

PH0670855

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 12 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 23 1976

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 ~~***~~
The Read House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Broad Street and Ninth Street
CITY, TOWN
Chattanooga
STATE
Tennessee
VICINITY OF
Third
COUNTY
Hamilton
CODE
47
CODE
65
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company
STREET & NUMBER
Fountain Square
CITY, TOWN
Chattanooga
STATE
Tennessee
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Hamilton County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Chattanooga
STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey
DATE
February 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Tennessee Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN
Nashville
STATE
Tennessee
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thomas Crutchfield, after conferring with the directors of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad who agreed to erect the Chattanooga Union Station across 9th Street, built the Crutchfield House on this site in 1847-48. Shortly after the Civil War, the Crutchfield House was razed to provide space for a three-story office building. Dr. Read purchased the incomplete structure and had the plans changed enough to convert the office building into a hotel. The first Read House opened its doors on January 1, 1872. With the addition of a three-story frame wing the hotel occupied nearly the entire block.

The second, and present, Read House was designed by Martin Roche of Holabird and Roche, a Chicago architectural firm. The ten-story, brick Georgian Revival hotel, which occupies half of the block bounded by 9th, Chestnut, Broad, and 8th streets, was built at a cost of \$2,500,000 and opened on July 4, 1926. The overall plan of the building is symmetrical and E shaped, with the horizontal bars of the E oriented along a north-south axis and the main facade facing south. The predominant structural material is brick laid in the common bond pattern; cut and dressed stone is used in the major decorative elements, such as quoins, pilasters, window surrounds, and balustrades and terra cotta for the festoons, frieze disks and other minor decorative elements. The two-story, projecting frontispiece has cut, beveled, and coursed, stone pilasters topped with urns, and the large round-arched window is surmounted with a keystone and cartouche. A flat-roofed glass and ornamental iron marquee protects the recessed entrance foyer. Ornamental iron is also found in the lion's head marquee support plates and in the broken pediment window surrounds and balustrades. A single-story block of store fronts extends to and joins with similar units in each projecting wing; these are decorated with pilasters, cut stone balustrades, and urns. The roofs of the connecting blocks provide space for a terrace. Quoins accent the outlines of the projecting wings, and stone, continuous sills emphasize the horizontal lines. Diverse fenestration decoration focuses attention on the center section which projects slightly. The recessed ninth and tenth floors allow the south walls of the outer wings to be aligned with the center wing; the remaining walls of the upper story wings are dramatically set back. The tasteful arrangement of varying styles of window surrounds with such elements as plain and segmental, pedimented arches; keystone and festoon lintels; quoin and molded trim sides; and plain, continuous, and festooned sills enhance the appearance of the building. Except for the marquee on the east wall, the west and east elevations are identical; both continue the several motifs found in the main facade. The Read House Motor Inn, a six-story, modern building with a parking garage was recently built on the lot adjacent to the unadorned north wall of the hotel, however, because of its greater scale, the 1926 Read House overwhelms this recent addition.

The grand, two-story, rectangular lobby may be entered from the east or west via long corridors, which extend around the long sides of the space, or by the main entrance, which opens directly into it. Great columns and round-arched openings on the east and west sides enclose the central part of the lobby; these are decorated with festoons and cartouches which bear the coats of arms of the Crutchfield and Read families. The north entrance has a square arch flanked by fluted pilasters and a delicately turned balustrade encloses the south end of the lobby. The east and west sides of the space have a mezzanine which features slightly vaulted and decorated ceilings and ornate brass railings.

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The lobby ceiling features an ornate crown molding and gilded geometric patterns with the focal point being three floral clusters. The two chandeliers and the side lights are bronze. The lobby is finished with quarter-sawn American black walnut paneling and has a grey terrazo floor which is partially covered with Persian rugs.

The Green Room, or main dining room, which seats 220, is entered from the north end of the lobby. Plain black pilasters, which contain either figured gold damask-draped windows or large, ornamental mirrors in gilt frames and crystal lighting fixtures, are interspersed along the blue-green walls. The decorative ceiling has medallions and cornices, and the floor is greenish terrazo separated into squares with brass strips.

The Silver Ballroom measures 36 by 120 feet and will accommodate a 475-person banquet. The silver-gray walls are accented with fluted pilasters located between tall arches which enclose large mirrors. Three crystal chandeliers are suspended from silver-leaf medallions in the twenty-six foot ceilings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burchard, John, and Bush-Brown, Albert. The Architecture of America: A Social and Cultural History. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1966.

Information provided by Julian B. McQueen, Director of Sales, The Read House, January 30, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A

16	61514	101610	31817.9	21610
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

DATE

August 1976

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert E. Hayden

DATE

10/5/76

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/23/76

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

12/23/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER