

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

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received AUG 1 1984

date entered 1983 8 1

**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 Evans Block
and/or common 101 and 103 North Fourth Street

2. Location

street & number 101 and 103 North ^{4th} Fourth Street N/A not for publication
city, town Smithville N/A vicinity of
state Tennessee code 047 county DeKalb code 041

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Vacant</u>

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet
street & number N/A
city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. DeKalb County Courthouse
street & number Public Square
city, town Smithville state Tennessee 37166

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
<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

Situated on the northwest corner of the Public Square in Smithville (pop. 3,762) in northeastern Middle Tennessee, the Evans Block (1894) is a two-story, six-bay, brick commercial building. The North Fourth Street (front) facade of this vernacular style building has decorative brick detailing which includes a corbeled cornice, rowlock segmental arches over the second-story windows and a dogtooth string course separating the two stories. Although the Evans Block originally consisted of two identically detailed buildings, the storefronts have been altered at different times in the twentieth century as a result of separate ownership and occupancy by various businesses. Of the four extant commercial buildings of this vintage in downtown Smithville, the Evans Block retains the most architectural integrity and historical significance.

The North Fourth Street (front) facade retains most of its original fabric on the second story with its decoratively corbeled brick cornice and curved brick corner pilaster strips which define the mass of the two buildings, and the original wood frame one-over-one double-hung sash windows.

The storefront at 101 North Fourth Street retains its original pier spacing and clerestory lights. Alterations include the decorative tilework on the recessed entry stoop which reads "Bank" in black and white tiles which was done in the 1920s, the filling in of the kickplate with brick and the replacement of the original door with an aluminum framed door, both of which occurred within the last twenty years. The storefront at 103 North Fourth Street was completely remodeled in the 1950s with the use of large plate glass display windows and a double-leaf door.

The Walnut Street (south side) elevation repeats the decorative corbeled brick cornice of the front as well as the window treatment on the second floor. Three regularly spaced windows pierce the second floor. The two side entries were cut into the wall by the 1940s.

The roof of the Evans Block is flat and located two feet below the cornice level. A pair of interior chimneys pierce the west side of the roof.

The interior arrangement of the 103 North Fourth Street building retains its original configuration of one large unpartitioned room per floor connected by a single run staircase located on the southwest interior wall. The first level flooring was replaced with a concrete slab.

The floor plan of the 101 North Fourth Street building was changed to reflect the occupant, the Farmer's and Trader's Bank. The room arrangement consists of one large room to the front of the building with a smaller room to the rear. The only remaining features of the bank are the vault, located on the north wall, and the black and white tilework in the entry. The basement and second floor spaces were divided into smaller rooms. The floors and ceilings of this building retain their original tongue and groove boards.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1894 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Evans Block, located in downtown Smithville, Tennessee is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its association with the development of commercial enterprises in DeKalb County as the best example of late-nineteenth century commercial architecture remaining on the Public Square in Smithville. Completed in 1894, the Evans Block has been occupied by several local businesses and professional offices in its ninety-year history and survives as the most architecturally distinctive structure over fifty years old on the Public Square in Smithville.

The Evans Block was built by Eli Evans, a prominent Smithville merchant in 1894 as two individual commercial structures. In 1903, the building at 101 North Fourth Street was occupied by the Farmer's and Trader's Bank, a state bank organized in 1900. The upper floor office space was occupied by a local physician during this time. In 1927, the bank was forced to close due to agricultural failures in DeKalb County. The building remained vacant until 1937 when it was purchased by Joe L. Evins. The Consolidated Bus Lines of Middle Tennessee, a local company organized around 1917 as Smithville Transportation Company by J. Edgar Evins, moved their headquarters to the building in 1937. Joe L. Evins opened his first law practice in the offices above the Consolidated Bus Lines office after World War II and in 1946 launched his campaign for the United States Congress from there. He served in the House of Representatives from 1946 to 1976 and moved his local offices to another bank building in town in the mid-1950s. Consolidated Bus Lines was sold to Trailways Bus Company in the late 1940s and the headquarters moved to Cookeville. The building at 101 North Fourth Street remained vacant until 1965 when Congressman Evins sold the property to John and Marie Stephens. Marie Stephens currently operates a beauty salon on the first floor.

The building located at 103 North Fourth Street remained in the Evans family until 1931 when it was sold to Mrs. Cora Allen. Several businesses were located in this structure including a drug store, grocery and dry goods shop. Mrs. Allen deeded the property to her daughter, Miss Audrey Allen in 1955 and she retains the title to the building which has been vacant for nearly a decade.

Architecturally, the Evans Block is similar to other two-story commercial buildings which were built between 1880 and 1920 in Smithville. Most of these buildings were lost in a series of fires in the 1920s. The building at 101 North Fourth Street retains more of its original fabric and has suffered fewer alterations than 103 North Fourth Street. However, of the four remaining buildings of this era on the Public Square in Smithville, the Evans Block is the most intact and retains its architectural integrity and historical significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Smithville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	0	6	9	6	0	3	9	8	0	1	2	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 nominated property is bounded on the south by Walnut Street, on the east by Fourth Street, and on the north and west by adjoining property lines. This includes the land upon which the building sits and is all the property historically associated with the Evans Block.

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 Robin Krawitz, Architectural Historian
Delce Dyer

organization Tennessee Historical Commission
N/A

date May 5, 1984
615/742-6722

street & number 701 Broadway
Route 4, Box 104

telephone 615/597-4229
Tennessee 37203

city or town Nashville
Smithville

state Tennessee 37166

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 Herbert L. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 7/24/84

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

Entered in the 8/30/84
National Register date

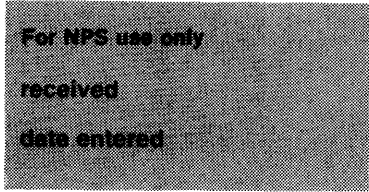
Delores Dyer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Evans Block

Item number 4

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Property Owners

Marie D. Stephens
101 N. 4th Street
Smithville, Tennessee 37166

Miss Audrey Allen
P.O. Box 144
Smithville, Tennessee 37166

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Webb, Thomas G. Personal Interview. 23 April 1983.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST UNIT METH CHURCH

CITY PARKING LOT

Evans Block
101 and 103 North Fourth Street
Smithville, DeKalb County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 100' N

COLLEGE ST.

4TH ST.

2ND ST.

3RD ST.

STREET

EAST WALNUT ST.

EAST MAIN ST.

EAST MARKET ST.

