

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

**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 Cheatham Building

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 301-309 Church Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Nashville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Fifth

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input 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 Multiple Owners

street & number

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

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

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

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Cheatham Building, a complex of three engaged, commercial buildings, stands on the southwest corner of Church Street and Third Avenue, North, in Nashville. The three sections are similar in construction and appearance but are stepped to conform to the slope of Church Street.

Constructed ca. 1852, and occupied almost continuously since then, the three-story, brick buildings have flat, sloping roofs and stand on a cut and coursed limestone foundation with three full basements. Each section measures approximately thirty by eighty feet; the Church Street frontage (301-309) is about ninety feet.

The facades (north elevations) of the second and third buildings (303-305 and 307-309) from the corner have bays and are ornamented with stone belt courses and a corbeled brick cornice. The second- and third-floor windows have stone label molds. The corner building in this complex (301) continues the same fenestration pattern on the second and third floors. At the intersection of Church and Third the corner of the building has been chamfered, a treatment frequently seen in the 1850s. At the street level the opening at the corner was originally flanked by brick pilasters with stone bases and capitals. One of these was removed in this century but has been reconstructed in the restoration presently underway. These pilasters repeat, in reduced scale, the treatment framing the openings on the first floor of the facade.

On Third Street the east elevation of the building is treated in a simpler manner. Although the cornice continues on this elevation, the segmentally arched window lintels are not adorned with the hood molds used on the north facade. Pilaster-like elements divide this elevation into four equal units.

The south elevation, the rear of the building, is entirely devoid of ornamentation. A ghost of a one-story building pictured in an 1880s view of Nashville can be traced on this wall.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 ca. 1885 / 1852 Builder/Architect Isaac Paul (?)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cheatham Building is one of a very small number of antebellum commercial buildings still remaining in Nashville. The area around the intersection of Church (formerly Spring) Street and Third Avenue, North (formerly College Street) was developed ca. 1850; of this group, only the Cheatham Building survives. It has remained unaltered in appearance above the first floor and largely unchanged on the first story level. This building is an important illustration of a period in commercial architecture in Nashville which is not otherwise widely represented.

Alexander Porter, one of Nashville's first merchants, owned a warehouse in 1819 on the land where the first Cheatham Building now stands. Porter's daughter, Jane Eliza Campbell, sold the land and the old warehouse to John W. Walker in 1841 for \$6000. Walker was apparently responsible for the construction of the present structure, and he leased the building to the Cheatham's for their various wholesale activities. Walker sold the property to W.W. Berry in 1863 for \$45,000. This significant increase in the purchase price of the property would indicate a substantial building on the property. Berry, in a January 9, 1877 Nashville newspaper advertisement, described the building as "that old established wholesale liquor store." Additionally, an 1854 map of Nashville shows a large brick building at this location.

The Nashville City Directories for 1853 listed the E.S. Cheatham & Co., grocers and commission merchants, at this location. Directories for the following years indicate that Cheatham, in combination with various partners, operated a successful wholesale liquor and grocery business. In 1874 R.F. Woods bought out Cheatham and carried on the business until 1877. The building was taken over by Ryan and Ryan in 1880 who continued the wholesale liquor business, but in later years the building had a variety of occupants and businesses. By 1913 the David Grewar Plumbing Company was located there, and more recently a furniture company occupied the building. The current owners, the accounting firm of Tongate, Ryan, Connelly and Shaub, have rehabilitated the building and are using it for their offices.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- 1.) Nashville City Directories 1853, 1854, 1877, 1880, 1913
- 2.) Davidson County Deed Records (Book 4, page 344; Book 37, page 624) Tennessee State Library and Archives
- 3.) City of Nashville Maps - Tennessee State Library and Archives
- 4.) Nashville and Her Trade, Roberts & Purvis, 1870, Charles F. Roberts

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .91  
 Quadrangle name Nashville West, Tenn.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

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4	0	0	1	9	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a square tract containing approximately .91 acre. The boundary of the Cheatham Building property is shown as a red line on the accompanying map which is

### 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 Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services  
 Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date January 1979

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee

## 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 L. Hays*

title Executive Director date 12/3/79

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>W. Ray Luce</i>	date 2/21/80
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <i>Beth Gussow</i>	date 2/20/80
Chief of Registration	

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 12 1979  
DATE ENTERED FEB 21 1980

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

**Ceatham Building owners**

301 Church Street

Darrel E. Tongate  
609 J. C. Bradford Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Frank Ryan  
609 J. C. Bradford Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

William E. Connelly  
609 J. C. Bradford Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Roy H. Shaub  
609 J. C. Bradford Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Leonard E. Primm  
609 J. C. Bradford Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

303-309 Church Street

T. Fred Durham  
309 Church Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

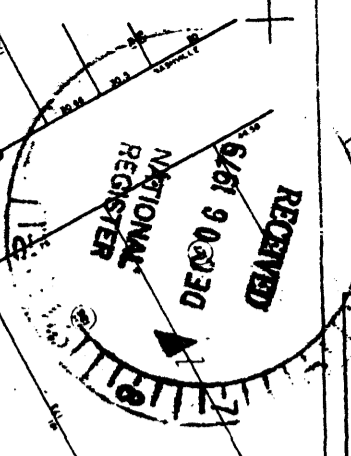
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

page 590 of the Real Estate Atlas of Davidson County, 10th edition, 1976 and drawn at a scale of 200ft/inch. This is the entire tract owned by Tongate, Ryan, Connelly and Shaub.



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