

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **OCT 28 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Cornelius Lawrence Clancy House

and/or common Clancy-Oglesby House

2. Location

street & number 911 Kerr Avenue N/A — not for publication

city, town Memphis N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Shelby code 157

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <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 Louise Oglesby Flower Shop, Inc.

street & number 911 Kerr Avenue

city, town Memphis N/A vicinity of state 38109

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Shelby County Register, County Clerk

street & number 160 North Main Street

city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cornelius Lawrence Clancy House is located at 911 Kerr Avenue in southwest Memphis on the northern end of a seven acre tract of land. Although now in an inner city area and surrounded by urban development, the property retains large grounds and a fairly substantial setback from the street, which suggest the rural character of the area when the Clancy home was constructed about 1900. Because of the large grounds filled with trees, shrubs, and grassy areas, in the summer it is hardly visible from the street. This also creates a mini-environment on the property which allows one, to a large extent, to ignore its general urban setting. The main house and carriage house retain their architectural integrity.

There are three structures on the large parcel; a main house, a carriage house and a modern car garage. The main house appears, in most respects, to retain its original appearance, except that a slate roof in the 1930's was replaced with shingles. It has remained completely furnished, but unoccupied since the death of Mrs. Louise Oglesby in 1981. There have been several additions to the carriage house, and it has been converted into use as a commercial florist shop. Since all additions have been made to the rear of the structure, however, the architectural character of the facade has been preserved as well as has the residential character of the estate. Only the Louise Oglesby Flower Shop awning to the carriage house and restrained commercial sign near the street definitely establish that this property is being used for commercial purposes. In the rear of the main house, is a patio with a stone floor and a wrought iron gate which originally was part of a fence around the front yard.

The main Clancy home is in a restrained Queen Anne style, reflecting a tendency at the turn of the century to retain flexible Victorian floor plans, but use less fanciful decoration. Typical Queen Anne features of this house include its asymmetrical massing and the use of contrasting material and textures on the exterior. The turret with a conical roof on the front facade is a very prominent Queen Anne feature. Tuscan columns on the porch and porte-cochere of the house evidence the influence of the Colonial Revival movement on the design composition of this house.

This wood frame, two-story, structure has a rock face, coursed limestone finish on the ground floor, and the siding on the flared, second story is grey slate shingles. A beltcourse of painted wood separates the contrasting materials of the first and second stories and leads into the eaves of the roof.

The roof, which originally repeated the slate of the second floor, is presently of composite shingles, a change which was made in the 1930's. The roof is hipped in shape with a front-facing cross gable. A cone-shaped section over the turret terminates in a finial with a fleur-de-lis design. Two chimneys are of the same coursed limestone as the first floor.

Windows predominately feature double-hung, single light sashes. There are also two stained glass windows at the second floor on the west side and a double, stationary gable light. Balancing the turreted west side, the front porch is bowed on the east side. The Tuscan porch columns are set on square limestone piers.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1900

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cornelius Lawrence Clancy House is being nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its local architectural significance and association with its builder, Cornelius Lawrence Clancy, a prominent Memphis businessman and political figure from the turn of the century to the late 1930's. The Clancy House is a very rare example in Memphis of a Queen Anne residence employing stone and slate on its facades and one of the few major Queen Anne houses retaining both its setting and architectural character relatively intact. Cornelius Lawrence Clancy began his business career as a grocer and expanded into real estate at the turn of the century. From 1918 until his death in 1937, Clancy served as a member of the Shelby County Quarterly Court of Pleas and Sessions, which was the governing body of Shelby County until replaced by the county commission form of government.

Cornelius Lawrence Clancy was born in 1858, attended Christian Brothers College and remained in Memphis all of his life. In 1882 he married Julia Pelegrin, who was also a native Memphian, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church. The couple had nine children and remained together until Mrs. Clancy died in 1934.

As a young man, C.L. Clancy owned and operated a grocery store on Pennsylvania Street in Fort Pickering, and used his profits to purchase real estate. He was considered a shrewd real estate investor, particularly since he was often able to foresee future railroad rights of way which greatly enhanced the value of his property. In the fall of 1918 Clancy was elected as a member of the Shelby County Court and served as a County Squire, or Magistrate, for the next nineteen years until his death in 1937. In addition to his legislative and executive duties as a member of the County Court, he also had judicial responsibilities as a local magistrate to hold court to settle petty crimes and certain civil cases.

When constructed circa 1900, the Clancy home was on the outskirts of the City limits of Memphis and was surrounded by undeveloped landscape. In addition to C.L. Clancy, other real estate investors were also purchasing land in this area, predicting its development in the near future as the Memphis population increased and improving roads and street car lines provided access to the area. Some of the existing major streets into the vicinity were Kerr Avenue, Hernando Road and Mississippi Boulevard. By 1903 there was apparently a street car line on Hernando Road.

In 1891 the Barton and Lamb Subdivision to the west of the Clancy property was filed with the County Register and in 1903 Realty Investment Company filed a plat for Greenland Heights Subdivision, immediately east of the Clancy estate. In 1903 Squire Clancy subdivided a large portion of his property to the east and south of the large grounds reserved for the Clancy home itself. Then through the years after 1903, the Clancy's constructed small houses on lots in their subdivision as homes for their married children. Residential development in the other subdivisions adjoining Clancy's was

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 3 acres

Quadrangle name Southwest Memphis, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

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 Continuation Sheet + SKETCH MAP

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Baker

organization Memphis Landmarks Commission date August 1983

street & number 22 N. Front Street 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 National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hargen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/24/83

For NPS use only

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

Albion Byers
for Registrar of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 11/25/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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In the interior of the main house original, natural oak mouldings, floors, a stairwell, and coal burning fireplaces are in excellent condition. There is also a central gas furnace installed later in the partial basement and floor heat vents throughout the house. The two stained glass windows into the house are striking decorative elements at the second floor landing of the central stairwell of the house. Presently, at least the downstairs of the main structure contains the furnishings placed in the home by Mrs. Louise Oglesby after purchasing the estate in 1944 from other family heirs. Much of it appears to be much older than that date though, and typical of the period when the Clancy House was constructed.

Carriage House

Also of frame construction in two stories, the carriage house design includes elements of the Georgian Revival style as well as some of the Queen Anne features of the main house. Georgian Revival style features include its massing, a projecting pedimented entrance bay, although it is off center, a pedimented dormer, a cupola, and multipaned sash windows. Stone and slate contrasting siding on the first and second floor and a painted wood beltcourse recall the Queen Anne style of the main house. This building also has a shingle roof, which is made more interesting by the pedimented dormer, pyramidal roofed cupola and pedimented projecting gable. Among other features of the carriage house structure are a cut-out wood gable vent and a casement window at the second floor and in the dormer. Also, a bay of three single light double-hung sash windows combine on the east side with the roof dormer to balance the projecting bay on the west side of the facade.

In 1948, the Louise Oglesby Flower Shop was moved into the Clancy carriage house after having operated for thirteen years on Union Avenue. At this time a combination one and two-story addition was built to the rear of the building. Other improvements made, converted the upstairs portions of the expanded structure into living quarters, while all of the downstairs were for use by the flower shop. In 1967, two other minor additions were made to the house, apparently by enclosing carports to the east side and to the rear of the structure. The major 1948 additions to the house continue the use of horizontal wood siding from the rear of the carriage house. The two-story addition has a gable roof, and the one-story a flat roof. There is also a glass greenhouse to the west of the structure. The 1967 carport enclosures are of vertical wood siding with flat roofs. It is worth repeating that since all additions have been primarily to the rear of the structure, the exterior architectural character of the structure and the ambience of the setting appear relatively undisturbed. The interior of the carriage house has been completely altered to serve as the Louise Oglesby Flower Shop and living quarters for the current owners.

The modern automobile garage is to the rear and east of the carriage house. It is partially obscured by overhanging trees and by shrubs and seems fairly comfortable on the site and in support of the other two main buildings.

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also taking place at this time. By 1919 when the area was annexed into the City of Memphis, a number of homes had been built on the various streets of the subdivisions in the area.

Squire Clancy was known to love flowers, and the grounds of the Clancy home were said to have contained extensive flower gardens. When the gardens were in bloom, the Squire wore a flower on his coat which was kept alive by a small vase hidden beneath his lapel. This association with flowers continues to the present day, through the Louise Oglesby Flower Shop still operating in the carriage house. In 1935, two years before Squire Clancy's death, the youngest daughter of the family, Mrs. Louise Oglesby, opened a florist business at 1421 Union Avenue across from the Nineteenth Century Club(N.R. 1979). In 1948, the Oglesby Flower Shop business was moved to the family carriage house and several additions and improvements were made to the structure to accomodate the business and to provide living quarters for Mrs. Oglesby's daughter and son-in-law, Julia and Julian Camp.

The C.L. Clancy House is a rare local example of the Queen Anne style using stone and slate as the principal building materials. Except for a few brick houses, almost all Queen Anne residences in Memphis are wooden structures. The Clancy House shows noteworthy craftsmanship in the exterior stonework and the interior staircase, mantels and other woodwork.

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1919, 1920.

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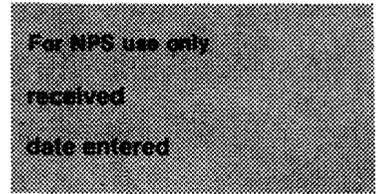
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July 22, 1903. Kerr Avenue Subdivision Book 3, Page 1, June 30, 1891.

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The property is bounded on the north by Kerr Avenue and Mississippi Boulevard, on the west by Clancy Street, on the south by a fenceline that separates the back lawn from the wooded rear portion of the property not included in the nomination, and on the east by adjacent property lines.