

North Springfield, Missouri

All pre-1947 street addresses have been adjusted by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. The following records came from Polk's City Directories for Springfield, Missouri (1884-1880/1900/1920-1990).

West

210 West Commercial Dan **(R)**

In 1880, Mayo Grocery was located here. The 1885 city directory listed Taylor & Company Coal, Wood & Hay at this address. In 1920-1925, Jared Brothers Furniture was listed at this address. Frank Nelson (wife Fayne) managed Nelson Furniture at this address in 1930-1940. In 1930, they lived at 1307 Prospect. In 1935, they moved to 1424 Robberson Avenue. In 1946-1961, Newton Jared (wife Geneva) was proprietor of Jared Brothers Furniture at 210 West Commercial. They lived at 612 Loren. In 1965, Herman Cox (wife Dorra) became the proprietor. They lived at 1173 Roanoke. In 1970, Dwight Walker (wife Virginia) became proprietor of the same business. They lived at 2430 Seminole. In 1975, Marie Ross of 2528 Main Avenue became proprietor. She changed the name to Marie's Furniture in 1980. Ozark Repair was located here in 1985. It was owned by Jim Bloomer of 1326 Cedarbrook. In 1990, the business at this address was Loafer's Glory Flea Market, owned by Anna B. Gordon, living at 2001 College Street, and Earl and Antoinette Blain of Willard, Missouri in 1993 who lived at 1522 North Robberson, Springfield. Galleries & Gifts, 425-6247 and Twin Town Studios, 830-0662 in 2008.

213 West Commercial, 831-6273 Amanda

Luther Gilbert (wife Georgia) owned Gilbert Upholstery here in 1946, and later Gilbert Furniture in 1950-1961. They resided at 1505 Walnut Street. 213 was home to Cardin's Salvage in 1970. Floyd Cardin (wife Jurea) was owner. They lived at 404 Morningside. Greg Weiner of

Republic, Missouri was proprietor of PBS Sanitary Supply at this address in 1980. The K.C. Express Lounge was located here in 1985, owner Ernie Bedell who lived at 1213 Sherman Avenue. In 1990, the Zodiac Lounge occupied this address, owned by Dan Thurman. It was owned by Mark Dickson in 1993. Yesterday's Treasures Thrift Store in 2008.

Amanda Pearce: I have tried to contact someone at the number given but have been unsuccessful. I tried seven times. The building now holds Yesterday's Treasure Thrift Store.

215 West Commercial, 863-1555 in 2008. Joey

Lowery Produce Shipper, owned by Sam Lowery was located here in 1878-1880. In 1890, this was the location of Parce, Bechtell & Company (agricultural implements). E.D. Parce was proprietor, living at 1465 Jefferson Avenue. In 1910-1925, Morgan Studio occupied this address. The owner was H.C. Morgan (wife was Minnie) of 217-1/2 Commercial. 215 was home to Commercial Printing in 1935-1940. The owner in 1935 was Lura Ray and in 1940 was James Peabody (wife was Fay) who lived at 2127 Booneville. Homer Qualls (wife was Thelma) was proprietor of Davis Electric in 1946. Gilbert Furniture was located here in 1955. Luther (wife Georgia) Gilbert was owner. They lived at 1505 Walnut Street. In 1965-1970, Ruth Yakey owned Ruth's Fashions at this address. She lived at 2302 Cedarbrook. Fashionable Wig Salon was located here in 1975, owned by Richard Hinton of Kansas City. Lois Trantham owned Lois' Wig & Beauty Salon here in 1980. Lois lived at 2007 Lyon. In 1985-1993, this building was occupied by Tess' Wigs & Beauty Salon, owned by Tess and Larry Hinds. Red Books & Chairs in 2008.

Joey Rekowski: operator- Jennifer Farquhar, owner/landlord - Peggy Thurman --I spoke with Jennifer for a few minutes today and her info was not air tight, but beneficial for our purposes. She was pretty sure that the building started out as Gilbert Furniture. The store to the east of RBC was once the showroom, and where her shop is now was the warehouse for the furniture store. The only loading dock for the now 2 stores is in the back of RBC. There are evidence of two doors that are no longer there on either wall of the store. On the east side is a patch of brick with steps below that once connected the showroom with the warehouse. The west wall of the building has metal pegs on the wall that she says was once a "fire door" which was held open by a hemp rope. In the case of a fire the rope would burn and cause the door to slam shut and prevent the fire from spreading.

After Gilbert Furniture she said it was called Tessa Wigs, but for how long she was unsure. Currently it is Red Books and Chairs.

Jennifer was very nice and receptive to the idea of the Geocaching unit with the elementary kids. She also mentioned that the owner of Fusion Stain glass at 219 w. Commercial has expressed interest in the unit as well but did not know if she was on the list of locations or not. I told her I would inform you of this and see if she could be added if she wasn't already.

216 West Commercial, 866-4094

Lida

This building has a rich past. Built in 1886 by the Schaeffer family, it was occupied by a hardware store on the first floor. In the early 1900s, Dr. Solomon Tickle, a prominent Springfield physician had his office here. Known as “the doctor who made house calls”, he provided free medical services door-to-door during the great Influenza Epidemic of 1918. Tickle helped in the creation of Springfield’s water system while serving on the Public Health Committee in 1918. Dr. Tickle lived on Douglas Avenue where he would walk to work everyday. Epps hardware, located on the 1st floor, added about 25 feet to the back of the building between 1903-1910, including a large wooden freight elevator. In 1920-1946, Epps Hardware was located here. The owner was Howard Epps (wife was Cora) who resided at 1914 Missouri. Long Hardware occupied this address. The proprietor was Ken Long (wife was Ruth) who lived at 513 Florence. The 1955 City Directory listed Missouri Electronic at 216 with proprietor as Robert Leftwick (wife was Chloris) who resided at 822 Pickwick. Jared Brothers Furniture occupied this building in 1965, with proprietor Herman Cox (wife was Dorra). The couple lived at 1173 Roanoke Avenue, and in 1970, the proprietor was Dwight Walker (wife was Virginia) lived at 2430 Seminole Street. In 1975-1985, the Electric News occupied this address. Owner, Curtis Plotner who lived in Rogersville in 1980, and at 5725 Catalpa Street. He was married to Ann in 1975-1980, and Brenda in 1985. Renaissance Studios was located at 216 in 1990. The owner was Gary Waldrop (wife was Amy) who resided at 2321 Howard. In 1993, this address was home to Louise’s Hair Boutique, owned by Louise Goodwin. In Spring 1994, Gary Waldrop, resident of the building, discovered a deep man-made sinkhole on the property, believed to patch into the Underground Railroad and the subject of extensive media coverage. **Askinosie & Bilyeu Law Offices in 2008.**

Lida Barry: As for any new information I was unable to get a hold of anyone, and it was an unoccupied building so I couldn't talk to anyone. I did find it interesting though that this building actually goes back to the underground railroad and how important it was for Dr. Solomon Tickle during the influenza outbreak in the 1910's.

217 West Commercial, Karen Decker, owner, call 864-7015Maddi

This building is a two-story structure, a vacuum store for the last 8 years, built in the 1870s. In 1935-1940, Daily Events was located at this address, proprietor Lura Ray who lived at 1871 Broadway. 217 was occupied by Davis Electrical in 1950. Owner Homer Qualls (wife was Thelma) lived at 217-1/2 Commercial. In 1965, this address was occupied by Floor Covering. Donald Clough (wife was Sandra), attorney, was located at this address in 1975. They lived at 4202 Tilden. Rainbow Sweeper Exchange occupied this address in 1980, owned by Bobby Givens who lived at 1942 Glenco. Charles and Jacqueline Givens of 2630 West Jean Street occupied the building in 1990-1993 where they owned House of Vacuums. They purchased it ten years ago from lawyer Donald Clough who used the building as a law office. Clough had a very successful practice. When the Givens family purchased the place, they sold Random Sweepers. This business eventually became The House of Vacuums. Structurally, the building appears to be in good shape compared to some other buildings on the block. One feature that stands out is the ceilings, metal and tile with fine detailing. The two floors above the vacuum shop are used primarily for storage.

Lida Barry, 2008: This building seemed as if it was recently a barber shop, but is now unoccupied so I was able to talk to anyone face to face.

219 West Commercial Zach

In 1878, Doling Commission Merchant was located at 219. The proprietor was J.M. Doling. 219 in 1910-1925 was Western Grain owned by W.P. Walker (Walker was single in 1910, wife was Mollie in 1915, Mary in 1920, Ella in 1925) who resided at 2246 Campbell Avenue, but 2155 Johnson after wed. Standard Motor Company was located here in 1930. Owner was C.E. Woodruff (wife was Grace) lived at 1500 Meadowmere. At 219, Fredrick's Used Cars occupied this address in 1935. Frederick's wife was Virginia. They resided at 911 University. Clutter Motor was located here in 1940 with owner L.M. Clutter (wife was Mabel) who lived at 901 University. In 1946, Brite Furniture was located here. Proprietor Lon Brite (wife was Lillie) lived at 438 Elm Street. Rowland's Department Store occupied 219 in 1950, Lewis Roland (wife was Olive), proprietor who lived in Willard. Heers Appliances was located here in 1955-1960 with proprietor W. N. McClerkair (wife was Elvira) was proprietor who lived at 1470 Meadowmere. In 1965, at 219 was Abe's Furniture. Ellis Mitchell was the owner (wife was Rayma). They lived at 2007 Walnut Street. Elkins Bargain House was located here in 1970 with owner Robert Elkins (wife was Pernice) who resided at 1007 Division Street. In 1975, J. & B. Distributors occupied 219, owner Jack Reynolds (wife was Wanda) who resided at 3419

Westwood. R.R. Salvage Company was located here in 1980. The proprietor was George Supik (wife was Franziska) who lived at 3361 Fairway. In 1985, this was the address for Hayes Vending. The owner was Thomas Hayes (wife was Inez) who lived at Rt. 6, Box 520. 219 was home to Class Act Variety Store in 1990. Proprietor was Barbara Erwin (husband was Murl) who lived at 639 Grant Avenue. In 1993, this building was occupied by James and Karen Givens of 1608 Brower Street. Their business was Stanford Medical Systems. In 2008, Fusion Stained Glass Studio, 832-0402 and Hudson Bryce Advertising, 830-8121 were located here.

Zach Ebers: It was originally a furniture store. The furniture store was connected to Big Momma's and they would move furniture back and forth between the two locations. After the furniture store the building became The Open Book which was a large bookstore. The bookstore closed and the building is now being made into rental lofts to reside in. The owner of the building's name is Sean (this is who I talked to).

304 West Commercial, 864-2244

Staci

In 1910, the building was occupied by Oliver B. & Son. During the year 1925, this building was home to the Show-Stringer Furniture Company. It is not known how long this business was located here but, in 1935, John F. Sparlin Shoe Repair took its place. In 1960 the U.S. Post Shop moved in and, by 1965, it became a full-fledged U.S. Post Office which stayed for about 20 years. Then, a flea market moved in and was called the "Old Po" (Post Office) Flea Market and Collectibles. **Victory Mission Thrift Store in 2008.**

Staci Savas: Victory Mission Thrift Store was once home to the Show-Stringer Furniture Company. In 1935 John F. Sparlin Shoe Repair took its place and in 1960 the Postshop moved on in. By 1965 this building became a full fledged U.S. Post Office. After that a flea market called the Old Post Flea Market and Collectibles overtook the place and presently it is the Victory Mission Thrift Store. The store is always accepting donations of used appliances, clothes and other household items. This store gives possessions to families in need of assistance as well as missionary groups. Vouchers are accepted at Victory Mission. It is a cornerstone in Springfield and has helped many people pull themselves up. It is a Christian based organization. Thirteen years ago a group called the BMW Roadriders made a great contribution to the store, and ever since, the club was asked they make an annual event out of it and to this day "Ride with a Mission" in their honor in order to help out the Victory Mission Thrift Store.

308 West Commercial, 763-2146 (no one there in 2008), Call Mary 864-7015

Jacinta

Enoteca, Tired Treasures Flea Market in 1990, Birdie's Tavern in 1980, Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, Inc. in 1975. Federal Mogul Service Wholesale Auto Parts in 1965. Sperry Co. (real estate, insurance, investment, loans) in 1955. 1950 was home to Frisco Barber Shop. 1945 was Killingsworth's Women's Wear. 1935 was Perry F. Matlock, barber. 1930 was Kroger Grocery & Baking Company. 1925 was Stations Cleaners & Dryers. About 1910-1915 occupied by Joseph Salsman (Salsman & Hill).

Jacinta Tolinos: Used to be a bar called Cottons?

311 West Commercial, 866-5920

Damon

Was Mid-American Control & Marketing, Inc. (temperature control) in 1985, partly as Hayes Vending in 1960-1990. American Bag Company in 1950. 1945 was Dixie Service Station. 1935 was Davis Electric Company. 1930 was Purity Oil & Filling Station. 1910 was Western Sales & Forwarding Company. **Innoviro in 2008.**

315 West Commercial, All Seasons, 889-1133, (R)

N-Hance, 831-9663

Josh

The location of 315 West Commercial has been preserved well. In use during about 1915-1920, it was occupied by McCutcheon Brothers Vehicle and Harness Company and, in about 1925, by the Purity Oil Company (offices). Then, in 1935, it was Hasetine F. Malcolm Produce (through at least 1935). Herman-Brownlow Co. Auto Access Wholesale in 1955. This building was used by W-W Recreational Billiards from 1950s until about 1975. From 1975 up to 1993, occupied by Warren's Radiator Service Inc. **In 2008, All Seasons Chem Dry and N-Hance Wood Renewal.**

Josh Jackman: This multi-purpose Building is now All Seasons Chem-Dry, NHance Wood Renewals, and The Lofts LLC. According to the owners in addition to the information on the slip of paper presented to us in class I have the following information: The building was built in 1886. At that time it was a farm implement store where they sold farm supplies and wagons. After that there was a harness manufacture and a pool hall for 30 years. Before the new ownership the building housed a radiator shop for 15 years. The new owners took over in September 2006.

318 West Commercial, 862-3747

Dan

Lindberg's Antique Tavern & Flea Market in 1990, Midland Real Estate Brokerage in 1985, Norman Stanley in 1980, Joe Martin in 1955. 1935 was Carl J. Lindberg Soft Drinks & Billiards. Was a strip bar in 1993.

Dan Ragon: Built in 1886

1888- occupied as Bill and Pipken grocers

1896- N.J. Hasten Grocer

1916- Chas H. Mills Commercial Bar

1920- CH Mills Soft Drinks

1921- Commercial Bar, Soft Drinks

1927- CH Mills Billiards

1936- Liquor and Billiards

1946- Commercial Tap Room

1948-1953- Commercial Beverage Co. Tavern

1955-1963- Commercial Tap Room

1964-1970- Commercial Tavern

1971-72- Vacant

1973- The Roaring Twenty

1974- The Joint

1975-76- Vacant

1977-79- Corner Bar

1977-present- Lindbergs

400 West Commercial, 576-0412

Kori

Freedom Photography in 2008. G&W Antique Store was located here in 1993, owned by Wanda Minor. In 1990, this building was vacant. In 1940, this was the Gingham Girl Café, owned by Carl L. Camp. In 1935, George Wald owned a second-hand clothing shop here. Charles W. Schafer Drugs was located here in 1930. He resided at the same address. In 1925, another second-hand shop occupied this address, owned by Everett M. Beckerdrite who lived at the same address.

Kori Johnson: I tried to call 400 W. Commercial - Freedom Photography and left a message but they never called me back.

404 West Commercial, 865-8150

Damon

Triad Graphics occupied the building in 1990-2008. Owner Andres Curtis lived at 2106 Brenkenfighe. In 1985, Leonard Payne owned Northside Furniture here. From 1965-1975, the building was generally vacant. In 1960, Northside Furniture was using the building. From after about 1940-1945, the building was vacant. In 1940, this building was occupied by Jack Ghormley Tires, owned by Jack Ghormley of 955 College Street. In 1935, the building was vacant. In 1930, Alfred E. Barnett Tire & Repair was located here. In 1925, it was occupied by Elva Andrews, confectioner. From about 1915-1920, William Gray had a shop here called Second Hand. He resided at 2427 Vernon.

426 West Commercial, 207-9993

Katie

This was the location of Frisco Gentleman's Club (whorehouse/brothel). It was built prior to 1920. From 1920-1940, the building was generally vacant. Vaugh or Vaugh & Son Furniture was located here in 1950-1955. The owner was Clifford Vaugh who resided at 1623 North Main Street. During the years of 1960-1975, the building was frequently vacant. It's located in the building next to what was once Peddler's Antiques until 1960 and again in about 1990. Owners were Marshal and Sandra Kennard. In 1980, Archery Outfitters was located here. Owners were Ed Anderson who lived at 288 Manchesterm, and Peg and Roger Hegpeth who lived at 2365 South Dollison Avenue. In 1985, it was J&J Pawn Shop owned by Jack Henderson. **Urbanbilt in 2008.**

Katie Pieri: I found out a little more about this building. It was built to be a whorehouse/gentleman's club due to the many small rooms up above the main entrance. Many years after that the small rooms were transformed into three loft apartments which are still being leased today. Around the same time in which the lofts were built, an old lady sold rags out of the first floor up until a few years ago. As of right now the lofts and the first floor are both vacant. However, the lofts are available to rent.

428 West Commercial, 619-2563

Cody

The Belmonte in 2008.

Cody Smith: This beautiful building is home to The Belmonte. The Belmonte hosts things such as live music and social gatherings. I was unable to contact anyone at 428 W. Commercial St. I have provide what I was able to find out on the internet. I will bring a disc with the pictures on it because I was unable to get the pictures to send via e-mail.

430 West Commercial, 869-2010

Beth

This building was occupied by Home Bakery in 1920, owned by Mrs. A. McArthur. It was M.F. Burton Restaurant in 1925. Guy and Margret Reed owned Guy Reed Furniture here in 1930. They resided at 1235 East Walnut Street. The location was John Fredy Furniture in 1935. Willard Pride Second-Hand Furniture was here in 1940, with owners Willard and Mattie Pride who lived at 1810 North Grant Street. In 1945, the building was occupied by Barney Vaugh Exchange, owner Barney Baugh who lived at 1409 Lyons. From about 1950-1960, the building was often vacant. It was the site of Bob's sports Center in 1965. The owner was Bob Padgett. HynoPower Mind Development was located here in 1970, owned by Merele Parker. John Freeman, owner, Ozark Archery occupied this building and 434 West in 1975. In 1980, it was Talbot Furniture. White Appliances occupied the premises in 1985. In 1990, this was the site of K&B Furniture, owned by Clyde Gordon, and Furniture & More in 2008.

Beth Riechers: Built in 1903

- October 15 current owner will have owned it for 9 years as a furniture store
- Has been owned previously as furniture stores
- 2 restaurants have also been operated there in the early 50's and 60's
- Has been a storage place for sheet metal

434 West Commercial, 234-3166

Britton

G.E. Haskins Furniture was located here in 1920. In 1935, this building was the site of Guy Reed Furniture. It was vacant in 1935. In 1940, Wayne's Equipment Company, owner Wayne bowman, was located here. The Frisco Transportation Company was located here in 1945. In 1950, this address was home to Royster's Café, owned by Essie Royster who lived at 440 East Elm Street. From 1955-1960, the building was often vacant. Margie's Tavern occupied the building in 1965. Margie Sztuk, owner, lived at 1612 N. National Avenue. Barbara's Tavern was located here in 1970. Owners O. Gene and Barbara Shockley lived at 1210 North West Avenue. In 1975, Ozark Archery occupied this building, and John Freeman was owner. In 1980, it was home to Talbot In 1985, this was B&J Furniture & Auction, owned by Bill Moore. In 1990, the building was vacant. Lewis' Boxing Gym was located here in 1993-2008.

Britton Tucker: I am very familiar with this place because in my senior year in high school I used to train there. Before Howell Lewis bought the gym, it was a flea market. It's connected to

other buildings which are both furniture stores. Howell Lewis has been in that building for 21 years and says he has a great landlord.

500 West Commercial, 832-8065

Lida

In 1993, the East Pawn Shop occupied this building. Owner and soon-to-be proprietor in 1993 was Grace Tyler. Her previous business location was 300 W. Commercial. The business Grace Tyler will continue in this new location is a tavern, Gracie's. In 1990, this was the location of Park Paisley (new and used furniture). In 1985, the building was occupied by B&J Furniture & Auction Company. The building was vacant in 1980. In 1975, it was occupied by a business called Furniture Mart Warehouse. During 1960-1970, it was vacant again, at least periodically. In 1965, this was the location of House of Prayer Church. In 1950-1955, the address was occupied by Keener & Keener Company, a food supply business owned by Howard and Ruby Keener who lived at 1155 South National. From about 1950-1955, the building was occupied by Welhener Tent & Awning. In 1945, this building was vacant for some time. It is believed that it was a "house of ill repute". **Midtown Appliance in 2008.**

Lida Barry: In this building I was lucky to find an occupant, a gentleman who owns the building and runs a used appliance store at the moment, Midtown Appliance. This building I had the least amount of information on so I was glad to talk to the man about his building. He said the deed to the property dated back before Springfield was even a city, so this building probably was one of the first in the area. He also pointed out the it used to be a hotel back in the heyday of the railroad and offered extra fun for gentleman (it used to be a brothel). He also told me that a couple came into the store about a year ago and told him they use to live in the two rooms above the first floor for about \$50 a month back in the 1950's.

504 West Commercial

Samantha

McCurdy's Amusement

Samantha Schaefer: Owner and proprietor, Drew Harris is the grandson of the original owners of the business occupying this building. McCurdy's started a pinball distribution operation in the garage of thier home in 1966. In 1972, McCurdy Amusement Company moved to its present location on Commercial Street.

522 West Commercial, 863-6800

Josh

The owners and proprietors are still the Martins, after 75 years. It has been E.A. Martin Industrial Equipment Company since 1980. From about 1970-1975, the business was called Farmco, Inc. From 1946-1965, it was called the E.A Martin Machinery Company, the name of the original business in 1930 on Commercial. Because it started out also as a mining machinery company, that too was part of the business name back in the 1930s. E.A. Martin lived at 932 E. Stanford in 1955. **Broyle's, Inc. in 2008.**

Josh Jackman: Broyles Inc. is currently in this establishment. They are an automotive service and equipment supply company. Broyles Inc. didn't know much about the history of the building. Broyles moved into the building in August of 2003. The lady did know that the building was built in the late 30's early 40's and before they moved in there was a fork lift company by the name of E.A. Martin. The building adjacent to 522 burnt down due to a wood burning fireplace in a mechanic's shop.

East Commercial

201 East Commercial, 839-0119

Matt

2000-2008, 201 East Commercial was still Historic City Firehouse #2, but occupied by Mary Collette, Collette Studios (photo/computer graphics).

Matt Bazyk: This building was originally built as Springfield Firehouse #2. It was built around the turn of the century after the first two firehouses burned down. It was constructed by building a north and south wall between the two adjacent buildings, covering the intersection of Commercial and Benton. After this building had served its purpose as a fire station the city sold it to Elliot Glasser who used it for storage for about five years. Elliot was supposed to make efforts to restore the outside of the firehouse. However, he did not do this, so the city repossessed the building and sold it to Bill Loyde who also used it for storage, until Mary Collette and Paul Parker bought it in 1995. It is now used as a studio where Mary runs her graphic design business and they also run a restoration business there. The space is also available for parties.

204 East Commercial

Holly

In 1890, this was the address of Appleby & Rutherford. Samuel P. Appleby lived at 1829 N. Campbell Avenue and George W. Rutherford lived at 1900 N. Grant Avenue. In 1915-1940, this building was J.H. Bridger Grocery Store. L.W. Hughes was president, residing at 1410 N. Robberson Street. In 1945-1955, this address was occupied by Jones Department Store. In 1960-1970, it was Hunter's M L 5 Cents To One Dollar Store. In 1975, it was vacant. In 1980, the Gospel Magic Company (hobbies, crafts, visual aids) occupied the building. In 1990, this building was vacant. In 1993, a used jeans, buy, sell, trade shop, the bottom portion of the building is orange and is not in its original state. The top of the building looks original with a brownish-yellow brick in the middle. A window is boarded up and the rooms look vacant. Inside the building, the smell would knock off your socks. The walls and ceilings are off-white color and very dusty and dirty. The carpet is brown and the roof shows several signs of leaking. The inside is astonishing. The ceiling is white. It is carved in many designs. The house contains antiques, and has a wooden floor.

208 East Commercial, 831-9441

Amanda (R)

MJ's Flea Market in 2008. In 1993, was New Life Evangelistic Center. In 1985-1990, this building was occupied by Value World, a variety store. In 1980, it was a restaurant called The Lunch Box. In 1965-1975, it was often vacant. In 1950-1960, it was occupied by Hunter's M L 5 Cents To One Dollar Store owned and operated by Willard L. Hunter who resided at 826 South Fort Avenue. In 1945, the building was home to J.W. Crank Drug Store, owned by William C. Fahrenheitst who lived at 216 East Division Street. Before this, in 1940, 208 was occupied by T.A. Loveless, Inc., a variety store. Mr. Loveless lived at 517 West Calhoun Street. In 1935, the building was home to Kroger Groceries & Bakery Company. In 1915-1925, it was Reed Hardware Company, owned by Joseph H. Reed who resided at 1216 Benton Avenue. In 1910, it was called W.A. & J.H. Reed Hardware & Harness. In 1920, the building was occupied by A.F. Trogdon Wallpaper. Mr. Trogdon lived at 957 N. Jefferson Avenue. In 1900, this building was the location of William Jones Dry Goods. Mr. Jones lived at 1016 West Webster Street.

Amanda Pearce: The owner explained that the building was used as a drug store many years back. She also informed me of the lofts upstairs that she believes were used as apartments, but are empty today.

209 East Commercial, 869-5591

Zach (R)

Jacqueline's Clothing in 2008. In 1993, was Elkins Home Furniture, a used furniture store. In 1985, it was a second-hand (used clothing) store. In 1980, it was vacant. In 1950-1975, the building was home to Milton's Women Wear. In 1930-1945, it was McCurdy Paint Company, owned by Jessie M. McCurdy who resided at 414 E. Commercial Street. Before 1930, it was known as Commercial Paint & Wallpaper, under the same ownership. In 1920, the same address was occupied by A.F. Trogdon Wallpaper who in 1910 owned the A.F. Trogdon Livery. Mr. Trogdon lived at 857 N. Jefferson Avenue.

Zach Ebers: The woman who I talked to did not have much information to give me. However, she did tell me that the building was originally a clothing store named Milton's. After that there were a few other stores at the building. It is now called Jacqueline's where she sells vintage clothing and theatrical costumes. Jacqueline's has been located at this building for ten years.

211-215 East Commercial

Joey

In 2008, 211 was The Style (864-6822) and 214 Sunlight Studio (866-1830). This building is very large, about 5,000 square feet. In 1990-1993, it housed the antique store Nellie Dunn's Antiques & Collectibles (and vintage clothing). 214 was Custom Drums & Audio, owned by Mark Wood in 1993. The building was vacant in 1990. Built by the Freemasons in 1874 for Parce and Gray, a manufacturer of wagons, the Masons used the top floor for their meeting hall. The second floor was used for an overall (clothing) factory, a printing shop and a doctor's clinic. In 1993, the building was still dressed with 5,000 square feet of decorative pressed tin ceiling that was all original and in good condition, and it is likely still there. The front entrance is labeled with the name Ed V. Williams. In 1990, the building was vacant. In 1985, 211 was vacant, and 212 was Value World (a clothing shop). 214 was The Clock Shop where they sold wooden clocks. In 1980, 211 was R.R. Salvage & Sales Company. 214 was vacant. In 1975, 211 was Ed V's Men's Fine Fashions, probably Ed V. Williams. 214 was Zale's Jewelers from 1970-1975. 212 was Crown Finance Corporation from 1965-1970. 214 was Gammon Jewelry Company in 1955-1965. Owner Everett Gammon lived at 638 West Lynn. In 1920-1961, 211-215 was Ed V. Williams Clothing Company. In 1950, Charles L. James was president, who lived at 1210 Summit. 211-1/2 was Craig Photo Company (commercial photography owned by John E. Craig, Jr. who lived at 1308 University) and Phillips Engraving Company (photo engraving shop owned by Mark R. Phillips who lived at 2021 Broadway), and the office of John E. Craig who resided at 2021 North Broadway. 212 was Austin Paint. 212 was vacant, but 212-1/2 was Hamlin & Hamlin (law offices). Ernest C. Hamlin lived at 1846 N. Douglas Avenue. In 1950, 212 was Mademoiselle Shop (women's wear). 214 was Crown Drug Company in 1940-1950. Wayne Hughes was manager. He lived at 1069 South New Avenue. In

1945, 211-1/2 was occupied by William T. Walsh, physician who lived at 1229 North Benton Avenue and C.H. Max Fitch, physician who lived at 1909 North Douglas. 212 was Standard Appliance, owned by James M. Lowry who resided at 2021 N. Broadway. 212-1/2 was still occupied by Hamlin & Hamlin in 1920-1945. In 1940, 212 was William R. Davis Jeweler & Optometrist who lived at 1220 N. Clay Street. In 1930-1935, Garrett Construction Company was located at 211-1/2 with Fred W. Garrett as owner who lived at 2115 N. Broadway. 214 was Davis Jewelers in 1925-1935. Bill R. and Laura Davis lived at 1220 North Clay Avenue. 212 was occupied by a barbershop from 1920-1930, owned by James R. Pamplin who lived at 320 W. Atlantic Street. In 1920, Pamplin had a partner, Mr. Haggard, and the shop was named Haggard & Pamplin. In 1925, it was called the Star Barbershop. 214 was H.Y. Browning & Company Dry Goods. H.Y. Browning resided at 1516 North Jefferson Avenue. In 1935, Hamlin & Hamlin took on another partner, Flavius B. Freeman who lived at 1409 North Jefferson Avenue. In 1900, this address was for Lincoln & Lydy.

Joey Rekowski: -- Location was closed. Not sure if it was out of business or not, but no signs of life were present.

217 East Commercial, 865-9911

Staci

Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar in 2008.

Staci Savas: Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar is a fun and friendly gathering place to enjoy coffee and related drinks. Pastries and homemade muffins are served as well. Sandwiches on the menu are named after well known Springfield locations and people such as The Drury Wrap. The coffee shop is kept fresh with weekly contests and lively music. This little coffee shop also tries to be earth friendly and constructed most of its tables from the original wood beams from the 120 year old building. Lyle Q. Foster is the owner of this company. This coffee house is a great hangout for students in need of some late night caffeine, it stays open until 1:00am!

Joey Rekowski: --Upon entrance to the store I could tell the owner was unwelcome to guests with a pad of paper and pen. For whatever reason I'm unsure. When I approached her she did not release her name, but said she was the owner. Other than that I could not get any info from her. She was unaware of the geocaching unit and unwelcome to the idea of it. She said that if we wanted to teach kids anything to take them to the Springfield History Museum, not to her store. For this reason, I think that the info we have on this building already is better than we'll ever get from her.

219 East Commercial, Colleen McKay, 885-3888, X. 1178

Spencer

Antique Cowboy in 2008.

Spencer Hillman: The building used to be owned by Randy Ebrite. The Current Owner Colleen McKay said that the building use to be a furniture store because of a freight elevator that had scratches on the floor due to heavy items dragging on the floor. She said she also found a lot of ink in the building, leading her to believe that at one point the building was a print shop. The third floor is connected with the building next to 219. It was a book store called "The Open Book" and the outside of the building still has "The Open Book" sign. Currently, 219 East Commercial street is being renovated into 3 lofts and the first floor is going to house the new Antique Cowboy Store.

220 East Commercial ????????????

In 1993, was National Teen Challenge, Reverend Herb Meppelink there was the organization's national secretary. In 1990, the building was occupied by Ozark Empire Fleet Reserve Associates. It was vacant in 1985. 220 was occupied by an office of the Missouri State License Division in 1980, by that office and an office of the Missouri State Sales Tax Division in 1975. This is getting a little complex as we go back in time! In 1970, everything changed a little. Occupants were listed as the Missouri State Department of Revenue – Auto License Division, the Missouri State Income Tax Division, and the Missouri State Division of Compliance, and let's say it was about the same in 1965. In 1961, the building was vacant. The Citizens Bank was located in the building in 1940-1955, with Tom Watkins as bank president who lived at 515 North Robberson Avenue. In 1935, the bank manager was Harry Hobbit (wife was Florence) who lived at 407 East Locust Street. In 1930, it was President Edward Williams, and in 1905-1925 Jerome O'Haren (wife Isabel). They lived at 1405 Summit.

221-223 East Commercial ????????????????

In 1895-1900, the building was occupied by Aaron B. Conkling & Sons Retail Dry Goods, residence 1237 North Benton Avenue. From 1905-1914, 223 was vacant. In 1920-1940, this building was home to Conkling Dry Goods. Owners John M. and Maude Conkling lived at 1237 North Benton Avenue. 223 was home to Conkling Dry Goods in 1920-1935, but vacant in 1940. In 1946, 221 was vacant, but Conkling Dry Goods occupied 223. In 1950-1965, Killingsworth Company (women's clothing) was here. Owner Troy Killingsworth lived at 316 S. Campbell.

Taylor's Dry Goods Store was located here in 1955. Owner Roger Taylor lived at 1625 East Catalpa Street. 223 was Lee's Gift Shop in 1961. 223 was Mary Anna Knit Shop (knitting instruction and supplies) in 1965-1975. Folks Lollipop Shop, a women's and children's clothing shop was located here in 1970-1975. Jo's Unique Wig Place was at 221 in 1980. In 1985-1993, 221 was Franco's Pawn Shop in 1993, then owned by Nona F. Fleming. 223 was vacant from 1980-1985. In 1990-1993, 223 was Midwest Mai Thai Academy with Tong Trithara as instructor.

225 East Commercial Katie

Bridgefield Galleries, Catfish & Crystal Shoppe, 864-8393 in 2008.

Katie Pieri: When I talked to the man on the phone, he said that the information that I had already was as accurate as they have right now. Bridge-field Galleries Catfish and Crystal Shoppe. He also informed me that a group of people were working on the history of the building and they hope to have it in three months.

229 East Commercial, 863-7682 Samantha

Professional Massage Training Center, Inc. in 2008.

234 East Commercial NEED PHOTO!!!!

This is the Paul Harris Building. This was the address of the Rose Book Store in 1910-1920, with J.H. and Duida Rose as owners. They resided at 410 East Locust Street. In 1925-1940, Harris Supply Company Paints occupied this address. Paul H. Harris and wife Marguerite were the owners who lived at 1427 Summit. Young Cab Company was located in this building in 1946. Israel Lerry Appliance Company (household appliances) was here in 1975. A branch office of the City of Springfield Department of Human Resources was located here in 1980. Shirt Seller clothing was here in 1985. In 1990, the building was occupied by the Deliverance Center Church. In 1993, The Old Shoe Art Gallery & Fine Gifts occupied the building.

299 East Commercial

Home of the Commercial Club of Springfield, this building was built in 1927. It was known as the Community Center Building in 1946-1961, but also housed a branch of the Springfield Public Library in 1946. The Community Center for Building Business and the Professional Women's Club were located here in 1965-1970. It was home to a branch office of the City of Springfield Human Resources Department (City Manpower) and the Missouri State Division of Employment Security in 1975-1985. Rainbow Lures was in basement in 1990.

302 East Commercial, 299-5008

Josh

Staton's Cleaners & Dyers was located here in 1915-1920. Mrs. Ethel L. Staton, widow of Ed M. Staton, was owner. She resided at 1834 N. Grant Avenue. Eva J. Coates lived upstairs at 302-1/2 in 1925. In 1930, Bert and Ora Utt owned a furniture store at this location. They lived at 1945 N. Broadway Avenue. In 1935, Sidney H. and Blanche Williams owned Williams Furniture Store here. They lived at 1536 Benton Avenue. In 1940, William and Lillian Chandler owned a shoe repair shop here. In 1946, this was home to Sleeth Bros. Shoe Repair, owners Walter and Elmer Sleeth. Elmer and wife Winnie were natives of Cassville. Walter and wife Nellie lived at 324 W. Locust. Mrs. Thelma O'Bannon lived upstairs, clerk for Model Market. In 1950, this building was occupied by North Side Salvage. In 1970, this address was home of Shoeland, managed by Bill G. Cobb. In 1965 and 1975, it was the Family Shoe Store, managed by James "Fred" Williams, residing at 2021 Oak Grove Avenue and by Fred and Genelle Williams in 1955-1965 who lived at 725 E. University Street. In 1980, this building was vacant. In 1985, it was home to the Springfield City Human Resources Department. Chester D. Dixon was director. He lived at 299 E. Commercial Street. In 1990-1993, the building was vacant. Smart Design occupied the building in 2008.

Josh Jackman: Owner is John Luce. Leased out by Smart Design, this is a residential design building company. Before being completely gutted by Mr. Luce there used to be apartments in this building. John Luce never returned my call his phone number is 417-865-1672

312 East Commercial, 832-8585

Dan

L.B. Price Mercantile Company was located here in 1915-1920. William C. Chapman (wife Bertha) was manager. They lived at 2251 Pierce. Mike C. Costello lived upstairs from 1884. In 1925, the Herhalzers owned The Ozark Plumber here. At this time, they lived at 1037 W. Kearney Street. Flossie M. Jenkins lived upstairs at 312-1/2. In 1930-1940, this location changed names to Ozark Plumbing Supply with owners Martin S. and Lulu L. Herhalzer of 2150

Kings Avenue. In 1930, Steve A. Jenkins, Frisco lubricator made his home upstairs. In 1935, Robert and Clara Meadows lived upstairs. Robert was a messenger for the Commercial Street Echo (publisher). Carpenter Harry E. Hill and George Zeed lived upstairs in 1940. In 1946, this address was occupied by Farmers Second-Hand Store, owned by Frank and Belle Poston of 1343 N. Robberson Avenue. Charles Hammons lived upstairs. Home to the Iron Horse Tavern in 1950, managers were Fred Morton, Frank J. and Roy J. Adams. Charles A. Hammons and James M. Wallace lived upstairs at 312-1/2. Floyd's Bar was here in 1961. Floyd and Millie Cain were owners and residents at this address. In 1965, Bill & Jack's Bar was located here. Owners were Jack D. Gannon of 1123 W. Division Street and William Hubbard of 1114 West Locust Street. William R. Beisiegel, retired, lived upstairs at 312-1/2. This address was home to The Chaparral Tavern in 1970. The owner was Charles R. Love of 2435 N. Delaware Avenue. Ruth's Bar & Tavern was located here in 1975. Owner Ruth Russell lived at Lakeview Trailer Park, #80. In 1980, this address was known as the Tackle Box Bar, or The Tavern, owned by Donald Atwood who lived at 2710 N. Fulbright. Joe Keithley, retired, lived upstairs at 312-1/2. The building was vacant in 1990-1993. Peabody's Restaurant in 2008.

314 East Commercial Street, vacant

Britton

The building located at 314 Commercial Street dates back to the year 1895 when it was the residence of coach builder Price Abraham. Before this, there is some record of a Miss Lena Meissbach as a milliner and Louis of the same surname operating an early barbershop at the address. Sometime during that era, a funeral home occupied the building. Not much is known of the building before about 1920. It was home to an earlier Princess Theater that moved to 408 E. Commercial. In 1920, a baker, Clarence M. Spicer (wife was Amy L.), moved into the facility. At that point, the second floor was primarily their residence. The first floor was used as their retail business. In 1925, it again changed operations when William E. John opened a shoe repair store here. At that time, Isaac (Frisco brakeman) and Ella Holt, and Ancy B. and Phoebe E. Hensley were living upstairs. For the next ten years it remained in the shoe business until Jacob C. Lotze opened a sewing machine company here in 1935 in the same building. In 1940, this was the address of William E. John Shoe Repair. Mr. John and wife Martha lived upstairs, as they had in 1935. They moved here in 1925 from 1620 Washington Avenue. Then, in 1945, it became Roush's Loan & Second-Hand Store. Bertha Roush lived at 1925 N. Grant Avenue. Upstairs, Carl G. (laborer) and Florence Teed, and Claire (welder) and Alice Millard lived. In 1950 the Continental Auto Supply Store went into operation here. And, once again in 1955, it went back to shoes for 314 Commercial as Odell's Shoe Store. Owners Leonard C. and Venice A. O'Dell lived at 838 S. Kickapoo Avenue. Another name change came in 1960 with

Blackwell's Bookstore with owners Mark and Blanche E. Blackwell of 1458 South Avenue. Earlier, in 1961, they lived at in the same building as the store. Books have been there ever since with name changes in 1970 to Ace Bookstore, owned by Richard and Norene Fronabarger who lived at 1241 E. Stanford Street, and then finally in 1980 to its name in 1993, Addison's Bookstore and Antiques, owner Richard N. Addison who lived at 528 E. Normal Street. In 1980, Mr. Addison lived on Rt. 2, Ozark.

Britton Tucker: this bulding was locked and looked as if it was being re done from the inside. It looked kind of like a construction site inside.

318 East Commercial Street, 863-1557

Liz

In 1884-1885, Bettie Millikan (dressmaker) and G.W. (undertaker) were located at this business address. Bettie listed her residence at 330 Commercial, and G.W. at 336 Commercial Street. In the year of 1890, this street number still didn't appear on Commercial Street. Four years later, the building was occupied by Susan Stevring, a domestic, and George Knelle, a butcher. By 1910 the building switched over to Jewell Barber and Catherine Stough who was a Jewell store owner for fifteen years. They lived at 470 W. Commercial Street in 1920, moving from 17 West Park Street. In 1930, Commercial Printing Company took over the building (owner Mrs. Ima E. Ray of 1717 N. Broadway Avenue). They printed such things as *Ridget Magazine*, *Daily Events*, and *Ray Geo-Lawyers*. Commercial Printing only stayed in the structure for five years before it became Farmer's Meat Market in about 1935, owned by Charles "Frank" and Belle Poston of 1343 N. Robberson Avenue. Maude E. Steiner had been living in the apartment since about 1930. In 1940, the upstairs apartment was vacant. In 1946, 314-318 Commercial was converted to a second-hand store owned by Stanley F. and Bertha R. Roush who resided at 2025 N. Grant Avenue. William J. (Frisco switchman) and Alice Doran lived upstairs at 318-1/2. Roush stayed in business for over 30 years before changing its name in about 1950 to Roush's Loan & Second-Hand Store at this location. The building stood vacant for eight years before it was occupied by Paul Hall of 1451 Brown Avenue, who opened Robin's Nest, an antique store which was still there in 1993. Over a 100-year time period, this one building changed occupants nine times with different businesses. Paul Hall Signs was located at 318 in 2008.

Liz Blasé: In the year of 1890, this building was split between two numbers, the front was 84 and the back was 86. Four years later the building was occupied by Steving Susan, a domestic and Knelle George, a butcher (the guy I talked to said that those name didn't ring a bell however, he knows for a fact that the butcher's name was Mr. Garlick and his first name could have been

George). By 1910 the building switched over to J. Stough who was a Jewell barber for 15 years. In 1930, Commercial Printing Company took over the building. They printed such things as Ridget Magazine, Daily Events, and Ray Geo-Lawyers. Commercial Printing only stayed in the structure for five years before it became a farmer's meat market. In 1946, 314-318 Commercial was converted to a second-hand store owned by Roush (who was a city councilman). Roush stayed in business for over 30 years before changing its name to Roush's Loan Office Inc. The building was then a flea shop for a little while called Robin's Nest, an antique store. Paul Hall eventually bought the site and now runs a sign business out of it called Paul Hall Signs. Mr. Hall told me no for us to put a geo-cache in his store.

320 East Commercial, 235-4478

Kori

Creative Images in 2008.

Kori Johnson: Creative Images and it said " the number I called was disconnected or now longer in service, but I know that it is creative images because I took a picture of the name on their door.

326 East Commercial, vacant, owner Dan Baker, call Mary 864-7015 in 2008.

Beth

Mr. Burman went into partnership with a Mr. Emery and opened Burman & Emery Jewelers & Opticians at 326 Commercial in 1910. The business lasted about five years when Burman took complete ownership in 1915. Thus the business became solely a jewelry shop. Mr. Burman operated the jewelry store for 35 years when Mr. Burman became ill, preventing him from working any longer. In 1950 Everett R. Gammon took over operating the jewelry store, thus changing the name to Gammon Jewelry Company. Although Gammon did not stay in the jewelry business long at this location, it is believed that he gave the business his all. In 1955 it is reported that 326 Commercial became the new home of House of Charm, Beauty and Cosmetic Salon. This salon was under the management of James and Isabelle Croghan until 1961 when it became Queen City Beauty School. Operated until 1987 when dissolution of marriage was granted to Mary H. and Loy N. Brixey. Since then it has been vacant of any business, but is still residence to Loy, former operator of Queen City Beauty School.

Although many of the buildings that occupy Commercial Street have seen many businesses come and go, 326 Commercial cannot boast of such. Maybe this infrequent change of owners can account for the good condition of the building. All windows and doors in front and back of the building are still in tact. Even the front door to the once beauty school and jewelry store still

boasts a built-in mailbox displaying the Brixey name. In the possible restoration of Commercial Street, No. 326 will probably be one of the first to welcome a new business.

Beth Riechers: -vacant building

328 East Commercial, 864-4573

Spencer

Peering through the windows of the building at 328 Commercial, one can see the remains of what once was a pawn shop. Throughout its history it has housed many different businesses. The first documented business was the Perkins Boarding House and Restaurant, operated by Leonard Perkins. In 1890, he served in the Federal Army during the Civil War. He and his wife ran the boarding house and used it as their residence until 1920 when Howard Van Dyke bought it and used it as a confectionery. This business was short-lived. Harry Monday bought the store in 1925 and ran a confectionery and shoe shining parlor here. He found this not to be very profitable. He then used the building for a hotel and his residence for the next fifteen years. After the hotel, Fayette and Eloise Davenport ran a business named "Davenports" for ten years. Then Charles and Mary Cates ran the "Mary Anna Shoppe" which lasted for only five years. Then the building sat vacant for five more years until it was bought by Carl Haden, a member of a prominent family in Springfield. He was a member of a singing group with his family, called The Hadens. He opened Uncle Carl Haden's Jewelry and Loan Company. He also published some music. After his death his nephews, Kenneth and Tom Haden, ran Uncle Carl Haden's Jewelry and Pawn Shop. The building has been vacant since 1990 but the sign outside still reads Uncle Carl Haden's Jewelry and Pawn Shop.

Spencer Hillman: There is no new information that is not on the sheet, according to the person I spoke with. I did make the observation that there is no longer a sign that reads "Uncle Carl Haden's Jewelry and Pawn shop."

330 East Commercial Joey

Eclectic Antiques, 863-6908 in 2008.

Joey Rekowski: owner/operator- Tony

--I spoke with Tony briefly, as he was on his way out the door when I arrived. He told me that at one point the structure was once a boarding hotel. There are lofts above his store for evidence of this. It is also the only remaining framed structure on commercial; the rest being some form of brick/concrete. Eclectic has been in operation since April of 2007.

Tony was unaware of the geocaching unit, but seemed welcome to the idea.

334-336 East Commercial, 864-4573 Cody

Many businesses have had to close because of financial difficulties in the Commercial Street area, but there are stories that still remain. You can speak with many different owners and gain a respect for a time when Commercial Street was the “hub” of Springfield. Not far from Joe and Kathy’s Recreation you will find an old business with a sign above it that just states “Barber Shop”. This shop was once owned by Burton C. Fellows and was officially named Bel Air Barber Shop. As you pass, if you let your imagination go, you can still hear the stories being told by the old men sitting around a checker board. Although this was the last business located this address, there were many before it. From the mid-1930s until the 1980s, 332 East Commercial housed a barber shop although the names of the owners and the name of the shop changed several times. Before it became a barber shop, it was a photography studio in the early ‘30s and, in the early 1920s, it was the home of a restaurant owned by William F. Davis. Between the years of 1895 and 1915, this was the location of a dry cleaning, pressing, and drying shop; J. Ed Black Music Dealership; and the private residence of James A. Perkins, a confectioner. So as you can see there are a number of stories told about the owners of 332 East Commercial Street, about the business and families that once resided at this address. As you walk down Commercial Street, you can still see the remnants of the barber shop that was once there, even the chairs, sinks, and a hat and coat rack. As you look through the windows, just imagine stories that were told, games of checkers that were played and gossip that was spread by men that once visited the building.

Cody Smith: 332 E. Commercial St.

Jackson Hewitt now inhabits a small shop on Commercial Street that has a long history and has had many inhabitants. Between the years of 1895-1915 it was the private residence of James A. Perkins, J. Ed Black music dealership, and a dry-cleaning pressing and drying shop. A restaurant owned by William F. Davis was at this location in the early 1920s. From the 1930s to the 1980s, a number of owners operated a barber shop in the small building. One person who owned it while it was a barber shop was Burton C. Fellows when it was the Bel Air Barber Shop.

334 and 336 East Commercial, **call Mary, 864-7015** Jordan

The Murray Building was built in 1908 by Thomas Murray and now occupies 334 and 336 East Commercial. It is a two-story structure. The original interior had iron columns and brass lights. In 1914, it was made into a clothing company with the upstairs into offices. In 1930 it was bought by Model Market and remained in their possession until it was bought by Koger Market Co. in 1947. From 1950-1953, it was owned by Morgan Furniture Company. From 1953-1968, it was made into a wholesale dry goods store. In 1968 the whole building was run by the baker's union. Today that union still occupies the top floor. Then, from 1980-82, the building became a summer theater set up by college students. After that it was turned into a dance club which lasted until 1986. It was later bought and turned into Purrs & Spurs Square Dance Club. In 1986, it was bought and turned into Joe and Kathy's Recreation Place which still existed in 1993.

338 East???? Jacinta

Was a restaurant, vacant in 2008, was Katie's Kitchen, before Blue Ribbon Bar. Call Mary at 865-7015

400 East Commercial, 864-8144 Jacinta

The brick building at 400 East Commercial Street stands alone, on the corner of Commercial Street and Jefferson Avenue, was built in the mid-1880s and was the original location of People's Bank. This bank was robbed about a half-dozen times until the bank moved in 1915. As you look at this building, pay particular attention to the carved, gingerbread-style trim, especially visible on the Jefferson Avenue side. In 1920-1930, the building was the office of People's Bank. It was home to a real estate office owned by John L. Dorsey, Jason Jones and William Murphy in 1935. Ollis & Company Real Estate was located here in 1940. S&S Package Store Liquor occupied this building in 1946. In 1950, this address was vacant. Bars have occupied this location since at least the mid-1950s. 1955 saw Rogers Lunch & Bar located here. Jim's Bar & Grill was at this address in 1959. Met the Tavern was located here in 1965-1980, owned by Charles F. Watts and Verl J. Maples. In 1993, this was the location of Ruth's Restaurant & Bar, later changed to the name Ruthie's Bar & Grill before 2008.

408-410 East Commercial (Kitchen, Inc.) Justin

Between 408 and 410 East Commercial stands an arched doorway to the building once known as the Ollis Building. Richard Ollis, former owner of the Ollis Building and R.A. Ollis and Company, was a well-known businessman on Commercial Street. He was involved in real estate, insurance, and loans as well as a prominent member of the early St. John's Episcopal Church. After his death in 1944, ownership of the company passed on to his sons. The more historic red brick front of the second floor is graced by arched windows with flat Corinthian-like capitals and decorative brickwork along the roofline. Inside and atop a tall staircase, the wood floor, doorways, and windows are still present. To the left remain eight small peculiar doorways about five-and-a-half feet tall with one half-doorway in the middle. In 1920, customers enjoyed Shepard and Shupe Soft Drinks at this address. This building was home to Smith and Russel in 1925. Earl L. Smith Billiards was located here in 1930. In 1935, Morris and Jeffries Liquors was at this address. Ernest Liar Liquor was located here in 1940. Darden's Tavern was at this address in 1946. In 1950, Fred and Van Northside Record Store occupied the building. The building was often vacant in 1959-1959. In 1965, Springfield Washer Parts occupied the building. Goetze Niemer Company (hospital and physician supplies and equipment) occupied the building in 1970-1975. This business was owned by Marion A. Carroll. About 1980-1990, 410 and 410-1/2 were vacant. However, for a period surrounding 1985, the City Health Department used 412 for storage. At that time, the building was owned by Ronald A. Ollis. In 1994, renovation was made by the new owners, The Kitchen Inc., who converted the interior into assisted home living facilities, transitional housing as a part of their "Continuum of Care" program.

Justin Wieberg: This building was built early this century. The lower level had been used for a variety of purposes while the upper level had never been renovated.

The Kitchen acquired the building in 1988. Since that time until 1993, the building was used for The Kitchen Clinic, a GED classroom, and offices for the Burrell and Lakes Country social workers.

Funds for the renovation of this building according to historic guidelines were provided by HOME Investment Partnership and the Community Development Block Grant through the City of Springfield, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines along with Guaranty Federal Savings & Loan Association of Springfield, and generous contributions from Springfield citizens.

The building now has eight apartments to be used as transitional housing. The upper level apartments are exceptionally beautiful due to the restoration of all the original wood floors and trim.

These apartments like the K.I.N.D. Place are dedicated to families who need an opportunity to rebuild their lives and regain hope.

412-414-420 are all part of the Missouri Hotel Complex (The Kitchen Inc.)

412-414-420 East Commercial

Jordan

In the center of the 400 block at 412 and 414 stands a building that was built around 1900 which originally housed a meat market and jewelry store. Later, it became a pool hall and tavern where some of the most notorious characters in Springfield liked to hang out. By 1930, it had become a hotel serving a clientele of railroad men, teamsters, and road-weary travelers. Note the ornate trim and the sculptured appearance of the top of the building. Inside and beyond the modernized front you can still see the old wood floor and tall ceiling that are characteristic of the once thriving buildings. Along the west wall remain stately wood window frames that are evidence of a time gone by. J. Kearney Pool was located here in 1920. In 1925, 412 was occupied by Thompson & Woods. 413 was home to Church Products Company, owned by E. A. Brashears. The Greene Tavern Hotel was located here in 1930-1935 which preceded the Milner Hotel and Frisco Tap Room, occupants of 412 in 1940-1946. The Marshall Auto Store was also in 412 in 1950. In 1950-1965, 412 was address to the Missouri Hotel and L.B. Price Mercantile Company. Campbell Display Service occupied 413 in 1965-1970. Independent Printing & Litho Company was located at 413 in 1935-1980, owned by Wally Hemingway, named Independent Box & Print Company in 1930. In 1950-1993, the Missouri Hotel occupied 412 (mostly) and 414 (owned by Jack Walker) while Christian Family Fellowship was listed at 413 in 1993. In 1990, for a period of time, the General Education School for Adults was located also located in 412.

420 East Commercial, 837-1540

Beth

In 1983, the Kitchen, Inc. leased the hotel and opened a shelter for the homeless. In 1993, this building was still occupied by The Kitchen, part of the Missouri Hotel complex through 2008.

Some time ago, there was a bowling alley in basement.

Beth Riechers: Property which it is located on was purchased by the founder of Springfield, John Polk Campbell, in 1838 for \$1.25 an acre. In 1881 a hotel was built. The property was sold 3 different times, continuing to be a hotel just under different names and owners. It was eventually torn down to make a new hotel, called the Greene Tavern. The Greene Tavern was actually considered to be the finest hotel west of the Mississippi. It was then sold and became the Milner Hotel. Ten years later it was sold and became what it is called today, the Missouri Hotel.

445 East Commercial, 865-4443

Liz

In 1905-1925, this location was home to William A. Reed & Sons Drugs. In 1930, the business was under the name of Reeds Drug Store. Chittim Tent & awning Company was located here in 1935-1940. In 1946, this was home to Russell Nash Auto Supply. Allen Company was at this address in 1950. In 1955-1959, the business here was called Wade Allen Supply Company, a soda fountain supply company. Allen Rents (furniture rental) was located here in 1965. From 1970-1985, this building was home to Allan Rents & Sales, Inc. (medical and hospital supplies and equipment). The owner was Bradley G. Thomas. Springfield Mattress Company (show room) in 1990-2008.

Liz Blasé: The building was a drug store at one time, but for the past 50 years it has been a mattress store. People used to live upstairs. The man who owns the mattress store is John Reynolds who is the 3rd generation.

The guy I talked to really didn't know a whole lot and he said that since John was the 3rd generation, he doesn't come around much and wouldn't know a whole lot either. He also wasn't sure if they could do geo-caching there since he wasn't the owner.

450 East Commercial, 837-1530

Britton

In 1990, the business here was called East Commercial Pawn. In 1993, this building was vacant. Maggie's Boutique in 2008.

Britton Tucker: It was interesting from the beginning because when I arrived at the address, I found two movers having trouble moving this huge table. They asked if I would help them which I did. I talked to a woman named Kathy. She said that Maggie's Boutique is owned by the "Kitchen." The kitchen is a Christian organization that helps people. For sale inside Maggie's Boutique are clothes and home appliances, and also clothes which sometimes they give distribute to people who can not afford to buy. Sometimes customers have to obtain Social Services vouchers to pay for them.

500 East Commercial, 831-0605

Matt **Is there a 500-1/2?**

Lorraine's in 2008. Was Loftis Pawn in 1990, owned then by E. Doin and Dianne Loftis who resided at that address. In 1990, they resided at 212 E. Norton Street. Army Surplus Store #1 in 1960-1980, owned by Roger H. and Genevieve Taylor who resided at 1625 E. Catalpa. Previously, in 1955, this address was occupied by Dameron electric, owned by James E. and Tincie Dameron who lived on North National Avenue. In 1950, this was the location of Central States Grocery, managed by Ulysses A. Gordon, wife Evelyn who resided at 1617 E. Florida. 1935-1941 was Safeway Store No. 420, managed in 1935 by C.A. Hitchcock who lived at 1421 S. Kimbrough, and by Joseph W. O'Larey (wife Marguerite) in 1930 who lived at 929 E. Elm, Apt. 102. In 1920-1925, this building was occupied by John R. Barrett Drug, owned in 1920 by Mrs. John Barrett who resided at 1125 Benton, and in 1925 by L. Earl and Delpha Morton.

Matt B.: It's an antique shop that sells furniture and antique dishes. It was once a pawn shop owned by Joe East.

508 (506-510) East Commercial, 831-8605/862-6775

Justin

Or Betty Jane Turner residence, ask me for phone number, Tim Turner at store

Home to Rathbone Ace Hardware Company, this business was founded by Thomas H. Rathbone in the late 1800s. The Rathbone Hardware Company was under the Rathbone family's ownership for three generations. Thomas who was the founder, James H. his son (wife Ida) who resided at 1439 Washington in 1946, and Claude H. (his grandson) and wife Elizabeth, all owned and operated the business. Claude and Elizabeth lived at 1430 Washington Avenue (about 1935-1975). In 1920-1925, James H. and Ida, as well as Claude H. lived at 1439 Washington. In 1980, William and Elizabeth Turner took over the business from Claude Rathbone. In 1990, Tim and Elizabeth (Beth) Turner took over managing the hardware store. They resided at 3627 Sugar Hill Street in 1993, 1617 E. Elm in 1980-1985. Over the years the Rathbone name has stayed with the store. The hardware store has reduced in size from the time it was originally founded, but it still remains in business after over 100 years in operation. Still in existence in 2008.

Justin Wieberg: The doors opened in 1897 by Thomas H. Rathbone. He and his son James had a falling-out and provoked James to open his own hardware store down the street.

Tim and Elizabeth Turner, current owners of the hardware store, bought out a bakery on the West end of the building in order to expand.

514 East Commercial, 862-9900

Amanda

Askinosie Chocolate in 2008. In 1921-1925, this building was occupied by Feed & Fuel, owned by G.W. and Ida Nichols who lived at 1437 Washington. In 1930, this location was M&M Flour and Feed Company. In 1935, Poultry & Egg Cooperative Company was located here, owned by Wm. C. and Clara D. Kreft who resided at 806 Hamilton. In 1941, this building was vacant. In 1946, this location was O'Neal Tire Shop, proprietor Roy F. O'Neal (wife Irene) who resided at 1439 Washington. In 1950, this address was North Side Motor Sales, owned by J. Lampe and Mildred Fayette who resided at 1214 E. Meadowmere, In about 1955-1960, the building was inhabited by Mono Manufacturing, proprietors Denton H. and Katheryn (Kathy) Smith who lived at 1303 E. Walnut. In 1955, they lived at 2001 N. Grant. In 1965-1970, the building was occupied by Springfield Felting Company, owned by Leslie and Kathryn Hughs who lived on Road 6. An earlier (1965) partnership existed between the Hughs and Kenneth and Mary V. Johnson. In 1975, was Lloyd's Equipment, owned by Ellis and Betty Lindsay who resided at 1601 N. Hayes Avenue. Was a private garage in 1985-1990.

Amanda Pearce: Today the building is home to a chocolate shop. The building is over 100 years old and has housed a variety of shops. The manager was unaware of what kind of shops, just explained that there has been a variety.

521 East Commercial, 862-1796

Zach

Stewart Automotive Service Supply in 2008, owned by Russell and Wilma Stewart who in 1990 lived at 2150 South Ingram Mill. They lived at 1101 E. Plainview in 1975-1990. In 1935-1970, the business here was called Carner's Garage, owned by John W. and Willie Carner who resided at 1629 Washington from 1950-1960, 1537 Washington in 1946, 1520 N. Jefferson in 1930-1935. Between 1935-1960, Richard C. and Esther Carner were their partners who lived at 758 N. Grant in 1950, 1228 Washington in 1946, 1809 N. Douglas in 1941, 1320 Texas Avenue in 1935. In 1930, the business was owned only by John W. and Willie Carner. In 1925, this building was owned by Fay J. Mayabb who lived at 423 Webster. In 1920, the business at this address was listed as U-Auto-Stop Garage, owned by C.A. and Elizabeth Bissman who lived at 2125 Johnson. The first Frisco passenger depot was behind Stewart's Auto.

Zach Ebers: - The building was built in 1935 and was an automotive shop ran by three brothers with the last name of Carner. The automotive shop originally had the gas pumps in working conditions. The building was built with steel beams from the great depression era. In 1971 the building was bought by Norm Stewart (Norm is the man who I talked to). Norm still owns the automotive shop which is still flourishing in business to this day.

628 East Commercial, 869-6550

Staci

Midwest Hearing & Service, Inc. & History of Hearing Museum (take photos inside museum) in 2008.

Staci Savas: Midwest Hearing and Service Inc. is attached to the History of Hearing Museum...

Dr. Illum I could not find anything else out about this place. I tried calling a few times and reached a lady who couldn't tell me anything and said I should speak with the doctor, but the times I called he was busy with a patient so I found out no information. I tried looking online as well and the search came up with nothing but a telephone number and address. I'm sorry!