

4-15-73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER DEC 11 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
"Victorian Village" District (Rep. Dan Kuykendall)

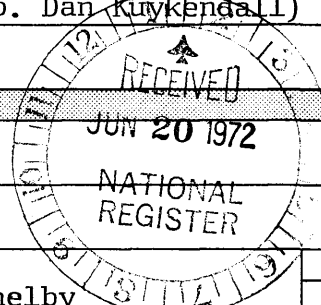
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Adams and Jefferson Sts.

CITY OR TOWN:
Memphis

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Shelby CODE: 157



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Shelby County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Shelby

ENTRY NUMBER: **DEC 11 1972**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Described below are nine houses and two carriage houses located within two square blocks of downtown Memphis in an area bounded on the north by Washington, on the south by Jefferson, Neely on the west, and Orleans Street on the east. Interspersed on the south side of Adams is a modern apartment house and a vacant lot. On the northern side of Jefferson is a restaurant and some vacant space as well.

652 Adams Avenue - Kirtland-Mallory House

This fine turreted and towered twenty-five room mansion was begun in 1852 by Isaac B. Kirtland, a Memphis banker and insurance man, and finished sometime before December of 1864 when it was sold to Benjamin Babb, a life-time Memphis cotton broker. Mr. Babb added on to the second story. In 1883 James Columbus Neely acquired it and about 1890 restyled it. The third floor and front tower were added at that time, the staircase was changed from circular to straight, and a beautiful Tiffany glass window purchased at the Chicago World's Fair was placed on the stair landing. Mr. Neely's daughter, the late Mrs. Barton Mallory, owned and maintained the house in its 1890 appearance until her death in 1969. For example, the gas lights in the chandeliers in the drawing and music rooms have never been electrified.

The house is a masterpiece for the decorative arts in the 1890's. The west drawing room, its alcove, and the adjoining music room still have their 1890's painted ceilings and plaster cornices of fruit garlands and female masks executed by Cincinnati craftsmen. The colorful interiors, now muted, include worn floral carpets, faded red velvet draperies, and dull gold and silver raised-felt wall coverings. The original drawing room marble mantels have been replaced by two matching mahogany étagère mantelpieces with beveled glass mirrors and carved satyr heads. The dining room retains its tooled leather wainscoting and handsome carved doors and woodwork.

The exterior and interior of this three-story, stucco-over-brick mansion have been maintained in the 1890's atmosphere that its last owner, Mrs. Mallory, desired. Today it is closed awaiting some arrangement by the family to turn it into a museum.

657 Adams Avenue - Luke Wright House

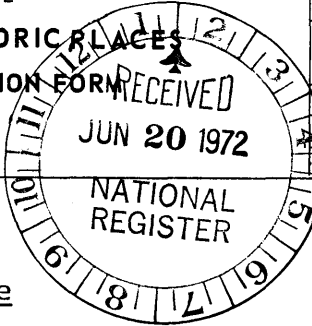
This two-story clapboard Victorian house built in 1875 was once a handsome house in a fashionable neighborhood. After becoming a tenement house, it was purchased by the present owner, Luke Wright, in 1955 and rehabilitated. Mr. Wright has turned the residence into a two-family town house. With every effort to retain and restore original woodwork, floors, mantels, etc., the house has been tastefully done and, although altered, the exterior is most compatible with the Victorian neighborhood.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Tennessee	
COUNTY	Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	DEC 11 1972	



(Number all entries)

7. Description (cont.)

664 Adams Avenue - Bartholomew House

The oldest of all the houses in the neighborhood is this 1840's one-story neo-classic. The white clapboard exterior is marked by a front facade whose portico has Doric columns supporting a pedimented porch. The dwelling is set deeply back from the street, nestled behind magnolias, wisteria, and dogwood. A long walkway has a center circle where a graceful stone lady is surrounded by boxwood and azaleas.

The house has changed owners several times since its construction, but all the owners have preserved its integrity. The original cypress floors which are an inch and a half thick show the care that has gone into the house. Mrs. Bartholomew, who acquired the house in 1960, removed a rear breezeway from the house and added a modern kitchen and bath. The original floorplan of the house remains unchanged with rooms opening right and left from a large central hall. Today the house is filled with museum quality antiques.

679 Adams Avenue - Mollie Fontaine Taylor House

This late Victorian two-story, ten-room red brick house was begun in 1886 by Noland Fontaine as a wedding gift to his daughter, Mollie, who became the bride of Dr. William W. Taylor that same year. During the four years the house was under construction, Mrs. Taylor and her husband lived with her parents across the street in the historic Fontaine House at 680 Adams, built in 1870.

Dr. Taylor died in 1925, and Mrs. Taylor remained in the home until her death in 1939. The house changed hands several times and eventually was used as apartments. In 1965 the Memphis Housing Authority purchased the house as a part of an urban renewal project and stated that they "recognized that this home represents a period type of architecture which M.H.A. decided had restorative value." To date the house is being restored and used for intown apartments as a business venture.

680-690 Admas Avenue - Lee and Fontaine Houses of the James Lee Memorial

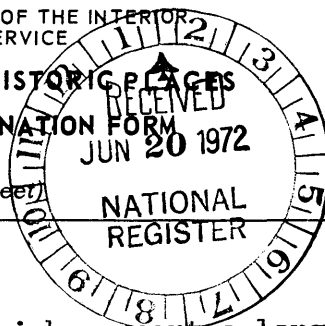
These two Victorian mansions and the large carriage house between the two were added to the National Register of Historic Places, February 11, 1971.

707 Adams Avenue - Pillow-McIntyre House

This Greek Revival mansion was built in the mid-1850's and is one of very few remaining in Memphis in this style. The handsome two-story brick is painted pink and has four Corinthian columns topped with

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	Tennessee	
COUNTY	Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	DEC 11 1972	

(Number all entries)

7. Description (cont.)

lotus leaves across the front which support a large pedimented porch. The wing to the right of the main portion of the house is a twentieth century addition.

By 1873 the fine house was conveyed to former Mexican War hero and Confederate General, Gideon Johnson Pillow. During the Civil War Pillow served in Memphis and following the War, he left his handsome home in Maury County, "Clifton Place" (placed on National Register July 8, 1970) and returned to Memphis in 1871 and formed a law partnership with the former Tennessee Governor, Isham Green Harris. In 1878 General Pillow died of yellow fever.

In 1880 the residence was sold to Peter and Ella McIntyre. Mr. McIntyre, who founded the first glucose refinery in Memphis and became a prominent merchant, married Ella Goyer whose father Charles Wesley Goyer, and family lived just diagonally across the street in a Victorian home, now 690 Adams Avenue and known as the Lee House of the James Lee Memorial.

The Memphis Art Association moved into the house in 1942 from the Lee House across the street. Here the students pursued free-school art classes until 1963. In 1969 the home was sold to Lary-Vanlandingham, Inc., an interior decorating and importing firm. The house has been restored and now has a fine adaptive use.

669 Jefferson

This two-story brick house built as a one family home in 1863 has very interesting Italianate features such as double brackets under the eaves and heavy "eyebrows" over the upstairs windows. The house has had a rear addition and is presently used for intown apartments.

671 Jefferson

This house, very similar to the one above, was built in 1863 and has heavy arched window trim and somewhat smaller, more regular brackets. It, too, is used for apartments and is in fine repair.

688 Jefferson - Carriage House

The mansion to which this carriage house belonged has been razed because of its condition and restoration costs, but the carriage house is being restored. A two-story red brick with white frame cupola, it was built in 1868 and remains in good condition. It will be used for either an apartment or a small commercial venture.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The city of Memphis experienced a great boom in the 1830's and 1840's. During this period the city grew rapidly as the center of steamboat and railroad transportation on the mainlines of the north-south and east-west traffic and as the hub of shipping and trading generated by the rich hinterland. Old Memphis of those days lingers on in the elegant mansions remaining along Adams Avenue and Jefferson Avenue.

The remaining vestiges of this once-exclusive neighborhood have been outlined in the Victorian Village. Memphis' Victorian Village, characteristic of American architecture during the Victorian years, exhibits a variety of styles. The bold towered houses are in striking contrast to two Greek Revival houses: the 1840 clapboard Bartholomew house and the 1852 brick Pillow-McIntyre.

The elegant Mallory house with its fine decor is a living museum for the decorative arts as well as architecture. The more moderate but well done residences on Jefferson make an excellent contrast as one studies the period. All eleven of these Victorian structures, entwined in the city's industrial, commercial, and social history, comprise the best of Memphis' residential past. They have survived, as has the bluff city (now the largest in Tennessee), the financial panic of 1873; yellow fever epidemics, the worst in 1878 with 5,150 deaths; almost three years of occupation by Union forces during the Civil War; the loss of the city charter in 1878 through bankruptcy; and in the late 1960's, the city's extensive urban renewal projects.

The Victorian Village is surrounded by a wasteland today, a federally funded urban renewal project. These few houses have been protected thus far and must be given strong protection in the future if any part of this great heritage is to remain.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hughes, Eleanor, "Victorian Village Vignettes," unpublished manuscript, October, 1970.

Morton, Terry B, "Victorian Mansions in Memphis" from Antiques in Tennessee, reprint, September, 1971.

NW 15 / 769620
 3893070
 CD
 NE 15 / 769980 / 3892950
 SE 15 / 769980 / 3892650
 SW 15 / 769640 / 3892750

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	35°	08'	46"	90°	02'	26"			
NE	35°	08'	42"	90°	02'	16"			
SE	35°	08'	32"	90°	02'	16"			
SW	35°	08'	36"	90°	02'	26"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 28

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 May Dean Eberling, Director of Programs

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 6-7-72

STREET AND NUMBER:
 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Michael J. Smith

Title: Executive Director
 Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 6-7-72

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/11/72

ATTEST:

James A. Ryan
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12/10/72