Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TENNESSEE COUNTY: MONTGOMERY FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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	CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	🛣 Fair	☐ Det	eri ora te d	☐ Ruins	Unexposed	
	CONDITION		(Check Or	ie)			(Che	ck One)	
			red	☐ Unaltered	-		☐ Moved	Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lying within the Clarksville industrial district are a tobacco warehouse, railroad freight station, a portion of the city's 1870's gas works and two elevated railroad structures. One of the rail lines runs north to south along the district's eastern boundary. The other, running east to west, roughly bisects the district. The designated structures are interesting in and of themselves and when considered together are symbolic of the elements of industry, transportation and agricultural trade which was so important to Clarksville's development.

Red brick is utilized as the predominant building material and designs are utilitarian, but well executed and attractive. The railroad structures are composed of functional but dramatic arrangements of timber, stone and steel. There are several vantage points from which it is possible to view the entire district, due to its compactness and hillside setting. interelated functions of the structures, plus their proximity to one another enhances a sense of visual unity. There is only one structure of any significance which intrudes upon the Though a large twentieth century warehouse, it is not sufficiently out of scale or character to detract from the overall effect. With the exception of the gas house, which has been abandoned, all structures are still serving the purposes for which they were designed.

Open space characterizes the southern third of the district which is dominated by a timber trestle over a deep valley. The district's center is filled by a railroad switch-yard and the freight station, while the eastern extremity is delineated by a truss bridge over the switch yard. To the west is the most dominant feature of the area, the railroad drawbridge. The northern end of the district is pinned down by the block-long mass of the Grange Warehouse.

The Grange Warehouse (#1) at 301 Riverside, was initially built to house a planing mill in 1859. It was converted to a tobacco warehouse the same year and has served in that function ever since. It was built near the city's river landing and is probably one of the only buildings remaining in Clarksville which was so situated as to take advantage of water-borne transportation. The structure has been altered many times and suffered considerable damage in an 1898 fire. It is in reasonably good condition, however, considering its age and lack of maintenance, and remains a very real link with the city's past.

Though no trace remains of the gas holder, the building (#2) which housed the gas generation equipment for the gas works remains; a one story brick building with a parapet and circular openings for the gas pipes. The structure, built in the 1870's, now stands empty.

was be the site of an 1859 bridge, but the books in the plate is early 21% c.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Item #7 (Continued)

Freight station (#3), Involved in the same 1898 fire, it is uncertain whether the present structure is a reconstruction of an earlier 1870's station or a new 1898 building. It is characterized by handsome functional brick arches which served as loading portals.

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad crosses the Cumberland River on a large swing bridge, (#4) which begins just west of the freight station. The bridge was built originally by the Memphis, Clarksville and Louisville Railroad. This bridge is said to have been completed in 1859, although the Louisville and Nashville Railroad's engineering department records on the structure only go back to 1876. Apparently it was opened not later than 1860 as trains were running as far as Danville, Tennessee that year. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad acquired the entire railroad to Memphis in the early 1870's. As for the bridge, some steel work was added in 1876 and heavier steel was added to the superstructure in 1890 and again in 1903. At that time alterations were made to the original masonry piers to accommodate the heavier steel. The bridge consists of three spans, the center of which is a draw or swing span that is supported by five piers plus two rest piers for the draw span when it is open, one upstream and one downstream. The main structure of the bridge without approaches is approximately 678 feet long and has a clearance of 50.8 feet above the water at pool stage.

Running at right angles to the L & N Railroad and parallel to the river is the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, (#5) (formerly Tennessee Central). The fact that the bank slopes down steeply toward the river necessitated the construction of an elaborate and intricate timber trestle when the line was built around the turn of the century. The portion noted here is one of the more spectacular of several such structures in the city. The elevated trackage continues over the main line of the L & N by means of a Pratt truss bridge, once common along rail lines, but now disappearing due to the demands of heavier traffic loads. Both the trestle and the swing bridge are in sound condition due to the fact that they are still used by the railroads which own them.

Inventory of Significant Structures I ocated Within The Clarksville Industrial District.

1. Grange Warehouse: 301 Riverside Drive, 3 story, brick, exposed interior timber columns.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

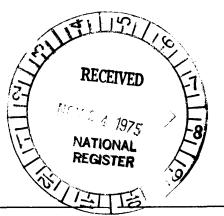
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

ENTRY NUMBER	400 ATUS
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COUNTY	
TENNESSEE	
STATE	

(Number all entries) Item # 7 (Continued)

- 2. City Gas Works 1 story abandoned rectangular brick structure. Corner of Union and Washington.
- 3. L & N Railroad Freight Station: Adams at Riverside, 1 story brick, multiple arch-topped loading portals.
- L & N Railroad Swing Bridge: Adams at Riverside, three steel truss spans on masonry pier, central span opens to allow river navigation, lengthy timber trestle at western approach.
- 5. ICG Railroad Trestle and Pratt Truss Bridge: Crossland Avenue to Washington Street, Timber Trestle and Steel Pratt Truss Bridge.



ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	→ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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Prehistoric	🔀 Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	🔀 Industry	losophy	
★ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
X Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
∑ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	X Transportation	

TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clarksville Industrial District contains elements and remnants of several industrial and commercial endeavors which contributed to the growth and development of the city. important factors which initiated this growth were Clarksville's position on the navigable Cumberland River and the fact that the surrounding area was blessed with rich soil, abundant timber, iron ore and coal.

The oldest building standing in the district today was erected in 1859 as a lumber planing mill. Within a year, however, it had been converted to a tobacco warehouse, that crop apparently being more profitable than timber. Nearly all tobacco was grown for export, whereas most lumber was used The site near the river landing was therefore more locally. logical for a tobacco warehouse. Tobacco was, at that time, becoming the prime cash crop in the area. The climate was not so suitable for cotton as was the case in the deep South, but tobacco grew nearly as well as in Virginia or North Carolina.

At the same time, a railroad building boom was occuring throughout the South. The Memphis, Clarksville and Louisville Railroad opened the swing span over the Cumberland in 1860. Thus, as the Civil War approached, Clarksville was on the verge of becoming a transportation center for the rich agricultural region that surrounded it. Beginnings had also been made toward the establishment of an iron industry.

The Civil War brought an abrupt halt to all development. For over four years regional growth and trade were at a stand-After the cessation of hostilities however, recovery was more rapid than in the rest of the South. The railroad bridge had not been damaged, nor had the warehouse. The fertile soil was still present, as was the ever-growing demand for A certain amount of credit must also be given to the industrious nature of the citizenry. Without this factor, it is difficult to explain how Clarksville prospered, not only as an agricultural center, but as a wholesale distribution point as well. Nashville, a much larger city, also served by river and rail, was only forty-five miles away.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES					
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE					
TENNESSEE					
COUNTY					
MONTGOMERY	<u>-</u>				
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ				
ENTRY NUMBER	484E				
APR 3	D 1310				

(Number all entries) Item # 8 (Continued)

As the city grew and prospered in the 70's and eighties, it, like the rest of the nation, came to depend more on the railroads and less on the rivers. The M C & L was purchased by the L & N in the 1870's. Clarksville's position as a wholesale center was reinforced by the construction of a railroad freight station at the site of the present one.

By the 1870's, like many larger, forward-looking cities of its day, Clarksville also had a centralized plant for the production of illuminating gas. The plant was located at the northern end of the district and consisted of a gas generation building and a gas holding tank. Also contributing to the public good was a large fire hydrant and hose reel at the L & N freight depot, which provided at least nominal protection to much of the district.

The construction of the Tennessee Central Railroad in 1901 was a result of monopolistic pricing policies by the two railroads then serving Nashville (one owned controlling interest in the other). A group of Nashville businessmen built the railroad to connect with the Southern at Harriman, Tennessee and the Illinois Central at Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Despite vigorous opposition from the dominant railroads, the line was built. Geography presented as many obstacles as the opposing rail companies and the trestle in the district is one of dozens which were necessary.

As they once replaced the riverboat, the railroads have today been largely supplanted by trucks. The Grange Warehouse still serves as a tobacco auctioning facility, but the product enters and leaves the building on trucks. The railroad freight station sits idle, with almost no local goods being shipped or received by rail. The Tennessee Central is now a part of the Illinois Central Gulf, a victim of its own smallness in a world of big business.

The district has thus witnessed three eras of transportation and trade, the river, the rail, and the road. During this, the latter, it lies largely dormant and unused, but a highly visible reminder of the way it once was.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

CLARKSVILLE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

A 16/467620/ 404 886 UTM REFERENCES:

16/467620/2041760

16/467700/4041740 Д ~в.

16/467720/4041480

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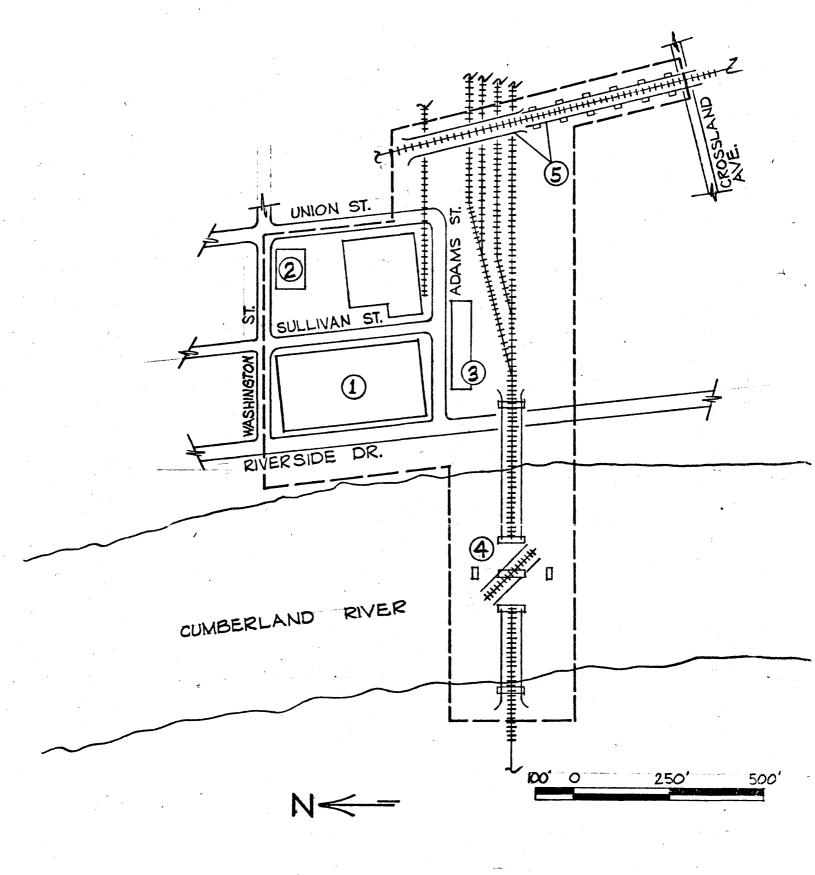
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CLARKSVILLE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION BOUNDARY NARRATIVE

Beginning at the center of the intersection of Washington and Union Streets, the line proceeds in a south-easterly direction for approximately 350 feet at which point it turns East and runs 225 feet. From there (approximately 50 feet East of the trestle) the line extends 775 feet, parallel to the trestle, then turning West-Southwest for 150 feet to the other side of the trestle. Parallel to the trestle, the line runs North-Northwest along its west side for a distance of 300 feet. At that point, the line extends all the way across the river in a westerly direction to the beginning of the trestle approach, paralleing the track and staying 150 to the south. At the trestle beginning point, the line crosses the tracks in a northwesterly direction, then 150 feet to the north of the tracks, the line turns East-Northeast and parallels the tracks back to the Clarksville (east) side of the river. At the riverbank, it turns to the North-northwest and runs along the riverbank 500 feet to Washington Street, then back East along Washington Street to the beginning point





CLARKSVILLE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT