


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Pinch-North Main Commercial District (Boundary Increase) Shelby County, TN

BOUNDARY INCREASE APPROVAL

 Keeper Helene Byers 10/25/90
Entered in the
National Register

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National Park Service

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1990
NATIONAL
REGISTER

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Number of contributing resources: 1 contributing building added to district

118-120 Jackson Avenue. Vacant lot.

47. 122 Jackson Avenue (Residence/Boarding House). Vernacular. c. 1892. Two story, brick construction, rectangular plan, poured concrete foundation, limestone window lintels, first story windows have nine-over-nine aluminum sash installed c. 1960, second story wood double-hung one-over-one windows remain, cast-iron attic vent grills, flat roof with roll covering, two story craftsman detailed porch added circa 1920. (C)

122 Jackson does contribute to the Pinch-North Main Commercial District, and apparently was inadvertently left out of the original National Register nomination (NR 10/18/79).

The building at 122 Jackson is architecturally related to the district; it is of brick construction, similar in scale to other buildings, and exhibits the same details of design, including cast iron attic grills, large one-over-one windows, limestone window lintels. A two-story craftsman detailed porch was added circa 1920, within the district's period of significance. The first story windows have replacement sash, but the shape and size of the window openings are not altered. The porch and window alterations have not detracted from the building's architectural integrity. Overall, it retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

122 Jackson dates from the period of significance, and was historically related to the district. Although the area is listed as the Pinch-North Main Commercial District, the original National Register nomination included residences at 405 North Main and 113-115 Jackson Avenue. Most of the buildings in the Pinch were commercial or retail on the first floor, with family living quarters above, so residential use is a function historically related to the Pinch district.

According to the Pinch-North Main Commercial District National Register nomination, the population of the Pinch from 1880-1930 included a number of Jewish business proprietors who operated small businesses and lived with the neighborhood, and a few African Americans who lived on the fringes of the district. Some of the long-term tenants of 122 Jackson between 1892 and 1930 were Patience Hunt, an African American laundress; Leon Berger, who owned a dry goods store at 338 North Main; Morris Alabaster, shoe repairman, 308 North Main.

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Period of significance of district: circa 1795-1935.

The Pinch-North Main Commercial District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The nomination included 36 contributing buildings constructed between circa 1865 and circa 1935. The district also includes Auction Square, one of two surviving nineteenth-century Memphis town squares, established in 1819, and the site of two early forts (1795 and 1797). These sites and the extant buildings show the continuum of use of the district from 1795 - 1935.

The significance of the Pinch district lies in its collection of modest commercial buildings that illustrate the type of business community and the various ethnic groups that existed there in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The buildings of the Pinch housed the commercial and residential activities of a variety of distinct ethnic groups between 1865 and 1935. From roughly the 1820s until the 1870s, the area was populated by Irish immigrants. During the yellow fever epidemics of the 1870s, a large number of the Irish died. Jewish immigrants were arriving steadily by then, and several settled in the Pinch area. Another ethnic group, African Americans, was also present, living in the boarding houses along the district's fringes around the turn of the century.

The Jewish community of the Pinch area flourished until the 1930s when it began to decline. As in many urban areas, World War II saw the end of the Pinch's vitality, as businesses and residents relocated to suburbs.

The historic Pinch area may yet enjoy new vitality, as construction of the Great American Pyramid is now under way just a few blocks away. The Pyramid will house a 22,000 seat arena, a music museum, and other attractions. This project has brought new attention to the nearby Pinch area and the support businesses it can provide. Since Pyramid construction began, three new tax act projects have started, and four other buildings have been or are being rehabilitated.

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122 Jackson Avenue
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee
Date: April 24, 1990
Photos by: Lydia Henegar, City of Memphis
Division of Housing & Community Development
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Facing north, showing south facade.

#1 of 7

Facing northwest, showing south facade and east elevation.

#2 of 7

Facing northeast, showing south facade and west elevation.

#3 of 7

118 Jackson Avenue (vacant lot) and 122 Jackson.

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Taken from southeast corner of Jackson and North Main Street, the east side of Jackson Avenue. Showing relationship of 122 Jackson to buildings in Pinch district.

#5 of 7

Taken from southwest corner of Jackson and Second Street, the east side of Jackson Avenue. Showing relationship of 122 Jackson to buildings in Pinch district. Steel structure in the background is the Great American Pyramid, currently under construction.

#6 of 7

Looking directly west on Jackson Avenue. 122 Jackson in foreground at right. Building in foreground at left is currently under rehabilitation, a tax act project.

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Addition of 122 and 118 Jackson Ave. to Pinch/North Main Historic District

Information compiled by: Paul V. Thomas
122 Jackson Ave.
Memphis, TN 38103

Form prepared by: Lydia Henegar
City of Memphis, Division of Housing and
Community Development
701 N. Main St.
Memphis, TN 38107
(901) 576-7370

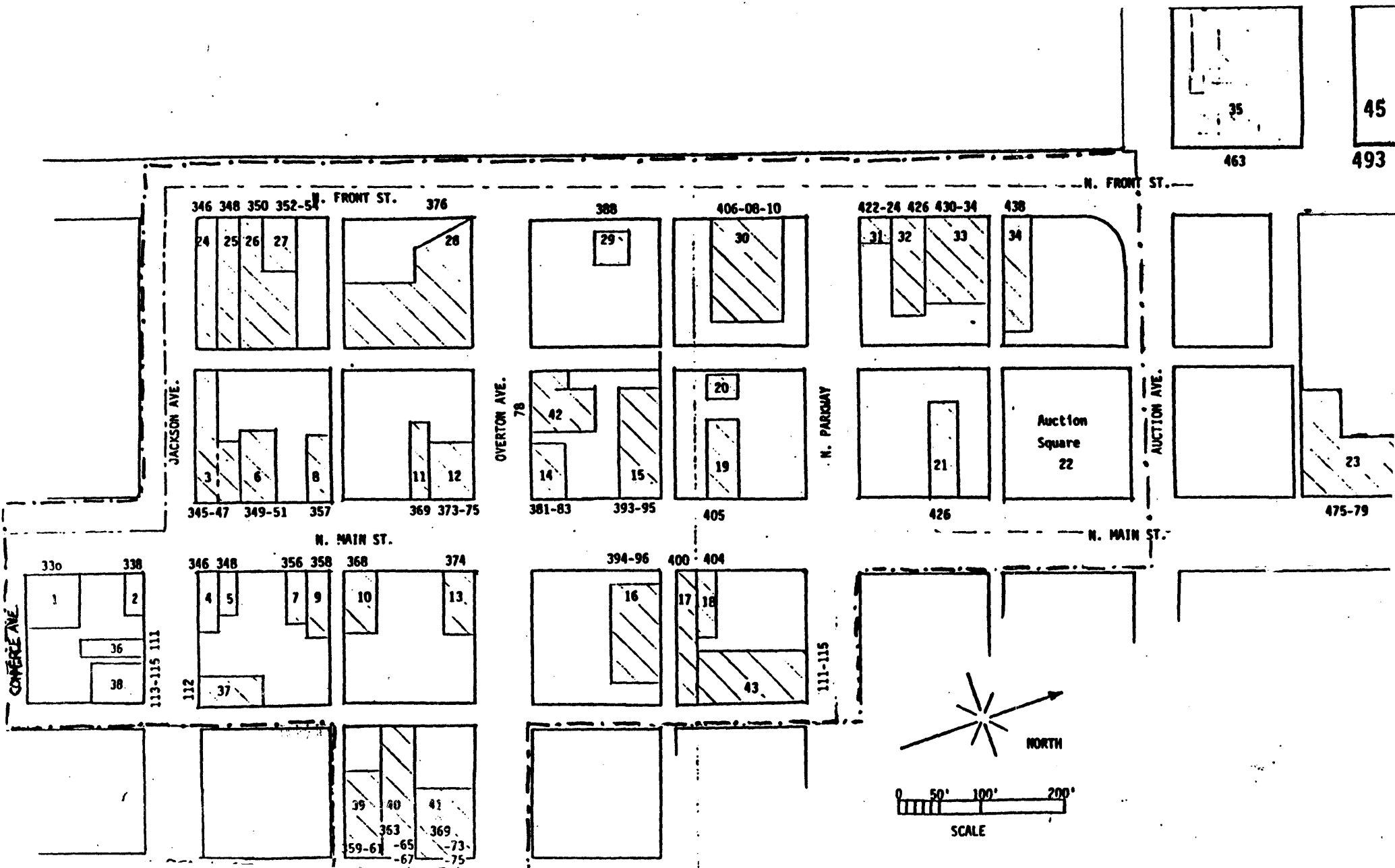
April, 1990

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Pinch-North Main Commercial District

(NR 10-18-79)

#1 of 2

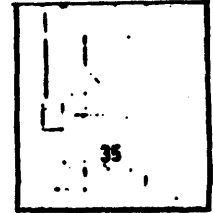


Pinch-North Main Commercial District

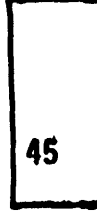
(As proposed, April, 1990,
122 Jackson and adjacent vacant
lot included)

#2 of 2

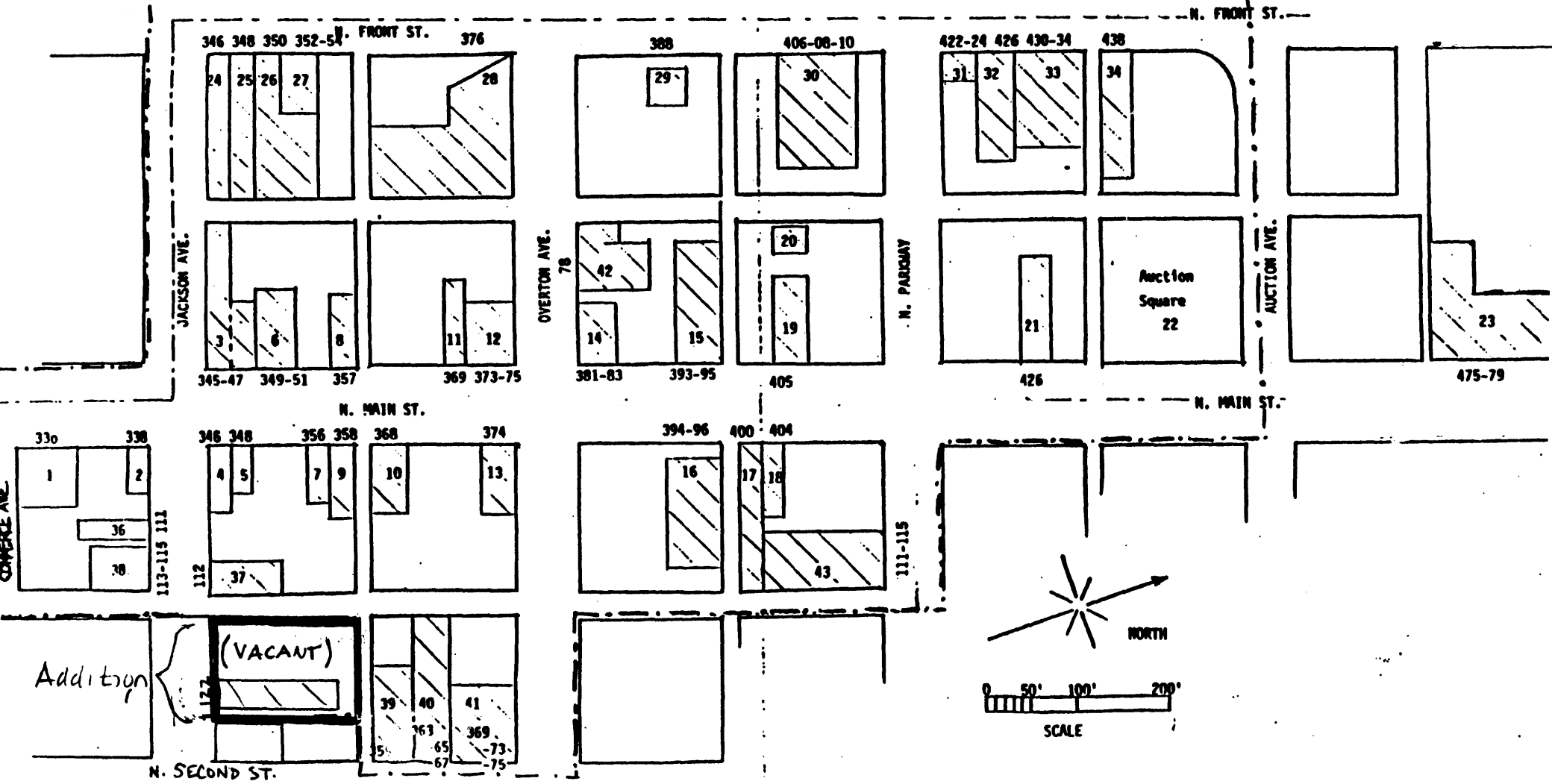
PYRAMID SITE



463



493



SEE 390

CONVERSE AVE.

JACKSON AVE.

OVERTON AVE.

N. PARKWAY

AUCTION AVE.

N. MAIN ST.

N. MAIN ST.

N. SECOND ST.

Addition

(VACANT)

