

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Davidson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 29 1970

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fine Arts Building; also "Old Gym"

AND/OR HISTORIC:
 Vanderbilt University, Gymnasium

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Southwest**
Vanderbilt campus, corner of West End Ave. and what was 23rd Ave., North

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 47	COUNTY: Davidson County	CODE: 037
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Vanderbilt University

STREET AND NUMBER:
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CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 37203
	CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register's Office for Davidson County, Tennessee

STREET AND NUMBER:
Metro Courthouse, Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 47
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey, 1970

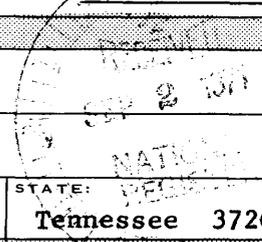
DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Tennessee**

COUNTY: **Davidson**

ENTRY NUMBER: **11**

DATE: **FEB 29 1970**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Announcement of Vanderbilt University, 1879-1880 provides the following description of the building (p. 23):

"The Gymnasium is a brick building, 90x60 feet, of handsome [Victorian] architectural design, and substantial. It has a basement containing dressing and bath-rooms, and rooms for general exercise and training, and visitors' galleries accessible from the exterior by winding stairways in two of the towers."

"The principal story is a single room for general exercise, 80x40 feet, with the ceiling thirty-two feet high. It contains a running and walking track [suspended mid-way from the ceiling by metal rods attached to the wooden trusses], and a complete equipment of gymnastic apparatus, comprising rowing machines, chest-expanders, parallel and horizontal ladders, springboards, Indian clubs, dumb-bells, etc."

A temporary annex was added to the southeast side after 1914; it was a 22x44 frame structure.

In 1962, the gymnasium was substantially renovated on the interior for conversion into a Fine Arts Building. The stucco annex was removed, and the exterior of the brick building was restored. The only significant modifications from the original came with the reconstruction of a portion of the southeast wall, which had been in common with the annex. The windows which are known to have existed in this wall were eliminated, and the wall is presently devoid of any openings. Two original flues on the southwest facade were removed and two dormers matching existing ones were added.

The original interior volume of the building has been totally obliterated by the remodeling, and the only prominent surviving elements that can be seen at the present time are the handsome wood roof trusses -- left mostly exposed, and the wood floor on the first floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1880, the Vanderbilt facility, with its considerable gymnastic equipment and indoor running track, was one of the earliest and best equipped gymnasiums in the South. Though the interior has been substantially modified from the original, the exterior of this striking building preserves the rich Victorian architectural character of the early Vanderbilt campus, and is one of the very few buildings at the University to survive from that period. It was designed by Peter J. Williamson, a pioneer Nashville architect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Announcement of Vanderbilt University, 1879-1880 (Nashville, 1880), 23-24.
 W. W. Clayton, History of Davidson County, Tennessee (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis, 1880), 259-260, with drawing of early Vanderbilt campus.
 Federal Writers' Project, Tennessee, A Guide to the State (New York: Viking Press, 1939), 197-198.
 Edwin Mims, History of Vanderbilt University. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1946.
 John Wooldridge, ed. History of Nashville, Tennessee (Nashville: H. W. Crew, 1890), 420.

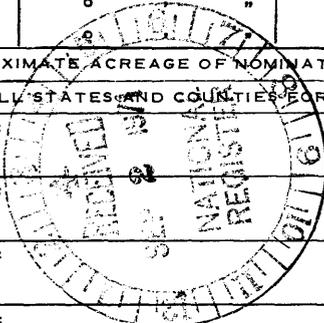
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		86° 48' 17" W	36° 08' 54" N	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



4/13
 161
 517540
 4000250

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Anatole Senkevitch, Jr., Architectural Historian & Architect for the

ORGANIZATION: **HABS-Nashville Project in Summer, 1970** DATE: **8 July 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Instructor, Department of Architecture, Cornell University

CITY OR TOWN: **Ithaca** STATE: **New York, 14850** CODE: **36**

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 Herbert L. Harper
 Herbert L. Harper

Acting Title Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date July 14, 1971

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

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

Date FEB 22 1972

ATTEST:
W. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Jan. 12, 1972

Acting Title Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date July 14, 1971