

MAY 13 2016

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Price, Dr. Thomas H., House  
Other names/site number Dr. Price House  
Name of related multiple property listing N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 620 North Main Street  
City or town: Covington State: TN County: Tipton  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A Zip: 38019

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Signature of certifying official/Title: *Claudia G. Price*

Date 5/19/16

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Jan J. Subert*  
 Signature of the Keeper

6.13.2016  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK; CONCRETE; WOOD: Weatherboard;  
ASPHALT; GLASS

**Narrative Description**

The Dr. Thomas H. Price House, built c. 1912, is located in the town of Covington (2012 population: 9,069), in Tipton County (2010 population: 61,081) at the edge of a commercial and residential zone four-tenths of a mile north of Covington's Main Square. To the north and west of the property are commercial buildings and to the south and east are residential neighborhoods. The Craftsman/Bungalow-style house faces west on the front section of the less than an acre property. On the north of the property is a retaining wall, blocking the view of a fast-food restaurant and to the east of the house is a large yard with a border of trees.

This one-and-one-half story house has common Craftsman-style exterior characteristics, including: exposed wood rafters & brackets, low-pitched decked asphalt shingled roof extending over a full front porch, wood clapboard exterior, and one-over-one double-hung wood windows with a decorative Craftsman style upper sash. The modified central hall plan interior features decorative corner base wood trim, triple wood door openings with nine-lite beveled-glass upper sections, and artistic wood window

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sashes and door patterns. The house contains four bedrooms (two upstairs and two downstairs), parlor, dining room, two kitchens, two bathrooms (one in the addition), and a sunroom (addition).

### **Dr. Thomas H. Price House, c. 1912 Contributing**

The Dr. Thomas H. Price House at 620 North Main Street is a one-and-one-half story, central hall plan, wood-frame Craftsman/Bungalow-style house with an asphalt-shingled clipped-gable (jerkinhead) roof, a wood clapboard exterior, and a brick foundation. The three-bay house has many architectural details that also reflect the Craftsman-style, such as the triangular knee-brace brackets, wide eaves, and exposed wood rafters.

The west or main façade (*see Photo 2*) is symmetrical with a centered clipped-gable roof dormer with a triple, double-hung one-over-one wood window and a full-length front porch supported by a colonnade of four round wood columns. The main roof extends over the front porch and has wide eaves with exposed wood rafters and a capped frieze and cornice. With the original wood bead-board ceiling (*see Photo 7*), the brick front porch has been lowered ca. 1945 and a double-entry staircase with a metal ornamental baluster added. The front door is a classic Craftsman-style three-vertical wood panel and six-light front door with an eight-light and wood transom and flanking four-light and single-wood panel side-lights with plain thick cap wood trim. On either side of the front door are paired one-over-one double-hung wood windows with a decorative upper sash with thick wood trim with wood shutters (*see Photo 8*). The shallow clip-gable roof dormer has a triple double-hung wood one-over-one window with a decorative upper sash, simple wood triangular knee brackets and exposed roof rafters and purlins. The corner trim on the house has two thick wood pieces with a curved wood center that creates a curved edge (*see Photo 9*).

The south elevation (*see Photo 3*) has a clipped gable roof with the roof extending over the full front porch and a projecting bay with a lower clipped-gable roof. Simple wood knee brackets are featured heavily on this elevation at every new pitch of the roof. The thick wood cornice from the front porch follows the entire façade of the house, delineating the division of the stories. From the left on the main plane of the house is a single one-over-one Craftsman-style wood sash double-hung window with thick squared trim on the first floor. The half-story floor has a double one-over-one double-hung wood sash window with decorative upper sashes and thick-capped wood trim. On the projecting bay is a single glass and wood window, with the same design that faces west. On the south elevation of the projecting bay is a centered double glass and wood window with the same design on the first floor. Directly above the first floor double window at the apex of the gable is a double single-light glass and wood window with capped wood trim. On the east side the elevation and moving back to the original plane, a double three-over-one vertical light and wood sash double-hung window with thick squared trim sits within an addition.

Over time, the east (rear) elevation (*see Photos 4 & 5*) has been altered with additions on the north side and the enclosure of the screened-in porch. This elevation has three gabled roofs; the main roof is clipped-gabled with simple knee brackets and the other two, a single story gable roof in the middle, and to the east another gable roof with a knee brace bracket and a hipped roof extension. Starting on the south corner is a double three-over-one vertical light and wood sash double-hung window with thick squared wood trim.

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Under the middle one-story gabled roof, which protrudes from the main massing, is a triple, eight-over-eight light double-hung wood sash window with thick wood trim that faces east. This originally was an open back porch that was enclosed c. 1965. On the side facing south of the enclosed porch, there is a three wood panel and six-light door and a double-hung six-over-six light and wood sash window both with thick wood trim. On the north of the enclosed porch, is a centered six-over-six light and wood sash window with thick squared trim. The wood clapboard siding on the enclosed porch is wider than the original wood clapboard. Above the enclosed porch are two, one-over-one double hung wood sash windows with a decorative upper sash flanking either side of the gable. Under the second gable to the right of the enclosed porch on the first story, is a double, three-over-one light and wood sash double-hung window with thick squared wood trim. To the right of this gable is a hipped roof extension where the addition was construction c. 1965. The addition is in the same plan with the original siding, but has wider wood planks and has a three wood panel and six-light door and a concrete foundation.



**Figure 1: 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the location of the Dr. Thomas H. Price House.**

The north elevation (see Photo 6) has an addition on the east side which it shares with the east elevation. This addition is noticeable by the change in clapboard widths which becomes wider in the addition and the change from a brick to a concrete block foundation. It also slightly protrudes from the original block of the house. The addition also continues use of the knee brace brackets but on a smaller scale than those on the main block. To the far east side of the addition is a small three-over-one vertical

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light and wood sash double hung window with thick wood squared trim. The original part of the house has thinner clapboard wood siding with a noticeable continuation of the thick wood capped cornice of the front porch. The corners of the main block have a thin wood trim with a curved corner piece. On the first floor of the north elevation is a double window towards the east and a single window towards the north and on the second floor at the clip- gable peak is a triple window. All the windows on this elevation are Craftsman-style one-over-one double hung wood sash windows with a simple thick wood trim.

Interior

The Dr. Price House has a Craftsman-style interior with a modified central hall plan, high Craftsman work seen in the mantels, wood doors and window sashes, stairway design, and decorative corner base wood trim pieces and corner beads. The interior features plaster walls with wallpaper on the first floor and painted on the second, carpeting on the first floor and painted wood floors on the second, and thick plain wood base trim with decorative corner details (*see Photo 9*) on both floors.

The Dr. Price House has a modified central hall plan, common in classic Craftsman/Bungalow style homes. After 1914, Craftsman style homes began to see a central hall plan with a centered front door with two double-hung windows on both sides, one for the parlor and the other for the front bedroom.<sup>1</sup> This is reflected in the floor plan of the Dr. Price house. There is still the continuation of the sequentially ordered rooms, with the parlor, dining room and kitchen on one side and two bedrooms and a bath on the opposite side. The sequential order of rooms divided by a central hall was a common layout in Bungalow homes.<sup>2</sup> In the Dr. Thomas H. Price House, the central hall has a fifteen-lite glass and wood double leaf French door with a two- lite glass and wood transom and a simple cap trim that divides the hall in two (*see Photos 10 & 11*). The front hall walls (*see Photo 12*) have a wood chair rail with wallpaper on the upper section and painted plaster on the lower. Facing east in the front hall, the front bedroom is on the right with a single door opening and to the left is the parlor with a large triple door opening. The front hall can be seen as an extension of the living room because of the large opening. The triple door opening (*see Photo 13*) consists of three hinged glass and wood panel doors, each with a two wood panel lower section and a nine-light beveled glass upper section.

The triple door opening leads into the parlor. The parlor (*see Photo 14*) has the continuation of the thick wood squared base trim with decorative corner details, carpet over original wood floors, and painted plaster walls. A double wood sash window is on the west wall and a single wood sash window is on the north wall, all three with a decorative craftsman-style upper sash and capped wood trim. The parlor features an elaborate mantel centered on the east wall with a green and white ceramic tile surround and hearth, Corinthian style wood columns supports a Craftsman-style shelf above which is a simple thick wood cornice. To the right of the fireplace is a thick-cap trimmed doorway with an original wood panel door that leads into the dining room.

The dining room (*see Photo 15*) features a beaded wood wainscot, wood corner beads and wallpapered plaster walls. The room has a double wood sash window with decorative upper sash and

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<sup>1</sup> Gottfried, Herbert, and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors, 1870-1960*. New York: W.W. Norton and, 2009. 194.

<sup>2</sup> Gottfried, Herbert, and Jan Jennings. 194.

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thick-cap wood trim on the north wall. A fireplace and buffet closet are located on the west wall. The fireplace mantel (*see Photo 16*) in the dining room is the most elaborate in the house with yellow and green ceramic tile surround and hearth, wood Ionic columns supporting the over mantel shelf, a middle shelf with garland ornamentation supported by three curved brackets, an oval mirror set within a four-wreath garland ornamentation surround, and a simple thick wood cornice. The buffet closet to the north of the fireplace has tiled floors, four upper shelves and a continuation of the bead-board wainscot. On the south wall is another triple set of the two-wood panel and nine-light beveled glass hinged doors (*see Photo 17*), just like the ones found leading from the front hall to the parlor. This set of hinged doors leads into the back hall. On the east wall on the south side is a doorway leading into the main kitchen.

On the west wall of the main kitchen is a wood chair rail with a bead-board upper section and plaster walls on the bottom (*see Photo 18*). The shallow U-shaped kitchen (*see Photo 19*) on the east side is centered on a double three-over-one vertical light window with simple thick wood trim. The trim around the doors and windows is squared, thick wood trim. The doorway centered on the north wall leads into the hall of the c.1965 addition. In the addition (*see Photos 20 & 21*) are drywall painted walls and a closet on the west side of the hall, a bathroom with a one-over-one double hung wood sash window on the north side, and a six-light and three-panel wood door on the east side that leads out into the backyard. The wood trim surrounding the doorways are pre-fabricated. Back in the main kitchen, centered on the south wall is another door opening that leads into the enclosed back porch, also known as the sunroom.

The sunroom (*see Photo 22*) was originally the back porch on the east elevation of the house and was enclosed c. 1965. The sunroom shaped like an “L” features the wood clapboard walls with thick wood trim surrounding the door openings. To the east side of the sunroom is an addition with lowered wood beaded board ceilings and wood beaded wainscoting (*see Photo 23*). The north wall of the addition has a centered door frame and a six-over-six double-hung wood sash window with thick trim on the far eastern side. The east wall features a triple double-hung eight-over-eight wood sash window with thick squared trim. The south wall on the far eastern side has a double-hung six-over-six wood sash window with thick trim next to a three-wood panel and three-light glass and wood door that leads out to the backyard, and a thick wood trimmed doorway that leads into the second kitchen. The second kitchen (*see Photo 24*), located on the south elevation of the house, has a straight wall layout with two sets of double three-over-one vertical light double- hung wood sash windows with thick trim one on the east and south walls. In the southwestern corner of the sunroom is a small bathroom with a five- panel wood door with a single-light awning transom. The bathroom (*see Photo 25*) has green-tiled walls with linoleum tiled floors. On the west wall (*see Photo 26*) of the sunroom is a thick square wood trim doorway with single-light glass and wood transom that leads into the back hall. This area, which includes the sunroom and second kitchen, was used by Price’s second wife, Alline Love Price, later in her life and she also rented out rooms and sections of the house for added income.

The back hall (*see Photos 27 & 28*) has a triple door opening on the north that allows access to the dining room. French doors (previously described) located to the west leads into the front hall. A single door opening on the south wall leads to the back bedroom, and single door opening leads into the sunroom on the east wall. On the south side of the back hall is an open, straight-run wood stair case (*see Photo 29*) that leads to the half-story. The staircase has an open-paneled wood string board with a circle end starting step. The stairs have a common Craftsman-style wood carved newel posts with dentil details and a wood-turned balustrade.

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From the back hall to the south is a single doorway with capped wood trim and a single-light operable transom (*see Photo 30*) that leads to the back bedroom. The back bedroom (*see Photo 31*) has plaster walls covered by wall paper with a thick base trim and small corner details. On the south wall is a centered double one-over-one double hung wood window with a decorative upper sash. The west wall has a single, double-hung wood sash window similar to the other Craftsman-style windows in the house. On the south end of the west wall is a fireplace sited in the center, and a single door opening with cap wood trim to its north side. The fireplace mantel is simpler than those in the dining room and parlor with a wood shelf, a thick keystone and simple pilasters. A small closet (*see Photo 32*) is on the west part of the north wall.

Through the door on the west wall is the front bedroom (*see Photo 33*). The front bedroom has textured plaster walls with a thick squared wood base board with corner details and corner beads. The fireplace is on the east wall has a mantel with thick paneled pilasters, a curved surround, a simple squared shelf, decorative surrounds and a keystone. The firebox and hearth is brick. To the south of the fireplace is a five-panel wood door that leads into a small closet. On the south wall is a single double hung wood sash window and on the west wall is a double, double hung wood sash window.

The second floor retains the high level of craftsmanship as the first with thick base trim and corner wood details and corner beads. The second floor plan consists of a central hall, two bedrooms; with one each on the south and north sides and an unfinished attic on the east side. Unlike the first floor, the second floor has lowered bead board wood ceilings, painted wood floors, and textured plaster ceilings. The bedroom to the south (*see Photo 34*) has a double, one-over-one double hung wood sash window with decorative upper sash and thick squared wood trim to the west side of the south wall. The ceilings in both bedrooms are decked bead board and follow the shape of the decked roof slopes. The center hall (*see Photo 35*) has a triple one-over-one double hung wood sash window with decorative upper sashes and thick squared wood trim in the clipped gable roof dormer. The bedroom to the north (*see Photo 36*) also has a triple one-over-one double hung wood sash window with decorative upper sashes and thick trim on the north wall and a decked bead-board ceiling. To the east is the wood-floored unfinished attic (*see Photo 37*) with the exposed roof structure. The east wall has two single one-over-one double hung wood sash windows with a decorative upper sash.

**Retaining Wall, ca. 1976 Non-Contributing**

To the north of the house is a concrete block retaining wall that runs east to west along the north property line. This wall was probably added at the time when a commercial restaurant was constructed in 1976 or sometime thereafter in order to obscure the commercial property from the adjacent residential property.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK  
 MEDICINE

**Period of Significance**

1923-1962

**Significant Dates**

C. 1912

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

PRICE, DR. THOMAS HUGH

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Dr. Thomas H. Price House is being nominated to the National Register under Criteria B for its local significance in and ethnic heritage as it relates to medicine and African-American history. Constructed c. 1912, Dr. Price bought the property in 1923 and resided here and practiced in Covington (pop. 9,038) until his death in 1962. He was a well-known African American physician and both he and his family were very involved socially within the community of Covington, Tennessee. In the segregated South, Dr. Price overcame the odds and rose to prominence in the medical field. His rise as an esteemed professional and his importance to the African American community for his numerous civic activities make him a significant individual in Covington. There were few educational opportunities for African-Americans to train as physicians in the early twentieth century, but Price succeeded and established a thriving practice. The house is the only extant property associated with Price and it retains its historic and architectural integrity.

The house sits on a less-than-an acre lot at the edge of a residential and commercial zone just four-tenths of a mile north of Covington’s Main Square. This neighborhood once was a very diverse middle-class neighborhood that changed with the construction of Highway 51.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Historic Background**

On October 29, 1823, Tipton County was established from the territory outside of Shelby County. Originally, Tipton County had a land area of 635 miles sits north of the Big Hatchie River. When the Tennessee legislature created Lauderdale County, twelve years later, Tipton County reduced its area to 440 square miles. Tipton County was named in honor of Jacob Tipton (1765-1791) a native of Cedar Creek, Shenandoah County, Virginia. Jacob Tipton became a captain and led his company from Elizabethton to the Ohio territory, where they would fight the Indians at Fort Wayne on November 4, 1791. Captain Jacob Tipton would die at this battle known as St. Clair’s Defeat. On December 1824, the town of Covington was made Tipton’s seat of government. At the time Covington was the center of the county. Covington was named in honor of General Leonard Wales Covington who was wounded in the battle of Chrysler’s Field (National Historic Site of Canada, 1920) on November 11, 1813.

Covington was a railroad town. In 1873, the first section between Memphis and Covington, of the Memphis and Paducah Railroad was completed. The railroad created a tremendous boom for the economy and expanded trade and brought numerous families to the area. With this economic growth new homes were constructed throughout the city. Pattern books and popular magazines influenced many of these houses built in the Eclectic styles: Tudor, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, etc., popular at the turn of the century. The neighborhood, where the Dr. Price lived, is one of these neighborhoods heavily influenced by these styles, though now many of the buildings are now demolished. Located four-tenths of a mile north of Covington Town Square, this racially mixed middle-class neighborhood also had larger architectural buildings: Bethel A.M.E. Church (demolished), Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, Collins Chapel C.M.E. Church, Frazier School (closed), and Covington Social Benevolent Hall (demolished).

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Dr. Price purchased the less-than-an acre property with house already built, then 222 North Main Street, on January 26, 1923 from J.M. Rogers. The neighborhood was a racially mixed area composed of many professionals, like Dr. Price, as well as common laborers, farmers, carpenters, brick masons, teachers, railroad workers and workers from the nearby Covington Cotton Oil Mill. Dr. Thomas Hugh Price was a well-respected African-American physician and surgeon throughout Tipton County. Dr. Price, a native of Fayette County, Tennessee, was born in 1873 (see Figure 2).<sup>3</sup> His parents, Sam Price, Sr. and Cornelia Hobson Price, were former slaves who never learned to read or write but by their hard work and industry; they were able to purchase their own farm near Somerville.<sup>4</sup>



**Figure 2. Dr. Thomas H. Price at the start of his medical career.**  
*Photo courtesy of True Tales of Tipton County by Gaylon Beasley*

Dr. Price was educated in the African-American school system of Fayette County. He later attended Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi and received his B.S. Degree from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee. In 1902, he earned his Medical Degree from the Meharry Medical College of Walden University located in Nashville, Tennessee (see Figure 3).<sup>5</sup>

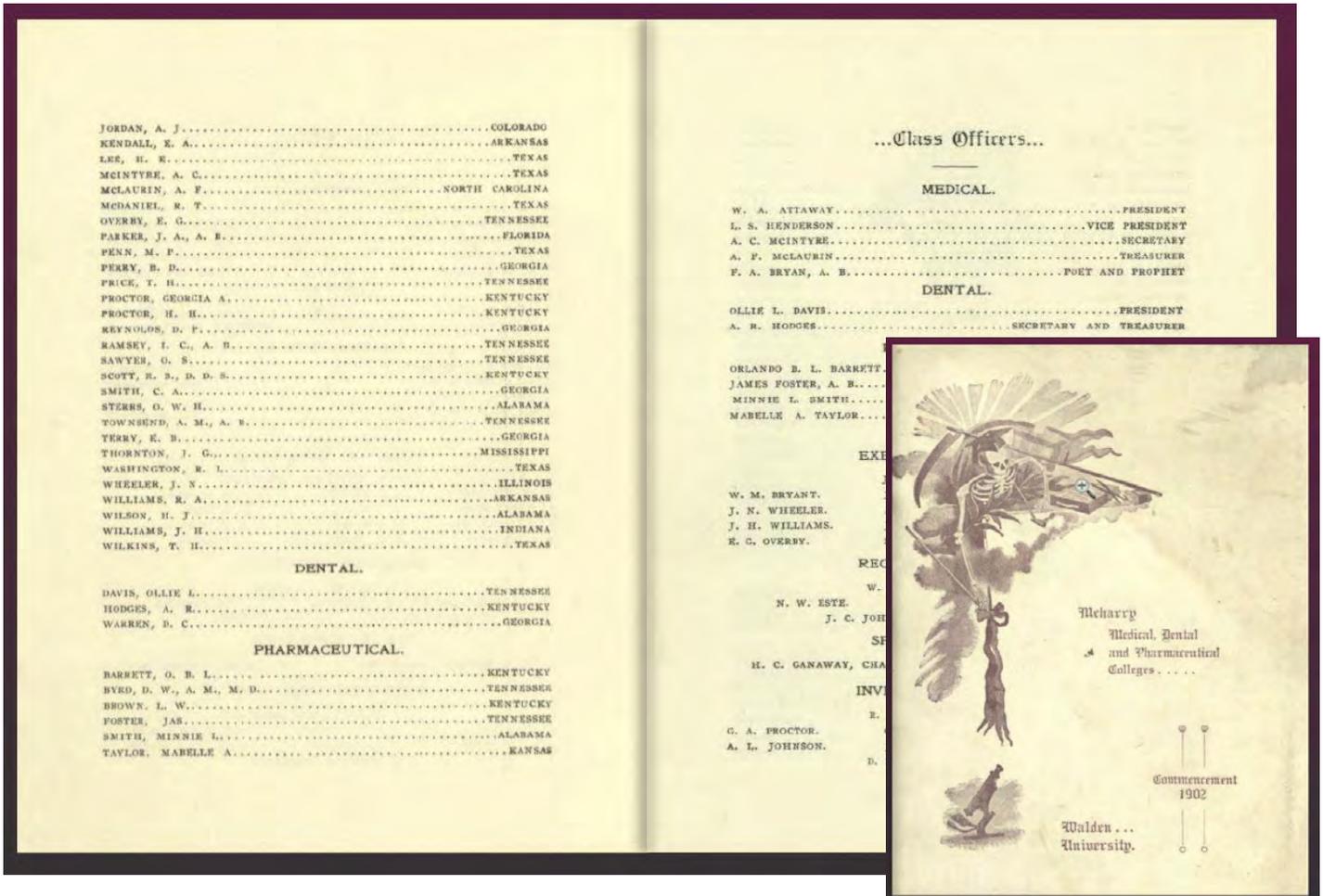
<sup>3</sup> Death Certificate of Dr. Thomas Hugh Price, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> *The Covington Leader*, 13 December 1962.

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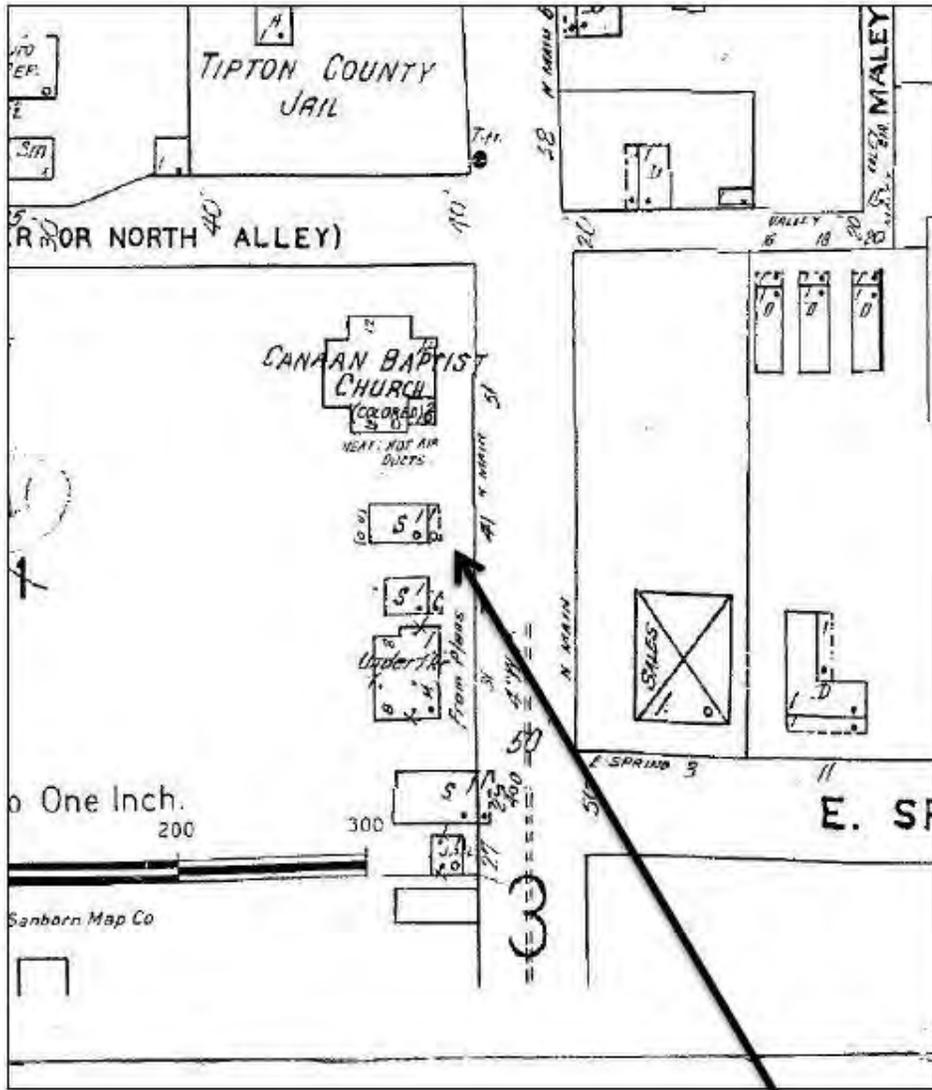


**Figure 3: Meharry Medical College Commencement Program 1902.**  
 Photo courtesy of Meharry Medical School Archives.

Following his graduation from Meharry, Dr. Thomas H. Price moved to Covington, Tennessee to begin his professional life. He practiced medicine in Covington and Tipton County for the next sixty years of his life. His office was located just off the main square of downtown Covington to the north on North Main Street (see Figures 5 & 6) next to the Canaan Baptist Church (NRHP-listed, 11/30/1999). In the early years of his practice, there were a number of other African-American physicians based in Covington but as the years went by, he eventually became the only African-American in his field.

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**Figure 4.**  
Previous location of the Dr. Thomas H. Price Office on North Main Street as shown on the 1929 USGS Quadrangle. Photo to the right is the current location in the now non-extant office.



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Dr. Thomas H. Price was a noted officer and long-time member of the Volunteer Lodge, #65, Colored Knights of Pythias. He was also active in the affairs of the Grand Lodge of the Colored Knights of Pythias.<sup>6</sup> Most people are familiar with The Order of Knights of Pythias which is a great international fraternity that was founded in Washington, DC on February 19, 1864 by Justus H. Rathbone. However, most are not aware that the first African American Pythian lodge was organized in Vicksburg, Mississippi in April of 1880 by Dr. T.W. Stringer and others that had been denied membership into the Order and was commonly known as the Lightfoot Lodge No. 1 with the official name being the Knights of Pythias of North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The primary mission of this fraternal organization is, “to promote friendship among men and to relieve suffering. It bases its lessons and builds its ritual largely on the familiar story of the friendship of Damon and Pythias. Strict moralities, absolute truthfulness, honor and integrity is thoroughly instilled in the minds of its membership.”<sup>7</sup>

Dr. Thomas H. Price was a member and long-time officer of the Tri-County Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association which was composed of African-Americans in the Medical profession from Tipton, Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, Tennessee.<sup>8</sup> He was also a member of the National Medical Association (NMA). Organized in 1895, the NMA is the largest and oldest medical organization representing African-Americans in the medical profession in the United States. Additionally, he was a member of State Medical Association of Negro Physicians of Tennessee from the early days of that organization as well as the Volunteer State Medical, Dental & Pharmaceutical Society. He served as the West Tennessee Vice President of that organization in 1912-13.<sup>9</sup>

Dr. Price had extensive farming interests in Tipton and Fayette Counties and took an active part in their operation as time allowed. He also owned a number of rental properties throughout Covington. In 1960, Price Terrace, a federal housing project in Covington, was named in his honor. Price Street in Covington is also named for him.<sup>10</sup> The Price family were all members of the historic Canaan Missionary Baptist Church located on North Main Street in Covington.<sup>11</sup> Dr. Thomas H. Price was the Chairman of the Deacon Board of that congregation for more than forty years.

Dr. Thomas Hugh Price married twice. He married the first time in Fayette County, Tennessee in 1900 to Willie Ola Gooden the daughter of former Tennessee State Representative, Monroe W. Gooden and his wife, Ann Baskerville.<sup>12</sup> To this union was born two children, namely Lucille L. Price (1905-1997)

<sup>6</sup> Volunteer Lodge #65, Colored Knights of Pythias, Covington, Tennessee, Records, in possession of David Gwinn; “The Knights of Pythias in Tennessee,” *Nashville Globe*, 23 September 1910.

<sup>7</sup> “Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias: Jurisdiction of Florida”, <http://knightsofpythiasfl.com/history>, accessed February 5, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Tri-County Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, Tipton, Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, Records, in the possession of David Gwinn.

<sup>9</sup> “State Doctors”, *The Nashville Globe*, 11 June 1909; “Tennessee Doctors Will Convene in Columbia”, *Nashville Globe*, 13 June 1913.

<sup>10</sup> Covington Housing Authority, Covington, Tennessee, *Minutes*.

<sup>11</sup> Letter of Notification from Herbert L Harper, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer to David A. Gwinn, Tipton County Genealogist, 20 December 1999 in Gwinn’s Personal Archives.

<sup>12</sup> Fayette County, Tennessee Marriage Records, Fayette County Court Clerk’s Office, Somerville, Tennessee; Robert M. McBride and Dan M. Robison, *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Volume II, 1861 – 1901*, (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives and Tennessee Historical Commission), pp.342-343.

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who married Robert Edward Pettaway and Willie Clarence Price (1914-1957).<sup>13</sup> Following Lucille's divorce from R.E. Pettaway in 1928, she sent her only son, Thomas Edward Pettaway (1928- 2010), to Covington to be raised by Dr. and Mrs. Price. Willie Ola Gooden Price died in 1935 in her home at 222 North Main (now 620 North Main) in Covington and was laid to rest in the Gooden family lot in Patterson Cemetery in Fayette County, Tennessee.<sup>14</sup>



### Dr. T. H. Price, Physician 60 Years, Dies

Funeral services were held here Tuesday for Dr. Thomas Hugh Price, Negro physician who practiced medicine in Covington for 60 years.

He died Saturday at E. H. Crump Hospital in Memphis after being in failing health for some months. He would have been 90 years old in February.

A native of Fayette County, Dr. Price attended Rust College in Holy Springs, Miss., and received his B. S. degree from Lane College in Jackson. He was awarded a doctor of medicine degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville in 1902.

He established his practice in Covington after graduating from medical school and for many of the 60 years he was practicing, he was the only Negro physician in the county.

In 1960, Price Terrace, a federal housing project here, was named in his honor. A street also bears his name. He was a member of Canaan Baptist Church and served as chairman of the deacon board there for approximately 40 years.

Funeral services were held at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon in Canaan Baptist Church. Burial was in Townsend Cemetery with Barlow Funeral Home in charge. Dr. J. H. Seward conducted the service, assisted by Rev. N. Mitchum, Rev. Wm. E. Morgan and Rev. James Porter. Supplementary remarks were made by Francis Mitchell, V. B. Barlow and P. B. Brown.

He is survived by his wife, Allene Love Price; a grandson, Thomas Edward Pettaway; a sister, Mrs. Chaney Brown and two great-grandchildren.

<sup>13</sup> The Covington Leader, 23 December 1937, p. 8.  
<sup>14</sup> The Covington Leader, 4 April 1935, p. 9.

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Following the death of his first wife, Dr. T.H. Price married Mrs. Alline Love Watkins, the daughter of John Washington and Virginia Currin Love of Lauderdale County, Tennessee and the widow of William Louis Watkins , DDS of Brownsville, Tennessee. Alline Love Price was a long-time teacher in the Lauderdale, Haywood and Tipton County School Systems. She was the Principal of the Mt. Carmel School located about five miles south of Covington for a number of years.<sup>15</sup> She was active in local social, church and civic affairs. She was one of the founders of the I.S.A. Club , a chapter of the Tennessee Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs.<sup>16</sup> In 1965, she was appointed as a member of the Tipton County Bi-Racial Committee which was organized to deal with local racial matters during the Civil Rights movement.<sup>17</sup> She died on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 at the age of 102.<sup>18</sup> She was buried at Halls, Tennessee.

Dr. Thomas Hugh Price died on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1962 of prostate cancer in the E.H. Crump Memorial Hospital in Memphis.<sup>19</sup> He was laid to rest in Townsend Cemetery near Covington, Tennessee beside his daughter, Lucille. His obituary appeared on the front page of the Covington Leader on Thursday, December 13, 1962 (*see Figure 5*).

As the son of former slaves, Dr. Price took full advantage of the limited educational opportunities available to an African-American student in the South, excelling in the separate but definitely not equal schools in his Fayette County home. He did well enough to attend Rust College close to home in north Mississippi and complete his B.S. degree from Lane College (NR 7/2/1987) in Jackson. Price successfully finished his medical education in Nashville at one of the few medical schools available to black students in the nation. The limits for training in the medical profession and other areas like law that required advanced degrees proscribed most all African-Americans opportunities to pursue these fields. Dr. Price is important because he overcame great odds to complete his medical training and become an accomplished professional in his chosen field.

Dr. Price worked successfully within the limited boundaries of the Jim Crow small town south, becoming not only a prosperous physician but a well-respected citizen of Covington that was honored upon his death with an obituary on the front page of the local paper. Dr. Price passed away in 1962 at the start of the Civil Rights movement, which in rural West Tennessee resulted in a fight for voting rights and integrated schools. Other services like hospitals and doctors’ offices were begrudgingly integrated through 1960s-70s. Dr. Price had provided a valuable service to his community during the first half of the twentieth century, but fortunately doctors providing segregated services were no longer necessary during the latter part of the twenty century and African-American doctors were free to practice medicine among all races, although not without challenges from ongoing institutional racism. Dr. Price met an invaluable need for the African-American citizens of Covington and Tipton County while overcoming the strict class and race structure that relegated most southern African-American citizens to roles as laborers, farmers, and servants.

<sup>15</sup> Tipton County Board of Education , *Minutes* , Office of the Tipton County, Board of Education, Covington, Tennessee.

<sup>16</sup> Records of the I.S.A. Club, Covington, Tennessee, Tennessee Federation of Colored Woman’s Clubs, in possession of the author.

<sup>17</sup> Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Covington, Tennessee, *Minutes*, 13 July 1965.

<sup>18</sup> *The Leader*, 14 December 2007.

<sup>19</sup> Death Certificate of Dr. Thomas Hugh Price, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

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### Architectural Context

The Dr. Thomas H. Price House was built in the Craftsman/Bungalow style, a popular style from 1901 to the 1930s.<sup>20</sup> Originating in southern California, this style spread throughout the country through pattern books and popular magazines like, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *House Beautiful*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Architectural Record*.<sup>21</sup> This movement was a reaction against the Industrial Revolution in attempt to improve the quality life through design based upon nature, simplicity, and democracy.<sup>22</sup> The Greene Brothers primarily influenced this more vernacular and common style, popular to the middle class. Around 1903, a simpler Craftsman-type bungalow appeared, but still holding on to many of the major stylistic details. Exposed rafters, wide eaves, simple wood details, broad front porches, and low-pitched roofs characterized this style. The more vernacular one-story homes are also known as bungalows.

This architectural style was known for its simple but highly crafted woodwork seen in the exposed rafters, knee brackets, windows, and doors. The Dr. Thomas H. Price house is a good example of the vernacular Craftsman/Bungalow-style house common in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for middle-income families. However, in the context of Covington, which has two National Register-listed historic districts, the house does not have distinctive characteristics that would make it individually eligible for listing under criterion C.

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<sup>20</sup> Baker, John Milnes, A.I.A. *American House Styles: A Concise Guide*. New York: Norton & Company, Inc., 1994. 114.

<sup>21</sup> Calloway, Stephen & Elizabeth Cromley. *The Elements of Style*. 4th Ed. Richmond Hill, Ont.: Firefly Books, 2012. 187.

<sup>22</sup> Gelernter, Mark. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999. 224.

Price, Dr. Thomas H. , House  
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Summerville, James. *Educating Black Doctors: A History of Meharry Medical College*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1983.

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*United States Federal Population Census: Tipton County, TN: 1910-1940*. Tipton County, TN, 1940.

*Volunteer Lodge #65, Colored Knights of Pythias Minutes*. Covington, TN.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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**10. Geographical Data**

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<b>Acreage of Property</b>	Less than 1-acre	<b>USGS Quadrangle</b>	Covington 414SW
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**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

1. Latitude: 35.570698                      Longitude: -89.645756

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Parcel #025N C 018.00

The Dr. Thomas H. Price House is located where North Main Street and Highway 51 intersect, 0.4 miles north of Covington's Main Square. To the south of the property are residential homes and the east is a row of trees and residential homes. On the north side of the property there is a concrete block retaining wall protecting the property from the fast food drive-in restaurant chain. The property fronts along the four-lane Highway 51.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary contains property historically associated with the Dr. Thomas H. Price House.

Price, Dr. Thomas H. , House  
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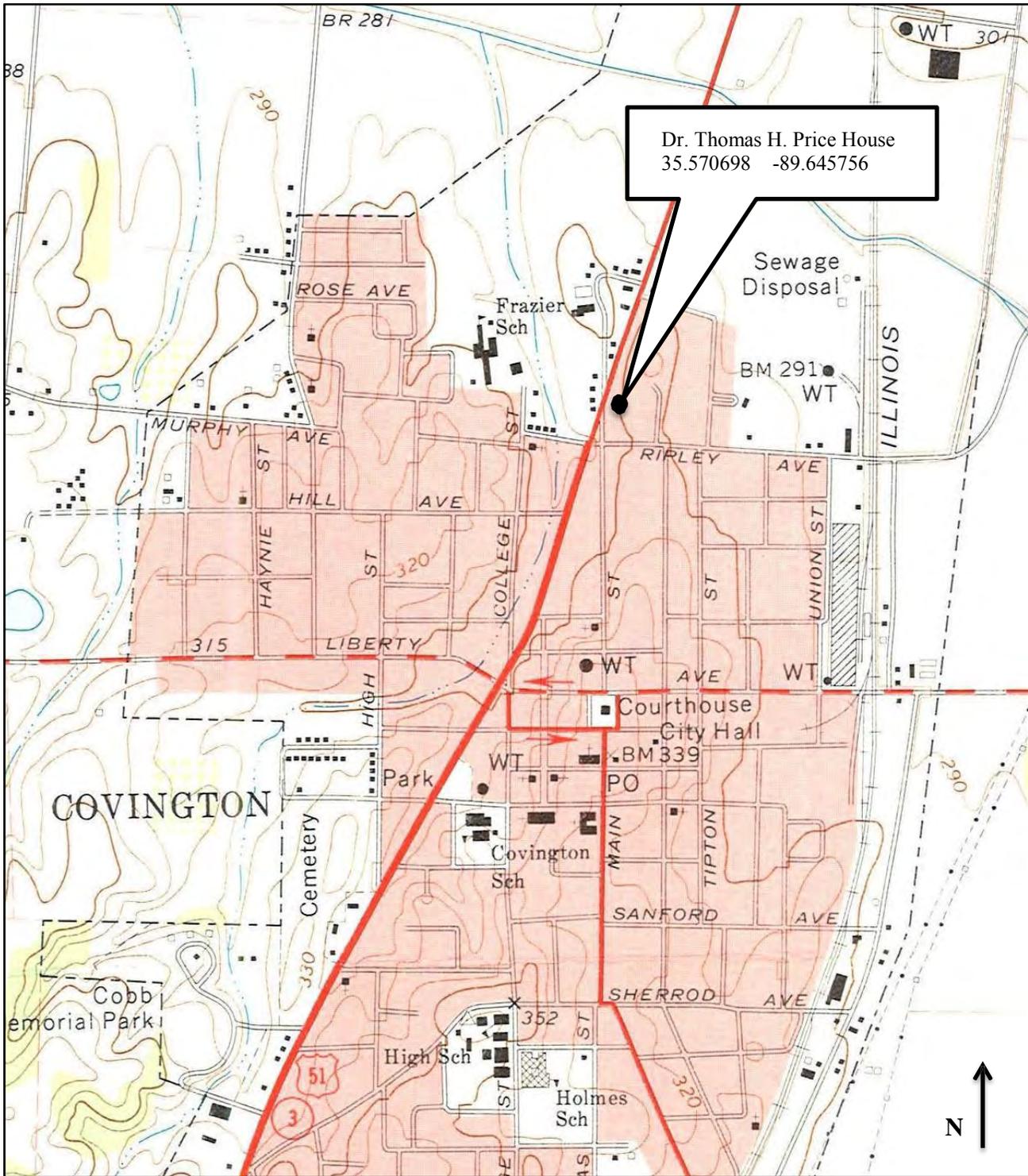
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Covington Parcel Tax Map for the Dr. Price House

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1972 USGS Covington Quadrangle Map showing the location of the Dr. Thomas H. Price House.  
1:24 000 scale

Price, Dr. Thomas H. , House  
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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name Maggie Johnson, Historic Preservation Planner; David Gwinn, Covington City Historian  
Organization Memphis Area Association of Governments; City of Covington  
Street & Number 8289 Cordova Road, Suite 103 Date September 9, 2014  
City or Town Cordova Telephone 901-729-2871  
E-mail mjohnson@maagov.org State TN Zip Code 38016

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Price, Dr. Thomas H. , House  
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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Dr. Thomas H. Price House  
City or Vicinity: Covington  
County: Tipton State: Tennessee  
Photographer: Maggie Johnson and Peggy Nickell  
Date Photographed: September 19, 2014 and November 19, 2014

- 1 of 29. Exterior, Overall view. View to the northeast.
- 2 of 29. Exterior, Main Façade. View to the east.
- 3 of 29. Exterior, South Elevation. View to the north.
- 4 of 29. Exterior, Rear/North Elevation. View to the southwest.
- 5 of 29. Exterior, East Elevation. View to the northwest.
- 6 of 29. Exterior, North Elevation. View to the southwest.
- 7 of 29. Exterior, Front porch on the Main Facade. View to the south.
- 8 of 29. Exterior, Original Windows and Storm Windows. View to the east.
- 9 of 29. Exterior, Corner trim. View to the southwest.
- 10 of 29. Interior, Main Entry Door and Transom. View to the northwest.
- 11 of 29. Interior, Central Front Hall and Staircase. View to west.
- 12 of 29. Interior, Central Back Hall. View to east.
- 13 of 29. Interior, Parlor and Fireplace. View to northeast.
- 14 of 29. Interior, Dining Room Fireplace and Closet. View to east.
- 15 of 29. Interior, Living Room, Triple door Opening. View to southwest.
- 16 of 29. Interior, Dining Room, Triple Door Opening. View to south.
- 17 of 29. Interior, Addition, Bathroom & Door to exterior. View northeast.
- 18 of 29. Interior, Main Kitchen. View to east.

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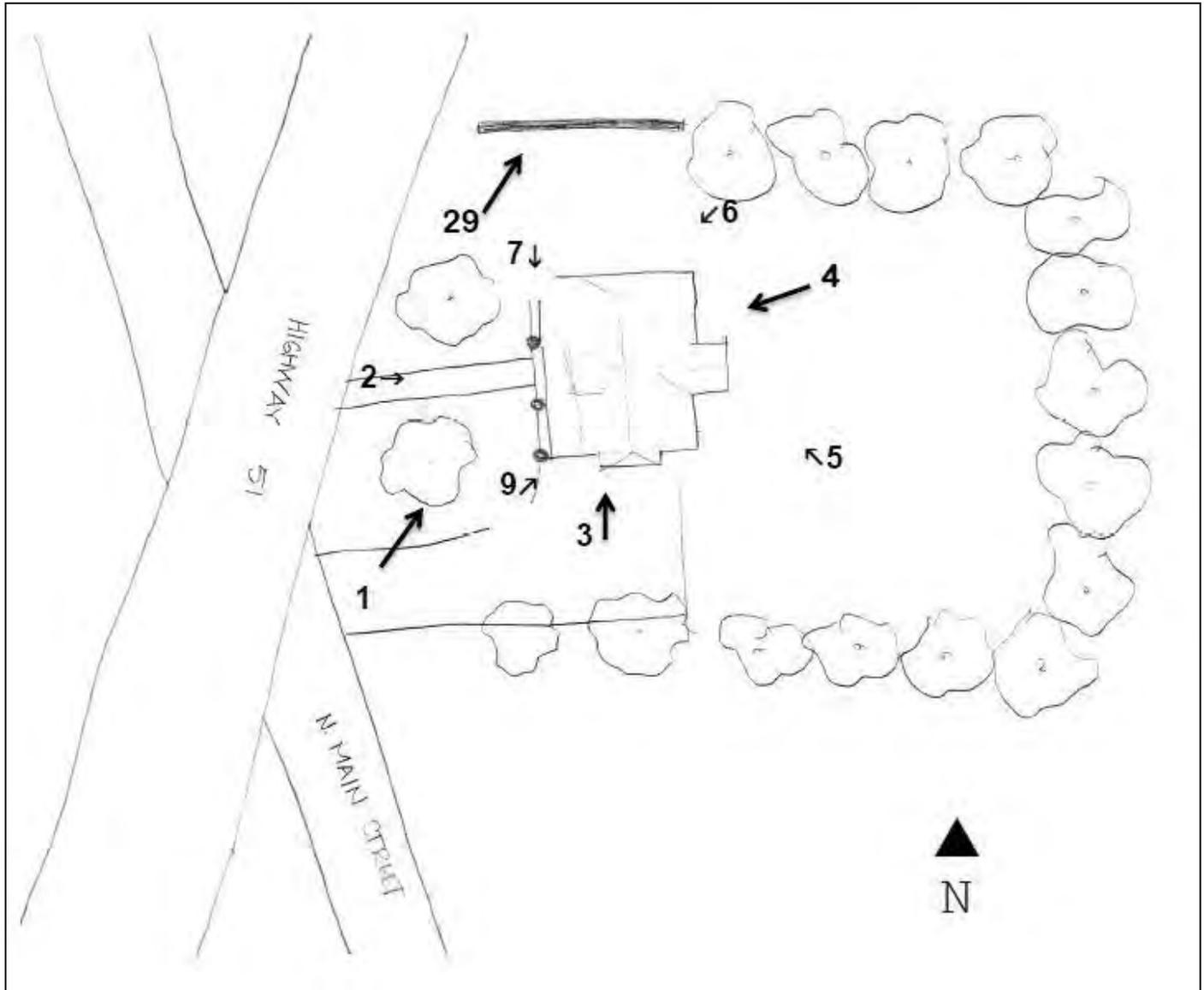
Tipton County, Tennessee  
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- 19 of 29. Interior, Sunroom. View northeast.
  - 20 of 29. Interior, Second Kitchen. View southwest.
  - 21 of 29. Interior, Back Hall. View west.
  - 22 of 29. Interior, Back Bedroom. View southwest.
  - 23 of 29. Interior, Front Bedroom, Fireplace and Closet. View southeast.
  - 24 of 29. Interior, Corner Base Trim in Front Bedroom. View to the northwest.
  - 25 of 29. Interior, Second Floor, Central Hall. View west.
  - 26 of 29. Interior, Second Floor, North Bedroom. View north.
  - 27 of 29. Interior, Second Floor, South Bedroom. View south.
  - 28 of 29. Interior, Second Floor, Attic. View east.
  - 29 of 29. Exterior, Concrete Block Wall. View to the northeast.

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Site Plan and Photo Key (not to scale)

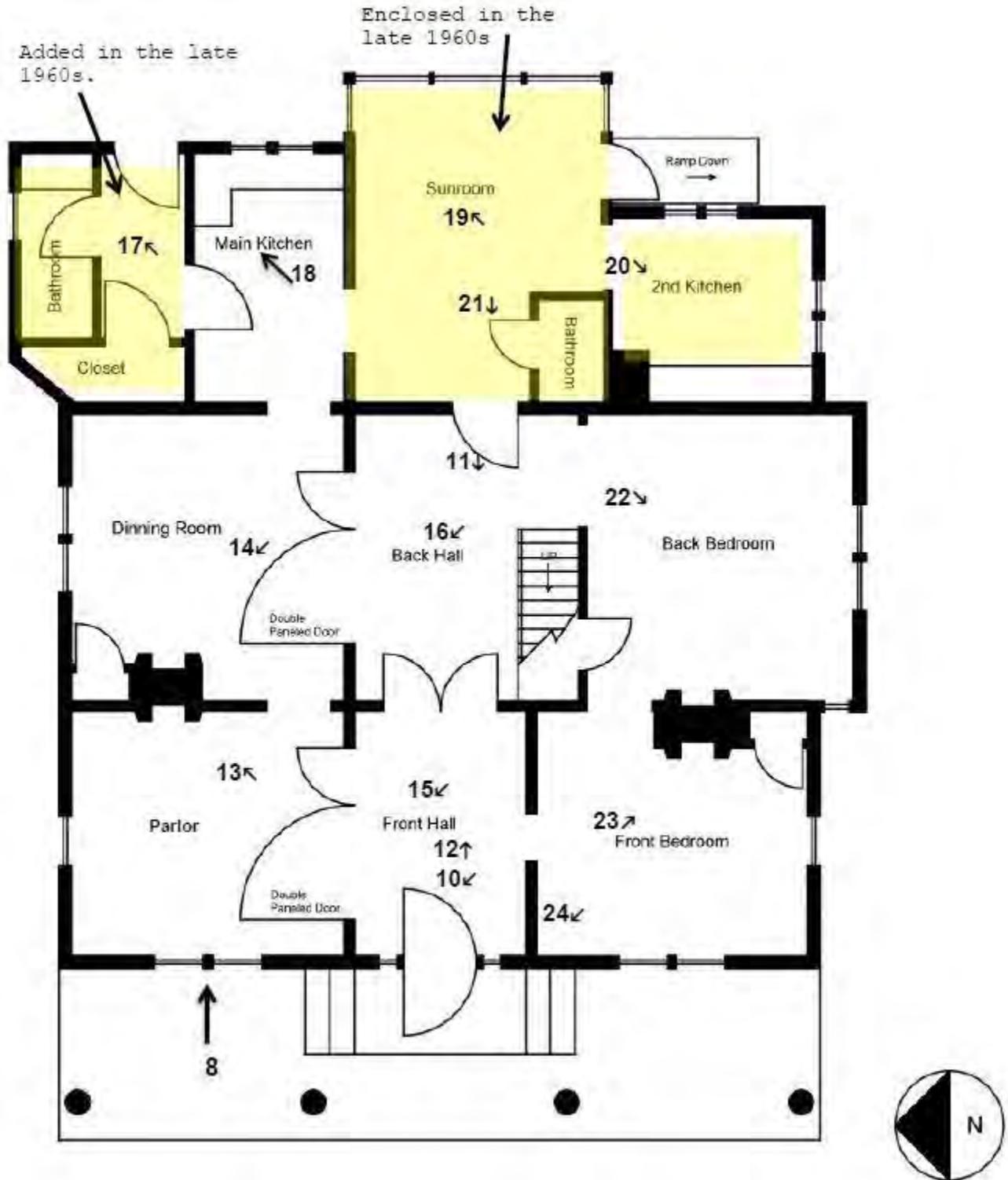


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**Floor Plan and Photo Key (not to scale)**

**First Floor**

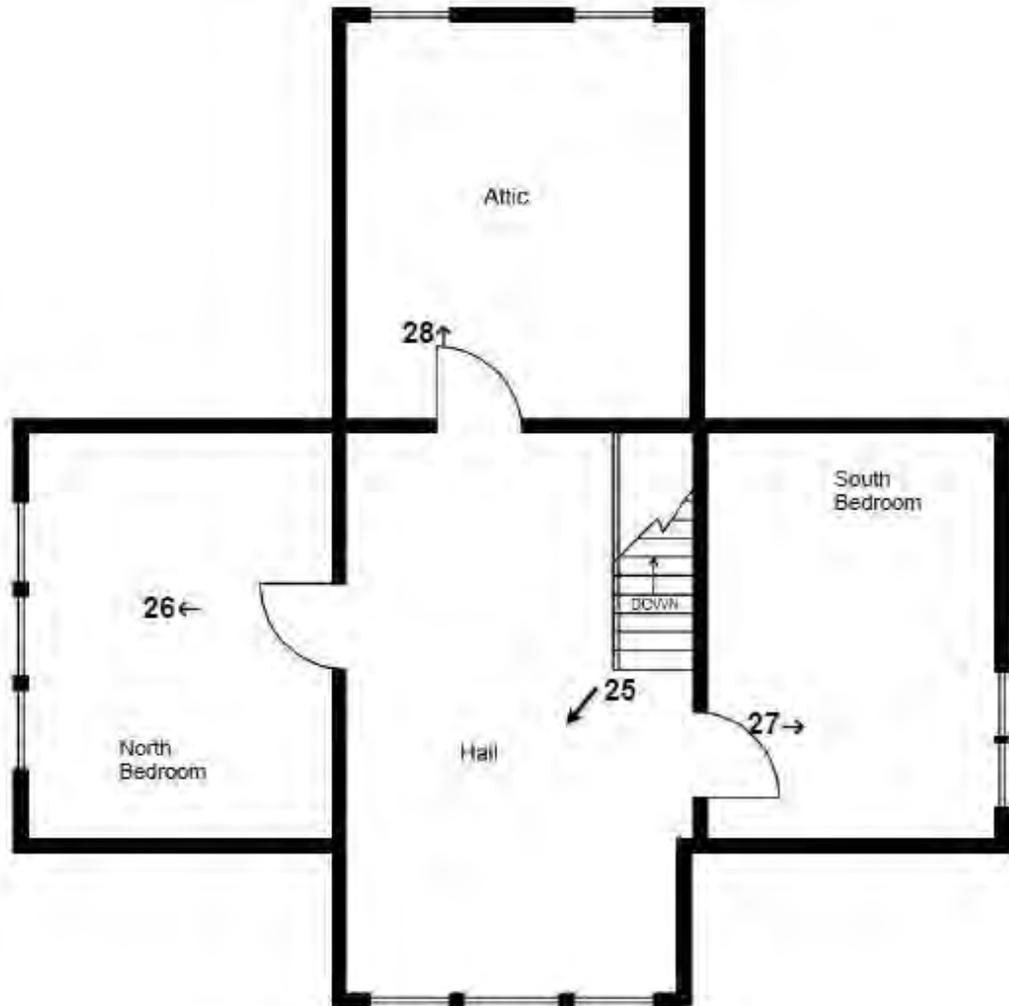


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**Floor Plan and Photo Key (not to scale)**

**Second Floor**







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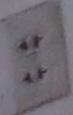






























Crystal  
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