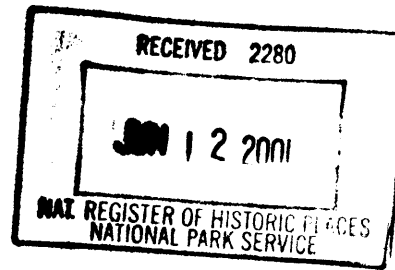


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



758

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 Northington - Beach House

other names/site number The Rose Garden

2. Location

street & number 512 Madison Street

NA not for publication

city or town Clarksville

NA vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Montgomery code 125 zip code 37040

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 National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/15/01
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:)

Edson W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

7-19-01

Northington-Beach House
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	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.)

Historic and Architectural Resources of
Clarksville

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE: restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate with Colonial Revival Detailing

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone, concrete
walls Brick

roof Asphalt
other Glass, Wood

Narrative Description

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

See 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
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1886 - 1950

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Northington, Michael C.; Beach, Oscar

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Beaty, William (builder)

G.B. Wilson & Company (contractor)

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:

Northington – Beach House
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre Clarksville 301 SE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>468280</u>	<u>4042120</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stacy Weber
organization Center for Historic Preservation date February 5, 2001
street & number P.O. Box 80 telephone 615-898-5263
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 0r 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 Mary Higgs-Beach
street & number 2001 21st Avenue South telephone 615-385-4274
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

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

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

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Northington -Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

Architectural Description

The Northington-Beach House is a two-story brick, Italianate design dwelling constructed in 1886. Located at 512 Madison Street, the house has an asymmetrical, asphalt-shingle hipped roof with a wide eave overhang. It rests on its original limestone foundation. In the 1990s, due to drainage problems, this foundation was covered with concrete on the dwelling's east elevation. The exterior of the house is constructed of common bond brick. The original residence displayed a two-story central hall plan with a one-story rear ell kitchen wing at its southeast corner. In 1925, the owners replaced the original porch with an expanded wrap-around porch situated at the northwest corner of the dwelling. A two-story rear bedroom wing was added at the southwest corner in 1929.

A concrete sidewalk and three concrete steps lead to the two-story projecting gable, which contains the primary entrance to the house. The first story of this off-center gable contains a rounded arch opening, topped by carved wood spandrels joined by a cartouche, which leads to a small entry porch. Leading into the interior of the dwelling is an original single-light glass and wood door featuring a carved sunburst motif. Above the entranceway is a bracketed wood cornice that supports a small balcony with a white wood balustrade. The second story of the gable features a pair of one-over-one arched windows with a triangular, bracketed pediment. An open pediment with bracketed eaves and decorative verge board tops the gable. A wide frieze band spans the perimeter of the second story roof and features decorative modillions interspersed with paired brackets along the house's façade and side elevations. The frieze remains unadorned on the rear elevation.

The gable divides the façade into two sections. East of the entranceway, on the first story, is a projecting bay window with a concrete-covered limestone foundation. The bay window is capped with a flat roof that is adorned with a wide eave overhang containing decorative modillions. The projection has three narrow, symmetrically spaced windows. These windows, and all other windows located in the original two-story portion of the house, are original segmental-arch, one-over-one, double-hung, sash windows capped by elaborate pressed-metal window hoods. The upper story contains two similar, but slightly wider, hooded windows on either side of the projecting gable. To the west of the gable, full-length windows on the first story run from floor to ceiling of the wrap-around porch. Originally, these windows provided the only access to the front porch. When the current porch was constructed in 1925, however, another doorway was cut into the vestibule.

The one-story porch begins at the projecting bay and extends across the western portion of the façade, continuing halfway along the west elevation. The porch rests on a brick foundation and has a gray, painted wood floor and a white, painted beaded board ceiling. Evenly spaced fluted Doric columns, two in the front and two on the side, support the flat porch roof, which has a slight

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Northington -Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

eave overhang and wide frieze band. A covered ramp, added in 1998, descends from the rear of the porch to a concrete sidewalk that runs the length of the elevation.

The west elevation of the dwelling is also divided into two visually distinct sections. On the original portion of the dwelling, each story contains two symmetrical one-over-one, double-hung, sash windows with elaborate pressed-metal window hoods. The 1929 rear addition, which has a hipped roof, is also visible from this elevation. Although its cornice is level with that of the one-story porch, the projection is built into a descending hill and therefore extends downward for two stories. This segment of the elevation contains four symmetrical two-over-two, double-hung, sash windows with radiating voussoir heads. A small six-light fixed window located close to the ground is also visible. A garage door was added to the lower story of this addition in 1960. In 1998, the current owner added a canopy over this opening and is presently using the lower story as a garden shop.

Windows on the east elevation are also one-over-one double-hung sash with decorative window hoods. There are five windows on each story of this elevation. The rear three windows on each story are part of a two-story, three-sided projecting bay. On this elevation, the original one-story ell extends from the rear of the house. The ell contains three bays with radiating voussoir heads and two-over-two double-hung sash windows identical to those in the addition's west elevation. However, the rear two openings have been enclosed with wood panels.

The two rear wings meet to form the first story of the house's rear (south) elevation. Windows on this elevation are unadorned. In the 1929 section, two, two-over-two double-hung sash windows are present as well as one small one-over-one double-hung sash and a six-light fixed window placed below the others. A three-light, single-panel glass and wood door, original to the addition, opens into the interior of the dwelling. The original ell contains one, two-over-two double-hung sash window as well as an original interior brick end chimney. Two small wood porches were added on this elevation in 1998. Second story windows are original one-over-one double-hung sash. A small, second story porch, located next to another original interior brick chimney, was later enclosed and part of this space now serves as a large interior walk-in closet.

The interior of the house was designed with a central hall plan and retains original plaster walls, high ceilings, and wood floors in many rooms. An imposing rounded wood arch divides the entranceway from the main central hall. In the hall, an original wood elliptical open string staircase with decorative milled wood balusters ascends to the second floor. Scrollwork embellishes the sides of the stairs, and the wood newel post features a carved sunburst motif identical to the one on the main door. Doors in the house are original paneled wood design with architrave molding casings. The dwelling's windows also display architrave molding.

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Northington -Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

The hall is flanked by two rooms on its eastern side, initially the house's parlor and dining room, and one room on its western side, originally the dwelling's only downstairs bedroom. From the hall, a segmental arched opening with a set of original twelve-light, three-panel glass and wood double doors opens into the dining room. A similar pair of twenty-one light glass and wood double doors, set within another segmental arched opening, connects the dining room and parlor. A smaller, rectangular doorway opens into the bedroom on the west. An original cast iron mantel remains in this room. The other first floor mantel, located in the parlor, was removed in 1929.

A doorway at the rear of the central hall leads into the house's original ell wing, which contains a hallway, small storage room, pantry, and kitchen. Doorways into the kitchen and hall each feature their original architrave molding topped by a rectangular single-light transom. The hallway leads to the rear of the house and opens onto a small, covered porch that was added in 1998. Although the kitchen wing still fulfills its original function, the kitchen and pantry areas were completely remodeled in the early 1990s, when the owners installed new cabinets and modern appliances.

Under the staircase, a small segmental arched doorway leads into the 1929 addition. This area originally contained two bedrooms, with a doorway leading from one immediately into the other. Doors and window trim match that found throughout the rest of the dwelling. A small bathroom was added in each bedroom at the time of construction. The southwest corner room also contains a closet. Both rooms currently serve as dining rooms for the present owner's business, The Rose Garden.

The second story of the house echoes the central hall plan of the first floor. Three bedrooms, two on the east side and one on the west, are located off the hallway. All retain their original high ceilings and wood trim. Windows and doorways feature architrave molding similar to that of the first floor. Only the northeast corner bedroom retains its original wood floors; the other bedrooms and the central hallway have been carpeted in recent years. Original cast iron mantels remain in each of the three bedrooms.

The Northington-Beach House retains a high degree of integrity, containing much of its original 1886 historic fabric. The most significant alterations to the dwelling include the porch addition and rear bedroom addition of the 1920s. The bedroom wing, constructed in the rear of the dwelling and in a style compatible with the dwelling's original Italianate form, has little impact on the house's nineteenth-century character. The wrap-around porch, however, exhibits characteristics of the Colonial Revival style, a more modern design tradition that remained popular throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Nevertheless, these changes have become historic in their own

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Northington -Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

right and serve to document the dwelling's architectural evolution over time. Other alterations have been minor and do not compromise the dwelling's historic structure and appearance.

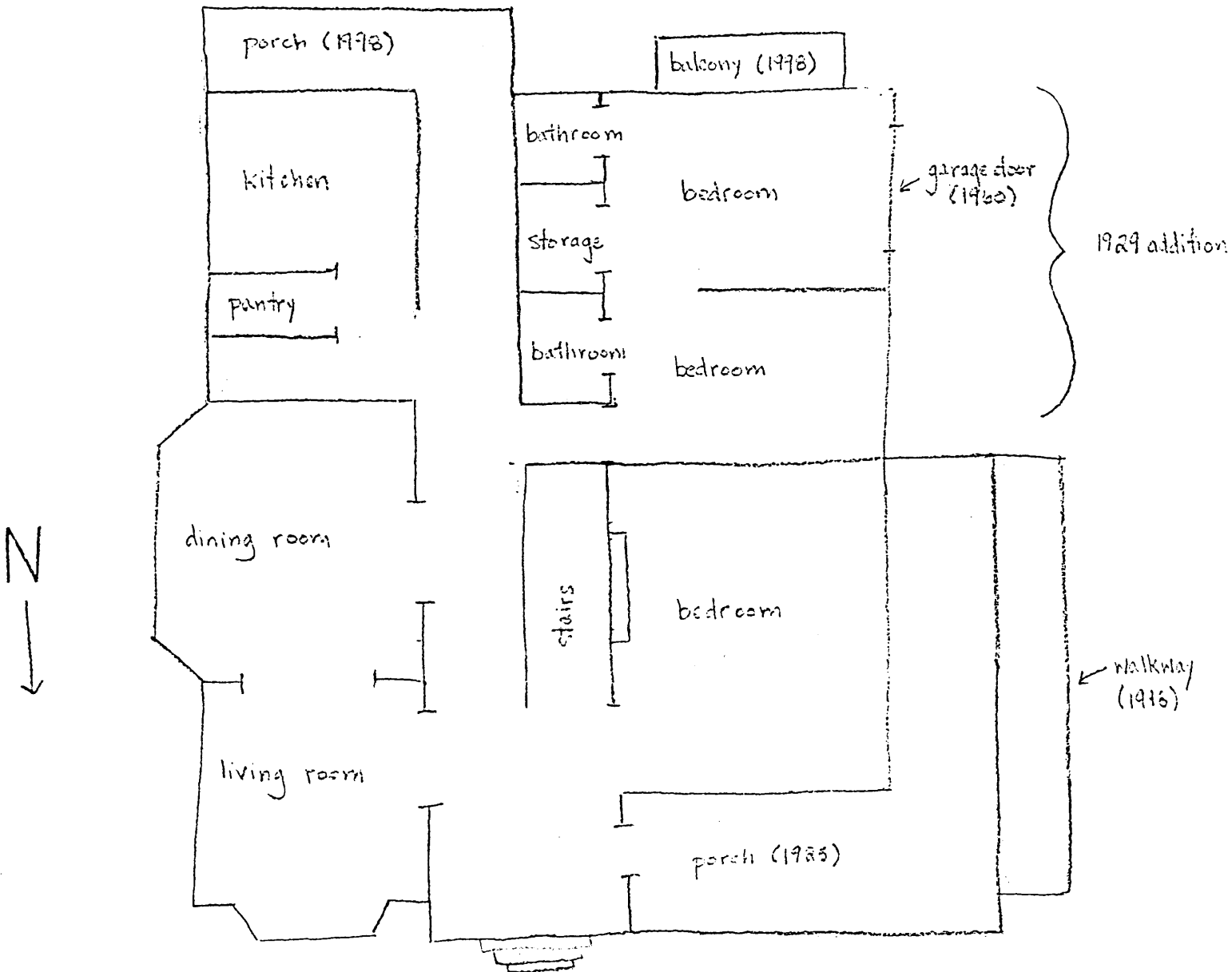
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Northington -Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

First story floor plan. Not to scale.



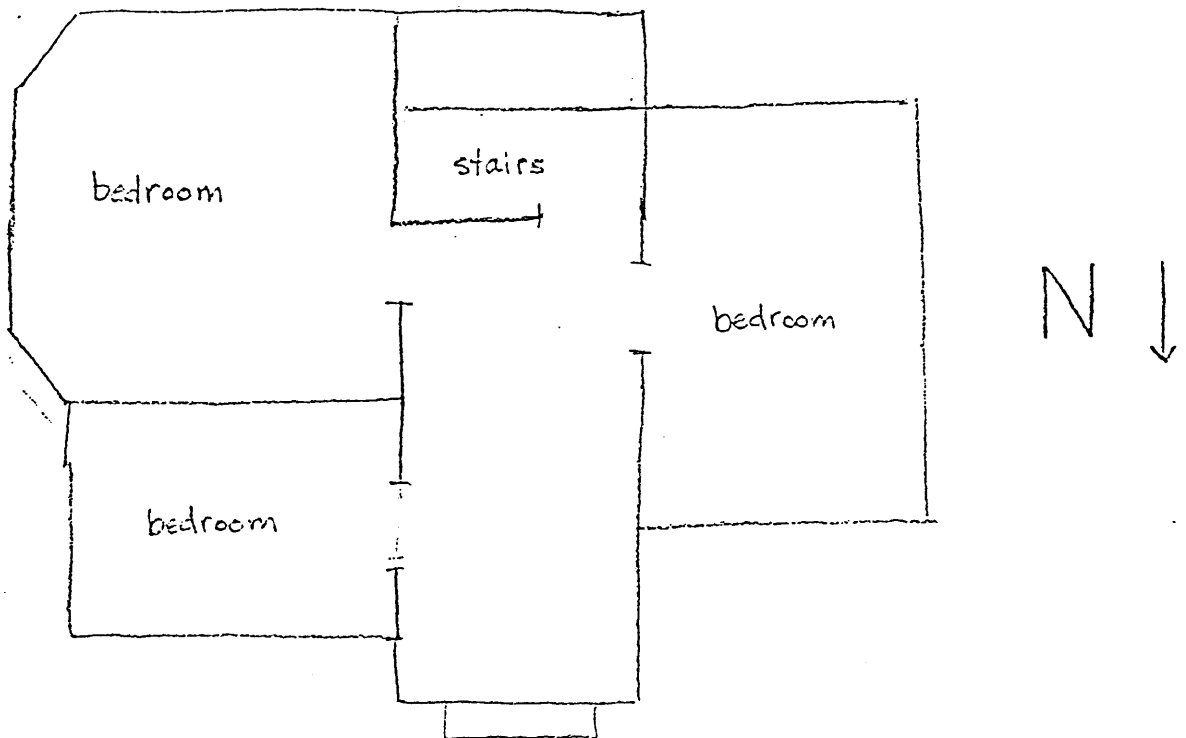
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Northington -Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

Second story floor plan. Not to scale.



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Northington - Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

The Northington-Beach house in Clarksville, Tennessee is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C as a locally significant example of Clarksville's late nineteenth century Italianate architecture. The Italianate form remained a popular residential style from about 1840 to 1885, and houses constructed in this style typically feature compound plans, arched windows, extended bay windows, decorative entrances and bracketed eaves. Providing a flair of architectural variety to the house is the Colonial Revival porch that was added in 1925. Wrapping around the northwest corner of the house, the porch reveals five fluted columns that support a flat roof containing a blank entablature, common characteristics of the style. The asymmetrical plan, projecting central gable, decorative bracketing, and elaborately hooded windows of the Northington-Beach house make it representative of this style. Appearing much as it did when first erected, the house displays a high degree of integrity and outstanding craftsmanship. The Northington-Beach residence meets the registration requirements set forth in the *Historic and Architectural Resources of Clarksville, Tennessee Multiple Property Nomination*.

The house is eligible under National Register criterion B as well for its association with two individuals significant to Clarksville's economic and commercial history, Michael C. Northington and Oscar Beach. Northington, the first owner and resident of the house, established a tobacco and grocery business in the early 1870s. He projected his success as a merchant by constructing this well-designed residence on one of Clarksville's most fashionable streets. During his residency on Madison Street, Northington was also elected mayor, and served in that capacity during a time of political and racial turmoil in Clarksville's history. After 1925, the house was occupied by the family of Oscar Beach, who became a pioneer in Clarksville's automobile business by opening one of the city's first service stations, the Pan-American Oil Company. Renamed the Beach Oil Company, the business continues in operation today.

The Northington-Beach house was constructed on land that had previously belonged to the Clarksville Female Academy. When the school relocated to a new building at the corner of Academy Avenue and Madison Street in 1886, Michael Northington purchased Lot #1 of the former academy site at a Clerk and Master's Sale for \$2,249. As a rising local businessman, Northington intended to use the land as the site of his stylish new residence. Articles in the *Clarksville Leaf - Chronicle* in May and July of 1886 confirm that city residents expected the dwelling to be one of the city's most extravagant to date. Constructed by local builder William

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Northington - Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

Beaty and contractor G.W. Wilson and Company, the ten-room house was made of red clay brick and boasted a slate roof and gas illumination.¹

Northington, a native of Montgomery County, was the product of a strong Clarksville business tradition. His father, Samuel Northington, became the city's first cabinetmaker and later the proprietor of Clarksville's popular Northington House hotel. Michael began his own career while still in his early twenties and quickly became one of the town's most well respected late nineteenth-century businessmen. In 1873, he and his partner J.W. Keesee established the local tobacco firm, Keesee and Northington, which became an immediate success. Just two years later, the firm expanded to include the commercial grocery business. In addition to tobacco, Keesee and Northington marketed staple groceries for retail and wholesale, maintained a general feed store, and sold coal, fertilizers and other products. Shortly after its expansion, the firm was "taking a stand in line with the foremost business houses in the city."² Local booster, W.P. Titus, in his 1887 prospectus *Clarksville: Past and Present*, writes extensively about Northington and his commercial ventures, acknowledging his position as one of the most prominent Clarksville merchants of his day. According to Titus's account, the exceptional business acumen of Northington and Keesee was widely recognized throughout the community. "They are most active and energetic businessmen," he wrote:

Their prompt delivery and strict attention to the smallest details in accommodating customers gives the house a strong hold on the community. In fact, they have studied the art of pleasing everybody and deal not only in staple groceries for the retail and wholesale trade, but give strict attention to all the little things which enter into everyday living . . . The policy of the house has been exceedingly prudent and cautious, using every opportunity to turn over goods at small profit, to be at once replaced, turning the capital several times during a year, which brought remarkable prosperity, giving the firm popularity in the county and a high commercial standing."³

Northington's achievements in the dry goods business led to his attainment of local prominence in other commercial and civic activities as well, thus establishing him as one of Clarksville's leading

¹Ursula Beach and Eleanor Williams, *Nineteenth Century Heritage: Clarksville, Tennessee* (Oxford: The Guild Bindery Press, n.d.), 211.

²W.P. Titus, *Picturesque Clarksville: Past and Perspective* (Clarksville: the author, 1887. Reprint, Clarksville: A.E. Alley, 1973), 328.

³ *Ibid.*, 328

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Northington - Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

citizens. In 1884, he was elected to the board of directors of the Clarksville National Bank, one of the city's first chartered national banks after the Civil War. He also became "a very successful financier, accumulating considerable real estate in the city." In addition, Titus's account notes that Northington was a member of the Baptist Church, and two well-respected fraternal benevolent organizations, the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. At the time Titus's book was published in 1887, the Northington family had been living at their "present elegant residence on Madison Street" approximately one year, and according to the author, enjoyed a "happy and comfortable home."⁴

Michael Northington's popularity as a merchant also paved the way for his entrance into local politics. In 1906, Northington was elected mayor, and for the next four years he presided over a city in political and racial turmoil. At that time, African-Americans wielded unusual political power in Clarksville, largely because the city's black and white populations remained nearly equal in number. Blacks took advantage of their considerable voting power as well as the ward-based election system to elect African-Americans to local office. Simultaneously, Republican and Democratic political forces were battling over the temperance issue, a struggle that unfortunately became entangled with Democratic efforts to disenfranchise the city's black citizens. In February 1907, Nace Dixon, a black Republican city council member became active in a campaign to eliminate Clarksville's saloons.⁵ His work ensured the success of a local referendum, largely supported by Republicans, in which the city voted to abolish the saloons and also to create a new city charter. As a result, the Democratic Party stepped up its efforts to bar black voters from future elections and thus cripple the local Republican Party. Although sharply divided on the prohibition issue, many Democratic politicians saw the outcome of the referendum as an opportunity to realize this goal. To this end, local Democrats united under the banner of prohibition. The following month, the Tennessee legislature added an amendment to Clarksville's new charter, changing the city's ward-based voting system to city-wide elections.⁶ Arguing that the amendment was an important part of Clarksville's anti-saloon campaign, a delegation of prominent local Democrats, including Michael Northington, traveled to Nashville to voice their support for the amendment. The

⁴ Ibid., 329.

⁵Thomas H. Winn. "Clarksville," *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, ed. Carroll Van West (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 175.

⁶Thomas H. Winn, "Liquor, Race and Politics: Clarksville During the Progressive Era." *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, XLIX (Winter 1990): 214.

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Northington - Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

amended charter was quickly passed, thus, in the words of historian Thomas Winn, “effectively eliminating black political power in the name of progressivism.”⁷

Northington also held the office of mayor during the so-called “Black Patch War” that occurred between 1905 and 1912. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Clarksville was part of a region of southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee known as the Black Patch, which was noted for its dark-fired tobacco. Having struggled with a depressed market since the 1890s, local tobacco farmers formed the Eastern Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers Association in an attempt to break the hold of the monopolistic American Tobacco Company. When a few uncooperative growers threatened to undermine their efforts, a number of frustrated farmers, turned to vigilantism, ruining crops, burning barns, and destroying livestock. These vigilantes were dubbed the “nightriders” for their nighttime attacks. The violence peaked between 1907 and 1909; becoming what historian, Rick Gregory called “one of the most serious domestic threats to civil government in twentieth century America.”⁸ Although the Association denied any connection to the extralegal activities of the “nightriders”, the escalation of violence undoubtedly helped raised the price of tobacco. By the time Northington’s second term as mayor ended in 1910, the violence had subsided.

A year before his death in 1913, Michael Northington sold his Madison Street residence, and for the next thirteen years the house changed hands frequently. In 1912, the dwelling became home to the J.B. Brown family, who remained there until 1919. During that time, the Clarksville Hospital Company purchased the former home of B.O. Keesee at 502 Madison Street, situated next door to the Northington House, for use as a hospital. In 1919, the need for nurses’ housing led the Southern Trust Company, a trustee company for the Clarksville Hospital Company, to purchase the Northington residence. The house served in this capacity until 1924, when the company sold the dwelling to Robert U. Edmondson, who owned the property for only a short time. The deed for this sale contained a restrictive covenant, prohibiting the house from ever being “leased, rented, sold, or conveyed to a Negro, or to a Negro organization or society.”⁹

In 1925, the Northington residence became the home of Oscar Beach, another individual who contributed significantly to the commercial development of Clarksville. The Beach family had been

⁷ Winn, “Clarksville,” 175

⁸ Rick Gregory, “Black Patch War,” *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, ed. Carroll Van West (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 69.

⁹ Montgomery County Deedbook 68: 139-141, Tennessee State Library and Archives, microfilm.

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Northington - Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

prominent in Clarksville since the Civil War era. Henry Elisha Beach became the first Beach to pass through the area while he worked as a surveyor for the Memphis, Clarksville and Louisville Railroad during the late 1850s. After a short residency in Virginia, during which he served in the Confederate Army, Beach attended dental school in Philadelphia and then returned with his wife to Clarksville, where he enjoyed a long-lived and well-respected practice. Henry Beach had two sons; John, who also became a prominent Tennessee dentist, and Henry, Jr., who was the father of Oscar Beach.¹⁰

Oscar Beach began his own career with the American Snuff Company in the early 1910s, but in 1919, when he returned from serving in World War I, he found that his position had been filled. Although the company offered him employment in another capacity, Beach decided to strike out on his own. Sensing the potential of the budding automobile industry, Beach, along with his brother Dale, established Beach Brothers, one of Clarksville's earliest automobile service industries. The brothers established their business offices in the former Masonic Hall on the corner of Third and Commerce Streets, and commenced selling gasoline, oil, tires, and automobile accessories. With the motto, "at curb and on call," the brothers also offered curbside sales and service in the era before the evolution of the modern service station. Unsophisticated engineering and bad roads placed automobile service much in demand during the early years of the automobile industry, and with little competition, the brothers quickly made a substantial profit. By August 1925, Oscar Beach and his wife Irene Johnson Beach were able to purchase the Northington House from Robert Edmonson for \$9,000.¹¹

During his long residence on Madison Street, Oscar Beach continued to exert considerable influence on Clarksville's automobile business. Over the next decade, Beach Brothers expanded with the growing industry, opening one of the city's first service stations in the 1930s. The Pan-American Oil Company, as the business was known, was located on the corner of Madison and Seventh Streets. Despite limited sales, the Pan-American Oil Company survived the Depression years, and World War II brought both challenges and rewards. The government, in an attempt to conserve materials vital to the war effort, rationed gasoline and tires, and thus cut substantially into the Beach brothers' market. The company was also forced to depend upon truck deliveries from Nashville to deliver supplies when the government commandeered railroad tank cars. Nevertheless, business boomed as automobile ownership became increasingly prevalent and the construction of Fort Campbell brought an influx of new customers.

¹⁰ Thayer Beach interview, telephone interview by author, 13 December 2000.

¹¹ Montgomery County Deedbook 68: 456-458, Tennessee State Library and Archives, microfilm.

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Northington - Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

Fort Campbell also brought customers to another family business, which shared the Beach Brothers building on Madison and Seventh. Around 1940, Oscar's wife, Irene, opened a restaurant called the Pan-Am Grill, which provided military personnel and others with one of the city's few decent places to eat. According to the family's oral tradition, Mrs. Beach first opened the restaurant as a tea room, but when she noticed that men waited until the end of the day to pay for leftovers at the back door, she changed the name to "Grill" and it quickly became one of the most popular restaurants in town.¹² After Mrs. Beach's death in 1947, the restaurant remained open approximately five more years.¹³

Over the last fifty years, the Pan-American Oil Company has continued to grow, expanding from a single outlet retailer to a wholesale distributor for Amoco. The company was soon supplying gasoline and other petroleum-related products to service stations throughout Clarksville and Montgomery County. The Beaches also continued to engage in retail sales at several locations throughout the city. In 1973, the company changed its name to the Beach Oil Company. By the mid-1970s, the company had outgrown its Madison Street location and now operates out of a modern building on Highway 76. The original Madison Street building was later demolished.

After the death of Oscar Beach in September 1985, Ursula Smith Beach continued to reside in the Madison Street house until her own death in December 1992. At that time, Connie Ervin and Donna Lovitt purchased the house and attempted unsuccessfully to open a bed and breakfast and antique shop in the former residence. In 1997, Mary Higgs-Beach acquired the house at auction, and the dwelling currently serves as a popular tea room and garden shop known as The Rose Garden. The second floor functions as a private residence for Ms. Beach and her children.

The Northington-Beach House is significant under Criterion B from 1886-1912 for its association with Michael C. Northington, and from 1925-1950 for its association with Oscar Beach. Both of these men, each of whom resided in the house during the years mentioned above, made important contributions to the city's commercial history. No other historic buildings associated with either Northington or Beach have been identified.

Furthermore, the Northington-Beach House represents a prominent example of Clarksville's turn-of-the-century residential architecture. In accordance with the National Register requirements, the dwelling displays an unmistakable integrity of location, association, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. Its years of significance under Criterion C are 1886, 1925, and 1929, the years

¹²Mary Beach, The Rose Garden Tea Room and Garden Shop: A Brief History, unpublished.

¹³Mary Beach, telephone interview by author, September 2000

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associated with the house's construction, front porch addition, and rear bedroom addition respectively. Significantly, the Northington-Beach residence was constructed at a time when the Italianate style was declining in popularity. The house serves to document the stylistic evolution that was taking place in Clarksville architecture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The house's original Italianate form, which remains largely intact, demonstrates the dominance of the Victorian era tradition among residential architecture during the several decades following the Civil War. The addition of the Colonial Revival style porch in 1925 indicates the growing prevalence enjoyed by the more eclectic styles of the early twentieth century.

Buildings constructed in the Italianate style represent a disappearing remnant of Clarksville's historic fabric. The small cluster of Italianate and Colonial Revival houses located on Madison Street in the vicinity of the Northington-Beach house hints at the location's former prominence as a preferred residential district. Much of the historic residential architecture along Madison Street has given way to modern commercial development. Several remaining Italianate residences have been identified in Clarksville and listed on the National Register. Early examples of the style, such as the Christopher Smith House (NR 1988) and the Alfred A. Robb House (NR 2000), both built in 1859, exhibit transitional combinations of Greek Revival and Italianate features.¹⁴ Later examples of the Italianate style include the Samuel Rexinger House (NR 1977), constructed in 1878, and the First Presbyterian Church Manse, constructed in 1890. These two houses, both of which display an asymmetrical plan, a two story pedimented tower, bracketed eaves, and elaborate window hoods, document the Italianate style as it took shape in Clarksville later in the nineteenth century. The similarity of the Northington-Beach House to both the Rexinger House and the First Presbyterian Church Manse, which can be seen in the dwelling's asymmetrical brick form, projecting gable, and intricate Eastlake detailing around the windows and door, verifies it as an important representative of Clarksville's dwindling collection of Italianate buildings.

¹⁴ Philip Thomason, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Clarksville, Tennessee* (Nashville: Thomason and Associates, 1998), E-12.

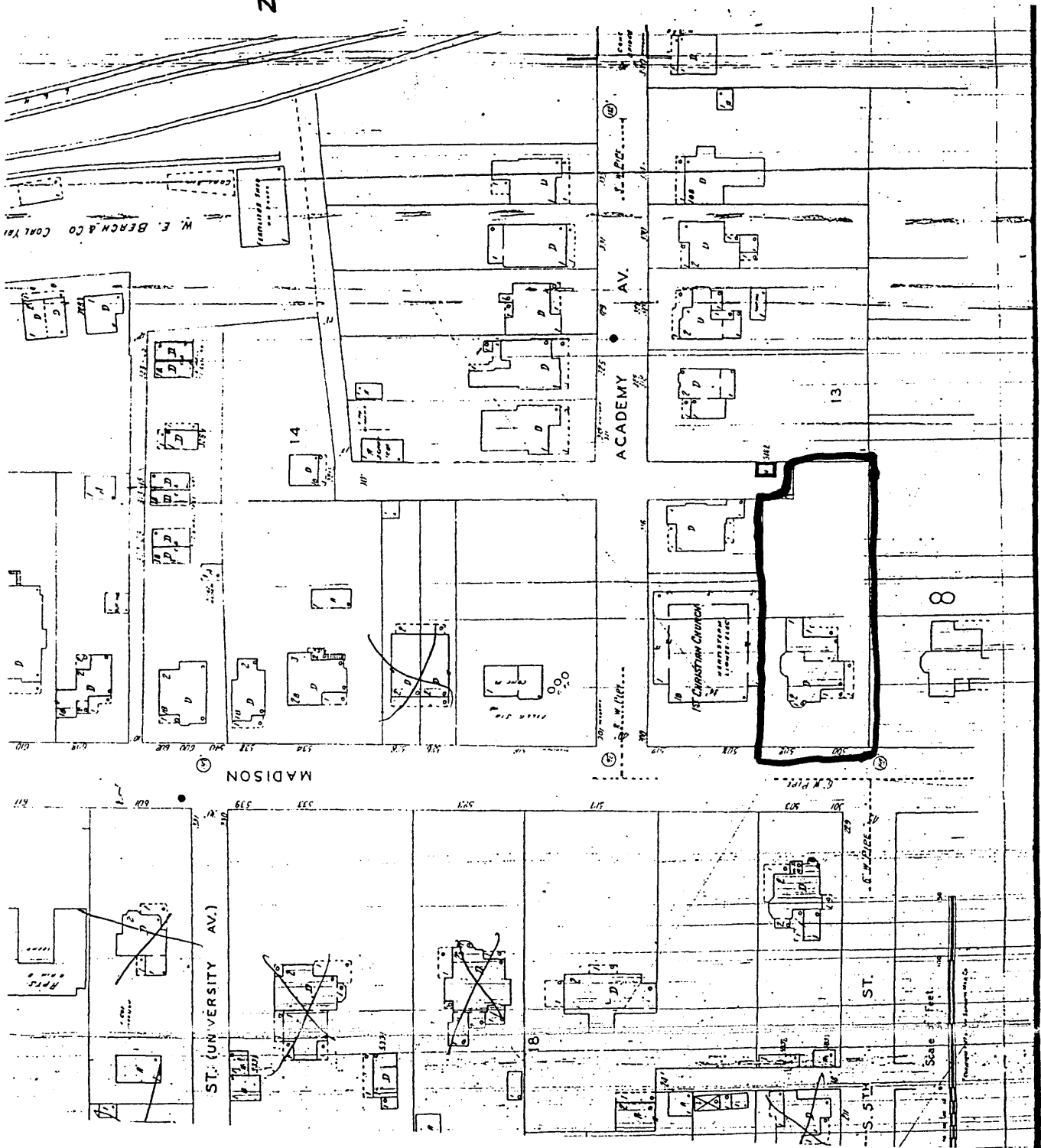
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1927 Sanborn Map



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Verbal Boundary Description

The Northington-Beach House is located on an urban lot at 512 Madison Street in Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee. The nominated boundaries are those marked as parcel 2, block D, on the enclosed Montgomery County Tax Map 66-K. (Scale 1" = 100')

Boundary Justification

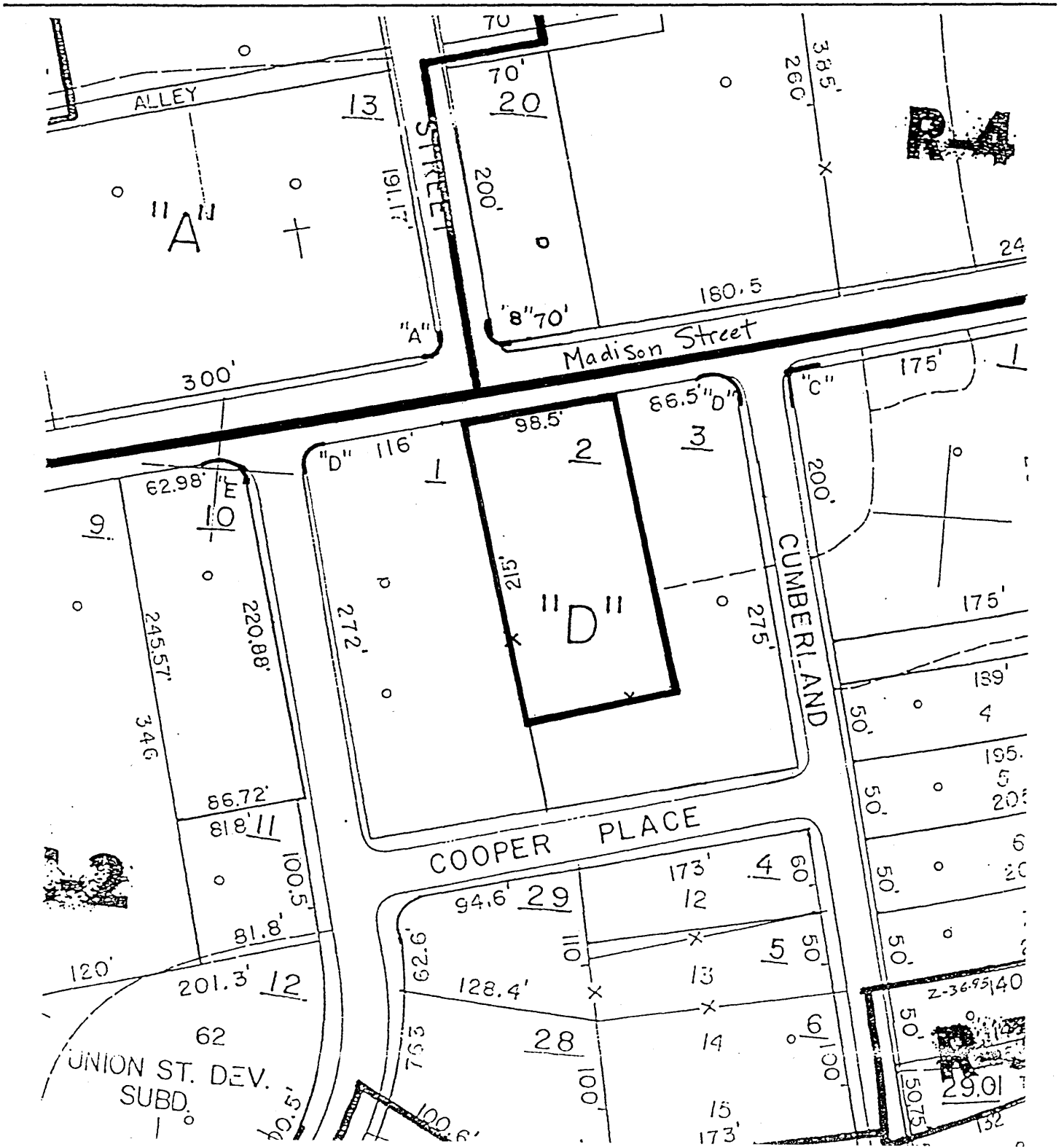
The parcel is the property currently associated with the Northington-Beach House.

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Northington - Beach House
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Photograph Log

Northington-Beach House
Montgomery County, Tennessee

Photos By: Allen Henderson
Austin Peay State University

Stacy L. Weber
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 80
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: October 10, 2000
February 2, 2001

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

North façade, facing south
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West elevation, facing southeast
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South elevation, facing northeast
3 of 29

South elevation, facing north
4 of 29

East elevation, facing northwest
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Northington - Beach House
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East elevation, facing southwest
6 of 29

Main entrance, facing south
7 of 29

Sunburst carving, original front door
8 of 29

Front porch, facing east
9 of 29

Entrance hall, facing south
10 of 29

Entrance hall, facing north
11 of 29

Detail of sunburst carving, newel post
12 of 29

Stairway, facing southwest
13 of 29

Rear hallway, facing south
14 of 29

Northwest bedroom, facing southwest
15 of 29

Northwest bedroom fireplace, facing east
16 of 29

Dining room, facing west
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Dining room, facing east
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Living room, facing northeast
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Southwest interior bedroom, facing southeast
20 of 29

Bathroom, facing east
21 of 29

Southwest corner bedroom, facing northwest
22 of 29

Pantry, facing southeast
23 of 29

Kitchen, facing northwest
24 of 29

Kitchen, facing southeast
25 of 29

Upstairs hallway, facing north
26 of 29

Upstairs northeast corner bedroom, facing east
27 of 29

Upstairs northwest bedroom, facing southwest
28 of 29

Upstairs southeast bedroom, facing east
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