

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Sullivan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE APR 1 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Church Circle District (Representative of James H. Quillen)

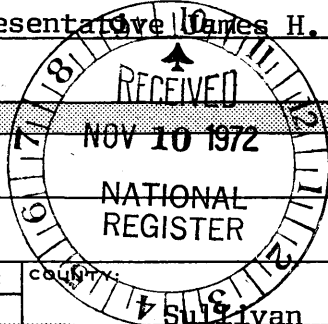
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Kingsport

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Sullivan** CODE: **163**



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Kingsport** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sullivan County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: **Blountville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Tennessee**

COUNTY: **Sullivan**

ENTRY NUMBER: **1187**

DATE: **APR 1 1972**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

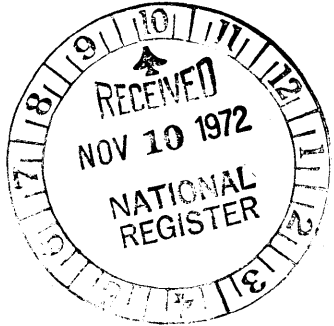
7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church Circle District is a focal point in the design of the city of Kingsport. On the edge of the downtown business district, the circle itself is a small park around which are four large red brick church buildings; the First Baptist Church; the First Presbyterian Church; the First Methodist Episcopal Church; and the Broad Street United Methodist Church. The architecture of the buildings is in the Colonial Revival style. One of the buildings, the First Methodist Episcopal Church, is no longer used as a church, and several adaptive uses for the structure are being considered.

Directly south of the latter church, at the corner of Broad and Sullivan streets, is an unlandscaped paved parking lot which replaced the 100-room red brick Kingsport Inn. Across the street are two red brick buildings, one the Public Library, and the other the offices of Kingsport Utilities, Inc., and both repeating the Colonial Revival style. Connecting the two structures is a park with a fountain in the center. Between the park area and the two public service buildings, and Shelby Street, the street west of Broad, is a parking lot running the length of the block. On the west side of Shelby Street is a group of stucco and brick two-story row houses in the cottage style. Many of the houses are still residences, while others have been converted to shops and offices. Only a few, on the southern tip of the block, have been altered considerably.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

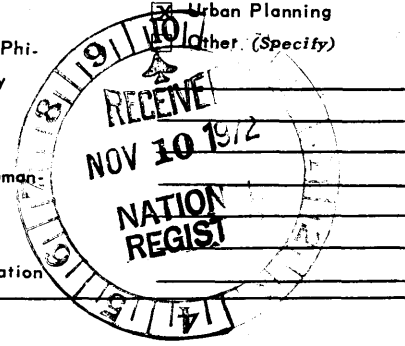
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1915-1930's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1915, the developers of "the new Kingsport" envisioned a planned industrial community. The Church Circle area is the only downtown section which retains a sense of the original plan for a unified architectural and landscape design for the business district.

Dr. John Nolen, city planner and engineer from Cambridge, Mass., was engaged to design a city for 50,000. Nolen was asked to divide the city into three major groupings, business, industrial, and residential areas. Broad avenues, with space for parks, churches, schools, and other civic needs were also considered vital to the plan.

The Kingsport business section was designed as almost the geographical center of the city. Broad Street, the main artery, began at the Clinchfield Railroad Station, traversed the center of the business district to a gentle rise at which there was a street encircling a small park, first called Civic Circle, now called Church Circle. Six streets radiated from the circle while other streets followed the circumference of the original circle. Plantings and trees were in abundance along the streets, including those in the business district. Kingsport had hired a municipal landscape architect, Miss Lola Anderson, a graduate of Cornell University.

Dominating Civic Circle were the spires of the churches. In the short block of Broad Street leading from the business district into the circle, were three buildings. To the east was the 100-room Kingsport Inn in the Georgian style architecture of the 1920's. To the west, were the Post Office and the Kingsport Utilities, Inc., buildings. As originally planned, the two latter structures were to have been connected by a library building, while on the corner lots of Shelby Street (one block west of Broad) were to be two office buildings. On the west side of Shelby, a group of stuccoed and brick cottage-style row houses had been built, according to designs by Allen Dryden, Sr., a leading local architect.

The present appearance of the Church Circle area is not exactly as designed by the planners because the library and corner office

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kingsport Rotary Club. Kingsport: The Planned Industrial City.
 Kingsport: The Kingsport Press Inc., 1946.

Booklet. Kingsport, Tennessee. (Kingsport, 1963).

Long, Howard. Kingsport, A Romance of Industry. (Kingsport, 1928)

NW 17/360.310/
 4046.120 CD
 NE 17/360.850/4045.940
 SE 17/360.770/4045.570
 SW 17/360.200/4045.740

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36° 33' 07"	82° 33' 39"				
NE	36° 33' 01"	82° 33' 17"				
SE	36° 32' 49"	82° 33' 20"				
SW	36° 32' 55"	82° 33' 42"				

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 55

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ellen Beasley

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 11/3/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Michael J. Smith Title Executive Director Date 11/3/72
Tennessee Historical Commission

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/11/73

ATTEST: Wong Smith
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 4.3.73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Sullivan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

buildings were never constructed. Still, it contains all but one of the buildings, the Kingsport Inn, which had been built. Several of the buildings have been adapted to other uses, such as the Post Office which is now the Public Library, and several of the row houses which are now offices and shops. Although evidences of any landscaping have disappeared in the adjoining business district, the Church Circle area retains its original park surrounding.

