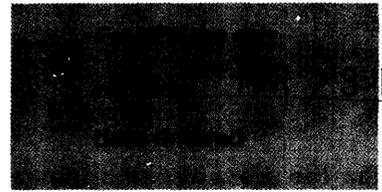


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Belle Meade Apartments

and/or common none

2. Location

street & number 715 Belle Meade Blvd. N/A not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

3. 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 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Hunter Armistead

street & number 3401 West End Avenue, Suite 600

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37203

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davidson County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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

The Belle Meade Apartment building is a three-story frame and masonry structure, located on Belle Meade Boulevard in Nashville, Tennessee. The building was constructed in 1917 and is an excellent example of the Tudor style of the early 20th century. Upon its construction the apartment building was considered the most fashionable in the city. The building displays a stucco and masonry exterior with mock half-timbering, casement windows and Tudor arched entrances. The Belle Meade Apartment building continues to be used as a multi-family dwelling and it retains its original architectural features.

The building is located at 715 Belle Meade Boulevard opposite the Belle Meade Country Club and golf course and sits on a large lot measuring 224' by 354'. At the front of the building a circular driveway leads to a parking area and the two main entrances. At the rear another driveway leads to two garages set back from the main building. Adjacent to the property, there are early and mid-20th century residences.

The Belle Meade Apartment building was constructed in 1917 and designed by architect Edwin Dougherty of Nashville. It was built in the Tudor style which was an important style of the early 20th century revival movement. The building rests on a cut limestone base and features an exterior of header bond brick and stucco. Rectangular in shape, the Belle Meade features central bays recessed from the projecting end bays. The exterior of the building has not been altered and displays mock half-timbering in the gable ends, bay windows, and casement windows with transoms.

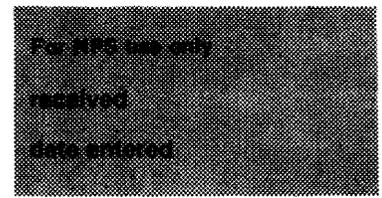
The east elevation, facing Belle Meade Boulevard, is the building's main facade. This elevation is twelve bays in width with the central eight bays recessed from the projecting wings. This recessed block contains the two main entrances for the apartments. These entrances display Tudor arching with limestone surrounds. The surrounds feature inset stone blocks, corbelled shoulders and floral modillion designs beneath the projecting stone cornice. Above the arch is a rectangular stone nameplate with the inscription "The Belle Meade" flanked by quatrefoil panels. The doors within the arches are of wood and glass containing twenty-four lights, and flanking the central door are six-light sidelights.

An important characteristic of the Belle Meade Apartment building is the large number of windows on the east elevation. This facade features three distinct window types: eight-over-eight sash; twelve-over-twelve sash; and double paired eight-light casement windows. All windows on the first and second floors display transom bars and multi-light transoms. Beneath each of the windows is a limestone sill. This window arrangement is also found on the remaining facades of the building.

On the projecting end bays the building features extended bay windows of frame and stucco. These bays contain eight-over-eight sash windows and paired transoms. Over each bay window is a projecting cornice with modillion blocks. The two bays at each end of the building have rectangular, louvered attic vents and are filled with mock half timbering, which is made frame and stucco. The mock half-timbering is both vertical and horizontal with patterned frame insets of diamond and octagonal design. Beneath the gable overhang are modillion blocks and below the eaves are large brackets. At the roofline of each end bay is a finial with dropped pendants.

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Continuation sheet Belle Meade Apartments Item number 7 Page 2

The roof of the building is composed of multi-colored slate shingles and is in excellent condition. The central bay of the roof is in a modified jerkinhead design with an oriel vent window. Within this gable end is mock half-timbering and beneath the eaves are modillion blocks. The chimneys display corbelled brickwork and circular chimney pots of terra cotta.

At the rear of the building is a continuation of the window arrangement found on the main facade. This elevation features rectangular bay windows which contain the sun rooms for the apartments. The bays are of frame and stucco with square Doric pilasters on each floor. In the central bay is a hipped dormer containing a six-light casement window. Another prominent feature of this facade is the large brick chimney stack for the building's heating system.

The interior of the Belle Meade Apartment building is substantially intact and few alterations have occurred. The building has two main entrances each with a small lobby, staircase and elevator. The lobby features exposed brick walls, hexagonal tile floors and wooden paneling. The newel post on each staircase is Adamesque in design with an urn and garlands. The original elevators are also intact and remain operable. Each apartment has oak floors and plaster walls and ceilings. Sunrooms feature marble floors and in the third floor apartments are ceilings with oak beams. The mantels in the apartments are also of Adamesque design with Corinthian engaged columns and bead molding.

Located at the rear of the main building is the original garage and servants' quarters of the Belle Meade Apartment building. This building is a one-and-one-half story structure of frame and masonry. It features large wooden doorways leading to garage units on the first floor and small rooms on the upper story which originally served as servants' quarters. This building mirrors the Tudor design of the main building with its mock half-timbering and stucco in the gable end. Adjacent to this building is a one-story masonry garage added ca. 1930.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1917 **Builder/Architect** Edwin Dougherty

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Belle Meade Apartment building is an architecturally and historically significant structure of the early 20th century, located on Belle Meade Boulevard in the incorporated suburb of Belle Meade adjacent to Nashville, Tennessee. The building is being nominated under criteria B and C because of its role in the development of Belle Meade, its association with noted architect Edwin Dougherty and its distinctive architectural features. Constructed in the Tudor style, the Belle Meade Apartment building was noted as the city's most prestigious apartment building during much of the 20th century. The building has not been altered and still displays its original architectural character.

At the end of the 19th century the famed Belle Meade estate was in serious financial difficulty. Once renowned as one of the South's premier plantations and horse farms, the large estate could no longer be operated at a profit. Thoroughbred horses and land were sold in 1903, and in 1904 2,200 acres of the estate were sold to a group of prominent Nashville businessmen who formed the Belle Meade Land Company. The company purchased the property to form a residential subdivision on the outskirts of Nashville. By 1907 hundreds of acres had been subdivided into residential lots and landscape gardeners, O.G. Simonds and Company, of Chicago, designed the layout of the community.

The first residences in Belle Meade were constructed in 1913 and several others were built in the following years. Macadamized roads were completed and streetcar lines were run out along Belle Meade Boulevard. A noted addition to the development was the construction of the Belle Meade Country Club and Golf Course in 1916 which spurred the sale of residential lots. Many new homes in the Colonial Revival and other 20th century revival styles were constructed in the community.

One of the most important additions to the community was the construction of the Belle Meade Apartment building across from the golf club in 1916. The Belle Meade Apartment building was the first structure completed on Belle Meade Boulevard and it signaled confidence in the future success of the community by the builders, Albert Britt and Herbert H. Corson. Albert Britt served as a manager of the State Bank and Trust Company and was an early promoter and resident of Belle Meade. In 1916 Britt purchased four lots of the Belle Meade subdivision and began construction of the apartment building. The Belle Meade Apartment Company, with Herbert Corson and Albert Britt as partners, was later formed to finance and construct the building. Corson was manager of the Nashville General Electric Company and he also was an early promoter of the community.

The architect for the building was Edwin Dougherty who had moved from Atlanta to Nashville to design the adjacent Belle Meade Country Club. Dougherty was a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts of Paris and worked as an architect in Atlanta before moving to Nashville in 1916. Dougherty was later to design many churches in the Southeast. In 1924 he was an associate architect with McKim, Meade and White on the War Memorial Building in Nashville. He later worked as staff architect for the Southern Baptist Convention before his death in 1943. Dougherty's traditional training in the Beaux-Arts school made him particularly adept at 20th century revival designs and he chose the Tudor style for the Belle Meade Apartment building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Oak Hill, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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5	1	2	8	1	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is bounded on the east by Belle Meade Boulevard, on the south by Harding Place, and on the west and south by adjoining property lines. This includes all of the property historically associated with the Belle Meade Apartments.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason

organization Thomason and Associates

date December, 1983

street & number 1700 Hayes Street, Suite 202

telephone (615) 320-5732

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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 3/21/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date

4/19/84

Keeper of the National Register

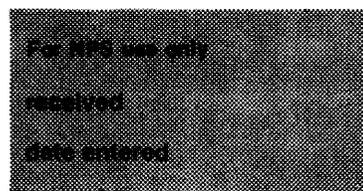
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Belle Meade Apartments Item number 8 Page 2

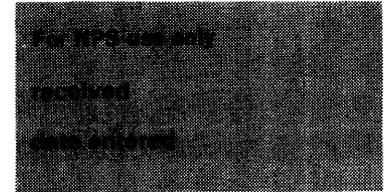
The building was constructed to be one of Belle Meade's most prestigious addresses. Its exterior featured multi-light casement and sash windows, mock half-timbering in the gable ends and Tudor arched entrances. A promotional brochure described the interior as "more beautifully finished than any similar building in the South." Oak floors, mahogany woodwork and Adamesque mantels supported this claim. All sun porches were paved with expensive white marble and the apartments on the third floor featured beamed ceilings. The building also had the most modern of conveniences: working elevators, steam heat and laundry facilities in the basement. At the rear of the main building a separate garage with servants' quarters on the upper floor was constructed.

By spring of 1918 the Belle Meade Apartment building was completed and the apartments occupied. From the beginning the building attracted some of Nashville's most noted citizens. Tenants in the early years included businessmen W.J. Elliston and J.C. Bradford, merchant Charles Davitt and Cumberland Valley National Bank president J.T. Howell. The building's luxurious quality and location adjacent to the country club have assured a progression of prominent tenants to the present.

The Belle Meade Apartment building was the first apartment building constructed in the community and it has long been regarded as the most prestigious in all of Nashville. Of other apartment buildings in Belle Meade only the Glencourt, which burned in 1982, could rival the Belle Meade in reputation. In 1919 Herbert Corson purchased the building for \$93,000 and it continues to be owned and managed by his descendants. Only minor changes have occurred to the building and its architectural character remains intact. The Belle Meade Apartment building continues to be a landmark on Belle Meade Boulevard.

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Continuation sheet Belle Meade Apartments

Item number 9

Page 2

Bibliography

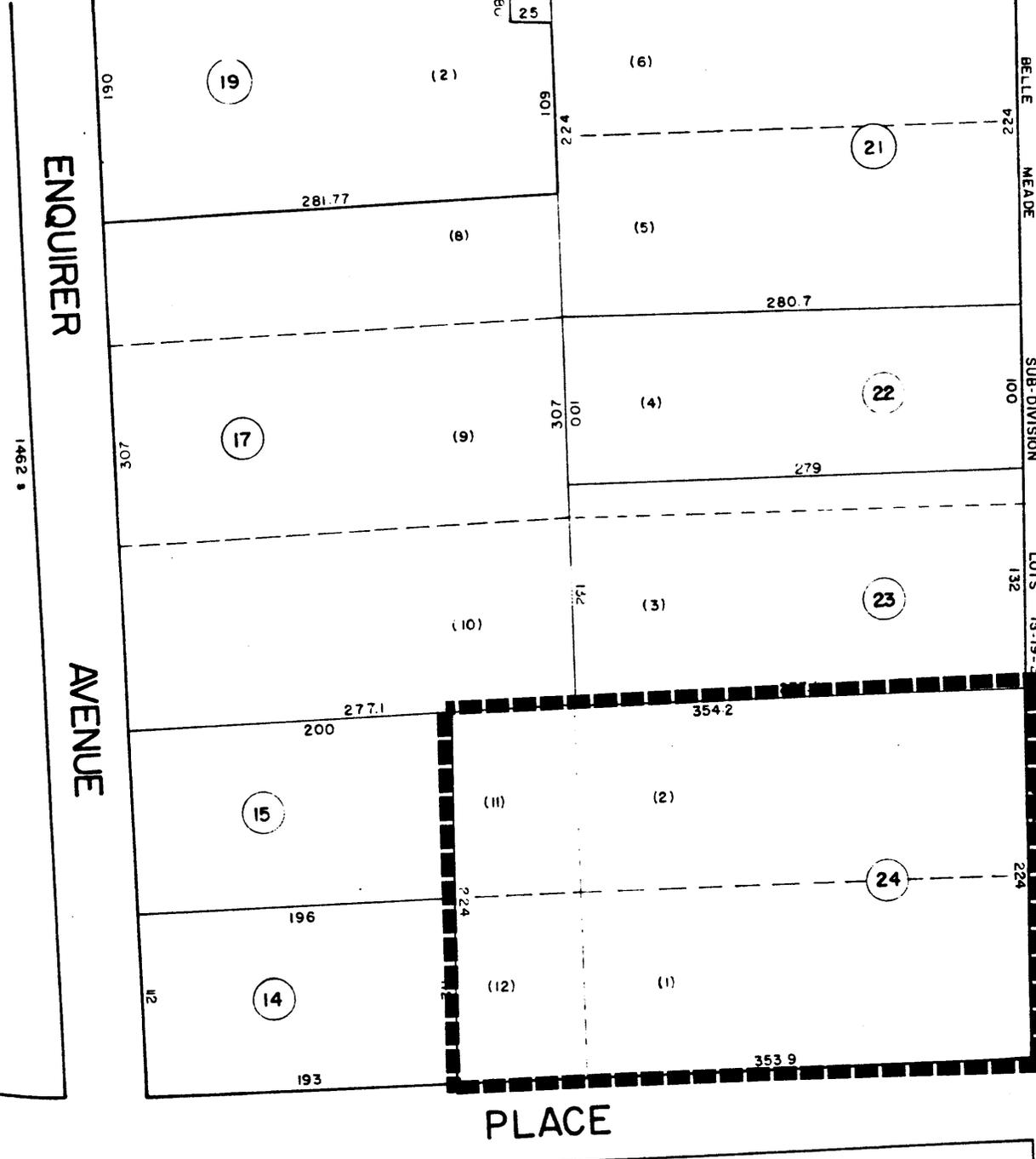
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Belle Meade Apartments
 715 Belle Meade Boulevard
 Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1"=100' N ↑