

647

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 14 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name W.G. Swann Tobacco Company

other names/site number Landolt Building, CWM-281

2. Location

street & number 111 Poplar Street

city or town Murray

state Kentucky code KY county Calloway code 035 zip code 42071

NA	not for publication
NA	vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

7-16-15

Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

9.29.15

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and early 20th Century American Monuments:

Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: synthetic

other:

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The former W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse (CWM-281) is located at 111 Poplar Street, Murray, Kentucky. The front of the building faces north and sits on a ridge overlooking the industrial section of downtown Murray. Persons entering Murray from Highway 94 East see the building sitting on the ridge from over one-half mile away. Murray is the seat of Calloway County, in the western part of Kentucky known as the Jackson Purchase region, an eight-county area surrounded by the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers, and bordered on the south by northwest Tennessee. The nominated area is approximately 1.6 acres, and contains one contributing building.

Character of the Setting

In the late 1920s, Poplar Street, which was a well-travelled street mostly consisting of dense industrial related buildings, was the home of the W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse. The building was located a block west of the railroad tracks, making it ideally suited for the tobacco industry and other warehousing uses. The railroad tracks are located approximately 400' downhill from the warehouse. The close proximity to the railroad meant that the hogsheads of tobacco could easily be taken by wagon, and later by truck, to the railroad for shipment. A parking lot on the east side separates the W.G. Swann building from the Ellis Popcorn Company, which is well known for the production of Blue Ribbon Popcorn. Right across the street is a little building, now used for storage, which once housed a small diner where people working in the tobacco warehouses would eat. Poplar Street was one of the major streets in Murray during the Period of Significance, and was the location of the J.D. Rowlett Tobacco Manufacturing Plug and Smoking Tobacco Company, which was a major employer for Murray and Calloway County residents. The W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse stood just east of the Rowlett Company. A Sanborn map of the vicinity appears on page 6, below.

This building is the last standing multi-storied tobacco warehouse in an industrial area where masonry warehouses and industrial buildings have been torn down and replaced by one-level metal structures. The W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse was one of 13 tobacco business buildings that once comprised a warehouse district surrounding the railroad tracks. The 1925 Sanborn map shows all 13 of these tobacco related buildings.

Exterior Description

The building was designed like many other tobacco handling facilities of its time. The building is very much like the original Liggett and Myers Tobacco Rehandling Facility in Lexington, Kentucky (NR 2003, NRIS 03000261) in look and design.



Liggett and Myers Tobacco Rehandling.
Warehouse, Lexington KY



W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse, Murray

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

The W.G. Swann building is three stories tall and has a partial basement with a wide door for unloading. The first floor was used for prizing and steaming, also with a large receiving dock at the rear for easy loading and unloading. The second floor housed offices at the front and was divided into three structural bays. The top floor, also three bays, has large windows for light since electricity was only beginning to be available in Murray at that time. The top floor may have been used as a drying area for leaves still too moist to be packaged, and then after the addition of the elevator it was probably used as more warehouse space for the hogsheads.



West side of W.G. Swann Company
Murray, Kentucky (Angela Rowlett)



Liggett and Myers Tobacco Rehandling Warehouse,
Lexington Kentucky

The exterior of the building features a central entrance on the primary façade, which is flanked by four-over-four sash, rolled steel metal windows. The top floor has nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows. The building contains approximately 49,000 square feet and is set on a concrete foundation. The partial basement was used for prizing and sorting tobacco. Large bay doors on the back and side of the building allowed for access to horse-drawn wagons and farm trucks, which brought in the tobacco and took it out again for delivery to the rail line. The roofline is flat.

The building has many windows. On each floor along the sides there are twenty large windows with eight windows across the front and back of each floor. Most of the original steel windows remain in the building.



East side of W.G. Swann building (Angela Rowlett Lampe)

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State



West side of W.G. Swann building (*Angela Rowlett Lampe*)

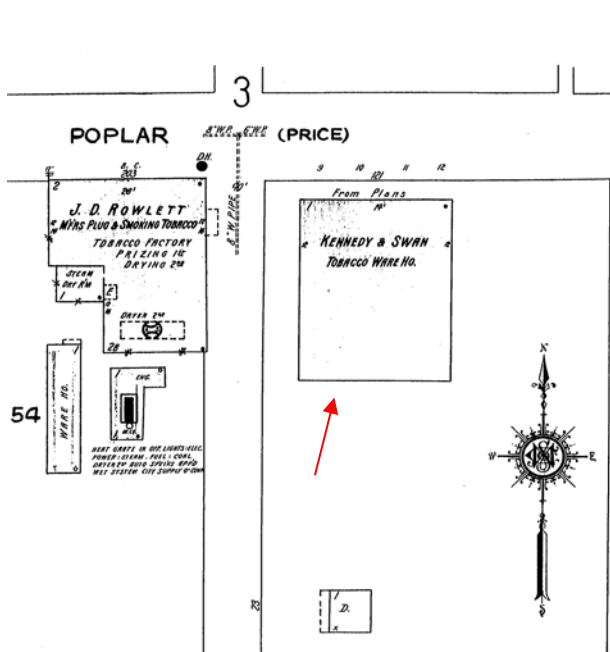


Rear of the W.G. Swann building (*Angela Rowlett Lampe*)

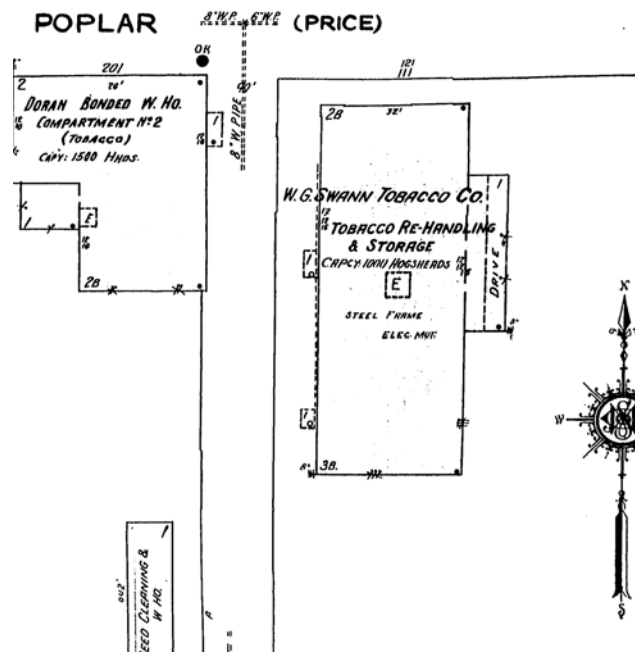
The entrances of many of the tobacco warehouses were not elaborate, and the W.G. Swann building was typical, with its front steps and small overhang at the front entrance. The double doors at the entrance and side of the building have windows at the top and are paneled at the bottom. It is not known if these are original to the building. The design of the building is not a focus of the nomination, but does reflect the building's original functions. The form, space, structure and style of this building were essential in its original conception and these elements remain adding to the building's significance.

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State



The 1925 Sanborn map 6 for Murray, KY.
Shows the building only according to plans



The 1942 Sanborn map 6 for Murray, KY.
Shows the building as built

The method of construction was masonry exterior with a steel frame. The form of the structure is rectangle measuring 80'7" wide x 200' 9" long. The exterior and interior walls are bricks of a red/brown color laid in an American bond pattern, with five courses of stretchers between each course of headers. The brick is still in good condition with no damage noted. The floor-to-floor height between the basement and the first floor is about 7 feet. The distance between the first and second floor is also about 7 feet. The floor-to-floor height between the second floor and the third floor is approximately 9 feet. The height between the third floor and the roof within the side bays is about 15 feet; the height increases to 17 feet in the center bay. The foundation and flooring in the basement are both concrete, which is smooth and shows no signs of major damage. Flooring on the second and third floors is pine; there is some disrepair, but overall it is in good condition. There have been few alterations to this building over the years, and the exterior retains its historic fabric. The majority of the original windows are still in the building, although many glass panes have been broken over time.

Interior Description

The many windows were needed for light. There was no electricity during the era in which the building was constructed. The large open floor space was necessary for handling tobacco. The wide staircases in the building were needed to haul tobacco and the hogsheads from one floor to the other. Jim Kelly, former President of the Western Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Association, believes the top floor would have also been used for hanging and drying some tobacco that was too damp for packaging.¹ The hauling of the hogsheads was made easier following the installation of a large freight elevator. It is still operable, but is not certified to carry people. There were offices located in a section of the first floor.

¹ Personal conversation with Jim Kelly and Angela Lampe, June 9, 2015.

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

The picture on page 5, of the rear of the building, reveals a continuation of the window pattern along with remains of a loading bay, and pedestrian access to the second floor.

Additional evidence—the close-by railroad, a remaining freight depot, and resources from historical maps—shows ways that this building functioned in Murray’s tobacco market and industrial pursuits.



Freight elevator in center of building (*Angela Rowlett Lampe*)

Changes to the Building Since the Period of Significance:

The building has had very little change since the Period of Significance. In the 1950s, some windows were changed due to deterioration. In addition, heating and air conditioning units have been added, as has a sprinkler system. A freight elevator was added in the center of the building, but the date of that addition is unknown.

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Period of Significance

1925-1952

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The tobacco industry was vital to Murray, Kentucky from the early 1920s to the early 2000s. The W.G. Swann building was used for this purpose from the 1920s to the early 1950s. After 1952, the building was then utilized as a garment factory.

Criteria Considerations: NA

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The W.G. Swann Tobacco Company building (CWM-281) meets National Register Criterion A, significant for its association with the tobacco industry in Murray, Kentucky. That significance is being evaluated within the historic context “The Tobacco Industry in Murray, Kentucky, 1900-1960.” When the W.G. Swann building was constructed, there were twelve other tobacco industry facilities in the town, all grouped near the railroad tracks on the east side of Murray. With the disappearance of these buildings over time, the W.G. Swann building has emerged as one of the only tangible pieces of this important local industry.

Historic Context: The Tobacco Industry in Murray, Kentucky, 1900-1960.

Tobacco has a long history in this country. The Kentucky’s Best website states that tobacco helped finance the American Revolution when Benjamin Franklin obtained a loan from France secured by five million pounds of United States tobacco. This website also noted that tobacco warehouses became some of our country’s first industrial buildings and that early warehouse receipts for a hogshead of tobacco could be considered the first American currency.²

Dark fire-cured and air cured tobacco production is concentrated in 33 western Kentucky counties and is used primarily in smokeless tobacco products such as snuff and chewing tobacco, as well as to make pipe tobacco. North Carolina grows more tobacco than Kentucky in total pound. However, in a comparison among all states’ farmers, where the amount or value of tobacco grown is weighed against the amount or value of the other agricultural products, Kentucky’s farmers grow the largest **percentage** of tobacco, relative to all their agricultural products, in a state-by-state comparison.³

Western fire-cured tobacco is produced principally in a section between the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers in western Kentucky and northwest Tennessee. Burley and dark air-cured tobacco has been grown in Calloway County, Kentucky for many years. Fire-cured tobacco has historically been and remains the leading tobacco grown in the western Kentucky area.

In *Architecture of the Tobacco Sales Warehouse*, Anthony Rawe wrote that the national market for tobacco grew very quickly after the Civil War. The large growth of warehouses and production industries in the south allowed Kentucky to rise to the top in tobacco sales and production by 1863. The tobacco facilities were built near waterways or railroad facilities.⁴ John Miller in *The Black Patch War*, wrote that farmers descended from immigrants from the highlands of the Alleghenies. They settled in West Tennessee and West Kentucky and began growing a variety of tobacco that had dark leaves, hence the nickname, “Black Patch.” Growers grew more dependent on tobacco, leading them to grow fewer food crops. By 1872, tobacco was the chief crop and main source of income for people in west Tennessee and in Western Kentucky.⁵

A 1910 headline in the Paducah Evening Sun reads “Murray and Benton Thriving Towns of Southwestern KY: Centers of Famous Dark Leaf Tobacco Belt—Tobacco Crop Marketed in Murray Represents \$5,000,000.00 Annually.” The newspaper article also mentions that the tobacco manufacturing and shipping activities of

² “Kentucky’s Best”, <http://www.farnerstobacco.com/about/history.html>. p 1-2.

³ “Overview of Kentucky’s Tobacco Economy”, <http://www.wbko.com/news/headlines/107851.html>

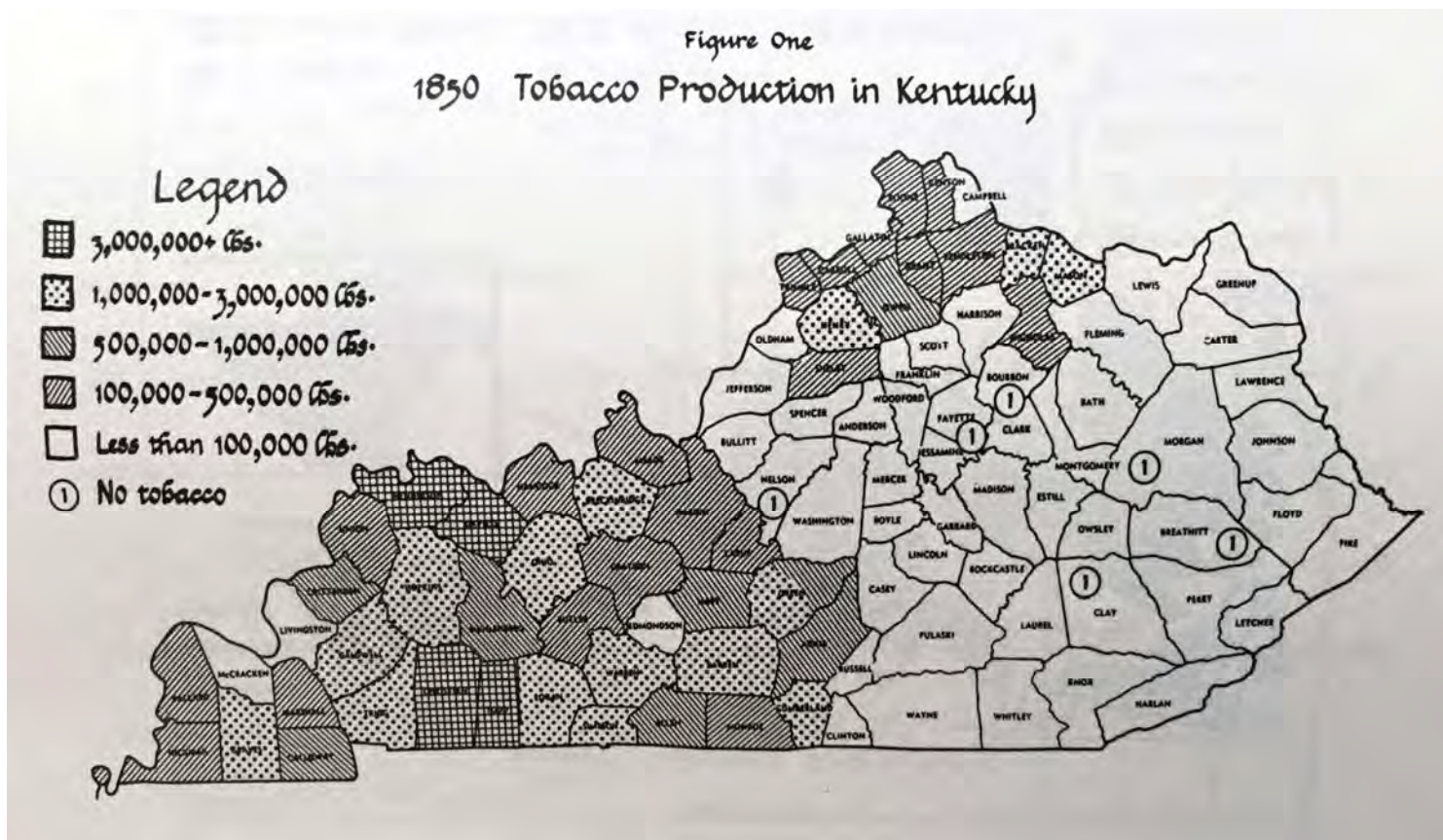
⁴ Rawe, Anthony, *Architecture of the Tobacco Sales Warehouse*, 25-28.

⁵ Miller, John G. *The Black Patch War*, 2. <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=352>

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Murray form the basis on which other economic development has been built in Murray.⁶ In *Export and Manufacturing Tobaccos of the United States: with brief reference to the cigar types*, Ernest H Mathewson wrote in 1912, that Paducah and Maysville [sic; author may have meant Mayfield], Kentucky were the most important market towns for the Paducah (western) district. At that time Murray Kentucky was growing as a center of importance.⁷ Another study, *Tobacco: Northern and Western Grown*, a 1920s publication from the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, states “Kentucky is the leading state in the production of Tobacco, and within its borders is grown fully a third of all tobacco produced in the United States.”⁸ Tobacco became the main industry and the reason for Murray’s growth in the late 1800s and the early 1900s.



The Figure above shows that Calloway County produced 500,000-1,000,000 lbs of tobacco in KY in 1850⁹ (*Tobacco and Kentucky*)

⁶ “Murray and Benton Thriving Towns of Southwestern KY.” The Paducah Evening Sun, June 22, 1910 retrieved from Kentucky Digital Library on 6/1/15

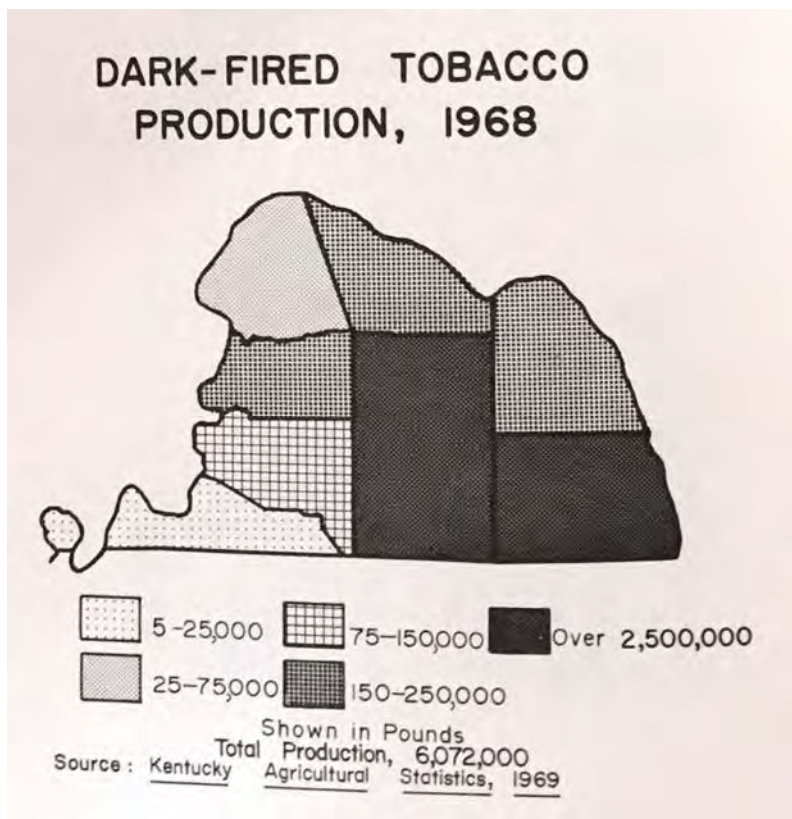
⁷ Mathewson, Ernest, H. *Export and manufacturing tobaccos of the United States: with brief reference to the cigar types*, 46

⁸ Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company *Tobacco: Northern and Western Grown*, 37 retrieved from Kentucky Digital Library on 6/1/15

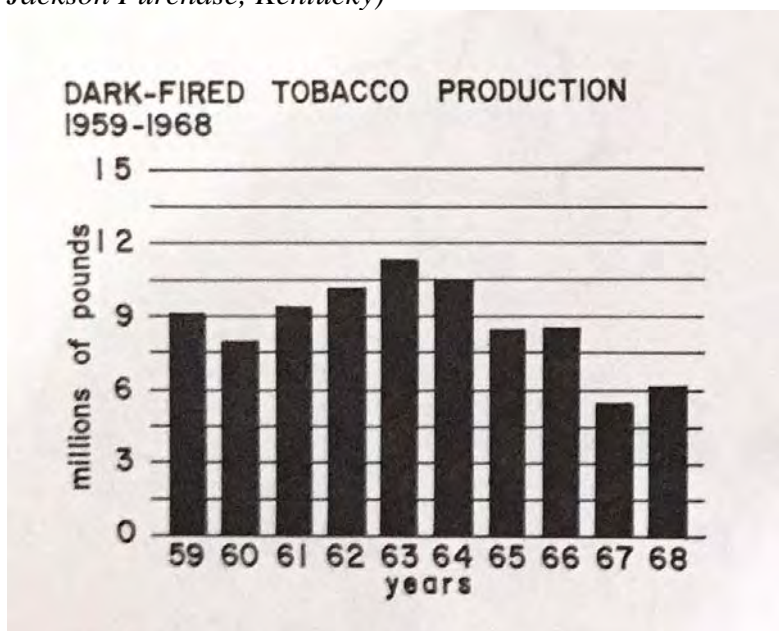
⁹ Axton, W.F. *Tobacco and Kentucky*, 133

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State



By 1968 dark fired production in Calloway County had reached over 2,500,000 pounds¹⁰ (*Regional Atlas of the Jackson Purchase, Kentucky*)



Between 1959-1968 dark fired tobacco in Kentucky ranged from 6 – 11 million pounds¹¹ (*Regional Atlas of the*

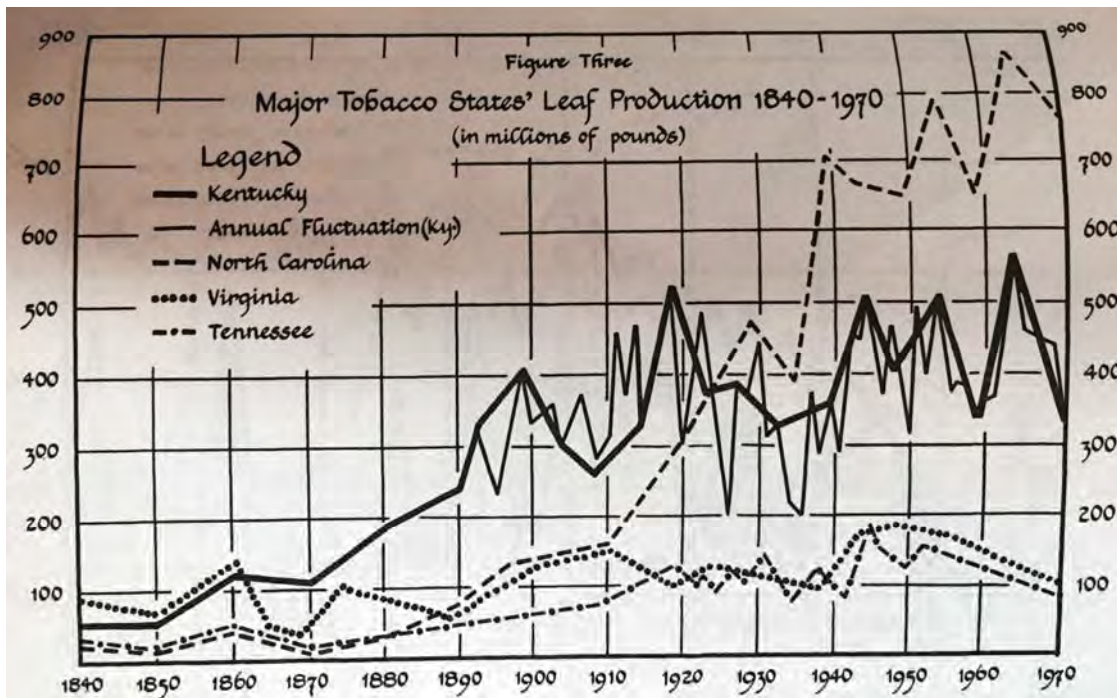
¹⁰ Franklin, William A. *Regional Atlas of the Jackson Purchase, Kentucky*, 109

¹¹ Franklin, William A. *Regional Atlas of the Jackson Purchase, Kentucky*, 109

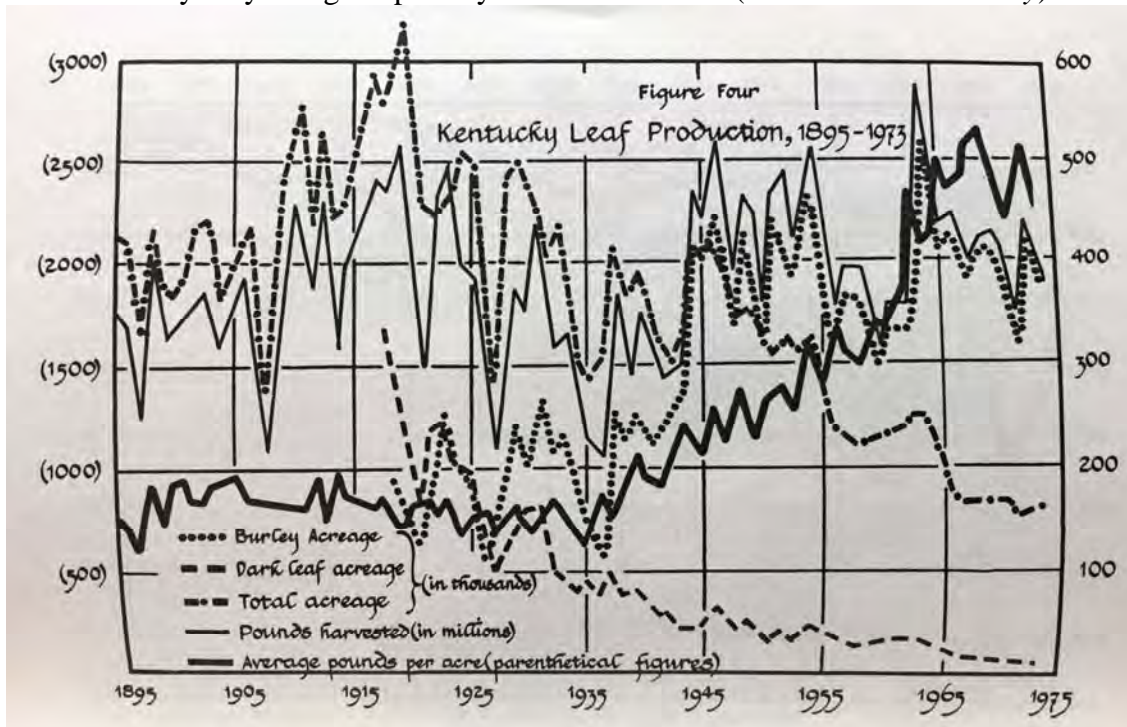
W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
 Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
 County and State

Jackson Purchase, Kentucky)



The figure above shows leaf production in millions of pounds by states between 1840-1970, with Kentucky only being eclipsed by North Carolina¹² (*Tobacco and Kentucky*)



The figure above shows leaf production in Kentucky by acreage between 1895-1973¹³ (*Tobacco and Kentucky*)

¹² Axton, W.F. *Tobacco and Kentucky*, 135

¹³ Axton, W.F. *Tobacco and Kentucky*, 136

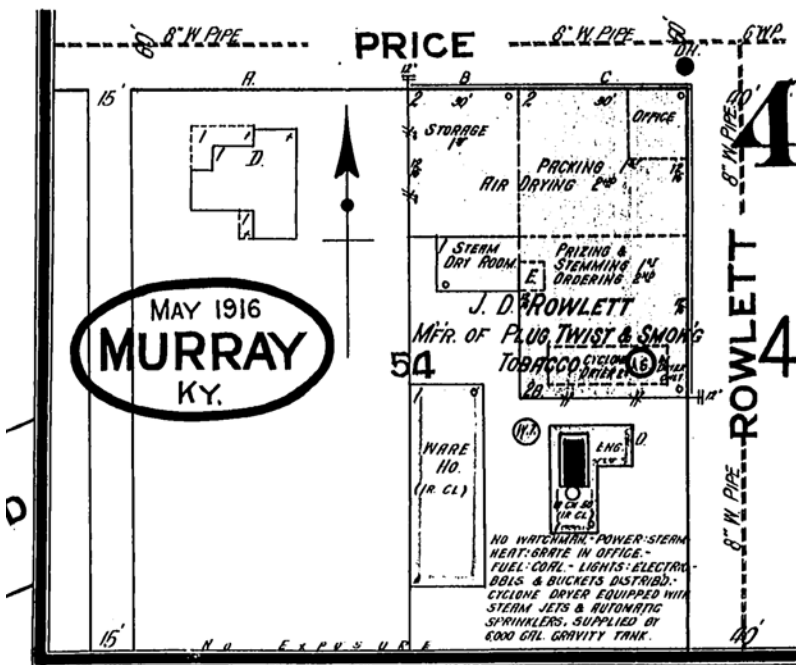
W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Hoping for relief from economic hardship, tobacco growers in western Kentucky and northern middle Tennessee formed the Dark Tobacco District Planters' Protective Association of Kentucky and Tennessee (PPA) on September 24, 1904. A steady decline in dark-fired tobacco prices since the turn of the century brought deprivation and suffering to the farmers of the region. The area had endured periodic depressions caused by low tobacco prices since the Civil War, prompting many growers in the region to support the Grangers, Greenbackers, Farmers' Alliance, Populist Party, and other organizations promising relief from agrarian problems.

Although the principal goal of the PPA was to raise tobacco prices by the cooperative marketing of the crop, the organization also worked to make the federal and state governments more responsive to agrarian needs and to convince tobacco growers to embrace the gospel of diversification, science, and efficiency. The PPA operated for over a decade and was one of the Nation's most successful tobacco cooperatives until the formation of the various New Deal tobacco associations. During the PPA's existence tobacco prices rose and remained at profitable levels. Remembering the fate of the Southern Farmers' Alliance and other earlier farm organizations, the PPA refused to become embroiled in party politics.

The 1916 Sanborn map shows that Murray, KY had eleven warehouse businesses and one of these was the J. D. Rowlett Manufacturing Plug and Smoking Tobacco Company. This business had a steam room and dryer and was one of only two tobacco warehouse businesses that could boast having electric lights.



1916 Map 4, Murray, Kentucky Sanborn Insurance Map. J.D. Rowlett Tobacco Company

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State



Kentucky Progress Commission Map, 1931

The tobacco industry is comprised of: farmers, those that prepare it for sale, shipment and distribution. Below are some of the main processes and key terms used in the tobacco industry.

Key Tobacco Terms used in tobacco marketing:

Prizing: When the tobacco has passed through the re-drying machines, it is taken off the sticks, packed into hogsheads and “prized”, or pressed, by a power press into hogsheads in which it is to be kept in the storage houses.¹⁴

Hogshead: The large cask or container in which tobacco is stored and certain forms of tobacco are sold. Prior to 1770 averaged about 600 lbs, but contemporary packing averages nearly twice that weight.¹⁵

Re-handling Trade: The industry which processes tobacco for export. Involves grading, classing, prizing, fermenting, storing, selling, etc.¹⁶

Aging: After the tobacco is cured, it is packed in casks known as hogsheads, which are stored in warehouses. They remain there for at least a year, sometimes up to four. This is done in order to give the tobacco its mellowness. Aging also means what is technically known as fermentation or sweating of leaf tobacco.¹⁷

Grade: A subdivision of a type which, by government classification, is separated according to group and quality, and according to color when it is of sufficient importance to be treated as a separate factor.¹⁸

Hand: A bunch of cured tobacco, consisting of five-20 leaves, which have been sorted according to quality.¹⁹

Class: One of the major divisions of leaf tobacco based on the distinct characteristics of the tobacco caused by differences in varieties, soil, and climatic conditions, and the methods of handling, cultivation and curing.²⁰

Pack House: the place where tobacco is stored after it has been cured. There it is also packed into hogsheads.²¹

¹⁴ John, Raymond The Tobacco Dictionary, pg. 130

¹⁵ John, pg.84

¹⁶ John, pg.136

¹⁷ John, pg.2

¹⁸ John, pg.74

¹⁹ John, pg.79

²⁰ John, pg.37

²¹ John, pg.120

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Murray had several tobacco prizing companies and two plug and smoking tobacco factories in the early 1900s. Kirby and Dorothy Jennings, in *The Story of Calloway County, 1822-1976*, describe the tobacco prizing operation. Kirby Jennings wrote,

Tobacco was hand-lifted from the wagon, placed on rolling carts, pushed into the building and nested down in huge bulks as high as 10 feet, awaiting a later date for processing into hogsheads, a procedure requiring several months to execute but fulfilled by late August. With prizing operations underway, a rouser would pile tobacco high onto a half hoop, shoulder the load, roll off the bulk and carry the weed to classers who would shake the hands of tobacco apart to separate according to color and length, placing each hand in its proper rack. A steamer (this process later eliminated) would take tobacco from designated bins to a big box, slam the door to release steam, carry it to hogsheads where a dropper would flip a hand at a time down into the hogshead to a packer to be tightly fitted in place. Packers shared with the classer comparable wages but not esteem. Hogsheads would be filled to the brim; a header clasped around for additional 12 inches for good measure, and then go on to another huge barrel to fill. A setter manning a spiraled screw and wood blocks to squeeze down the tobacco to the maximum pressure, and let it stand until the packer completed filling the adjacent hogshead. The packer returned to the original hogshead, fill again, screw down again, and oftimes a third time around before applying the lid by a setter. The result, 1600 to 1800 pounds of tobacco destined for overseas.²²

Jennings wrote about employment and pay in the tobacco industry. "Child labor was an accepted way of life and a lad was most grateful for a job at 10 years of age, paying 25 cents a day, working from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour off for lunch. At 14 years of age, a job as steamer brought in \$15 a week for six days work, and was the envy of every boy in Murray."²³



Un-identified tobacco warehouse in Murray, KY. Pictured on the left are lids for the hogsheads, on the right is a tobacco cart with a broken wheel and missing wheel.²⁴ (*The Western Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Association Records*)

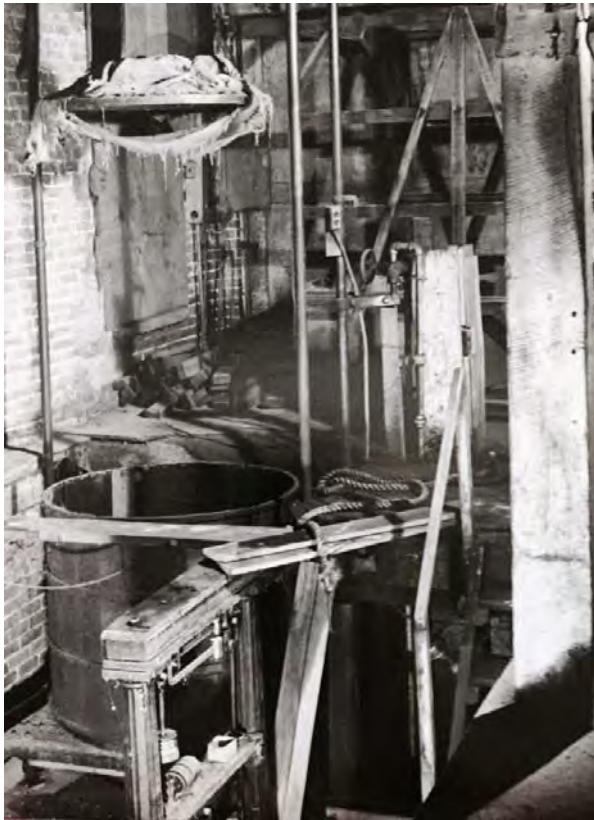
²² Jennings, Dorothy and Kirby, *The Story of Calloway County, 1822-1976*, p. 76

²³ Jennings, p. 77.

²⁴ The Western Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Association Records

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State



tobacco warehouse. The containers would hold an average of 1,100 lbs of tobacco and would be stacked almost to the rafters.²⁵ (*Partners in Progress at Morehead City, N. C.*)

Rick Gregory of Tennessee State University writes about the Black Patch wars that affected Kentucky and Tennessee tobacco farmers. In the early 1900s when tobacco had become the dominant source of income for Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia farmers, James Duke and his American Tobacco Company made innovative strides in technology using a cigarette rolling machine to more than triple cigarette production. Duke decided to monopolize the industry by forming a trust where they were the only buyer of tobacco and could set the price as low as they wanted since no one else would buy. In 1904 the farmers of Kentucky and Tennessee formed an Association called the District Planters' Protective Association of Kentucky and Tennessee. The Association wanted to raise prices by a cooperative marketing approach, but they had trouble doing so. Some of the more temperamental members formed an organization called the Night Riders and used violence to try to gain higher prices. These riders intimidated with threats, by burning barns, and through physical violence to any farmer who sold tobacco outside the Association.²⁶

Murray was not exempt from the Night Riders. Jennings describes the Planter's Protective Association of tobacco growers of which his father served as secretary. He explained that his father had a dual objective of being secretary of the group. Kirby Jennings wrote, "he had a dual objective: to improve and enlarge readership of his weekly newspaper, the Murray Ledger, and to serve as a moderating force in preserving law and order in this county." Jennings goes on to explain the Association was made up of a group of about 20,000 farmers from Western Kentucky and Northwestern Tennessee. He described various acts of violence including the burning of several farmers' barns full of tobacco. Some farmers were taken from their homes and whipped.

²⁵ *Partners in Progress at Morehead City, N.C.* <http://southern.railfan.net/ties/1960/60-12/moor.html>

²⁶ Gregory, Rick, *Beliefs of their Fathers: Violence, Religion, and The Black Patch War, 1904-1914.*

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Telephone wires were cut and people were generally very afraid. After many months of threats and violence, a group of troops from Hopkinsville were sent to Murray, Jennings wrote that,

“State Troops in Murray” headlined the newspaper, and went on to read that the first blue coat soldiers seen in Murray since the invasion of this county by federal troops in 1863 arrived in Murray Thursday afternoon coming from Hopkinsville on horses with Captain Givens in command of the 37 men composing the company. A second detachment of about 60 men will arrive tonight.²⁷

The Black Patch Night Riders terrorized Murray and Calloway County for three years, from 1907 through 1909. Trials were held in Calloway County against alleged Night Riders but none were ever convicted. The trouble was over by 1910, with only a few reported incidents tied to Night Riders after that time. With a ruling in 1911 that the American Tobacco Company trust was in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890, and that the American Tobacco Company would have to divide itself into four companies.

This ruling ended the conflict, making the growing of tobacco safe again. This allowed the tobacco market in Kentucky to return to profitability and growth. By 1916 there were eleven tobacco related business warehouses in Murray. By 1925, when the W.G. Swann Tobacco Company building was constructed, Murray had 13 tobacco-related warehouse businesses: C.E. Farmer & Co., C.C. Farmer Tobacco Co., Inc, W.G. Swann Tobacco Co, Outland Brothers, G.W. Upchurch & Co., C.B. Farris Tobacco Co., T.C. Doran Tobacco Co., L.L. Veal Tobacco Co., Murray Loose Leaf Floors, Growers Loose Floor, Farris Loose Floor, Doran Loose Floor and Outland Loose Floor. By the early 1930s, the PPA farmers suffered the lowest rates, \$4.83 per hundred pounds—an all-time low.

The failure of the PPA led to the establishment of a new group, the Dark Fired Tobacco Grower’s Association, started under the Bingham cooperative Act of the Commonwealth on Feb 10, 1932. Its purpose was to reorganize the Planter’s Protection Association (PPA). The first reconstruction of the association, known as the Tobacco Pool, was established with Hiram Finney as chairman. The pool failed quickly, however, with prices hitting another rock bottom: just \$4 per hundred pounds. Finally the Dark Fired Tobacco Growers’ association was established in 1931, with its headquarters located in Murray. This new association made it easier for farmers to sell tobacco and also was funded by the federal government through the Federal Farm Board. This financial backing was what the organization needed to succeed in an economy that was rehabilitating.

The Dark-fired Tobacco Growers’ Association was established to ensure the sufficient production, warehousing, and marketing of tobacco. Will Ed Clark, manager of the Dark Fired Tobacco Growers’ Association from 1979-2006, said “The association came about as a result of low prices that were being realized from the early 1900s to the 1920s. Farmers were looking for security in their production of tobacco. The tobacco industry as we know it today did not exist. There were Night Riders in the area and other situation that influenced the production of tobacco for many growers.”²⁸

On December 31, 2006 the association officially disbanded, when the federal tobacco price support and supply programs were discontinued as a result of the passage of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. Farris and Growers loose floor tobacco warehouses had the last tobacco sale in 2004.

History of the Kennedy and Swann Tobacco Company

²⁷ Jennings, pp. 109-139.

²⁸ “Despite closure, tobacco association’s history, efforts will be preserved” Murray Ledger & Times, December 1, 2006

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

When the 1925 Sanborn map was published, the W.G. Swann building was not constructed, but the map had a drawing of the building and a note that read “from plans”.²⁹ A deed for the property was made from M.T. and Omie Morris to co-purchasers W. S. Swann and W. B. Kennedy, on April 14, 1925.³⁰

W.G. Swann was from one of Murray’s early influential families. Born in 1878 in Graves County, which is adjacent to Calloway County, the family moved to Calloway County when W. S. Swann was a young boy. He received his education at the Murray Institute. The *History of Calloway County – 1931* states that Swann’s father died when he was a boy. While Swann came from a family of doctors and politicians, W. S. Swann prized his first crop of tobacco at age 19 and became engaged in that business, being a member of the exporting firm of Kennedy and Swann. The book listed him as an officer and director of the Bank of Murray, and also on the directorate of the Murray Wholesale Grocery Company, the Murray Consumers Coal and Ice Company and various other enterprises of Murray and Calloway County. He married Miss Gray Gatlin in 1904 and they had two sons. One son died at age of eight and the remaining son, Will Gatlin Swann, later inherited the business and bought Kennedy’s one-half interest to become the sole owner of the factory. The author writes about the influence of W.G. Swann on Murray, “Mr. Swann is recognized as a forceful person, a man of unusual business acumen who has had a large and constructive influence in the growth and progress of the county in which he resides.”³¹ In a June 2015, *Murray Ledger & Times* article about the warehouse, W.G. Swann’s daughter, Mary Warren Sanders, recalls that her father bought the tobacco from the farmers for the French government.³²

Evaluation of the W.G. Swann Tobacco Company within the context “The Tobacco Industry in Murray, Kentucky, 1900-1960.”

The W.G. Swann Tobacco Company building is now the most tangible reminder of Murray’s tobacco market legacy, and Murray and Kentucky’s tobacco past. Murray Main Street’s web page acknowledges the importance of tobacco in the local community identity. The Main Street program’s mission statement, on that web page, says, “Industry shaped our community. Our downtown served everyone and was a place where you bought and sold your livestock or goods, bought groceries, saw the doctor, boarded a bus or sold your tobacco...Our heritage is crucial to who we are today. Our downtown reflects our rich past ...and is about a sense of place.”³³

Evaluation of the Integrity of the Kennedy and Swann Tobacco Company’s significance in light of its current physical condition

The significance of the W.G. Swann Tobacco Company warehouse is best understood according to the terms of Criterion A, which views a property’s significance in relation to an important event. In this case, that event is explored within the context Tobacco Industry in Murray, Kentucky, 1900-1960. A resource related to that context will be eligible if the resource retains integrity of association. This is the most important integrity factor, as Criterion A focuses on the association between important events and the nominated property: “Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our

²⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Murray, KY, Sanborn Map Company, 11 Broadway, New York. 1925

³⁰ Calloway County Deed Book 50, p. 517.

³¹ *History of Calloway County-1931*, p 1-258

³² “Downtown building makes list” Murray Ledger & Times, 2015

³³ Mission Statement retrieved 3/31/07 from <http://www.murraymainstreet.org/mission.htm>.

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

history.” The integrity factors, which best help display that association are location, setting, design, materials, and feeling.

The **setting** and **location** of the W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse was pivotal to the transport of tobacco and to the company’s profitability. The warehouse is located in the industrial district of Murray, which became the center of tobacco sales and warehousing, due to the proximity to roads and rails. The facility retains a high degree of integrity of location and setting. It remains in its original location on Poplar Street, close to the railroad tracks. Its immediate setting remains much as it was during its Period of Significance. Its site took advantage of the different transportation networks within the industrial corridor of Murray. With the disappearance of the other buildings and businesses that once surrounded it, the property and community has lost the setting of an industrial district devoted to similar businesses. Those losses make this single building responsible for carrying the entire story that it once was one element within.



Early transport of hogshead of tobacco³⁵ (*Tobacco in Colonial Virginia*)



Hogsheads loaded onto wagon at the Louisville Tobacco Warehouse Co. to take to the railroad.³⁶

The **design**, **materials** and **workmanship** of the W.G. Swann Tobacco Company’s warehouse demonstrates the owner’s and industry’s primary interest: keeping the hogsheads of tobacco safe and secure. The investment in the building’s steel structure indicated the Swann Company’s interest in a durable housing for the tobacco product. The brick firewalls provided another safeguard for the tobacco. The installation of an elevator

³⁵ Tobacco in Colonial Virginia: Tobacco Production, Trend of Prices and Exports,

<http://www.accessgenealogu.com/book/index.cgi?folder=tobacco&next=outline>

³⁶ {Louisville Tobacco Warehouse Company}, Kentucky Digital Library, Postcard Collection Retrieved June 2, 2015

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

indicated the desire to take advantage of available technologies. All of these elements are still intact, and their integrity allows the viewer to imagine not only the care that went into the construction of the warehouse, and the careful specifications intended to thwart natural disaster, but also to appreciate the important position that dark tobacco occupied in Murray's economy.

The W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse still clearly conveys its **association** with the dark fired tobacco industry in Murray Kentucky through the retention of the integrity factors discussed above. Through possession of integrity of association, the building is eligible for National Register listing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Calloway County Deed Book 50, p. 517.

Axton, W.F.

1975 *"Tobacco and Kentucky"* The University Press of Kentucky

Gregory, Rick

1993 "Beliefs of their Fathers: Violence, Religion, and The Black Patch War, 1904-1914." *Border States: Journal of the Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association*. Vol.9.

Jennings, Dorothy and Kirby

1980 *The Story of Calloway County, 1822-1976*. Murray, Kentucky: Jennings.

John, Raymond

1954 *Tobacco Dictionary*

Johnston, E.A.

1931 *History of Calloway County, Kentucky 1931*. Murray, Kentucky: Ledger and Times.

Matthewson, Ernest. H

1912 *Export and manufacturing tobaccos of the United States: with brief reference to the cigar type*, p.244

Miller, John G.

1936 *The Black Patch War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Randolph, Kelsey

2015 *Downtown Building makes list*. Murray, Kentucky : Ledger & Times.

Rawe, Anthony

1999 *Architecture of the Kentucky Tobacco Sales Warehouse: Evolution and development of a Unique Building Type*. Unpublished Master's Thesis. University of Kentucky Library, Lexington, Kentucky

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Murray, KY, Sanborn Map Company, 11 Broadway, New York. 1925

The Western Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Association Records, Pogue Library Special Collections, Murray, Kentucky

Travis, Greg

2006 *Despite closure, tobacco association's history, efforts will be preserved*. Murray, Kentucky: Ledger &

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Times

Unknown
{Louisville Tobacco Warehouse}, Kentucky Digital Library, Postcard Collection. Retrieved June 2, 2015

Unknown
"Murray and Benton Thriving Towns of Southwestern KY" The Paducah Evening Sun, June 22, 1910 retrieved from Kentucky Digital Library on 6/1/15

Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company Tobacco: Northern and Western Grown, 37

Internet Sources:

<http://www.murraymainstreet.org/mission.html>, Murray Main Street mission statement, accessed 3/3/15
<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=352>, Dark Tobacco District Planters' Protective Association, accessed 3/3/15
<http://www.farmerstobacco.com/about/history.html>, "Kentucky's Best,"
<http://www.answers.com/topic/tobacco-industry-2>, Tobacco Industry information, accessed 3/3/15.
<http://www.wbko.com/news/headlines/107851.html>, Overview of Kentucky's Tobacco Economy

Interview:

Personal Communication with Jim Kelly, by Angela Lampe, June 9, 2015.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ CWM-281 _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.6606 acres

UTM References

Murray, Kentucky quad

Coordinates calculated via ArcGIS Explorer

Coordinates according to NAD 27: Zone 16; Easting 383 797.47; Northing 4052 011.04

Coordinates according to NAD 83:

1	<u>16</u>	<u>383 800.28</u>	<u>4052 213.17</u>	3	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	4	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

A 1.6606 acre tract of land located at the southeast corner of South 2nd (L.P. Miller) Street and Poplar Street in Murray, Kentucky. Beginning at a point at the southeast intersection of Poplar Street and South Second Street, thence South 88 degrees 32' 50" East, 196.92 feet to a point, (being the northwest corner of the Harold Shoemaker property, Book 157, card 760, and book 158, card 1765): thence, South 2 degrees 24' 20" West, 298.82 feet to an iron post; thence, South 3 degrees 32' 43" West, 62.03 feet to an iron post; thence North 88 degrees 28' 20" West, 203.19 feet along the Lewis Hudspeth north property line to an iron post on the east right-of-way of South Second Street; thence, North 3 degrees 35' 50" East, 360.76 feet along the east right of way of South Second Street to the point of beginning. Being shown on plat of record in Plat Book 9, page 66.

Boundary Justification

This is the area that has historically been associated with the primary resource, and which retains integrity of location and setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Angela K. Rowlett (Lampe)/Graduate student
organization University of Kentucky date April 2007
street & number 146 Kentucky Avenue telephone _____
city or town Lexington state Kentucky zip code 40502
e-mail angelarowlett@hotmail.com

name/title Deana Wright/Director
organization Murray Main Street date June 2015
street & number PO Box 143 telephone 270.759.9474
city or town Murray state Kentucky zip code 42071
e-mail murraymainstreet@murray-ky.net

Photographs:

W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Name of Property: W.G. Swann Tobacco Company
City or Vicinity: Murray
County: Calloway
State: Kentucky
Photographer: Savannah Habermann
Date Photographed: 2-11-2015

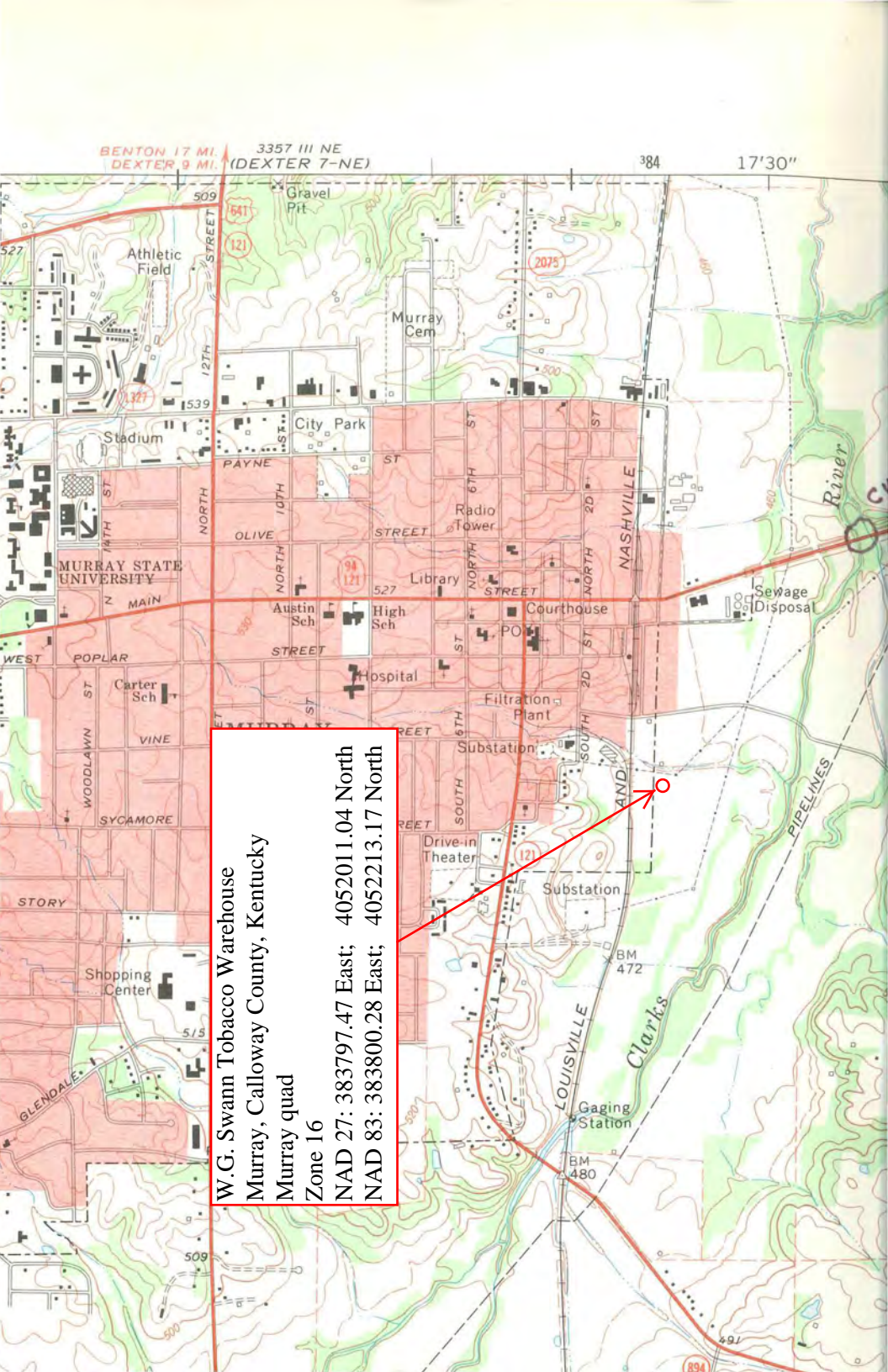
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 6: Front Façade, camera facing south
- 2 of 6: West Façade, camera facing southeast
- 3 of 6: West Façade, camera facing northeast
- 4 of 6: East Façade, camera facing northwest
- 5 of 6: East Façade, camera facing southwest
- 6 of 6 Back Façade, camera facing northeast

Property Owner:

name Larry Herndon
street & number 709 Poplar St. telephone 270-753-4816
city or town Murray state Kentucky zip code 42071





BENTON 17 MI.
DEXTER 9 MI.

3357 III NE
(DEXTER 7-NE)

384

17'30"

W.G. Swann Tobacco Warehouse
Murray, Calloway County, Kentucky
Murray quad
Zone 16
NAD 27: 383797.47 East; 4052011.04 North
NAD 83: 383800.28 East; 4052213.17 North



1875

W. H. HARRIS & CO.

1875

1875











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Swann, W.G., Tobacco Company
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Calloway

DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/29/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000647

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9-29-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

AUG 14 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
BOB STEWART
SECRETARY

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
300 WASHINGTON STREET
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
PHONE (502) 564-7005
FAX (502) 564-5820
www.heritage.ky.gov

CRAIG POTTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

August 3, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed are the remaining nominations that were approved by the Review Board at their May 28, 2015 meeting. We are submitting these forms so the properties can be listed in the National Register:

- ✓ **W.G. Swann Tobacco Company**, Calloway County, Kentucky
- C. A. Baldwin Farm**, Christian County, Kentucky
- Kentucky Buggy Factory**, Daviess County, Kentucky
- Roscoe Goose House**, Jefferson County, Kentucky
- First Vineyard**, Jessamine County, Kentucky
- Frank Duveneck House and Studio**, Kenton County, Kentucky
- Gardner Farmstead**, Magoffin County, Kentucky
- Stearns Golf Course**, McCreary County, Kentucky
- Ceralvo Masonic Hall and School**, Ohio County, Kentucky
- Charles M. Moore Insurance Company**, Warren County, Kentucky

The MPS cover form, **The Architecture of James Maurice Ingram, 1929-1960**, is also submitted with this mailing. We also submit two properties for individual listing in association with that MPS:

- L. K. Causey House**, Warren County, Kentucky
- J.C. Givens House**, Warren County, Kentucky

Finally, we submit a property, the **Peoples Federal Savings and Loan Association**, in Fayette County, Kentucky, for a Determination of Eligibility. The request for that status results from the owner's objection.

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Potts
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer