

**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 Overbrook

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 4218 Harding Road N/A— not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Tennessee code 045 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" 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	<u>N/A</u> 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 Dominican Sisters - St. Cecilia Congregation
Mother Assumpta Long, O.P., St. Cecilia Motherhouse

street & number Eighth Avenue North

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37208

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davidson County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

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

Overbrook is a largely unaltered brick Neoclassic Revival suburban mansion built in 1913 by Joseph Warner. Stuccoed white, the house is L-shaped with a long symmetrical seven-bay facade of round-arched double-leaf doors with fanlights on the first floor and rectangular double-leaf doors and 1/1 light windows on the second floor; a three-bay recessed central plane with a first-story plain entablature, Tuscan columns, and iron balustrade located beneath double-leaf doors and pilasters; a dentiled cornice, a balustraded parapet in front of a mansard slate roof with gabled dormers; corner porches with paneled parapets and Tuscan columns; and an encircling limestone terrace. Overbrook is located at the end of a long (.2 mile) paved driveway off Harding Road in West Nashville on the campus of Aquinas Junior College, St. Cecilia Academy and Overbrook School. The house, which has served as a convent since 1957, is situated between the 1961 college classroom and office buildings and the 1961 primary school buildings. The house, its original two-story stuccoed brick guest house, and one-story stuccoed brick garage are situated atop a rise in the slightly rolling topography of the 90-acre campus and therefore physically dominate the other school buildings. Various types of trees informally dot the landscape.

The house has two additions: a one-story concrete block, flat-roofed room which serves as a chapel for the convent located in the corner of the rear ell, and a 1940s L-shaped one-story frame dormitory to the east of the house. The additions are somewhat incompatible but do not greatly detract from the architectural integrity of the house. An insubstantial breezeway leads from the east elevation door of the house to the orange brick classrooms of the St. Cecilia Academy.

Overbrook's interior, practically unaltered, is elegant and Georgian in decoration. The central hall plan of the interior has on the first floor a parlor on the west side of the hall, a dining room on the east side of the hall, and a service wing with a butler's pantry and kitchen north of the dining room; bedrooms on the second story are located in the same arrangement. The central hall is dominated by a large dogleg Georgian staircase with a wide landing which extends across the full width of the hall. Under the landing is a floor-length mantel with paired Tuscan columns. Three tall round-arched windows on the landing are separated by pilasters; the pilasters are repeated at the top of the stairway and divide three round-arched bedroom doors. In all three rooms of the first floor are paneled wainscoting and heavy crown molding. Four pocket glazed double-leaf doors are located in the central hall on both sides of the fireplace and leading to the parlor and dining room. A Georgian mantel is featured in the parlor on the west wall between round-arched double-leaf doorways which match those across the facade. The door arrangement is repeated on the east wall of the dining which features a cove ceiling.

Outbuildings included in the nomination, considered contributing elements, are the original guest house and garage located behind the house. The guest house is stuccoed brick, rectangular-shaped, two-stories, has a stone foundation and has a slate hipped roof with metal ridges. Neoclassic Revival in character to complement Overbrook, the guest house features a three-bay facade with 9/9 light rectangular windows and a central round-arched doorway and portico with gabled roof, Tuscan columns, and pilasters. The hipped roof has an eyebrow dormer and is trimmed with a short stuccoed parapet over a plain cornice. The garage is one-story, stuccoed brick and has a slate hipped roof with metal ridges. The parapet and cornice of the guest house are repeated on the garage. A recent awning covers the three garage door openings which have been infilled with windows and a door.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Overbrook is nominated under Criterion C for architectural significance in Nashville and Davidson County. It is an architecturally distinguished example of an early twentieth century suburban estate, which, despite alterations, retains integrity of design and setting. The nominated property consists of the main house and two outbuildings, all Neoclassic Revival in style, and a portion of the original 96 acres of surrounding grounds.

Overbrook was built for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Warner. Warner joined his father, James C. Warner, in the latter's successful iron business. Among Joseph's siblings were brothers Percy and Edwin, both of whom were prime movers in the development of Nashville's extensive public parks system. This generation of the Warner family, wealthy, socially prominent, and public-spirited, was among Nashville's leading citizens.

The house was bought in 1923 by the St. Cecilia Congregation of the Dominican Sisters for future use as a school. The Dominican Sisters had come to Nashville in 1860 and opened St. Cecilia Academy, a secondary school for girls that year. Overbrook was leased as a residence until 1936 when Overbrook School, a coeducational elementary school, was established and began operating in the house. In 1961 new buildings were built on the grounds to house Overbrook School, St. Cecilia Academy, and the newly established Aquinas Junior College. At this time Overbrook was converted to house the sisters teaching in these three institutions.

Built in 1913, Overbrook is a classic revival design, reflecting on a residential scale the popularity of the Beaux Arts style. Its symmetrical plan, generous windows, pale colors, and academically "correct" detail contrast dramatically with the Victorian eclecticism current in Nashville as recently as ten years earlier, and create an effect of elegance, restraint, and formality. The wealth of Overbrook's builder is quietly proclaimed by its richness of detail, its generous scale, especially in the stair hall, and the casual park-like character of its vast grounds. This is a design of artistic merit and is outstanding in the local context.

Overbrook is unusual in others ways. Only three and one-half miles from the heart of the central business district, the estate is surprisingly close to town. Similar estates were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but all were farther out. Furthermore, most of these are now gone or are seriously altered, making Overbrook an increasingly lonely survivor. It is also a survivor on a rapidly changing thoroughfare. West End Avenue, which continues as Harding Road, was the last of Nashville's major arteries to develop. Its development began in the late nineteenth century; and by the 1920s, it was lined with comfortable houses, a typical fashionable residential boulevard. Closer to town, the houses were located on small urban lots and, a bit farther out, on more generous grounds. Overbrook was one of the larger houses on the street and, with ninety-six acres, had by far the most property. West End Avenue and Harding Road have changed drastically since World War II. Overbrook is now one of a small and dwindling number of houses on the street and the only one left with substantial grounds.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lenahan, Kyran L. "An Historical Study of the Saint Cecilia Motherhouse, Nashville, Tennessee," an unpublished manuscript in the Tennessee Historical Commission files, June, 1976.
 "Veritas", Centenary Publication, St. Cecilia congregation, Nashville, Tennessee, 1960.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1 acre
 Quadrangle name Nashville W., TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>51,41,2,0</u>	<u>3,9,9,8,4,0,0</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries of Overbrook are outlined in red on the accompanying Davidson County Property Assessor's Maps #s 103-11 and 103-12, Parcel 1. The boundaries are a distance of 75 feet from the front and side edges of the front porch on the NE, SE, and SW sides of the house. The NW boundary is a distance of 325 ft. from the SE boundary.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shain Dennison and David Paine
 organization Metropolitan Historical Commission date December 1983
 street & number 701 Broadway, Customs House telephone 615-259-5027
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

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.

Deputy
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title _____ date 2/27/84

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>for Allores Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>3/29/84</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

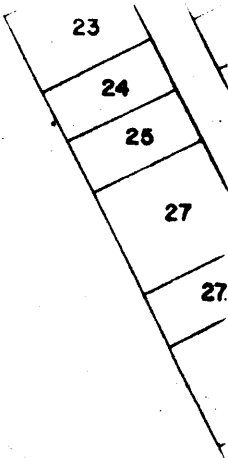
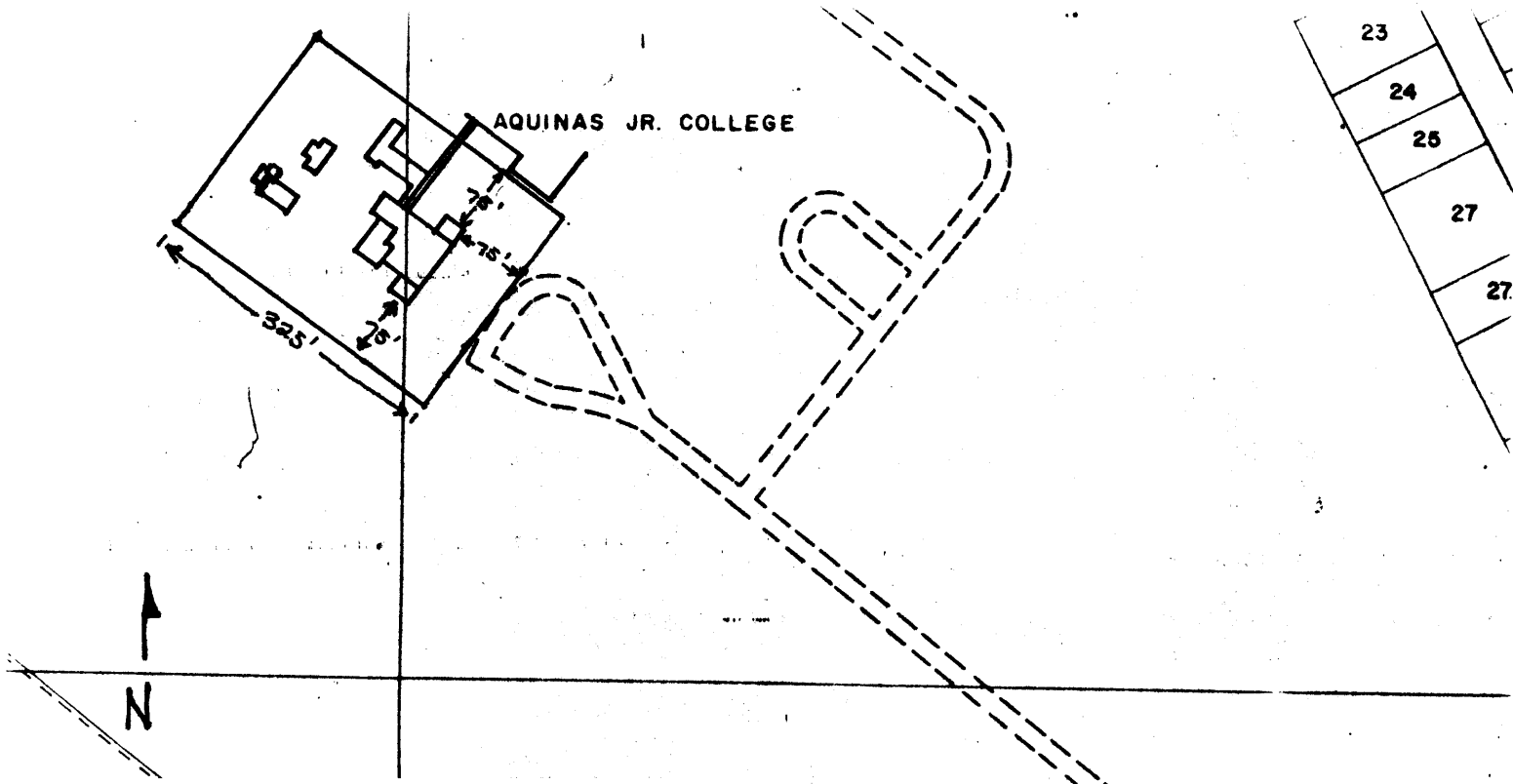
date entered

Continuation sheet *Overbrook*

Item number 8

Page 2

Though *Overbrook* has changed in its conversion to academic use, it retains much of its original character as an architecturally distinguished house and as a suburban estate. It offers a valuable picture of stylish living in the American suburbs at the turn of the century, and retains its residential character on a formerly fashionable boulevard which has changed into a commercial strip.



Overbrook
4218 Harding Road
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Property Map 1" = 200'

