

BORO BROTHERS BUILDING,  
CONFECTIONARY AND SALOON  
118 - 120 E. Second Street  
Covington  
Kenton County  
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-208-B

HABS  
KY-208-B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Building Survey  
National Park Service  
Southeast Region  
Department of the Interior  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

STATE Kentucky	COUNTY Kenton	TOWN OR VICINITY Covington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) BORO BROTHERS BUILDING, CONFECTIONARY AND SALOON		HABS NO. KY-208-B
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Boro Brothers Building II		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 118-120 E. Second Street.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) C. 1867	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Although the first floor has been altered, the upper story exhibits distinctive Italianate details. Because of its location adjacent to the Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge (NHL) it adds to the distinctive sense of place because of its age, scale, materials of construction and style.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Italianate		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Common bond brick resting on a rock-faced ashlar foundation; stone window surrounds.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular in plan. Refer to attached floor plan.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Altered first floor continues across to adjacent building. Three story brick with main facades exhibiting projecting bracketed cornice, semi-circular stone lintels with keystone, bracketed lug sills at second floor; 2/2 wooden sash windows.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) First floor greatly altered with no original details remaining. Upper floors are apartments with some decorative Italianate interior window and door surrounds remaining. Recent remodeling has altered original floor plan. Vandalism has destroyed much of the interior of the apartments.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Exact date of alterations is not known. First floor exterior greatly altered; interiors of apartments altered over the years to meet fire codes; two story addition at rear of building.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The first floor interior is in good condition and used for hair salon, office and light repackaging operation. Apartments are mostly vacant and in varying degrees of condition from fair to deteriorated.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Located in an area proposed for redevelopment into a hotel and office complex.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Fred Mitchell Historic Preservation Associates P.O. Box 8933, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208	DATE May 2, 1986	



20 East Second

18. (continued)

second story with later steel casement windows over south part, wide east door into first floor of rearmost section (former pool room); recent first-floor storefront with wood fluted columns, over-scaled entablature, and full-size display windows have been wrapped around front half of east side and across front of 112-14-16-18, replacing or covering original storefront which probably had castiron piers and columns; but upper floors of main block of 118-20 remain basically intact: four evenly-spaced bays on front (south), with five widely-spaced bays along the east side; all original upper windows are round-arched with flat corner-blocks in place of consoles, and flat keystones; these have stylized incised decorative patterns; stone sills have rounded consoles remaining on the third story; bold, regularly bracketted cornice extends around both exposed sides of main block; brackets "clasp" lower molding of cornice; segmented-arched panels between brackets of front cornice have incised geometric patterns (similar but not identical to those of 116 E. 2nd St.), those on east side have raised panel. The first-floor windows north of the modern storefront on the east side of the main block have flat stone lintels with molded upper edges, and the exposed basement openings have flush wood lintels, but do not necessarily suggest earlier construction than the upper floors. Small windows have been added near the center of the east-side upper floors and the wall is crossed by the added metal fire escape; chimneys are lined up along the partition wall between 118 and 120 on the almost flat roof.

The first floor interior has been almost completely remodeled with apparent loss of ornamental features, but the upper floors are basically intact except for adaptation to more-or-less modern small apartment units and the alteration of some partitions (evidenced by turn-of-the-century door frames) to allow access from the main corridor system to the fire escapes on the east wall and to the frame second-floor addition at the rear of the main block; the staircase from the ground floor is located in the east side of 116 E. 2nd St.; the flight from the second to the third floors is located in a skylit well set back on the west side of 118; the staircase winds around this all on a fairly large scale; all original interior woodwork is heavy molded standard Italianate, with transoms over corridor doors; curvaceous stringers on the staircase, and so forth. The first floor rear additions are used for miscellaneous storage, with some added and some removed partitions and surfaces; an interesting feature is the cistern opening directly under the partition between 118 and 120 just south of its rear wall (see archaeologist's report).

19. (continued)

have been erected slightly before the corner block (the presence of a staircase from the ground to first floor only in 116 also supports this). Nevertheless, both are apparently listed in the 1869 directory, only two years after the Boro Brothers bought the entire 50-foot-wide property from the Glasers, and are shown on the 1877 map. Between 1886 and 1894 Sanborn insurance maps, complex additions at the rear, including a skylight, were made; these were designated as including a "Pool Room" in 1894 and used as a warehouse according to the 1909 map. Whereas the upper floor of 116 seems originally to have been used as an office for the Boro Brothers firm the second and third stories of 116 and 118 were occupied as residences for their families until well into the 20th century, before being further subdivided for the present rental use.

3-20 E. 2nd St (3)

20. (continued)

to the entire block and a buttress flanking one side of the ramp approach to the John A. Roebling (formerly Covington-Cincinnati) Suspension Bridge a National Historic and Engineering Landmark directly to the east. The setting of the almost cubic 118-20 E. 2nd, an unusually tall structure for the period, with a well-defined cornice and rhythmically-disposed round-arched windows with incised hoodmolds (above a recently remodelled storefront), gives it considerable prominence, and has done so since it was erected shortly after the completion of the bridge at the end of the Civil War. The residential upper stories of the main block (a pool room and storage facilities were added at the rear before the turn of the century) are basically intact both inside and out. The building is also important because of the longevity and continuity of the firm for whom it was constructed, members of whose family operated a confectionery and saloon here until well into the 20th century; the Boro Brothers were representative of the small but prominent Italian colony of Covington, which was dominated by those of German background after the Civil War.