

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

received JUL 24 1979

date entered OCT 18 1979

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

### 1. Name

historic Pinch-North Main Commercial District

and/or common Pinch

### 2. Location

Between North Front and North Second Streets and Commerce Avenue and the north end of Auction Square *route bounded by and Auction Place.*  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Memphis \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Eighth

state Tennessee code 047 county Shelby code 157

### 3. Classification

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

### 4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Registrar

street & number Shelby County Courthouse

city, town Memphis state Tennessee

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Memphis Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date January 1978 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Memphis Landmarks Commission, Suite 901, Falls Building, 22 N. Front St

city, town Memphis state Tennessee

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

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

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

The Pinch-North Main Commercial District has thirty-eight architecturally or historically significant buildings and three historically important sites. The historic importance of the sites dates from 1790s and the buildings date from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. Pinch is located in an area between Commerce Avenue and the north end of Auction Square, and between North Front Street and North Second Street in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. The district is primarily commercial but includes a small park, Auction Square, located at the north end of the district. The street plan contains square blocks subdivided into four squares by crossing alleys. Significant buildings comprise approximately eighty-eight percent of the district. The remainder, or twelve percent are non-contributing. Nearly all the buildings in the district are of brick construction, and many have cast iron columns in the first floor at the facades. Building heights vary from one to four floors. Archeological research is underway in an effort to locate remnants of an early settlement fort dating from 1795, located within the district. Several buildings in the area are being rehabilitated by their owners.

**BUILDINGS AND SITES CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT:****Main St. From Commerce Avenue to Sycamore**

- (1) 326-328-330 N. Main (J. T. Walsh and Brother Grocer):  
ca. 1876, 2 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in the first floor facade, round arched second floor windows, 8 bays.
- (2) 338 N. Main (Abraham's):  
ca. 1876, 2 stories, stuccoed to resemble stone, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, segmentally arched second floor windows, 3 bays
- (3) 345-47 N. Main (Moskovitz Baking Company):  
ca. 1894, 2 stories, brick, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, round arched second floor windows, circular attic vents with cast iron grills.
- (4) 346 N. Main (C. J. O'Neil Grocery):  
ca. 1900, 1 story, brick.
- (5) 348 N. Main (Patrick O'Neil Grocery and Woodyard):  
ca. 1867, 3 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, 2/2 linteled upper floor windows.
- (6) 349-51 N. Main (Regal Medicine Co.):  
1906, 2 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade. linteled upper windows.
- (7) 356 N. Main (Memphis Pie Company):  
ca. 1891, 2 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, round arched upper floor windows, wooden cornice.
- (8) 357 N. Main (A. Pontius Building): 1904, 2 story, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor facade, linteled upper floor windows, segmentally arched attic vents with cast iron grills, at the roof level are wods "A. Pontius Building 1904."

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pinch-North Main Commercial District not only contains a number of sites that recall the early settlement of Memphis but is also the location of a significant concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century buildings that housed the commercial and residential life of a variety of distinct ethnic groups around the turn of the century.

The name "Pinch" originally referred to a small area adjacent to Catfish Bay, located at the northern end of the village where the Gayoso Bayou flowed into the Wolf River. Here the Irish arriving in the 1820s dismantled their flatboats and houseboats in order to construct shanties. Because of the hunger and poverty that characterized the area, Memphians named it "Pinchgut"; that name was promptly shortened to "Pinch." A shift in the course of the river forced the removal of the shanties from the site by mid-century. Any vestiges of this original Pinch were destroyed in the urban renewal activities of the 1950s and 1960s. However, the name had been kept alive and applied to a wide area of North Memphis extending from the bayou south to Winchester Avenue.

Although the later Pinch was essentially a commercial area, many of the buildings contained apartments in the upper stories. The boundaries of the Pinch-North Main Commercial District contain a collection of buildings constructed between 1870 and 1910 that alone have survived to reflect the lifestyle of the ethnic population. This population operated small businesses and lived within the neighborhood that flourished from the 1880s on into the 1900s. Originally an Irish stronghold, Pinch experienced a major restructuring of its population following the three yellow fever epidemics that struck in the 1870s. A large portion of the Irish population died. When prosperity returned in the 1880s, the Irish were replaced by an influx of Jewish merchants. Blacks also moved to the area and lived in boarding houses along the fringes of the proposed district.

A survey of commercial establishments from 1880 to 1910 reflects the changing ethnic nature of the Pinch neighborhood. Along North Main, the thoroughfare that served as the center of activity for the neighborhood, Jewish merchants operated a variety of modest businesses—bakeries, groceries, drug stores, hardware stores, dry goods stores and tailoring shops. However, the Irish continued to play a large role in the business community, operating saloons, boarding houses and groceries. One of the better known latter businesses was the J. T. Walsh and Brother Grocery at the corner of North Main and Commerce. The building still stands at 330 North Main. The Walsh brothers expanded their business activities into cotton factoring, wholesale groceries and banking. After accumulating a power base among the Irish, most of whom lived in North Memphis, John T. Walsh became a member of the Board of

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Avery, M.J.P. Paddy Meagher's Ordinary and the Bell Tavern. Memphis, 1979.

Busby, W. W. to Paul Coppock, 18 January 1964, October 24, 1966, August 16, 1967.  
Memphis Room, Memphis Public Library.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 19.2

Quadrangle name Northwest Memphis

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	5	7	6	8	9	5	0	3	8	9	4	3	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	5	7	6	8	8	8	0	3	8	9	3	8	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	5	7	6	8	7	1	0	3	8	9	3	9	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	5	7	6	8	8	0	0	3	8	9	4	3	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Benton and John Parish

organization Memphis Landmarks Commission

date February 27, 1979

street & number 22 N. Front Street, Suite 901

telephone (901) 528-2834

city or town Memphis

state Tennessee 38103

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Herbert E. Hays*

title Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/20/79

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

*Coral Shull*

date 10-18-79

Keeper of the National Register

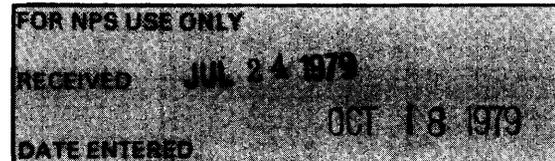
Attest: *Beth Grosvenor*

date 10/17/79

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Owner's Name and Address</u>
1. 326 - 328 - 330 N. Main	David G. Williams 5250 Keatswood Drive Memphis, TN 38117
2. 338 N. Main	Jacob Abraham 338 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103
3. 345 - 47 N. Main	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Baldrige 1337 Peabody Memphis, TN 38104
4. 346 N. Main	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Holmes 5198 Highway 51 N. Memphis, TN 38127
5. 348 N. Main	George Myrick 1865 Young Memphis, TN 38114
6. 349 - 51 N. Main	C.A. Davis Printing Co., Inc. 349 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103
7. 356 N. Main	Sophie Walter 1752 Overton Park, Apt. 13 Memphis, TN 38112
8. 357 N. Main	G. D. Murphy, Jr. 357 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103
9. 358 N. Main	Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Wilder 358 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103
10. 368 N. Main	Sophie Walter 1572 Overton Park, Apt. 13 Memphis, TN 38112

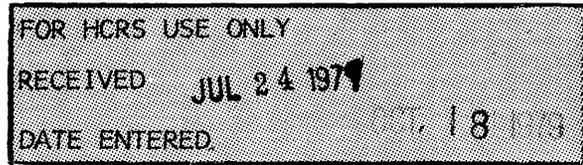
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<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Owner's Name and Address</u>
11. 369 N. Main	One Hundred Seventy-Five Realty Corp. 400 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103
12. 373-75 N. Main	Same as #11
13. 374 N. Main	National Bank of Commerce 1 Commerce Square Memphis, TN 38104
14. 381-83 N. Main	Louis D. Pera 5760 Redding Avenue Memphis, TN 38117
15. 393-95 N. Main	Robert Strickland 278 Jeanne Drive Memphis, TN 38109
16. 394-96 N. Main	Charles Sciara 394 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103
17. 400 N. Main	One Hundred Seventy-Five Realty Corp. 400 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103
18. 404 N. Main	Leonard Tevine 334 Colegrove Memphis, TN 38117
19. 405 N. Main	Divian Redders & William Easley 693 N. Evergreen Memphis, TN 38107
20. 405 (Rear) N. Main	Same as #19
21. 426 N. Main	Victor Lloyd Mid-South Cotton Growers Assoc. 44 S. Front Memphis, TN 38103



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<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Owner's Name and Address</u>
22. Auction Square	City of Memphis
23. Number not used	
24. 346 N. Front Street	E. L. Grossbart Box 1546 Memphis, TN 38101
25. 348 N. Front Street	Same as # 24
26. 350 N. Front Street	Same as #24
27. 352-54 N. Front Street	Same as #24
28. 376 N. Front Street	Asher Blockman et. al. 376 N. Front Memphis, TN 38103
29. 388 N. Front Street	Mrs. Martha J. P. Avery 2928 Tishomingo Memphis, TN 38111
30. 406-410 N. Front Street	Margaret Farrell 406 N. Front Street Memphis, TN 38103
31. 422-24 N. Front Street	Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ehrlicker 426 N. Front St. Memphis, TN 38103
32. 426 N. Front Street	Same as #31
33. 430-34 N. Front Street	Same as #31
34. 438-440 N. Front Street	Drake Corp. 2723 Ivanhoe St. Louis, MO 63139
35. Number Not Used	

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<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Owner's Name and Address</u>
36. 111 Jackson Avenue	Mid-South Title Co. Commerce Title Bldg. Memphis, TN 38103
37. 112 Jackson Avenue	Mr. and Mrs. Etoyle Reames 3387 Walnut Grove Road Memphis, TN 38111
38. 113-115 Jackson Avenue	Same as #36
39. 359-61 N. Second Street	Mr. John P-Imer 841 S. Cooper Memphis, TN 38104
40. 363-67 N. Second Street	Same as #39
41. 369-75 N. Second Street	Same as #39
42. 78 Overton Avenue	L. C. Breshears Route 3 Searcy, Arkansas 72143
43. 111-115 N. Parkway	Carlross Well Supply Co. 111 N. Parkway Memphis, TN 38103
44. Number not Used	
45. Number Not Used	
46. Number Not Used	

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- (9) 358 N. Main (Lauranson Drugs):  
ca. 1890, 3 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, second floor windows are linteled, third floor windows are segmentally arched, cast iron attic vent grills, 3 bays.
- (10) 368 N. Main (J. L. Herbert, Jeweler):  
ca. 1894, 1 story (originally 2), brick construction, cast iron columns in facade, cast iron fire escape ladder bracket projects from south elevation roof line, 5 bays.
- (11) 369 N. Main (Thomas Jones-Barber):  
ca. 1901, 2 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, linteled second floor windows.
- (12) 373-75 N. Main (Moskovitz Grocery):  
ca. 1901, 2 story, brick construction, cast iron columns in the first floor of facade, linteled upper windows.
- (13) 374 N. Main (R. Hunter & Company Retail Grocery):  
ca. 1877, 2 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, segmentally arched upper windows with stone keystones, segmentally arched attic vents with cast iron grills.
- (14) 381-83 N. Main (L. B. Price Mercantile Company):  
ca. 1915, 2 stories, brick construction, 2 oriel windows in second floor of facade, cast iron attic grills.
- (17) 400 N. Main (Memphis Trunk and Bag Company):  
ca. 1903, 2 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, segmentally arched upper windows, small cornice.
- (18) 404 N. Main (John Tyler-Watchmaker):  
ca. 1905, 1 story (originally 2), brick construction, cast iron columns in facade.
- (19) 405 N. Main (North Memphis Automobile Company): *Kasley Sheet Metal Supply Co. (photo # 9)*  
ca. 1912, 2 stories, brick construction, segmentally arched windows.
- (20) 405 Rear - Facing alley (Apartments)  
ca. 1880, 2 stories, brick construction, segmentally arched windows and doors, cast iron attic grills.

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- (21) 426 N. Main (Commercial Structure):  
ca. 1885, 2 stories, brick construction, cast iron columns in first floor of facade, segmentally arched upper windows and attic vents, cast iron grills in attic vents.
- Auction Square/Auction Street (1795-1797-1819)
- (22) 1795 Site of Fort San Fernando De Los Barrancos  
1797 Site of Fort Adams  
1819 Auction Square
- (23) Number not used  
Front Street from Jackson to Sycamore
- (24) 346 N. Front St. (Commercial Structure):  
ca. 1920, 2 stories, brick construction.
- (25) 348 N. Front St. (Commercial Structure):  
ca. 1911, 2 stories, brick construction.
- (26) 350 N. Front St. (Commercial Structure):  
1958, 1 story, brick.
- (27) 352-54 N. Front St. (O'Donnell and Company):  
1910, 3 stories, brick construction, segmentally arched windows, 5 bays.
- (28) 376 N. Front St. (Blockman Building):  
1918, 3 stories, brick construction, linteled windows; (addition - 1925, 3 stories, monolithic concrete construction with brick infill).
- (29) 388 N. Front St. (M. P. McDonald Residence):  
ca. 1875, 1 story, frame construction, weatherboard exterior, standing seam metal roof, transom over door, 2 chimneys. The Bell Tavern and Paddy Meagher's Ordinary are believed to have stood on this tract.
- (30) 406-08-410 N. Front St. (Farrel-Calhoun Paint Company):  
406-08 1911, 2 stories, brick construction, rusticated brick exterior, engaged arches above window and door openings at first floor, four arched windows and a transomed doorway at second floor, hoisting beam projects above upper doorway.  
410 1923, 2 stories, brick construction, segmentally arched double window openings.
- (31) 422-24 N. Front St. (Bluff City Broom Corn Company-Addition):  
ca. 1911, 1 story, stuccoed brick exterior.

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- (32) 426 N. Front St. (Bluff City Broom Corn Company):  
ca. 1910, 2 stories, brick construction, segmentally arched windows, corbelled brick cornice.
- (35) Number not used  
Second, Jackson, Overton
- (36) 111 Jackson Avenue (Commission Furniture Store):  
ca. 1920, 1 story, brick construction.
- (37) 112 Jackson Avenue (Congregation Anshai Mischue Synagogue):  
ca. 1925, brick construction, round arched windows, corbelled arches across central facade.
- (38) 113-115 Jackson Avenue (Residence):  
ca. 1911, 1 story, brick construction, 1/1 windows with lintels, porch across front, circular wooden columns.
- (39) 359-61 N. Second St. (Witsell Manufacturing Co.):  
1920, 3 stories, brick, large multipane industrial type windows.
- (40) 363-67 N. Second St. (We-Li-Ka-Manufacturing Co.):  
1914, 3 stories, brick, cast iron columns in first floor facade, segmentally arched upper floor windows, quoined corners.
- (41) 369-75 N. Second St. (Witsell Brothers-Dean Lilly Co.):  
1934, 3 stories, double hung first floor windows, multipane industrial type upper floor windows, 4 bays.
- (42) 78 Overton Avenue (Clean Clan Baths):  
1917, 2 stories, patterned and rusticated brick exterior, glass block windows, stone plaque in facade dates 1917.

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NONCONFORMING INTRUSIONS DETRACTING FROM THE INTEGRITY OF THE DISTRICT

- (15) 393-95 N. Main:  
ca. 1920, 1 story, remodeled in 1975.
- (16) 394-96 N. Main (Charlie Sciara Produce Co.):  
ca. 1950, 1 story, concrete block.
- (33) 430-34 N. Front Street (Simmons Sign Co.):  
ca. 1920, 1 story, brick construction.
- (34) 438-440 N. Front (Drake Saw):  
1964, 1 story, brick exterior, no windows.
- (43) 111-115 N. Parkway (Well Supply Co.):  
ca. 1935, 1 story, brick.

Concurrent with its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the Pinch-North Main Commercial District is being designated a Memphis Landmark district. This will provide a basis on which the Memphis Landmarks Commission can exert architectural control over new construction in the area. Design standards for this purpose have been formulated and are included with this nomination.

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Public Works in 1903, a police commissioner in 1904 and vice-mayor in 1906. The Walsh faction eventually joined the Crump organization after having successfully opposed it for several years.

A resident of Pinch in the early 1900s, Mr. W. W. Busby recalls that the streets of Pinch saw activity twenty-four hours a day. Businesses opened around 6:00 a.m. and remained open until 9:00 p.m. At night the focus shifted to the saloons.

Only one business in Pinch at the turn of the century is still operating, the Bluff City Broom Corn Company at 422-426 Front Street. While the rest of the Front Street is now almost completely commercial, in the 1880s and 1890s it was lined with boarding houses inhabited by black and Irish laborers. The residence that still stands at 388 Front Street is the only surviving example of these frame structures which once stretched along the riverfront.

Pinch was part of the original town plan of Memphis laid out in 1819. Its street patterns reflect the influence of the steamboat landing that was then at the foot of Jackson Avenue. The developers of Memphis, of whom John Overton was the most influential, specified that all streets would be sixty-six feet wide with three exceptions. Main and Chickasaw (now Front) were eighty-two and one half feet wide to provide for easy movement along the riverfront. Winchester was the same width to provide better access to the boat landing. All of the streets were originally covered with gravel but, since these were often impassable, the state legislature in 1860 authorized funds to be used for the paving of streets and wharves with cobblestones. In 1901 North Main and its alley entrances were paved with brick. The brick and stone paving within the district is still visible at alley entrances, in the alleys and at the borders of some intersections. Remnants of brick sidewalks and granite curbs also can be seen in the district.

Since Pinch has always been a business district composed of small shops and industries--in fact, it was the original downtown of Memphis--its architecture is utilitarian and unpretentious. The design of the building's facades changed after 1906. Prior to that year cast iron columns on the street level and arched fenestration in the upper stories were used extensively. After 1906 linteled fenestration and brick columns were featured. Brick construction is a unifying element for all the buildings in the district. Also common in both time periods was the use of cast iron vent grills. It should be noted that many individual owners in the designated area are renovating their properties with the goal of returning them to their original dual use.

A number of sites located in the Pinch-North Main Commercial District document the development of the area. The extreme northwest sector is believed to have been the site of an eighteenth century Spanish fort. Built in 1795 by the governor of Natchez,

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Manuel Gayoso de Lemos, to control river traffic, Fort San Fernando was burned in 1797 as the Spanish retreated before the arrival of a U. S. Army expedition sent to claim the land for the Americans. This contingent erected a much smaller fort, Fort Adams, on the same site, but it was abandoned the following year when a better site was found south along the river. Another important site is the one just north of the intersection of Front Street and Overton Avenue on which the Bell Tavern is believed to have stood. The tavern, believed to have been built in 1826, was an important meeting place during the early years of Memphis' history. The structure was of simple frame construction. It was demolished in 1905. The lot at 68 Overton is believed to have been the site of another early tavern known as Paddy Meagher's Ordinary. Meagher applied for a license in May 1820, to keep an ordinary in his home, so the building was apparently built just prior to that date. Meagher provided food and shelter for the steamboaters on the Mississippi, and was one of the earliest settlers at what is now Memphis. Some ruins of a frame structure remain on the site, and it is speculated that they are possibly the remains of the Paddy Meagher Tavern. Both of these taverns were important in the early settlement of the new river town of Memphis.

Pinch also includes Auction Square, one of two surviving nineteenth-century Memphis town squares. Auction Square was one of four included in the original town plan. The Auction Square that exists today is only the southern half of the original square; the other half was developed after Auction Avenue was extended, thus bisecting the plot.

The Pinch-North Main Commercial District, which was the original commercial center of the city, encompasses sites that recall many important stages in the growth of Memphis. However, the major importance of Pinch lies in the collection of modest commercial buildings that illustrates the type of business community that flourished there in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It is also a last link to an ethnic vitality that has since disappeared. The Pinch-North Main Commercial District preserves the ambiance of a kind of urban neighborhood that no longer exists in Memphis.

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Capers, Gerald M., Jr. The Biography of a River Town-Memphis: Its Heroic Age.  
Gerald M. Capers, Jr.: Tulane University, 1966.

Coppock, Paul R. Memphis Sketches. Memphis: Friends of Memphis and Shelby County  
Libraries, 1966.

Coppock, Paul R. "One of the Best Mayors the City Ever Had". Memphis Commercial  
Appeal, January 7, 1979, Section G, Page 7.

Memphis City Directories, 1850-1950.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

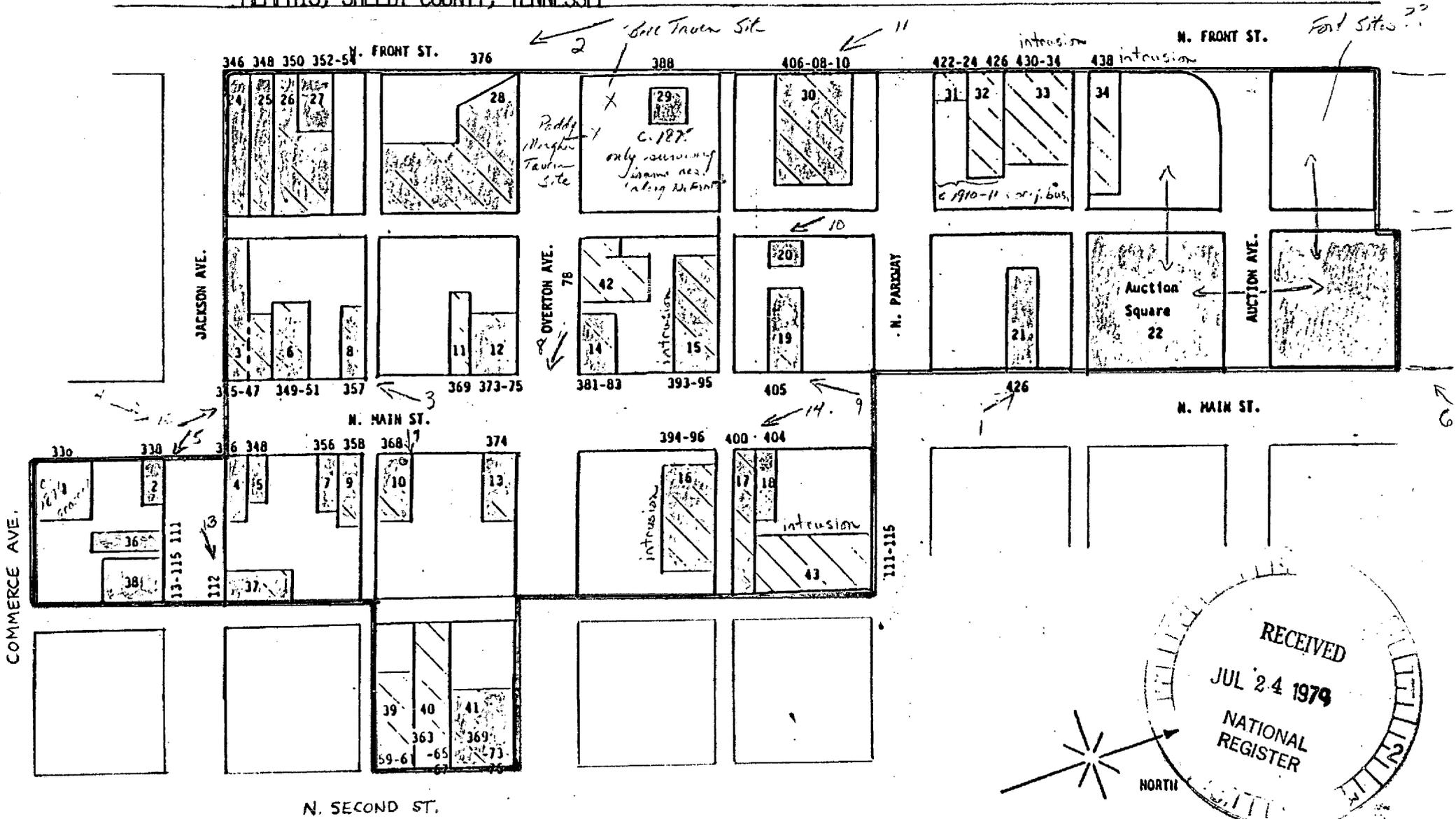
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Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary of the Pinch-North Main Commercial District is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled, "Pinch-North Main Commercial District," drawn at the scale indicated on the map. The boundary for the district has been drawn to include the largest concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, as well as those sites associated with the early history of Memphis and the first town plan.

PINCH-NORTH MAIN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE



shaded area - shown in photos  
 photo # 6 - not w/ detected boundaries