

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received FEB 14 1986  
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Owensboro M.R.

Continuation sheet Breidenbach Building

Item number

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Name: Breidenbach Building (DAOB 87)      Location: 208 W. 3rd St.

Owner: Wells Lovett & Charles Lamar      Classification: Building  
208 W. 3rd St.  
Owensboro, KY 42301      Specific Date: 1890

Description: The Breidenbach Building is an impressive three-story Romanesque Revival structure in downtown Owensboro. Two square brick piers give the first floor of the building a heavy post-and-lintel appearance. Double flights of steps lead up to the first floor's main entrance and down to a basement level. The main entrance retains its original panelled door. Dominating the first floor level is a large, one-pane window bay which has a modern iron grill in front of the panelled base of the window. A triple brick archway runs above the entrance and window bay. Modern alterations to the first floor include vinyl awnings placed in the archways, decorative siding running from the arches to the first floor cornice-line, hanging lanterns, and concrete steps.

The building's decorative Romanesque details are concentrated on the second and third stories. The second story is dominated by double, round-arched windows. The window arches spring from slender columns resting on each side and between the windows. The windows boast such stone details as cushion capitals on the columns and keystones on the arches. Pattered brick layers continue up the second floor from the window arches to the bottem of the third story. The original window sashes on the second story windows have been replaced by modern double-hung sashes surrounded by wood siding. The third story has a row of triple rectangular windows that are deeply recessed and retain their original one-over-one sashes. The windows are separated by columns identical to those on the second floor. A simple square arch topped by a loaf-shaped keystone frames the window.

A few lines of brick corbelling mark the top of the third story. Above this is a panel with raised letters reading E.H. Breidenbach. Finishing the building is a sheet-metal cornice with brackets and dentilled molding.

Significance: Although altered by modern changes, the Breidentach building remains one of the best examples of Romanesque architecture in the downtown commercial area. The front steps leading to the lower level are unique for the downtown with only one other example remaining with this treatment. The building was constructed in 1890 on what was then known as "Court Row" by Edward H. Breidenbach who was the light and water superintendent for Owensboro for over 50 years. He was also a distiller, city commissioner, and extensive land owner. For the last several years the building has been a law office but it is well remembered by everyone as the place where you paid your gas and light bills.

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Acreage: Approximately .076 Acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: The Breidenbach Building is located on Census Tract 3, Traffic Zone 4, Block Number 401, Parcel Number 25 according to information taken from the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission's Computerized Land Use File.

UTN Reference: (Owensboro East) : 16/490085/4180470