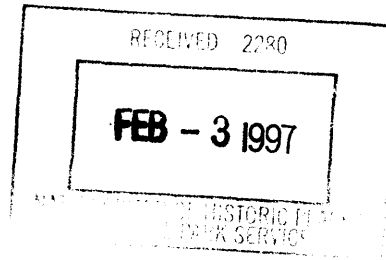


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name South Main Street Historic District Boundary Expansion  
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 663 South Main Street NA  not for publication  
city or town Memphis NA  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Shelby code 157 zip code 38103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 1/31/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 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:)

Edson H. Beall 3/8/97  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Expans.

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Contributing Noncontributing

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: rail related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: rail related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: 20th Century Industrial

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation poured CONCRETE

walls BRICK veneer

roof ASPHALT shingles

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 Transportation \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1914 -- 1930 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

NA \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

S. Main St.. Hist. Dist. Boundary  
Expan  
Name of Property

Shelby County, Tennessee  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 3 acres

**UTM References**

NW Memphis 404 NE

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 768000 3891080  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Judith Johnson/Historic Preservation Analyst  
organization Division of Housing and Community Development date September 1996  
street & number 701 North Main Street telephone 901/576-7310  
city or town Shelby County state TN zip code 38107

**Additional Documentation**

submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Memphis Transit Authority, c/o William Hudson, Jr. (General Manager)  
street & number 1370 Levee telephone 901/722-7111  
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38108

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

South Main Historic District Boundary Expansion  
Shelby County, Tennessee

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## Description

The 1914 Railway Express Agency Building is a one story, multi-bay brick building connected to the south end of the Central Station by a freight tunnel. There are tri-part window openings and several entrances to the building. The connecting masonry tunnel (1914) has simple columns supporting an overhang. Tracks were located above the connecting tunnel. Central Station was listed as a contributing building (#82) in the South Main Street Historic District nomination (NR 9/2/82).

Both the Railway Express Building and the connecting tunnel are contributing resources to the district.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   2  

South Main Historic District Boundary Expansion  
Shelby County, Tennessee

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Railway Express Agency Building and adjacent tunnel are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. Under criterion A, the property is significant to the history of rail related transportation in Memphis as a good example of freight handling businesses. Criterion C is applicable because the building and tunnel are good examples of early twentieth century industrial architecture. The property shares a similar history with the South Main Street Historic District.

The concept of freight handling is as old as the railroad industry. The package express service location in the historic district pre-dates the present Central Station. Union Station was located here in 1907 when the Southern Express Company, Pacific Express and Wells Fargo and Company Express all had freight offices here. Those buildings were demolished and present facility was constructed at the same time as the Central Station was constructed in 1914. The 1928 Sanborn map shows the express offices located here. It appears that Railway Express Agency acquired all the smaller package handling facilities by the 1930s. This area was known as the Mississippi Valley Department of Railway Express Agency. The freight handling business thrived until after World War II. However, by 1949 the industry was threatened with extinction due to competition by the United States Post Office's parcel post freight business. The post office rates were subsidized and, therefore, lower than Railway Express' rates. By 1966, the continuing competition from the post office and trucking slowly had killed off the railroad's once booming freight business in Memphis.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   3  

South Main Street Historic District Boundary Expansion  
Shelby County, Tennessee

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### Bibliography

Ostby, Lloyd. South Main Street Historic District National Register Nomination. March 1982.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   10   Page   4  

South Main Historic District Boundary Expansion  
Shelby County, Tennessee

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### Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary for the Railway Express Agency Building and Tunnel is shown on the district map that accompanies the nomination. The property is adjacent to the listed district and shares historic use and significance with the district. There are no noncontributing resources separating the district and the boundary expansion.



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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 5

South Main Historic District Boundary Expansion  
Shelby County, Tennessee

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## Photographs

South Main Street Historic District Boundary Expansion  
Railway Express Agency Building  
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee  
Photos by: Judith Johnson  
Date: September 1996  
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Central Station concoction, northwest.  
#1 of 8

Interior, Railway Express Agency (REA) Building.  
#2 of 8

Interior, Central Station.  
#3 of 8

Loading dock, REA Building.  
#4 of 8

Loading dock, north end of REA Building, northwest.  
#5 of 8

REA Building, north end, northwest.  
#6 of 8

REA Building facade, northwest.  
#7 of 8

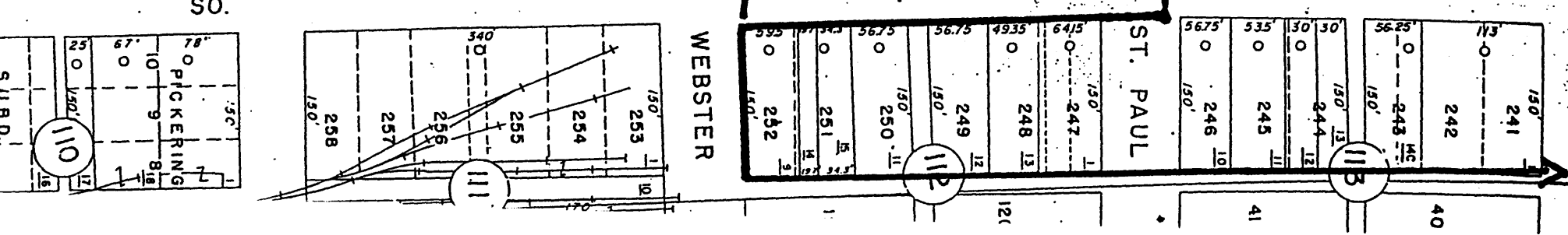
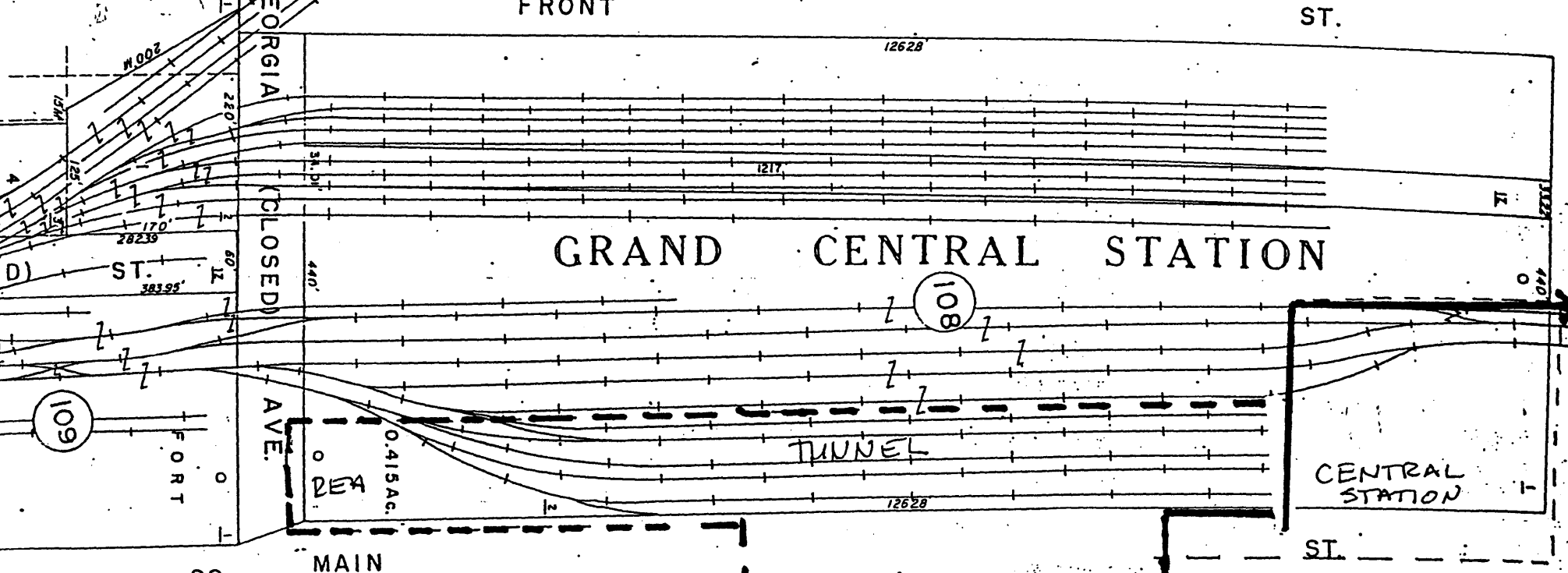
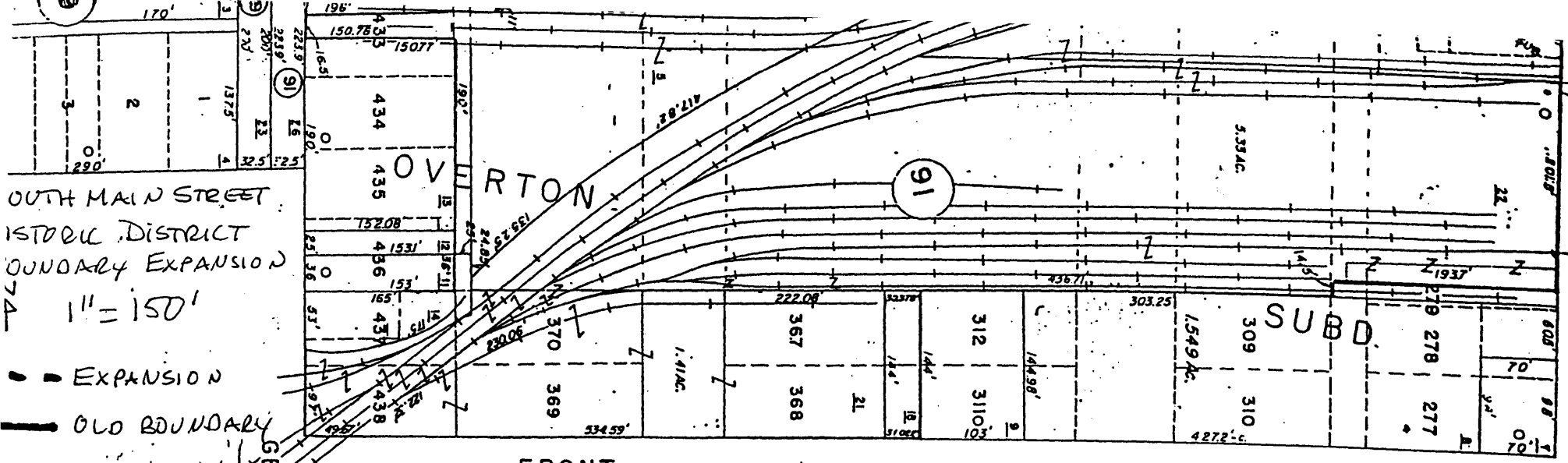
REA Building, South end, northwest.  
#8 of 8

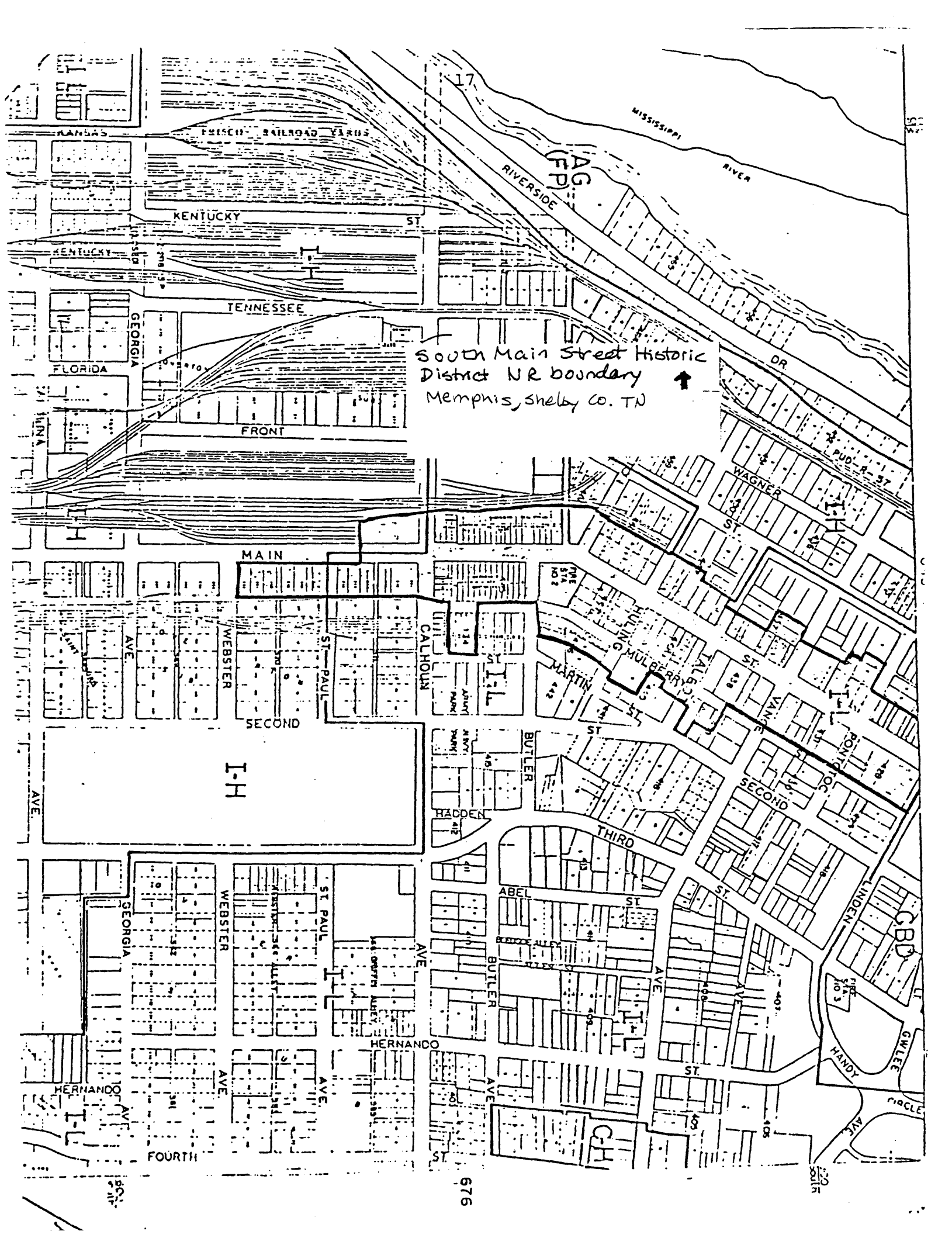
ALHOUN AVE.

OUTH MAIN STREET  
ISTORIC DISTRICT  
OUNDARY EXPANSION

1" = 150'

EXPANSION  
OLD BOUNDARY





South Main Street Historic District NR boundary  
Memphis, Shelby Co. TN

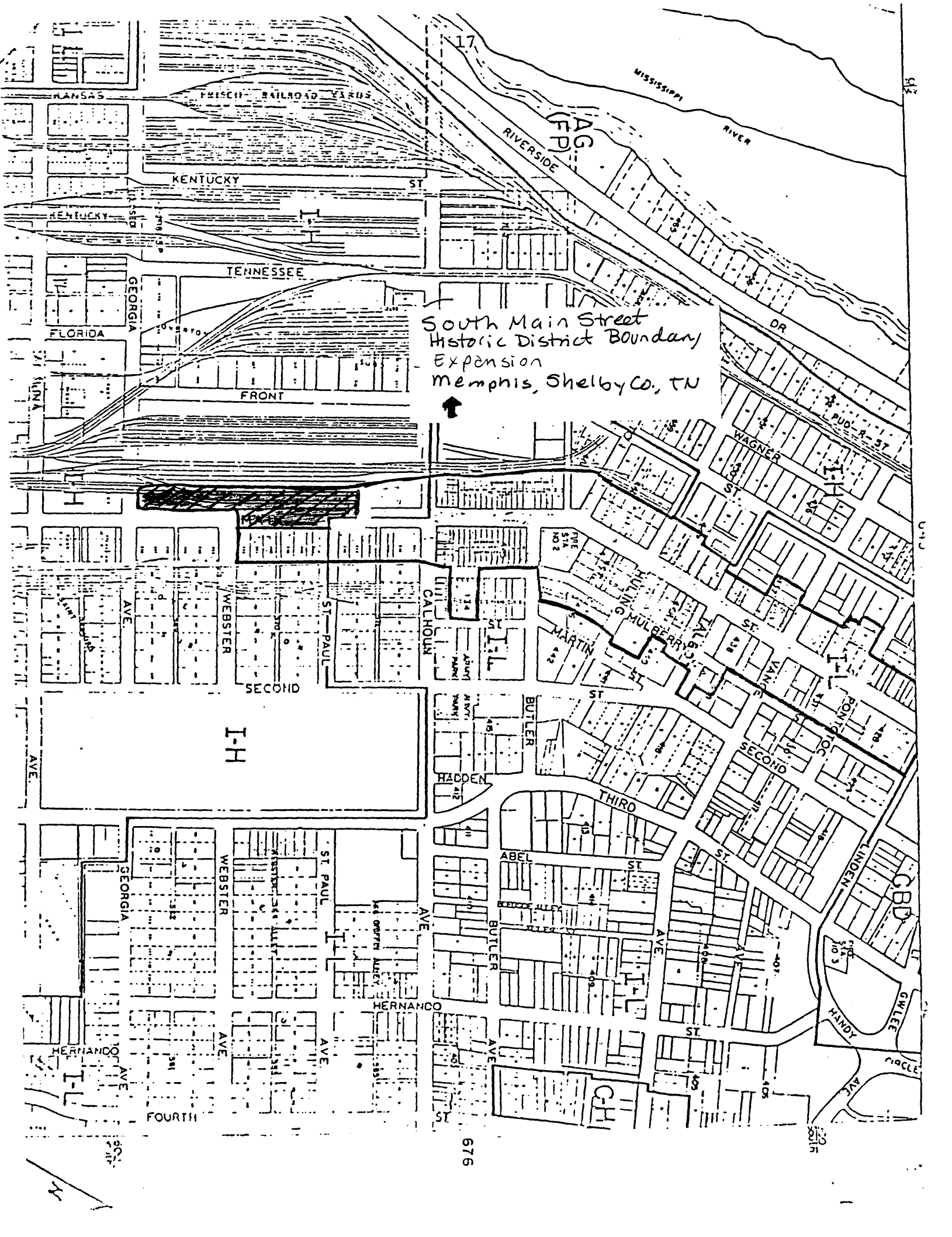


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682

Map labels include: MISSISSIPPI RIVER, FRISCO RAILROAD, KENTUCKY ST, TENNESSEE ST, FRONT ST, MAIN ST, WEBSTER ST, ST PAUL, CALHOUN ST, HADDEEN ST, ABEL ST, BUTLER ST, HERNANDO ST, GEORGIA ST, FLORIDA ST, KANSAS ST, WAGNER ST, VAN R ST, BOND ST, LINDEN ST, GLEE ST, HANDY ST, CIRCLE ST, I-H, CBD, and various lot numbers.



South Main Street  
Historic District Boundary  
Expansion  
Memphis, Shelby Co., TN



I-40

676

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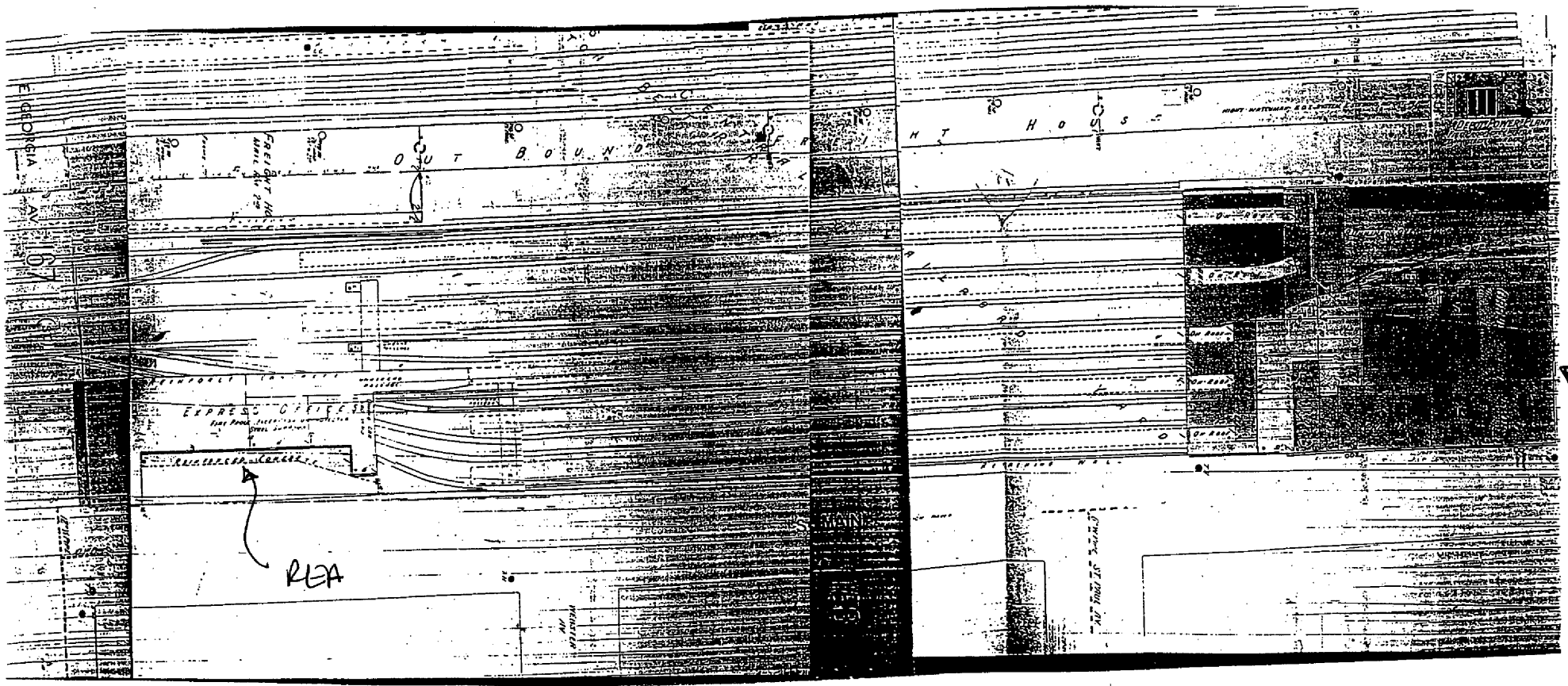
676

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SOUTH MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION  
SHELBY CO. TN  
1928 SANBORN MAP



↑ CENTRAL STATION

REX