

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received OCT 17 1983
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Glen Oak

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 2012 25th Avenue ^S ~~South~~ N/A ___ not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A ___ vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Tom and Peggy Ward

street & number 3433 Hampton Avenue

city, town Nashville N/A ___ vicinity of state Tennessee 37212

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 Survey of Davidson County has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1973 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state TN

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

Glen Oak is a two-story frame home located at 25th Avenue South in Nashville, Tennessee. Constructed in 1854 Glen Oak is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Middle Tennessee. Prominent characteristics include bay windows, bargeboard on the eaves, quatrefoil decoration and an unusual square tower with an ogee roof. Few alterations have been made to the house and it retains its original architectural characteristics.

Glen Oak displays its Gothic Revival heritage both in its architecture and setting. Landscaping in keeping with the natural setting was important for Gothic Revival homes and the house is built in an ell shape to follow the contours of the hillside. The house consists of two wings: the west wing which is three bays wide and one bay deep and is uniformly level; and the east wing which is built in a stepped progression on the slope of the hill. The house is constructed of frame clapboard with a steeply pitched gable roof and rests on a cut limestone base.

The west wing has three distinct facades: the north gable which is characterized by a bay window which runs the height of both floors; the west facade which features three dormer windows on the second floor; and the south end gable which contains an exterior stairway and brick chimney. Enclosing these three facades is a one story veranda.

Detailing on the west wing is reflective of the stylistic elements of the Gothic Revival style. At the roofline of the gables are pendants and pointed finials. Adorning the eaves is carved vergeboard with a quatrefoil inset design. The windows on this wing and throughout the house are six-light casement many of which also contain a transom bar, transom and louvered shutters. On this wing are French double doors with inset glass panels and transoms. The veranda which surrounds all three facades of the west wing displays matching carved porch posts with attached vergeboard decoration.

The east wing of the house is divided into three separate sections which were built in a descending progression to follow the slope of the land. The first section is composed of the square tower and entrance hall which interconnects with the west wing. The second section is the dining room which is situated several feet lower than the entrance hall and the third section is the library, stepped even lower along the hillside. This interesting construction technique reflects the intent of the design to fit the house within its natural setting.

The main entrance to the house is located in the base of the tower on the east wing. This entrance is a double Gothic arched door with molded archivolt and matching carved panels. The tower itself is unusual with its metal roof formed in the shape of an ogee arch. The library is polygonal in shape and features a hipped, rather than gabled, roof. Attached to the library is a small projecting porch known as the "pulpit".

The interior of Glen Oak is in excellent condition and has undergone few alterations. The wood floors, plaster walls and interior wood molding are all original as are three marble mantels on the first floor. In the entrance hall is the main staircase built in a quarter turn. The only significant alteration to the house is the enclosure of the porch area on the interior of the ell on the east wing which has been remodeled into a modern kitchen area. This addition was designed to be sympathetic to the house's style and it blends well with the structure.

Glen Oak is located in west Nashville in a residential area composed of early 20th century homes. The house sits back from the street on a 165 X 175 foot lot. A walkway leads to the front of the house, and a driveway is located on the south facade which leads to a mid-20th century garage. There are no other outbuildings on the lot.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1854 **Builder/Architect** Rev. Charles Tomes

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located at 2012 25th Avenue South in Nashville, Tennessee the Glen Oak mansion is an architecturally and historically significant structure of the 19th century. The building has been nominated under criteria B and C because of its distinctive architectural design and association with prominent Nashville residents. Glen Oak is one of the largest and most significant examples of the Gothic Revival style in Middle Tennessee, and its original character has been preserved.

In 1854 this site consisted of farmland and woods which was then two miles from Nashville. A fifteen acre parcel was sold to the Reverend Charles Tomes in this year and he immediately began construction of the large two-story home which was to be called Glen Oak. Tomes had come to America from England in 1845 and while in New York he met Bishop James Otey, the founder of the Episcopal Church in Tennessee. Otey convinced Tomes to move to Tennessee and Tomes came west to Columbia where he briefly settled with Otey's family. Tomes married Otey's daughter in 1846 and in 1848 moved his family to Nashville.

Upon Tomes' arrival in Nashville he served as rector of Christ Church and became known as a leader in providing social services for the community. During a cholera epidemic in 1850 Tomes provided "heroic" service in caring for the victims of the illness. He also brought religious instruction to city convicts and began service programs for the poor and needy. In 1852 Tomes helped to found Holy Trinity Church located on Lafayette Street in Nashville. This building is one of the finest Gothic Revival churches in Nashville and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The architectural design for the building is attributed to the Dudley and Wills Company of New York who may have been requested by Tomes to submit a design for the church.

In 1854 Tomes decided to move from the downtown area to a house more suited for his large family of seven children. In October Tomes purchased fifteen acres and began construction of Glen Oak, which like the Holy Trinity Church, was designed in the Gothic Revival style. Glen Oak's assymetrical design, quatrefoil decoration and bargeboard were typical examples of this style, yet Tomes added his own touches to the house such as the square tower with the ogee roof. Of special interest is the small porch on the east facade of the east wing called the "pulpit". It was here that Tomes is said to have practiced his sermons in preparation for Sunday services. The completed house boasted two parlors, a dining room, a library and numerous bedrooms. Outbuildings were also constructed such as a stable and a kitchen.

Tomes and his family moved into the house in 1855 and lived in the house for two years. On a journey to West Tennessee in July of 1857 Tomes became ill. Upon his return to Glen Oak his condition grew worse. Within a week Tomes died leaving behind his widow and seven children. Tomes death was mourned by the citizens of Nashville. He was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .5 acres

Quadrangle name Nashville West, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	1	7	3	6	0	3	0	8	4	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Twenty-fifth Avenue South bounds the property being nominated in association with Glen Oak on the west side while adjoining residential property lines bound the property on the remaining three sides.

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 August 1, 1983

street & number 1700 Hayes Street Suite 202

telephone 615-320-5732

city or town Nashville

state Tennessee 37203

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. Bryan

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 10/11/83

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

J. Helene Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/17/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

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Upon Tomes' death his widow moved back to Columbia and the house was sold to Lizinka Campbell Brown who was the daughter of Tennessee Senator George Campbell. The house was evidently used by Mrs. Brown as rental property for several years and also as a residence for her son, Campbell Brown. When Nashville was occupied by Union troops in 1862, Mrs. Brown moved to Richmond and left her Nashville property in the hands of caretakers. The role of Glen Oak during the Civil War remains a mystery despite the fact that the outer defense line of the city ran through its front yard. During the Battle of Nashville Schofield's Corps advanced from the vicinity of the house and grounds, and it may have been used as headquarters for Union troops or as a hospital after the battle. It is hoped that further research shall provide information concerning Glen Oak's use during the war.

While in Richmond Mrs. Brown married Lt. General Richard S. Ewell a commander in the Army of Northern Virginia. After the war's end they returned to Tennessee and settled in Maury County. Glen Oak continued to be used by the Ewells as rental property until 1867 when the property was bought by Edgar Jones. Jones was a leading Nashville banker in the late 19th century and served as president of the Union Bank and Trust Company. During these years Jones expanded the Glen Oak farm to include over two hundred acres along Hillsboro Road. The house remained in the Jones family until the 1920s when it passed through several owners. Much of the farm's property was sold during these years and new homes were built on subdivided lots next to the house itself. Although many of the outbuildings were removed at this time, the house was not significantly altered by its owners.

In 1949 the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Morrissey. Under their careful guidance the house was rehabilitated for modern use. Part of the porch on the interior of the east wing was enclosed to become a modern kitchen, and other minor alterations were made to the interior. With these exceptions the Morrissey family kept the house in its original state until it was sold by Mrs. Morrissey in 1982. Today Glen Oak remains one of Middle Tennessee's most unique homes and is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style.

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Bibliography

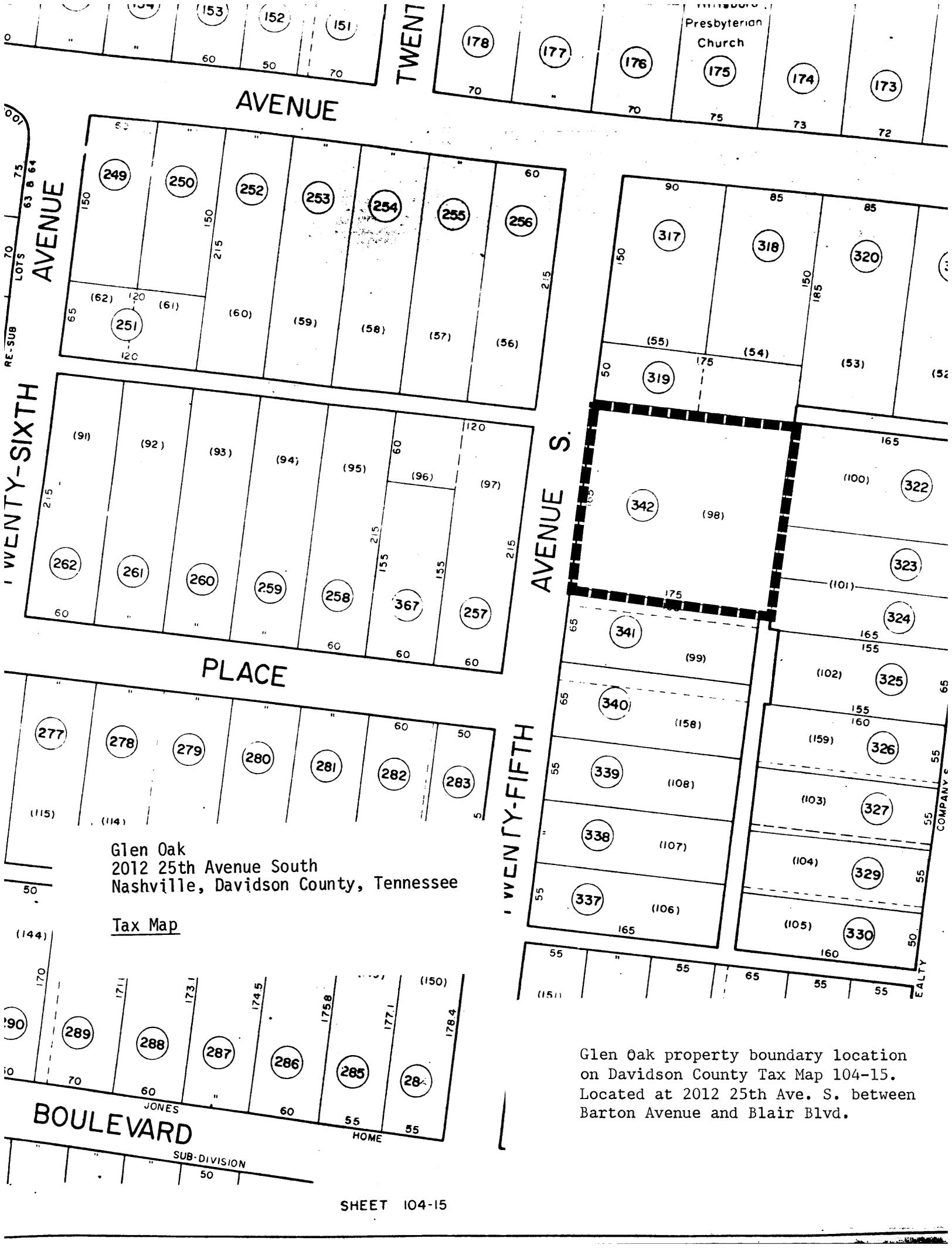
Brown, Campbell. Brown/Ewell Papers, Manuscript Section, State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Davidson County Court Records - Register's Office, Davidson County Courthouse, Nashville, Tennessee

Green, Rev. William. Memoirs of James H. Otey, New York: James Pott and Company, 1885.

Hieronymous, Clara. "Glen Oak", The Nashville Tennessean, Panorama Section, p. 1, Nashville: February 27, 1977.

Morrissey, Eleanor. Glen Oak, 2012 25th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee. Interview, February 25, 1979.



Glen Oak
 2012 25th Avenue South
 Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Tax Map

Glen Oak property boundary location
 on Davidson County Tax Map 104-15.
 Located at 2012 25th Ave. S. between
 Barton Avenue and Blair Blvd.