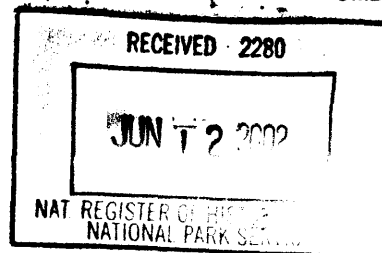


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



dl
8/10

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Racheff, Ivan, House
other names/site number Knoxville Iron Works Office

2. Location

street & number 1943 Tennessee Ave. NA not for publication
city or town Knoxville NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37950

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Herbert L. Hays 8/11/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register.
 other,
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 7-17-02

Racheff, Ivan, House
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman influence

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls CONCRETE stucco

roof ASPHALT shingles

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

Circa 1947-circa 1952

Significant Dates

1947

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Racheff, Ivan

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Racheff, Ivan, House
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 3.5 acres Knoxville 147 NW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>233715</u>	<u>3985515</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeannine Alley and Lois Van Wie
organization Racheff House and Gardens Board of Governors date December 5, 2001
street & number P.O. Box 50185 telephone 865-522-6210
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37950-0185

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, c/o Mrs. Eugene Lamb, President
street & number P. O. Box 50158 telephone 865-522-6210
city or town Knoxville State TN zip code 37950

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

Built in 1902-1904 as the office for the Knoxville Iron Works, the Ivan Racheff House is a one and one-half story load bearing brick building with heavy stucco covering on the exterior walls. A hip roof with an asphalt shingle covering and slightly flared eaves boasts four hip roof dormers on each of the roof planes. The house is comprised of a main block, completed in 1902, and a flanking wing on the west elevation that was added shortly after the primary building was constructed. A 1904 photograph of the Knoxville Iron Works shows the building with the completed wing. An unknown engineer employed by the Knoxville Iron Works designed the building. Decorative quoins, paired windows with segmental arch openings and dormers are some of the principal exterior features. The only exterior changes are the conversion of dormer windows on the east, west and north into small balcony areas by Racheff; the dormers and roofline were not altered. On the inside, Racheff's apartment on the second level reflects the décor of the late 1940s. The main floor of the building has been altered for use as the garden club's headquarters. Despite the first floor alterations, the house retains its historic integrity.

The Ivan Racheff House sits on a large parcel in an early twentieth century neighborhood that originally housed workers from Knoxville Iron Works and other nearby industries. The house and gardens are a pleasant oasis in this inner-city neighborhood, as Racheff originally intended. The house faces Tennessee Avenue to the south, its entrance accented by a wrought iron gate and a flagstone walk lined with iron collars all of which were installed by Ivan Racheff. (C) The double wrought iron gate marks the driveway entrance to the property. Racheff installed the fence and gate in 1958. (NC due to age.)

The south façade has a central entrance composed of a single leaf door, installed in 1948 by Racheff and a transom and sidelights. Two sets of paired two-over-one windows flank the entrance. A belt course is below the windows and encircles the house. A tri-part window sits below the hip roof façade dormer while classical influenced wood columns on brick bases support the central portico. Chamfered wood trim surrounds the porch eaves and decorative sawn wood brackets are visible below the house eaves.

A driveway leads to a garage and the west elevation of the house. A short flagstone walk leads to concrete steps. Paired double hung two-over-one windows to the south flank the single leaf original wood and glass door and there is a single double hung two-over-one window to the north. Like the other windows, these are set in segmental arch openings. On the second floor there is the original dormer with sliding glass doors and wrought iron balcony railings that were added by Racheff in the 1940s.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

The north rear elevation of the house has five single two-over-one windows, one paired grouping of windows and three smaller segmental arched windows on the first story. In addition to these windows there is evidence of another window that has been blocked up. There is a small four-light window in the basement and a concrete step entrance to the basement. Quoins separate the easternmost window from the rest of the fenestration. The large dormer contains sliding glass doors, a single leaf door to the porch and a small window.

The interior of the building has been changed twice. Racheff did the first alteration in 1947 when he converted the attic of the office building into a private apartment for himself.¹ The apartment consisted of a large living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and two baths. According to the Knoxville newspaper, Racheff's apartment exemplified the height of fashion in the taste of the 1940's.² The walls are knotty pine tongue and groove paneling, with oak floors and cedar-lined closets. Racheff's furnishings still grace his apartment, with area rugs, and even accessories remaining as Racheff would have used and left them. Racheff also had paneling installed in the downstairs, purchasing it from D.M. Rose in 1946. The paneling was North Carolina pine, specified because the knotholes in North Carolina pine are tighter and will not fall out. All alterations carried out by Racheff were completed by Christmas of 1949. All the original paneling in the upstairs and downstairs still remains.

The downstairs hallway and steps to the upstairs are original to the main block building and were paneled with the Carolina pine by Racheff. The railing is of boxed pine paneling.

The second alteration to the inside of the building occurred in 1974 when the Chambers Company of Knoxville remodeled the downstairs of the building to be suitable to the garden club's purposes. A wall was removed to provide space for two meeting rooms, rest rooms and a small apartment with a kitchen. Paneling was added above the original wainscoting in the main meeting room at this time. Ivan Racheff's former office and a large walk-in vault along with his memorabilia were left intact.

The exterior appears as it was originally constructed with the exception of the removal of the dormer windows and installing sliding glass doors and balcony railings in 1940s when Racheff chose to improve his view of the gardens from his upstairs apartment. The change did not compromise the dwelling's historic structure and appearance. The only other alteration to the outside of the house was the removal of the original slate roof, due to deterioration, in 1970.³

¹ Clark, Joseph Harold, a thesis, *History of Knoxville Iron Co.*, Knoxville, Tennessee, March 1949.

² Brewer, Carson, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 5 April 1988, B1+ Mr. Brewer states that Aileen Marshall was Mr. Racheff's private secretary. Mr. Brewer was a close personal friend of Mr. Racheff.

³ Board of Governors, Ivan Racheff's Park and Gardens, Inc. *The History of Racheff Park and Gardens of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.* 1975³

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Section number 7 Page 3

Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

Also located on the property is a two- car garage with a shed roof, built of concrete blocks and plank garage doors with cross bracing built in 1951. (C)

The Ivan Racheff House remains a significant landmark in the Lonsdale neighborhood. The primary form and materials of the house remain unchanged since its completion in 1904. The landscaped gardens surrounding the house still contain the original paths with iron collars, fencing, fish ponds, and plant material in the form of bulbs, shade and ornamental trees, foundation plantings and shrubbery installed by Racheff. Racheff placed a bell, located in the garden, there. Meneely and Kimberly in Troy, N. Y. in 1873 cast the bell. The bell and fishponds are in the larger garden but the iron collars, fencing, shade and ornamental trees and some of the foundation plantings are ones that were planted by Racheff. One of the dogwood trees that he planted is extremely rare and the University of Tennessee comes and takes specimens of it for tissue cultures. This tree is quite close to the east side of the house.

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Section number 8 Page 4

Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ivan Racheff House is being nominated under criterion B for its association with Ivan Racheff. Racheff was an important local industrialist who also instituted social outreach programs for the Lonsdale community where his mill was located. Prior to living in Knoxville at this house, Racheff was well known in the metallurgy field; his papers are now at the University of Illinois. From 1947-1948 until his death, Racheff used the house as his primary residence when he was in Knoxville. Originally used as an office building, Racheff converted the upstairs into a modern apartment for himself. Ivan Racheff also advocated the union of conservation and industry. He changed the slag heaps and rubble piles adjacent to the house into attractive gardens that the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs now maintain. The building retains its overall integrity from the time Ivan Racheff lived there.

Ivan Racheff arrived at Ellis Island on 4 April 1905 from Bulgaria as a teen-ager.⁴ He was born in Lovich, Bulgaria on 17 September 1892 of a well-respected family who had hoped that he would go to the University of Rome to study diplomacy. Against his parents' wishes, Racheff sailed from Le Havre, France to New York. He quickly found a job near the wharves peeling potatoes and washing dishes. Ridiculed because he didn't understand English he vowed to learn English as fast as possible because he wanted to become a citizen. Racheff already spoke Bulgarian, some Russian, Italian and French. Eventually, he became a naturalized citizen.

When Racheff had saved enough to buy a ticket to Chicago he left New York and eventually found his way to the University of Illinois where he majored in chemistry and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1917. His first job was at Gary, Indiana with Illinois Steel Company, now a part of US Steel. He was drafted the same year for military service and served at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland, solving metallurgical problems, among which was a serious problem with the lining of smoke stacks on naval vessels. After the war he returned to Illinois Steel Company, but in 1919 left the company to work for Ford Motor Company in Detroit, where he investigated quality control defects in steel. After a few months in this job he moved to New Jersey where he could get experience in a foundry of a steel mill. Later he went to United Alloy in Canton, Ohio (now Republic Steel) where he learned to manufacture alloy steel. In 1920, he joined Douglas Aircraft in Los Angeles but soon left to broaden his experience in rolling mill operations at the Lewellan Iron Works in Los Angeles.

Ivan Racheff's varied work experience would prepare him for the next stage of his career when he set up the Racheff Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago. He was among the first metallurgists to use optical metallography to solve materials problems. Much of his original laboratory equipment still exists and is housed in the Racheff Metallurgical Laboratories at the University of Illinois.

⁴ Racheff (Racheof) arrived in the US on the Aquitania. His residence was Kesstanbole, Bulgaria and the Ellis Island records give his age as sixteen. www.ellislandrecords.org.

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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

Racheff's work is well documented in extensive reports and personal papers dating from 1923 to 1941. The reports are bound in ninety volumes and are housed at the University of Illinois. Included in these volumes are the new plans for the Knoxville Iron Works that Racheff intended to create after he bought the company.

Early in his career, Racheff made contributions to understanding the causes of fracture of highly stressed components and to the relationship between the performance of a part and the section of the ingot from which the steel came. Racheff's understanding of the effect of microstructure was remarkable for his time. One of his studies, which led to an innovation still used today, was the development of automobile springs that would last the life of a car. His research was widespread and led to varied innovations spanning from improved automobile radiators to more durable playing cards.

In 1938 at a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio where Racheff was honored for his work with making electric furnace steel, he met representatives from Knoxville Iron Company, as Knoxville Iron Works was then called. They asked him to come to Knoxville to evaluate their company, which he did. He later remembered,

Maybe it was 60 days after the Cleveland meeting that I got to Knoxville. I stood on the west side of the office looking toward the railroad track, and at all the piled up rubbish and garbage. I picked up an envelope post marked at the turn of the century. I went through the mill. It wasn't very safe. The dust must have been three to four inches thick. I said "You'll have to clean it up."⁵

Three weeks later when Racheff returned, the rubbish had been raked into piles. He intended to tell them they should go out of business, but he stayed and bought what was considered "worthless stock".⁶ Eventually, Racheff turned the complex into a working electric steel plant.

The Knoxville Iron Works was founded in 1868 as a rolling mill for iron products. By the late 1800s the discovery of high-grade ore led to iron ore manufacturing being centered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Gary, Indiana; and Birmingham, Alabama. The Knoxville Iron Works remained a local company, financed with local capital. Its raw material was imported and its primary function was to refine pig iron into wrought iron, which was then rolled. In 1902 the company moved to the present location and constructed the mills and office. From 1909 to 1948, it primarily melted scrap iron and steel, then altering the metal to bars and usable shapes.

Racheff maintained a steel consulting business in Chicago during the time he was transforming Knoxville Iron Works into a successful business. Racheff started to buy shares of the company

⁵ "The Better World Begins With You", *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970 p E-10

⁶ "The Better World Begins With You", *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970 p E-10

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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

until he had a controlling interest in the late 1940s, eventually acquiring 80% of the stock. He was a consultant and implementing improvements to Knoxville Iron Works the entire time he was acquiring stock. In 1946, Racheff purchased the company and was president of the company from 1947-1968. While acting as a consultant to the company, Racheff lived at the Andrew Johnson Hotel (NR 7/9/80) in Knoxville and moved into the nominated building after he purchased the iron works. By 1970, Racheff had been made a fellow off the American Society for Metals. His achievements were

...thorough metallurgical investigations leading to an effective consulting laboratory, industrial developments, and a successful electric steel plant which beautified rather than polluted the environment.⁷

Circa 1947 the mill was in good running order. It was time to start the garden from the steel mill junk pile. Records show that Mr. Racheff spent \$76.00 that year for grass seed, trees and shrubs. Through the years that followed he added more plantings, a teahouse, a couple of gold fishponds, a small orchard, a vegetable garden and some beehives. In the fall he had a couple workers from the mill plant the thousands of tulip bulbs he ordered each year from Holland. He believed that nature and industry could live side by side. In an interview with *Knoxville News-Sentinel* reporter Carson Brewer Racheff said, "There is no reason to take every square inch and squeeze profit out of it. We of this world are at a point of decision. We can use or misuse technology. And we can use or abuse our earth".⁸ On 17 May 1961 in Philadelphia, PA, The National Council of State Garden Clubs gave him one of their highest awards – The Silver Seal, for his work in conservation and pollution control.

In addition to the gardens, he devoted a great deal of time to helping the people in the immediate community. He employed handicapped-people, helped employees with personal problems, built a baseball park behind the steel mill for the Lonsdale community and his workmen and had educational funds for scholarships for children in the area. He provided gardening and cooking lessons for the people in the area. He held an annual Christmas party for his workers as well as the neighborhood people where food, gifts and clothing were distributed and one- dollar bills were handed out to the children.⁹

Racheff sold his interest in the Knoxville Iron Works to what is now known as Ameristeel in 1968. He retained ownership of the house and gardens until his death, leasing the office to the steel company. He stayed in the upstairs apartment when he visited Knoxville otherwise he lived in

⁷ "Ivan Racheff Presents Park to State Garden Federation." *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970.

⁸ "The Better World Begins With You", *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970 p. 1.

⁹ Trimble, H. Blair, Personal interview by Lois Van Wie, 10 December 2001. Mr. Trimble was one of the officers of Steel Services that bought Knoxville Iron Works from Ivan Racheff. Mr. Racheff retained the house and gardens when he sold the company.

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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

Chicago. Racheff wanted to be sure that the gardens would continue so he approached the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs to see if they would accept the gardens, which they did in 1970. He left money in his will to maintain the gardens stating "It is my desire that the property bequeathed be operated and maintained as a natural garden and park for the benefit and enrichment of the public and to educate and encourage all persons to conserve and preserve the natural resources which surround them".¹⁰ He gave \$2,300,000 to the University of Tennessee for two Chairs of Excellence, one in Engineering and the other in Plant Molecular Genetics. The University of Illinois received considerable more. Mr. Racheff died 26 October 1982 at the age of 92.

When Ivan Racheff took over Knoxville Iron Works in 1947 he immediately started to modernize the plant with new equipment including electric steel furnaces that he had developed in his consulting business. The plant and surroundings were cleaned of accumulated debris and the safety and welfare of workers was given more concern. Racheff brought about changes to a landmark Knoxville factory that was going out of existence, changing it into a thriving steel mill that exists today. Racheff also worked to improve the environment of the area. He lived in Chicago part of the time while managing the Knoxville operation. The Ivan Racheff House best represents Racheff's significance in Tennessee.

¹⁰ Racheff, Ivan- Racheff Will – a copy is held by the Board of Governors, Racheff Park and Gardens

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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

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Section number 10 Page 9

Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries for the Ivan Racheff House include a portion of parcel 25 on the attached Knox County tax map. The boundaries include the house, garage and fence. Adjacent property lines and the boundary of the garden surround the nominated property. This includes all the historic property associated with the Ivan Racheff House that retains integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
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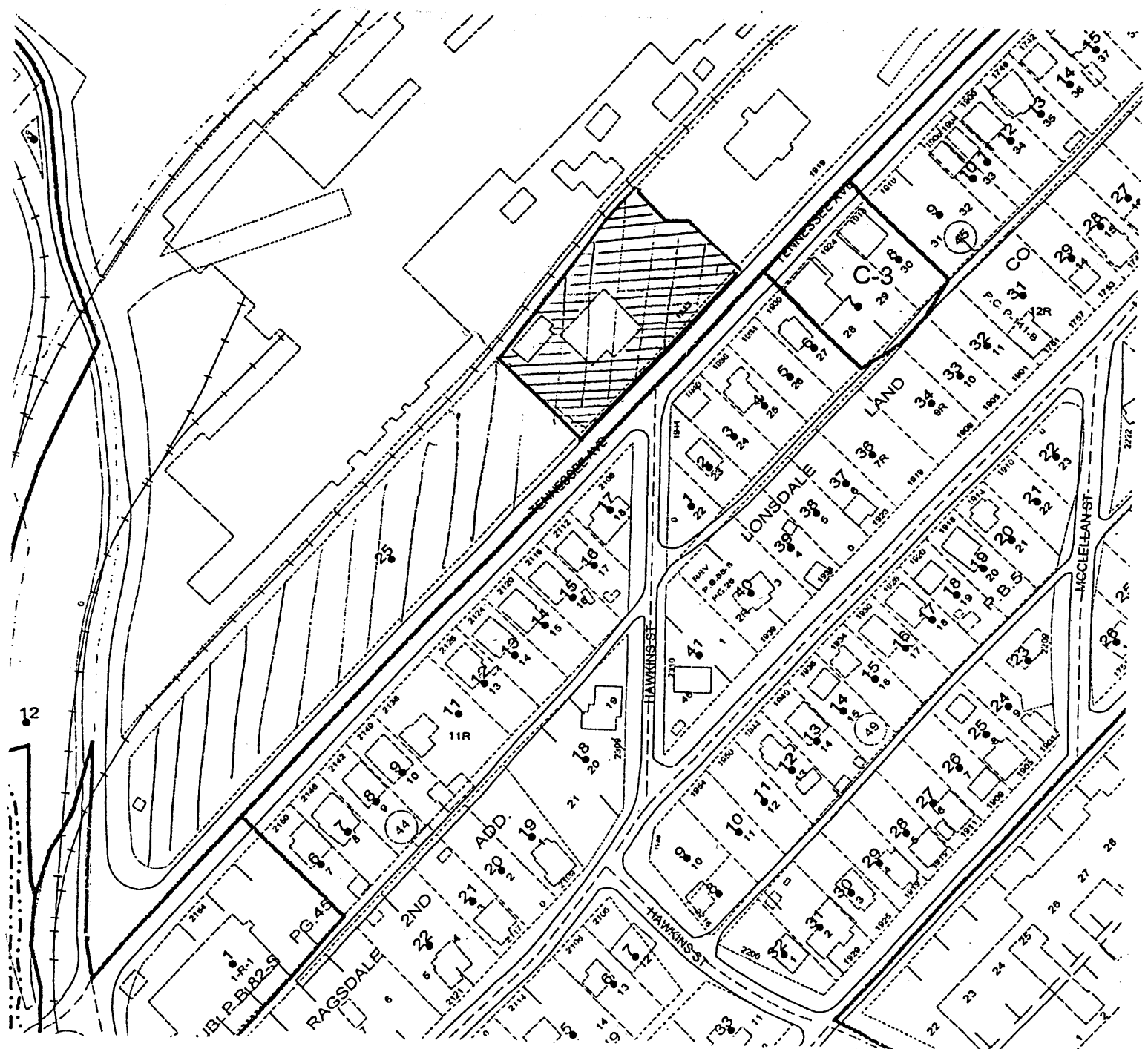
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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

Tax map

scale 1" = 100'



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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo by: Lois Van Wie
Date: Nov-Dec. 2001- Feb-Mar. 2002
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission

Main entrance (south) taken from the east side
1 of 22

Main entrance of Racheff House (south side)
2 of 22

Main entrance (south) of Racheff House with original dormer
3 of 22

Detail of eaves
4 of 22

East side
5 of 22

North side
6 of 22

West side, dormer as remodeled in 1949
7 of 22

Southwest corner, showing driveway
8 of 22

Garage, west of house
9 of 22

Meeting room, toward southeast
10 of 22

Meeting room, toward southwest
11 of 22

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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

Meeting room, toward north
12 of 22

Entrance hall from front door looking north
13 of 22

Racheff office off front hall
14 of 22

Office meeting room, showing walk-in safe
15 of 22

Foyer on southwest corner
16 of 22

Small meeting room off hall
17 of 22

Kitchen off small meeting room
18 of 22

Upstairs apartment living room
19 of 22

Upstairs apartment living room looking west into dormer
20 of 22

Upstairs dining room looking northeast
21 of 22

Upstairs bedroom looking north
22 of 22