

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 9 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Murray Kentucky Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

2. Location

street & number See individual inventory forms N/A not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Kentucky code 021 county Calloway code _____

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership See continuation sheets.

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calloway County Courthouse

street & number Main Street- Public Square

city, town Murray state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Murray, Kentucky is the county seat of Calloway County, which is located in the southeast corner of the Jackson Purchase region of Western Kentucky. Murray is the largest town in the county with a population of 16,000 and serves as a trade, educational, and cultural center for much of the surrounding area.

Murray is located in the central part of the county in an area of gently rolling hills. When the town was platted in 1843, the courthouse square was placed in the center of town with streets radiating out from the square in a grid system. All the streets ran in a north-south or east-west direction. The first courthouse in Murray and the first church building were constructed in 1844. A commercial district developed on the north side of the square, with residential areas surrounding this. Commercial development grew on the other three sides of the square after 1900. Blocks surrounding the town square also contained churches, livery stables, warehouses, and mills.

In the nineteenth century, the area around Murray developed into an important producer of "dark leaf" tobacco. Some of Murray's most important business firms dealt with the storing and selling of tobacco. Several large tobacco warehouses were constructed on the eastern edge of town.

The growth of Murray was promoted by the construction of the Louisville and Nashville railroad line through the town. This railroad provided an important trade link to the north and south and helped consolidate Murray's role as a regional trade center.

By 1900 Murray had grown from a village to a small town. The next 35 years were a period of growth and prosperity for Murray. The most significant surviving historic structures in Murray were constructed during this period. A fine residential district developed along Main Street between the downtown and the Murray Male and Female Institute at the corner of 8th Street. The town's leading families built homes in the Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles along Main Street. Other residential structures were built along Olive and Poplar streets. After the original courthouse burned in 1906, a new Classical Revival Calloway County Courthouse was constructed in 1913. Additional commercial, religious, and government buildings were built on lots facing the square and on adjoining blocks.

A comprehensive survey of Murray conducted by a representative of the Kentucky Heritage Council has identified the following structures for inclusion in the Murray Multiple Resource nomination: the 1904 First Christian Church, the 1913 Calloway County Courthouse, the 1928 National Hotel, the 1931 Post Office, and the 1931 First Baptist Church. Also identified was a small residential district on Main Street which includes nine residences and one school building. Together with the buildings presently listed on the National Register, these properties and district represent the significant historical and architectural resources of the town.

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

Specific dates 1900-1935 **Builder/Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Murray Multiple Resource Nomination contains five individual properties and one historic district of historical and architectural significance. The individual properties include commercial, governmental, and religious notable in the history and development of the town. The historic district includes residential structures dating from 1900 to 1930 and a high school building constructed in 1922 and added on to in 1930. These properties, along with those sites already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, represent the historically and architecturally significant structures within Murray, Kentucky.

Early settlement and Growth, 1843-1900

The first settlers came to Calloway County in 1818 from Virginia and the Carolinas. Most of these settlers located in the northern part of the county. In June, 1822, the Kentucky State Legislature passed an act authorizing the opening of a land office at Wadesboro. Also in 1822, a county named for Richard Calloway, a member of the General Assembly of Virginia, was established. In 1823 the first business of the county court was to draft plans and specifications for a courthouse at Wadesboro.

Due to the growth of population in the southern part of the county, the county seat was moved to a more centralized location in Murray. The original town plat embraced an area of 80 acres. The town was divided into 29 blocks with 137 lots and 8 streets, four running east and west, four north and south. The town was laid out on land owned by early settlers Charles Curd and James Price. The first public buildings constructed in 1844 were the Calloway County Courthouse and the First Christian Church. The first house was built by H. D. Blanton on the corner of Main Street and Main Cross Street. This small cabin also served as the town's first store. Other early buildings were constructed by E. H. Curd, Daniel Mathewson, and A. H. Wear. The first hotel was opened by John Saunders.

The town's first significant educational institution was the Murray Male and Female Institute. The school was organized by a stock company that was incorporated with a capital of \$5000. A brick, two-story school structure was constructed on a four acre plat on Main Street. The institute functioned until it burned in 1904. Two public school buildings have subsequently been constructed on this site, including the old Murray High School building which is part of the Main Street Historic District.

By 1885 Murray had grown to include five large dry goods businesses, ten grocery stores, two drug stores, 2 milinery shops, 1 jewelry store, 1 livery stable, 1 saw-mill, 1 flour mill, 1 wagon and buggy shop, 2 black-

9. Major Bibliographical References

Murray Ledger and Times, History of Calloway County, 1931.

J. H. Battle, et al. Histories and Biographies of Ballard, Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Counties. Louisville: F. A. Battey Publishers, 1885.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See attached inventory forms.

Quadrangle name Murray

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References See individual forms.

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual forms.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Holland

organization Paducah Growth, Inc.

date August, 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. Magan

date Dec. 30, 1985

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]

date 2/19/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]

date

Chief of Registration

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smiths shops, 1 tin shop, 1 undertaker, 2 tanneries, 1 tobacco factory, and 4 doctors. Early churches established in Murray were the Baptist, Christian, Methodist, and Presbyterian.

Murray in the 20th Century

By 1900 Murray had progressed from a village to a town. Commercial development, which had been limited to the north side of the square, began to develop on the other three sides of the square. Typical of this expansion was the construction of the Bank of Murray in 1908 on the east side of the square. Other downtown lots were used to construct new religious buildings. In 1904 construction began on the new First Christian Church on a street off of the square. The double towers of this beautiful church have dominated the Murray skyline for the past 80 years.

The original county courthouse burned in 1906. Years of disagreement on whether to rebuild the courthouse or not followed. Much of the dissension can be blamed on tension between city and county. Following the failure of two bond issues, a third vote in 1912 was "altered" by courthouse supporters to allow the construction of a new courthouse. The resulting Classical Revival courthouse has served as a local landmark for Murray since its construction.

Around 1900, Murray's most distinctive residential neighborhood grew along Main Street from the downtown toward the Murray Male and Female Institute at 8th Street. Many of Murray's leading families, such as the Dieuguds, Swanns, Rowletts, Harts, and Higgins, built Queen Anne and Classical Revival homes on Main Street. Typical of the homes being constructed at this time was the 12 room, frame house constructed by J. D. Rowlett at the corner of 8th and Main Street. Mr. Rowlett was a member of the prominent Rowlett family that constructed the first tobacco warehouse in Murray. The elaborate woodwork for the interior of the house was ordered from Metropolis, Illinois.

In 1907 a new Murray school building was constructed on the site of the old Murray Male and Female Institute. The school building was constructed by local contractor George Aycock and accommodated 500 students. This school burned and was replaced by the existing Murray High School building in 1923. A west wing was erected in 1930.

Murray took on a significant new role with the location of the Murray Normal College in the 1920s. This institution made Murray a center for higher education learning for the Jackson Purchase and Northern Tennessee. The location of the school at the west end of Main Street increased the traffic along that street. Many of the early structures on the campus have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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The period from 1928 to 1931 saw the construction of three of Murray's most notable structures, the 1928 National Hotel, the 1931 Post Office, and the 1931 First Baptist Church. The construction of these monumental structures can be credited in part to the Murray Chamber of Commerce, which promoted new construction in Murray during the days of the Depression.

The National Hotel was constructed in 1928 by a St. Louis firm at a cost of \$100,000. It is significant that an out-of-town business enterprise would be willing to invest this amount of capital in a small town like Murray. The firm must have expected considerable traffic to be generated by the new Murray Normal College. The National Hotel opened to considerable attention and soon became the center of social activity in Murray. The building remains the most significant commercial structure in downtown Murray and one of the most beloved landmarks in Calloway County. There are currently plans to renovate the building.

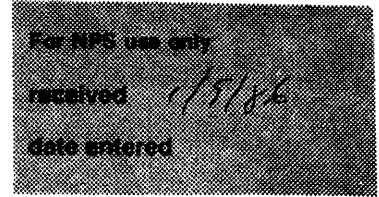
In 1931 two significant structures, the Post Office and the First Baptist Church, were constructed in the same block of South Fourth Street. Both of these handsome structures provided stature to the town square. The Post Office is a notable example of the government-sponsored construction that took place during the Depression. At the time of construction, this post office building was the largest ever constructed for a town the size of Murray.

The construction of the First Baptist Church of Murray reflects the strength of this congregation, the largest in Murray. This building was constructed at a cost of \$130,000 and without the church ever going into debt. The First Baptist Church and the First Christian Church remain the most distinctive religious buildings in Murray and contribute a special elegance to the appearance of the town square area.

In the past few years, there has been an increasing awareness and appreciation for Murray's historic resources. A local preservation group, Preservation First, has promoted the protection and restoration of historic buildings in Murray. A result of this group's efforts is the strong local support for listing additional buildings in Murray to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Continuation sheet

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Murray Kentucky Multiple Resource Area
State Calloway County, KENTUCKY

COVER A Schlager 2/19/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Calloway County Courthouse ~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

A Schlager 2/19/86

Attest

2. First Baptist Church ~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Amy Schlager 2/19/86

Attest

3. First Christian Church ~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

A Schlager 2/19/86

Attest

4. Main Street Historic District ~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

A Schlager 2/19/86

Attest

5. Murray Post Office ~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

A Schlager 2/19/86

Attest

6. National Hotel ~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

A Schlager 2/19/86

Attest

7. Keeper

Attest

8. Keeper

Attest

9. Keeper

Attest

10. Keeper

Attest