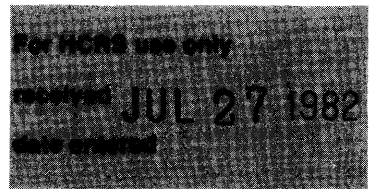


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Scarritt College Historic District

and/or common Scarritt College

2. Location

street & number 19th Ave., S.
~~Nineteenth Avenue, South~~ N/A ___ not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A ___ vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state TN code 047 county Davidson code 037

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The United Methodist Church, Board of Higher Education and Ministry

street & number P.O.Box 871

city, town Nashville N/A ___ vicinity of state TN 37202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Metropolitan Courthouse

street & number Metropolitan Courthouse

city, town Nashville state TN 37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nashville: Conserving a Heritage has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1974-75 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Metropolitan Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state TN 37201

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

There are twelve buildings on the Scarritt College campus. Five of these are connected by open passageways and comprise the original construction on the campus. This group of buildings was designed in the late Gothic Revival style as a visually unified, physically connected whole. Construction was begun in late 1925 and finished in 1928, and there have been very few alterations over the years. Crab Orchard stone and limestone are the principal exterior materials.

Between 1940 and the 1960s, six other buildings were built on the campus. They were all designed along similar lines and built of Crab Orchard stone. While visually compatible with the older buildings, these are not included in the district because of their dates of construction and because they are not part of the original physically-connected complex of buildings. The twelfth building on the campus is an 1802 log cabin which served as an early Methodist meeting house. It was moved from a site in Sumner County and reconstructed on the campus in the 1930s. It is not included because it was moved and because it is basically unrelated to the history of Scarritt College.

The campus is located approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from downtown Nashville, covering most of a city block bounded by Grand Avenue on the north, Eighteenth Avenue on the east, Edgehill Avenue on the south, and Nineteenth Avenue on the west. The buildings nominated are near the western edge of the campus, oriented toward Nineteenth Avenue.

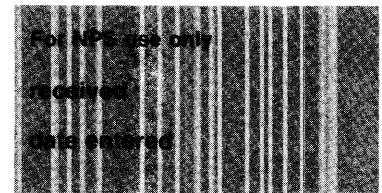
Some generalizations can be made about consistent design features and decorative treatment before the buildings are described individually. All the buildings are basically rectangular and all but Memorial Tower have gable roofs. Exterior walls are primarily of Crab Orchard stone which came from a Scarritt-owned quarry near Crossville, Tennessee. It ranges in color from pale yellow to deep red-brown and is rough-faced and laid without obvious courses. Grey-beige dressed limestone is used for window jambs, arches, mullions and tracery, for door jambs and arches, for cap courses on parapets and buttresses, for the foundations and water table, and for decorative bands and other details. Roof slates are varied shades of grey and green. They are thick and are laid to emphasize rough texture. Exposed copper guttering and downspouts are used throughout the complex of buildings.

Windows, except those in the Chapel, are rectangular. Most are divided into several large, rectangular lights by one or more stone mullions and a stone transom at mid-height. All have splayed reveals, and all are glazed with multiple square leaded panes. Doorways are usually flattened pointed arches set in rectangular limestone surrounds. Reveals are splayed. The doors themselves are wooden. Buttresses are located near most corners but are set back on each side from the point of the corner itself. The buttresses have decorative limestone blocks set in at intervals and are capped with limestone. Gable ends throughout the complex have limestone-capped parapets which echo the line of the gable to a point, run horizontally to intersect a rising buttress, and then stair-step down to the corner.

The connecting passageways are entered through pointed arches of limestone. The passages are vaulted, with limestone piers and ribs and Crab Orchard stone infill and walls. Electric light fixtures are located at the intersection of the crossing ribs. Pavement is stone.

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

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



Continuation sheet Scarritt College Item number 7 Page 3
Historic District

room. The walls above are plaster. In the stone framed windows are representations of the seals of the states where the Women's Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was operating at the time the buildings were built. The ceiling with its exposed wood rafters is supported by wood vaults which spring from wall space between windows.

A vaulted passageway (photo 12) runs through the base of Memorial Tower connecting the Administration Building, the Dining Hall, and Belle Bennett Hall. Arched entrances to the passage (photo 5) are located between the tower and the dining hall facing north and south. Each arch is set into a rectangular limestone surround with a recessed panel above the arch and shield in relief in the spandrels on either side. An enclosed passage connecting the second floors of the Administration Building and Belle Bennett Hall runs through the tower above the open ground-level passage. Its windows are visible above the arched passage entrances which face east and west, located between the tower and Belle Bennett Hall (photo 11). These arches are limestone set in the Crab Orchard stone wall which, on the west side, is capped by a gable-like parapet finished in limestone and carved with a cross and shield motif and the words "Bennett Memorial."

Belle Bennett Hall (map #4, photos 10, 13, 14, 16, 17) is similar in size and massing to the Administration Building. It is a two-story gabled building set on a north-south axis with an intersecting gable at each end. The intersecting gables form projecting bays at either end of the east and west facades of the building. In each of these bays is a pair of eight-light windows connected between floors by a carved limestone panel, an arrangement identical to that in the projecting bay at the eastern end of the north side of the Administration Building. The principal entrance is located at the center of the west facade off a slightly raised terrace surrounded by a low, limestone-capped wall. It is a slightly arched doorway in a rectangular surround with small, rectangular windows at either side. Flanking the entrance are a pair of large eight-light windows, and running across the second floor are five four-light windows. The east facade is the same except there is a bay window at the center on the ground floor instead of an entrance. Entrances are also at the north and south ends of the building in one and one-half story gabled projections. They open into the connecting passageways.

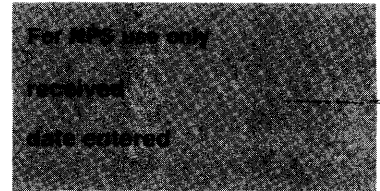
Though much of the interior of this building is, like that of the Administration Building, fairly nondescript offices, the social rooms merit mentioning. The two social rooms in Bennett Hall (photo 15) were planned as a means of fostering a family atmosphere at the school. They are large, rectangular rooms with high, paneled wainscoting. Each room has a stone fireplace and parquet floors. The rooms are filled with comfortable furniture, much of it original to the building, and impart the feeling of a gracious, upper-income private living room of the 1920s.

A short passage (photo 17) connects the south entrance of Bennett Hall to the north transept of Wrightman Chapel. The design of its arched entrances echoes the design of those between the tower and the dining hall.

Wrightman Chapel (map #5, photos 18, 19, 20) is cruciform in plan with a five-bay nave running east to a square crossing. Beyond is a choir and small, square apse. There is a single low, shed-roofed, side aisle on either side of the nave. The transept arms are short, projecting only slightly beyond the width of the side aisles. Their roofs are somewhat lower than the nave gable and do not intersect at the crossing. There is a narthex at the western end of the chapel, one bay deep, with gable side entrances projecting to the north and south, and a balcony above.

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

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



Continuation sheet Scarritt College
Historic District

Item number 7

Page 4

The west facade of the chapel is dominated by a single large arched window with stone tracery. Its limestone framing descends to form an elaborate surround for the two entrance doors which are recessed under a deeply splayed segmental arch. In the gable above the large window is a cross incised in limestone set flush into the Crab Orchard stone wall. The north and south flanks of the building are divided into bays by buttresses. In the nave wall the space between buttresses is filled by large arched windows with stone tracery. Side aisle windows are rectangular and much smaller. There is another arched window on each side of the choir, and a smaller arched window lights the end of each transept arm. The small squared apse is windowless.

The interior walls (photo 21) of the chapel are finished, somewhat surprisingly, in red brick. Limestone is used for piers, vaulting, the window framing. The nave wall elevation is a simple one with the arched windows filling over half the wall almost down to the side aisle vaulting. There is no gallery or triforium. There are stone vaults at the crossing, but the rest of the building has timber vaults springing from the walls supporting a beamed ceiling much like the system used in the dining hall.

Since the original buildings were finished in 1928, a number of others have been built on the campus. As stated above, they are compatibly designed, and the campus is visually harmonious. In the case of Gibson Dormitory (photos 22, 23), constructed in 1940, a connecting passage was built which attaches the building to the northeast end of Susie Gray Dining Hall. Unlike the original passageways, this one is built of wood and stucco imitating half-timber construction. It is roofed with slate. While it is visually compatible with the original buildings, it is easy to determine its identity as a later addition. The nomination does not include this passage or Gibson Hall.

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 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 1925-1928 **Builder/Architect** Henry C. Hibbs

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) National Register criteria A, C.

Scarritt College is significant as an institution of higher education in Nashville and in the United Methodist Church. It has played an important role in fostering cooperative effort among Nashville colleges, and it is a unique center of Methodist leadership training. Architecturally, the campus buildings are a fine example of a sophisticated adaptation of the Gothic Revival style to a specialized American academic use. In Nashville, a city with many colleges, these buildings stand out among the very best on any campus.

Scarritt, now a graduate school of Christian education and church music, was founded in 1892 in Kansas City, Missouri, as the Scarritt Bible and Training School. Its purpose was to train women as missionaries and missionary nurses. The school was named for the Reverend Nathan Scarritt, D.D., a Methodist minister, who gave the land for the Kansas City campus and \$25,000 toward construction of its first buildings. He died in 1890. Miss Belle Harris Bennett was the founder of the school.

The school moved to Nashville in 1924 where it became co-educational, offering AB and MA degrees in church and mission related areas. To better reflect its broadened scope, the name was changed to Scarritt College for Christian Workers. Planning for the new campus began soon after the move. The first complex of buildings was begun in late 1925 and completed in 1928.

During Scarritt's early years in Nashville, its president, J. L. Cunnigim, helped negotiate between Peabody College and Vanderbilt University toward the establishment of the Joint University Libraries, an institution which served the entire higher education community in Nashville from the 1940s to 1980. Scarritt College also established the Nashville School of Social Work, which later became a part of the University of Tennessee.

Scarritt's original emphasis on missionary training has never been neglected. Since 1892, over 4,500 people have graduated from Scarritt, many going abroad as Methodist missionaries, especially to Asia and South and Central America. The establishment of schools and hospitals by Scarritt graduates in numerous places assures a continuing presence of Scarritt influence. Scarritt is currently one of two Protestant schools, and the only Methodist school, to offer advanced degrees in Christian Education and Church Music.

The college buildings themselves, the Administration Building, Memorial Tower, Susie Gray Dining Hall, Belle Bennett Hall, and Wrightman Chapel, were designed by Henry C. Hibbs, a gifted Nashville architect. The Gothic Revival style was chosen by the school administration and the architect to reflect both the academic emphasis and the sense of religious purpose central to Scarritt's identity. The buildings have served their functional purpose well, calling for few changes over the years. Visually they create exactly the atmosphere sought by the school's leaders--that of an ancient, ivy-covered institution dedicated to scholarship and religion. Subsequent construction of the campus has been of compatible materials and similar design so that the visual continuity of the campus is undisturbed. Nashville is a city with a great deal of collegiate architecture. The visual effectiveness of these buildings and the campus as a whole places it among the best in town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

School records and unpublished material provided by, and oral interviews with, Miss Alice Cobb, Historian, Scarritt College. 1982.

Metropolitan Historical Commission. Nashville: A Short History and Selected Buildings. 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.8 acres

Quadrangle name Nashville West, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
---	---

5	1	8	2	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	----

3	9	9	9	16	10
---	---	---	---	----	----

B

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

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

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

C

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

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

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

D

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

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

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

E

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

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

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

F

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

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

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

G

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

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

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

H

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

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

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

Verbal boundary description and justification See area outlined on maps. The red line on the hand drawn map follows established concrete walks on the campus where they exist. Where they do not, the line is drawn at least ten feet from any building. Southeast of Wrightman Chapel the line runs along a diagonal walk between the chapel and Fondren Hall. To the north of

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David H. Paine/Architectural Historian

organization Metropolitan Historical Commission date May, 1982

street & number 701 Broadway, B-20 telephone 615-259-5027

city or town Nashville state TN 37203

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Byers

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 7/23/82

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Herbert L. Byers</u>	Entered in the
Keeper of the National Register	National Register
	date <u>8/20/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Scarritt College
Historic District

Item number 10

Page 2

Susie Gray Dining Hall, the line runs through a passageway added later as discussed in the description. On the west the line runs along the edge of the Nineteenth Avenue sidewalk to include the lawn enclosed on three sides of original buildings. This lawn was an integral part of the architect's planning concept. This line includes the original campus buildings and excludes six buildings on the campus which were built in 1940 or after. It also excludes a log cabin moved to the campus in the 1930s.

SCARRITT COLLEGE

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

- IN DISTRICT
- 1 PRESIDENT'S HOME
 - 2 INTERNATIONAL GARDEN
 - 3 GIBSON RESIDENCE HALL
 - 4 ADMINISTRATION BLDG.
 - 5 MEMORIAL TOWER
 - 6 SUSIE GRAY DINING HALL
 - 7 BENNETT HALL
 - 8 WIGHTMAN CHAPEL
 - 9 FONDREN HALL
 - 10 STROTHERS MEETING HOUSE
 - 11 BRAGG RESIDENCE HALL

- 12 CADWALLADER RESIDENCE HALL
- 13 CUNNINGHAM APTS.
- 14 VIRGINIA DAVIS LASKEY LIBRARY
- 15 UMC TENNESSEE CONFERENCE OFFICE BLDG.
- 16 DISCIPLES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNITED METHODIST CENTER
- 17 KERN BLDG.
- 18 DENMAN BLDG.

UPPER ROOM CHAPEL & MUSEUM
MOORMAN AUDITORIUM

— CAMPUS BOUNDARY
— DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Scarritt College Historic District
Nineteenth Avenue, South
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

