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Historic Nevada on auction block

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# Historic Nevada on auction block

## City: Look past façade to gem inside

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**FORT THOMAS** - The Nevada - an 1880s Victorian building with an unfortunate added-on facade at 1049 S. Fort Thomas Ave. - will be going on the auction block Nov. 20.

On Oct. 16, Fort Thomas Renaissance Coordinator Debbie Buckley e-mailed hundreds of community and business leaders to spread the word.

The Nevada is part of the Midway district around the veterans hospital.

**ADVERTISEMENT** "That area is really starting to come along," said Buckley. "We have three buildings down there that used the facade grants and their businesses are starting to build up - Best Furniture, the Olde Fort Pub and Fort Thomas Pizza. We also have some people who have upscaled some apartments.

"We're really trying to change the appearance of the entire area."

As for the Nevada, it has seen better days, but is slowly being revived.

"Please don't let the facade deter you from taking a serious look at this property," Buckley wrote.

She said most of the recent work has been on the interior.

"The previous owner did some beautiful work inside of it," Buckley said. "There's four newly renovated offices and the back room has hardwood floors. The upstairs apartments have granite countertops. This is a building that could be quite a showplace."

The Nevada was bought in the 1920s by Fort Thomas Police Chief Louis Cook Sr. He named it after his wife. At the time, the upper floors were apartments and the lower floors contained a Kroger, a barber and a café. As the old fort closed down, the Nevada slowly went into disrepair.

Buckley's job is to bring new businesses, and customers, to the city. Improving the area by attracting a qualified investor to the Nevada is an important step.



THE ENQUIRER/PATRICK REDDY

Fort Thomas Renaissance coordinator Debbie Buckley stands outside the Nevada in the 1000 block of South Fort Thomas Avenue. The building is in foreclosure and will be auctioned Nov. 20.

"Right now we applied to have the Midway area as a national historic district. The fort is already one," said Buckley. "The reason to do that is that there's some pretty incredible tax incentives for restoring these buildings."

For more information on the auction, call Buckley at 859-572-1225.

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