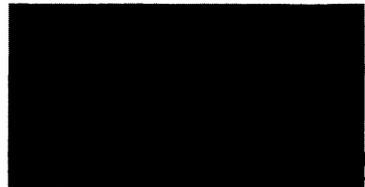


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Bush-Herbert Building

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 174 Third Avenue, North N/A not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Tennessee code 47 county Davidson code 037

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Louise Shapiro

street & number 309 Church Street

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds,

street & number Metropolitan Courthouse

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

**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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

The Bush-Herbert Building, which occupies its entire 50 foot x 107 foot city lot, is comprised of two main sections, a two-story concrete office structure on the front and, behind it, a one-and-one-half story showroom for the building materials the firm sold. The office section which fronts on Third Avenue is approximately 50 feet wide by 44 feet deep. It is a concrete post and lintel structure with a flat composition roof and brick veneer on its symmetrically arranged facade. The central entrance with paired wood framed glass doors is flanked by four one-over-one double hung windows on each side. The far left window was opened to the ground and replaced with a recessed aluminum and glass door in the 1960s. At the second story a stone course runs the width of the facade and forms the sill of nine double hung windows grouped in three groups of three. Above these windows is a simple metal cornice and a decorative parapet. The facade was painted three years ago. This paint conceals the red brick of the facade and the decorative white-glazed brick which runs the width of the facade from ground level to the first floor window sills and surrounds the entrance. The present owners plan a gentle cleaning to remove the paint and plan to remove the false shutters added when the building was painted.

Inside, the office section was elegantly detailed. The main entrance opened onto an open space where receptionist, secretaries, and switchboard were located. Supporting members in the form of Corinthian columns or square piers with pilasters matching the columns rise to a deeply coffered ceiling. On the north side of the building, stairs rise to offices above, which have been altered but retain heavily detailed crown moldings.

Beyond the secretarial/reception area is the showroom, a large room 50 feet wide by 44 feet deep, under a gable roof supported by an exposed steel truss system. Its rear wall is one of the building's most interesting features. The wall's entire surface was a display of Bush brick, divided into a number of rectangular sections each filled with a different color and/or texture of brick. Occasionally, as the Bush brick line changed, sections were torn out and replaced to reflect the changes. The display can still be seen in spite of a coat of white paint applied after the Bush Company left the building. The present owners plan to remove this paint as well as the obsolete heating equipment and office divisions which obscure much of the structure of the room.

Beyond the display wall are a conference room and restrooms occupying the remaining 14 feet to the alley and, above them, a storage loft reached by stairs on the north side of the building.

Documentation of the construction history of the building is incomplete. From available evidence it appears that the showroom section of the building is part of an earlier building, a livery stable of unknown age, which occupied the site for a number of years before the Herbert family purchased the property in 1910. The building appears to have taken its present form by 1911, when the Herbert Company demolished part of the stable and added the office section on the front. The Bush Company, another family concern, is thought by members of the Herbert family to have been architect and contractor on this renovation.

# 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 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**                      C. 1911                      **Builder/Architect**                      N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**                      Criteria B and C

The building at 174 Third Avenue, North was the home of Bush Brick Company and the related enterprise T. L. Herbert and Sons from 1911 to 1961. The brick business was begun in 1867 by W. G. Bush, a brick mason whose Confederate Army service earned him the honorary title "Major", though the rank was never conferred. After the war, "Major" Bush recognized the potential of a brick business in the rebuilding of the devastated region. Rather than making bricks at the building site, the common practice, Bush operated claypits and kilns at a single location and put the entire works under a roof so brick making could carry on in any weather. His business was a success.

In 1879, Bush brought into the firm his son-in-law, T. L. Herbert, who became president on Bush's retirement in 1900. In 1911, following the purchase of the property at 174 Third Avenue, Herbert formed a new company, T. L. Herbert and Sons, to supply other materials related to brick masonry and the two companies shared the building. Over the years the Herbert family businesses expanded to include ready-mix concrete, gravel, and the operation of river dredges and barges in addition to Bush Brick and T. L. Herbert. Though Bush Brick, T. L. Herbert and Sons, and the other family enterprises were consolidated into Herbert Materials, Inc., in 1979, the concern has remained in family hands and is headed by fourth generation descendants of "Major" Bush.

Because these businesses--Bush Brick especially--were so successful, they occupy a unique position in the history of Nashville's built environment. Bush and Herbert supplied great quantities of the materials which make up many of Nashville's significant buildings. For example, the original Maxwell House Hotel (now destroyed), the Ryman Auditorium, Downtown Presbyterian Church, the original Vanderbilt University campus buildings, and Tulip Street Methodist Church all contain Bush brick. The building itself, with its brick display wall, is architecturally unique in Nashville and is the oldest surviving building associated with this 113-year-old local business.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Davis, Louise L. "A Gallery of Nashville Commerce." In Nashville, The Faces of Two Centuries, written and edited by John Egerton. Nashville: Plus Media, Inc., 1979.  
 Interview with John Herbert, October, 1980.  
 Nashville City Directories, 1870-1965.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre  
 Quadrangle name Nashville West, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6
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5	2	0	0	4	0
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4	0	0	1	9	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is one 50' x 107' lot as indicated on property map, #93-6-2 which is occupied by the building.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David H. Paine/Architectural Historian

organization Metropolitan Historical Commission date January, 1981

street & number Second Ave. N. at Broadway telephone 615-259-5027

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy  
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Boyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/12/82

For HCRS use only

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

date 3/25/82

Melora Boyer  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration