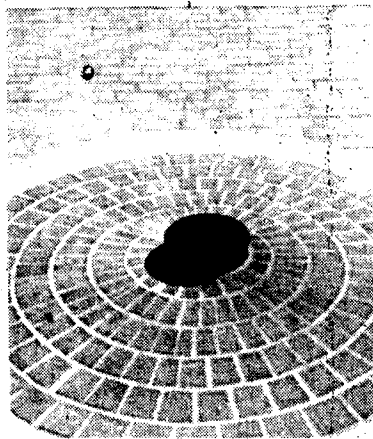


# Contrast Between 2 Streets Is



UPI  
IN ATLANTA — King memorial complex includes the marble crypt and eternal flame (foreground).

First, there's Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, where it began.

Then, there's Mulberry Street in Memphis, where it ended.

The contrast between the two is startling.

In Atlanta, they're halfway done with a \$15-million Martin Luther King memorial center that has transformed the area around old Ebenezer Baptist Church into a modern layout of fountains, sculptures, landscaped walks, playgrounds, and a modern, block-long community center featuring a library, a gymnasium, a day care program, right-to-read classes, senior citizens services, a nonviolence institute, and, before long, a \$600,000 swimming pool.

King is buried there, in a marble crypt next to the church that his father pastored when he was growing up. In the past few years, three million people have visited the crypt.

The center also has a tourist facility offering a \$1 guided tour that includes a visit to the home in which King was born, a walk down the Freedom Walkway, a visit to the crypt's eternal flame, the meditation pool, and the peace chapel, and, at no extra charge, a photograph of the tourist taken beside the crypt.

Money for the center comes from the City of Atlanta, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, fund-raising dinners, private donations and grants, the most recent being a \$600,000 pledge by the United Auto Workers union.

Now for the contrast:

In Memphis, on Mulberry Street, the Lorraine Motel, where King was slain 10 years ago, is slowly deteriorating. The yellow brick wall in front of the motel has caved in. There are potholes in the asphalt driveway. The old neon sign advertising the coffee shop is broken. The swimming pool is empty, except for small a puddle of yellowish water at the very bottom.

Room 306, where King was staying when he was shot, is still marked by a huge marble tablet that Walter L. Bailey, the owner, erected as a memorial. He also enclosed the balcony outside 304 in glass and turned the room into a memorial, not only to Dr. King but to Mrs. Bailey, who suffered a cerebral hemorrhage after learning of the assassination and died within 48 hours.

The room contains some old news photographs from the civil rights days, some yellowing newspapers tracing the black leader's life, a glass case in which are stored the dishes from King's last meal, the bedspread in which he was wrapped following the shooting, a collection of books, a pair of slippers and an engagement ring belonging to Mrs. Bailey. At the rear of the room is a small cove with an altar.

In the beginning, large numbers of sightseers paid \$1 apiece to visit the shrine. Although people still drive slowly past the Lorraine and look toward the balcony, only a few actually stop now. Prince Watkins, who shows people the room, says it's not even a

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stop on the city tour buses.

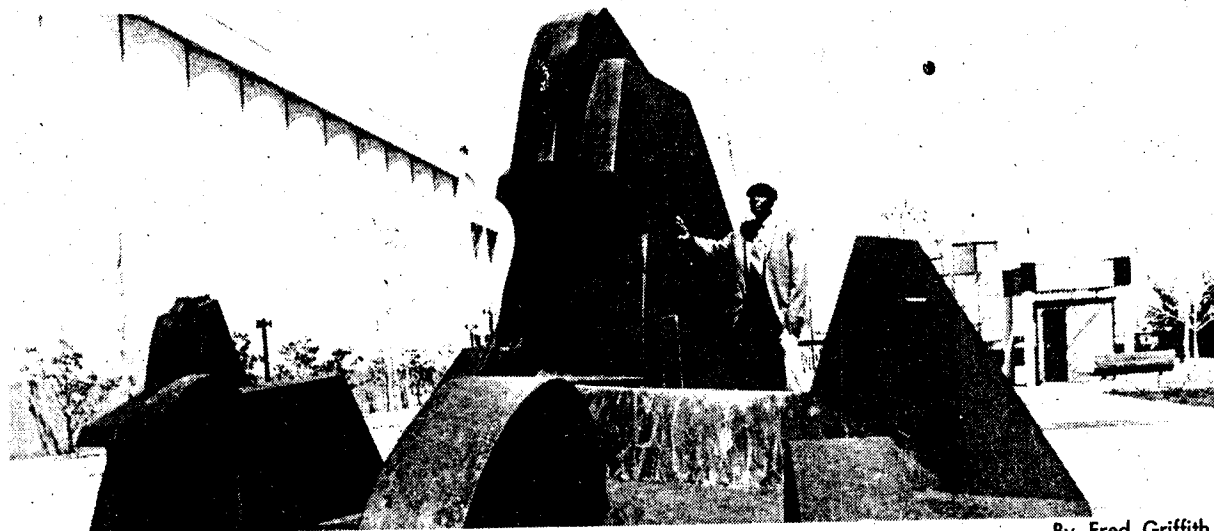
Watkins works for a fund-raising group that is trying to collect money to buy the motel (for \$650,000) and finance the development of a memorial to King in the surrounding area.

It's not an easy project, however.

As the 10th anniversary of Dr. King's death approached, Prince Watkins noted that the three wreaths of artificial flowers outside Room 306 were beginning to look a little frayed.



**In Memphis — The Deteriorating Lorraine Motel**



**MEMPHIS MEMORIAL — James Williams, who marched with King at Jackson, Miss., in 1966 when**

**James Meredith was shot, at 'The Mountaintop' sculpture in the Civic Center Plaza.**

By Fred Griffith