

1872

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 29 1992

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Neely House

other name/site number: Murphy Hotel (preferred)

2. Location

street & number: 545 S. Royal Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Jackson

vicinity: N/A

state: TN county: Madison code: 113 zip code: 38301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Transportation Related Properties of Jackson, Tennessee

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.      See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Hays 12/18/92  
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, TN Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register      See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register      See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Patrick Andrews 2/11/93  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Hotel  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : DOMESTIC Sub: Hotel  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Classical Revival

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Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt  
walls Brick other Wood/Metal  
Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Transportation  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1911- ca. 1942

Significant Dates : ca. 1911

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>335670</u>	<u>3941580</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Philip Thomason

Organization: Thomason and Associates Date: 12/30/91

Street & Number: P.O. Box 121225 Telephone: (615) 383-0227

City or Town: Nashville State: TN ZIP: 37212

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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The Murphy Hotel is a two-story brick, seven bay, Neo-Classical style building constructed ca. 1911. The building was constructed in a rectangular plan with a large two-story rear wing. The building has a brick foundation, flat roof of rolled roofing material, and exterior of stretcher bond brick. On the main (E) facade is a full-height two-story portico and a full width one-story porch. The portico has fluted wood columns and boxed capitals. The capitals were originally of terra cotta Corinthian design but these were removed in the 1940s and the present boxed wood capitals added. The portico has an entablature and dentils at the eaves.

The porch has Tuscan columns and a railing with milled balusters. On the roof of the porch's central bay is a balustrade with diagonal framing and short square wood piers. The ceiling of the portico and porch have tongue-in-groove boards. The porch has a concrete floor. The porch has eave dentils and at the corners above the columns are guttae and metopes. The cornices of both the porch and the roof are of sheet metal and display water runoff spouts in the shape of lion's heads.

The main entrance has a single-light glass and wood door flanked by single-light sidelights. Over the door is a fanlight transom. The door is set within a single course segmental arch with a concrete keystone. Dividing the door and sidelights are Doric pilasters. Flanking the entrance are arched, one-over-one wood sash windows with concrete keystones and sills. In front of the door is an added ca. 1960 aluminum and glass storm door.

Windows in the building are original one-over-one rectangular wood sash with jack arching. The jack arches have concrete shoulders and keystones. Windows rest on concrete sills and have ca. 1960 one-over-one aluminum sash storm windows. The second story central bay is recessed from the main block of the building and has a central one-over-one sash arched window. This window is flanked by rectangular one-over-one sash windows and arched one-over-one sash windows. These windows have concrete sills and keystones.

The south facade of the main section has five bays with windows to match those on the main (east) facade. The metal roof cornice extends on this facade with dentils and lion's head spouts. The south facade of the rear wing has six bays with rectangular one-over-one sash windows set within single-course segmental arches with concrete keystones. At the roofline of the building is a corbelled brick cornice. The north facade matches the south facade in bays and configuration except it has only five window bays in the rear wing. Above the second story windows in the rear ell are rectangular vent openings with metal grilles.

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The west or rear facade has four bays and an exterior brick flue. This facade has an entrance on the first floor with an original two-light glass and wood door. Over the door is a four-light rectangular transom set within a single course segmental arch. This facade has an original one-story porch with square columns. An entrance on the second story leads to the roof of the porch and a steel fire escape added ca. 1962. The second story entrance has a ca. 1960 storm door but the original door is missing. In the transom area is an added fan and over the door is a ca. 1960 metal awning.

At the rear of the building is a one-story ca. 1930 shed roof shed. This shed has vertical board siding and a six-light glass and wood door. The shed has a ca. 1960 carport added on the north facade. Because of this and other alterations the building is considered non-contributing to the property.

The interior of the Murphy Hotel retains its original floor plan and detailing. Most of the original wood floor is visible although some sections have been covered with linoleum. Ceilings are of plaster with some added finishes. In the hallway on the second floor the ceiling has been concealed by a dropped acoustical tile ceiling. The interior of the first floor has a large lobby, dining room, kitchen and separate hotel rooms. The second story is composed of individual hotel rooms flanking a central hallway. The interior of the building has original plaster walls and ceilings and oak floors.

In the main lobby is an original open staircase with square newel posts and milled balusters. In the lobby is an original fireplace mantle with fluted Corinthian pilasters, a cast iron grille, mirror, and glazed tile surround. Doors are original five panel wood design. Over the doors are four vertical light transoms. In the hallway of the first floor adjacent to the dining room is an original hatrack, mirror, and three sinks. Leading to the dining room are double doors of single-light and two panel glass and wood design. Over this door is an eight-light transom. In the dining room are two original wall fans. In the kitchen are original built-in glass and wood cabinets but the original fixtures have been replaced.

The second story rooms have five panel doors with rectangular transoms. Some rooms retain original fireplaces with glazed tile surrounds. Bathrooms have original claw foot tubs.

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The Murphy Hotel is significant under criterion A and C for its association with railroad and for its architectural design. The building is an excellent example of a railroad hotel and was constructed ca. 1911 directly across the street from the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis (NC&STL) Passenger Depot. The hotel was built in the Neo-Classical style with an imposing two-story portico on the main facade and is a good example of this style. The building has not been extensively altered and it retains both its interior and exterior design. Although originally built as the Neely Hotel, the building has been continually owned by the Murphy family and operated as the Murphy Hotel since 1946. Since it has been identified as the Murphy Hotel for almost fifty years, the Murphy Hotel is its preferred name.

South Royal Street (U.S. 45) was a major thoroughfare of the city in the late 19th century. Just north of the railroad right-of-way a hotel was in operation as early as 1900. A two-story frame dwelling was located here in 1900 which was operated by Franklin B. Neely and known as the "Neely House." In 1907, the NC&STL constructed a new brick passenger depot on the east side of S. Royal Street. In response to the increased business generated by the depot the Neely family constructed a new brick hotel building sometime after 1910. A magazine supplement of the Jackson Daily Sun dated 1912 contains a photograph of the building which describes it as the "new modern hotel building." The hotel was described as "modern in every detail, with hot and cold running water in every room."

The hotel was built in the Neo-Classical style with a large two-story portico on the main facade. This portico was built with fluted columns and Ionic capitals. At the roofline of the portico was a wood balustrade. The interior was designed with twenty-two hotel rooms, nine fireplaces, and three bathrooms on each floor. The hotel catered to salesmen and travelers who arrived in Jackson at the adjacent depot. Tradition states that Mr. Neely would meet trains at 4:00 A.M. to hand out coffee and sandwiches to promote the hotel. The hotel was operated by the Neely family for the next thirty plus years and became one of Jackson's best known hotel buildings.

In 1946, Mrs. Lillie Neely sold the hotel for \$5,000 to Mr. Robert J. Murphy. Murphy was an area farmer and purchased the hotel as a business investment. During the 1950s and 1960s passenger rail traffic along the railroad declined and the hotel relied less and less on rail travelers for business. Although Murphy died in 1960 his two daughters continue to operate the hotel. The adjacent depot was closed in 1985 but the hotel has remained open to both travelers and permanent residents.

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The Murphy Hotel is Jackson's only remaining example of a railroad hotel. The building has not been extensively altered and retains much of its original interior and exterior features. The removal of the original Ionic capitals and roof balustrade constitute the major changes which have occurred on the exterior. The interior of the hotel is remarkably intact and appears much as it did when completed ca. 1911. The hotel features its original doors, mantles, light fixtures, bathroom fixtures and similar details. Its Neo-Classical design remains intact and is one of the best commercial examples of this style in Jackson.

The building meets the registration requirements of Rail-Related properties through criteria A and C for its architectural style and association with rail transportation.



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**Major Bibliographical Sources**

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Murphy Hotel is shown as the heavy black line on the accompanying Madison County tax maps 87-A, 87-B, 87-G, and 87-H which are drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'. The boundary includes all of lot 2 of Block M.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundary for the Murphy Hotel includes all property historically associated with the building.

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Murphy Hotel  
545 S. Royal Street  
Jackson, Madison County, TN

Photos by: Thomason and Associates  
Date: November 5, 1991  
Location of Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Photo 1 of 8:

View of the main (east) facade, facing northwest.

Photo 2 of 8:

View of the east and south facades, facing northwest.

Photo 3 of 8:

View of the west and north facades, facing southeast.

Photo 4 of 8:

Detail of the porch entablature and cornice, facing west.

Photo 5 of 8:

View of the non-contributing garage and shed at the rear, facing south.

Photo 6 of 8:

Interior view of the mantle in the lobby.

Photo 7 of 8:

Interior view of the lobby and main staircase.

Photo 8 of 8:

Interior view of the second floor showing room arrangement and staircase.

