

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

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



882

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Newburger, Joseph, House  
and/or common Memphis Theological Seminary

**2. Location**

street & number 168 East Parkway, South N/A not for publication  
city, town Memphis N/A vicinity of congressional district Eighth  
state Tennessee code 047 county Shelby code 157

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
street & number 168 East Parkway, South  
city, town Memphis N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38104

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Administration Building  
street & number 160 N. Mid-America Mall  
city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Memphis Landmarks Commission has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1978  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Division of Housing and Community Development  
city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joseph Newburger House, which now houses the Memphis Theological Seminary, faces west at 168 East Parkway. The lot is bounded by Union Avenue on the north and by residential lots to the south and east. A parking area and a three car garage are located to the rear of the house. The garage has been converted to a student center for the Seminary.

A raised terrace, measuring approximately 62' x 30', lies across the front or west side of the house. Adorned with an ornate marble fountain at its center, the terrace is surrounded at its perimeter by a limestone balustrade. Steps at the north, south, and west sides of the terrace lead down to the surrounding lawn. Flanking each set of steps and at the corner of the terrace are square pedestals into which the balustrades terminate. The north and south stair pedestals support cast-iron columned lamps with circular globes, while the west stair and corner pedestals support marble vases. The raised earth lawn of the terrace has intersecting concrete walkways circling the fountain.

The original house is a two-and-a-half story framed structure with a four-inch cut limestone veneer. Designed in the Beaux Arts style, it has three principal bays symmetrically located in the facade. A fourth bay, in the form of a set back wing, extends from the south elevation.

The central bay of the facade projects forward from the house in three planes subtly expressed at the bay corners and in the cornice treatment. The deepest plane is an illusion caused by cornice and base treatment and can only be seen at the corners of the bay. The middle plane is flanked by colossal limestone pilasters and contains a large wrought-iron gated archway and a linteled three part window (containing four vertical lights) above. A stone bracketed balconet with iron railing rests at the base of this window. The archway provides an entry to the in antis portico. The third or forward most plane of this bay contains two smooth two-story engaged columns supporting an entablature; these elements are used to frame the windows and archway of the middle plane. Above the cornice of this bay is a balustraded parapet and two flanking marble vases similar to those used around the terrace.

The two flanking bays of the facade are similar in composition. Centered in each bay is a large French window with semi-circular arched head. Above the arches are paired four-over-four double hung windows framed at the sills by wrought-iron balconets resting on limestone brackets. Two pilasters two stories in height flank these windows. Paired wood brackets support the flared eaves of the tile bellcast hip roof above each pilaster. The wooden entablature is lined with dentils.

The north elevation is eight bays wide and incorporates a rear wing at the east end. The four western-most bays project from the wall plane of the four other bays; the left central bay of this four bay group projects farther and contains an arched window on the first floor and a linteled window on the second, with a wrought-iron balconet and limestone brackets. At the roof of this bay is a dormer window. All of the other bays of this elevation contain linteled windows. The four windows of the two western-most bays have wrought iron balconets on limestone sills.

# 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 checked="" 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** 1912 **Builder/Architect** Hanker and Cairns

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criteria B and C

The Joseph Newburger House is significant as a rare expression in the Memphis area of the grandeur and eclectic classicism of the Beaux Arts style. It also serves as an example of early twentieth-century craftsmanship. Further significance is derived from the prominence of the builder of the house, Joseph Newburger.

Joseph Newburger (1858-1926) was a highly successful businessman, a philanthropist, and an international figure in the cotton industry. Establishing the Newburger Cotton Company in 1893 in his home state of Mississippi, Newburger's business soon expanded and moved to Memphis in 1896. There the business grew into a large corporation taking in a wide range of activities.

The Newburger Cotton Company was among the first cotton merchandising firms in the south and was very important in the commercial development of the Mississippi Valley. The company handled cotton through agencies in England, France and Holland. It maintained its own offices in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden and Greece, and had representation in Spain, Portugal, Austria, and Russia. Another major cotton business of Newburger's was the Federal Compress and Warehouse Company, the largest of its kind in the world. Newburger was also president of the Memphis Packing Corporation; president of the Memphis Rice Mills; president of the Joy Rice Milling Company; partner in Silvar, Newburger and Company, dealers in futures and spot cotton, New Orleans; partner in the Newburger Company, planters and stock raisers; partner in J. and S. Newburger and Company, Fall River Massachusetts; member of the Memphis, New Orleans and New York Cotton Exchanges, and associate member of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange; president of the Congregation Children of Israel; member of the board of managers of the Methodist Hospital, Cripple Children's Hospital, New Jewish Hospital, the Federation of Jewish Charities and National Board of Jewish War Relief; Merchants Cotton Press and Storage Company, and J. C. Doyle and Company, timber and land dealers. He also owned the Newburger Linter Company and the Haileybury Mining Company and was a partner in the Samuel Newburger and Company of New York.

Newburger's world-wide travels exposed him to the finest examples of architecture in Europe and America. Before constructing his home, Newburger sent his architects to Europe for ideas. The result was the Beaux Arts style house that stands today. Designed by the firm of Hanker and Cairns, the Newburger home well represents the style. The firm of Hanker and Cairns was responsible for a number of outstanding buildings in Memphis. Of these, the Bank of Commerce and Trust, the Peabody Hotel, the Nineteenth Century Club and St. Mary's Cathedral are already listed on the National Register. It should be noted that Bayard Snowden Cairns had been a student at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. The interior ornamentation and the exterior stonework are of excellent material and quality and exemplify classical expression. The architectural features of the house remain intact and the Memphis Theological Seminary is well incorporated into the former residence. Rear additions are sympathetic to the character of the original house.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Memphis City Directories, 1909-1919.  
 Memphis Commercial Appeal, 18 January, 1912; 12 May, 1912; 17 December, 1926.  
 Memphis Press Scimitar, 15 November, 1932.  
 Men of the South, Southern Biographical Association, New Orleans, LA, 1922, Pages 560-61.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5  
 Quadrangle name Northwest Memphis, TN Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>18</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Lot 13, N.M. Trezevant Subdivision, more particularly described as follows:  
 Beginning at a point at the intersection of the south line of Union Avenue, extended, east  
 line of East Parkway, South; thence east along the south line of Union Avenue, extended,

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Parish  
 organization Memphis Landmarks Commission date October 1980  
 street & number 22 North Front Street, Suite 901 telephone (901) 528-2834  
 city or town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

# 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 E. Hays  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 3/27/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for</u> <u>Alma Myers</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>4/29/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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date entered

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The south elevation has linteled windows identical in configuration to those in the westernmost bays of the north elevation and features a two-story sunporch. The rear or east elevation of the house contains a two-story enclosed porch which extends south from the rear wing attached to the north end of the elevation.

In 1963, when the Memphis Theological Seminary occupied the house, a two-story addition, extending north-south and aligned with the house, was attached to the southeast corner of the house's rear wing. Designed to be compatible with the existing structure, the addition has stuccoed walls scored to resemble the stone blocks of the house, a French door with fanlight, a balconet with iron railing, linteled windows, and a projecting cornice band. Concurrent with the construction of the rear addition was the construction of an enclosed passageway along the south elevation of the house's rear wing to connect the house and the addition. A further addition was made to the building's rear section in 1981 to enlarge the library stack area (see attached site plan). The design repeats details from the earlier addition including scored stucco walls.

INTERIOR

Marble floors, columns and pilasters; plaster parquet on ceilings, spandrels and friezes; carved woodwork and crystal chandeliers adorn the home's elaborate interior spaces. Renaissance and Classical decorative elements are used throughout the interior.

The first floor of the house contains four architecturally significant rooms. These are the reception/stair hall, the dining room, parlor, and the library. Other rooms in the original house include a sunroom on the south adjacent to the parlor, and several offices in what had been the kitchen area of the northeast wing on the original house. The reception/stair hall is located along a central east-west axis with the dining room to the north, the parlor to the southwest, and the library to the southeast. The dining room now serves as a conference room; the parlor and sunroom are used for offices; and the library is the president's office.

The reception/stair hall is a very large and grand space that opens to the second floor through a modified rectangular opening along the central forward portion of the room. The rear portion of this space contains the grand stairway. The main entrance to the house is to the west through double multi-glazed doors, flanked on each side by pilasters and two smaller multi-glazed doors. The north side of the room contains double multi-glazed doors leading to the dining room, flanked by a series of pilasters. The south side is similarly organized, except the doors lead to the parlor. Between the pilasters and through the doors are several plaster ornamentations in the form of festoons, cartouches and various moldings. The stair area is visually separated from the reception area by free standing half fluted Ionic columns (three each side), supporting cross beams. The stairway begins in the center of the room and extends up three steps to a landing. Half fluted Ionic marble columns flank the first landing, which also leads down steps to the rear of the house. The up-stairs lead north and south to landings. The north side, then up each wall (north and south) to another pair of landings. The north landing contains a doorway to a ballroom in the northeast wing of the house. The south landing contains a similar doorway, but only for aesthetic balance. From these landings, the stairs turn toward the center and join on another landing. The east side of this landing has a pair of multi-paned windows. The west side contains the final flight of stairs to the second floor of the house.

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Continuation sheet Newburger, Joseph, House

Item number 7

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An ornate wrought iron railing edges the stairway opening on the second floor above the reception hall. Plaster moldings decorate the reception and stair area ceilings, and plaster cartouches are used above the landing doorways and windows.

The dining room contains a central fireplace in the north wall. Ornamental plaster work is used extensively above the windows, fireplaces, and on the ceiling. Festoons, ovals, and various pattern moldings are used. The walls are partially wainscotted and divided into panels with moldings. The parlor is also extensively detailed in plaster moldings and the walls are divided into panels as in the dining room. A crystal chandelier hangs from the center of the room. A fireplace is located in the south wall flanked by windows on the west side and a door to the sunporch on the east side. A double door in the west wall leads to the library.

The library is paneled in oak wood with built-in oak bookshelves. A wide frieze above the bookshelves is covered in a patterned wall cloth with wood panels above the doors. The ceiling is carved in a Renaissance pattern of wooden moldings. The stone fireplace has a carved wooden mantle and is flanked by two multi-glazed doors on the north and south. A large multi-paned window is in the south wall.

The second floor has a large ballroom (entered from a stair landing) that is now used as a chapel, and several other rooms containing plaster ornamentation and moldings. Except for the chapel, the second floor rooms are now used as offices and classrooms.

A small in antis portico connects the entry and the exterior terrace. Wrought iron gates in the archway separate the terrace from the portico.

The garage, located at the south end of the rear parking lot, is a two-story frame structure covered with stucco, facing north. The three-bay main elevation has three garage door openings now enclosed with glass windows and doors. The second story has three four over four windows penetrating the broken eaves of the hip roof; each window is topped by a hipped roof.

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410 feet to a point; thence south and parallel with East Parkway South 160 feet to a point; thence west and parallel with Union Avenue, extended, 410 feet to a point in the east line of East Parkway South; thence north along the east line of East Parkway South 160 feet to the point of beginning, and being the same property conveyed to party of the first part by Warranty Deed of record in Book 4555, Page 309, of the Register's Office of Shelby County, Tennessee.

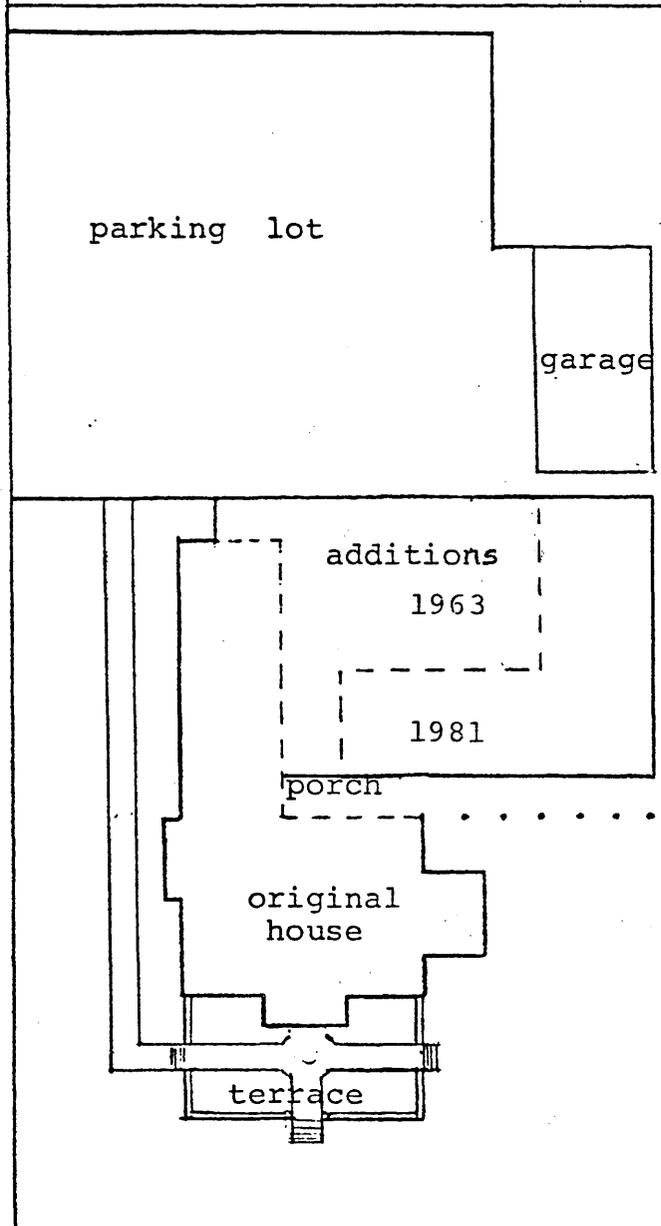
The boundary lines conform to the dimensions of the lot occupied by the building.

MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
(JOSEPH NEWBURGER HOME)

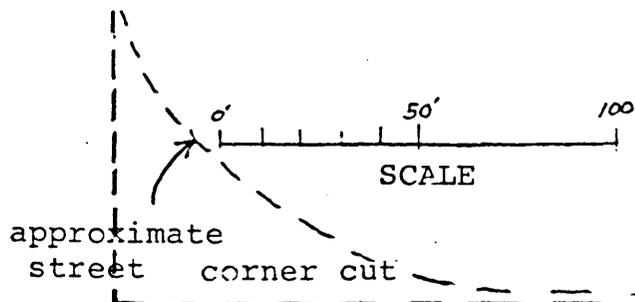
SITE PLAN



Union Ave. Extd.



Joseph Newburger House  
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



E. Parkway S.

