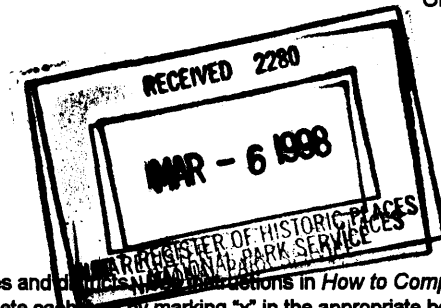


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



320

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Acme Farm Supply Building (Preferred)
other names/site number J. R. Whitmore Building, Cummins Brothers Company, Acme Feed and Hatchery

2. Location

street & number 101 Broadway not for publication N/A
city or town Nashville vicinity N/A
state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37201

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.)

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 4-2-98

Acme Farm Supply Building
Name of Property

Davidson Co., TN
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 court)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Italianate Influence Commercial Building

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD, GLASS, CONCRETE, tin, sandstone

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 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1890 - 1946

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Department of History, Middle Tennessee State University

Acme Farm Supply Building
Name of Property

Davidson Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .17 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Nashville West, TN 308NE

1 16 520300 4002290
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

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 D. Lorne McWatters, Morgan Braid, Teresa Cook, Stacey Griffin, Blythe Semmer, Carole Summers, Pam Rummage
organization MTSU Department of History date January 1997
street & number PO Box 23, MTSU telephone 615-898-5805
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

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 Sovrain Bank/Central South Trustee c/o Acme Farm Supply
street & number 101 Broadway telephone _____
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37201

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

7. Narrative Description

The Acme Farm Supply Building is a two-part commercial block structure, three stories high and located at 101 Broadway in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Constructed near the Cumberland River circa 1890 at the corner of Broadway and South Front Street, now Broadway and First Avenue South, the Acme Building sits in the heart of downtown Nashville. It occupies one of the most historically visible locations in the City of Nashville and the State of Tennessee.

Historically, a variety of owners and tenants have occupied the Acme Building. Utilized consistently for commercial purposes, it has maintained a remarkable degree of architectural integrity, so much so that most of its original materials remain intact. The only significant alterations include the addition of an elevator circa 1913, office space on the first floor in 1943 and circa 1955, and a storeroom and partition on the first floor circa 1955 to separate the store from the loading area. Since its acquisition of the building in 1943, Acme Farm Supply has operated a feed and seed store, and for a time a hatchery, within the structure. Due to this consistency of function, the various occupants have made virtually no significant alterations to the building over the years.

Built on a limestone foundation, the structure is rectangular in plan, 22,500 total square feet in size, and is relatively similar on all four levels. The first floor includes a feed and seed store, office space, a grain storage room and a loading area. The second, third and basement levels serve as warehouse space. The exterior walls are American five-course stretcher bond. The east and south elevations display segmental and rectangular, four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows with sandstone and concrete sills. The facade includes both display windows and fixed segmental windows. The roof is flat, 3-ply, built-up asphalt with a stepped parapet wall along the east elevation. The roof slopes gently toward the rear (south) to facilitate drainage.

The facade or north elevation divides into three symmetrical bays of window and door openings. A central entranceway on the first floor consists of paired, glass-over-wood paneled doors. A three-light transom sits above the doors, but is concealed from the outside by the simple, corrugated tin awning adorning the entrance. On either side of the entranceway is a fixed display window; each topped with a three-light transom. The sill of the left window is boarded over and slopes to meet the foundation; a wood panel between the window and the sidewalk covers the right sill. Acme Farm Supply added the awning sometime after 1943.

Decorative dentil molding separates the second floor of the facade from the first, and decorative brackets flank each end of the molding for ornamentation. The second floor has three fixed segmental windows topped with arched brickwork. Each has two, four-over-four glass panels separated by a wooden mullion. The left and right windows are equal in size, with the middle window considerably wider, corresponding in scale to the entranceway below.

The third floor also includes three segmental windows topped with arched brickwork, but these are boarded over with plywood. The central window again is wider than the outer windows. The cornice above the third story windows is the most ornamental part of the building. A corbel table extends across the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

roofline, punctuated by paired corbel brackets. A picture of the building in 1908 (Figure 1) reveals that the building at one time had corbelled columns extending above the brackets. Between the cornice and third level windows within the left and right sections a band of florets are enclosed with a course of recessed brick work. The central section includes a three-quarter circle and sill with repeating florets inside the circle. The central section rises higher than the flanking sections, culminating in a decorative, low-pitched gabled parapet.

The owners of Acme Farm Supply painted the facade white and outlined it with red and white tin checkerboard panels on the sides of the first and second floors. This same checkerboard design also runs horizontally between the second and third floors above the "Acme Farm Supply" business sign. The Purina checkerboard painted sign has been an instantly recognizable feature of the Acme Farm Supply Building since the business moved to 101 Broadway in 1943. The owners originally painted the building a deep blue in 1943. They changed from blue to its now distinctive white in the 1960's.

Two brick pilasters divide the fenestration of the First Avenue South, or east, elevation into three irregular sized bays. These pilasters extend from the roofline but do not reach ground level. The east elevation retains the original unpainted brick, with the exception of a small portion of the lower northeast side that is painted white as a wrap-around from the facade. This small painted area also contains a red and white checkerboard panel located along the top of the paint line, which ends at the second floor. Above this area, spanning the second and third levels, is the ghost image of a sign dating from the Sherman Transfer Company (1924-1930). The words "Moving, Packing, and Storage" are still visible. The east elevation features three levels of segmental and rectangular, four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows with sandstone and concrete sills. A loading dock is located at the southeast corner.

Five basement windows, all boarded over, and which alternate with six vents located directly above the foundation interrupt the first floor's limestone foundation. These vents have been sealed off, but each is topped with two rows of arched brickwork. The first floor contains four rectangular and one segmental four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash windows. A sixth window, located in the painted lower northeast corner of the building, differs from the others. Surrounded by an arch of decorative brickwork, a small two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash arched window is situated in the center and enclosed with paneled boards. The loading dock located at the southeast corner of the east elevation has a paneled rolling door for loading and unloading. Photograph 3 shows the original loading door as an arched opening. To the immediate south of the loading dock, part of a pilaster has been destroyed to allow trucks a few inches of additional space along the building for loading.

The second and third floor fenestration includes six rectangular windows and two segmental windows topped with arched brickwork of four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows. Photograph 3 depicts a ninth window on the second and third floors south of the loading dock. The sills of the building are sandstone, except for five that were replaced with concrete circa 1983. The third story has a stepped roofline reflecting the slight slope of the roof for drainage.

The rear or south elevation of the Acme Building runs along an alley. The elevation displays the original, unpainted brick with the same four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows with sandstone and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

concrete sills.

The first floor has a centrally located doorway and a segmental window with arched brickwork and a sandstone sill on either side. The doorway is an arched entryway surrounded by five rows of arched brickwork. Two five-panel doors, separated by paneling, sit in the center of the entryway. A three-light transom rests above the door. A chain link gate covers the doorway and bars have been added to the lower windows in recent years for security. Above the entryway is a simple metal roof that spans the alley and is attached to the building located behind Acme.

The second floor has four segmental, four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows, and the third floor has four rectangular four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows. Most of these windows are covered with plywood and in need of repair.

The rear elevation also displays the faded remains of painted business signs in the two uppermost corners of the rear wall. Each image contains the words "Bearden Buggy Company," which occupied the building from 1913 to circa 1924. The roof is flat, but has a square structure located on the southwest corner that extends the elevator shaft to provide space for part of the elevator mechanism. The east wall includes a nine-light window for additional lighting in the shaft.

The west elevation is a shared wall with the adjacent building.

Acme Farm Supply's interior consists of four very open-space floors totaling 22,500 square feet. The first floor contains retail and office spaces, as well as a loading and storage area in the rear. The basement, second, and third floors are used to store feed and grain. All four floors are divided into three aisles by two rows of sturdy post-and-beam supports. The size of the posts decreases on each ascending floor as the load decreases. An elevator, housed in the southwest corner, and a straight-run stairwell located in the northwest corner allow access to all floors, including the basement. Original plank flooring runs the length of the first, second, and third floors, as do original wood ceilings. The building has an original and still-operating sprinkler system, installed in 1927. The entranceway, with its paired glass-over-wood panel doors and three-light transom can be seen more clearly from the interior.

The first floor is fourteen feet in height and consists of two sections. The front section is a feed and seed store, while the rear section serves as a loading and storage area. The front section includes three small offices located about one-third of the way from the main entrance and down the east wall. Two of the offices existed prior to Acme's occupation of the building in 1943; Curry Turner, the building's owner, added the third and smaller office circa 1955. South of the office and toward the rear of the building is a partition wall and a central doorway that separate the store area, which makes up about two-thirds of the first floor, from the loading and storage area.

The loading area includes a small room in its northwest corner that was added circa 1955. This room serves as storage space for grain and feed. A scale just outside the room dates from circa 1955. It replaced an original scale knocked over by a load of feed sacks. Next to the loading door on the east wall is a small, bucket grain elevator also installed circa 1955. It leads to the second floor and is used to move

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

corn more readily to the upper floors.

One of the most unusual and unique features of the Acme Building is the elevator located in the southwest corner of the building. No exact date has been established, but the installation occurred when Bearden Buggy Works occupied the building circa 1913 (1897, 1914 Sanborn maps). It is a large, open elevator still running on wooden rails today. The elevator is approximately nine feet by twelve feet and was constructed to carry buggies. Flooring and floor joists were removed at each level to make room for the elevator; evidence of this can still be seen in the shaft. The rear doorway consists of paired, five-panel doors with a six-light window (boarded over) above framed inside a brick arched opening with vertical boards and horizontal cross-members.

Except for the first floor partitions, the second, third, and basement levels are identical to the same rectangular, open-space floor plan of the ground floor and replicate the post-and-beam construction and plank flooring. These floors provide storage space for sacks of feed and pet food. All the walls are brick with only the north wall on the third floor shows signs of minor structural damage, probably from water leakage. The second floor is twelve feet in height and houses the elevator engine adjacent to the shaft in the southwest corner. The third floor's fourteen foot ceiling reflects the sloping roof and shows some water damage. The basement has a poured concrete floor and only an eight-foot ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Acme Farm Supply Building, located at 101 Broadway in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its contribution to the commercial history of Nashville from circa 1890 to 1946 and under criterion C for its contribution as a significant example of commercial architecture. The building and the various businesses that have operated inside its walls during the period of significance represent the historical commercial development of the downtown area of the City of Nashville. The Acme Building also occupies one of the most historic and visible sites in Nashville and in the State of Tennessee.

Constructed circa 1890 by Nashville businessman J. R. Whitmore, the Acme Building played a key role in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century wholesale industries vital to the local and regional economies. Just one block west of the banks of the Cumberland River and the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) railroad system, the Acme Building sat on a prime location within the city's developing commercial district in the area around Second Avenue and Lower Broadway. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century witnessed a virtual explosion of business activity in this part of Nashville, a process that resulted in the construction of a wide range of two, three, and even four-story commercial structures. Many of these buildings survive and are included in either the Second Avenue Commercial District (NR 2/23/72, revised 11/21/95) or the Broadway Historic District (7/18/80). Most of these same survivors, however, have been altered significantly, either through neglect or adaptive re-use, and almost none retain the remarkable degree of architectural integrity displayed both on the interior and exterior of the Acme Farm Supply building. Combined with its importance as a key representative of Nashville's commercial expansion, Acme's architectural authenticity adds substantially to the building's luster as a significant historic property.

A variety of prominent Nashville businesses have occupied the Acme building since its construction circa 1890, including enterprises involved in transportation, wholesale distribution, and the manufacture and sale of agricultural products. These businesses represent the changing business environment of Lower Broadway from manufacturing and warehouses to drug and agricultural supply companies. Past tenants of the building include Southern Soda Works, Continental Baking Powder Company, Ford Flour Company, Bearden Buggy Company, Sherman Transfer Company, Chadwell Transfer & Storage Company, and Tennessee Wholesale Drug.

Acme Farm Supply, the current occupant, has been in the building since 1943 and has become a landmark business in the downtown area. Although several of Nashville's historic warehouse and other buildings from this same area survive, the majority of them have been transformed into restaurants, nightclubs, and other businesses not related to the buildings' original functions.

Since its founding in the late eighteenth century, Nashville has always been a focal point for trade and commerce in Tennessee and in the Upper South region due to its position next to the Cumberland River. As a frontier outpost, it served as a market center for surrounding settlements. The Cumberland River, with its linkages to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, provided transportation and shipment opportunities for the city from its beginning. With the arrival of the first steamboat in 1818, the reach of Nashville business expanded considerably.¹ The addition of railroads further enhanced Nashville's commercial position. In

¹ Don H. Doyle, *New Men, New Cities, New South: Atlanta, Nashville, Charleston, Mobile, 1860-1910* (Chapel Hill: The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

1859 the L&N Railroad was completed, and by 1861 a total of five railroads served the city.² Such favorable avenues of transportation quickly made Nashville a perfect spot for a variety of wholesale manufacturers and warehouses.

Sitting in a prime location as a distribution and shipping center, Nashville grew and prospered during the post Civil War years. In the 1880s alone, the city's population rose seventy-six percent. Nashville's industrial prominence grew as wholesale businesses and numerous warehouses appeared along Front and Market Streets, which paralleled the riverbank, convenient to both water and rail.³ Over one fourth of the workforce was employed in manufacturing and in the leading wholesale trades, including groceries, flour, wheat, and agricultural implements.⁴

In the late 1880s and through the 1890s, wholesale groceries were the leading Nashville commercial businesses and thus an important factor in the local economy. The industry presented opportunities for young entrepreneurs such as Horace Greeley Hill, who established a successful chain of groceries in the Nashville area that remain in existence today. This same H.G. Hill at one time owned the Acme Feed Co., the same company that now occupies the property at 101 Broadway.⁵ The success of the wholesale grocery trade generated local processing of food products such as flour, commmeal, baking soda, and coffee. The milling, storage, and distribution of these products required large facilities, and the preferred locations were those close to the shipping facilities of the river and railroads.⁶

J. R. Whitmore constructed the Acme Building circa 1890 on its prime lot next to both methods of transportation for just such a purpose, having purchased land at the southwest intersection of Broadway and Front (now First Avenue) Streets in October, 1889 for \$1,250.⁷ Whitmore retained ownership of the property until his death in 1906, although he and others shared the use of the building. Cummins Brothers, a partnership of prominent Nashville wholesale merchants Frederick T. and William J. Cummins, were the building's first tenants. W. J. Cummins (1861-1936) was the head of the investment group responsible for the construction of Cummins Station, the first reinforced concrete building in Nashville.⁸ Cummins also owned a merchandise brokerage on Market Street, and it was this business that he moved to 101 Broadway in 1890.⁹ Cummins Brothers continued to operate out of 101 Broadway until 1896, when they moved to 105-109 Broadway. That year one of the brothers' other enterprises, Southern Soda Works, a manufacturer of bicarbonate of soda and baking powder, took over the entire building, having shared space with Cummins Brothers since 1891. Also in 1896, J.R. Whitmore entered into partnership with the Cummins Brothers and assumed the position of president of Southern Soda Works.

University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 23.

² Ibid., 23-24.

³ Don H. Doyle, *Nashville in the New South 1880-1930* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1985), 19.

⁴ Doyle, *New Men, New Cities, New South*, 41-47.

⁵ Doyle, *Nashville*, 41-45. Interview of Currey Turner by Teresa Cook, November 5, 1996.

⁶ Doyle, *Nashville*, 44-48. William Waller, ed. *Nashville in the 1890s* (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1970), 57.

⁷ Information on ownership and the history of the building was gathered from deed records, Sanborn maps, and Nashville City Directories 1888-1946.

⁸ Philip Thomason, Cummins Station National Register Nomination, 1983.

⁹ "W.J. Cummins, Local Leader, Dies in Chicago," *Tennessean*, 25 February 1936.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

By 1900, Nashville was well established as a major trading and shipping center, and the flour industry was fast becoming its leading wholesale product. Railroad companies, which had once competed among one another for Nashville's ample business, had by this time fallen under the single control of the L&N. The L&N accorded Nashville flour industries with privileged rates on grain arriving from the Midwest and on the shipping of wheat and corn flour to the entire upper South. These preferential rates secured Nashville's position as a distribution center; by 1910 the city's flour industry grossed nearly six million dollars and Nashville was referred to as the "Minneapolis of the South."¹⁰ Nashville's flour companies also introduced major innovations to the industry. Owsley Milling Company marketed the first pre-mixed "self-rising flour" to the South in 1895, and in 1898 W. L. Smith's Ford Flour Company became the first business to produce small five- and ten-cent individual packages of flour to sell directly to consumers.¹¹

The businesses at 101 Broadway represent these trends in Nashville's developing flour industry. In 1905, the Southern Soda Works moved out of 101 Broadway and the Continental Baking Powder Company, another Cummins interest, moved in. Continental soon had a new landlord, as Cummins Brothers sold the property in 1906 to Harry Ezzell for \$31,000 in order to retire Whitemore's debts. From 1908-1911, the peak years of Nashville's flour industry, the leader of the industry, the Ford Flour Company, operated at 101 Broadway. Ford Flour Company began sharing its space with D. Byrd and Company, a brokerage firm of brooms and other corn supplies, in 1911.

In 1913 the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) ruled L&N's privileged rates to Nashville's flour companies as unfair. With this profitable benefit lost, many grain industries spread to other cities. The business of wholesale merchandising, however, continued to prosper and increasingly underwent a transition from family-owned and operated firms to large corporate enterprises. Groceries, agricultural implements, and drugs were among the leading wholesale products.¹² Another leading industry was the livestock trade, which had followed the development of the area's extensive grain industry. As Nashville grew, its central business district expanded and moved into major downtown residential areas, and upper-class citizens began to move west to the suburbs. Electric streetcars provided transportation into town, as did privately owned horse and carriages.¹³ Also, furniture stores began to occupy many of the buildings on lower Broadway.

After the departure of the Ford Flour Company circa 1912, 101 Broadway stood vacant approximately one year. In 1913 the Bearden Buggy Company set up its operation in the building. This company, also known as Bearden Chenoweth Carriage Company, had been in business in Nashville since 1906. The charter of incorporation for the Bearden Buggy Company indicated that they bought, sold handled, and dealt in "buggies, carriages, surreys, brets, drays, delivery wagons, wagons, spring wagons, and other vehicles, harness, and all materials used in harness and vehicles and repairing same." Bearden installed the elevator at 101 Broadway in order to transport buggies to and from all floors. In 1922, James W. Napier, Sr. bought the building for \$23,500.

By circa 1925 Nashvillians had embraced the automobile, and circa 1924 the buggy works disappeared

¹⁰ Doyle, *Nashville*, 39-46.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*, 38-42.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 69.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

from 101-103 Broadway. Sherman Transfer Company, a moving, packing, and storage firm, moved in. The building remained a warehouse and moving company office until 1931, as Chadwell Transfer and Storage Company was a tenant from circa 1928 to 1931.

After 1930 the building became home to multiple businesses, a result of the general instability during the Depression. Manufacturer's agents, a tire company, and a produce agent shared space in the building at different times during this period. In 1937 the Acme Building had a single tenant again when the Tennessee Wholesale Drug Company moved into 101-105 Broadway and occupied the space until circa 1942.

The building was vacant for approximately one year, and in 1943 Currey L. Turner moved his business, Acme Feed and Hatchery, to 101 Broadway from the Public Square. This business, called Acme Farm Supply since 1965, remains the occupant of the building. Currey Turner's son, Lester L. Turner, Sr., bought the building from the Napier family in 1980. Robert Jones, an Acme employee since 1948, assumed ownership of the business in 1989, although the Turner family retains ownership of the building.

Acme sells feeds and seeds to farmers in the Nashville area and is also a pet food distributor. The business began as Acme Stock and Poultry Company when the H.G. Hill grocery firm opened it in 1907 at 320-322 First Avenue North. Currey L. Turner bought the business in 1939 and moved to 101 Broadway about 1943. Turner served as president of the Tennessee Businessmen's Association and expanded his interest in the feed and supply business while president of Lillie Mills Grain elevators from 1960 to 1969. It was Turner who first sold wild bird feed in addition to livestock and pet feed at Acme. In addition to chickens, Acme also supplied turkeys to Nashville residents at Thanksgiving. Acme still sells seeds from wooden seed bins brought from the original company location on the Public Square.

Acme was known for the special events it sponsored over the years. The business held annual "Purina jamborees" on truck bed stages parked on Broadway and featured "Mike and Ike" the Purina pigs, which were given away as door prizes. Acme has now replaced these jamborees with free Saturday dog dips. Store pets like Beautena the Calf made appearances on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium during performances of the Grand Ole Opry, presumably in commercial spots. Currey L. Turner made the Acme location at 101 Broadway an important part of the Nashville agricultural and business worlds through his leadership and service to the community. Acme Farm Supply continues that tradition today. The building's prominent location, its high degree of architectural integrity, and its consistent function as a warehouse have helped cement its status as an easily recognizable part of Nashville's history.

The Acme Farm Supply Building presents a unique example of commercial history along the Cumberland River and the L&N Rail Lines. Although many of the warehouses, including those in the Second Avenue Historic District and the Broadway Historic District, their use has changed over time and no longer present the open floor plan and space of the original building. The Acme Farm Supply Building has remained intact, retaining both its architectural features on the exterior and its interior function as a warehouse and specialty store.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

9. Bibliography

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The Acme Farm Supply Building lies at 101 Broadway at the junction of First Avenue South and Broadway Street (formerly South Front Street and Broad Street) in Nashville, Tennessee. It occupies a rectangular area of .17 acres, and the building's dimensions are 50 feet wide and 150 feet long (see attached Davidson County property map 93-6-2, Parcel 102 Upper Ferry Plan). The boundary begins at the southwest corner of Broadway and First Avenue, South, runs west 50 feet along Broadway, then 150 feet north along First Avenue South to the beginning.

Boundary Justification

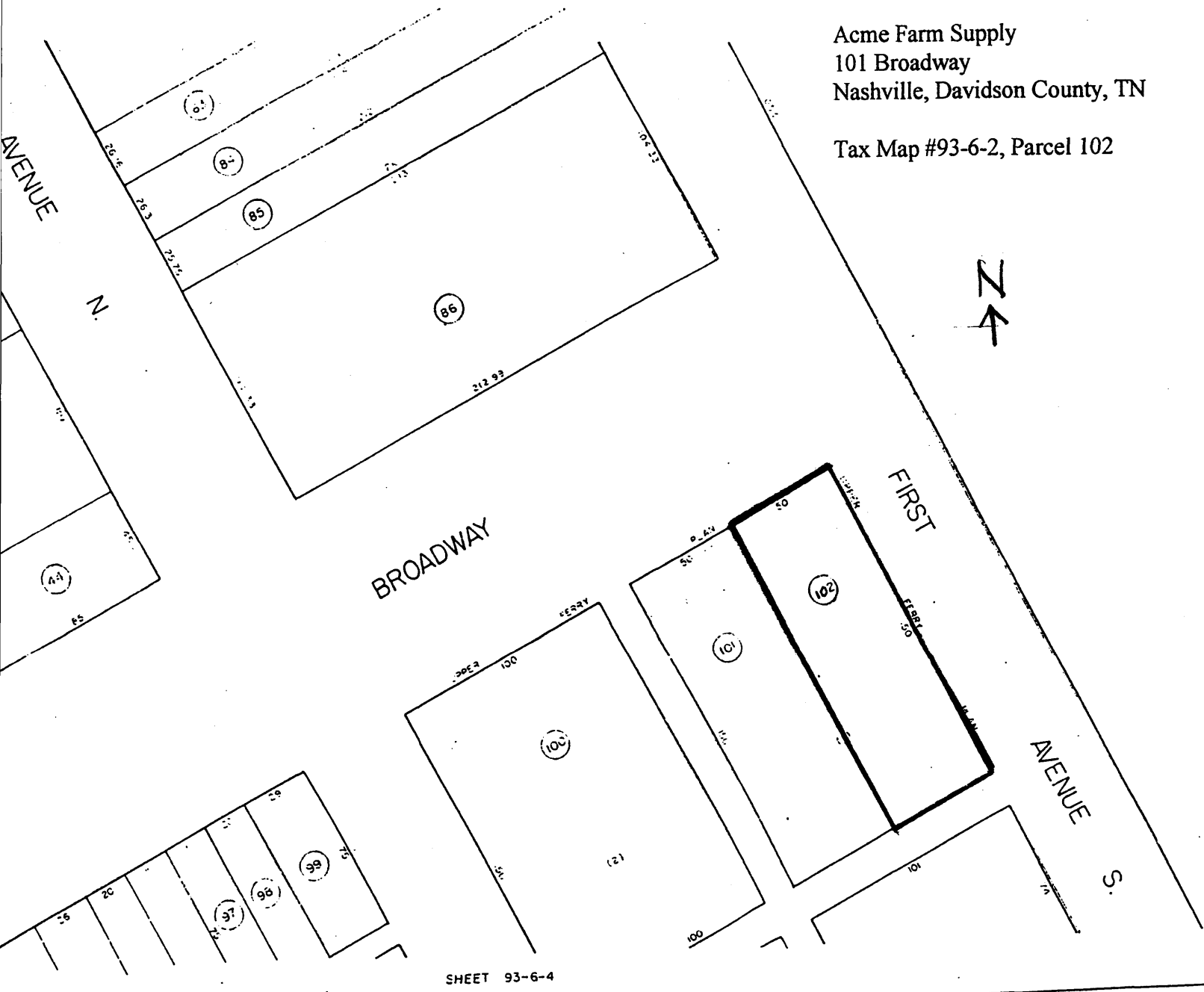
The boundaries for Acme Farm Supply include the three-story building that has occupied the parcel historically at this location since c. 1890.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 11

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN



Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, TN
Tax Map #93-6-2, Parcel 102

SHEET 93-6-4

PROPERTY MAP AND RECORDS SYSTEM DAVIDSON COUNTY TENNESSEE

SCALE 1 INCH = 50 FEET

- Private road
- Property line
- Original lot line
- County line
- Corporation line
- District line



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 12

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

Photographs

Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee
Photographs by: D. Lorne McWatters
Carole Summers
Date: November 1996
Neg.: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

Exterior

- North facade, facing south
#1 of 23
- North facade, facing south
#2 of 23
- East elevation, facing northwest
#3 of 23
- East elevation, detail of arched window
#4 of 23
- East elevation, detail of windows and moving sign
#5 of 23
- East elevation, detail of loading door and basement windows
#6 of 23
- South elevation, rear of building and alley
#7 of 23
- South elevation, "Bearden Buggy Company" signs
#8 of 23
- Detail of first floor ceiling posts and beam construction, and sprinkler system
#9 of 23
- Entranceway viewed from interior, looking north
#10 of 23

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 13

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

Interior

- Detail of stairwell
#11 of 23
- Detail of plank flooring
#12 of 23
- Detail of office spaces on first floor, facing east
#13 of 23
- Detail of partition wall, facing south
#14 of 23
- Detail of store room and scale, looking west
#15 of 23
- Detail of elevator
#16 of 23
- Detail of elevator mechanism
#17 of 23
- Detail of elevator shaft, looking up
#18 of 23
- Detail of rear entrance, facing south
#19 of 23
- Detail of third floor facade, window and wall, looking north, showing some water damage
#20 of 23
- Detail of second floor, and post and beam construction, facing south
#21 of 23
- Detail of third floor, post and beam construction and sloping roof, looking south
#22 of 23
- Detail of basement with post and beam construction, looking southeast
#23 of 23

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

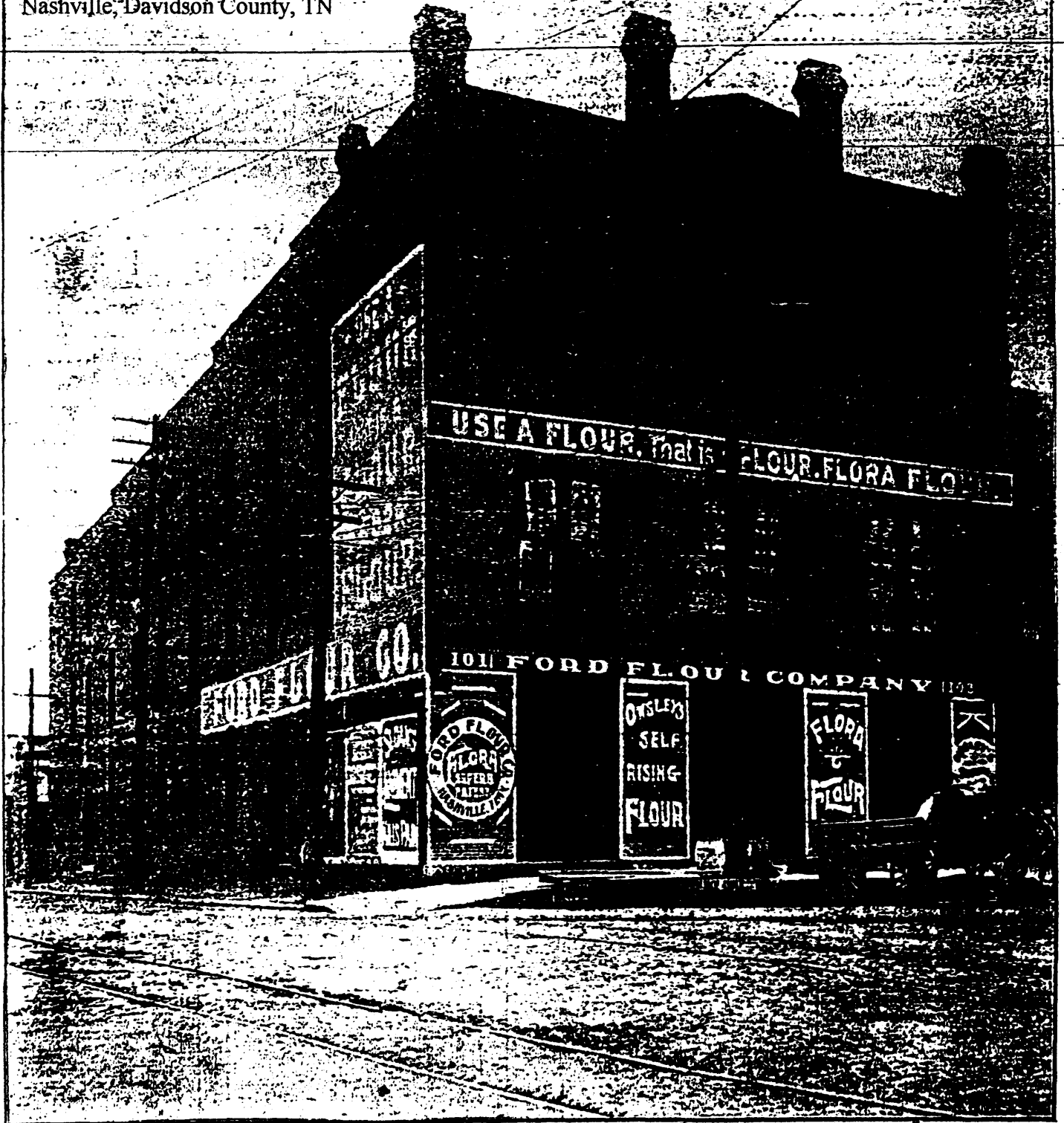
Section number photos Page 14

Acme Farm Supply,
Nashville, Davidson County, TN

Historic Photo

-North facade, facing south

Figure 1-
Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, TN



NEW PLANT OF THE FORD FLOUR COMPANY, BROADWAY and FIRST AVENUE

Photo-key Map
Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

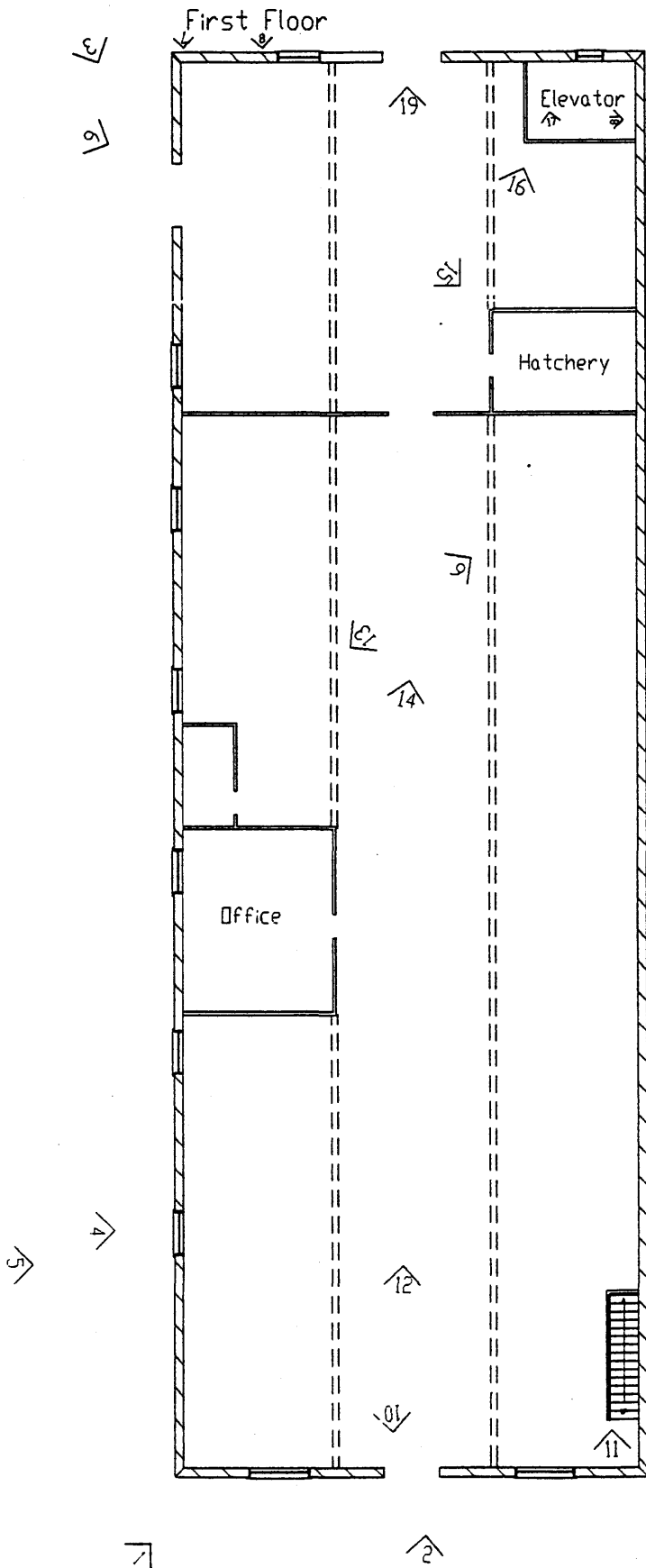


Photo-key Map
Acme Farm Supply

101 Broadway

Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Second Floor

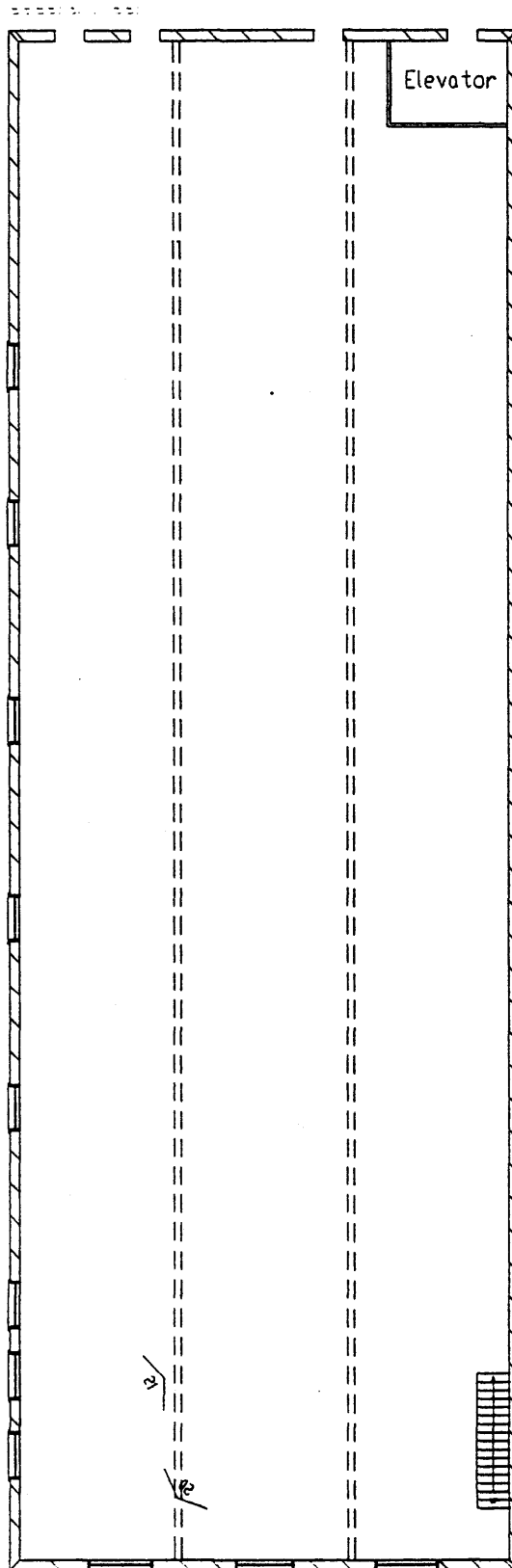


Photo-key Man
Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Third Floor

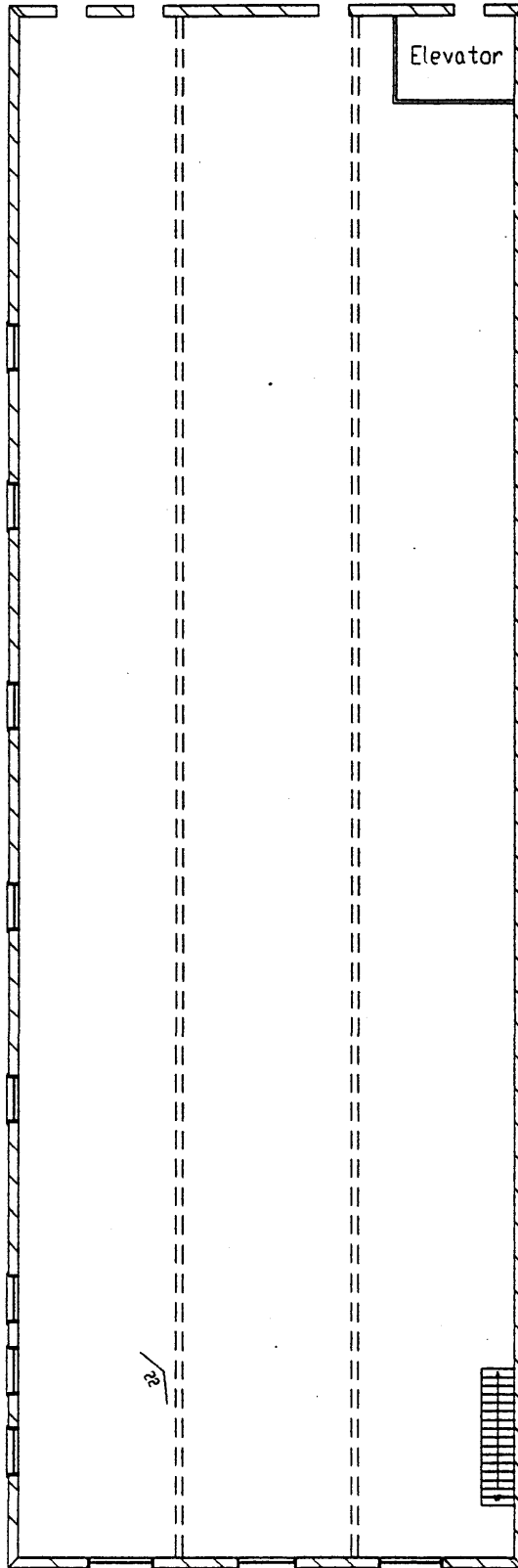


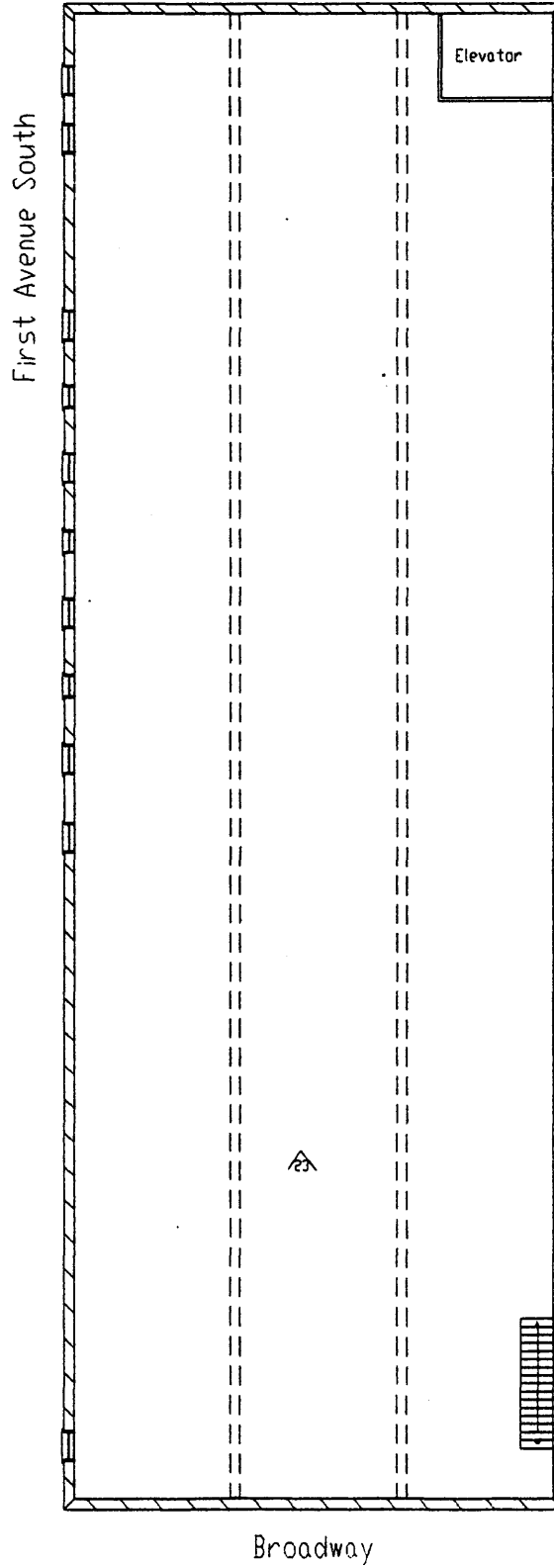
Photo-key Map

Acme Farm supply

101 Broadway

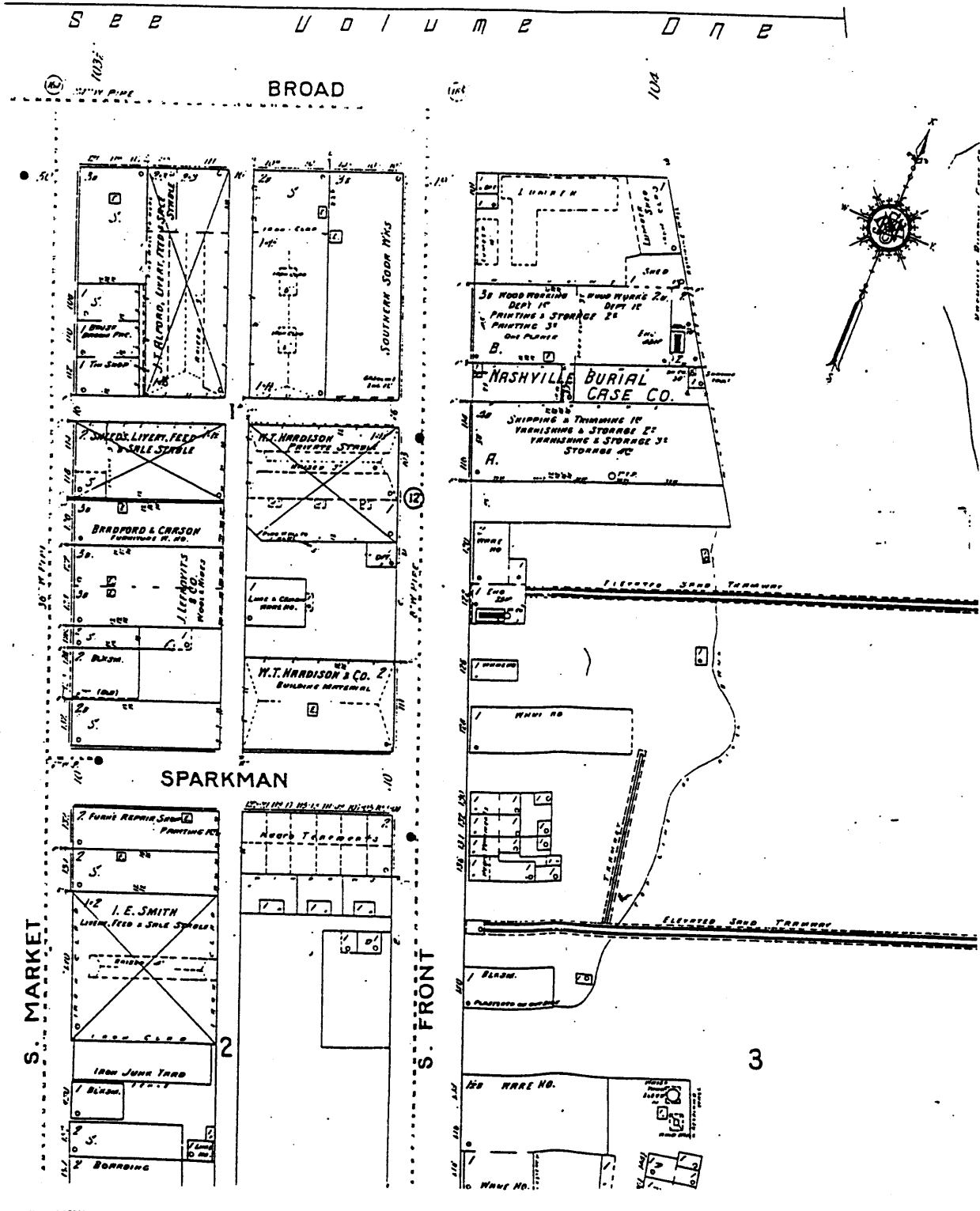
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Basement



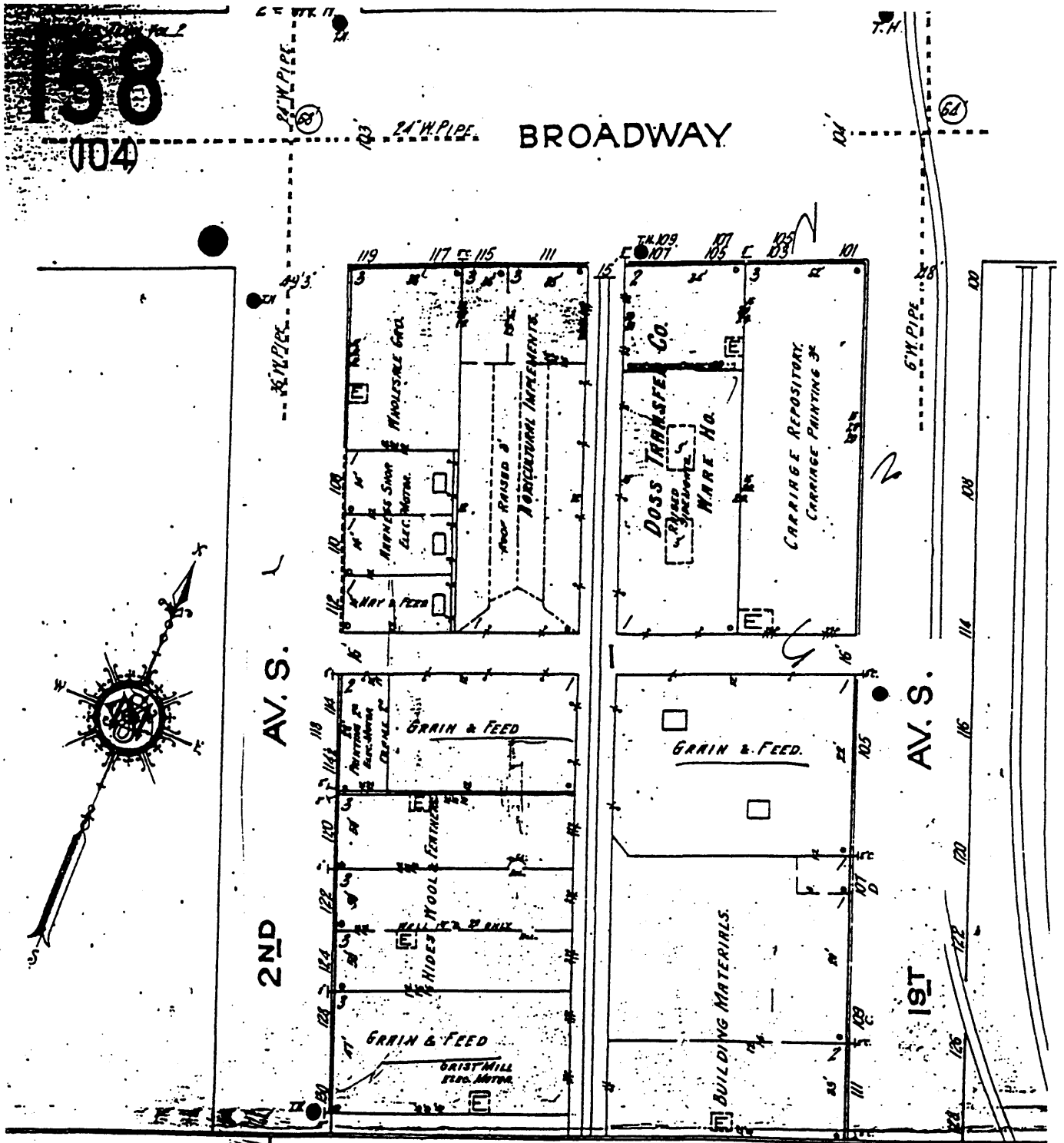
1897 Sanborn Map

Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee



1914 Sanborn Map

Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee



6" W. PIPE APPROACH TO RIVER BRIDGE
CONCRETE TIRBUCC

6" W. PIPE

1944 Sanborn Map

Acme Farm Supply
101 Broadway
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

NASHVILLE TENN. VOL. 2

158

(104)

N 017

S E E

BROADWAY

OR



AV. S.

2ND

AV. S.

1ST

