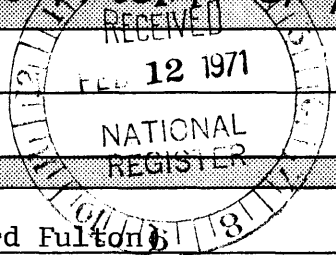


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

71.5.47.0019 35/6/71



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Belmont

AND/OR HISTORIC: Acklen Hall

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Belmont Boulevard (Congressman Richard Fulton)

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047 COUNTY: Davidson CODE: 037

**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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Belmont College

STREET AND NUMBER: Belmont Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Davidson County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (Photographs only)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 011

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee  
COUNTY: Davidson  
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.5.47.0019  
DATE: 5/6/71  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 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

Belmont, one of the most famous estates of the Old South, was built in 1850 atop a hill, landscaped with parks and gardens which attracted attention throughout the nation.

The architectural style of the mansion is Italianate with Greek revival details. The exterior walls are brick and stone which have been plastered and painted white. The building consists of a two-story central block which rests upon a basement which rises above the ground, balanced on either side by two-story wings lower in height than the main section. On the front of the wings are wrought-iron balconies of a lace-like character. At the front entrance is a recessed portico with two Corinthian columns, supporting a massive cornice. Inside the portico and above the entrance is a cast-iron balcony, and on either side of the portico are projecting porches with four Corinthian columns, with a balustrade atop the roof. An observatory, surmounted by a crudely bracketed cornice, rises above the roof.

The entrance opens into a small formal foyer with a white Carrara marble fireplace directly opposite the entrance and framed by two large doorways. Surmounting the doorways on either side are transoms of red Venetian glass. On either side of the foyer are double drawing rooms, each with a marble fireplace and transoms of glass. Adjoining the drawing-rooms on the east is another room, also having a fireplace.

Behind the vestibule and parlors on the south side is a long hall with a double colonnade of Corinthian columns. A richly detailed plaster cornice extends around the ceiling. Also on the south side is a free-standing grand staircase which separates at the top. On the second level above the grand staircase is a second free-standing stairway which leads to the observatory tower. This stairway, reversing the order of the grand staircase, begins as two stairways, thereby forming an arch, and after meeting at mid point extends itself as a single stairway.

The grounds at Belmont were considered to be the most lavish to be found in the South, landscaped with a variety of trees, shrubs, and gardens. An extensive irrigation system was developed, supplied with water from a 105 feet high water tower. Statues collected from throughout Europe were placed in the gardens. Today college buildings have been built over what was once the gardens, but still remaining are the marble fountain, five summer houses, hitching posts, and the tower, with some of the original statuary.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

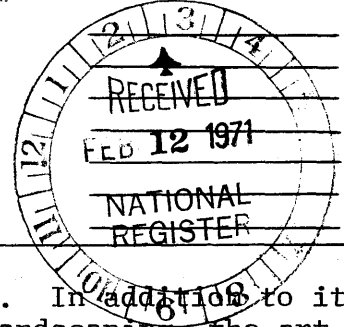
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1850**

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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The areas of Belmont's significance are many. In addition to its distinctive architecture and the elaborate landscaping, the art and statuary collections at Belmont were exceptional. Its later and current use as an educational institution continues to play an important role in the educational field.

Built by Joseph Acklen and his wife, Adelia Hayes Franklin Acklen, Belmont was designed to become the center of social life in a flourishing city. Mrs. Acklen, recently widowed by Isaac Franklin and reputed to be the wealthiest woman in the South, still owned the fine plantation, Fairview in Sumner County, which Franklin had left to her. She planned to make Belmont the show place of Nashville, and she spared no expense in carrying out her plans. William Strickland is said to have been the architect, but no verification of this assumption has been made.

From her extensive travels abroad, Mrs. Acklen gathered paintings, engravings, portraits, and statuary which decorated the mansion. At one time Belmont reputedly had the largest private art collection in the South. A lover of music, she placed two pianos and two organs in the mansion.

Dinner at Belmont, a historical novel by Dr. Alfred L. Crabb, depicts the social significance of Belmont during the Civil War. Also, Union troops used the water tower as a signal tower and observation post, as Belmont was often on the line of battle during the Battle of Nashville.

The grounds at Belmont have been covered with college buildings, since several schools have been located there. Included are Ward Seminary, a fashionable school for young ladies; Belmont Junior College; Ward-Belmont, a noted school for women; and Belmont College, a Baptist liberal arts college, which has occupied the premises since 1951. Belmont, or Acklen Hall as it is sometimes called, is used primarily as a social center.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brandau, Roberta S. (ed.), History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee (Nashville, 1936).

Duncan, Ivar L., A History of Belmont College (Nashville, n.d.).

Smith, J. Frazer, White Pillars (New York, 1941).

HB  
16/518460  
3998820

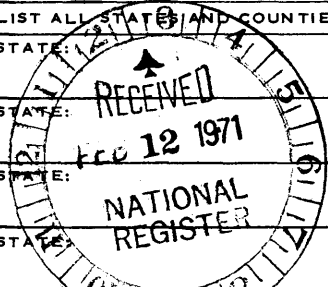
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 08' 08"	86° 47' 41"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 10**

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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services**

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **2-9-72**

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  
Title: Executive Director  
Organization: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date: **MAY 6 1971**

ATTEST:  
William H. Mudgett  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: **APR 9 1971**