

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 Fifth Avenue Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

Roughly bounded by

street & number ~~Along sections of Church Street, Union Streets and Fourth~~ ^{4th} ~~not for publication~~ ^{N/A}

^{5th} ~~Fifth and Sixth Avenues~~

city, town Nashville ^{6th} ~~N/A~~ vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	^{N/A} <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 type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Davidson County Courthouse

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Downtown Nashville Plan and Development Program
title Historical-Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fifth Avenue Historic District contains twenty-eight structures located in the Central Business District of downtown Nashville (pop. 480,000). It is bounded on the north by Union Street, on the south by Church Street, on the west by Sixth Avenue and on the east by Fourth Avenue. The majority of buildings in the district were constructed in the late 19th century and are of two to six stories in height. All but three of the twenty-eight buildings contribute to the character of the district. This area is the commercial center of the city and all of the buildings are occupied by restaurants or retail establishments. The buildings are of masonry construction with ornamental detailing of stone, brick and terra-cotta in the Italianate, Chicago commercial, and Art Deco styles. While some changes have been made to the storefronts of the buildings, the majority have retained their original architectural characteristics.

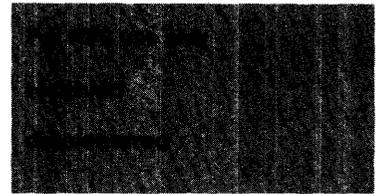
The Fifth Avenue area has traditionally been the shopping and retail center of downtown Nashville. It is located adjacent to the city's financial district, offices of the State of Tennessee, and other major office centers. Fifth Avenue has always enjoyed a healthy business climate and all of the buildings are occupied for commercial use. Within the district area is a major department store complex, ten clothing stores, three restaurants, and a variety of other businesses such as jewelry and card shops. Despite the concentration of businesses there is a high rate of vacancy in these buildings due to the non-utilization of upper floor space. Most buildings are occupied only on the ground story and the upper floor areas are vacant.

The majority of building styles in the district reflect the Italianate, Chicago commercial and Art Deco period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This area was primarily a residential and small business center in the ante-bellum Nashville. After the Civil War the area rapidly developed into a major commercial area which catered to women's clothing and furnishings. The earliest buildings reflective of this period are the St. Cloud Block and the Thompson building both of which were constructed in the late 1860s. In the next two decades construction increased rapidly in this area with over a dozen buildings erected between 1870 and 1890. The majority of these buildings contain detailing characteristic of the Italianate style such as rounded arch windows, hood molding, decorative metal cornices and terra-cotta.

Between 1890 and 1920 six buildings were constructed in the district which were built in the Chicago commercial style. These buildings are characterized by rectangular sash windows, glazed brick and simplified ornamentation. A major building complex was added to the district in 1903 with the construction of Nashville's Arcade (NR) which increased the area's popularity for shoppers. After 1920 three 19th century structures were replaced by larger Art Deco buildings which display sleek vertical lines and glazed terra-cotta decoration.

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Since 1935 no new construction has occurred in the district area. Alterations to the buildings in past decades have consisted primarily of new storefront designs on the ground story. Only three of the buildings have received major alterations and cannot be considered contributive to the district. Of these, one appears to be reversible and could be considered contributive if applied materials are removed at a later date. Because of the few changes which have occurred in the district the architectural character of the area is particularly significant.

The buildings are categorized into contributing and non-contributing structures. Contributing buildings (C) are significant in the historic and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use and texture of the district. Non-contributing buildings (N) disrupt the scale and texture of the district, have little architectural significance, or have been considerably altered. Each building is listed by street address with their historic name in parentheses. The current occupant is listed at the end of the description.

1. 202-204 Sixth Avenue North: Built in 1929, this three-story brick building was designed by Nashville architects Marr and Holman. Although altered on the storefront level the upper facade still displays its original features. The building's facade is composed of stone and marble and its sleek lines are reflective of the Art Deco period. The upper facade is three bays wide and the central bay contains three sections of fixed single pane windows. Each section is separated by a copper pilaster topped with an ornamental copper urn. This central window area is surrounded by rectangular marble panels. The flanking bays consist of rectangular stone panels and fluted pilasters with floral motif capitals. Three decorative copper modillions are located near the roofline. The interior of the building on the upper two floors has been subdivided into office space. Sam Small Jewelry. (C) ✓

2. 526-530 Church Street (Wilcox Building): The Wilcox building was constructed in 1894 and has been the site of major department stores throughout its history. It is a six-story commercial vernacular masonry structure and remains relatively unaltered above its storefront. The ground story has been altered through the introduction of modern tile and a metal canopy. The second floor has been covered with plywood to the mid-length of the windows. The Sixth Avenue facade features one-over-one rectangular sash windows on the upper facade with the exception of the central four windows on the fourth floor which have rounded arch transoms. Above the fifth floor are two terra-cotta belt courses. The attic story features a blind arcade with paired Romanesque arches with terra-cotta hood molding. At the roofline are several horizontal bands of corbelled brick and modillion blocks. The Church Street facade is similar to the that of Sixth Avenue with the central three windows on the fourth floor containing rounded arch transoms. The interior has been altered many times over the years by various department stores and is presently used for offices and storage. Harvey's. (C)

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3. 514-524 Church Street (LeBeck Building): In 1921 this four-story commercial vernacular brick building was constructed by the LeBeck family on the site of their original two-story department store. The building's ground story has been altered through the use of modern tiles and an added metal canopy. The upper facade is nine bays wide and is divided into three sections separated by brick pilasters with Doric motif capitals. The rectangular windows have single lights with transom bars and transoms. The horizontality of the building is accented at the fourth floor with a stone belt course and cornice. A small half story was added to the top of the building ca. 1950 and the building extended to cover the adjacent alley. The interior is used for retail space and still displays its original expanses of pressed tin ceilings throughout each floor. Harvey's. (C)

4. 510-512 Church Street (Warner Building): Built ca. 1880, this three-story brick building was originally constructed in the commercial Italianate style. The ground story has been altered with modern tile and an added metal canopy. The upper facade is five bays wide with each bay containing a rounded arch window. The windows are one-over-one sash with corbelled brick surrounds and rest on a continuous stone sill. Between each window are recessed brick panels with corbelled brick. The roofline still displays decorative corbelled brickwork but its original sheet metal cornice has been removed. The interior of the building has undergone remodeling with the first floor used for retail space while the upper floors are vacant. Song's Fashions. (C)

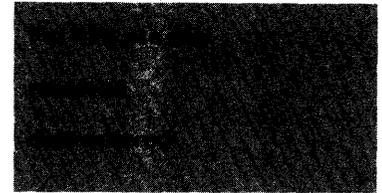
5. 506-508 Church Street: Constructed ca. 1880, this three-story commercial vernacular brick building has been altered on the ground story through the application of modern tiles and a metal canopy. The upper facade remains essentially intact and is one of the most unusual in the downtown area. The upper facade is six bays wide with one-over-one sash windows in each bay. The second story features segmental arched windows with a continuous stone sill. These windows feature flaired arching of stone and brick with a cross motif is the keystones. The third story windows display unusual shoulder arches with stone surrounds. Both floors exhibit alternating stone and brick banding and decorative pilasters. The pilasters have varying patterns of pellet and zig zag molding with Doric motif capitals. The original sheet metal cornice at the roofline has been removed. Remodeling has taken place several times on the interior with the ground story utilized for retail space while the upper floors are vacant. Zales. (C)

6. 201 Fifth Avenue North (St. Cloud Block): The St. Cloud Block was constructed in 1869 in the Second Empire style, however, in recent decades the original mansard roof was removed. This four-story historic block was recently renovated into retail and office space but its essential architectural characteristics are still evident. The ground story has been remodeled with new plate glass windows and entryways. The upper facade remains intact and

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features rounded arch windows with one-over-one sash. The major bays on both the Church Street and Fifth Avenue facades are separated by limestone pilasters with Doric capitals and each floor is separated by a horizontal belt course. The central bay on the Fifth Avenue facade is sheathed in limestone from the first to third floors. Remodeling has taken place on the fourth floor with new rectangular windows and an added wooden cornice. The interior has been altered several times in the past century and is used for both retail and office space. St. Cloud Corner. (C)

7. 211 Fifth Avenue North (Connell-Hall-McLester Building): This six-story brick and steel building was constructed in 1889 with elements of both the Victorian Romanesque and Chicago Commercial styles. The building has recently been restored and the exterior has not been significantly altered. The storefront consists of new plate glass windows and transoms separated by battered brick piers with limestone bases. At the top of the piers are short paired columns with elaborate Norman capitals. The central piers culminate into a large rock faced stone arch on the second story over the entryway. This arch features a decorative keystone with a sculptured stone female figure. The upper facade is three bays wide with two one-over-one sash windows in each bay. Each window has jack arching and rests on a rock faced stone sill. At the roofline is an open Romanesque arcade with corbelled brick decoration. The interior contains an original atrium and skylight which extends the entire height of the building. All floors of this building are utilized for retail and office space. St. Cloud Corner. (C)

8. 213 Fifth Avenue North (Thompson Building): This three-story commercial vernacular building was originally constructed in 1868 and was one of Nashville's leading retail stores. It originally featured windows with elaborate hood molding, stone quoins, and a sheet metal cornice. In 1932 the building was altered by the Feldman Company which applied rectangular glazed terra-cotta panels to the upper facade and remodeled the storefront. The original brickwork on the central bay of the upper facade was left exposed but new fixed casement windows were installed. The flanking bays of terra-cotta are multi-colored and exhibit two decorative terra-cotta medallions of floral design. A portion of the original stone quoins are still visible on the south corner. The interior consists of open floor space on all floors with the ground story occupied by a restaurant while the upper floors remain vacant. Health Food Restaurant. (C)

9. 215 Fifth Avenue North (Fletcher Baxter Building): Constructed in 1894, this three-story building is derivative of the Victorian Romanesque style. The storefront was altered in 1937 for retail use but the upper facade still displays its original architectural character. The building is constructed of brick with a limestone facade. The second floor features two large rounded arch windows

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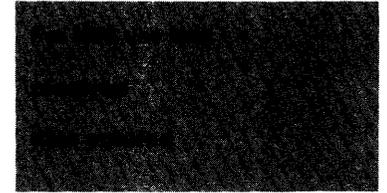
with radiating voussoirs. Each window has a single fixed light with flanking one-over-one sash windows. The two arched windows are joined by a stone column with an elaborate Norman capital. The third floor contains four rounded arch one-over-one sash windows separated by short columns with cushion capitals. Below the windows is a closed balustrade, dentils and projecting stone cornice. At the roofline is a sheet metal cornice with acanthus leaf motif brackets. All three floors consist of open floor space with few partitions. The ground story is utilized for retail space while the upper floors remain vacant. Dollar General Store. (C)

10. 217 Fifth Avenue North (Skalowski Building): This three-story commercial vernacular building was erected in 1908. The ground story was altered in 1937 but the upper facade still displays its original details and glazed brickwork. The upper facade is four bays wide with each bay containing a one-over-one sash window. The windows share a common stone sill and have soldier coursing on the window heads. Above the third story windows are rectangular panels with herringbone pattern brickwork. Beyond these panels is an attic story with porthole windows with stone keystones. At the roofline is an open porthole arcade and corbelled brick. Behind the building's modest exterior is one of the most ornate interior areas in downtown Nashville. The building was constructed as an ice cream parlor and restaurant and the original pressed tin ceiling is extant under the false ceiling on the first floor. Each of the upper two floors contain a ballroom and private dining areas. The most striking interior feature is a massive oak staircase and skylight area connecting the second and third floors. This upper floor area is presently vacant and the altered first floor is used for retail space. Dollar General Store. (C)

11. 219 Fifth Avenue North (McGuire Building): Built ca. 1870, this three-story commercial vernacular brick building has undergone several changes since its construction. The original storefront of this building was altered ca. 1910 and a new facade of Carrara glass was added to the first and second floors in 1939. Above the second floor the exterior still displays its original architectural features. The storefront is recessed and contains large plate glass display cases. The second story is sheathed in Carrara glass panels which obscure the original facade. Above the second story the facade is still intact and features three rectangular one-over-one sash windows. The windows have stone hood molding with decorative end caps. Below the windows is a continuous stone sill and corbelled brick in a zig zag pattern. At the roofline is a sheet metal cornice with large brackets, modillion blocks and decorative panels. The interior consists of open floor space on all three floors. The building is occupied for retail space on the first floor while the upper floors are vacant. Allen's. (C)

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12. 221-225 Fifth Avenue North: This three-story building was constructed ca. 1930 and was designed during the Art Deco period. The first floor facade has been altered in recent years but the upper facade has retained its original character. The upper facade consists of multi-colored terra-cotta panels with five casement windows on the central bay of each floor. The flanking bays feature stalk like pilasters and floral decoration fashioned of terra-cotta. At the roofline is a undulating cornice of terra-cotta panels. The interior consists of open floor space on all three floors. An original mezzanine level is still present on the first floor. The building is utilized for retail use on the first floor with vacant upper floor areas. Revco. (C)

13. 227 Fifth Avenue North (Tynes Building): Built ca. 1895, this three-story brick building is reflective of the Chicago Commercial style. The storefront was altered in 1937 and features a recessed entrance with large display cases and a marble facing on the first floor. The upper facade is original and is three bays wide. Each bay contains a large one-over-one sash window. Above the second story windows are transoms with purple prism glass while the third story windows display clear two-light transoms. The windows on both floors are recessed and have a corbelled brick surround. Above the third floor windows is a stone cornice and central decorative stone panel. At the roofline is a small sheet metal cornice with decorative brackets. The first floor of the building contains a retail establishment while the upper floors are vacant. Sam's Merchandise. (C)

14. 229-233 Fifth Avenue North (Wilson Building): This large three-story building was constructed in 1882 in the commercial Italianate style. The first floor has been altered several times in the past but the upper facade still exhibits its original Victorian character. The second and third stories feature one-over-one sash windows with stone segmental arched hood molding. Windows on both floors share a common stone sill. Between each window is an inset terra-cotta panel with florated designs. The north bay of the building is set apart by a corbelled brick pilaster which runs the height of the building. At the roofline is a row of corbelled brick and a sheet metal cornice with decorative brackets. The interior is composed of open floor space utilized for both retail and storage use. McClellan's. (C)

MC 15. 235 Fifth Avenue North: Built ca. 1870, this three story brick building was altered in 1937 with the removal of part of the first floor area and application of new materials on the facade. Because of these alterations the building cannot be considered contributive to the district. Burt's Shoes. (N)

16. 237-239 Fifth Avenue North (Kress Building): In 1935 the Kress Company of New York erected this five-story building on the site of their previous store. This building was constructed with a terra-cotta facade in the Art Deco style.

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The storefront has been altered in recent years by the present tenent but the remainder of the building retains its original character. The upper facade is three bays wide with the central bay containing four four-over-four sash windows on each floor. The flanking bays each contain two four-over-four sash windows with decorative spandrels. The three bays are separated by fluted terra-cotta piers. Above the fifth floor windows are multi-colored floral decoration and the word KRESS in red and gold letters. Also on this level over the flanking bays are inset panels with stylized Art Deco figures. The interior of the upper floors consists of various offices and display areas which are presently vacant. A restaurant occupies the ground story. McDonald's. (C)

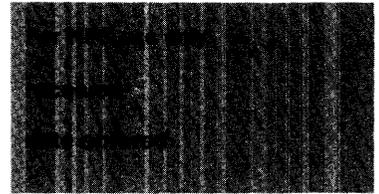
17. 417 Union Street: This two-story brick building was constructed in 1898 along with the adjacent building at 419 Union. It is a commercial vernacular structure facing both Union Street and an alley. It has an altered storefront with a plate glass window and offset doorway. The upper facade facing Union Street consists of two altered fifteen-over-fifteen sash windows. There is radiating arching over the windows and horizontal brick banding . Above the second story windows is a row of corbelled brick, egg and dart molding and a sheet metal cornice with large modillion blocks. Windows facing the alley on the upper floor are one-over-one sash. Both floors of the building are used as a restaurant. Satsuma's. (C)

18. 419 Union Street: Similar to 417, this two-story brick building was also constructed in 1898. The building's storefront has been altered but still features fluted Corinthian pilasters. The upper facade retains its original windows which are rectangular one-over-one sash with transoms. Other features similar to 417 include horizontal brick banding, egg and dart molding and a decorative sheet metal cornice. Both floors of this building consist of open space and are utilized for a restaurant. Sport's Page. (C)

19. 421 Union Street: Built in 1901, this two-story building was constructed in the Neo-Classic style and has not been significantly altered. It is of brick construction with a rock faced and ashlar finish stone facade. The storefront features a central doorway flanked by engaged Doric columns and Doric pilasters. The doorway has a large arched transom which matches the two windows on the storefront. The arches of the windows and transom features decorative keystones. Above the storefront is a stone cornice and belt course. The upper facade consists of a large rectangular single light window flanked by smaller one-over-one sash windows. Above these windows is a stone transom bar and transom. Separating the windows are stone pilasters with Norman capitals and urn motifs. At the roofline is a datestone and cornice with decorative brackets. The interior consists of office space. The Estes Company. (C)

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20. 423 Union Street (Swan Building): Built by a stonemason in 1873, this two story brick building has an ornate limestone facade. The storefront of this building has been altered with new materials. Over the storefront is a large stone cornice with large brackets and diamond insets. The upper facade still retains its original character and features three rounded arch one-over-one sash windows. The arches in the windows have keystones and between the windows are pilasters with Doric capitals. At the roofline is a heavy stone cornice with large brackets. The interior has been altered and consists of open floor space on both floors. Both floors are occupied by offices and a restaurant. Helma's Kitchen. (C)

21. 246 Fifth Avenue North: This three-story brick building was constructed ca. 1884 in the commercial vernacular style. The building faces both Fifth and Union and has an altered storefront on both facades. The upper floors have not been altered and feature rounded arch windows with brick relief arching. The original sash windows have been removed and replaced with modern casement windows. On either side of the windows is decorative corbelled brickwork and terra-cotta panels. At the roofline is a row of corbelled brick and a sheet metal cornice with decorative brackets. The interior of the third floor was originally used as a residence and still evident are fireplaces, mantels and Eastlake style wood doorways and trim. The first and second floors consist of open floor space. The first floor is used for retail purposes while the upper floors are vacant. Hallmark Card Shop. (C)

22. 244 Fifth Avenue North: Built ca. 1880, this three-story brick building has been altered through the application of stucco on the exterior. This alteration makes the building non-contributive to the district. Beneath the stucco is the building's original facade and the building could be contributive at a later date if its original facade is restored. Cotton Shop. (N)

23. 240-242 Fifth Avenue North (French Building): The facade of this four-story building is one of the most ornate and significant in Nashville. This brick building was constructed in 1889 by the French Piano Company with an elaborate sheet metal facade which remains in good condition. The storefront has been altered with new materials and sign panels. The upper facade is three bays wide with three one-over-one sash windows in each section. These windows are rectangular with transom bars and transoms. Each bay is separated by metal piers with floral decoration, scallops, garlands, and stylized human faces. Above the fourth story is a large cornice with supporting telamones, brackets, modillions and attached urns. At the roofline is an arched metal parapet with a radiating sunburst motif and antefix. All of this sheet metal facade appears to be in good shape with few missing pieces. The interior of the building consists of open floor space with few partitions. A clothing store uses all four floors for its business and storage. Bank's. (C)

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24. 238 Fifth Avenue North (Vogel Building): This three-story brick commercial vernacular building was constructed ca. 1890. The storefront of this building has been altered in recent years with new plate glass display cases and entryway. The upper facade is intact although the windows have been covered with plywood. The windows were originally one-over-one sash with stone sills and wooden lintels. Above the third floor windows is a row of corbelled brick and a sheet metal cornice with decorative brackets. The interior of the upper floors contains fireplaces, mantels and decorative woodwork and painted wall frescoes. The first floor has been altered into retail space while the upper floors remain vacant. Fox's Wigs. (C)

25. 236 Fifth Avenue North: Originally built ca. 1890, this four story building has been altered through the application of a new stone facade. Because of this alteration this building cannot be considered contributive to the district. Family Booterie. (N)

26. Arcade, Fifth Avenue North: Nashville's Arcade was opened in 1903 and features a block wide enclosed area of offices and shops beneath a glass skylight. This building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. (C)

27. 223 Fourth Avenue North: This two-story brick commercial vernacular building was constructed ca. 1900. The storefront has been altered with new metal and glass additions. The upper facade is intact and is three bays wide. The central bay has a large window composed of structural glass with flanking casement windows. Above the windows is corbelled brick and a stepped parapet with a stone cap. Interior areas consist of open floor space with a restaurant occupying the first floor with the upper floor vacant. Manhattan Deli. (C)

28. 219-221 Fourth Avenue North: Restoration of this three-story brick double building is presently underway. The building was constructed in 1871 in the Italianate Commercial style. In past years one half of the original facade was removed and a new facade added. While the storefronts have been altered on both buildings, the 221 facade retains its original upper floor details. The upper two floors contain three one-over-one sash windows with rounded arching. On the corner of the building is a limestone pilaster which runs the height of the building. The building originally featured sheet metal hood molding and an elaborate metal cornice. Interior spaces consisted of open floor areas with skylights on both floors. This double building is being restored into office space with both facades restored back to their original condition. Vacant. (C)

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 checked="" 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 1870 to 1930s **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fifth Avenue Historic District is being nominated under criteria A and C.

The Fifth Avenue Historic District is significant both in Nashville's commercial history and architectural development. Located in the central business district, this area has traditionally been the retail center of the city and its architecture is reflective of a period of prosperity from 1870 to the 1930s. All of the buildings in the district pre-date 1935 and the majority retain their original architectural character. The district area continues to serve as a center for Nashville's retail trade. All of the buildings are occupied by clothing firms, restaurants and other small shops. The district represents an important concentration of historic architecture in downtown Nashville.

Before the Civil War the Fifth Avenue area was characterized by one to three-story brick stores and residences while most of the city's commercial activities centered on nearby Second Avenue. The post-war prosperity brought about an expansion of commercial activities in the city. The Church Street and Fifth Avenue area became one of the main centers of this development. Companies specializing in dry goods and clothing relocated to this area. Property changed hands often during this period with new brick buildings erected on the site of former residences and vacant lots.

The oldest buildings remaining from this era are the St. Cloud Block and the Thompson Building both of which were constructed in the late 1860s. The St. Cloud Block was built on the site of the St. Cloud Hotel and was built as a major storehouse for three businesses. One of the developers of the St. Cloud Block was Charles Thompson who opened an adjacent dry goods company in 1868 at 213 Fifth Avenue North. On Fourth Avenue the 219-221 Building was constructed in 1871 and occupied by the McEwen Steam Laundry Company which was the largest cleaning establishment in the city. All three buildings were substantial threestory brick buildings with Second Empire and Italianate detailing.

The construction of these two major buildings stimulated further construction in the area. Between 1870 and 1890 seven major buildings were constructed along Fifth Avenue, Fourth Avenue and Church Street. Most of these were designed in the Italianate, Romanesque or Chicago commercial styles. Occupants of these buildings catered to middle and upper-class women who shopped for clothing, shoes, sewing goods and household items. The 1888 City Directory lists four companies on this block of Fifth Avenue specializing in "Dry Goods" and six specializing in "Millinery or Fancy Goods." Other common establishments listed include music teachers, hair dressers, and sewing machine companies.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 6 acres

Quadrangle name Nashville West, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	1	9	8	2	0	4	0	0	2	0	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

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

C

1	6	5	1	9	6	6	0	4	0	0	1	8	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	6	5	1	9	6	0	0	4	0	0	1	9	6	0
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

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 Philip Thomason

organization Thomason and Associates date March 15, 1983

street & number 1700 Hayes Street telephone (615) 320-5732

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37212

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. Hayden

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/26/83

For NPS use only

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

Leon Dinkie date 12/5/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Fifth Avenue

Continuation sheet Historic District

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Many of Nashville's notable department stores opened their doors in the area during the late 19th century. In 1889 the Connell-Hall-McLester Company built the large six-story building at 211 Fifth Avenue. Constructed as an early shoppers mall with counters centered around a dramatic atrium, this "showplace of downtown" was occupied by the Castner-Knott Dry Goods Company in 1898. The building was later occupied by the Cain-Sloan Company and Harvey's. All three of these companies have become major department store chains in the Southeast, and Harvey's still occupies two buildings in the district on Church Street. Another major business of this period was the Jesse French Piano Company, one of the largest piano makers in the South, which constructed the ornate building at 240 Fifth Avenue in 1889. Other major businesses including the Kress Company, W.T. Grant Company, and Woolworths have or continue to occupy buildings in the district.

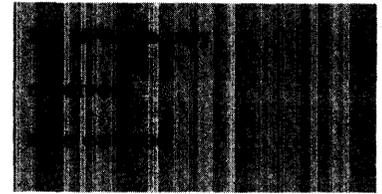
During the 1890s a distinctly Victorian phenomenon appeared in the downtown area. Fourth Avenue between Church and Union became known as the "Men's Quarter" with the city's most famous saloons and gambling houses located along this block. Respectable women did not enter this area. The corresponding block on Fifth Avenue became the center for women's shopping where businesses catered primarily to the female buyer. These distinctive centers for male and female activity are interesting examples of the segregation of the sexes frequently found in this era.

Between 1890 and 1910 the Fifth Avenue area reached its height of popularity as the retail center of the city. The Wilcox building, an important complex of shops and offices at the corner of Church and Sixth, was constructed in 1894. The first LeBeck building and three other brick buildings in the district were constructed during these years. In 1903 the Nashville Arcade created a new shopping complex for the downtown area along this block between Fourth and Fifth. Skalowski's, an elaborate ice cream parlor featuring an onyx soda fountain, mahogany woodwork and two ballrooms, was built in 1908 at 217 Fifth Avenue. Motion picture theatres were also found along Fifth Avenue. At 235 Fifth Avenue was the Strand Theatre, and on the east side of the street was the Rex and Fifth Avenue Theatres. These early theatres provided amusement for children while mothers shopped along the street. In the early 20th century Fifth Avenue was recognized as the most fashionable shopping and entertainment area in the city.

Construction of new retail establishments continued along Church Street and Fifth Avenue into the 1930s. In 1921 the Lebeck Company built a new four-story structure on the site of their original store on Church Street. The three story buildings at 202 Sixth Avenue and 221 Fifth Avenue were also constructed in the late 1920s. The last building erected in the district was the five-story Art Deco Kress Building constructed in 1935 which replaced its

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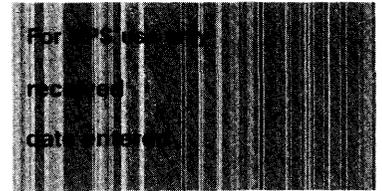
Continuation sheet Fifth Avenue Historic District Item number 8 Page 3

earlier store on this site. Construction in the district ceased with the Kress Building , and though many of the storefronts or interiors were altered in later years the basic architectural configuration of the district remains unchanged.

The Fifth Avenue Historic District is still an active commercial area of downtown Nashville with distinctive architectural character. While retail establishments still occupy the first floor of these buildings the upper floors are often vacant. Today attention is once again focused on this area of downtown Nashville, and there is new appreciation for its architectural and historic resources. The Fifth Avenue Historic District is downtown Nashville's one remaining concentration of architecturally significant properties not presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These properties constitute an important architectural, historical and commercial resource reflective of the evolution of downtown Nashville.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

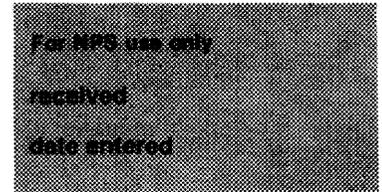
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Fifth Avenue

Continuation sheet Historic District

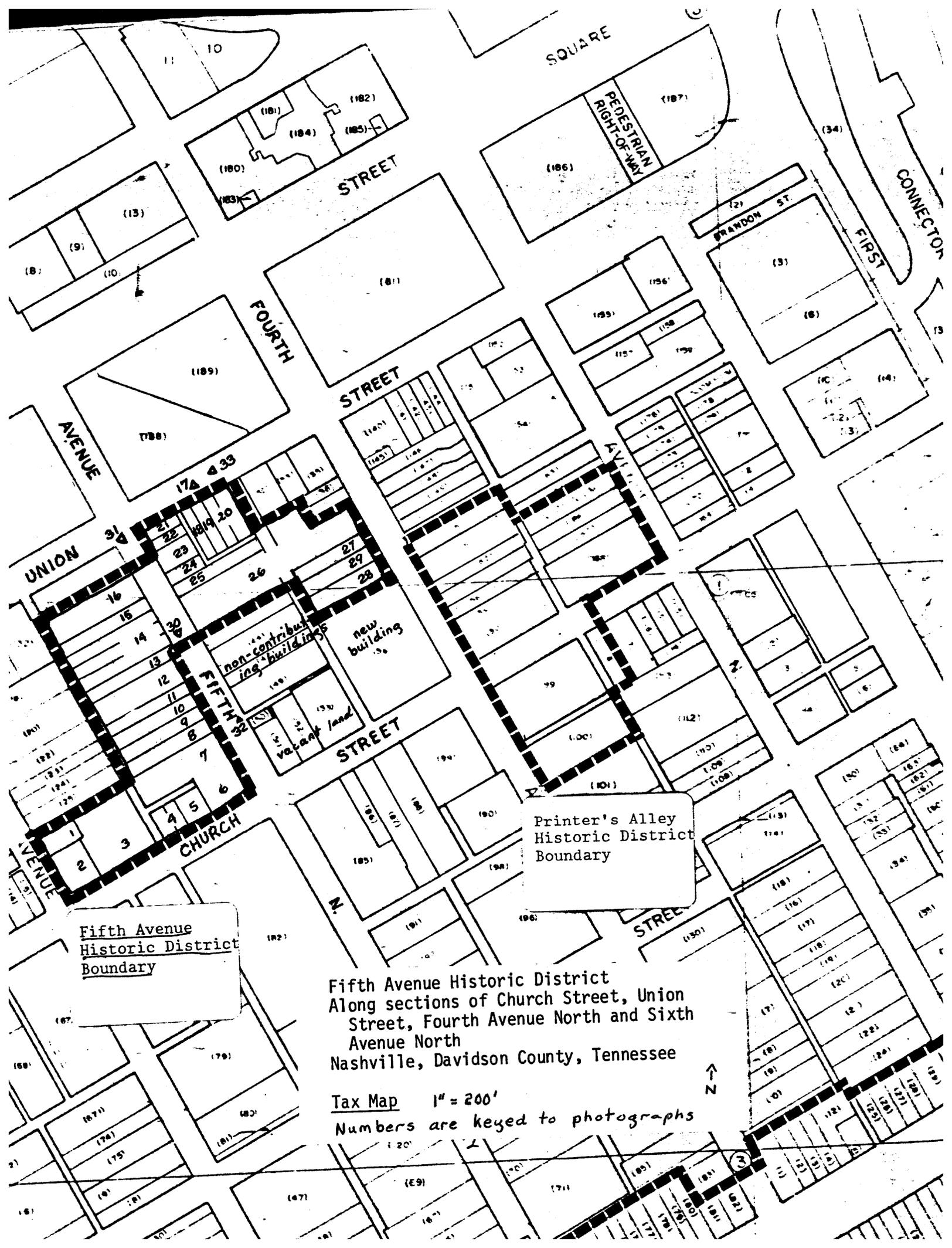
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The proposed historic district includes Fifth Avenue between Union and Church Streets and the north side of Church Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues as well as 417, 419, 421, and 423 Union Street and 219, 221, and 223 Fourth Avenue North. The boundaries contain the buildings historically associated with the commercial development of the Fifth Avenue area.



SQUARE

PEDESTRIAN
RIGHT-OF-WAY

STREET

FOURTH
STREET

STREET

AVENUE

UNION

AVENUE

CHURCH

STREET

ALLEY

BRANDON ST.

FIRST

CONNECTOR

17A 33

31

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

non-contributing buildings

new building

vacant land

Printer's Alley
Historic District
Boundary

Fifth Avenue
Historic District
Boundary

Fifth Avenue Historic District
Along sections of Church Street, Union
Street, Fourth Avenue North and Sixth
Avenue North
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 200'
Numbers are keyed to photographs

