

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **MAR 17 1982**  
DATE ENTERED **APR 27 1982**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Paducah Downtown Commercial District  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *Roughly bounded by 7th, 1st, Clark and  
Menroe Sts.*  
See continuation sheet  
CITY, TOWN Paducah  
STATE Kentucky  
VICINITY OF *NA*  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First  
COUNTY McCracken  
CODE 021  
CODE 145

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT (228 bldgs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<i>NA</i> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Multiple Ownership (See continuation sheet)  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. McCracken County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN Paducah STATE KY

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE *Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky*  
DATE *Fall 1978*  
Has the site been determined eligible?  yes  no  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE KY

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Paducah Commercial District consists of twenty blocks of commercial, warehouse, and residential buildings. The heart of the district runs down Broadway from the Ohio River to Eighth Street. Other blocks of historic, commercial buildings on First through Seventh Streets, Jefferson Street, Kentucky Avenue, Monroe Street, and Washington Street have been included. This area comprises the core of the town's late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century commercial architecture.

With a population of about 30,000, Paducah is the county seat for McCracken County. It is the largest city in the Jackson Purchase, and a trade and supply center for the tri-state area. Paducah's close proximity to Kentucky and Barkley lakes allows it great potential as a tourist center. The great quality and quantity of the town's historic structures makes the preservation of the downtown a vital concern for the people of Paducah.

The district is bounded on the north by a residential neighborhood, on the south by new government buildings, and on the west by new commercial development. A downtown access road has been built to accommodate the flow of traffic from the new Interstate 24 Highway to the downtown area. A new convention center-hotel-downtown mall complex is being built adjoining the historic district. The construction of this complex has sparked great interest in renovating many of Paducah's downtown buildings.

Most of the significant buildings in the district were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century periods, or roughly between 1870 and 1930. Most buildings built before 1870 have been destroyed by fire or growth. One survivor of antebellum Paducah is the old Louisville Branch Bank Building at 117 South First Street. This two-story, gable-roofed brick building with Greek Revival details is probably characteristic of the other early buildings in Paducah.

By far the most common building form constructed downtown between 1870 and 1900 was the two or three story brick structure with a shed roof behind a parapet front facade with cast iron details. Many of the buildings have Italianate details, such as window hoods and bracketed cornices. Other buildings have round-arched windows or plain, square windows topped by stone lintels. Typical buildings of this period include Hank Brothers Hardware at 212 Broadway, Rider's Barber Shop at 130 South Third, and Bogy's Restaurant at 128 Broadway.

The decades after 1870 were times of growth and prosperity for Paducah. The architectural development of Paducah was influenced by several factors, including the town's isolation from other urban areas, its role as a trade and transportation center, and its ability to manufacture products to meet its own needs. The architecture of this period in Paducah was locally inspired and unique to the area. Instead of hiring outside architects, local talents were employed to design the monumental buildings of the community. Since Paducah was a supply center for building materials, the dwellings and shops of the town were constructed and adorned with materials and ornaments made right here in Paducah. The bricks came from local brick-yards, the cast iron fronts from local foundries, and the lumber from local lumber-yards.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all addresses are Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
201 Broadway	Bill Shelton	2020 Jefferson
203 Broadway	Ed Michael	203 Broadway
207 Broadway	Joe Rosenfield	4340 Court Avenue
209 Broadway	Leonard Rickman	250 Hathaway Trail
211 Broadway	Stella Peine Estate	Second & Broadway
213 Broadway	Jules Samuels	4001 Hillcrest
215 Broadway	Finkel Estate	Second & Kentucky
217-219 Broadway	Joe Rosenfield	4340 Court Avenue
225 Broadway	Tom Sanders	1164 Robinwood
227 Broadway	Joe Rosenfield	4340 Court Avenue
229 Broadway	H. S. Wallerstein, Sr.	301 Wallace Lane
301 Broadway	W. F. Nagel	241 Ridgewood
303 Broadway	Dollar General Corporation	Scottsville, KY
309-311 Broadway	Jules Samuels	4001 Hillcrest
313 Broadway	Rudig Warford	2439 Trimble
315 Broadway	Tom Ezzell	Kenmil Place
319 Broadway	Petter Family	117 South First
333 Broadway	Citizens Bank Corporation	333 Broadway
401 Broadway	Mrs. Harold Sullivan	3905 Blandville
	Mrs. Ed Paxton	3841 Court Avenue
405 Broadway	Jim Rieke	5840 Blandville Road
407 Broadway	George Langstaff Family	c/o Genesco, Nashville, TN
	Dr. Pat Turner	480 S. Friendship Road
411 Broadway	Jack Keiler	3010 Broadway
415 Broadway	Jack Keiler	3010 Broadway
417 Broadway	Jack Keiler	3010 Broadway
425 Broadway	Jack Keiler	3010 Broadway
431 Broadway	Jack Keiler	3010 Broadway
Federal Building	Federal Government	
517 Broadway	Bob Guthrie	c/o Guthrie Building
523 Broadway	Bob Guthrie	c/o Guthrie Building
525	Bob Cherry	201 Hilldale
529 Broadway	Paducah Bank	Rieke Estate
		5840 Blandville Road
601 Broadway	John Oshlschlaeger	210 Mimosa
605 Broadway	John Oshlschlaeger	210 Mimosa
607 Broadway	John Oshlschlaeger	210 Mimosa
609 Broadway	John Oshlschlaeger	210 Mimosa
611 Broadway	Wright's Business Machines	611 Broadway
617 Broadway	Dr. A. H. Kopperud	800 Main Street, Murray, KY

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
619 Broadway	Dr. A. H. Kopperud	800 Main Street, Murray, KY
621 Broadway	Bradshaw & Weil	621 Broadway
627 Broadway	R. P. McKeown	Holt Road
118 Broadway	Earl Seay	1184 Robinwood Drive
124 Broadway	Western Baptist Hospital	Kentucky Avenue
126-128 Broadway	A. O. Miller	5020 Buckner
130 Broadway	A. O. Miller	5020 Buckner
132 Broadway	A. O. Miller	5020 Buckner
134 Broadway	A. O. Miller	5020 Buckner
200 Broadway	Stella Peine Estate	200 Broadway
206 Broadway	Tom Ezzell	Kenmil Place
208 Broadway	Tom Ezzell	Kenmil Place
212 Broadway	Edward Hank	200 S. Country Club Lane
216-218 Broadway	Charles Rhodes	285 Cedar Lane
220 Broadway	Dr. E. W. Harmon	4050 Buckner Lane
222 Broadway	Dr. E. W. Harmon	4050 Buckner Lane
224 Broadway	Mrs. Bill McClanahan	c/o Gus Smith
		140 Country Club Lane
226 Broadway	Mrs. Bill McClanahan	c/o Gus Smith
		140 Country Club Lane
300 Broadway	Old National Bank Part.	300 Broadway
304 Broadway	Eliot Wainer	716 Executive Park
		Louisville, Kentucky
306 Broadway	Tom Wilson	304 N. 9th
308 Broadway	Joe Marshall	115 Mimosa
310 Broadway	George Runge	310 Broadway
312 Broadway	Harold Sullivan	312 Alben Barkley Drive
314 Broadway	Harold Sullivan	312 Alben Barkley Drive
316 Broadway	Harold Sullivan	321 Alben Barkley Drive
318-324 Broadway	S. S. Kresge Company	318 Broadway
320 Broadway	Jim Rieke	5849 Blandville Road
400 Broadway	Don Muier	Ken Mar Road
402 Broadway	Don Muier	Ken Mar Road
404 Broadway	Dr. P. R. Turner	401 1/2 Broadway
406 Broadway	Perry Driver	4339 Harts Court
408 Broadway	Myra Munday	300 North 8th, Murray, KY
410 Broadway	Perry Driver	4339 Harts Court
412 Broadway	Minnens, Inc.	617 Broadway
414 Broadway	Watkins Est.	Peoples Bank, Executor
		401 Kentucky Avenue
420 Broadway	Jeans, Inc.	420 Broadway
422 Broadway	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
426 Broadway	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
428 Broadway	Mrs. Harold Sullivan	3905 Blandville
	Mrs. Ed Paxton	3841 Court Avenue
432 Broadway	D. A. Yeiser	114 N. Spaulding Lebanon, KY 40033
500 Broadway	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
502 Broadway	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
Arcade Theatre	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
506 Broadway	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
Columbia Theatre	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
516 Broadway	Dr. A. H. Kopperud	711 Main Street, Murray, KY
518 Broadway	Dr. P. R. Turner	401½ Broadway
522 Broadway	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
524 Broadway	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
St. Frances de Sales	Parish	116 South 6th
Irvin Cobb Hotel	Walter Parr	603 Broadway
608-610 Broadway	Malcolm Kennedy	608 Broadway
616 Broadway	Peoples Bank, Eva Finkel Trust	401 Kentucky
620 Broadway	Al Hays	620 Broadway
624 Broadway	Jim Curtis	4020 Phillips
626 Broadway	Jim Curtis	4020 Phillips
628 Broadway	Jim Curtis	4020 Phillips
701 Broadway	Broadway Methodist Church	701 Broadway
117 South First	Stanley Petter	117 S. 1st
229-233 South First	Roy Grief	229 South 1st
113 North Second	Bill Shelton	2020 Jefferson
	Joe Rosenfield	4340 Court
115-117 North Second	Bill Shelton	2020 Jefferson
119-121 North Second	Joe Rosenfield	4340 Court
123-129 North Second	Johnson Family	4702 Buckner Lane
209-213 South Second	Finkels Fair Store	208 Kentucky
221 South Second	Nathaniel Baskin	253 North 38th
225 South Second	Nathaniel Baskin	253 North 38th
229-233 South Second	Nathaniel Baskin	253 North 38th
301 South Second	M. T. Riley Estate	301 South 2nd
329 South Second	Boyles Brokerage Co.	329 South 2nd
114 North Third	Shelton-Rosenfield	2020 Jefferson
128 North Third	Norman Greenburg	310 Cardinal Lane
123-125 North Third	Citizens Bank Corporation	333 Broadway
109 South Third	Tom Wilson	304 North 9th
119 South Third	Betty Champion	Route #1, Steven Drive

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
121 South Third	Sterling Berg	Apt. 405, 1885 Shore Drive S. St. Petersburg, FL 33707
123 South Third	Del Washburn	Suite 903, Citizens Bank Bldg.
125 South Third	Donald Starnes	604 Lakeview
127 South Third	D. A. Yeiser	114 N. Spaulding, Lebanon, KY 40033
129 South Third	Villa Corp.	5020 Buckner
131 South Third	Villa Corp.	5020 Buckner
133 South Third	Robert Emerson	2617 Jefferson
108 South Third	Helen Rickman	c/o 209 Broadway
110 South Third	Helen Rickman	c/o 209 Broadway
112 South Third	Johnny Wring	112½ South Third
120 South Third	Red Spot, Hdgt.	Evansville, IN
130 South Third	BHT Investors	3415 Pines Road
132 South Third	Allens	132 South Third
134 South Third	Carl W. Cannon	2320 Biederman
206 South Third	J. M. Carter	465 S. Friendship
208 South Third	James R. Smith	1330 Lone Oak Road
216-218 South Third	William Denton	Blandville Road
225 North Fourth	St. Francis de Sales Parish	116 South Sixth
Pierce Lackey Building	Don Muir	Ken Mar Road
107 South Fourth	Don Muir	Ken Mar Road
117 North Fourth	John Oshlschlager	210 Mimosa Lane
Bright's	Brights, Inc.	407 Broadway
119 North Fourth	Mike Livingston	714 Citizens Bank Building
118-120 North Fourth	Charles Rhodes	285 Cedar Lane
109-111 South Fourth	Albert Jones	111 South Fourth
113 South Fourth	Mrs. Ann White	113 South Fourth
Peoples Bank		401 Kentucky
116 South Fourth	K-Mart Corporation	3100 W. Big Beaver Road Troy, Michigan
118 South Fourth	Tyler Bourne	275 Country Club Lane
124 South Fourth	Nelson Young	3242 Monroe
105 South Fifth	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
107 South Fifth	Columbia Amusements Company	Arcade Building
109 South Fifth	Columbia Amusements Co.	Arcade Building
112 South Fifth	D. A. Yeiser	114 North Spaulding
114-116 South Fifth	D. A. Yeiser	Lebanaon, KY 40033
117 South Fifth	William Austin	Highway 62
129 South Fifth	William Austin	Highway 62
118 South Fifth	Johnny Box	Gilhaven Drive
120 South Fifth	Robert Walker	135 Clark Line Road

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
121 North Fifth	Elks' Lodge	121 North 5th
218 North Fifth	Coy Stacey	3664 Marlborough Way
233 North Fifth	Mrs. Pauline Sevier	233 North Fifth
221 North Fifth	Mrs. Pearl Milton	221 North 5th
119 South Sixth	Walter Parr	603 Kentucky
201 South Sixth	Standard Oil Company	201 South 6th
235 South Sixth	Loy Kennedy	235 South 6th
219 North Sixth	Charlie Baird	3836 Buckner Lane
233 North Sixth	Clyde Frazier	233 North 6th
227 North Sixth	Allie Burnley	227 North 6th
116 South Seventh	Curtis & Mays	628 Broadway
214 South Seventh	Evelyn Milligan	214 South Seventh
220 South Seventh	McCracken County	Courthouse
110 North Seventh	William Shelton	2020 Jefferson
311 Kentucky	Archie Cagle	311 Kentucky
315 Kentucky	Gus Smith	140 Country Club Lane
319 Kentucky	Edward Hannan	626 North 36th
211-215 Kentucky	Charles E. Turner	3931 Laura Court
217 Kentucky	Baptists Hospitals, Inc.	Kentucky Avenue
219 Kentucky	William H. Petterson	1008 Clay
221 Kentucky	Mildred H. Anderson	221 Kentucky
501 Kentucky	Sarah Sanders	
517 Kentucky	Curtis & Mays	628 Broadway
519 Kentucky	St. Francis de Sales	116 South 6th
603 Kentucky	Walter Parr	603 Broadway
631 Kentucky	Richard C. Smith	1510 Lone Oak Road
200-202 Kentucky	Finkel's Fair Store	208 Kentucky
204 Kentucky	Finkel's Fair Store	208 Kentucky
206 Kentucky	Finkel's Fair Store	208 Kentucky
208 Kentucky	Finkel's Fair Store	208 Kentucky
210-212 Kentucky	Finkel's Fair Store	208 Kentucky
214-216 Kentucky	J. M. Carter	465 S. Friendship
218-220 Kentucky	Mrs. Mabel Owen	2211 Jefferson
222-224 Kentucky	Gertrude Sarantakos	165 Colonial Drive
226-230 Kentucky	Gertrude Sarantakos	165 Colonial Drive
614 Kentucky	Dr. Raymond Roof	2015 Lone Oak Road
626 Kentucky	J. P. Segenfulter	3540 Buckner Lane
630 Kentucky	John G. Nusekabel	309 North 8th

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
300-302 South Second	Paducah Seed Company	300 South 2nd
308 South Second	Paducah Seed Company	300 South 2nd
316-320 South Second	Yopp Seed Company	217 Washington
226 South Second	Yopp Seed Company	217 Washington
214-216 South Second	Peck Brothers	216 South 2nd
621 Washington	Mark Bryant	251 Alben Barkley Drive
625 Washington	Albert Jones	111 South 4th
629-631 Washington	Teddy Beyer	627 Washington
	David Belcher	719 Madison
210 Jefferson	Norm Greenburg	310 Cardinal Lane
401 Jefferson	Rhodes-Burford	118 North 4th
405 Jefferson	Rhodes-Burford	118 North 4th
411 Jefferson	Ethel DuBois Smith	140 Country Club Lane
417 Jefferson	Ethel DuBois Smith	140 Country Club Lane
431 Jefferson	E. A. Cave, Jr.	431 Jefferson
433 Jefferson	Jessie Marler	3277 Harrison
525 Jefferson	The Paducah Bank	529 Broadway
516 Jefferson	Guthrie Investments	Guthrie Building
600 Jefferson	Leslie Frost	765 North 34th
610 Jefferson	B. T. Brooks	1233 Allen Lane
614 Jefferson	Frank Young	255 Country Club Lane
632 Jefferson	First Federal Savings	632 Jefferson
601 Jefferson	Williams, Williams, Lentz	601 Jefferson
609-615 Jefferson	Jack Keiler	3010 Broadway
621 Jefferson	First Presbyterian	621 Broadway
700 Jefferson	Art Azar	342 Hilldale
618 Monroe	Helen Buddenbaum	618 Monroe
128 South Third	Charles Turner	Laura Court



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The Jackson Foundry and Johnson Foundry were the most important suppliers of building materials in this period. These foundries manufactured cast iron post and lintel fronts that were commonly used to frame the storefront on commercial buildings. The cast iron columns and pillars were usually adorned with raised or incised details. One popular motif was the arrow, perhaps alluding to Paducah's Indian heritage. The fronts frequently also had molded metal cornices and label molds. Nearly every building in the late nineteenth century commercial district had a Jackson or Johnson iron front. Some good surviving examples are the Paducah Drug Company at 128 North Third, the Paducah Variety Store at 134 South Third, and the Cohen Building at 101 South Second.

After this period of distinctive local architecture, Paducah moved into the twentieth century. Architectural development in the early decades of this century was distinguished by increasing adherence to national trends in architecture. Many of the buildings constructed after 1900 were in the classical revival style. These buildings were adorned with pilasters, columns, garlands, and pediments. Examples of this style in Paducah are the Market House, the Michael Brothers Hardware Store at 203 Broadway, the Sinnot Hotel at 201 Broadway, and the German-American Bank at 227 Broadway. Another important twentieth-century style, Art Deco, is also well represented in Paducah. Two storefronts on Broadway, Watkins and Hillmark, are fine examples of this precise, geometric style.

Several buildings built between 1900 and 1930 are outstanding visual landmarks. The 1910 First National Bank Building at 300 Broadway is a wonderful example of Beaux-Arts architecture, with its massive stone pediments, columns, and pilasters. The Citizens Bank Building at 333 Broadway has been a downtown landmark since it was built in 1910. Often called the "Ten Story Building." it was the tallest building in the area for sixty years. The Columbia Theatre, with its blue and white tiled front, is a fascinating mixture of Moorish and classical architecture.

Paducah is lucky to possess such a rich and diverse architectural heritage in its downtown. The area remains remarkably intact and intense efforts are underway to keep the downtown preserved and vital.

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INTRUSIONS IN PADUCAH COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- 1) 221 S. 1st
- 2) 114 N. 3rd
- 3) 303 Broadway
- 4) 321 Kentucky
- 5) 627 Broadway
- 6) 630 Jefferson
- 7) 700 Jefferson
- 8) 600 Kentucky
- 9) 625 Washington
- 10) 117 South 5th
- 11) 404 Broadway

CONTRIBUTING, NON-HISTORIC BUILDINGS - (less than 50 years old)

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) 621 Washington | 7) 501 Jefferson  |
| 2) 614 Kentucky   | 8) 529 Broadway   |
| 3) 411 Jefferson  | 9) 431 Broadway   |
| 4) 218 S. 3rd     | 10) 425 Broadway  |
| 5) 328 Broadway   | 11) 417 Broadway  |
| 6) 401 Kentucky   | 12) 630 Jefferson |

VACANT LOTS IN PADUCAH DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) 200 S. 2nd Street     | 9) 122 N. 5th Street  |
| 2) 116 S. 3rd Street     | 10) 431 Jefferson     |
| 3) 124 S. 3rd Street     | 11) 526 Jefferson     |
| 4) 112 N. 3rd Street     | 12) 505 Kentucky      |
| 5) 117-123 N. 3rd Street | 13) 622 Broadway      |
| 6) 133 N. 3rd Street     | 14) 625 Kentucky      |
| 7) 132 N. 4th Street     | 15) 232 N. 7th Street |
| 8) 129 N. 4th Street     | 16) 500 Jefferson     |

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1870-1930 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Multiple

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Paducah Commercial District encompasses the majority of the buildings with architectural and historical significance in Paducah's downtown commercial area. The architectural heritage of Paducah has been shaped by the exciting history of the town. While the town's history goes back to 1827, it is the development of the town from 1870 to 1930 that has left an especially rich and diverse collection of significant buildings.

Paducah, Kentucky, is the county seat of McCracken County and the largest city in the Jackson Purchase. This land was purchased by Isaac Shelby and Andrew Jackson from the Chickasaw Indians in 1819 and scattered settlement of the Purchase began immediately. In 1824 McCracken County was formed and in 1827 an inland county seat, Wilmington, was laid out.

Most people who settled in McCracken County chose a site on the Ohio River near the convergence of the Tennessee River and Cumberland River. This community, first known as Pekin, was informally established in 1827 when William Clark commissioned an agent to plat the town. Twelve blocks of twelve lots each were laid out. Twenty-four lots were delineated in each block that faced the commercially valuable riverfront. A section of land was also set aside for a market house and the streets were named.

By 1830 the town had been incorporated and the name changed to Paducah. The origin of the word Paducah is not definitely known, but a strong local legend has developed around a personality named Chief Paduke. In 1832 the county seat was moved from Wilmington to Paducah, a move that greatly accelerated the growth of the town. A square brick courthouse was built at the intersection of Market Street (now Second Street) and Broadway. In 1836 a market house was constructed next to this courthouse. Also in 1836 the two residential neighborhoods of lower town and upper town were incorporated into the city.

Paducah experienced a commercial boom during the 1840s and 1850s. The necessity to market raw materials from McCracken County and the surrounding region encouraged the rapid expansion of merchandising and distributing facilities. Paducah constructed a city wharf on the Ohio River and established a steamboat-building industry. The construction of steamboats supported the local establishment of other industries, including iron foundries, rope and cordage factories, and lumber mills.

The railroad was also developed as an important part of Paducah's transportation system. By 1854 Paducah was linked with the rest of the nation by the New Orleans and Ohio Railroad.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newman, Fred. The Story of Paducah. Paducah: Young Publishing Company, 1927.

Wells, Camille. Unpublished manuscript on Paducah.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 38 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Paducah East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1,6	3,5,8	2,6,5	4,1,0,5	6,1,0
-----	-------	-------	---------	-------

B 

1,6	3,5,8	3,1,0	4,1,0,5	5,0,0
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    ZONE EASTING NORTHING

    ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

1,6	3,5,8	1,5,5	4,1,0,5	4,4,0
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D 

1,6	3,5,8	1,1,5	4,1,0,5	5,4,0
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E 

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H 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Holland, Preservation Planner

August 1980

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Paducah McCracken County Growth, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

126 South Second

(502) 443-9284

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Paducah

KY

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Max Cowan App*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

2/24/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Melvin Byers*

Entered in the  
National Register

DATE

4/20/82

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 17 1982

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Paducah Downtown Commercial District  
McCracken County, Kentucky

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Several educational and religious institutions were founded during the early part of Paducah's history. By the 1840s female and male academies were in operation in Paducah. These remained the principal educational institutions in McCracken County until 1858 when St. Mary's Academy was founded by three Catholic Sisters of Mercy. Also during this period several churches in Paducah were established. The Methodist denomination founded the first church in Paducah in 1833. Other churches being established were the Baptist in 1839, the Catholic in 1849, the Presbyterian in 1842, and the Episcopal in 1846. The current edifices for the Catholic, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches are included in this district.

Political upheavels in Europe in the 1850s forced a substantial number of Europeans to leave their homes and emigrate to America. Many of the newcomers were attracted to the opportunities of the trading and manufacturing centers in the Ohio Valley. A substantial number of German Jewish families began to settle in Paducah during this mid-century period. These families purchased lots downtown and constructed their shops and businesses on the first floor and residences on the second floor.

The last half of the nineteenth century was a time of industrial maturity and great prosperity for Paducah. The town was occupied by Federal troops for most of the Civil War, but only houses in the Lower Town neighborhood were destroyed in the brief Battle of Paducah. After the war Paducah regained its sound financial foundation. Trade and industry were vigorously developed and Paducah became an important provider for the war-damaged South. The foundation for the new prosperity was Paducah's transportation system, based on river travel and railroads. This developed transportation system helped sustain the growth of Paducah's industries. The city became an important link in the national trade network and a fundamental supply center for the surrounding agrarian region.

By the turn of the century Paducah was the second largest manufacturing and distributing center in Kentucky. By 1902 Paducah had grown enough to be designated a second class city. This designation represents the beginning of a new period in Paducah's history. Before, the city had been dominated by self-sufficient enterprises and distinctive local architecture. After the turn of the century, Paducah moved into an age distinguished by increasing national influences on the area's historic and architectural development. Paducah lost much of its isolation and self-sufficiency and became a host for extensions of national enterprises.

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Paducah Downtown Commercial District  
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Changes were beginning to occur in Paducah and the rest of the country and the town began to lose some of its lucrative advantages. The trend toward increased nationalization of important enterprises made it more difficult for individual local firms to compete. From 1910 to 1920 many of Paducah's important industries began to suffer reverses or demises, including the boat building, distilling, lumber, and tobacco industries. Local reaction was to develop a stronger economic relationship with the surrounding rural area. Local development by outside interests was also encouraged, especially by touting Paducah's exceptional transportation facilities. Paducah's river industry was revived when the local boat building operation turned to the construction and repair of barges and towboats. The Illinois Central Railroads made a major contribution to local growth by completely rebuilding and expanding its railroad shops in the 1920s. The Paducah economy was successfully readjusted and Paducah has enjoyed steady growth and prosperity for the past fifty years.

ECONOMICS

Several of the buildings in the downtown district are significant because of their role in the history of banking in Paducah. The Louisville Branch Bank Building at 117 South First dates from 1856 and is the oldest bank building in Paducah. The German-American Bank Building at 227 Broadway and the City National Bank Building at 225 Broadway were both homes for banks during Paducah's great period of prosperity in the 1870s and 1880s. In 1910 two other significant bank buildings were constructed. The First National Bank built its beautiful, neo-classical edifice at 300 Broadway and the City National Bank constructed its mighty, ten-story building at 333 Broadway. Although both of these banks collapsed during the Depression, the buildings continued to be used as banks when the People's National Bank took over 300 Broadway and Citizens National Bank purchased 333 Broadway.

COMMERCIAL

Many of the buildings in this district have long been associated with some of Paducah's most important commercial enterprises. The Michael Brothers Firm at 203 Broadway was founded in 1877 when Mohr and Mike Michael began producing and distributing harness and saddlery. Later they expanded to include the Marketing of buggies and wagons throughout the agricultural South. Located at their present site since the turn of the century, the firm now serves as local hardware dealer. Hank Brothers Hardware began in 1897 when salesman travelled along the rivers taking orders for hardware. Now situated at 212 Broadway, this firm also serves as a local hardware dealer.

Petter Supply Company has been located in the Old Louisville Branch Bank Building at 117 South First since 1890. Henry A. Petter bought the building

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Paducah Downtown Commercial District  
McCracken County, Kentucky  
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and established a hardware and provisions supply business to serve the boats that docked at Paducah. The Rhodes-Burford Company has occupied 118-120 Fourth Street since 1916. Henry C. Rhodes was the co-founder of this furniture company in 1887.

Watkins Department Store at 422 Broadway began in 1884 as the E. Guthrie Store. In 1937, T. M. Watkins bought the business from Robert Guthrie, son of the founder, and in 1941 built the current Watkins building. Wilson's Office Supplies at 306 Broadway was the home of the Globe National Bank from 1900 to 1910. Since 1914 the building has been owned by the Wilson family and has been used as a book, stationary, and office supply store.

ENTERTAINMENT

A visual delight since 1927 is the Columbia Theatre on Broadway. Faced with blue and white glazed tiles, this ornate theatre is a perfect representation of the Golden Age of Movies. Flanking the Columbia Theatre is a one-story arcade building that houses shops and offices. At the end of this, a theatre appropriately named the "Arcade" has been constructed.

EDUCATION

The complex of buildings on the corner of Fifth and Broadway is important as the material representative of two significant Paducah educational institutions. The buildings were constructed to house St. Mary's Academy, which was founded in 1858 by four Catholic Sisters. In 1891 the northernmost two-story brick building was constructed as a new convent and school. In 1908 a new grade school was constructed of brick with stone details. St. Mary's Academy has moved and the old landmark buildings have been occupied by Draughon's Business College in recent years.

PRIVATE RESIDENCES

Although this is primarily a commercial district, ten private residences are included in the district. Of these, two have special significance. The Morrow-Terrell House at 419 Kentucky Avenue was constructed circa 1870-1880. This imposing brick home has Italianate details such as swan's neck pedimented lintels and a bracketed cornice. The Lloyd Tilghman house at Seventh and Kentucky was home of General Tilghman from 1852 to 1861. He was a general in the Confederate Army and was placed in charge of the defense of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers.

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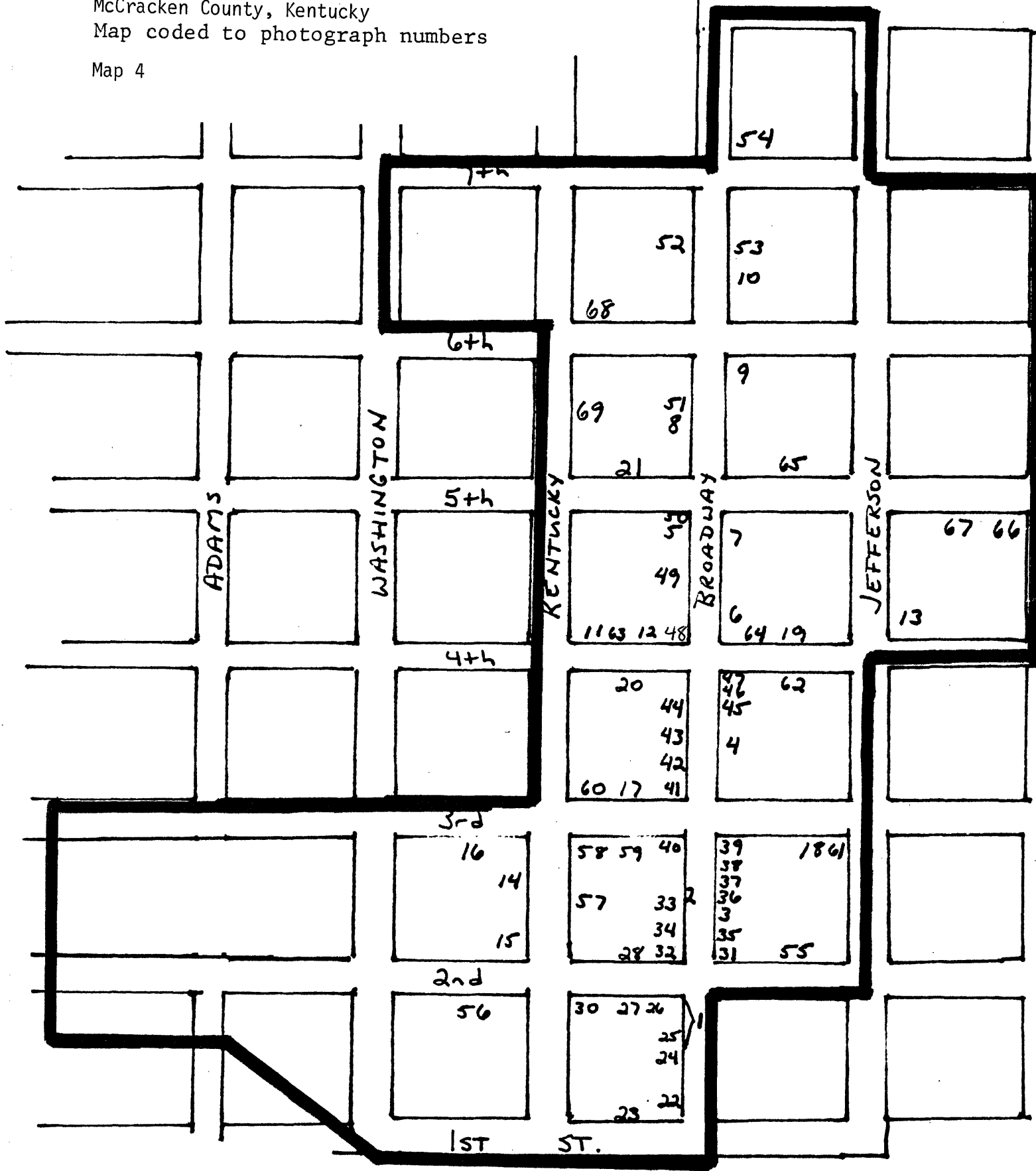
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Paducah Commercial District starts at the southwest corner of First and Broadway and runs west to the southwest corner of Second and Broadway; from there it runs north to the southwest corner of Second and Jefferson; from there it runs west to the southwest corner of Fourth and Monroe; from there it runs west to the southeast corner of Seventh and Monroe; from there it runs south to the Southeast corner of Seventh and Jefferson; from there it runs west to the southeast corner of Eighth and Jefferson; from there it runs south to the northeast corner of Eighth and Broadway; from there it runs east to the northeast corner of Seventh and Broadway; from there it runs south to the northeast corner of Seventh and Washington; from there it runs east to the northwest corner of Sixth and Washington; from there it runs north to the northwest corner of Sixth and Kentucky; from there it runs east to the northeast corner of Third and Kentucky; from there it runs south to the northeast corner of Third and Clark; from there it runs east to the Floodwall; from there it follows the floodwall northeast to the southeast corner of First and Washington; and from there it runs north to the point of beginning.



Paducah Commercial District  
 McCracken County, Kentucky  
 Map coded to photograph numbers

Map 4



OHIO