

Research by Linda Beyer - April 84
Hv. Planning Commission

HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE STORE
124-126 South Side Square

Deed History: #3 Commercial Row (124 South Side Square)

Lot 6, Block 44; herein referred to as #3 Commercial Row.

1815 Deed of 25 November 1815, recorded in v.F, p.441
From: Commissioners
To: Stephen Neal
For: \$1,500 B44: 150' x 150'

1816 Deed of 5 January 1816, recorded in v.B, p.30
From: Stephen Neal
To: David Munroe
For: \$1,500 #2: 19' x 72' x 37' x 46' x 18' x 26'
Bounded on the northeast by the house occupied by George Morgan, formerly by Luther Morgan as a store, and on the southwest by the part of the lot on which Luther Morgan's brick house stands. Fronting 19' on the square and extending south 72' to Baker's lot, with Baker's line 37' to Franklin, with Franklin 46' north to George Morgan's store house, west with Morgan's store house 18', north between the store houses occupied by Munroe and by George Morgan to the public square.

See Map# 1

1816 Deed of 20 January 1816, recorded in v.B, p.5
From: Stephen Neal
To: Allen Baker
For: \$1,000 Baker lot: 28'10" x 73'8"
Bounded on the north by the lot of David Munroe. Begin at the southeast corner of Munroe's lot on Franklin St. being 72' south of the northeast corner of B44, west from Franklin 73'8", south 28'10", east to Franklin, and north with Franklin to start.

1816 Deed of 2 September 1816, recorded in v.B, p.204
From: Allen Baker
To: Luther Morgan and Samuel Smith
For: \$750 Baker lot: 28'10" x 73'8"

1816 Deed of 21 September 1816, recorded in v.B, p.206
From: Stephen Neal
To: Luther Morgan and Samuel Smith
For: \$1,000 #3 & #4: 36'6" x 72'
Begin at the northwest corner of the house owned and occupied by David Munroe on public square, thence west along the square 36'6", thence south at right angles 72' to the lot formerly owned by Allen Baker, thence east 36'6", thence north 72' to point of beginning on Commercial Row. Samuel Smith apparently died in 1818 although his probate records are missing.

- 1825 Deed of trust of 17 January 1825, recorded in v.I&J, p.297
 From: Luther, Samuel, Calvin, & Alexander Morgan
 To: Benjamin Patteson, William Patton, & George Rogers.
 For: Indefinite amount Various tracts
 Luther, Samuel, Calvin and Alexander Morgan were partners in trade and merchandise doing business as the firm of L. Morgan & Sons. They were also incredibly in debt and mortgaged many of their lands including two parcels of B44 including the Allen Baker lot on which Morgan had built a Commission House and #3 and #4 on which Morgan had built a combination dwelling and store house "the same on which the said Luther Morgan now resides..."
- 1829 Deed of 15 May 1829, recorded in v.M, p.314
 From: Benjamin Patteson, William Patton, George I. Rogers
 To: Benjamin S. Pope
 For: \$1,400 Baker lot: 28'10" x 73'8"
 Being the same on which the commission house of L. Morgan & Sons stands.
- 1829 Deed of 22 May 1829, recorded in v.M, p.317
 From: William Patton, Benjamin Patteson & George Rogers
 To: Clement C. Clay and William McDowell
 For: \$3,530 #3 & #4: 36'6" x 72'
 The Morgans defaulted on their deed of trust. This property was sold at public auction on 21 March 1828.
- 1829 Deed of 22 May 1829, recorded in v.M, p.319
 From: Clement C. Clay and William McDowell
 To: Charles Wilkes, president of the Bank of New York
 For: \$3,530 #3 & #4: 36'6" x 72'
- 1833 Deed of 15 June 1833, recorded in v.P, p.67
 From: Charles and Janet Wilkes of New York
 To: Henry Rogers, Jr.
 For: Unavailable #3 & #4: 36'6" x 72'
- 1834 Deed of 10 April 1834, recorded in v.P, p.68
 From: Henry Rogers, Jr.
 To: George I. Rogers
 For: Unavailable #3 & #4: 36'6" x 72'
- 1834 Deed of 12 April 1834, recorded in v.P, p.327
 From: George I. Rogers
 To: Edmund Irby and George A. Smith
 For: \$4,400 #3 & #4: 36'6" x 72'
- 1835 Deed of 2 October 1835, recorded in v.P, p.496
 From: Benjamin S. Pope
 To: Franklin H. Morgan and John I. Fackler
 For: \$2,000 Baker lot: 28'10" x 73'8"
 B. Pope reserves for himself the rent from the property now occupied by Preston Yeatman until January 1836.

1836 Deed of 31 August 1836, recorded in v.S, p.589
 From: George A. Smith of Irby & Smith
 To: James H. Mastin
 For: \$2,750 #3: 18' x 72'

Smith sold his half interest in the drug store house and lot owned and now occupied by Irby & Smith on the public square between the store houses of Morgan & Fackler (#2) and F. T. Mastin (#4).
 -The deed conveying #4 from Irby & Smith to F. T. Mastin (v.T, p.18; 13 August 1836) reads in part: begin at the center of the wall at the northwest corner of the house recently built and now occupied by Irby & Smith on the public square....

1841 Decree of 22 June 1841, Chancery Court Record v.K, p.558
 Irby & Smith v. Morgan & Fackler. Irby & Smith stated that

Luther Morgan had owned two parts of B44: (A) Baker lot and (B) #3 & #4. About 1816 or 1817, Morgan erected on (B) a large brick building, the upper rooms of which were used by him as a dwelling house whilst the lower ones were used as a store house. Sometime after this, upon (A) he erected a brick building used as a commission house. In the meantime, in the rear of both buildings, he had built a family room, another family room, a meat house, and a temple. The greater part of those back buildings were upon the back part of (A), though attached to and used as parts of (B) and were always so used from the time of their erection to the time when torn down by Irby & Smith.

Clay and McDowell paid for and believed they were getting the back ground with the buildings, and Pope paid for and believed he was buying only the commission house and lot and not the rear ground. Patton, Patteson and Rogers sold both pieces by metes and bounds and not according to the new arrangement as established and used by Morgan, thus depriving Clay and McDowell of a part of the ground purchased by them and giving it to Pope who did not buy it. Not until recently was this mistake discovered, but was continued in each subsequent conveyance of each parcel of property. Part (B) was sold to Irby & Smith by George Rogers who offered (B) for sale as including the whole of said back ground in the rear of both buildings.

In the spring of 1835, Irby & Smith pulled down the whole of the old buildings on said lot and commenced erection of new ones in their stead, parts of which covered a part of said back ground. These they completed some time the next fall or winter. In 1835 Morgan & Fackler bought part (A) and Fackler admitted he intended to buy the commission house only. Having to their store house (#2) no outlet by the back way, the commission house lot was bought to give them one. The mistakes in the deeds were discovered after Pope's deed to Morgan & Fackler, and then, for the first time, did Morgan & Fackler claim

See Map #2

Apparent corner, into
 of 1824 building front
 150' wide - bottom part
 expansion from lot
 (48)

said back ground, and they now claim it and withhold legal title from Irby & Smith. Irby & Smith were requesting deed to the back ground.

Testimony of Samuel Cruse: The commission house was built in 1821 or 1822. "That when the commission house was building, Mrs. L. Morgan forbid them from having a window in the back part of said house, as it would expose her yard to view, and that the window was not cut until Pope got possession of said commission house which was in the year 1828."

FINAL DECREE: That whatever legal title Morgan & Fackler hold in the west 36'6" of the Baker lot (A) is hereby divested out of said Morgan & Fackler and vested in fee simple in Irby & Smith.

- 1844 Deed of 1 June 1844, recorded in v.U, p.433
 From: Edmund Irby and James H. Mastin
 To: Samuel Cruse
 For: \$5,000 #3: 18' x 100'
 Being the house and lot now occupied by Spottswood & Nunnally, situated on the public square between the store houses now occupied by Fackler & Miller and Mastin & Bros.
- 1845 Deed of 7 July 1845, recorded in v.V, p.349
 From: Samuel Cruse
 To: Robert Fearn
 For: \$2,500 1/2 interest in #3: 18' x 100'
- 1852 Deed of 6 August 1852, recorded in v.Z, p.558
 From: Samuel Cruse and Robert Fearn
 To: John Patton
 For: \$4,000 #3: 18' x 100'
 House and lot now occupied by Echols & Co. between the store house formerly occupied by Fackler & Miller and the house occupied by Mastin Bros.
- 1854 Deed of 24 August 1854, recorded in v.Z, p.561
 From: John Patton
 To: Mary P. Rice
 For: \$5,000 #3: 18' x 100'
 House and lot now occupied by James L. Cooper & Co.
- 1857 Deed of 8 April 1857, recorded in v.BB, p.134
 From: Mary P. Rice
 To: John M. Fariss and Oliver B. Gaston
 For: \$5,000 #3: 18' x 100'
- 1857 Deed of trust of 8 April 1857, recorded in v.BB, p.132
 From: John M. Fariss and Oliver B. Gaston
 To: George P. Beirne
 For: \$5,000 #3: 18' x 100'
 House and lot now occupied by James L. Cooper, druggist, and between the store houses now occupied by Joshua Beadle (#2) and Mastin & Bros. (#4). Fariss & Gaston would take possession of the store house on 1 January 1858.

- 1866 Deed of 12 February 1866, recorded in v.EE, p.334
 From: George P. Beirne, trustee
 To: John L. Fariss
 For: \$7,900 #3: 18' x 100'
 Fariss & Gaston defaulted on their deed of trust and the property was sold at public auction on 12 February 1866.
- 1884 Will probated January 1884, recorded in v.2, p.175
 John L. Fariss died January 1884: "...to my wife Catherine C. I give the plantation on which we reside, adjoining the Bell Factory...also the store house No. 3 Commercial Row, now occupied by R. R. Moore."
- 1890 Deed of 30 June 1890, recorded in v.TTT, p.241
 From: Catherine C. Fariss
 To: William P. Newman, James R. Boyd, Samuel Cruse
 For: \$2,500 #3: 18' x 100'
- 1890 Deed of 22 July 1890, recorded in v.TTT, p.243
 From: William P. Newman, James R. Boyd, Samuel Cruse
 To: Edward B. Miller
 For: \$3,200 #3: 18' x 100'
- 1890 Mortgage of 22 July 1890, recorded in v.36, p.264
 From: Edward B. and May Miller
 To: William P. Newman, James R. Boyd, Samuel Cruse
 For: \$3,200 #3: 18' x 100'
- 1897 Deed of 20 December 1897, recorded in v.81, p.505
 From: William P. Newman, James R. Boyd, Samuel Cruse
 To: Harrison Brothers
 For: \$2,000 #3: 18' x 100'
 Edward Miller defaulted on his mortgage, and the property was sold at public auction to Harrison Brothers, a firm composed of Daniel T. Harrison and Robert S. Harrison.

HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE STORE
124-126 South Side Square

Deed History: #2 Commercial Row (126 South Side Square)

Lot 7, Block 44; herein referred to as #2 Commercial Row.

1815 Deed of 25 November 1815, recorded in v.F, p.441
From: Commissioners
To: Stephen Neal
For: \$1,500 B44: 150' x 150'

1816 Deed of 5 January 1816, recorded in v.B, p.30
From: Stephen Neal
To: David Munroe
For: \$1,500 #2: 19' x 72' x 37' x 46' x 18' x 26'
Bounded on the northeast by the house occupied by George Morgan, formerly by Luther Morgan as a store, and on the southwest by the part of the lot on which Luther Morgan's brick house stands. Fronting 19' on the square and extending south 72' to Baker's lot, east with Baker's line 37' to Franklin, north with Franklin 46' to George Morgan's store house, west with Morgan's store house 18', north between the store houses occupied by Munroe and by George Morgan to the public square.

See Map #1

1816 Deed of 20 January 1816, recorded in v.B, p.5
From: Stephen Neal
To: Allen Baker
For: \$1,000 Baker Lot: 28'10" x 73'8"
Bounded on the north by the lot of David Munroe. Begin at the southeast corner of Munroe's lot on Franklin St. being 72' south of the northeast corner of B44, west from Franklin 73'8", south 28'10", east to Franklin, and north with Franklin to start.

1816 Deed of 2 September 1816, recorded in v.B, p.204
From: Allen Baker
To: Luther Morgan and Samuel Smith
For: \$750 Baker lot: 28'10" x 73'8"

1819 Deed of 22 March 1819, recorded in v.E, p.450
From: David Munroe
To: H. C. Bradford
For: \$3,000 #2: 18'9" x 72' x 37'6" x 48' x 18'9" x 24'

1819 Deed of 12 July 1819, recorded in v.E, p.403
From: Henry C. Bradford
To: Calvin and Gideon Morgan
For: \$3,000 #2: 19'9" x 38'
Fronting the public square 19'9" and extending south 38'.

- 1820 Deed of trust of 8 August 1820, recorded in v.F, p.437
 From: Henry C. Bradford
 To: Daniel Bradford and Beverly Hughes
 For: Unavailable part of B44
 Several tracts including part of B44 on which the store house stands occupied by A. D. Veitch.
- 1822 Deed of 20 March 1822, recorded in v.H, p.653
 From: Gideon Morgan, Jr.
 To: Calvin Morgan
 For: \$2,000 1/2 interest in #2: 19'9" x 38'
- 1822 Deed of 9 September 1822, recorded in v.H, p.325
 From: Daniel M. Bradford and Beverly Hughes
 To: Andrew D. Veitch
 For: \$381 part of B44
 On which the store house of Andrew Veitch stands.
- 1825 Deed of trust of 17 January 1825, recorded in v.I&J, p.297
 From: Luther Morgan, et al
 To: Benjamin Patteson, William Patton & George Rodgers
 For: Indefinite amount Various tracts including the Baker lot.
- 1829 Deed of 15 May 1829, recorded in v.M, p.314
 From: Benjamin Patteson, William Patton & George Rodgers
 To: Benjamin Pope
 For: \$1,400 Baker lot: 28'10" x 73'8"
 Being the same on which the commission house of L. Morgan & Sons stands.
- 1829 Deed of 24 December 1829, recorded in v.M, 676
 From: William Veitch, adm of Andrew Veitch, deceased
 To: Calvin Morgan
 For: Unavailable part of #2: 19'9" x 34'
 Lying in the rear of Calvin Morgan's store house being 34' in depth and 19'9" wide. Sold at public auction.
- 1835 Deed of 2 October 1835, recorded in v.P, p.496
 From: Benjamin S. Pope
 To: Franklin H. Morgan and John I. Fackler
 For: \$2,000 Baker lot: 28'10" x 73'8"
- 1836 Deed of 20 May 1836, recorded in v.Q, p.46
 From: Calvin and Sarah Morgan
 To: Franklin H. Morgan, their son
 For: Love & affection #2: 19'9" x 72'
 Fronting 19'9" on the public square and extending south 72'. The front of which lot is now occupied by a store house built under the superintendance of John I. Fackler.

See Map #2

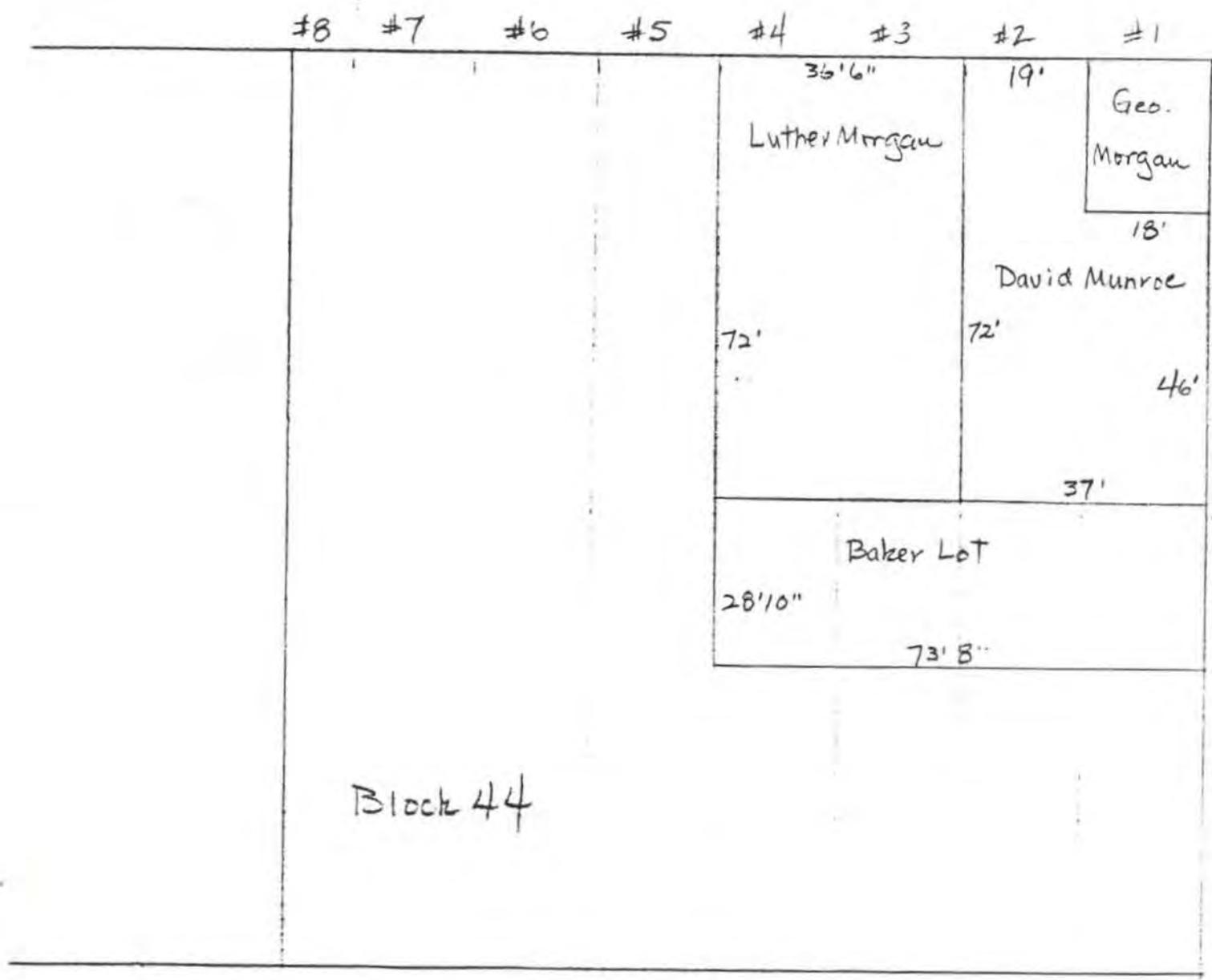
- 1841 Decree of 22 June 1841, Chancery Court Record v.K, p.558
Irby & Smith v. Morgan & Fackler. For details of this case
see the deed history for #3 Commercial Row.
FINAL DECREE: That whatever legal title Morgan & Fackler
hold in the west 36'6" of the Baker lot is hereby divested
out of said Morgan & Fackler and vested in fee simple in
Irby & Smith.
- 1843 Deed of 15 June 1843, recorded in v.T, p.612
From: John I. Fackler
To: Franklin H. Morgan
For: \$1,000 his interest in the east 37'2" of
the Baker lot.
- 1866 Deed of 17 April 1866, recorded in v.EE, p.468
From: John Fackler, adm. of estate of Franklin H. Morgan
To: Oliver D. Sledge and James L. Watkins
For: \$8,010 #2: 19'9" x 72'
Occupied by a 3-story brick building.
- 1868 Deed of 24 November 1868, recorded in v.JJ, p.185
From: Oliver D. Sledge and James L. Watkins
To: George P. Beirne
For: \$8,000 #2: 19'9" x 72'
Occupied by a 2-story brick building.
- 1868 Deed of 21 December 1868, recorded in v.JJ, p.253
From: George P. and Eliza Beirne
To: Luke Matthews
For: \$6,000 #2: 19'9" x 72'
Occupied by a brick store house.
- 1881 Deed of 28 February 1881, recorded in v.FFF, p.228
From: Elliot R. Matthews and James L. Watkins, executors
of the estate of Luke Matthews, deceased
To: Frank H. Newman
For: \$2,025 #2: 19'9" x 72'
- 1902 Deed of 30 April 1902, recorded in v.90, p.169
From: Frank H. Newman
To: Harrison Brothers
For: \$1,500 #2: 19'9" x 72'
The storehouse known as #2 Commercial Row and the
lot of land.
- 1914 Deed of 18 May 1914, recorded in v.109, p.65
From: Charles E. Johnson
To: Daniel T. and Robert S. Harrison
For: \$3,000 part of B44 (L9)
Begin at the southeast corner of B44, thence north-
west along the west margin of Franklin St. 37' to the
corner of a building, southwest at right angles to
Franklin St. 92'6", southeast and parallel to
Franklin St. 17', southwest 18' to the lot once
owned by S.S. Darwin on which is erected a store
house now occupied by T.T. Terry, southeast along

See Map #4

Terry's line 20'8" to an alley, northeast along the north side of the alley 111' to point of beginning. (The southwest portion of this lot, 18' x 20'8", was later sold to M. Johnston.) Also: an alley 8' x 92', immediately north of the above described lot, running west from Franklin St.

Map # 1.

Commercial Row



1816

Franklin Street

Block 44

Alley

Map #2

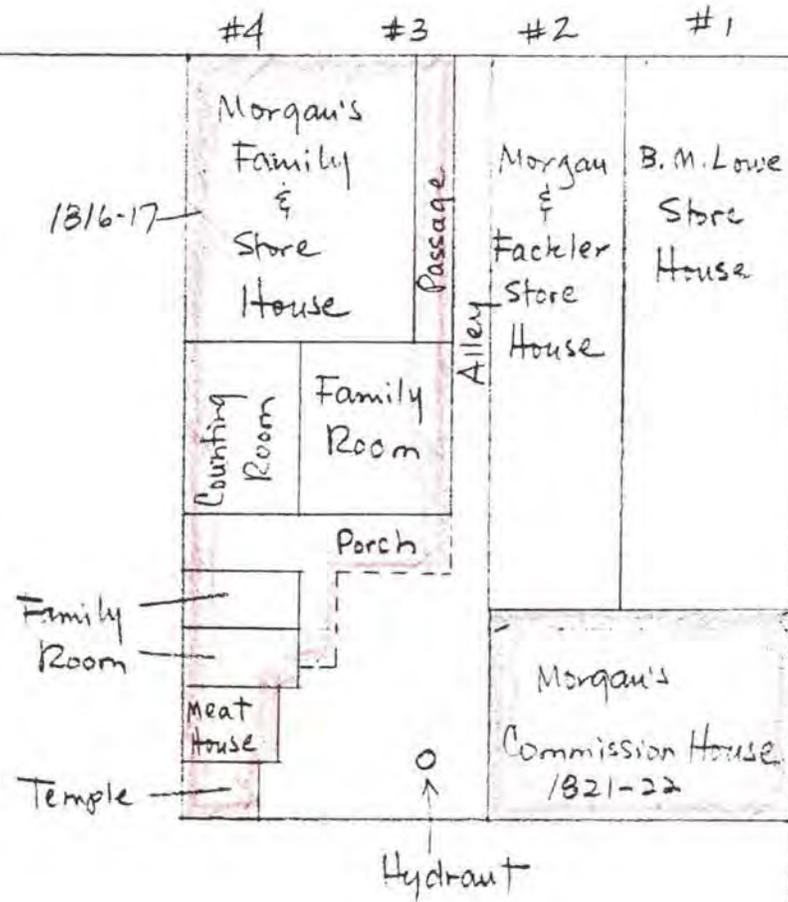
Commercial Row - 1820s



Chancery Record v. K. p. 561

Structures Erected By
Luther Morgan

Those Buildings on
Lots #3 & 4 were
Demolished in 1835



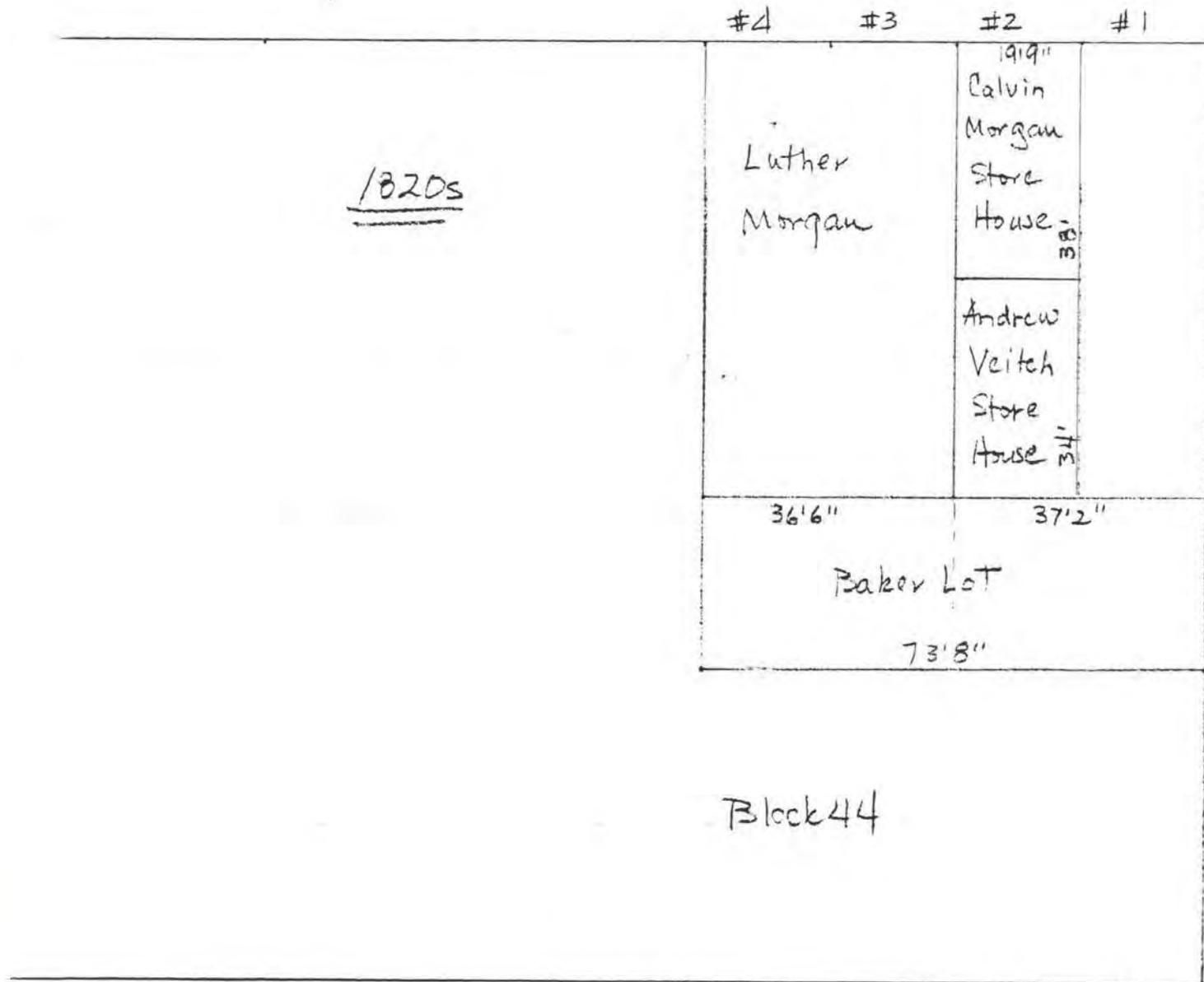
Franklin Street

Block 44

Alley

Map #3

Commercial Row



1820s

#4 #3 #2 #1

Luther
Morgan

1919"
Calvin
Morgan
Store
House
38"

Andrew
Veitch
Store
House
34"

36'6"

37'2"

Baker Lot

73'8"

Block 44

Alley

Franklin Street

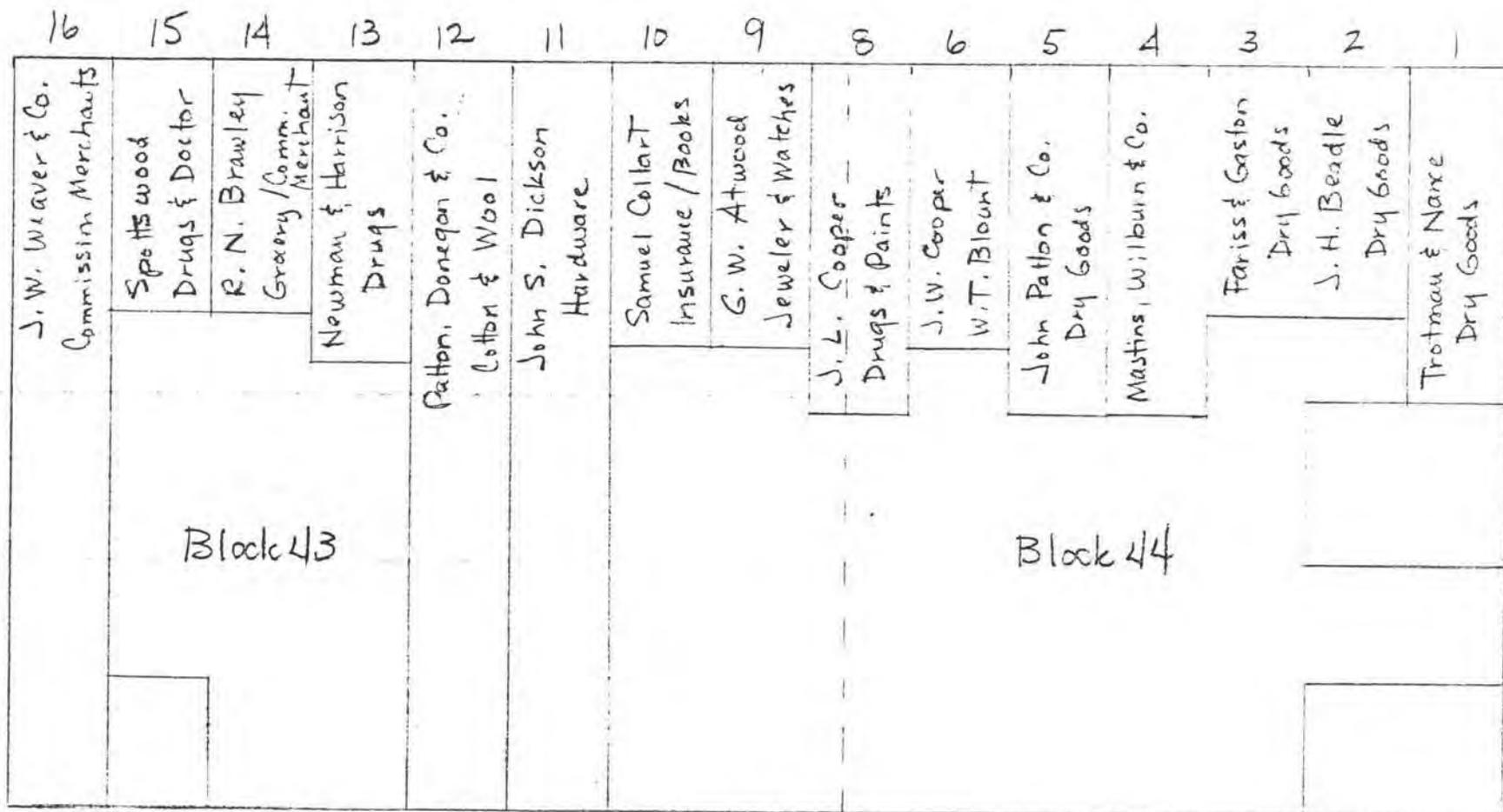
Map # 5

1859

Commercial Row

Madison Street

Franklin Street

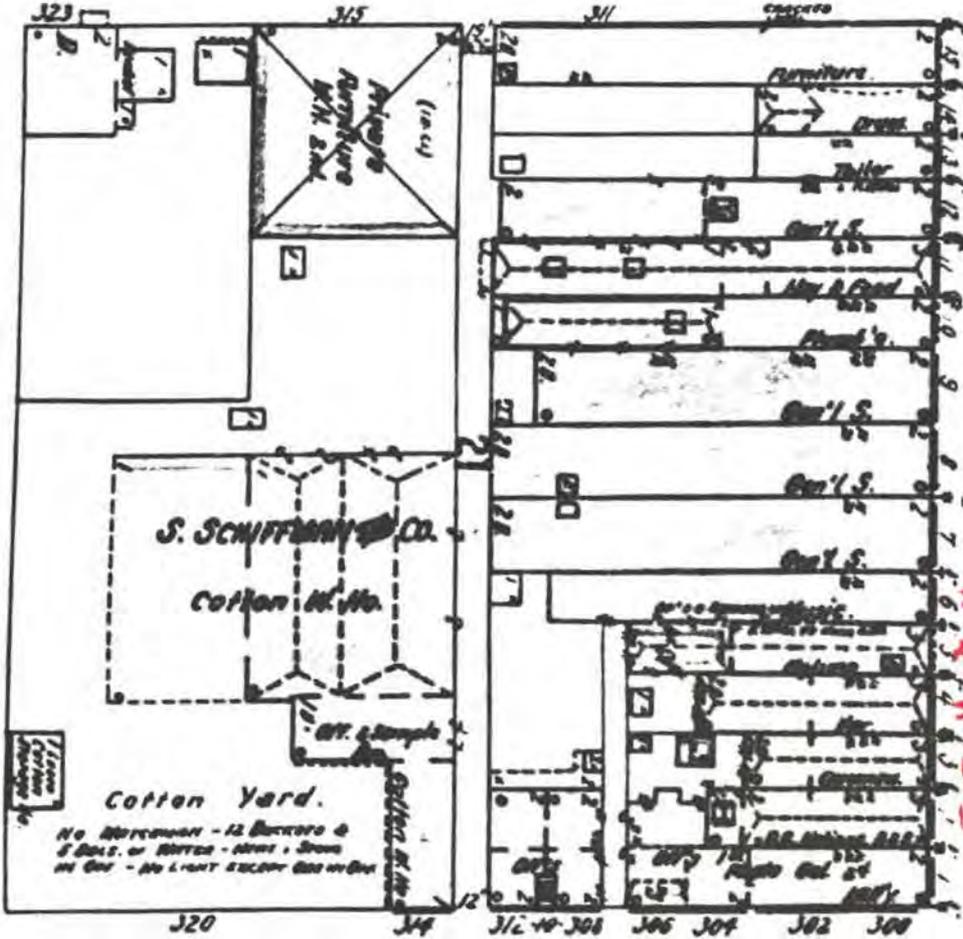


Businesses on Commercial Row - 1859
(Building Sizes Conjectural)

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W. GATES

June 1901



MADISON

BANK

COMMERCIAL ROW

MADISON CO. COURT HOUSE.

FRANKLIN

CHEAP SIDE

EUSTIS

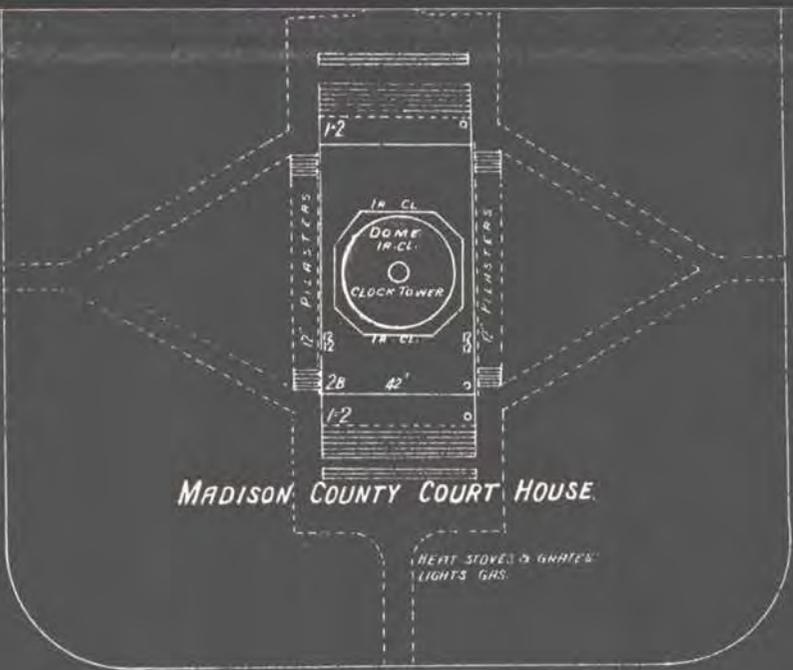
11

DANN

MADISON

W. PIPE

14



MADISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

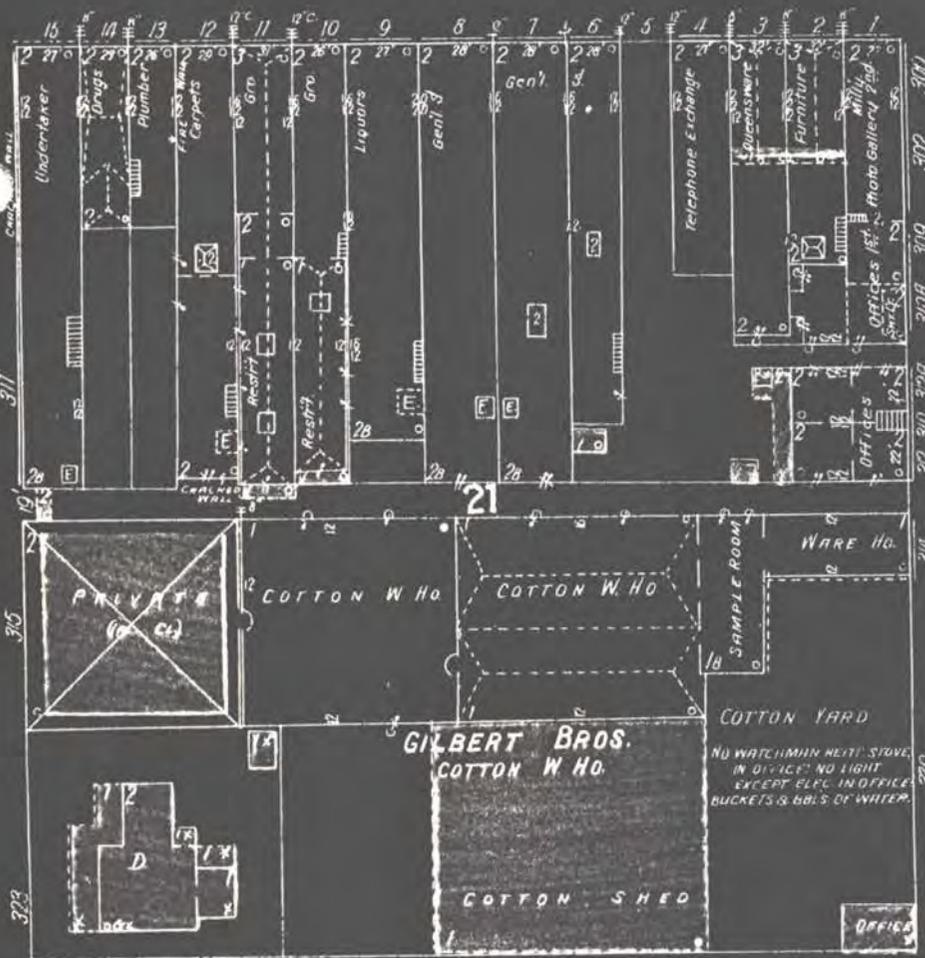
HEAT STOVES & GRATES LIGHTS GAS.

CHEAP SIDE ROW

12

COMMERCIAL ROW

E. EUSTIS ST.



FRANKLIN

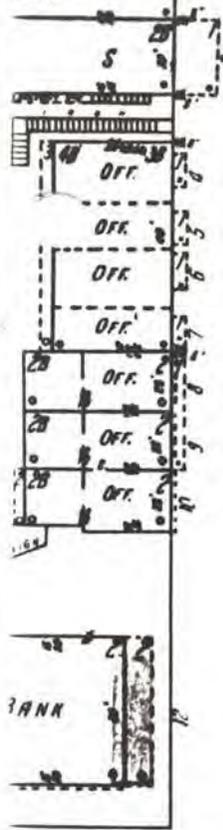
W. GATES

E. GATES ST.



1908
Sanborn

89



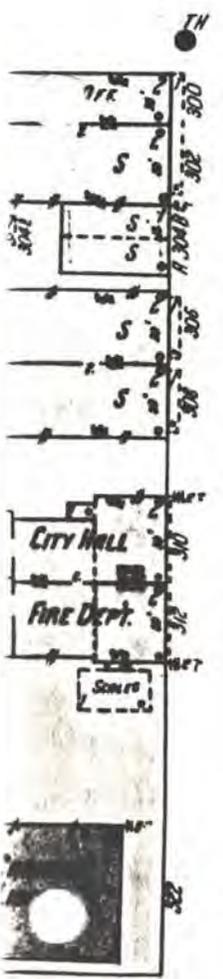
W. SIDE SQ.



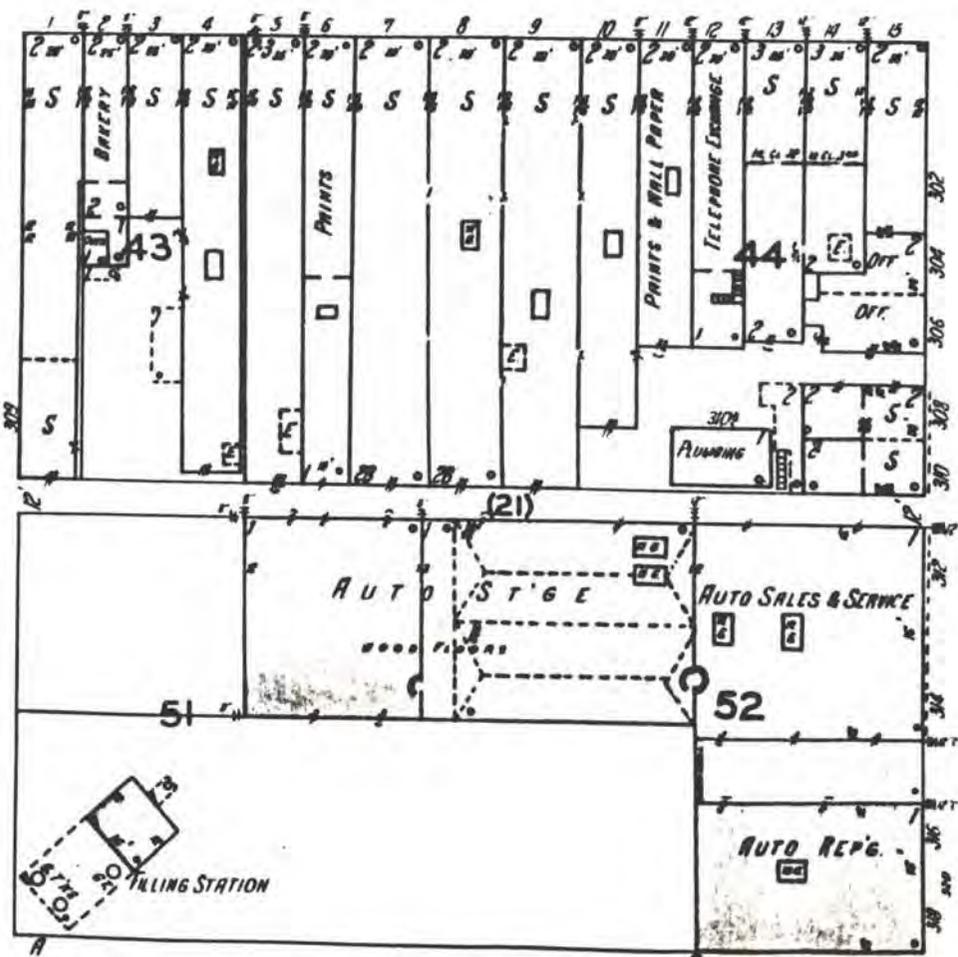
1928

E. SIDE SQ.

3



MADISON



S. SIDE SQ.

FRANKLIN

E. GATES

E. EUSTIS ST.

HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE
124-126 South Side Square

"Forty Thousand Dollar Fire on Commercial Row.
The most destructive fire Huntsville has experienced since the big fire of 1899 began Sunday in the feed store of the Alabama Feed and Implement Co. on Commercial Row and destroyed or ruined four other business houses in the block.

"The losses are estimated as follows:

Alabama Feed & Implement Co., \$2,000
Building occupied by Alabama Feed Co., \$3,000
W. S. Smith & Co., Music Store, \$5,000
Building occupied by Smith & Co., \$4,000
Sullivan Bros., Wall Paper, \$800
Building occupied by Sullivan Bros., \$2,000
Harrison Bros., crockery and tobacco, \$2,500
Building occupied by Harrison Bros., \$2,000
Frank H. Newman's stock and building, \$10,000
Terry Bros. & Co., damaged, \$2,500

"Frank H. Newman's store and the store occupied by Harrison Bros. were not totally destroyed but were damaged considerably as stated above.

"The fire originated in the rear of the Alabama Implement Co.'s store and before the fire department could arrive, the blaze had spread throughout the building. The department put up a stubborn fight, but lost inch by inch until one building on the left side and three on the right were gutted or damaged irreparably....

"The peculiar arrangement of the buildings made them an easy prey for the flames. The rear ends overlapped each other, Newman's being the shortest and the Alabama Implement Co.'s the longest....The roofs had the same defect, being of various heights and easily ignited from the adjoining building."

Mercury, December 25, 1901, p.7

"The condition of the walls on Commercial Row was discussed and the Mayor was directed to ascertain if they were unsafe, and if so, to proceed to act under section 490 of the City Code and fine the property owners if they are not taken down immediately." Republican, January 25, 1902, p.3

"The Harrison Brothers have purchased the business of #2 Commercial Row from Frank H. Newman, thus giving them a frontage of 40' on that side of the Square and will build a new and handsome block of three stories high. The present buildings, which were gutted by fire on the morning of December 22 last, will be torn down and replaced by an entirely new structure from the foundations up." Mercury, April 16, 1902, p.6

HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE
124-126 South Side Square

-2-

"Contractor J. M. McKee, who is remodeling the Harrison Brothers' block on Commercial Row, is providing (sic) himself to be the right man in the right place. Mr. McKee executes work with a dispatch that is pleasing to all and at the same time adds laurels to his reputation as a contractor and builder. He also makes a speciality of up-to-date door and window screens."

Tribune, April 22, 1902

Historic Huntsville Qtrly
Fall '94



Photo by Carol Highsmith; featured in
America Restored and Historic America.
(see Advertisements, page 177).

book pub by National Trust
for Hist Pres '94

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Down At The Store

by
Diane Ellis

"For a good part of my first visit to Huntsville as a prospective future resident, I traveled back and forth between motel and conference center and all I saw was University Drive—lots of motels, an excess of fast food restaurants, awful traffic. It didn't look good. I began to worry about the soul of the place. Eventually someone offered to show me more of Huntsville, and so we headed downtown. We wound around the courthouse, parked near the square, and went into Harrison Brothers. By the time I walked to the back of the hardware side, I felt a wonderful sense of relief as I thought, "Everything's going to be all right."

If you've spent any time at Harrison Brothers, you know what I mean. Without getting mystical about it, I think most people who know the store would agree that a lot more goes on there than the sale of goods. There's the fellowship of the volunteers and the special sense of community shared by everyone who's worked in some way to make the store a success. There's the pleasure of keeping alive and useful, something that is old and meaningful. And, there's the enjoyment of meeting people from all over the world who visit the store and are glad they did.

As Pat Ryan, a store volunteer, says, "It's different from anything." The polite but *pro forma* "How are you doing today?" exchanged with sales people at big stores becomes, at Harrison Brothers, a genuine desire to connect with another person in a different time frame at a different speed.

The store has been owned and operated by Historic Huntsville Foundation for ten years and is currently co-managed by Aggie Carter and Wanda Carlen, with assistance from Jean Wasson (B.J. says she's the "right-hand man") and

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Stephanie Williamson, a high school student who just came aboard in September. Volunteers staff the store.

Aggie was the store's first manager when it reopened, and she managed it by herself for three years. The Foundation had only \$3,000 to start the business. Since Aggie still had accounts with vendors from her days as owner of the general store in Mooresville and later Huntsville, she did some ordering from her old sources. Stock on hand included granite wear, cast-iron cookware, horse shoes, stove pipe, lamp parts, coal buckets, nails, knives, and some kitchen gadgets. The store still sells many of these items.

As news about plans to reopen the store got around, volunteers signed on to clean up and decide exactly what to save and what to sell. Since Aggie knew something about antiques, she knew what to keep. The clean-up crew dusted off the treasures and put them up high for safe display. The Harrison brother's idiosyncratic merchandising habits were evident: "On the hardware side of the store," Aggie remembers, "the lower shelves were full of old newspapers. When the Harrison brothers finished their newspapers they just shoved 'em in the shelves. But if you wanted, say, a toilet plunger, you had to get the ladder—all the merchandise was on the hard-to-get-to upper levels."

Day in and day out for a full six weeks, volunteers cleaned, sorted, dusted, and arranged while new inventory was coming in. A new layer of store lore and legend began to accumulate.

Charlotte Wallace was an early volunteer who came in to help with inventory and clean up. At some point, she was asked to clean the restroom. The place was a mess—corroded pipes, filthy baseboard, dirty everything. Charlotte tied up her hair, grabbed something sharp and proceeded to spend hours chipping away at the dirt ("I love a challenge"). After a day or more of working away on the toilet bowl, she had the room in pretty good shape.

There was a door on the other side of the little room that everyone thought led to a staircase to the balcony. Charlotte says that when she opened that door, "my feathers fell." It was another bathroom, as dirty as the first one. "I drew the line! We never used that room and eventually they took out the toilet." (Charlotte's indomitable spirit earned her a special Survivor of the Decade award at the Volunteers' Picnic last summer.)

Many volunteers and staff knew the store from the old days when the Harrison brothers operated it. Co-manager Wanda Carlen was the store's first volunteer when it reopened in 1984. She had an interest in the store from visits there with her father and grandfather. She remembers a hot summer day when a friend of hers was about to leave town on vacation and had to have a last-minute item for Harrison Brothers. The woman drove downtown, finally found a place to park, and ran up to the store only to find the door closed and locked and bearing a sign that said simply "Too hot."

One of the brothers once took Wanda's husband to the back of the store to see those infamous X-rated frogs. The frogs were a novelty item in a shipment of cast-iron cookware, and the brothers called them "our little paperweights." The store continues to carry these "novelties." "People do buy them," says Wanda, "sometimes in pairs."

Volunteer Wally Reynolds shopped at the store in the Harrison brothers era and liked to check out the store windows regularly to see what new merchandise was in. Wally and a friend, John Cotten, were acolyte masters at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity and were in the habit of getting the servers started at the first service every Sunday, then slipping out of the church. After this happened several times, Fr. Joffrion decided to follow them to see where they went. He found them down at Harrison Brothers, checking out new goods in the storefront windows.

Cyrial Breece has volunteered at the store for 10 years. She'd been with the B. F. Goodrich store in Florence and

moved to Huntsville years ago with the Goodrich store. She had retail experience—"Grew up in merchandising"—and used to bring a sack lunch to Harrison's and eat by the coal burning stove (still there) and chat with the brothers.

Libby Brown once met a woman who had lived next door to a man whose job it was to take a boat and paddle about through the springs underneath the courthouse to see if everything was okay.

Pat Ryan remembers the brothers' insistence on wrapping and carrying purchases out the door and to the cars of customers, no matter how able the customers were to do this themselves. Pat bought clay pots at the store, and as a girl in her 20's, she felt silly having a 70-year old man carrying pots to her car parked in a garage blocks away. "At lease let me carry the drain," she remembers saying. "No, ma'am," was the reply.

Connections with people and the past are part of every store volunteer's experience. Jewell and Wally Reynolds' most heard comment is "Oh, I haven't seen one of these since ..." Wally remembers a man coming in to buy a doorbell. The customer told Wally that "This is probably where the one I'm replacing came from." Wally says people come back to Huntsville, visit the store and "provide answers to what went on here." "We're constantly hearing new tales," adds Jewell.

Bob Dobbins, who enjoys working at the store in part because "It's a lesson in history," had a customer tell him he'd last been in the store 40 years earlier. (He told Bob the store "seems to be cleaner than it was.")

Doris Robinson met a woman from her hometown in Pennsylvania who knew her family. Cliff Brantner met a customer from Hawaii who knew someone Cliff had been in the army with. When Janie Tanton's son married an English girl, Janie wanted to take a special gift to the girl's mother. She chose those musical cotton bales that play "Dixie." Her son's new mother-in-law loved them, and now winds one up

and lets it play for telephone callers if she has to leave the telephone for a moment.

Wanda remembers a volunteer waiting on customers from Georgia who mentioned having a dog that just outgrew them. The conversation continued and the volunteer ended up arranging a meeting and adopting the dog. The dog's name was changed to "Harrison."

The "spiritual" connections with other people and another time that are so rewarding for the volunteers and staff, take place in a very material setting, an old building chock full of aging artifacts and unique new items that are hard to resist. Harrison Brothers preserves the past, but the store is a modern business. Joanne Burchfield says the best part of working at Harrison Brothers is "shopping there." Jewell Reynolds says people come to the store because "we have things you can't find other places." Billie Moak calls it "one of the most unusual shopping places in Huntsville." Carlene Elod offers "a big salute to the co-managers who get great merchandise and do great window displays."

The "most unusual" category of items in the store includes the bored-well bucket, which few people are able to identify, and a special post hole digger. Aggie says people love the nostalgia items—cast-iron kettles, farm bells, popcorn poppers. The store does a lot of special orders through "want cards." B. J. Robinson, head of the store's Management Committee and a regular volunteer on Saturdays, gets many requests to buy items that aren't for sale. "Oh, I've got to have that to complete my ..." is a common appeal. Cliff Brantner (who claims he started volunteering because he wanted to look in all the drawers) sees a fellow who comes in regularly to try to buy the Coca-Cola clock. Jean Wasson remembers a woman coming in the store on Trade Day, seeing a new ice cream freezer on the floor and saying it "looks like it's hardly been used."

The 1903 cash register always delights customers. Bob Dobbins: "A lot of people look at the cash register and say,

'Well, I've never seen anything like that before,' and I say, 'That's right, and if you buy something I'll show you how it works!'"

Not long ago, a navy admiral passed by the store late one afternoon and spotted the apple press in the window. He returned the next day, keeping his plane waiting two hours, and while his driver chatted with the staff, the admiral bought the apple press for his wife to use in their small orchard.

When I was last in the store, I saw a gentleman and his wife come around the corner from the hardware side to the gift side. They looked at the hat on the Harrison brothers' desk, and I heard the man say, "That old black hat there looks like Granddaddy Whiteside." There's a line waiting for a story.

Harrison Brothers' success is a triumph of imagination, determination, and work, a real preservation coup. Aggie said when the Foundation bought the store, they were told it was "the first nationwide preservation effort to run as a business." It is thrilling now to be honored by the National Trust as one of only a few recognized successful preservation projects undertaken since 1980—up there with the big boys like the Biltmore Estate and San Francisco's Palace Hotel.

If you want to join this wonderful family and be a little part of history, call the store and sign up. You don't have to have lived a lot of history to love Harrison Brothers. Our newest staff person, Stephanie Williamson ("Old stuff fascinates me") is only sixteen. Stephanie likes "the fact that it's cluttered." Me too.

HARRISON BROTHERS TRIVIA A Photo Essay

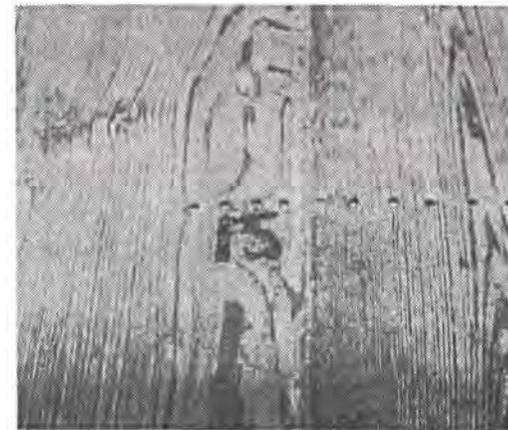
by
B. J. Robinson

The volunteer's motto:

"If you can't find it at Harrison's, you probably didn't need it!"

Store Traditions:

- a. Brass numerals on the floor (1 to 16, some missing, attached in 1-yard increments, used for rope, chain, patio screening, etc. measurements). Lengths of chain, by the way, are cut with bolt cutters kept handy for the purpose. I've never had to cut chain, but I have stretched out about 40 yards of old metal window screening for someone's Florida room. The aisle on the hardware side is *almost* wide enough to lay it flat. And I cut it with tin snips.



- b. X-rated Frogs! Apparently a store tradition, and anatomically correct (if frogs were people). The manager found a supplier, and we keep them in stock at all times. Good sellers; dandy paperweights! Customers who ask about them are confirmed first to be over 21.



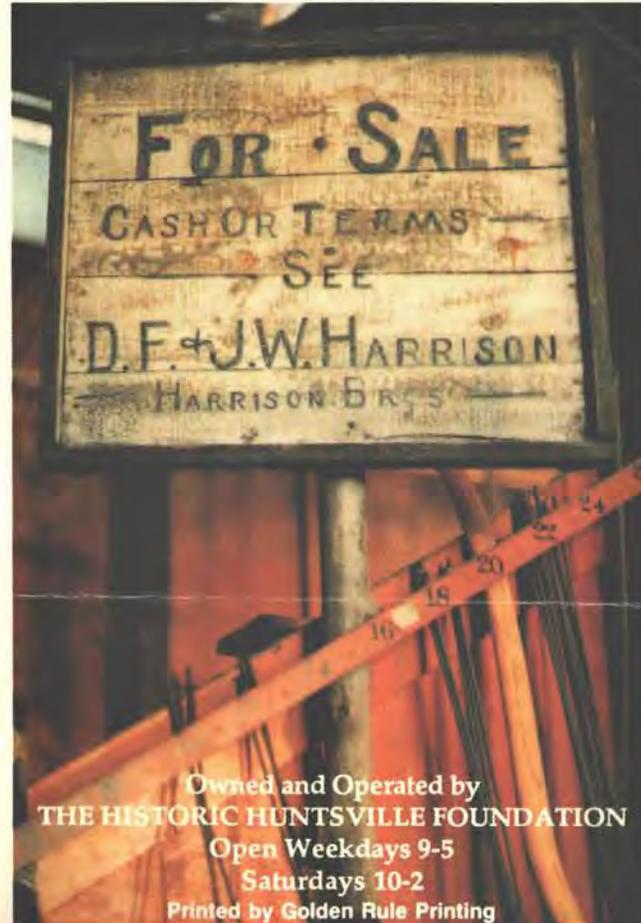
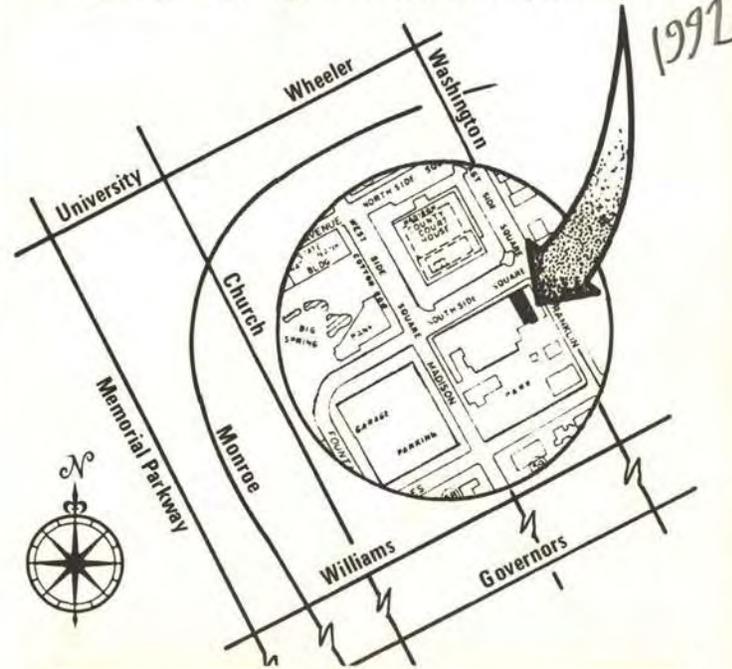
The last Harrison brother died in late 1983 and a "closed" sign was hung on the door. Many in the community were saddened by the thought that Harrison Brothers would, at last, be swept into the present -- or allowed to die.

Determined to preserve the store, the nonprofit Historic Huntsville Foundation opened negotiations with the Harrison heirs, which resulted in the sale of the building, business, stock, and fixtures to the Foundation.

Because it had become obvious to all that the only way the store could survive was to continue in operation, the Foundation hired a full-time manager, assembled a staff of volunteer clerks, and reopened for business in the fall of 1984.

HARRISON BROS.,

124 South Side Square • Huntsville, Alabama



Owned and Operated by
THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION

Open Weekdays 9-5
Saturdays 10-2

Printed by Golden Rule Printing

HARRISON BROS.



ALABAMA'S OLDEST HARDWARE
STORE

On the Courthouse Square
in Huntsville since 1897

At Harrison Brothers life unfolds at the same leisurely pace set by Robert and Daniel when they opened the store in 1897 opposite the courthouse.

In those days, when cotton wagons jammed the Square each fall and idle conversation filled the afternoons, Huntsville had only 8,000 inhabitants. Today the city is a major high technology center of more than 165,000, but Harrison Brothers has taken scant notice of the changing times.

A 1901 fire prompted the brothers to enlarge and remodel the store, but beyond that, they didn't see any necessity to introduce further innovations. The old coal stove still throws its warmth in winter, lazy ceiling fans stir the heat of summer, a massive antebellum safe stands open for inspection, and dusty wooden floors creak as tall ceiling-mounted ladders roll across them. . .



(Photo courtesy Huntsville Magazine, Tracy McCraw)

But Harrison Brothers is more than just a glimpse of old Huntsville. It is a shopper's delight! Barrels, boxes, and drawers of hardware items are nestled amongst tables, shelves, and cases of Aladdin oil lamps, garden tools, heavy blue and white crockery, and fanciful baskets. Cast iron utensils of every shape and size vie for space with marbles by the pound and old fashioned hard candy. Big wooden Tennessee rocking chairs invite relaxation, fireplace grates and log carriers conjure up thoughts of toasty winter fires, and bird baths and feeders need only be carried to the yard and installed.

So, come by and visit with the friendly folks at Harrison Brothers and experience the thrill of shopping at Alabama's oldest hardware store -- where old fashioned ways and old fashioned things still matter.



(Cover Photo courtesy of Hometown Press)

Bought From Heirs for \$105,000

Harrison Bros. Sale OK'd; Store to Stay Almost 'as Is'

By PETER COBUN
Times Staff Writer

Heirs of the Harrison Brothers hardware store on South Side Square turned over possession of the historic structure and its merchandise Thursday afternoon to local preservationists who vow to again operate the store as it has been for nearly a century.

The Historic Huntsville Foundation, a 10-year-old, non-profit organization dedicated to preservation, has purchased the property for \$105,000, according to Huntsville attorney Richard Tingle, treasurer of the Foundation.

The Foundation will hold a benefit party and auction of some of the store's merchandise Sept. 14, before Harrison Brothers is reopened to the public in late September or early October, Freeda Darnell, president of the Foundation, confirmed Thursday night.

The "grand re-opening," said Mrs. Darnell, will center on a street fair, street dance and box supper to raise funds for the store's purchase.

In the agreement reached with the Harrison heirs, the preservationist organization "will, to the extent practical," said Tingle, "operate the hardware store as it was operated by John and Daniel Harrison."

The store was closed last October after the last surviving brother, John Winfred Harrison, became ill. He died Dec. 27. At the death of his older brother, Daniel in 1981, John became the lone surviving proprietor.

The heirs to the Harrison brothers' estate — said to have numbered 18 parties — received numerous offers for the valuable downtown property, including a cash offer of \$125,000. But that was rejected because of developer's plans to demolish the Harrison structure.

Instead, the heirs were interested in maintaining the business, and the membership of the Historic Huntsville Foundation — which numbers 671 — voted to retain the facade of the building and keep the interior much the same as it is today.

Tingle said late Thursday the Foundation will

make some "necessary repairs," and added that there will be "some changes to the store, with an office added in the rear of one side" for the Foundation. "We also hope in the future to renovate the upper floors," said Tingle.

Merchandise to be carried in the store when it re-opens to the public will be much the same as the Harrisons stocked for years.

To meet the Harrisons' \$105,000 purchase price, the Historic Huntsville Foundation initially paid \$5,000 earnest money, and another \$21,000 at the closing this week.

The \$79,000 balance has been financed by the Foundation for a three-year period, amortized on a 30-year note. Thus, the preservationist group will make payments on the loan for the next three years in amounts similar to a 30-year note, but the balance of the balloon-type loan will be due in its entirety at the end of three years.

The earnest money and closing costs were paid by borrowing \$17,000, Tingle said, and by using funds accumulated by the Foundation. More than 17 Foundation members signed agreements to provide \$1,000 personal guarantees for the property transaction.

Officers of the Foundation met late Thursday afternoon to officially take possession of the structure and its merchandise, and to make the final "walk through" of the property.

Richard Smallwood, one of the Harrison heirs, surprised Mrs. Darnell and other officers of the Foundation, with the presentation of a two-page, parchment abstract of the original transaction of the property. Handwritten in script, the abstract measures 2 by 2½ feet.

Smallwood's gift, said Mrs. Darnell, reflects the "generous and patient attitude the Harrison heirs have maintained throughout this purchase."

The "Harrison Brothers" sign went up on South Side Square about 1895, but the family business had opened in Huntsville about 10 or 15 years earlier — no one is quite certain.

Its direct lineage traces to 1879, when the family



(Times Photo by William McCormick)

AT HARDWARE STORE, TINGLE AND SMALLWOOD AT RIGHT Look Over Store with Nancy Van Valkenburgh, Right; Mrs. Darnell

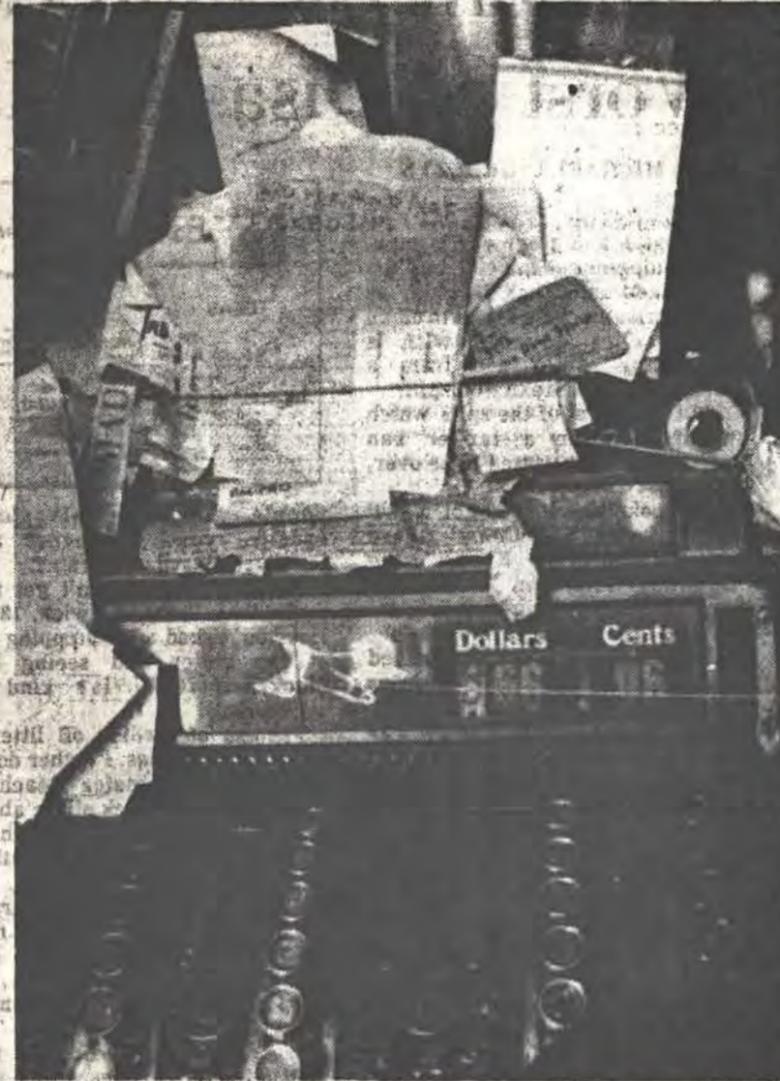
opened a small tobacco shop at Smithville, Tenn. Two earlier Harrison brothers soon moved the business to Huntsville, where they were later joined by a third brother, R.S. Harrison, father of Daniel and John. They tried several locations before finally settling on the Courthouse Square's southern block.

A fire that swept South Side Square in 1901 came close to destroying the Harrisons' fledgling business — its flames contained just to the west of the store.

A new storefront went up in 1916 — the last renovation for nearly three-quarters of century.

The deed for the historic structure was signed July 31 by the Harrison heirs, including Richard A. Smallwood, Sr., individually and as the representative of the estate of John W. Harrison; by Helen Smallwood Jinks, individually and as executrix and trustee of the estate of Lucille C. Harrison; and by Robert E. Smallwood.

The mortgage note was signed for the Historic Huntsville Foundation by Mrs. Darnell, as president of the organization.



Taking an Inventory of Old Harrison Brothers Hardware Store

Volunteers Saturday afternoon surveyed the inventory of the old Harrison Brothers hardware store on South Side Square. The cash register, right photo, was made in 1907 and is still in use at the firm. The store and its mer-

chandise was purchased Friday by the Historic Huntsville Foundation for \$105,000. In the agreement reached with the Harrison heirs, the Foundation will run the store as it was operated by former owners John and Daniel Harrison.

The store had been in operation by the brothers since before the turn of the century, but was closed last October after the illness and subsequent death of John Harrison, the lone surviving proprietor. A benefit party and

auction of some of the store's merchandise will be held Sept. 14 before it is reopened to the public in late September or early October.

(Times Photos by Dave Dieter)

Benefit Is Held for Historic Harrison Brothers Store

By MARGARET LINDBERG
Times Society Columnist

The rejuvenation of a 19th century downtown structure was cause for much celebrating Friday night on the city's South Side Square. Well over 600 Historic Huntsville Foundation members and supporters were there for a benefit boosting its newest project, the preservation of Harrison Brothers Hardware. The Harrison brothers, with their penchant for saving everything and their preference for doing business the old way rather than modernizing with new-fangled furnishings and gadgets, left a unique legacy to the town. Faced with the imminent loss of the historic store, HHF has undertaken to retain the building, an unchanging fixture on Courthouse Square since the last decade of the 19th century, and operate an ongoing hardware business.

The original Harrison brothers opened a store on South Side Square in 1897 in a building identified as No. 3 Commercial Row. The Sanborn map of 1898 lists their business as wholesale tobacco dealers. By 1901 they had added a line of cream-colored earthenware to their stock, apparently a line produced by Wedgwood called Queen's Ware.

That December a fire began in a feed store several doors down and spread to the adjoining buildings before being contained. In early 1902, the Harrison brothers bought No. 2 Commercial Row and hired a local contractor to repair the two buildings, construct a new unifying facade for both and build an addition to the rear of No. 3. In re-opening for business, No. 2 had become a furniture store while No. 3 continued to offer a selection of the crockery. By 1913 they had shifted the furniture part of the business to No. 3 and introduced a line of hardware in No. 2.

DURING THE social hour

an assemblage of auction furnishings, paraphernalia and antiques for selective viewing. Bits and pieces of conversation concerned personal stories and the history of the store. Those of us coming to Huntsville in the mid-1950s remember Harrison Brothers as a focal spot on Courthouse Square, which was then encircled by Cotton Row, Crystal Drug and numerous long-established businesses and professional offices. "You can find it at Harrison Brothers" was a much repeated phrase.

Guests had only to cross the street and stroll up the steps to enjoy a family-style dinner at the now modern Courthouse. The crockery and clay pots containing Alabama garden and wildflowers had been taken down from the shelves of the store for decoration.

Following an exceptionally good fried chicken dinner, a birthday cake was the surprise dessert presented by Freeda Darnell, HHF chairman, to commemorate the Founda-



Window Shopping at the Store Are Gordon Darnell and Nancy Van Valkenburgh, Shown With HHF Chairman Freeda Darnell



Crockery From the Hardware Store Decorates the Food Tables Where Henry Fail and Loxie Doul Visit With Their Wives, Ginger Fail and Lynda Doul



HHF Members Charlotte Wallace and Annette and Richard Tingle Admire a Planter at the Store

tion's 10th birthday. HHF was founded in 1974 for the purpose of preserving historically and architecturally significant sites and structures throughout Huntsville and Madison County and increasing public awareness of their value to the community.

FOLLOWING DINNER, auctioneer Ray Bissell and his crew expertly handled the spirited auction of Harrison Brothers items which were tagged with special certificates of authenticity.

Top bidder of the night was Joe Fine, who took home a signed English engraving depicting an early trial and also an oak rocking chair. The other rocking chair was bought by William Benson.

Guy Spencer bid in a unique water bottle, and Jane and Jim Mabry are now the owners of a clawfoot bathtub. Topper Birney took home a beautiful English side saddle, and Betty Grant now has a piece of certified sheet music for Tallulah Bankhead, an item donated by the Huntsville Museum of Art.

The shopping spree at the store was won by William Harrell.

To tour the store is to step back in time 80 years, and the citizens of Huntsville remember that the brothers themselves did nothing to break the spell. They could extract just the right bolt or garden tool requested and carefully wrap it in a piece of brown paper ripped from a large roll and tied with string from a cone. The variety and curiosity of its stock still remain, displayed in cabinets

fitted with bins and drawers that line the long store. Tall angled ladders attached to ceiling tracks roll the length of the area, providing access to the upper level of shelves. Natural light pours through the glass of the front transoms and windows. In the back, a flood of light filters down from a skylight above the open shaft of a hand-operated freight lift.

SPECIAL GUESTS present for the party included Lawrence Oaks, director of the Alabama Historical Commission, and his wife, Susan; Ellen Mertens, Alabama National Register coordinator, and Harrison heirs, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smallwood and Helen Smallwood Jinks. Committee chairmen for the

Lenora Grumbles, food; Layne Dorning and Pam Fleming, decorations; Marcia and Peter Cobun and Cynthia and Taz Shepard, auction; Richard Van Valkenburgh, entertainment; Myron Cole, social hour; Henry Hillson, properties; Kathy McGuffey, Ernestine Murray, Gladys Nixon, invitations; Winona Switzer, reservations; Lynn Jones, publicity; Rebecca Taylor, clean-up; Margaret Cole, liaison with city and county; Charlotte Wallace, mailing; and Brenda Courtney, store preparation. The Historic Huntsville Foundation is to be commended for assuming responsibility of stewardship of this bit of local history. May the god of merchandizing,

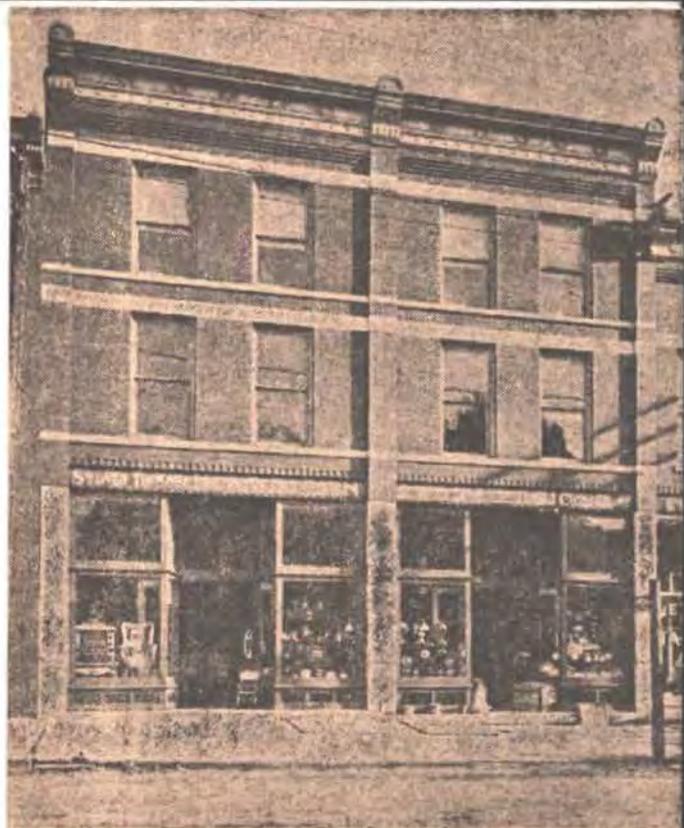
ACTHUCK CRAFTS
NORTHPORT, Ala. — More than 10 states will exhibit in the Crafts Festival next Saturday here.
In addition to exhibitions, continuous entertainment, optional food during the show from 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.
Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

TODAY'S
Time
Roast Turkey served with Cranberry Sauce and Creamy Mashed Potatoes
\$2.99
MORNING
GREAT TASTE

717 PRATT AVE., NE
SAVINGS for 100
\$2.00 Rebate on 100 (10) Syringes
MICRO-FINE
1 cc 1/2
Regular Price, \$14.97 \$13.97
Less Mfr's Rebate -2.00 -2.00

NOW!! I WEEK ONLY IN HUNTSVILLE
Fred Astaire
DANCE STUDIOS
1st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATING OUR
Grand Opening
SPECIAL
10 Hours Only \$9.50

HAIR FASHION MODELS NEEDED!
A leading Style Director for Regis Corporation will be conducting a training session for Regis Hairstylists.
If you are interested in a free hairstyle designed by one of the country's leading experts in hair fashion, call for an appointment.
Dates: Sept. 23 & 24 Parkway City Mall
Sept. 25th & 26 Madison Square Mall
Byron Phillips-Manager Parkway City Mall
Mike Holgin-Manager Madison Mall
REGIS HAIRSTYLISTS
Free Pizza



storefront reversed c.1914 from this
photo c.1910 (?) Card 1992

Harrison Brothers Hardware Store, Huntville, Alabama



Harrison Brothers
Hardware Store,
Huntsville,
Alabama

photo
c. 1910(?)
print 1992



photo c. 1990



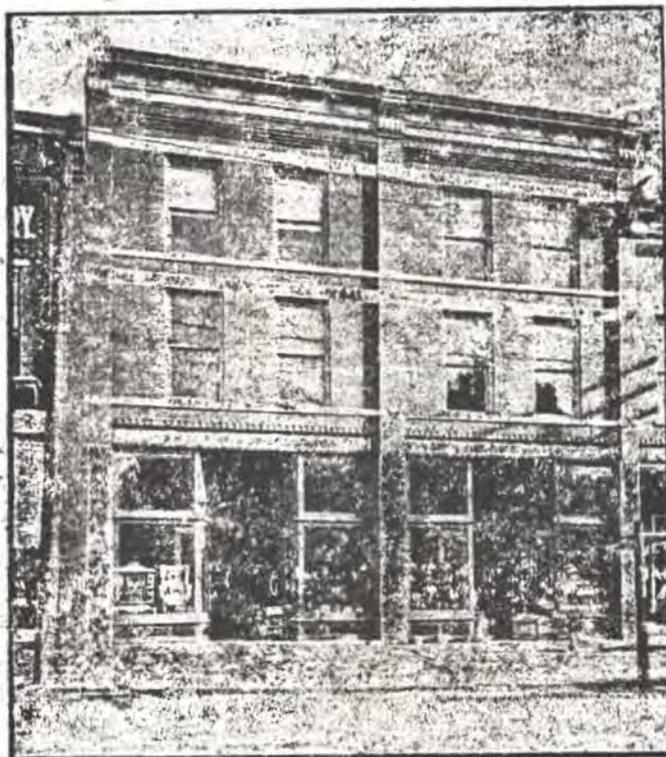
THE SOUTH SIDE DURING 1870s—In this picture, which shows the south side of the Square sometime prior to 1878, can be seen the belfry of the original Episcopal Church, torn down in 1878. To the right of the smaller belfry is the steeple of the present Church of the Nativity, which was constructed in the year 1856.

Old photo re-strike (1985)

Note different
storefront details



Harrison Brothers



Harrison Brothers

55' Sq. - HV

Note storefront is diff.
from mid-20th c. config.

HARRISON'S HARDWARE

NOTE →
side-draining
dbl. gable roof
like 1871 "View
of Hv."

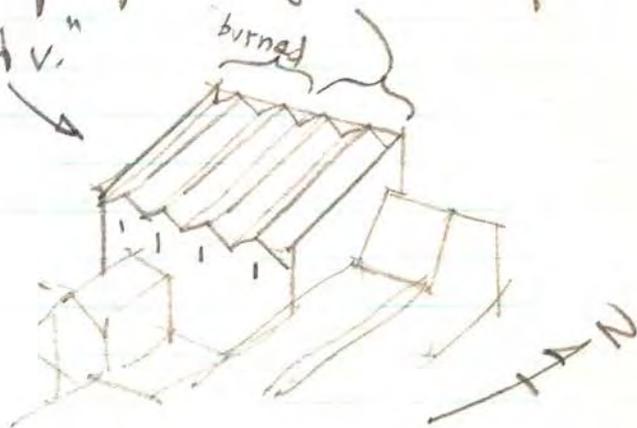
N →



Photo 16 Feb '84
H Jones →

HARRISON'S
HARDWARE

Appears to be eastern half of 4-gable bldg.
shown on "1871 View of Hv."



Harrison Bros. Hardware Store 1830-36
 S. Side Cr. Hse Sq. - Huntsville, Al. Mar. 1984
 Photos - Harvie P. Jones, FAIA.

This roof configuration is on 1871 Birds-eye View
 of H'ville

Al. Const. Village
 1870-90 (Rebuilt in 1902)



N ↗ Bldg front wall redone in 1902 after a fire (HMF has contract) to unify the two bays.
 But bldg. is ante-bellum back to S. edge of  roof (see int. photos) + see 1871 "Birds Eye View" of H's v.
 (c. 1836 per Linda Allen research)



HARRISON'S
 HARDWARE

Store closed in 1983 - last brother died in early '84. + continued operations 1 of 25
 Hist. Hv. Firm bought 1984



→ N



Front = ± 1900 remodeled

↑
limestone



Center pier



N →

→ copper

Entry to East Bldg. (Hardware)



↑ note shaped stone cove ↓



→ West Bldg entry

Harrison's

3 of 25



Entry to West Bldg
(Furn. display)

1/2

EAST BLDG, MAIN FL.
 HARRISON BROTHERS' HARDWARE
 S. SIDE SQUARE, HUNTSVILLE AL.
 PHOTOS FEB 1984 HARVIE P. JONES, F.A.I.A.
 c.1836, w/ c.1902 shop front & cell & showcases



east wall looking S.



east wall, look S. Stair ↗ Elevator ↖ Cash regis ↗



east wall, look N.



entry, look N.E.

EAST BLDG, MAIN FL.



← east wall rolling ladder ↘



WEST WALL, LOOK S.W.



Amrison's

6 of 25

EAST BLDG. MAIN FL.



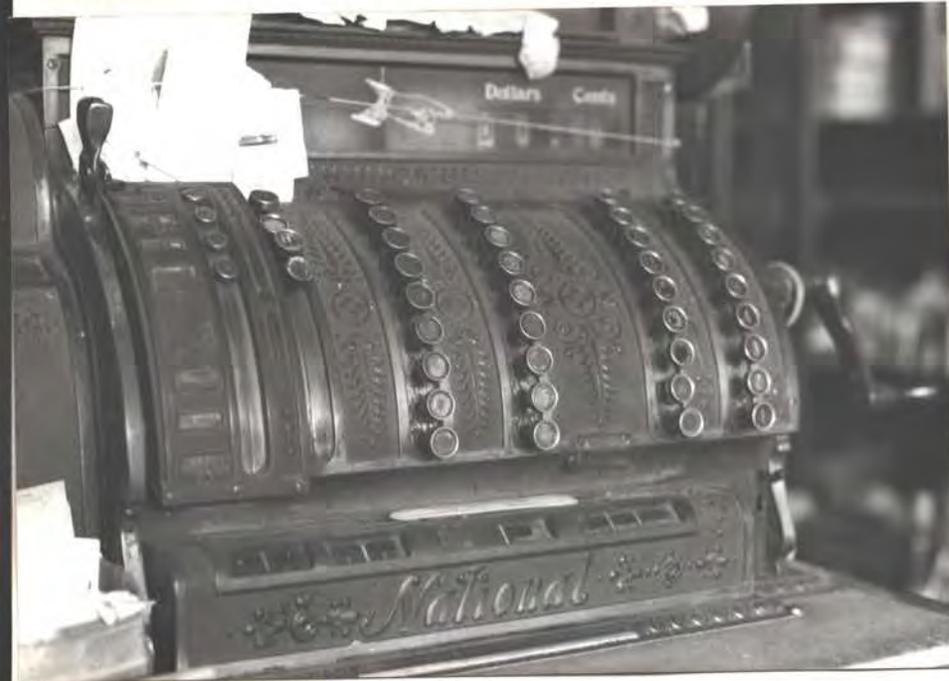
Scales, west wall
center

west wall cab.



east wall cab.

EAST BLDG MAIN FL.



cash register (brass), west wall center



Harrison's

8 of 25



business desk at opng. between
east + west main fls. - look S.W.



West bldg rear, look west
(stove is near desk at left)



elevator + stair - look east
Main fl. of east bldg.



Stair from east 2nd fl. down
to east main fl. (see photo at left)



look NE



look SE

3RD FL. EAST BLDG
HAND-OP. ROPE ELEVATOR

skit



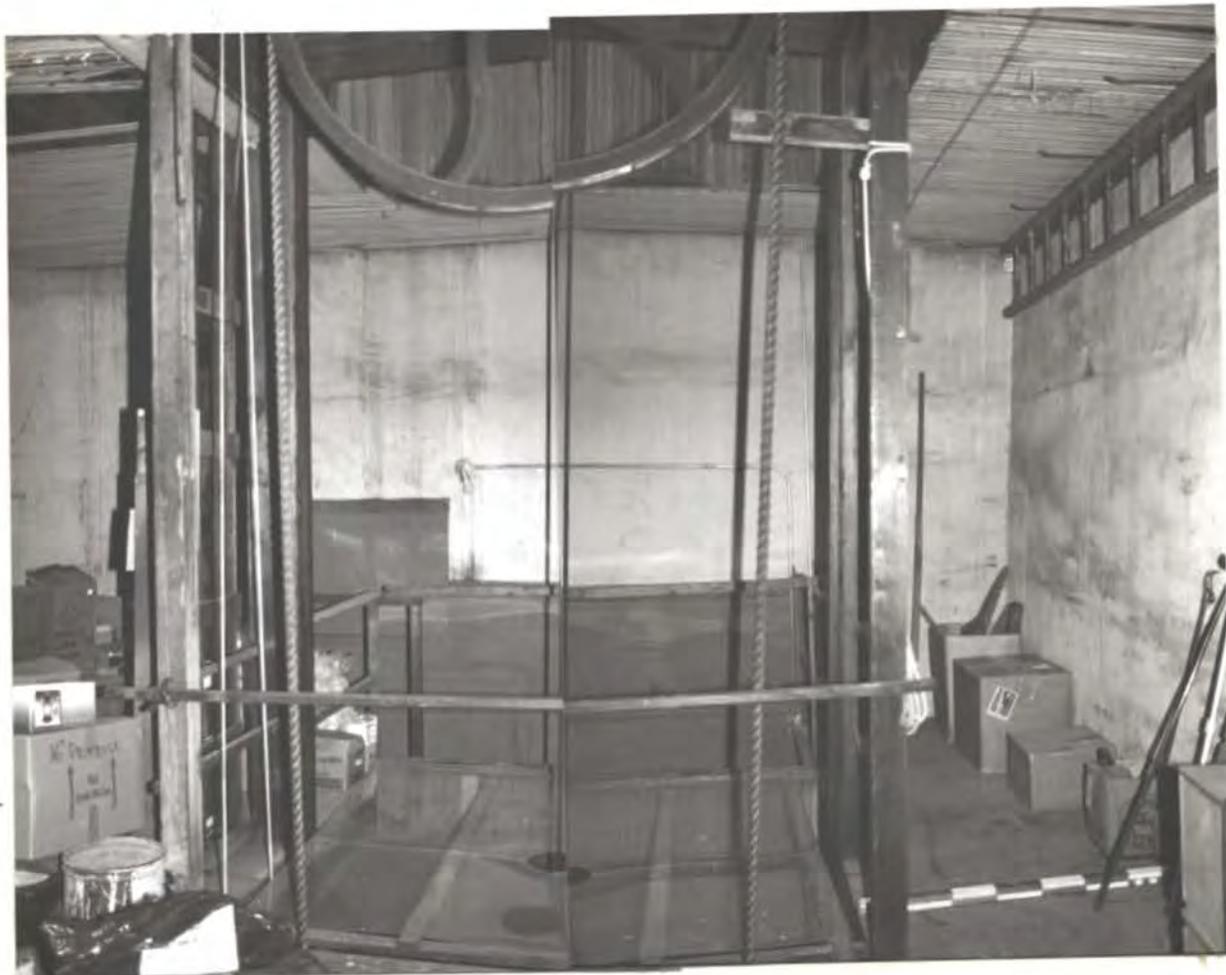
look S.

cardbd cover at hole in fl.



look E.

Harrisons



N
→



Harrison's
Home.
-H with AL
East Bldg.
Fl. 2 at
Elev.

Jan '98
photos
HJ

N
→

EAST BLDG. 2ND FL.



stair

look S,



stair - built like it
could be 1850's (?)



look N.



receipts strung on wire
12 of 25

Harrison's

EAST BLDG 3RD FL.

hair-plaster on split lath (pre civil war)

door to roof - see photo below



lav. - see photo at rt. look S.



lav. - copper bowl
see photo at left

P.S. - taken by owners
before sale to H.H.F.



door to roof (at rear south wall)
wrought iron handmade latch
- note twist in shaft



EAST BLDG. 3RD FL. CEIL./
Roof

← modern plywood deck
over original "slab" deck bds
which are sash-sawn (match)

← No ridge bd. (brace=modern)
Sash-sawn deck trappers
Many nails in deck —
indicating wood-shingle
roof originally
(Pre Civil War type constn)

sash-sawn roof deck bds,
handsplit lath,
pit-sawn joists
animal-hair reinf. plaster
(Pre-Civil War constn)



WEST BLDG 3RD FL. CEIL/ROOF

Note numerous shingle
nails from orig. wood
shingle roof
Also sash-saw marks on
deck planks



← →
SAME CONSTN, BOTH BLDGS.
(is pre-Civil War type)

See notes
on previous pg.
= same type
pre-Civil War constn

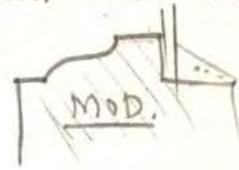


← pit-sawn
joists →
(hand-sawn
- see marks)



WEST BLDG. 3RD FL.

replacement window,
probably dates when
front was remodeled, ca. 1900



← see previous pg. notes



Harrisons'
ledgers

WEST BLDG. 2ND FL



framed engraving or litho, hung on wall



pit-sawn fl. joists
+ traces of lath & plaster
cell.



sand - scuttle (for fire?)

WEST BLDG. 2ND FL.
HARRISON'S HARDWARE
CA. 1835 PART



look dn stairs to 2nd fl.
N at



stairs

look S.

fire extinguisher (brass) - 20th cent., presumably



STAIR TO 3RD FL. (W. BLDG)
IS FED. TYPE CONSTR.
THIS PART OF BLDG IS C. 1835



WEST BLDG 2ND FL
HARRISON'S HARDWARE
CA. 1835 PART (FRONT 50' ±)



N →

This stair detail is identical
to a Fed. Period stair in the
servant's bldg. of the c. 1818
Erskine house on Franklin St.
See "Const. Hall Photos" (HJ)
+ See Clay Bldg + Const. Hall reconstrns.



WEST BLDG. MAIN FL.



look N. to Square



← added makeshift
"mezzanine"

look S. to rear



look S.W.



WEST
BLDG.
MAIN
FL.

N. entry



from turn-of-cent. N. entry
when front was remodeled, ca. 1900



5/4" T&G heart pine fl. (sash-sawn)
probably pre-Civil War



pre Civil War fl.
vic. fl.

Hammer's

look N.

21 of 25



East (verify) basement
looking N.



hewn joist face (broadaxe)
opp. face is pitsawn



pitsawn joist + $\frac{5}{4}$ " flooring
is sash-sawn

west (verify)
basement, look, N.



Sashsawn
5/4" T&G. fl.



pitsawn joist →

Pre Civil War type
constr. at
north 1/2 ± of basement



broadsaxe-hewn face
on fl. joist
(opp. is pitsawn)



Stair, East basement
(look E.)



hewn joint, sashyawn fl.,
(other joint faces = pit-sawn.)

Brackets:
Opens jts +
rust-holes



24

Stamped metal cornice
repaired in summer 1989

N



24

Harrison Bros. Hardware
S.S. Sq. Hill St.
photos Feb 1987 HRLmas

1 of 7

N





Metal Cornice

→ N



→ N

Storefront (West bay)



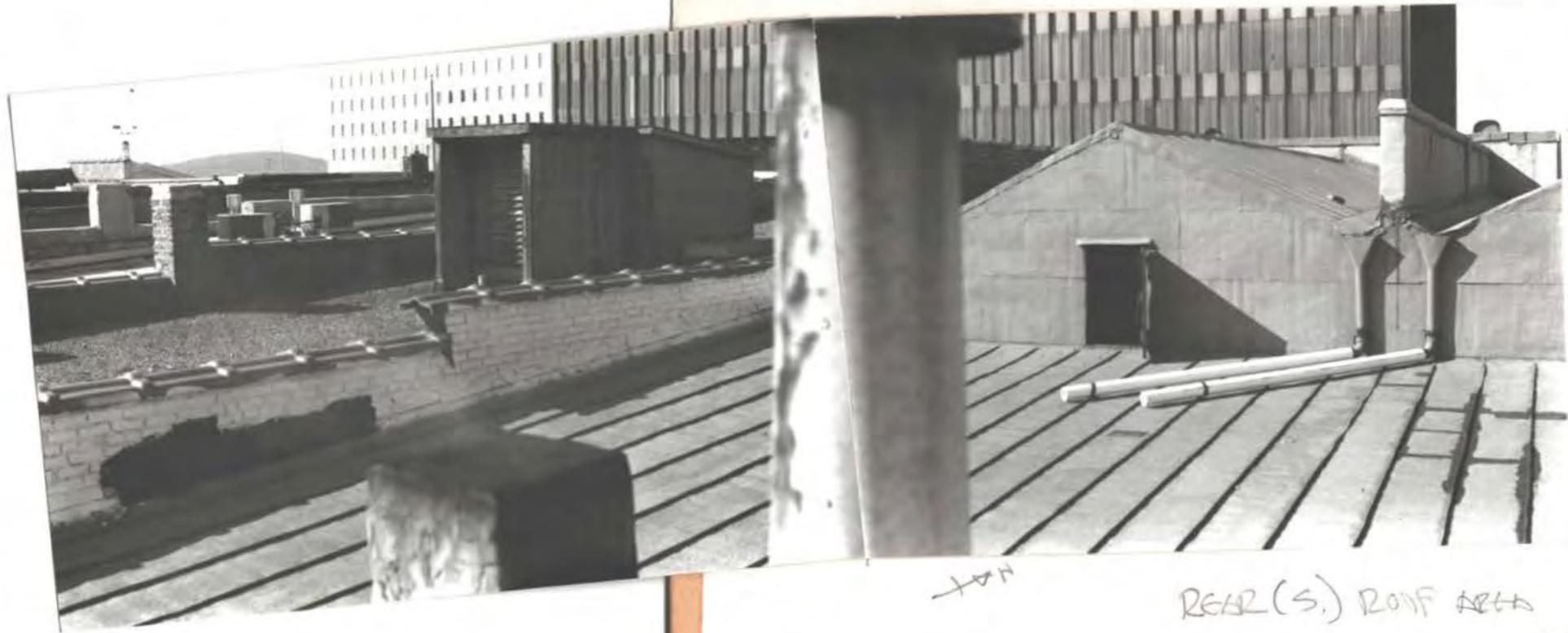
NR



Horvath - Feb 87
Set 7

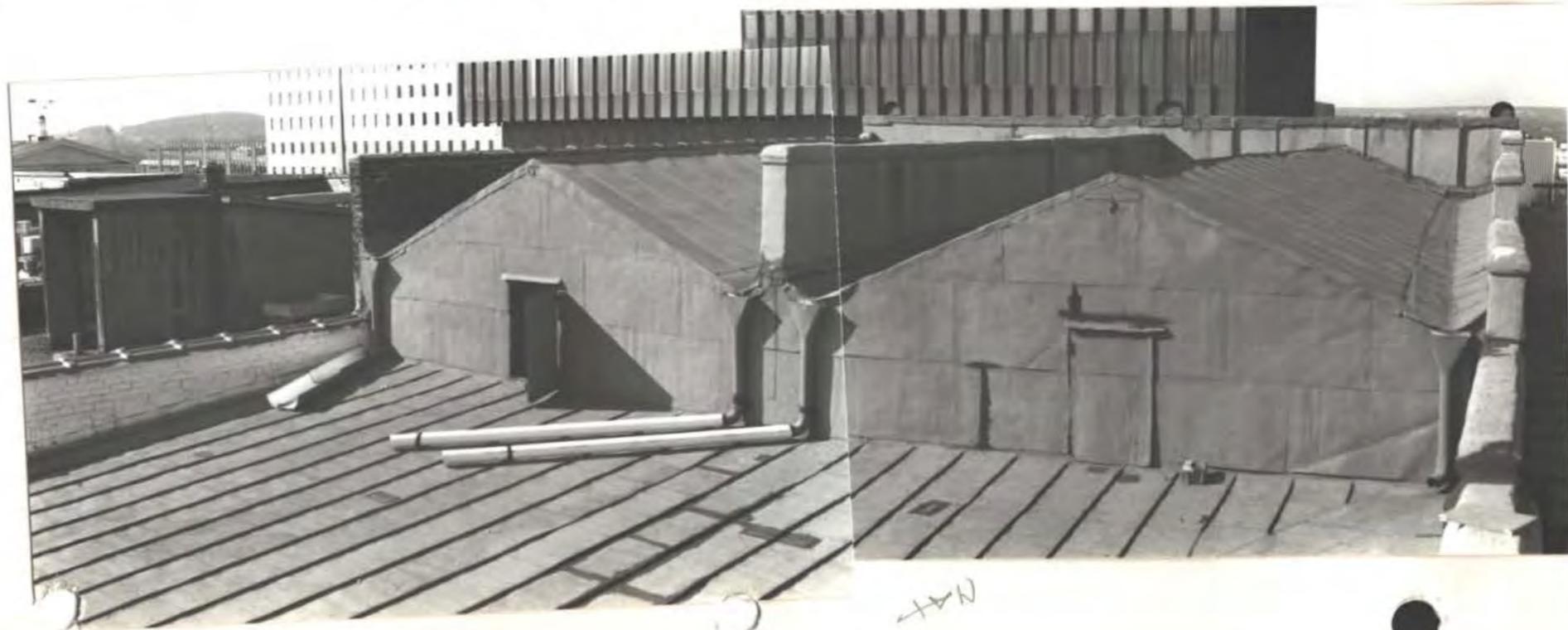
Front (N.) Parapet
Terra-metal roof & looks 20th cent. based
on pan - seam evidence.
P.S. - new copper roof installed
in 1942 by "Tip-Top Roofing Co."

7/2



1011

REAR (S.) ROOF AREA



1011

1011



W. Wall of W. Bm AH



W. Wall of W. Bm AH



N-H

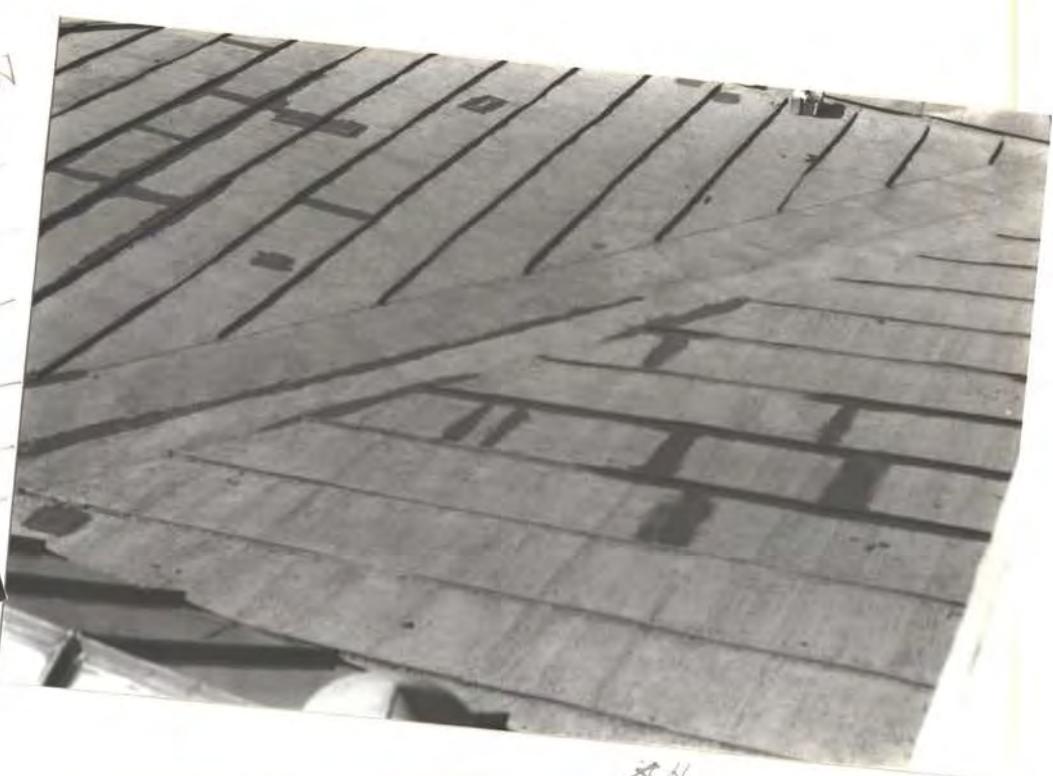
LT. WELL

HARRISON'S - Feb 87
S.F. 7



N

L 1/2



N

Const. Holy
Park



N

S. EDGE OF W. BAY

6

0

0

0



Lower roof has pan-seams $\pm 22''$ o.c.
 \therefore is probably early 20th c. Many rust-holes.
Gable roofs have no pan-seams \therefore are probably
mid or later 20th c. - good cond.

7af 7
Harrison's - Feb 87

EAST BLDG, MAIN FL.



west wall



N
↑
+

early 1800's dense heart pine
5/4" flooring

← No. 8 (broken-8) brass yd. marker
+ brass nails



N
↑
+

▲ Early 1800's fl. (1830-35)
✱ Late 1800's fl. (Vic. addn)

← brass yard-marks
for measuring rope