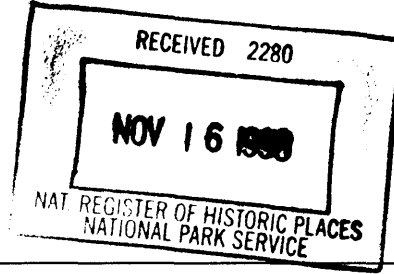


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1531

1. Name of Property

historic name: **Fountain Court Historic District**
other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 1155 to 1229 Fountain Court NA not for publication
city or town: Memphis N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Shelby code 157 zip code 38106

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 forth 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. Hryca 11/10/98
Signature of certifying official (Deputy SHPO, Tenn. Historical Commission) Date

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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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):

Robert W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12-17-98

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:	private	Number of Resources within Property:		
		(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
Category of Property:	district	Contributing	Noncontributing	
		24	10	buildings
		1	0	sites
		0	0	structures
		0	0	objects
		25	10	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Residential Resources of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:	DOMESTIC	Sub:	single dwelling
	DOMESTIC		secondary structure
Current Functions:	DOMESTIC	Sub:	single dwelling
	DOMESTIC		secondary structure
	DOMESTIC		multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Colonial Revival
Craftsman
Other Description: four square bungalow
Materials: foundation BRICK
roof ASPHALT SHINGLE
walls BRICK
other STONE/limestone
CONCRETE/cast stone

Narrative Description
See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Areas of Significance

- 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.

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1907 - ca. 1940

Significant Dates

1907

Criteria Considerations N/A

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave
- 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.

Significant Persons

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheets.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bibliography

See continuation sheet.

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Tennessee Historical Commission

Fountain Court Historic District
Name of Property

Memphis, Shelby Co. TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 7.84 acres

USGS Quad Map Name: Southwest Memphis 404 SE

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
	1 16	770370	3889600	3		
	2			4		

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John Linn Hopkins & Marsha R. Oates

organization: Hopkins & Associates date: May, 1998

street & number: 974 Philadelphia Street telephone: (901) 278-5186

city or town: Memphis state: TN zip code: 38104

Property Owner

name: See attached list.

street & number: telephone:

city or town: state: zip code:

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fountain Court Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, TN

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Fountain Court Historic District is a neighborhood of twenty-eight principal buildings developed along Fountain Court, a unique local example of a "court" style subdivision plan. The district is located perpendicular to McLemore Avenue to the east of Mississippi Boulevard in the South Memphis area of the City of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee.

The general topography of the district is very gently rolling, rising from its lowest point at McLemore Avenue to its height at the southern terminus of the street. The court plan of the district is composed of an elongated U-shaped street with a series of lots laid out along both sides of a narrow landscaped median. The original plan of the development showed twenty-eight lots facing east and west to the street (Plat Book 5:38); the Villa Grove Subdivision (Plat Book 4:105) included what was in effect an addition to the site plan by adding four lots at its southern end for the construction of houses facing north, down the length of the street. The plan originally was designed to connect to the surrounding street grid only at McLemore Avenue; at some unknown time, however, the alignment of Stafford Avenue was extended to intersect Fountain Court at mid-block on its eastern side, replacing Lot 11 in the subdivision plan.

Landscape characteristics of the district focus on the median dividing Fountain Court, which is a grassy strip 40' in width that contains numerous major street trees, most of which are red oaks. On each side of the median is a street; the right of way for each street is 25'. The design of the street and its narrowness dictates one-way circulation around the court, even though this pattern is not formalized with directional signage. A grassy strip separates the sidewalk from the curb at the street; this grassy strip also contains some major street trees. Private yards are developed with major trees, ornamental bushes and flower gardens, each designed to suit the tastes of the individual owners, as evolved over time.

Lots within Fountain Court are in a fairly regular, rectangular pattern. The original lots facing east and west towards the street have lot frontages ranging from 50' to 60' wide, and are uniformly 161' deep. A north-south alley runs behind these lots. The lots in the addition to the southern end of the court have slightly different characteristics, having frontage ranging from 50 to 74', and lot depths of 125'.

The houses developed in the district are set back from the street by approximately 30', and they have side yard setbacks of approximately 10' to 20', depending upon lot size. Some of the non-historic houses within the district have side yard setbacks of 5' to 7'.

The houses in the district were developed between ca. 1910 and ca. 1970-75; the majority of the housing stock defines a historic period of ca. 1910 to ca. 1940. Four-squares are the predominant house type, and many of them exhibit traits that strongly suggest speculative development by a common developer/builder. Other historic house types include bungalows, shotgun variations and

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English cottages. Architectural styles applied to these houses include the Colonial Revival, the Craftsman, the Tudor Revival and the Minimal Traditional styles.

The inventory which follows contains all of the buildings within the proposed district. Twenty-three of the 28 main properties within the district reflect the historic period and retain a significant level of architectural integrity; these properties are considered to contribute to the significance of the district and are noted (C). The five main buildings which have been so altered as to have lost their architectural integrity, or which were constructed after the historical period, do not contribute to the significance of the district and are noted (NC). The lot pattern of the Fountain Court subdivision, its median and its landscape characteristics also contribute to the property's significance and are included in the resource count as one contributing site.

INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES

- 01 1155 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, brick-veneered bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Gable-front roof with jerkinhead, knee brace brackets and exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 3/1 double-hung sashes, some in groups of four. Gable-front and hip roofed porch supported battered rubble work ashlar with an ashlar block spindle balustrade. Entrance contains a multi-light door with multi-light transom and full-length multi-light sidelights.
- 02 1156 Fountain Court (C) One-story, four-bay, stucco-veneered bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Gable and hip roof with cornice brackets and exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles. Gable ends are stuccoed and half-timbered. Windows are 6/1 double-hung sashes. Full-width, gable roofed porch supported by paired box columns raised on battered rubble work bases, with an ashlar block spindle balustrade. Entrances contains a Craftsman multi-light door, and a single-light slab door.
- 03 1160-62 Fountain Court (NC) One-story, six-bay, brick-veneered duplex with no influence, built ca. 1960-65. Gable-front roof with flush eaves, covered with asphalt shingles. Gable ends have novelty siding. Windows are 2/2 double-hung metal sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, gable-front porch supported by wrought iron posts. Entrances each contain three-light slab doors.
- 04 1161 Fountain Court (NC) Two-story, three-bay brick-veneered quadruplex with Colonial Revival influence, built ca. 1960-65. Hip roof with box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. One-bay, gable-front porch supported by wrought iron posts. Entrance contains a single-light, cross-buck panel door.
- 05 1165-67 Fountain Court (NC) One-story, four-bay brick-veneered duplex with no influence, built ca. 1960-65. Complex hip and gable roof with box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 2/2 metal frame double-hung sashes. Full-width, undercut porch supported by wrought iron posts. Entrances each contain single-light slab doors.
- 06 1168 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, brick-veneered bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Complex gable-front roof with exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 3/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Partial-width, side gable porch and porte cochère supported by brick piers with foliated lozenges, with a closed brick balustrade. Entrance contains a Craftsman multi-light door.
- 07 1173 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, three-bay, stone-veneered four-square with Colonial Revival influence, built ca. 1910-15. Complex hip and gable roof with hip-roofed wall dormers and box cornice, covered with asphalt

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shingles. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, gable and hip-roofed porch supported by battered, chamfered ashlar posts, raised on quarry-faced rubble work bases with an open, divided block balustrade. Entrance contains a single-light door topped with a divided-light transom and 3/4 length, single-light sidelights.

Garage/quarters, ca. 1910-15. Two-story, three-bay, frame, hip roof, asphalt shingles, novelty siding, 1/1 double-hung sashes, Craftsman single-light, one-panel door. (C)

08 1174 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, two-bay, brick-veneered four-square with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1910-15. Hip and gable roof with deep eaves and box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs, and 1/1 metal-frame replacements. Full-width, hip and gable roofed porch supported by brick piers, partially enclosed with a bank of 1/1 double-hung sashes ca. 1970-75. Entrance contains a leaded glass door topped with a leaded glass transom and flanked by leaded glass sidelights.

09 1179 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, two-bay, stucco-veneered four-square with Colonial Revival influence, built 1910-15. Complex hip and gable roof with flared eaves, hip-roofed dormers, and box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, hip roofed porch supported by cast stone columns with Scamozzi capitals raised on cast stone bases. Entrance contains a single-light, one-panel door with a single-light transom and 1/2 length, single-light sidelights.

10 1180 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, two-bay, frame four-square with Colonial Revival influence, built ca. 1910-15. Hip roof with flared eaves, hip dormers and box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior wall surfaces covered with weatherboard siding. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes. Full-width, hip-roofed porch supported by columns with Doric capitals raised on cast stone bases, with a cast stone balustrade. Entrance contains a multi-light door topped with a leaded glass transom and flanked by 1/2 length leaded glass sidelights.

Back house, ca. 1955-60. One-story, three-bay, frame, side gable roof, asphalt shingles, exterior plywood siding, 2/2 metal-frame sashes. (NC)

11 1183 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, two-bay, brick-veneered four-square with Colonial Revival influence, built 1910-15. Complex hip and gable roof with flared eaves, hip-roofed dormers, and box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, hip roofed porch supported by cast stone columns with Doric capitals raised on cast stone bases. Entrance contains a single-light door with 3/4 length, single-light sidelights.

12 1184 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, brick-veneered bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Gable-front roof with exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are Craftsman multi-light/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, gable and hip roofed porch supported by brick piers. Entrance contains a fan-light, multi-panel replacement door.

13 1187-89 Fountain Court (NC) One-story, four-bay, brick-veneered duplex with no influence, built ca. 1960-65. Complex hip and gable roof with box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 2/2 metal frame double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, undercut porch supported by wrought iron posts. Entrances contain single-light slab doors.

14 1190 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, three-bay, brick-veneered four-square with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1910. Hip roof with hipped dormers, deep eaves and box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, L-plan, hip roofed porch supported by battered and chamfered ashlar piers

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raised on an ashlar balustrade; the porch was partially enclosed with a bank of 1/1 double-hung sashes ca. 1970-75. Entrance contains a single-light door topped with a single-light transom and flanked by 3/4 length single-light sidelights.

Garage/quarters, ca. 1910-15; altered ca. 1960-65. Two-story, two-bay, frame, hip roof asphalt shingles, 6/1 double-hung sashes, ship lap siding; gable-front, front frame addition, asphalt roll siding. (NC)

15 1193 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, brick-veneered bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Gable-front roof with jerkinhead and exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles. Gable ends are stuccoed and half-timbered. Windows are 3/1 double-hung sashes, some in groups of three. Full-width hip and gable-front porch and porte cochère, supported by battered rubble work ashlar piers with a closed brick balustrade. Entrance contains a multi-light double-door.

16 1194 Fountain Court (C) One-story, four-bay, frame double-pile cottage with Minimal Traditional influence, built ca. 1930-35. Gable roof with box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior wall surfaces covered with shiplap siding. Windows are 6/6 and 8/8 double-hung sashes. Partial-width, gable-front porch supported by simple posts. Entrance has a Colonial Revival two-light, four-panel door.

17 1197 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, two-bay, stucco-veneered four-square with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1910-15. Complex hip and gable roof with hip roofed dormers, box cornice and cornice brackets, covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs and groups of three. Full-width, shed-roofed porch supported by stuccoed piers, with a closed stucco balustrade. Entrance contains a single-light door with a single-light transom and 3/4 length single-light sidelights.

18 1201 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, two-bay, frame four-square with Colonial Revival influence, built ca. 1910-15. Hip roof with flared eaves, hip roofed dormers and box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior wall surfaces covered with vinyl siding. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes. Full-width, hip-roofed porch supported by cast stone columns with Doric capitals decorated with egg and dart and anthemion motifs. Entrance contains a single-light door with 3/4 length, single-light sidelights; the transom has been covered with siding.

19 1203 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, two-bay, frame four-square with Colonial Revival influence, built ca. 1910-15. Hip roof with flared eaves, hip roofed dormers and box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior wall surfaces covered with vinyl siding. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, hip-roofed porch supported by cast stone columns with Doric capitals raised on paneled cast stone bases. Entrance contains a single-light door with a single-light sidelight and 3/4 length, single-light sidelights.

20 1211 Fountain Court (NC) One-story, four-bay, frame cottage with Minimal Traditional influence, built ca. 1970-75. Side gable roof with one-bay, side-gable wing and flush eaves, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior walls covered with vinyl siding. Windows are 2/2 metal frame double-hung sashes. Entrance contains a solid slab door.

21 1214 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, frame bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Gable-front roof with jerkinheads, exposed rafter tails and knee brace brackets, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior walls covered with weatherboard siding. Windows are 6/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Full-width, hip-roofed porch supported by brick piers. Entrance contains a Craftsman multi-light, one-panel door.

22 1217 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, brick and stone veneered English cottage with Tudor Revival influence, built ca. 1925-30. Complex gable roof with exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles; rafter tails enclosed ca. 1980-85 with vinyl soffit. Gable ends are stuccoed and half-timbered. Windows are multi-light diaper pattern

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double-hung sashes, some in pairs; and, 4/1 and 6/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Entrance in gable-front vestibule with a Tudor arch and contains a Tudor-arched board and batten door with three-lights.

Garage, ca. 1970-75. One-story, two-bay, frame, gable roof, Masonite siding. (NC)

23 1218 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, frame bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Gable-front roof with jerkinhead, exposed rafter tails and knee brace brackets, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior walls covered with weatherboard siding. Windows are Craftsman multi-light/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs and groups of three. Full-width, gable-front porch with jerkinhead and knee brace brackets, supported by brick piers. Entrance contains a Craftsman multi-light, one-panel door topped with a multi-light transom and flanked by 1/3 length Craftsman two-light sidelights.

24 1223 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, frame bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Gable-front roof with exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior walls covered with weatherboard siding above a wainscot of brick veneer. Windows are 3/1 double-hung sashes, some in pairs. Partial-width, gable-front and side gable porch and porte cochère supported by battered box piers raised on brick bases. Entrance contains a Craftsman multi-light door.

25 1224 Fountain Court (C) One-story, two-bay, frame bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. ca. 1910-15. Side gable roof with exposed rafter tails, covered with asphalt shingles; shed dormer added ca. 1940. Exterior walls covered with weatherboard siding. Windows are 6/1 double-hung sashes. Full-width, undercut porch supported by box piers raised on brick bases. Entrance contains a single-light replacement door topped with a single-light transom and flanked by 1/3 length Craftsman multi-light sidelights.

Garage, ca. 1955-60. One-story, one-bay, frame, gable roof, sheet metal roofing, sheet metal siding. (NC)

26 1225 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, frame shotgun variation with Colonial Revival influence, built ca. 1915-20. Complex gable and hip roof with box cornice, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior walls covered with asbestos siding. Full-width, hip-roofed porch supported by a box pier; partially enclosed with paired 1/1 double-hung sashes ca. 1930-35. Entrance contains a slab door with an enclosed transom.

27 1226 Fountain Court (C) One-story, three-bay, frame bungalow with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Complex gable roofs with exposed rafter tails and knee brace brackets, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior wall surfaces have weatherboard siding. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sashes and 2/2 metal frame replacement sashes. Gable-front porch supported by paired box piers with brackets, raised on a closed stucco-veneered balustrade. Entrance contains a Craftsman multi-light door topped with a multi-light transom and flanked by 3/4 length multi-light sidelights.

28 1229 Fountain Court (C) Two-story, three-bay frame and stucco-veneered four-square variation with Craftsman influence, built ca. 1920-25. Complex hip roofs with hipped dormers, box cornice, and cornice brackets, covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior wall surfaces are covered with weatherboard siding on the first floor and stucco-veneer with half-timbering on the second floor. Windows are Craftsman multi-light/1 double-hung sashes, some in groups of two or three. Full-width, gable-front porch supported by paired, battered box columns on raised ashlar bases; side, one-bay, side gable porch enclosed ca. 1930-35 with weatherboard siding and Craftsman 3/1 double-hung sashes in pairs and groups of three. Entrance contains a single-light door topped with a single-light transom and flanked by 3/4-length, single-light sidelights.

Garage, ca. 1920-25, altered ca. 1970-75. One-story, one-bay, frame, gable roof with jerkinhead, knee braces, asphalt shingles, weatherboard siding, added front shed-roof enclosure. (NC)

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fountain Court Historic District is nominated under criterion A in the area of community planning and development for its court style of subdivision plan that reflects patterns of the City Beautiful Movement planning principles; and, under criterion C in the area of architecture for its significant assemblage of early twentieth century houses built along this distinctive street in Memphis, some of which were clearly developed as speculative properties by a common developer/builder.

Developed in 1907 by Dudley Saunders Weaver (1865- ca. 1933), Fountain Court is an elongated U-shaped street which opens to McLemore Avenue, with only one other connection to the surrounding grid at Stafford Avenue. A landscaped median forms the central axis of the court. The connection between Stafford Avenue and Fountain Court was not included in the original plan filed for the subdivision; it is not clear when Stafford was extended into the district (Plat Book 5: 38).

The development of Fountain Court was propelled by the general explosion of residential development in South Memphis resulting from substantial population growth in the decades between 1890 and 1930 (Harkins 1983:127). The residences built in Fountain Court were purchased by middle and upper-middle income professionals, including managers and owners of businesses, doctors, and lawyers, among others. The change from agricultural to suburban development in the area was made possible by the extension in 1891 of the Suburban Street Car Line, the city's first electrified trolley line, which ran along McLemore Avenue and Mississippi Boulevard. The Suburban Line was consolidated with the Memphis Street Railway Company's other lines in 1895.

Annexations in 1899 and 1909 extended the city limits south of McLemore to South Parkway. The annexation waves fueled real estate development in South Memphis in the same fashion and to the same level of intensity as they did in the then "eastern" areas of the city, the area generally known today as "Midtown." Fountain Court and the Shadowlawn Historic District (NR 8/14/1995) are but two of the South Memphis residential developments which remain from this housing development wave in the first three decades of the twentieth century.

The Fountain Court Historic District is Memphis's only known private residential subdivision developed as a "court" plan, a plan type said to be derived from groupings cottages in summer campgrounds such as Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard or the Chautauqua settlement of western New York State (Winter 1980: 58). It might also be argued that the idea may have even earlier sources in the "academical village" of Jefferson's University of Virginia in Charlottesville, or that of Ramee's campus for Union College in Schenectady, New York.

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In a court plan, houses are usually arranged facing a narrow common ground, with an axis (either pedestrian or vehicular) perpendicular to a larger street. Court plans arranged around a common, interior street are also known in other parts of the country (Winter 1980: 58).

The origin of the application of the court plan in suburban contexts is not known, other than its use in the development of "bungalow courts" in the area of Pasadena, California as early as 1909 in the St. Francis Court, designed by Sylvanius Marston (Winter 1980: 58-67). In this development the design of the subdivision plan centered on an axial street, but unlike Fountain Court, with a proto-*cul-de-sac* at its opposite end. There were many such bungalow courts developed in this period in California, but the use of this approach on a nationwide scale is not known, and further research into this question was beyond the scope of this project. It is apparent, however, that the selection of the style and name of Fountain Court for this subdivision in 1907 is no mere coincidence and, therefore, it must be assumed that court plans were being promoted for development before 1907.

No clear linkage is documented between the bungalow courts of California and the City Beautiful Movement, but it appears that the two design approaches had some common characteristics. Though the City Beautiful Movement is most often associated with the promotion of core urban planning and the Beaux Arts style of architecture, the movement also promoted and initiated the development of regulatory control over larger scale city planning issues, including the development of transportation planning, land use control, and subdivision planning (Scott 1969: 40-169). The ideals of the City Beautiful Movement were not in conflict with the court plan concept, which could potentially achieve on the small scale what the City Beautiful Movement desired to accomplish on the comprehensive scale. The inward-facing design of the court plan along with its separation from the main traffic pattern of the city was intended to insulate or even isolate the courts from changes in surrounding land use and from through-traffic. Given that the first vestigial municipal initiatives to control land use were not initiated until 1909 in Los Angeles, it is understandable why a design approach was the available option in achieving control of these factors (Scott 1969: 74-80).

The City Beautiful Movement was an important force in shaping the development of Memphis from ca. 1895 to ca. 1925, though the city was slow to adopt comprehensive land use control and city planning ordinances, both concepts that arose out of the City Beautiful Movement. It was not until 1923 that the city adopted the Memphis City Plan by Harland Bartholomew. Between 1897 and 1914, however, Memphis was among the cities in the United States experimenting with its concepts. The most notable result of this came in the form of the design and development of the Memphis Park and Parkway System, designed by George Kessler and based on his similar work in Kansas City during the 1890s (Memphis Park and Parkway System, NR 7/03/1989). As he had done in Kansas City, Kessler sought to develop in Memphis a system of primary parkways to spur real estate development and provide traffic control; the parkways were to be linked to secondary parkways to be

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built as residential amenities as a part of the subdivision development process for new housing areas. Kessler convinced the Memphis Park Commission to advocate this approach with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

The proposed development of Fountain Court in 1907 occurred less than a year after the contentious civic debate over the approval in 1906 of the "Belvedere Subdivision" (Central Gardens, NR 9/09/1982) by the Memphis Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Objection to the proposal of the subdivision was raised by the public and the Memphis Park Commission, urging that the development be redesigned to include landscaped medians on at least one major street, intended as lineal parks to tie into the major North, South and East Parkways just opened by the City in 1904-05 (Memphis Park and Parkway System, NR 7/03/1989). The Park Commission and Kessler were able to convince the developers to revise their plan to include the gentle S-curve of Belvedere Boulevard, complete with its wide, landscaped median. The revised plan was approved by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in June of 1906. The issues raised by the public reaction to the Belvedere Subdivision caused the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to require that all future subdivisions be brought before the Memphis Park Commission for review prior to hearing before the Mayor and Board. While this requirement was selectively enforced and short-lived, the Memphis Park Commission served as an *ad hoc* city planning commission for several years after 1906, with Kessler as its staff. Memphis has many streets which remain as evidence of this approach to street and subdivision planning, such as York Avenue, Central Avenue, Stonewall Place, and Fountain Court, among others.

The Belvedere Subdivision debate was certainly known to Dudley Weaver at the time he planned Fountain Court, though it is unclear whether Kessler or the Park Commission had any hand in selection of the "court" plan for Weaver's development. No matter its source, the court design chosen for Fountain Court was clearly compatible with the goals of the City Beautiful Movement in America, and with Kessler's vision for Memphis.

Once initiated, the development of Fountain Court before World War Two appears to be separable into two major phases: the first occurred between ca. 1910 and 1915; the second occurred between ca. 1920 and 1925. It was not developed by one speculative builder from start to completion, unlike many of the bungalow courts of California (Winter 1980: 58-70). There is some evidence that Fountain Court may have begun this way, but this intent, if it ever existed, was not executed.

The majority of residences built in the 1910-15 era are four-squares which share numerous traits in common, suggesting the involvement of a single developer/builder. Nine of the four-squares in the district are indicated to have been built in this period (#s 1173, 1174, 1179, 1180,

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1183, 1190, 1197, 1201 and 1203). Common elements among these units include the general massing and scale of the residences, along with construction elements such as the flared eaves on each. Of these, there are three general variations: two-bays wide with projecting, unsupported box bay windows (1183 and 1190); two-bays wide with unsupported box bays and a side, projecting two-story polygonal or box bay (1179, 1201, and 1203); and, three-bays wide with a side, projecting two-story box or polygonal bay (1173, 1174, 1180 and 1197). Variations of details and materials make no two exactly alike, though there are some elements in common among some of the houses, such as the chamfered ashlar porch piers used on 1173 and 1190 Fountain Court.

The second phase of development in Fountain Court occurred built between ca. 1920 and ca. 1925, but the houses developed in this period do not share common traits in design or plan, suggesting that the approach to development had changed from that of a single developer to many. Most of the residences constructed during this period were bungalows, the prevalent form of residential housing in Memphis during the period.

The Fountain Court Historic District remains as a rare local example of the court subdivision plan, developed out of Memphis' experiments with City Beautiful Movement urban planing and design concepts. The houses developed within this unusual site plan are significant local examples of four-squares, bungalows and other traditional plan types, executed in the Colonial Revival, Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles.

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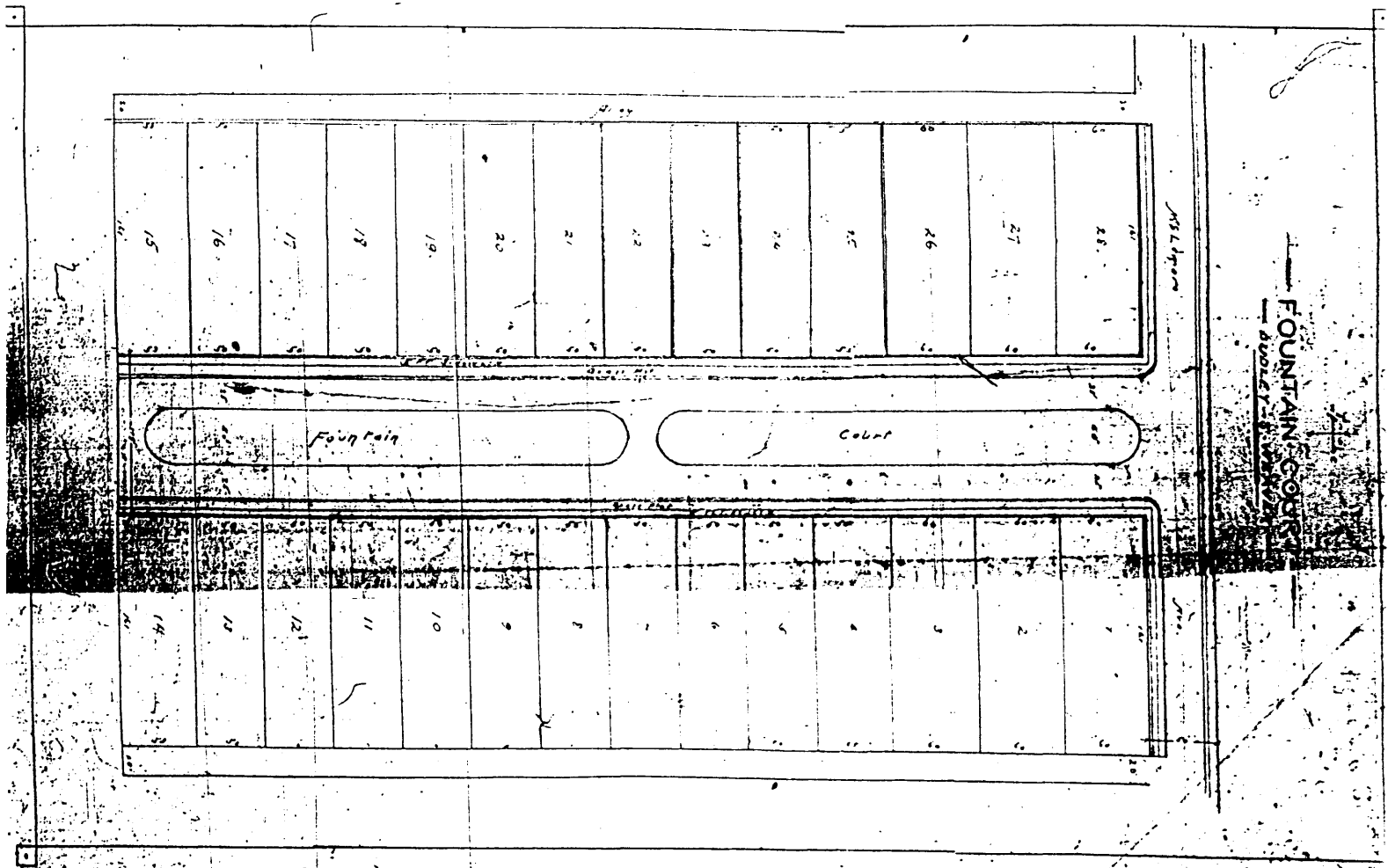
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Historic Plat Map of Fountain Court

Not to scale



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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The property in nomination includes all of lots 1 through 28 in the Dudley S. Weaver Fountain Court Subdivision (Shelby County Plat Book 5: 38), and lots 16, 17, and 18 in the Nessler's Hall Villa Subdivision (Shelby County Plat Book 4: 105), as delineated in heavy black line on a portion of Shelby County Tax Map J-8.

Boundary Justification

The property in nomination includes all land associated with the development of the Fountain Court Subdivision and the streetscape of Fountain Court during its period of significance between 1907 and ca. 1940.

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PHOTOGRAPH LIST

Photographs by: John L. Hopkins

Date: June 1998

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Photograph #1 of 9: View of the Fountain Court median and streetscape, looking due south.

Photograph #2 of 9: View of the west side of Fountain Court, looking southwest from 1173 Fountain Court.

Photograph #3 of 9: View of the east side of Fountain Court, looking southeast from 1160 Fountain Court.

Photograph #4 of 9: View of the west side of Fountain Court, looking southwest from 1197 Fountain Court.

Photograph #5 of 9: View of the west side of Fountain Court, looking southwest from 1211 Fountain Court.

Photograph #6 of 9: View of the south end of Fountain Court, with 1229 Fountain Court.

Photograph #7 of 9: View of the east side of Fountain Court, looking northeast from 1224 Fountain Court.

Photograph #8 of 9: View of the east side of Fountain Court, looking northeast from 1194 Fountain Court.

Photograph #9 of 9: View of 1197 Fountain Court, looking due west.

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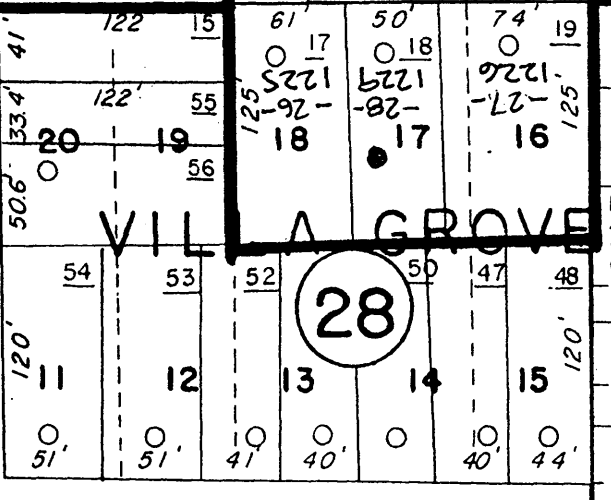
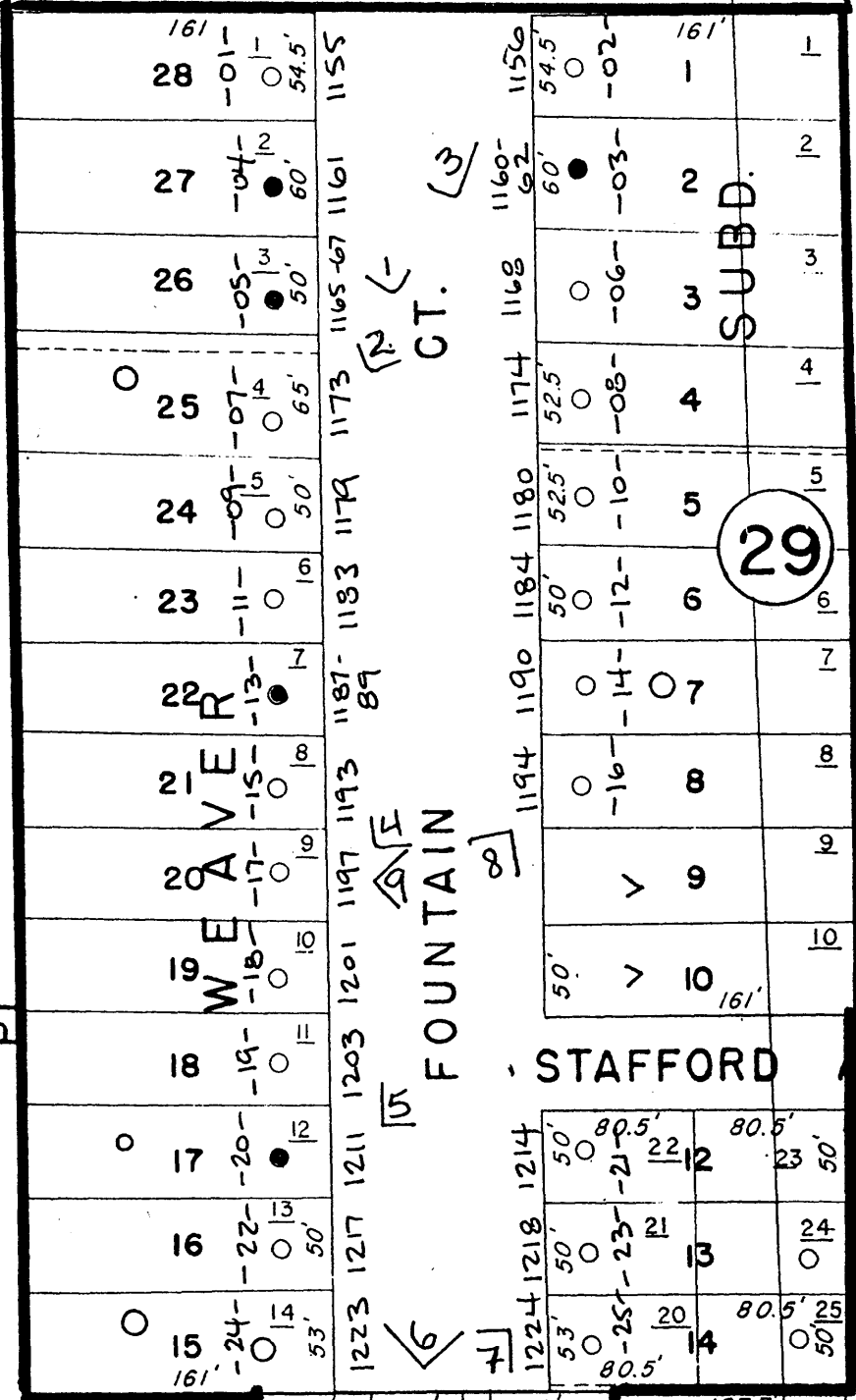
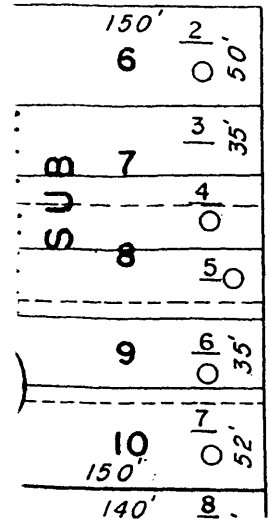
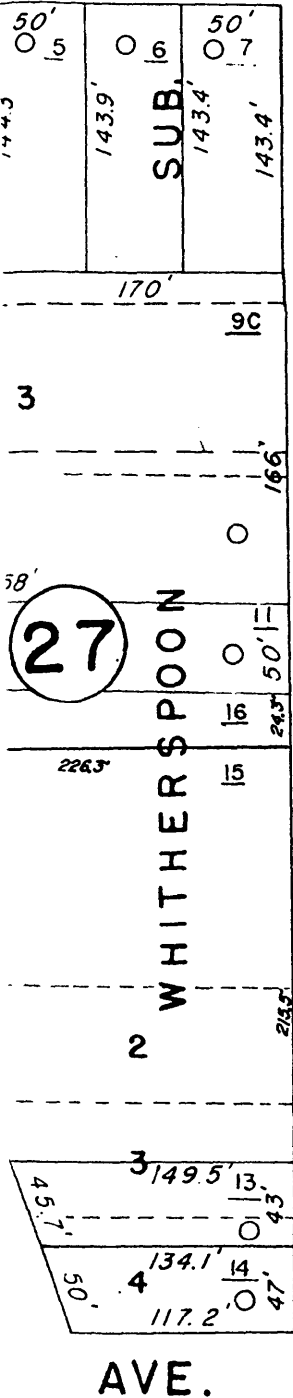
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PROPERTY OWNERS

(mailing addresses the same unless otherwise noted)

1155 Fountain Court:	Earl Smith and Elsie Anderson	1190 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court
1156 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court	1193 Fountain Court:	Joy L. and Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court
1160 -1162 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court	1194 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court
1161 Fountain Court:	James M. and Vanessa P. Rogers	1197 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court
1165 - 1167 Fountain Court:	Margaret Holcomb 4948 Sullivan Woods Cove Memphis, TN 38108-6730	1201 Fountain Court:	Henree Moore and Maurice McDonald
1168 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court	1203 Fountain Court:	Mary A. Jones
1173 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court	1211 Fountain Court:	Alfreda M. Young
1174 Fountain Court:	Blanchie M. Edwards	1214 Fountain Court:	Joe and Alberta Williams
1179 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court	1217 Fountain Court:	Vera and George D. Clark, Jr.
1180 Fountain Court:	Roosevelt and Gertrude M. Boyd	1218 Fountain Court:	Leon Hamlett
1183 Fountain Court:	Rosie I. Flowers	1223 Fountain Court:	Iona A. Bridgeforth
1184 Fountain Court:	Estella Jones	1224 Fountain Court:	Nettie B. Rogers 1173 Fountain Court
1187-1189 Fountain Court:	Reginald L. Burton 4868 Farmwood Dr. Memphis, TN 38116	1225 Fountain Court:	Ethel M. Sampson
		1226 Fountain Court:	Virginia Sallie M. Wadley
		1229 Fountain Court:	Henry and Mary Monette

99' 42' 50' 50' 40' 50' 50'



FOUNTAIN COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TN

Scale: 1" = 100' ⊕ N

- National Register Boundary
- National Register Inventory Number
- Contributing Building
- Noncontributing Building
- Photo Location & Number

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