

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

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

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Continuation sheet Owensboro M.R./ Callas

Item number

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Name: Callas Sweet Shop (DAOB 13)

Location: 420 Frederica

Owner: Mrs. Mike Callas  
516 Ewing Ct.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

Classification: Building

Specific Date: 1921

Description: Squeezed between two larger structures is the elegant Beaux-Arts style Callas Building. The buff color terra cotta and tile decorative elements, such as brackets, shields, and cornices, create a simple, classical appearance. Framed by tiled piers, the recessed storefront on the first floor retains its central entranceway and transom windows. The entranceway is flanked by large display windows resting on marble panels. A modern steel awning runs above the display windows. The word CALLAS is carved into terra cotta panels directly above the storefront. The second story is dominated by a row of three window bays. A slightly projecting tiled window surround frames all three of these bays. The second story is topped by a bracketed cornice resting on slightly project panels. The building front rises to a curvilinear parapet wall highlighted by a central ornamented shield. The interior retains the original counter and ice cream booths and the walls are covered with enlargements of postcards from the early 1900's showing early scenes of downtown Owensboro.

Significance: The building achieves its architectural significance by having the only surviving example of complete terra cotta tile fronts in downtown Owensboro. The building is especially refreshing because it lacks the overly elaborate detailing of many Beaux-Arts structures. The original owner was typical of European immigrants families who came to Owensboro and operated families. He came to Owensboro as a young man and his first job was shining shoes. His first shop was on Main St. in a rented building and called Progress Candy. In 1921 he built his Sweet Shop on Frederica, next door to the Empress Theater. When Callas' health failed, it was rented to Barney Elliott who added sandwiches to the menu. It is an Owensboro "tradition".

Acreage: Approximately .062 acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The Callas Sweet Shop Building is designated on the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission's Computerized Land Use File - Census Tract 3, Traffic Zone 4, Block Number 408; Parcel Number 3.

UTM References: (Owensboro East) 16/490025/4180300