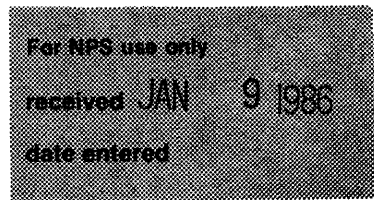


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Murray, Kentucky

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Name: National Hotel

Location: Corner of N. 6th st.
and Main Street

Owner: National Hotel Group
Purdom-Miller, Inc.
1406 Main
Murray, KY 42071

Classification: Building

Description: Dominating the corner of Sixth and Main Streets is the three-story National Hotel Building. This building marks the western edge of the downtown commercial area. The hotel has a prominent location on Murray's most important street, one that connects the downtown with the Murray State University campus.

The National Hotel was constructed in 1929 in a simple version of the Classical Revival style. The main entrance to the hotel is located on the Sixth Street facade. This entrance has a central doorway topped with a fanlight and balanced with two multi-paned windows. All of this is surrounded by limestone blocks and topped by the original steel awning. On both sides of the central entranceway are doorways and commercial display windows. These provide access and visibility to the commercial establishments located on the first floor of the hotel. Each of these doorways has a limestone surround and a keystone. Most of the first floor windows have their original sashes, but these have been covered with modern siding. These regularly placed first floor windows and doors continue on the Main Street facade of the hotel. A stone beltcourse runs along the building delineating the top of the first floor.

The upper two floors of the hotel have regularly placed windows for the hotel rooms. Smaller windows provide light for the bathrooms. The original window sashes have been covered with plywood for protection. A second story stone beltcourse provides a sill for the second floor windows. A stone cornice runs across the top of the building. Three-story brick pilasters mark each of the major corners of the building.

The first floor interior is mainly divided into commercial spaces and the hotel lobby. The lobby retains its original check-in desk and management offices. The upper floor hotel rooms retain their original lay-outs and details. A partial basement provides meeting room space and storage.

Significance: The opening of the New National Hotel on the evening of Saturday, October 6, 1928, was one of the landmark events in the history of Murray. For the next 50 years, the National Hotel was the center of social activity for the town. Parties and receptions were held in the banquet rooms, civic clubs congregated in the meeting rooms, and important dinners and celebrations held in the dining room. Because of its

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Continuation of National Hotel

important place in the history of Murray, the National Hotel can be considered the most significant commercial building in the downtown Murray area.

The January 1, 1928 edition of the Murray newspaper announced that a new three-story hotel was to be constructed in Murray in the next three months. The construction of the hotel was a reflection of the prosperous economic times and the expected growth of the town due to the establishment of Murray Normal College. The National Hotel was one of three major hotels constructed in the Jackson Purchase around 1930. The other two being the Hall Hotel in Mayfield and the Irvin Cobb Hotel in Paducah. All of these hotels reflect the growth in the Jackson Purchase in the 1920s.

The National Hotel was constructed by the National Hotel Service Company of St. Louis. This firm, which operated hotels throughout the midwest, was one of the first companies to build and operate hotels in smaller towns such as Murray. The final cost of the hotel was \$100,000. The building was designed by the St. Louis architectural firm of Klinginsmith and Klinkens and built by St. Louis contractors Wilkins & Philippe. The brick contract was awarded to Lockwood & Glasser of Paducah, the painting and decorating to H. B. Grimmer of Paducah, and the plastering to C. L. Stratton of Paducah.

The first floor of the hotel contained the lobby, dining room, check office and sample room. The banquet room was located in the basement. the second and third floors contained fifty hotel rooms half of which had their own baths. The hotel had the innovative feature of a telephone in each room. Each room contained a bed, combination chest of drawers and writing desk, rock, straight chair, and velvet rug. The hotel also had the innovative feature of a telephone in each room.

The original opening date of October 1st was moved back due to delays in installation of new furniture and equipment. The public was invited on October 6, 1928, to "inspect one of the most modern and completely equipped hotels in the state." Those attending the opening reception found "a new hotel that is something of which Murray should be proud."

The hotel was a popular center of activity as soon as it opened. In the typical year of 1929, the following organizations met at the hotel: the Rotary Club, the Magazine Club, the Calloway County Medical Society, and the Business and Professional Women Club.

The National Hotel was sold at auction on October 29, 1936 to E. F. Lampkin for \$29,150. The next month, the hotel was leased to E. A. Trevillion, who owned other hotels in the area. Mr. Trevillion made several improvements, including a complete renovation of the hotel.

The hotel remained open until the early 1970s. Currently only the commercial spaces on the first floor are being utilized.

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Continuation of National Hotel

Acreage: App. .5 acre.

UTM references: (Murray quadrangle) 16/383380/4052260

Verbal Boundary Description: The National Hotel is located on the accompanying Murray tax map as Block 8, Lot 1.