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(Algo used as a warehouse, next door stands an Italinate Victorian building (#5) of the 1880's. Featuring delicately proportioned Italianate round arch window hoods, a bracketed cornice and topped by a stepped gable roof with dormers, this building is a visual highlight of the block despite its age and neglect.

The three remaining structures of architectural significance in the block are warehouses. All are three story brick structures. The old Hurst Grocery Warehouse (#6) is the least remarkable of the group, having had rather unimaginative fenestration and having suffered through several alterations.

The Bowling building (#7) (actually two nearly identical adjoining structures) retains a portion of its cast iron first floor facade, the whole of which is formalized by heavy-browed Italianate windows.

The Conroy Hardware Company, (#8) at the southwest corner of Franklin and First is intact except for the cornice which has been removed from each of the warehouse buildings. More finely proportioned than the others, this edifice boasts a stately cast iron front and well conceived Italianate Victorian fenestration.

Diagonally across the intersection on the northeast corner of Franklin and First Streets is the old J. J. Crusman building (#14).Mr. Crusman was a Civil War hero and occupied the building as early as 1865. Beyond that, its date of construction is undetermined. The building was used as a wholesale warehouse by Crusman and, featuring rounded arch brick window heads, was less ornate than its later neighbors. A half story has been added to the original three, probably during the first part of the twentieth century.

To the east and across the street stands one of the first buildings to be constructed after a fire in 1878, which swept the entire block. Kincannon's Hardware Store (#9) is now used to house a furniture dealer. The facade of the three story building is composed of an arcade of alternating flat and pointed corbled brick arches over the second and third story windows.

The old Franklin Bank Building next door, (# 10) now a bicycle shop, continues the facade and fenestration patterns of the Kincannon building and features an interesting dentiled brick parapet instead of a third story.

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ther building (#15) which was a replacement after the fire of April 1878. Badly remodelled several times, it nonetheless retains what was probably its most outstanding feature, a large and elaborate cornice. Either end of this cornice is anchored by a large bracket while a small gabled parapet inscribed "1878" surmounts the center portion of the building.

Across the street at 122 Franklin Street (# 11) is a structure quite representative of Victorian commercial building design. A tall and narrow three story composition, it features well detailed Italianate window heads and elaborate bracketed dentiled cornice with a central pediment. Lost under several grimy coats of white paint are stone quoins which still delineate the corners.

Three doors up Franklin Street to the east is a long two story structure (# 12) featuring Italianate window hoods and an intact bracketed cornice.

Further east on Franklin Street on the north side stands another long, two story Italianate Victorian building (#16). Like most on the block it has been drastically altered at the first floor level but the second floor window heads and the bracketed dentiled cornice nonetheless help contribute an overall Victorian commercial atmosphere to the district.

The A. J. Clark Jewelry Company is located next door at 131 Franklin Street (#17).Unlike most of the buildings on the street, this one has undergone a minimum of alteration, the only significant change being the addition of a modern metal canopy. Neither the facade nor the interior, nor the natural color of the brick have been altered. By happy coincidence the window heads and cornice are among the largest and most elaborate in the district. The building has served as a jewelry store for most of its ninetyodd years.

The smallest building in the district, 135 Franklin Street, (#18) was formerly the jewelry store of a Swiss imigrant, Thomas Rohner, who built the quaint but imaginative structure in 1884. Boasting a cornice as elaborate as many of the street's larger buildings, the little building unfortunately suffered considerable damage recently as a result of sand blasting.

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Type northwest corner of Franklin and Second Streets is Joys Florist, (#19) built in the mid 1880's `as the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Though extensively remodelled in 1938, the building was an integral part of the city's development and is one of the last to still utilize its unique corner entranceway.

Directly to the north on the other side of the same corner is an 1885 building (#13) which served as an Odd-Fellows Lodge and the Northern Bank of Clarksville. The three story red brick structure was less elaborate than several of its contemporaries, but despite recent alterations to the lower story, it still reflects a certain stern self-assured air appropriate to a banking house.

Reflecting a slightly later, but equally interesting period is the old Owen and Moore Drug Store, (#20) largely unoccupied, which sits at the southeast corner of Second and Franklin Streets. Though stripped of its decorative parapet, the brick, stone and terra cotta facade reflects the influence of Richardsonian Romanesque which was a popular style at the time of the building's construction.

Like 136 Franklin Street, the building at the northwest corner of Third and Franklin (#21) was originally designed to house a business and fraternal organization. Its Romanesque facade is highlighted by ashlar accents and bold, dressed, arched stone window heads at the third floor. These spring from stone columns which serve as mullions between windows. Four delicate caryatids are placed at the junctions of the dressed stone arches.

The Glenn Building (#27) is actually a pair of adjoining two and three story structures of similar design. Though this design is not nearly so inspired as several of the others in the district, their worn brick surfaces and rhythmic window spacing provide an effective foil and a pleasant backdrop for the park like setting around the court-house next door.

The Montgomery County Court House (#28) was designed originally by S. W. Bunting, though the plans were taken over and construction supervised by C. G. Rosenplanter. Though gutted by fire in 1900, the structure was restored to its original appearance during reconstruction. The handsome Second Empire style massing of brick and stone towers self assuredly above a small but attractive park-like setting.

To the southwest is probably the most unusual and striking building (#26) in the entire area, serving as an anchor for the district's southern boundary. Designed by the Government Architect, William Akin, as a post office and court house, the

E HA	Form 10-300a (July 1969) RECEIVED	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	STATE TENNESSEE county
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Back to the north along the western side of Second Street are four buildings,(#22-25) which though not of as early a vintage, nor as well conceived and executed as their district neighbors, are nonetheless important to the district's totality. The interesting and varied rhythym of their facades helps to tie the court house and old post office to the main portion of the district.

Inventory of Architecturally Significant Structures Located Within Clarksville, Tennessee Architectural District.

- 1. Poston Block: 126-132 Public Square, 2 story red brick with stepped gable roof. Built 1843.
- 2. City Hall: 110 Public Square, 2 story white painted brick. Facade a 1914 Romanesque Addition.
- 3. Old Bank of America Building: 102 Public Square, 2 story masonry structure.
- 4. Lui Heimansohn Warehouse: 48-52 Franklin Street, 3 story red brick.
- 5. Lui Heimansohn New Steel Warehouse: 54 Franklin Street, 2-1/2 story brick with Italianate features and a single dormer window.
- Old Hurst Wholesale Grocers Warehouse: 84 Franklin Street, three story brick -- steel shutters over windows as a protection against fire.
- 7. Bowling Building, 94-96 Franklin Street: 3 story brick -partially intact cast iron first floor facade. Built 1887.
- 8. Commercial Building: 98 Franklin, 3 story brick with Italianate window heads and intact cast iron facade at first floor.
- 9. Old Kincannon Hardware Store Building: 110 Franklin Street, three story. Highly textured fenestration composed entirely of brick. Built ca. 1878.

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BY TIPTTE	old Franklin Bank Building: 112-114 story brick, repetition of fenestrati Built ca. 1878.	Franklin Street, 2 on pattern of 110.
11.	Commercial Building: 122 Franklin St brick with elaborate Italianate windo	
12.	Commercial Building: 126-128 Frankli brick structure with Italianate windo	n Street, 2 story wheads and cornice.
13.	Old Franklin Bank Building: 136 Frank story brick simple details.Built t fraternal lodge in 1885.	
14.	Old J. J. Crusman Building: 101 Fram 3-1/2 story brick structure, owned by hero for the latter half of the 19th was probably added around 1900.	/ a local Civil war
15.	Commercial Building: 119-121 Frankli brick with pedimented cornice face bly.	In Street, two story ade altered considera-
16.	Commercial Building: 127-129 Franklin 2 story brick. A portion of this bui years occupied by Fiederlings Cigar S tution, complete with wooden Indian.	ilding was for many
17.	Commercial Building: 131 Franklin St 3-story Italianate Victorian structur jewelry store since at least 1900.	
18.	Old Rohner Jewelry Store: 135 Frankli brick with fanciful cornice and pedim	
19.	Old Farmers and Merchants Bank: 139 story brick with corner entrance. Ex 1939. Built Ca. 1886.	
20.	Old Owen and Moore Drug Company Build Street. Three story Romanesque compo- terra cotta trim. Built 1890.	ling: 200 Franklin sition with stone and
21.	Commercial Building: 215-217 Franklish brick showing Romanesque influence on elevation. Built 1890.	
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22-23	-24-25- Commercial Buildings: 108-11 three story brick buildings with varie facades. Not particularly important collectively essential to the continut	ous simple Victorian individually, but
26.	Old Post Office: 200 South Second Str 2-1/2 story 1898 brick with pyramid ro	ceet. Highly eclectic of and dormers.
27.	Office Building: 112-114 53rd. Two a housed city telephone exchange for sev	and three story brick, veral years.
28.	Montgomery County Courthouse: 129 Sou brick in Second Empire style Built monumental clock tower.	th Second. Two story 1878-surmounted by
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## CLARKSVILLE ARCHITECTURAL DISTRICT

A large group of 1870's and 1880's buildings, many of excellent and attractive design, together with a small cluster of mid 19th century buildings near the original center of the city, comprise the Clarksville architectural district. Though new structures have been added and unsympathetic alterations made, there are several parts of the district where the vista is one of an almost unbroken row of Victorian facades.

The first governmental meeting rooms and the early mercantile establishments of the city were erected around the Public Square on a hilltop overlooking the river at the beginning of the 19th century. This hilltop site was near the river, which was a major source of transportation for both goods and people. The hilltop afforded a scenic view of the river, protection from flooding, and was easily defensible against come what might.

The rich soil and abundant timber of the surrounding area, plus the availability of cheap river transportation stimulated the growth of the city. The initial prosperity brought on by this agricultural trade was bolstered by the ancillary business which inevitably accompanied it, and by a small iron industry. The Civil War dealt a severe setback to this burgeoning growth. Trade and commerce came to a halt for over four years. Recovery afterwards, though difficult, progressed at a more rapid rate than throughout much of the South. Ambitious, hard-working entrepreneurs such as J. J. Crusman, (a wiry, tenacious confederate veteran who cheated death more than once) aggressively sought out wholesale business for groceries, hardware, clothing and liquor. They became the suppliers for many smaller retail establishments throughout the region. The tobacco trade also grew rapidly and Clarksville remained the major market in middle Tennessee. Limited by a river bluff at its western extremity, the town grew eastward along Franklin Street. In April of 1878, a disastrous fire swept over the center of town, destroying

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Form 10-300g	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE		
(July 1969)	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	TENNESSEE		
RECEIVED	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY		
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The prosperity of the area was such that rebuilding started immediately however.

Two men were responsible for much of this rebuilding work. An English born sculptor, Samuel Hodgson came to Clarksville in 1852. He began with a small marble works and invested wisely and acquired real estate. He later entered the construction business and eventually owned or built several of the buildings along Franklin Street. G. B. Wilson came to Clarksville in 1866 to superintend the construction of a house. He chose to stay, and in 1869 bought part interest in what was to become, under his guidance, a large lumber mill. He apparently had some architectural training, though we do not know where obtained. He built many of the city's homes and probably a few of the commercial structures within the district.

With a few exceptions, the architectural spirit of the district is definitely Victorian commercial. Window treatment is usually Italianate, but cornices, facades and other details are definitely inventions of the Victorian era, and reflect the imagination, exuberance and optimism of those times. The rows of facades, though now broken by gaps and insensitive alterations, still manage to exhibit a richly varied visual rhythym. The Richardsonian Romanesque style apparently was not known or appreciated in Clarksville until near the end of the city's most dynamic growth period. Consequently, only two examples of this style may be found within this district. Both (200 and 215-217 Franklin Street) (#20 & # 21) are good examples of the style, however. Though two churches in other parts of the city are fine works of Victorian Gothic, no examples of this style may be found in the district, unless the highly eclectic old post office and federal building (#26) might be considered to show some hint of Gothic detail.

The Courthouse, also stylistically unique, may best be described as "General Grant" an Americanized form of the Second Empire style which blends well with the rest of the district while preventing visual monotony.

While few of the buildings in the district are abandoned or in danger of collapse, they are in widely varied states of preservation. Several have been thoughtlessly altered, by paint, canopies new entrances or inappropriate use.

- 2 -

Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE TENNESSEE			
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The Courthouse (#28) has been well maintained and is a highly attractive building, though the interior bears little resemblance to the original. The same is true of the old post office and federal building, now used by the Clarksville Department of Electricity. (#26)

The A. J. Clark Jewelry Company (#17) building is probably the best preserved in the district. This results from the fact that the building has been used for the same compatible purpose since the turn of the century and that it has been carefully maintained by its owners during that period. The result is a building which in every way looks as though transported to the present from another era. No real restoration is required. A slight upgrading in the maintenance program would assure the building's survival for another 90 years.

Though the Clark building is unique, few of the structures in the district are beyond redemption or at least visual compatibility. In the last five years, there has been born among the district's owners a small sense of architectural and historical awareness. The Poston Block (#1), the oldest building in the district, has been purchased by two business partners who intend to convert it to office space, while maintaining its architectural integrity. Hopefully the work will be successful and emulated by others in the district. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce has engaged the services of a professional planning firm to prepare a master plan for enhancement and development of the central business district. The need and possibilities for various aspects of historic and architectural preservation are among the factors being considered by that firm.

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## BOUNDARY NARRATIVE CLARKSVILLE ARCHITECTURAL DISTRICT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

Beginning at the midpoint of the intersection of First and Main, the line extends southward to the center of the intersection of First and Legion. There it turns east, running down the center of Legion Street to the center of the intersection of Third and Legion. At that point it turns south on third to the center of the intersection of Third and Franklin; thence west on Franklin for approximately 200 feet, then turning south to run 100 feet along the east wall of #200 Franklin Street. At the rear of this propery, the line turns and runs back east 200 feet to the center of Third Street, at which point it turns south, extending to the center of the intersection of Third and Commerce. The boundary then proceeds westward along the center of Commerce to its intersection with Second, south down the center of second for 125 feet, then west for 200 feet and back north 350 feet to a point adjoining the southwest corner of #116 Second Street. The boundary then reaches westward for 825 feet, paralleling but south of Franklin Street. It then turns north and runs some 700 feet to the center of Main Street, then runs east back to the initial point at First and Main.



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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CLARKSVILLE ARCHITECTURAL DISTRICT CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

UTM REFERENCES:

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