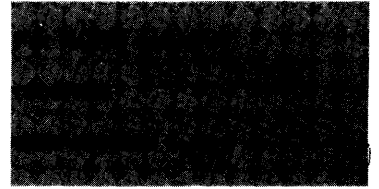


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Adams Avenue Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Adams and Washington Avenues not for publication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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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-see attached list

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Registrar's Office

street & number 160 North Main Street

city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date January 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Memphis Landmarks Commission, 22 N. Front Street

city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

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

Adams Avenue was designated in the original city plan as one of Memphis' major east-west thoroughfares. It became a major link between the Mississippi River to the west and the Charleston Rail Depot on the east (now demolished), and was a mixture of financial and residential buildings. However, at the beginning of the twentieth century, governmental and religious buildings had come to dominate lower Adams Avenue, and those buildings remain the dominant uses of Adams Avenue today. Among these buildings are excellent examples of Neo-classical and earlier Gothic Revival architecture. In the block between Third and Fourth Streets, just east of the district boundary, remain several Italianate Victorian detached townhouses which reflect an earlier way of life when the area was largely residential in character. Some of these are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Adams Avenue Historic District contains six structures, all of which contribute to the significance of the district. They are:

1. North Memphis Savings Bank - 110 Adams (1901) - Six story commercial-style building with four vertical rows of bay windows, in center bays of six bay arrangement. First story faced with smooth rusticated stone, top five stories faced with brick.
2. Engine House Number One - 118 Adams (1910) - Two story stone facade, classical detailing, two large arched entries between square smooth Tuscan pilasters, exaggerated keystones at doors and windows.
3. Central Police Station - 130 Adams (1911) - Two story stone, Neo-classical with extended Tetra-style portico using Ionic columns.
4. Criminal Courts Building - 156 Washington (1925) - Neo-classical four story stone facade, classic cornice at second story and at top stories, center pavilion. Top two stories recessed from bottom stories. Stone volutes at corners indicating Baroque influence.
5. Shelby County Courthouse - 160 Adams (1909) - Neo-classical, two story stone facade. Ionic colonnade, sculptured tympanum. Six large statues flank the south and east entrances, and an interior courtyard is found in the center of the structure.
6. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church - 190 Adams (1852) - Two story Gothic brick stuccoed structure. Two heavily buttressed octagonal towers flank south facing central door. Other exterior features include pointed arch windows with curvilinear and Y-tracery as well as finials and battlements.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** Various-see below

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Adams Avenue Historic District is significant primarily because of the architecture of its buildings, representing various styles of the profession.

The architecture of this section of the city contains very significant examples of Gothic Revival and Neo-classical Revival styles. The former are represented by the church buildings in the area, which are not only outstanding stylistically, but are also some of the earliest buildings still extant in Memphis. An important Gothic structure, St. Peter's Catholic Church, was built in 1854 and designed by Architect Patrick C. Keeley. St. Peter's was the first Catholic Church organized in Memphis. Construction of the present church was begun around the smaller church, which was disassembled and removed upon completion of the larger structure.

Governmental buildings in the district exemplify some of the finest Neo-classical Revival styles of Memphis. The Shelby County Courthouse is a particularly outstanding example of this school. Built in 1909, it was designed by the firm of H. D. Hale and Jas-Gamble Rogers, both of whom were students of the Ecole of Beaux Arts in Paris. Interior and exterior detailing shows the influence of this school. The other fine Neo-classical buildings in this district are the Central Police Station (1911), the Fire Engine Housing Number One (1910) and the Criminal Court Building (1925), designed by Jones and Furbringer, architects.

The North Memphis Savings Bank (1901) was designed by Architect Max H. Furbringer. This ornate commercial style building was later owned by E. H. Crump Insurance Company and served as offices for "Boss" Crump, the unofficial Mayor of Memphis. Many decisions concerning the growth and development of the city were made from this building.

The architecture of the Adams Avenue District, together with the origins of its churches and its political associations, combine to make it an area unique and significant to the history of Memphis.

9. Major Bibliographical References

National Register Nominations: The First James Lee House and the Causey-Ellis-Smith and Weiss Law Offices.
 Interview, Mimi White, July, 1978.
 Memphis Public Library and Information Center, Memphis Room: Obituaries, Memphis City Directories.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 9
 Quadrangle name Northwest Memphis, Tenn.-Ark.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 5	7 6 8 9 7 0	3 8 9 3 3 3 0	B	1 5	7 6 8 9 2 0	3 8 9 3 1 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 5	7 6 8 5 9 0	3 8 9 3 2 4 0	D	1 5	7 6 8 6 4 0	3 8 9 3 4 2 0
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the corner of Adams Avenue and Main St., thence proceeding eastward along Adams Avenue to the southeast corner of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church property; thence northward to the northeast corner of said property; thence westward to Third Street; thence northward along Third Street to the northeast corner of the

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 Herbert L. Harper, Executive Director
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date January 1980
 street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

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. Harper
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 8/25/80

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	<u>Carol O'Shull</u>	date <u>11-25-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register		
Attest: <u>Sandra Flint McClelland</u>		date <u>11-25-80</u>
Chief of Registration		

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Continuation sheet

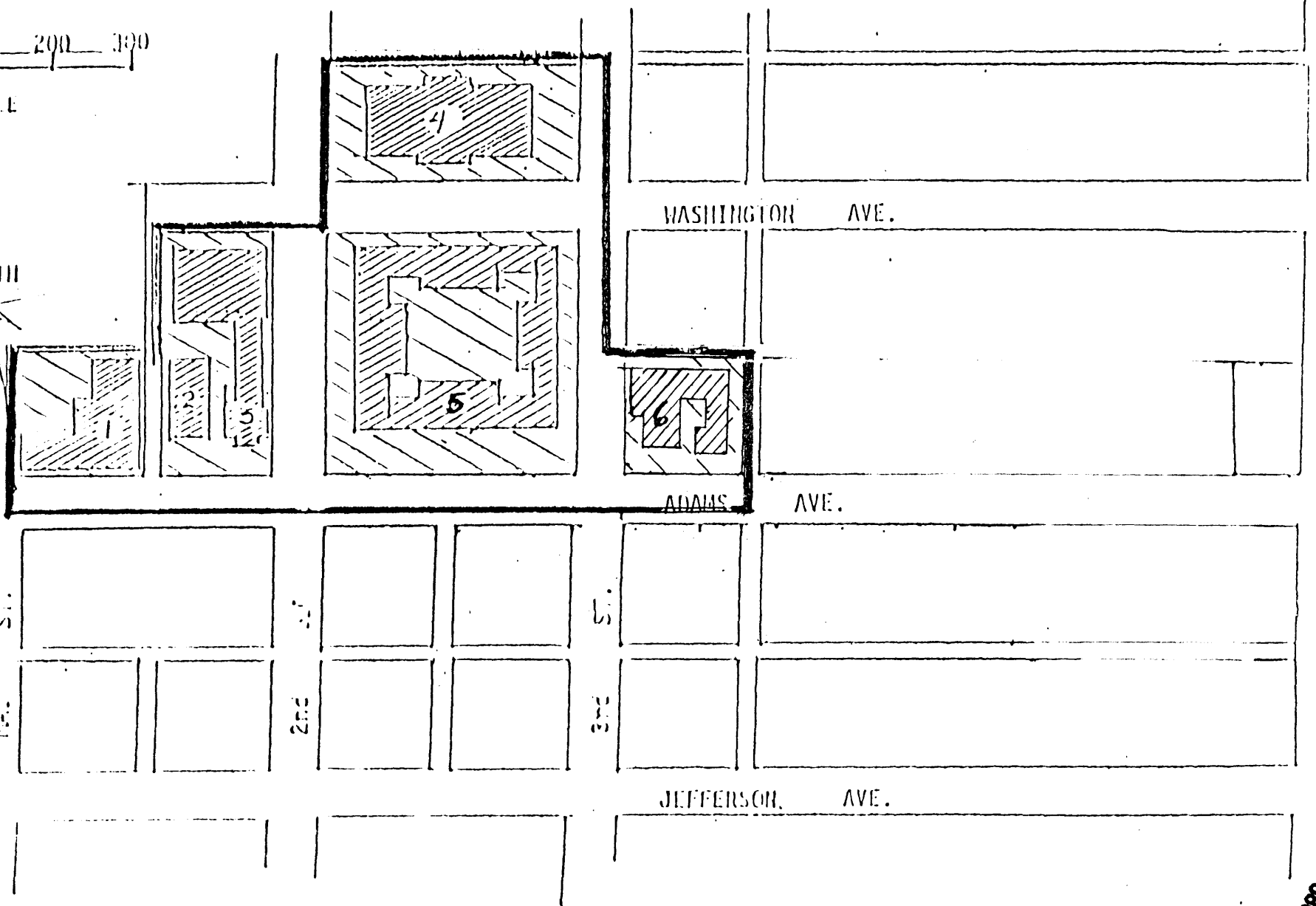
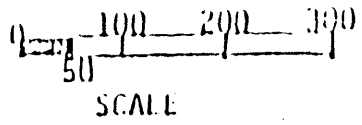
Item number 10

Page 2

Criminal Courts Building; thence westward along the north boundary of the Criminal Courts Building to Second Street; thence southward along Second Street to Washington Avenue; thence westward along the north boundary of the Central Police Station property to its northwest corner; thence southward along the west boundary of the Central Police Station property to the northeast corner of the Crump Building property; thence westward along the north boundary of the Crump Building property to Main Street; thence southward along Main Street to the point of beginning.

The boundaries of the district are outlined on the enclosed map.

ADAMS AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT



NOV 25 1981

SEP 2 1980