

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **OCT 28 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Deering Building

and/or common 106 First Street

2. Location

street & number 106 First Street N/A not for publication

city, town Union City N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Obion code 131

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" 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 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 Dr. and Mrs. J. Kelley Avery

street & number 1608 Shatz Road

city, town Union City N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38261

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Obion County Courthouse -- Register of Deeds

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Union City state Tennessee 38261

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one
 excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date _____
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a corner lot of downtown Union City (pop. 11,295) in northwest Tennessee, the Deering Building (1891) is a three-story, triangular-shaped brick commercial structure. The First Street (front) facade of the vernacular style building is divided by pilaster strips and is terminated by a high parapet with recessed panels. Although the architectural detailing of the Deering Building is simple, it is the most imposing turn-of-the-century commercial building remaining in Union City, a town that has lost a large majority of its late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century business structures. The building is relatively unaltered on its exterior and interior and retains its architectural integrity.

Despite changes to the first-story window and door openings (ca. 1965), the second and third stories have kept their original character of segmental-arched windows with four-over-four sash. The First Street (front) facade is also distinguished by pilaster strips and a high corbeled parapet. The segmental-arched windows of this facade are repeated along the alley side of the building, but there are no pilaster strips or decorative parapet. Though the south facade has random pilaster strips, it has no windows or corbeled parapet.

Interior features include tongue-and-groove wooden paneling and ceilings, wide poplar plank flooring, sturdy wooden beams, and exposed brick walls in the warehouse area. The original freight elevator, motorized during the early 1900s, is in operable condition and provides access to all floor levels.

Although the building has been altered over the years, the Deering Building still retains most of its original architectural elements. The present owners are in the process of preparing a restoration/rehabilitation plan for this Victorian commercial structure. Details are being outlined for the restoration of the arched door and window openings of the first floor, the repair of damaged exterior areas along the foundation and roofline, repointing, and the replacement of missing bricks. Plans for the interior include the restoration of original offices on the second and third floors and the rehabilitation of remaining floor space for offices and retail shops. Renovation also includes heating and ventilation systems and lighting.

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 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 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 1891 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1891, the Deering Building is being nominated under National Register criteria A for its association with the development of commercial enterprises in Union City, Tennessee, and the surrounding area of northwest Tennessee. Beginning with the William Deering Company of Chicago, the building housed the largest farm equipment and seed businesses in the important agricultural region of northwest Tennessee.

In 1891 the William Deering Company of Chicago purchased two lots from B.H. Beckham of Union City. These lots, forming a triangle, were bounded by the Nashville-Northwestern Railroad and First Street. The Deering Company proceeded to construct a three-story, 63,000 square foot brick business establishment and warehouse in order for the Deering Harvesting Company to service the western portions of Tennessee and Kentucky. During the latter 1890s the building was transferred to Charles Deering and the Cyrus H. McCormick Company, also of Chicago. The Deering Building remained in this partnership until 1905 when it was purchased by Mr. R.F. Tisdale of Union City.

Mr. Tisdale had served as general manager of the Deering Harvesting Company prior to his purchase of the building. Utilizing the skills he had acquired during his years with Deering, Tisdale's "Grain, Field Seeds, and Implements" business grew to be the largest dealer of farming supplies in West Tennessee. Specializing in an enormous stock of field seeds, Tisdale also carried harvesting machinery and gasoline engines.

During the early 1940s the former Deering Building became the mercantile home of the Alexander-Jones Company, a wholesale tobacco, candy, and specialty business. Its founders, W.P. Alexander, Sr. and C.E. Jones, combined their experiences in the field of merchandising and focused their abilities in the development of a wholesale business for the Union City area. By the mid-1950s the company served retail merchants in counties in both West Tennessee and West Kentucky. Within a short period of time, Alexander-Jones adopted "The House of Service" for its trade name.

Today, a motorcycle shop, games room, coin shop, and music store share the first floor level of the former Deering Building. Plans are being developed by the present owners for the restoration/rehabilitation of the exterior and interior of the building. The upper stories are being designed to accommodate professional office space and retail shops while the existing commercial businesses will remain on the lower level.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Union City, Tennessee, Its Commercial and Industrial Advantages, Field Publishing Company, 1912
Union City Centennial Commemorative Booklet, 1961, n.p.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Union City, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	1	5	6	2	0	4	0	3	2	9	3	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 The triangular-shaped property is bounded on the west by First Street, the north/east by the Louisville and Nashville (Seaboard) Railroad tracks, the south by an adjacent commercial structure. The nomination includes only the city lot historically associated with the building.

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 Cate Hamilton/Community Development Planner

organization Northwest Tenn. Development District date August 1983

street & number P. O. Box 63 telephone (901) 587-4213

city or town Martin state Tennessee 38237

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

Richard L. Bryan

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 10/24/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 11/25/83

for *Deborah Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration