

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 7 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 28 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  
Fountain Square

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
600-622 Georgia Avenue, 317 Oak Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Chattanooga

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third

STATE  
Tennessee

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
047

COUNTY  
Hamilton

CODE  
065

**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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Multiple Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
VICINITY OF

STATE

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register's Office, Hamilton County

STREET & NUMBER  
Hamilton County Courthouse, Fountain Square

CITY, TOWN  
Chattanooga

STATE  
Tennessee 37402

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Chattanooga-Hamilton County Landmark Survey

DATE  
1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN  
Chattanooga

STATE  
Tennessee 37402

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

This small compact district is centered around its focal point: the 1888 Fireman's Memorial Fountain, which gives the area its name--Fountain Square. The five early twentieth century buildings in this district are located across Georgia Avenue from this fountain. Four of these buildings are attached and have a uniform facade setback. The fifth building faces Oak Street and was built as an educational building containing classrooms and a gym to expand the facilities of the old First Baptist Church building which was located on the corner of Oak and Georgia. This main church building was demolished in 1967, and the site is now used as a commercial parking lot.

The architecture of this area reflects various elements of three of the revivals that were popular during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Fireman's Memorial Fountain (No. 1), the Robinson Apartments (No. 3), and the Hardwick-Hogshead Apartments (No. 6) reflect Classical Revival trends, and 614-618 and 608-610 Georgia (Nos. 4 and 5) reflect some Spanish elements mixed with a few motifs from the Classical Revival styles. The architecture of the building currently being used by the Hamilton County Department of Education (No. 2) reflects Romanesque features and is somewhat distinctive in the Chattanooga area. It was designed in 1927-28 by one of Chattanooga's more respected architects, Reuben H. Hunt. Hunt, a member of the First Baptist Church, had designed the original Baptist Church building in 1888 and during an expansion program of the late 1920s, he designed two other buildings, the Administration Building and the Sunday School Building, for use by the congregation. The Administration Building which was attached to the main building was also demolished in 1967.

Hunt's firm was probably best known for its ecclesiastical designs, and the 1888 building was one of his first works. Other works in Chattanooga by Hunt include the old Carnegie Library (National Register, 1904), the Hamilton County Courthouse (National Register, 1911), and the United State Post Office (1933).

### Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

1. Fireman's Memorial Fountain, Georgia, Sixth and Lookout Streets (1888): This fountain, designed by the J. L. Mott Company of New York, is located on the base of a triangular park created by three streets. It is 27 feet high, is divided into three sections, and stands in the center of an octagonal concrete catch basin that is 25 feet across and 1-1/2 feet deep. The cast iron fountain is hollow and has decorative features bolted to it. These features include scrollwork, acanthus leaves, flowers, and animal heads at each point of the catch basins located at each of the three levels.
2. Hamilton County Department of Education, 317 Oak (1928): Rectangular section with two rear additions creating a "U" shaped building, four stories, three sides brick and facade is covered with Tennessee pink sandstone, low hipped roof with facade dormers, finished stone used for arches and some decorative features.

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3. Robinson Apartments, 622 Georgia Avenue (1907): Irregular in shape, three stories, brick, projecting three story pedimented portico with fluted Corinthian columns and elaborate detailing including brackets and dentils; recessed porch area, second and third floors have projecting carved railings, supported by consoles with acanthus leaves, first and second floor ceilings have recessed decorative panels; to the east is one attached addition and to the northeast is one connected addition.

4. 614-618 Georgia Avenue (1923): Rectangular, one story, brick with tile and wood panels, flat roof with fake mansard front with tile covering; divided into two buildings and used as restaurants; small one story addition on south wall.

5. 608-610 Georgia Avenue (1924): Rectangular, two stories, brick, low hipped roof hidden behind raised facade that has arched corners and decorative grillwork, limestone used for quoins and around windows.

6. Hardwick-Hogshead Apartments, 604 Georgia (1912-13): Rectangular, six stories with penthouse, brick; flat roof for building, penthouse has shed roof; east and south sides plain but north and west sides serve as dual facades and have limestone lintels, keystones, and block courses; centrally located recessed entrance areas and balconies with iron grillwork that has a decorative "H and H" motif indicating Hogshead and Hardwick.

This building was designed in 1912-13 by the Chattanooga architectural firm of Bearden and Deacon. Charles E. Bearden (1869-1928), principal of the firm, designed many other outstanding buildings in the mid-south area, including Pine Breeze Sanitarium, Elks Club, Mountain City Club, Chattanooga Golf & Country Club, First National City Bank, American Trust and Banking Company and the first Electric Power Building, all of Chattanooga and the First National Bank in Gadsden, Alabama, as well as buildings in Johnson City, Tennessee and other places. He was associate architect on the Ochs Memorial Temple, Chattanooga, and on the First Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, which was designed by the nationally famous architect, Stamford White. Many of these buildings and edifices are still standing today and are important Chattanooga landmarks

Other buildings in the district:

None

The property nominated includes all that owned by the property owners listed in Item No. 4. All vacant land and nonconforming buildings have been eliminated.

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1. Fireman's Memorial Foundation /  
City of Chattanooga  
City Hall  
Chattanooga, TN 37402
2. Hamilton County Board of Education /  
317 Oak Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37403
3. Robinson Apartments /  
c/o American National Bank & Trust Company, and Jean B. Tipton, Trustees  
Market Street at 8th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402
4. The Brass Register & Gazebo Restaurants /  
American National Bank & Trust Company, and Jean B. Tipton, Trustees  
Market Street at 8th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402
5. The Claridge Building /  
American National Bank & Trust Company, and Jean B. Tipton, Trustees  
Market Street at 8th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402
6. The Hardwick-Hogshead Apartments /  
Jere T. Tipton & Jean B. Tipton  
100 Scenic Highway  
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350

# 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
1888-1930	R. H. Hunt Charles E. Bearden

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fountain Square district was developed on properties originally owned by the Brabson family, large landowners in early Chattanooga history. The district was developed as the high-density, multi-use area, and by its nature has served as a buffer between the central business district to the south and west and the residential areas to the north and east. Since prior to the turn of the twentieth century it has been one of the centers of Chattanooga life, providing services for adjacent residential districts and serving as a meeting place for Chattanoogaans in the fashion of European squares and piazzas.

Preservation and restoration activities are noticeable in virtually all of the structures and buildings within the district. The Fireman's Memorial Fountain in the Square has been restored several times during its history with much community support. The buildings between 614 and 618 Georgia Avenue were renovated during the period from 1972 and 1975. They contain two popular restaurants each of which, in its renovation, has used architectural elements from historically significant local buildings. One of them, the Gazebo, contains revolving brass doors from the original American Trust and Banking Company building. The Brass Register contains a stand-up bar from the old Rathskeller Restaurant, a former popular meeting place for many Chattanoogaans.

The Claridge Building, between 608 and 610 Georgia Avenue has recently been renovated and currently is occupied by gift and specialty shops, lawyers offices and an architectural firm. The Hardwick-Hogshead Building at 604 Georgia Avenue (1912-13), is currently undergoing adaptive restoration and renovation. It was recently acquired by new owners who are restoring it to its original dignity. The restoration will retain the original exterior character of the building and renovate and restore the interior portions for residential and commercial use.

The Robinson Apartments, (1907), was one of the first luxury apartments in Chattanooga. It was erected next to the old First Baptist Church, built in 1888, a part of which still remains and which is included in the proposed Fountain Square District. The Robinson Apartments contained a facade reminiscent of antebellum homes indicated by large white fluted Corinthian columns. The old educational wing of the First Baptist Church located at 317 Oak Street houses the Hamilton County Department of Education offices. This building retains architectural sandstone detailing which is identical to that of the original sanctuary wing demolished in 1967.

The proposed district exhibits architectural cohesiveness through the use of classical revival details on various structures, although different periods and different orders provide interest at street level. All of the buildings in the district along Georgia Avenue have a uniform setback from the curb line and have similar qualities of construction

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chattanooga Times, March 13, 1912; May 18, 1924; June 10, 1928; January 21, 1953; October 24, 1974; August 9, 1978.  
Chattanooga Yesterday and Today, Vol. 4, 1964, Heiner Printing Company, Chattanooga, TN.  
City Directory of Chattanooga (1914), G. M. Connelly, Publisher.  
 Joseph L. Herndon, "Architects in Tennessee until 1930: A Dictionary" (M.A. Thesis, Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, Columbia University, 1975).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Map of Chattanooga and vicinity (1914), Plate 1, G. M. Hopkins Co.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2

QUADRANGLE NAME Chattanooga, TN QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	6	5	4	5	4	0	3	8	7	9	7	3	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is an irregular-shaped tract which is bounded as follows: beginning at the southeast corner of West Sixth Street and Lookout Street; thence east to the southeast curb of Georgia Avenue; thence along the northeast curb of Georgia Avenue to the south corner of Georgia Avenue and Vine Street;

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

Martha Carver, Preservation Planner, and Kurt Stagmaier, AIA, (606 Georgia Avenue)

ORGANIZATION

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Planning Commission

DATE

December 1978

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall Annex

TELEPHONE

(615) 757-6216

CITY OR TOWN

Chattanooga

STATE

Tennessee 37402

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Herbert L. Stagner*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

2/1/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles R. ...*

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3/28/79

DATE

3/27/79

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throughout. Except for the Department of Education Building, all structures face the Fireman's Memorial Fountain and the square. Across Georgia Avenue and Lookout Streets the Hamilton County Courthouse with its verdant lawn and to the northeast the Provident Life Insurance home office building with its beautiful gardens provide a sense of containment which in turn provides a sense of scale to the Fountain Square District. The district is at a higher elevation than the central business district, four or five blocks away, and has scenic views of such historical places as Lookout Mountain, Signal Mountain and Elder Mountain. All structures other than the Fireman's Memorial Fountain were built within a twenty-year period and therefore present a tapestry of trends and methods of detailing of the period between 1905 and 1930. The facades of the buildings are representative of this period and make extensive use of tile, terracotta and Spanish elements combined with classical revival details.

Several individuals should be noted in the development of this district. The most outstanding was Adolph Ochs, owner of the Chattanooga Times and subsequently owner of the New York Times. He was instrumental in the acquisition and erection of the Fireman's Memorial Fountain which was dedicated on June 9, 1888, as a tribute to the two firemen, William Peak and Henry Iler, who lost their lives in 1887 in the fire which destroyed The Bee Hive Store, at that time an outstanding Chattanooga store. Also contributing much to the district were Dr. J. McChesney Hogshead and F. T. Hardwick, builders of the Hardwick-Hogshead Apartments. Dr. Hogshead was an outstanding physician in Chattanooga, having studied at the University of Virginia and then in London and Vienna before opening practice in Chattanooga. Mr. Hardwick was one of the leading bankers in the north Georgia section of the Chattanooga area.

The Fountain Square District has had many positive effects on the Chattanooga community and since the turn of the century has been, and still remains, a viable self-supporting entity. It is now one of the center city's best shopping and meeting areas. It was the locale of the very popular and newsy column, "Fountain Square Conversations," written by Emma Bell Miles which ran for many years in the old Chattanooga News. No intrusions have occurred within the district with respect to newer structures, and the adaptive renovation and restoration work within the district have increased the public awareness of the necessity of preservation and restoration of historic buildings and districts. It is one of the last remaining Chattanooga areas with facades essentially intact and unchanged from their original state. The Fireman's Memorial Fountain provides a vertical orientation of the district and a terminus when approached from the north, the south or the west. With the restoration and preservation that has occurred in the district, Fountain Square will for many years remain a "living room" for Chattanooga people.

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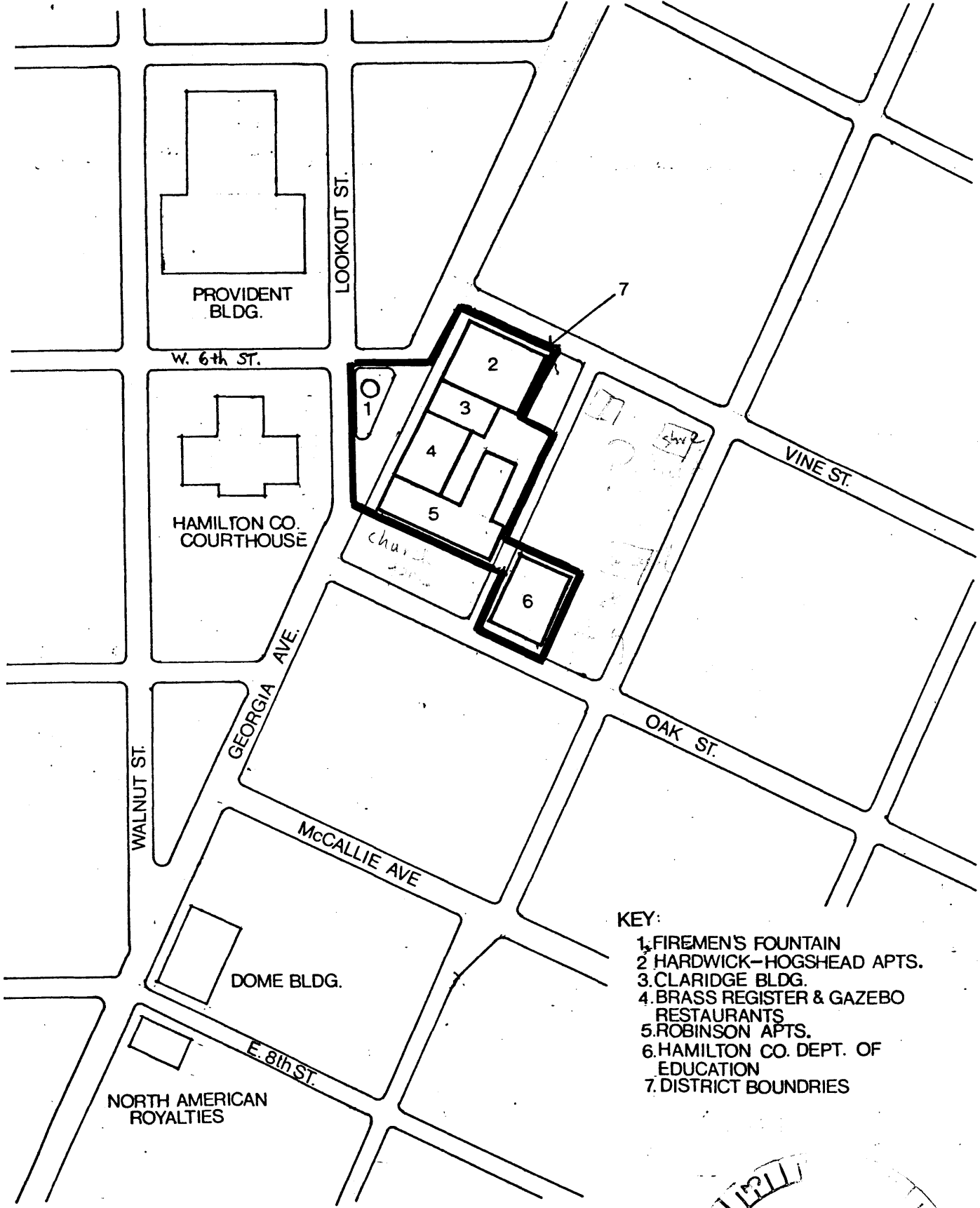
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thence along the southwest curb of Vine Street to the east corner of No. 2; thence along the southeast property line of No. 2 to the south corner of No. 2; thence southeast to the northwest edge of an alley; thence along the northwest edge of the alley to a point opposite the north corner of No. 6; thence southeast along the northeast property line of No. 6 to the east corner of No. 6; thence southwest along the southeast property line of No. 6 to the northeast curb of Oak Street; thence northwest along the northeast curb of Oak Street to the intersection with the alley; thence along the southeast edge of the alley to a point opposite the south corner of No. 5; thence northwest along the southwest property line of No. 5 to the center line of Georgia Avenue; thence north along the east curb of Lookout Street to the beginning.





- KEY:
- 1. FIREMEN'S FOUNTAIN
  - 2. HARDWICK-HOGSHEAD APTS.
  - 3. CLARIDGE BLDG.
  - 4. BRASS REGISTER & GAZEBO RESTAURANTS
  - 5. ROBINSON APTS.
  - 6. HAMILTON CO. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
  - 7. DISTRICT BOUNDRIES

# location map

## fountain square district

