

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.2.47.0005	DATE 3/11/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Tri-State Bank

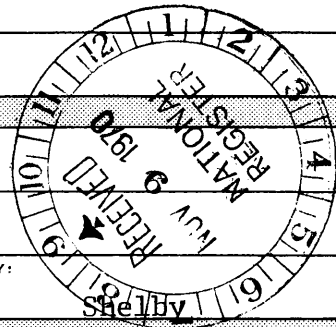
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ⁸⁶
390 Beale Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Memphis

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047 COUNTY: Shelby CODE: 157



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Tri-State Bank Corp.

STREET AND NUMBER:
390 Beale Street

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the Register

STREET AND NUMBER:
Shelby County Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

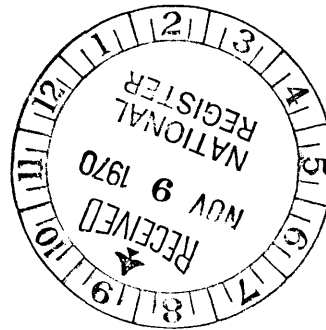
STATE: Tennessee
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This nondescript two story red brick structure located at 390 Beale Street was built in the early 1900's. It is a very simple rectangular building with a bracketed trim across the front. Two sets of double windows are located in the second floor with larger windows of no particular design on the ground floor. The brick work has no visible bond but it is in good condition. There have been minor alterations made on the lower level with door and window enlargements. The interior of the building has been altered from time to time to adapt to various offices and has no particular architectural value.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

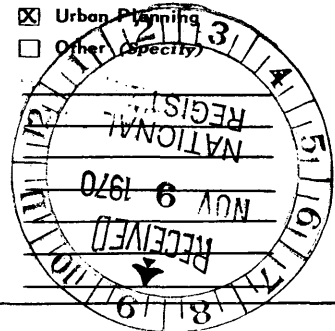
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building located at 390 Beale was built in the early 1900's and was located in what was the business district of Beale Street. It supposedly housed a drug store first and later other businesses. The significance of this structure, however, lies in the fact that the late W. C. Handy had his publishing house here. When all the New York publishers had turned down his music, "The Memphis Blues," "The Beale Street Blues," "The St. Louis Blues," Handy decided to organize his own publishing company. He formed a partnership with the late Harry Pace who was at that time the cashier of the Solvent Bank. Luckily, Handy was able to get substantial financial aid from Pace to establish his publishing house at 390 Beale. Handy's publishing house was in the center of the kind of emotional environment he needed for fathering the unconscious creations of the Negro folk; and Handy might have remained there throughout his long and colorful career if the boys in his band had not been so anxious to get back to Beale Street for a spending spree after a successful concert in Atlanta. The boys' pockets were bulging with money and they wanted to cancel their engagement at the University of North Carolina to get back to Beale Street. Handy was stubborn about it and wanted to fill the engagement. When the boys in his band refused, he broke up the band and moved his publishing house to New York. (1918)

This structure was located next door to the Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company, the first Negro bank in the state. R. R. Church, Sr., founder of Church Park and Auditorium on Beale, and a Negro millionaire, founded this bank in 1906.

The structure at 390 Beale is the only such remaining business building in the area and has been spared in the urban renewal area because of its historic significance. The plans for the area include leaving this building with hopes that a museum can be developed there to interpret Handy and his music to the visitor on Beale Street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Capers, Gerald M., Jr., The Biography of a River Town (Chapel Hill, 1939).

Hutchins, Fred L., What Happened in Memphis (Kingsport, 1965).

Lee, George W., Beale Street Where the Blues Began (New York, 1934).

Letter from George W. Lee to Tennessee Historical Commission, June 22, 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

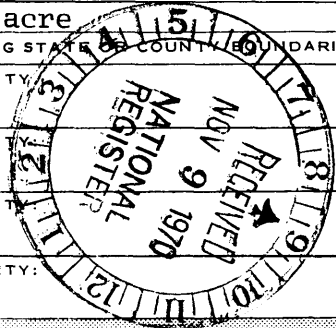
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 : "	0 : "		35 ° 08' 22 "	90 ° 02' 54 "	
NE	0 : "	0 : "				
SE	0 : "	0 : "				
SW	0 : "	0 : "				

UTM
15/76895
3892300
C

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
May Dean Coop

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: Oct. 30, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Stephen S. Lawrence
Stephen S. Lawrence
Executive Director
Title: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 10-30-70

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

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 1 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William G. Huestegh
Keeper of The National Register

FEB 6 1971

Date: _____

**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 Tri-State Bank

Item number

Page

On February 11, 1971, the Tri-State Bank at 390 Beale Street, Memphis, was placed on the National Register. Due to numbering changes, the building was later designated as 386 Beale Street, and this fact was reported to the National Register on August 21, 1973.

It was stated in the nomination that this building was the location of the publishing house of W. C. Handy, and that it was located next door to the Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company, the first Negro bank in the state. This information was provided by prominent local citizens who were long associated with the Beale Street area.

Over a period of time it has been discovered that this information contained errors, including the fact that this building was not the one in which Handy had his publishing house, which actually was in a building which stood at 392 Beale Street and no longer is standing. Also, the Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company, while being a very early bank, was not the first Negro bank established in the state. Among the sources substantiating the first statement is an article in the August 1983 issue of Memphis Magazine about W. C. Handy, son of W. C. Handy, which refers to the former Pace and Handy firm at 392 Beale Street.

The building which housed the Solvent Savings Bank, founded in 1906 by Robert R. Church, Sr., was demolished many years ago. Its address was 390-392 Beale Street. Handy's studio was on the second floor. The Church family operated the bank until the early 1920s. It subsequently merged with another institution and became the Fraternal and Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company, with which the Church family had no connection. This bank closed around the end of December in 1927.

In October 1946, the Tri-State Bank, recently organized by A. Maceo Walker and Dr. J. E. Walker, purchased the building at 386 Beale Street. The building had been constructed in the early part of this century. The bank has grown to be the second largest black financial institution in Tennessee.

The Tri-State Bank Building has played an important role in the political strategy of blacks, much of which was planned in this building from 1946 until 1965. The campaigns of many black candidates were planned in the building. Also, in the 1960s many of the civil rights marches and demonstrations began here.

A fire damaged the vacant building several months ago. Plans are under way to renovate the building for offices and to continue its use as an important structure in the activities of the black community on Beale Street.