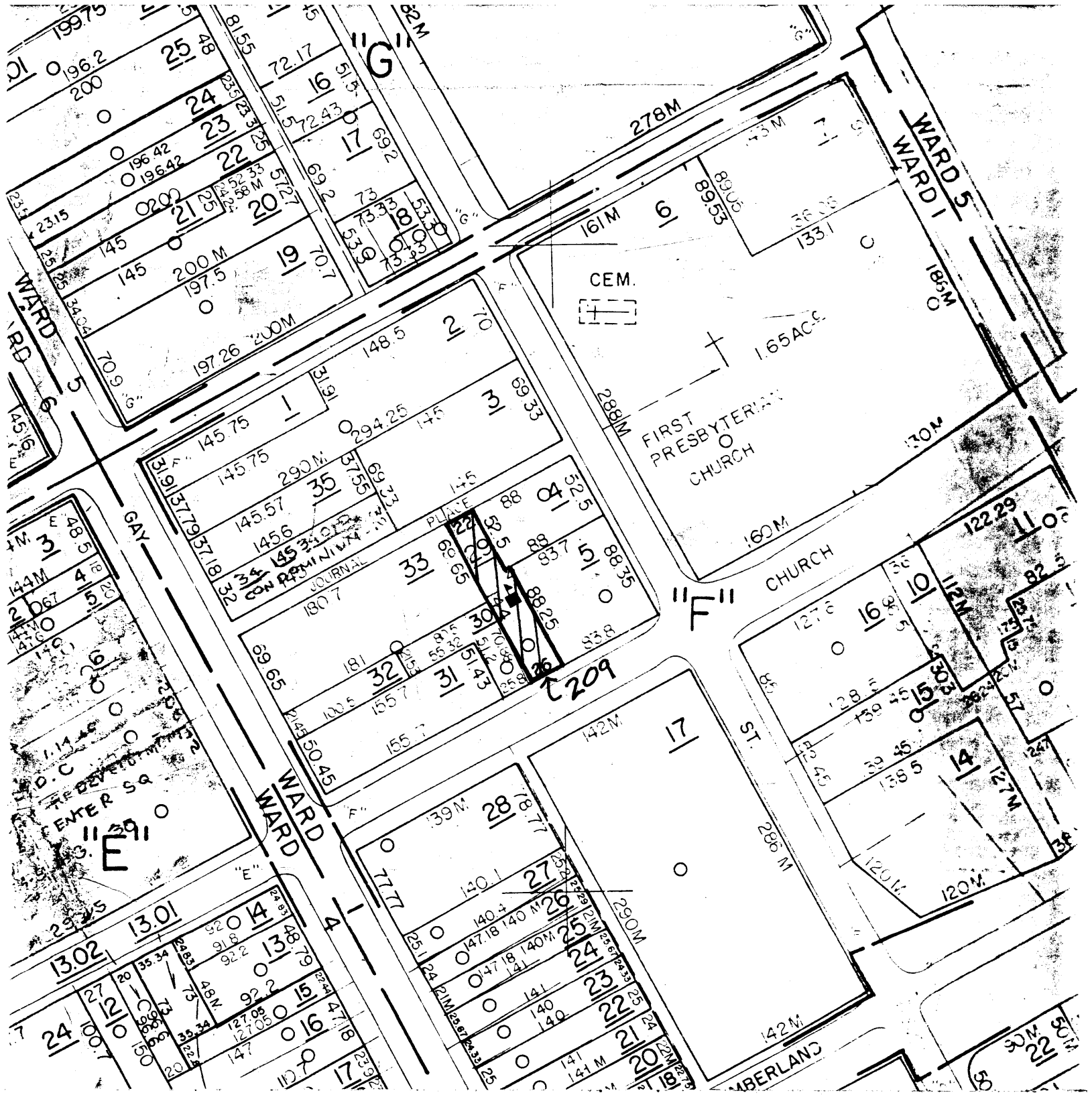
For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Herbert E. Bryan
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 1/27/83

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration



Knoxville Business College
 209 W. Church Street
 Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee
Tax Map