

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 13 1978  
DATE ENTERED AUG 1 1978

**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

Snead Manufacturing Building

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

817 West Market Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

VICINITY OF

3 & 4

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Buford Clark

*See p. 10 to this sheet*

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 704

CITY, TOWN

Barbourville,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40906

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Metropolitan Preservation Plan

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

KIPDA

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

# 7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Snead Manufacturing Building is located at 817 West Market Street on the western boundary of the central business district of the City of Louisville. It is flanked on the west by the Ninth Street Interchange of I-64. To the south of the building is an area that has been cleared by Urban Renewal. The Ohio River and the West Main Street Preservation District (National Register-March, 1974) are to the north of Market Street. To the east is historically the retail center of town. Also to the east is the Government Center, the Commonwealth Convention Center and the River City Mall.

The Snead Manufacturing Building is located on a portion of land that has been owned by the Snead family since 1849. The Market Street Architectural Foundry commenced its present business in 1848 at this site. By 1855 the company had changed its name to Snead. On the 1876 Atlas, Snead and Company is shown at this location (View 1).

The Snead Manufacturing Building is an eight-story building of reinforced concrete and brick. Nine bays form the articulation with the central bay housing the entrance. Three bays, one with the entrance, are topped by a pediment. The building is modern in that it has few remnants of historicism. The pediment at the top of the building and the pediment and brackets above the doorway are the only elements which show a use of historical motifs. The fenestration is currently a composite of various types of windows including double hung, glass brick and casement. Originally the windows were all double hung. Nine bays containing the fenestration make up the facade. The structure is extremely simple with a light beige-colored cement on the facade. The sides of the building include banks of windows on the west side and bricked in areas instead of fenestration on the east side.

The structure exhibits an early use of reinforced concrete. It has changed little since its erection in 1910. These changes do include window treatment and entrance doors. Areas on the sides of the structure which originally had windows have been bricked in.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
—1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT D. X. Murphy and Brothers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Snead Manufacturing Building is an excellent example of early twentieth-century functional design with an almost total absence of decorative details. It is believed that its construction marked one of the earliest uses of reinforced concrete on such a large scale in Louisville.

The structure was built and owned by members of the Snead family, prominent Louisville manufacturers of ornamental and structural cast iron for over a century. It was designed by the architectural firm of D. X. Murphy and Brothers, successor to the practice of Henry Whitestone and predecessor to the present firm of Luckett and Farley.

The site of the Snead Building was, in the 1840s, the location of the Market Street Architectural Iron Foundry, which had then had several owners. In 1849 the foundry was purchased by Samuel P. Snead, a son of John S. Snead, prominent Louisville merchant and the organizer and first president of the Bank of Louisville. In 1851 Samuel Snead sold the foundry to Isaac Raphael, a successful dry goods merchant, who placed it in trust for his daughter, Martha Snead, wife of Charles S. Snead, also a son of John Snead. Charles Snead became manager of the iron works. According to an article in the Commercial Review in 1857, the Market Street Foundry was supplying cast iron for buildings in many Southern cities as well as in Louisville.

The name was changed to The Snead and Company Iron Works and Charles S. Snead became president of the firm. His son, Udolpho, was vice-president and another son, William, was general manager.

The Snead and Company Iron Works operated on the Market Street site until 1898. The firm was one of the country's leading manufacturers of ornamental and structural cast iron. Ads in city directories and business biographies attest to the wide variety of cast iron products made by the firm (See Xerox 1).

The company had contracts for work on major buildings in many parts of the country, including United States Customs Houses in Louisville, Cincinnati, and Minneapolis; the stairway in the Washington Monument; both structural and ornamental iron work for the State, War, and Navy Building in Washington (now the Executive Office Building); and iron work for the Auditorium Building in Chicago, designed by Adler and Sullivan (See Xerox 2).

Iron work by the Snead Company can still be seen on many Louisville buildings, especially on Main Street (See Photo 1). Numerous manhole covers bearing the Snead name are extant along Louisville streets and sidewalks (See Photo

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Architectural Castings." Commercial Review, 9 January 1857.

Builders' and Traders' Exchange Handbook. Builders' and Traders' Exchange, Louisville, Ky., 1891.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2/5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	6	0	8	1	0	4	2	3	4	1	7	6	0
ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING								

B 

ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Third City District  
Block 14-D

That portion of Lot 97, beginning 52 feet east of 9th Street, and fronting 187 feet ± on Market Street,

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Elizabeth F. Jones, Research Director  
Mary Jean Kinsman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION DATE

Landmarks Commission 4/7/78

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

727 West Main Street 587-3501

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Louisville, Kentucky

# 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

*Edward W. Melton*

TITLE

DATE

6/2/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Whitcomb*

DATE

8-1-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Castroville Col*

DATE

7-5-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Snead

ITEM NUMBER    4    PAGE    2

Mr. & Mrs. Sampson B. Knuckles  
230 Knox St.  
Barbourville, Ky. 40906 ✓

Miss Nona Owens  
P. O. Box 45  
Barbourville, Ky. 40906 ✓

Mrs. Cherry Arthur  
P. O. Box 45  
Barbourville, Ky. 40906 ✓

Mrs. Vivian Ports  
3711 N. 25th Road  
Arlington, Va. 22207 ✓

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In 1898 the Snead Iron Works on Market Street was destroyed by fire. The company's operations were reestablished in New Jersey, and Udolpho and William Snead moved east to manage the company.

The plant site on Market Street remained in the Snead family, title being transferred to Udolpho Snead. The American Architect reported in 1909 that Snead planned to erect a \$200,000 power building on Market Street. The architect was D. X. Murphy and Brothers.

No newspaper accounts of the building's construction or completion have been found. It was probably completed in early 1910, since a newspaper advertisement in June, 1910, described the Snead Building as "ready for occupancy" and noted that space was available for lease.

The Snead Manufacturing Building housed, in leased space, many different manufacturing firms and offices. The 1912 city directory listed as occupants the National Biscuit Company, the Webster Loose Leaf Filing Company, the Kenton Company, skirt manufacturers, J. M. Robinson, Norton and Company, underwear manufacturers, and other manufacturers of clothing. Over the years, garment manufacturers made up a majority of the tenants. Other occupants included printers and engravers. The building is still occupied by several printing and lithographing companies.

The firm of D. X. Murphy and Brothers was a prominent Louisville architectural firm in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dennis X. Murphy (1854-1933) was hired as a draftsman by Henry Whitestone in 1874. Apparently Murphy's only architectural training was that received in Whitestone's office. Upon Whitestone's retirement in 1880, Murphy took over his practice. Two of Murphy's brothers, James C. Murphy, an engineer, and Peter J. Murphy, became his partners in the firm.

The Murphy firm designed many buildings in Louisville and other Kentucky towns, including residences, churches, schools, commercial buildings, and industrial structures. Some of the outstanding Murphy buildings include the 1905 Jefferson County Jail (placed on the National Register in July, 1973), General Hospital (1911), the current Portland Federal Savings and Loan office at 539 West Market (1887), St. Boniface Church (1893), the German Bank (1915 - now the Louisville Home Federal building at Fifth and Market Streets), and the twin-spired clubhouse at Churchill Downs (1894), probably executed by Joseph D. Baldez, a talented draftsman with the Murphy firm. Many of the original plans for buildings designed by D. X. Murphy and members of the firm are preserved at the Filson Club, but these do not include plans for the Snead Manufacturing Building.

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The Snead Manufacturing Building is a significant example of early twentieth century functional design determined by the proposed uses of the building. It was probably one of the early uses of reinforced concrete in Louisville. In addition, it was designed by one of the city's outstanding architectural firms, D. X. Murphy and Brothers. It is still in use as an industrial building.

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"End Comes." The (Louisville) Courier-Journal, 26 February 1903.

Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments. Metropolitan Preservation Plan. Text and selection by Walter E. Langsam. Washington, D. C. : United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1973.

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Withey, Henry F., and Withey, E. R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

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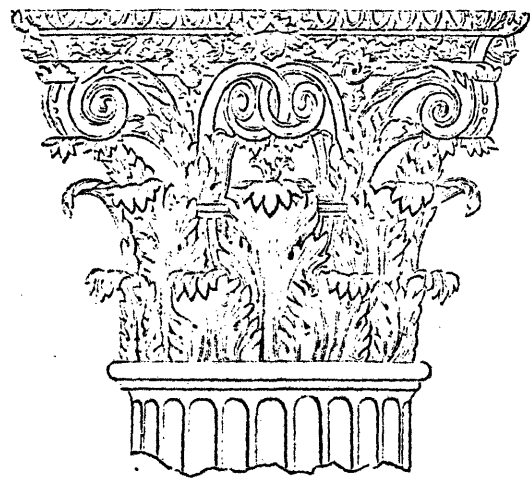
C. S. SNEAD, President.

UDOLPHO SNEAD, Vice-Pres.

— ESTABLISHED 1851 —

# The Snead & Co. Iron Works,

MAKERS OF  
Structural & Ornamental Iron Work  
FOR BUILDINGS.



LOUISVILLE, KY.

The Plant of this Company consists of a large and well equipped Foundry, Machine Shops, Wrought Iron Shops for riveted and roof work, Blacksmith Shops, Railing Shops, Pattern Shops, Modeling Room and Electro-Plating Shop, and with these facilities is prepared to execute contracts, large or small, successfully and with rapidity.

Among the important contracts lately completed by this Company, or in progress, may be mentioned the following: Auditorium Building, Chicago, (Messrs Adler & Sullivan, Architects,) all the structural iron work including, stairways and part of the ornamental work. Building for State War and Navy Department, Washington, D. C. (Col. Thos. Lincoln Casey,) iron work of roof, west wing, iron library, west wing, electro-bronzed bookcases with galvanoplastic panels and electro-bronzed columns and railings. Washington Monument (Col. Thos. Lincoln Casey,) stairway from bottom to top. Georgia State Capitol, (Messrs Edbrooke & Burnham, Architects, Messrs Miles & Horn, Contractors,) the entire structural and ornamental iron work including iron work of dome. U. S. Custom House and Post Office, Minneapolis, Minn., wrought iron work of roof with ornamental cast cornices, ridges and hip rolls. American Bank, Kansas City, (Messrs Burnham & Root, Architects,) structural iron work. Rosenheim-Frankenthal Buildings, St. Louis, A. F. Rosenheim, Esq. Architect,) structural iron work. U. S. Custom House and Post Office, Louisville, Ky., columns, girders, roof, stairways, etc. Ironwork for book stacks for new Library of Congress, at Washington, D. C. Ornamental iron work for new Masonic Temple Building, Chicago, Ill.

*Builders & Traders' Exchange  
Hand Book 1891*

*U.K. Library*

AUG 1 1978

JUN 13 1978

View 1.

Builders & Traders Exchange

Handbook 1891

University of Kentucky Library



CHAS. S. SNEAD,  
President.

UDOLPHO SNEAD,  
Vice-President

# THE SNEAD & CO. IRON WORKS

*Market, between Eighth and Ninth Streets,*

LOUISVILLE, KY.

- IRON FRONTS,
- IRON BUILDINGS,
- IRON ROOFS,
- JAILS AND CELLS,
- RAILINGS AND GATES,
- STAIRWAYS,
- CRESTINGS AND FINIALS,
- BANK VAULTS,
- VERANDAS,
- AIR GRATES,
- WINDOW CAPS,
- SKY LIGHTS,
- SIDEWALK LIGHTS,
- BOLTS,
- RIVETED GIRDERS,
- COLUMNS,
- AWNING FRAMES

AND EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

WROUGHT AND CAST IRON WORK FOR BUILDINGS.

Co.

ILLE, KY.



BARS for Kentucky,

ILERS,

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RS,

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DMETALS

ing Wood.

of the Industries of Louisville  
Ed. Geo. A. Crittenden, A. M.  
A. N. Marquis & Co., Publ.  
Louis. 1881.

AUG 1 1978

View 2.

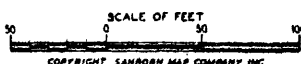
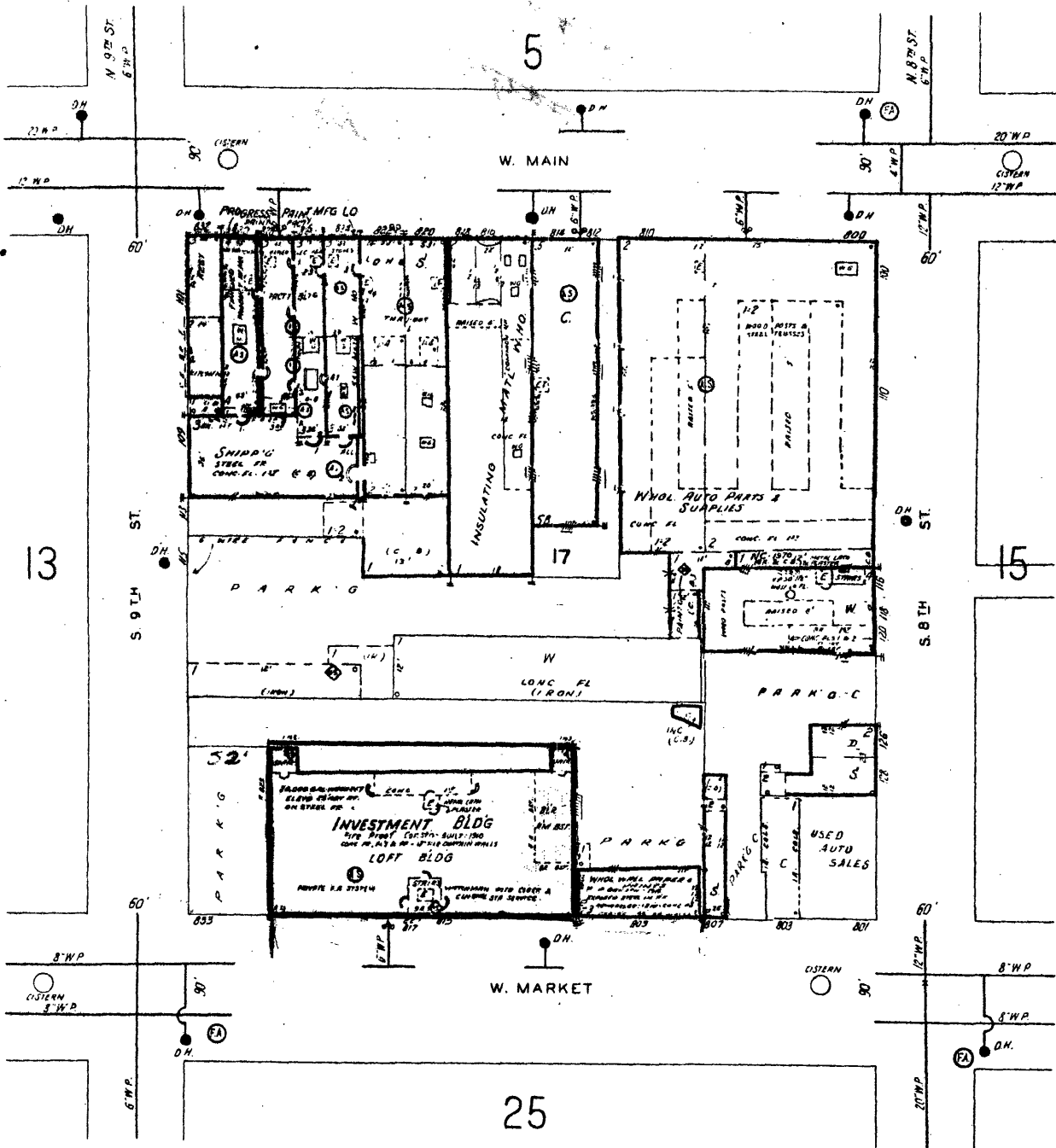
The Industries of Louisville

Ed. Geo. A. Crittenden

A. N. Marquis & Co. Publ.

Louisville 1881

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