

**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 Bradford-Maydwell House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 648 Poplar Avenue not for publication

city, town Memphis vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Tennessee code 047 county Shelby code 157

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Dayton Smith

street & number 648 Poplar Avenue

city, town Memphis vicinity of state Tennessee 38105

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Registrar

street & number Shelby County Courthouse

city, town Memphis vicinity of state Tennessee 38103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Memphis Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Memphis Landmarks Commission, Suite 923, Falls Building

city, town Memphis 22 North Front Street state Tennessee 38103

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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

The Bradford-Maydwell House, which occupies a narrow, deep lot on the north side of the street at 648 Poplar Avenue, is flanked by a one-story commercial building on the west and a parking lot on the east. The house and its small front yard, approximately 20' deep, are separated from the sidewalk by an ornate wrought iron fence anchored with brick piers above a low brick wall. A gate aligned with the entrance bay on the west end of the house's facade opens onto a walkway that is half concrete and half brick. Modern wood and chain link fencing has been installed along the eastern and northern boundaries of the lot. A gate at the rear of the western boundary line connects a paved parking area at the rear of the lot to a 50 foot alley leading to Hamlin Street. A small backyard and narrow strips of yard on either side of the house occupy the remainder of the lot.

Of brick construction with a rectangular plan, the Bradford-Maydwell House illustrates in its various elevations two very different building styles. The house began as a two-and-one half story rectangular gabled structure. Laid in common bond, the gabled end elevations, the only portions of the original house that remain intact, show evidence of the Federal style. Windows are decorated simply with plain stone lintel heads and sills; several still retain louvered green shutters. In contrast the facade (south elevation) was later altered in the more sophisticated, ornate Italianate style. This elevation was enriched with an elaborate cornice, arched windows with stone architraves, and a main door with carved wood panels and surrounds. The bonding pattern here is stretcher. A two-story square wing with a hip roof was added on the west end of the north (rear) elevation. The use of segmentally arched windows, another typically Italianate feature, indicates that this section was built at about the same time that the facade was remodeled. A second addition, a modern two-story frame wing, was recently added at the east end of the north elevation. The hip roof of the brick addition was extended to cover this section. The entire roof is now covered with composition shingles.

The interior decoration of the Bradford-Maydwell House reflects the exterior evolution. While most of the original rooms employ the light graceful motifs that mark the Adam style, the parlor has been remodeled with the heavier, more ornate detailing of the Victorian period.

The three-bay main facade, laid in stretcher bond on a concrete foundation, has a projecting wood cornice featuring paired brackets and modillions, each carved with an acanthus leaf, over a plain frieze. In the first story, the entrance, located on the west end of the facade, has a round-arched opening faced with sandstone molding and is topped by a console keystone, also enriched with an acanthus leaf. This configuration is repeated around the window, openings in the two remaining bays of the first story. Recessed within the entrance is a doubled leaf door. In the upper tier of each panel is a round-arched single light; in the lower tier is a square wood panel carved in a foliated motif. Above the door is a round-arched single-light transom containing the gold numerals "648." The wood door surround is accented with twisted rope molding. In the second story, the three windows are set into rectangular openings with molded sandstone cornices and facings. All windows on the main facade are one-over-one double hung sash with wood surrounds and stone lintels and sills.

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The side elevations (east and west) each have two sections--a straight gabled front section and a hip roof rear section. On the east elevation of the gabled section three six-over-six double hung sash windows are located in both the first and second stories while two four-over-four double hung sash windows are found in the attic story. All have wood surrounds and stone lintels and sills. Green louvered wood shutters are still in use on the second and third story windows. There is a brick interior end chimney on each gable pitch of the east elevation.

The two-story rear section of the east elevation has two windows on each story. All are six-over-six double hung sash with stone sills, and all but the upper left window have segmentally arched openings with double radiating voussoirs. The other window has a linteled opening. An interior end chimney is centrally located. The west elevation's gabled section has a one-over-one double hung sash window in the second story and two six-over-six double hung sash windows in the attic stories. An exterior end chimney has been recently added at the rear of the gable section along with a single-light stained glass window just north of the chimney. Behind the front section is a two-story frame addition with a six-over-six double hung sash window in each story. This section was constructed within the last ten years:

The rear elevation of the house has a door west of center in each story of the brick addition with a metal fire escape providing access to the second story. The first-story door, set into a segmentally arched opening with a double radiating voussoir, appears to be original. The mortar repointing around the rectangular opening for the second-story door indicates that it was added more recently. The frame addition on the west end has a rectangular six-over-six double hung sash window on the first story and a small square six-over-six double hung sash window in the second story.

The house has a side hall plan that was originally two rooms deep, but with the addition of the two rear wings, two rooms added at the rear of the house on each story. On the west wall of the hallway is located a single-flight open staircase with an octagonal newel post, ornamental brackets at the end of each tread and turned balusters. In the east wall of the hallway two ten-foot doorways lead to a parlor 16' square and behind it, a dining room of the same dimensions. A large rectangular opening connects the two rooms. At the rear of the hallway is a doorway leading to the frame addition, which contains the kitchen. A doorway in the east wall of the kitchen and in the north wall of the dining room lead to the room that is contained in the rear brick addition. This room has a door in its rear wall.

The side hall and dining room have retained their original light, graceful Adam style ornamentation. The cornice in both rooms has a band of plaster decorated with low relief festoons of chains of husks under a row of dentils. The mantlepiece is carved with oval and circular paterae, reeding, and paneled pilasters.

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The decorative elements of the parlor are heavier and more elaborate. The cornice is composed of two courses of intricate plaster work in a foliated motif. Each course is topped by a molded wood band. An elaborate ceiling medallion exhibits the same motif. A much simpler medallion featuring the acanthus-leaf motif seen on the facade is used in the dining room. The parlor's marble fireplace is Greek Revival. This was probably installed by James Maydwell, who was a marble dealer. Above a round-arched opening paneled spandrels flank a cartouche. The metal fireplace covering is Victorian.

All first floor rooms have wide molded baseboards and window surrounds and paneled aprons. In the parlor the two front windows and the aprons underneath them are recessed. The original wooden shutters, which fold into side openings, are intact. Also intact throughout the original rooms of the house is wide plank flooring. The rear room is the first-story brick addition has been completely remodeled with modern wood flooring and a brick fireplace.

The second floor layout repeats that of the first floor with a side hall opening onto a closet at the front, a bath on the rear, three bedrooms along the east side of the house and a stairway between the two rear bedrooms which leads to two rooms in the attic. The mantle in the front bedroom, the woodwork and flooring are original.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1859 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bradford-Maydwell House derives its significance from its unique status within the context of Memphis' residential architecture. Both the exterior ornamentation and interior decoration provide a striking contrast between two dissimilar building styles. The simplicity of design in the gable end elevations, where windows were decorated with plain lintels and sills, indicates that the building was originally Federal in design. This is verified by the light, delicate quality of the low relief plaster cornices in the dining room and side hall and the carved ornamentation of the dining room mantel. The favorite motifs of the Adam style--the chain of husks and the circular and oval paterae--were used respectively to highlight the cornices and mantel. This elaboration of the Federal or Adam style is found in no other Memphis house. Indeed, the Federal influence can be seen in only a few commercial buildings scattered throughout the city.

The house has also evolved from its original form into a hybrid structure. At some point the facade of the house was altered to reflect the prevailing preference for the more ornate, sophisticated Italianate style. The new facade features an enriched cornice, round arched windows decorated with molded sandstone, and ornate carvings in the floor surround and the door itself. An acanthus-leaf motif was used to enrich keystones, brackets, and modillions. Interior alterations were evident in the parlor, where intricate plaster cornices and a ceiling medallion with a foliated motif illustrate the more elaborate decorative forms popular in the Victorian era. Also of note in the house's interior are the original wide-plank flooring and the wooden shutters in the parlor's front windows.

In 1853, county lot #503 was deeded to W.C. Bradford; this lot, which was actually a large parcel of land, included the site of the nominated property. In 1859, the Memphis City Directory lists a Bradford residing at a house on Poplar near Orleans. In 1860, a plot of land containing the lot which the Bradford-Maydwell House now occupies was deeded to James Maydwell. The Federal styling of the Bradford-Maydwell House as well as the presence of wide plank flooring indicates that the house was probably built either by Bradford in 1859 or begun by Maydwell in 1860. The remainder of the land owned by Bradford was subdivided in 1867, the same year that Maydwell's name first appears at the address which is now 648 Poplar. Records indicate that Maydwell borrowed money in 1868, which may pinpoint the date of the alterations made to the original building.

The integration of Federal and Italianate styling has produced a unique and important building for Memphis. The significance of the Bradford-Maydwell House then is derived from the fact that it is the only surviving example of a Federal residence in Memphis and from its role as a visual record of the architectural preferences of two very different eras in Memphis architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Memphis City Directories, 1850-1870.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .16

Quadrangle name Northwest Memphis, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	6	9	8	4	0	3	8	9	3	1	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a quadrilateral tract which contains approximately .16 acre. The boundary of the tract is shown on the accompanying portion of a tax assessment map of Memphis which is drawn at the scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Benton, Preservation Planning Intern

organization Memphis Landmarks Commission date October 1, 1979

street & number 22 N. Front Street, Suite 923 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/8/79

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Sally G. Oldham</u>	date <u>12/26/79</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Kristin O'Connell</u>	date <u>12/11/79</u>
Chief of Registration	

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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is the entire tract owned by Dayton Smith.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

3/26/90

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Bradford-Maydwell House

Shelby County, TENNESSEE

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

for Keeper *Almond Byrd* 4/3/90
approved

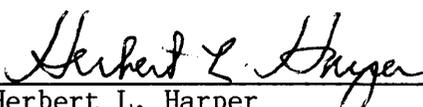
3/26/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The common name of the house should now be the Dickinson House.



Herbert L. Harper
Executive Director and
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

 3/22/90
Date