

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG - 1 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Richland Hall

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 4822 Charlotte Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 47 county Davidson code 037

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Claude R. Johnson and Mildred Johnson

street & number 5715 Maudina Street

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37209

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davidson County Register's Office

street & number Metro Courthouse, Public Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Richland Hall is a three-story, late-nineteenth-century vernacular commercial building of brick constructed in 1894. It is located in a row of small businesses across from a city park and a neighborhood of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century houses, Sylvan Park, in the West Nashville section of Nashville, Tennessee. The front (south) facade is distinguished by bracketed stone lintels, terra cotta panels, and brick corbeling. Although the interior has been altered, the building retains its architectural and historical integrity.

Constructed of stretcher (principal facade) and common bond brick made by Fulcher and Dyas of Nashville, Richland Hall is supported by a rusticated limestone foundation. Brick buttresses divide the three bays. A parapet complete with battlements, which were formerly topped by bell-shaped caps, hide the flat roof. Although the central door is not original, the overall integrity of the recessed entry is retained by a pair of fluted cast iron columns and decorative carved limestone. Flat limestone lintels ornamented with a simple scallop design top the window openings of the principal facade. Corbelled brick brackets support the flat limestone sills. Radiating voussoirs accent the segmental arched window openings on the west and east facades. These openings are also separated by brick buttresses. Other important decorative elements include terra cotta ornamentation and a Masonic emblem. A broken pediment with a central finial was originally located above the building's name atop the central bay of the principal facade.

The major structural alteration, the addition of a concrete block extension to the north (rear) facade between 1932 and 1946, replaced several earlier buildings. Early photographs indicate that a frame shed/barn originally existed behind Richland Hall. Several small shops and possibly a private dwelling were located at the rear of the property as late as 1932. In addition, a door and loading dock and two bull's-eye windows on the west facade have been bricked in. These alterations are unfortunate but they do not detract from the integrity of the building's main facade.

The interior of the building has been altered through the years to accommodate various commercial tenants so that few original features remain. The interior has recently been renovated, retaining original parquet floors and early plaster walls wherever possible.

In addition to the interior renovation, the exterior of Richland Hall has been chemically cleaned and the windows and store front restored. The building is now awaiting new commercial tenants.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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** 1894 **Builder/Architect** J.A. Bowling and Sons, Contractors and Builders

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Richland Hall is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its association with the development of the turn-of-the-century planned community of West Nashville and its local architectural significance. The building exhibits fine craftsmanship and is one of the best neighborhood commercial buildings remaining in Nashville from the turn-of-the-century.

Dr. H.M. Pierce of Buffalo, New York, founded West Nashville in 1887. He intended that the planned community on the outskirts of Nashville become an "industrial metropolis." Indicative of a general trend in the U.S. and particularly of Southern urban areas in the late nineteenth century, Pierce formed a firm to develop the area, the Nashville Land Improvement Company. Its board of directors included some of Nashville's most prominent citizens such as the former president of the N.C. & St. L. Railroad, Edward W. "King" Cole, and Mark S. Cockrill, grandson of Nashville pioneers John and Ann Cockrill.

The industrial growth of West Nashville was initially much slower than expected, so in the midst of the depression of 1893 the Nashville Land Improvement Company found itself almost bankrupt. Following the sale of land a mile or so away to the State Prison Commissioners, the board of directors decided to invest in improving company-owned property. Named after the stock farm on which West Nashville was built, Richland Hall was erected in 1894 for the then considerable sum of \$4,783.26 by James A. Bowling and Sons, Contractors and Builders. Bowling had bought the first lot in West Nashville, and by 1908, he was responsible for about half the buildings in the community.

The Nashville Land Improvement Company leased the ground floor of Richland Hall as a store (primarily dry goods), the second floor as public hall, and the third floor for lodge rooms. Episcopal and Presbyterian Missions met there c.1900. Civic groups such as the Odd Fellows, Guardian Decreasing Payment Fraternity (group established in West Nashville), Masons, Royal Arcanum, United Order of the Golden Cross, and Knights and Ladies of America also held regular meetings there. Sold at a loss for \$4,200 in 1912, Richland Hall still served West Nashvillians over the years much as it was originally intended.

Richland Hall is the largest and the most architecturally significant of the four surviving late-nineteenth-century commercial buildings in West Nashville. The building's variety of textures and detailing is noteworthy as well as the excellence of materials and construction. The rehabilitation of Richland Hall is an important key to the revitalization of West Nashville's business district.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Nashville West, Tn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

16	513860	4060640
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Brown

organization MTSU Historic Preservation Program date January 1983

street & number Box 7744 Middle Tennessee State Univ. telephone 615-898-3160

city or town Murfreesboro state Tennessee

# 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 National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 7/27/83

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 9/1/83  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration





