

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received APR 3 1985

date entered

MAY 2 1985

1. Name

historic

and/or common Expansion of Paducah Downtown Commercial District

2. Location

street & number

N/A not for publication

city, town Paducah

N/A vicinity of

state Kentucky

code 021

county McCracken

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Paducah Convention Center Board Chairman, Frank Paxton

street & number P. O. Box 2600

city, town Paducah

N/A vicinity of

state KY

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McCracken County Courthouse

street & number 500 Washington

city, town Paducah

state KY

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date Winter, 1984

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort

state KY

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The block being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an extension of the Downtown Paducah Commercial District contains four sold brick warehouse buildings dating from 1894 to 1910. This block of buildings is an extension of an area of large brick commercial and warehouse buildings in the downtown commercial district. This area served as an industrial and warehouse center for Paducah at the turn-of-the-century.

While simple in style and detail, these four buildings are architecturally significant for being representative of Paducah's brick warehouse heritage. These solid brick buildings, constructed of brick manufactured in Paducah, are also representative of this city's masonry heritage.

The largest of the four structures is the Covington Bros. Building at the corner of North Third Street and Jefferson Street. This three-story building has a five bay facade. The first floor of this facade reflects the functional aspect of loading and unloading warehouse goods. There is one door to the left for customers and four larger bays to the right that were used for loading and unloading wagons and trucks. These bays are now filled with modern doors.

The second and third floors are pierced by five regularly space, slightly arched window openings on each floor. These windows have their original wood sashes but many of the panes of glass have been broken. There is also simple brick corbelling at the cornice-line of the facade.

The most distinctive aspect of the building's front are four painted advertising signs referring to the building's history as a tobacco produce supplier. These signs read "King Edward and Swisher Cigars," "El Producto Cigars," "White Owl Wm. Penn Tiparillo Cigars," and "Tampa Nugget and Hav-A- Tampa Cigars."

The Michael Bros Collar Factory Building is a two-story, five bay, sold brick structure facing North Third Street. The first floor central bay has been altered. This doorway has been shortened and widened and a modern door installed. All the window spaces in the building have been boarded up with plywood. All the windows retain their original sheet-metal sills. Above the facade's second floor windows is a painted sign reading M. MICHAEL & BRO. COLLAR FACTORY. Simple brick corbelling runs along the corniceline.

The other three sides of the building have irregularly placed windows. The rear of the building also has loading openings on the first and second floors. The interior space for this building and all the buildings on the block is open with 8 inch by 8 inch wood posts supporting ceiling rafters.

Immediately behind this structure is the Michael Brothers Hardware Warehouse Building. This two-story brick building is strictly functional in appearance. The only openings are loading bays on the first and second stories of the front of the building. The first floor bay retains its original wood doors. The second story bay has a cast-iron threshold reading JACKSON CO. PADUCAH KY.

The fourth building on the block is the Kolb Bros. Drug Co. Building. This structure is distinctive because of its pentagonal shape. The southeast corner of the building has been flattened to follow the location of a railroad track. This wall is pierced by a large loading bay for unloading merchandise from the railroad track. The east side of the building has the only doorway for the building. At the top of the east side is a painted sign reading KOLB BROS. DRUG CO.

The rest of the block is vacant. Sections of a train track remain that once ran through the block. There also is a remnant of a brick driveway in front of the Covington Bros. Building. There is a modern brick parking area between the Covington Bros. Building and the two Michael Bros. Buildings. The rest of the block is covered with brush.

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 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 checked="" 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 1894–1910

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The block being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an expansion of the Paducah Downtown Commercial District is located in an area that a center of warehouse and light industrial enterprises at the turn-of-the-century. The buildings located on the block were built to house such enterprises as a wholesale grocery firm, a horse collar and saddle factory, a wholesale drug company, and a hardware warehouse. Each of these four buildings located on this block are associated with prominent Paducah business firms. These buildings survive as a reminder of Paducah's rise as a regional commercial and industrial center.

The largest building on the block was constructed circa 1894 to house the Covington Bros Wholesale Grocery business. This business was founded in June, 1893, by the three Covington Brothers at a location on North Second Street in Paducah. The firm prospered after constructing the three-story building at the northeast corner of Jefferson Street and North Third Street. An 1894 promotional pamphlet on Paducah businesses stated about the newly formed firm: "The house begins under a most favorable auspices, with ample backing and a sendoff in acquaintance and popularity with country merchants, which has secured to the house good trade from the start."

This building continued to be used by the Covington Bros. Grocery Company for approximately thirty years. After that, the building was used for a variety of warehouse uses, including a candy and tobacco distributorship in recent years.

Directly behind the Covington Bros. Building are two buildings connected with the enterprises of the M. Michael and Bros. Firm. The older building, which faces North Third Street, is the M. Michael and Brother Collar Factory Building. The firm was founded by the Michael Brothers in 1882 to manufacture and retail harness, saddles, horse collars, buggies, surreys, phaetons, and spring wagons. A 1913 newspaper biography of the Michael Brothers stated, "By their genius and energy the brothers have built their firm to the peer of any of their line in the country."¹

The brothers constructed the building on North Third Street about 1903 as a place to manufacture the goods they sold in their show rooms at 203–205 Broadway. By 1913 the firm employed 125 people and "furnished the trade at prices and quality that outstripped all outside competition."

With the demise of the horse-drawn wagon as a means of transportation, the Michael Brothers shifted to a retail hardware business. The business remained one of Western Kentucky's largest hardware dealers for over fifty years. The Michael Brothers converted their North Third Street building into a warehouse for their hardware business. Around 1910, the brothers constructed another brick warehouse directly behind their North Third Street building. These two buildings remained warehouses for the Michael Brothers Hardware Business until this enterprise closed in 1982.

A fourth building on this block is the Kolb Brothers Drug Company Building on the southwest corner of Monroe Street and North Second Street. This building was constructed in 1906 when the firm was founded by Louis Kolb. The Kolb Bros. firm grew into one of the largest wholesale drug companies of Western Kentucky. A 1913 newspaper biography of Louis Kolb described his company as "doing an extensive business throughout the Southern States, due in great measure to the superior brands of medical supplies and druggists' sundries handled."² This building continued to be used by the firm until the construction of a new warehouse in 1979.

1. Paducah Evening Sun. Men of Affairs in Paducah and Western Kentucky. 1913

2. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Men of Affairs in Paducah and Western Kentucky. Paducah Evening Sun. 1913

Paducah Business Promotional Pamphlet. Published by Paducah Merchants Association. 1894

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.2 acres

Quadrangle name Paducah East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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3	5	8	1	2	0
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4	1	0	5	7	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	6
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3	5	8	0	2	0
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4	1	0	5	6	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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3	5	7	9	8	0
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4	1	0	5	7	6	0
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D

1	6
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3	5	8	1	0	0
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4	1	0	5	8	0	0
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E

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Verbal boundary description and justification

One square city block bordered by Jefferson Street on the south, North Third street on the west, Monroe Street on the north, and North Second Street on the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Holland/ Preservation Director

organization Paducah Growth, Inc.

date January 11, 1985

street & number 500 Clark

telephone (502) 443-9284

city or town Paducah

state KY

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

David L. Morgan

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

MARCH 13, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/2/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration