

Jones & Herrin

Architects, A.I.A.

Harvie P. Jones

William W. Herrin, Jr.

December 6, 1978

Mr. Michael Leventhal
National Trust for Historic Preservation
740-748 Jackson Place NW
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

Re: "Old and New Architecture - Design Relationship"

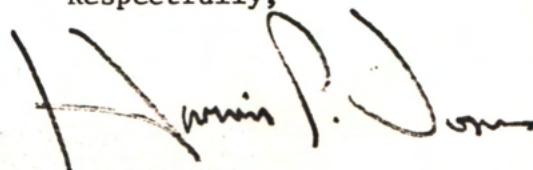
Dear Mr. Leventhal:

Attached is a photograph and some additional photocopy background information on the Madison County Law Library. This project involved the question of how to handle a significant missing and undocumented original element - the large arched entry infill. Rather than attempt to invent a plausible 1914 design, it was decided to use a harmonious but modern infill.

This project also addressed the question of "earlying-up" since this was the clients' original desire. Rather than argue historical propriety with them, the tactic of preparing comparative estimates was adopted. As would be expected, it would have cost far more to do a poor fake-Georgian remodeling than to respect what was there and do minor cleanup and repairs.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones

HPJ/dfp

Enclosures

Published in Nat. Trust newspaper in 1978



NORTH

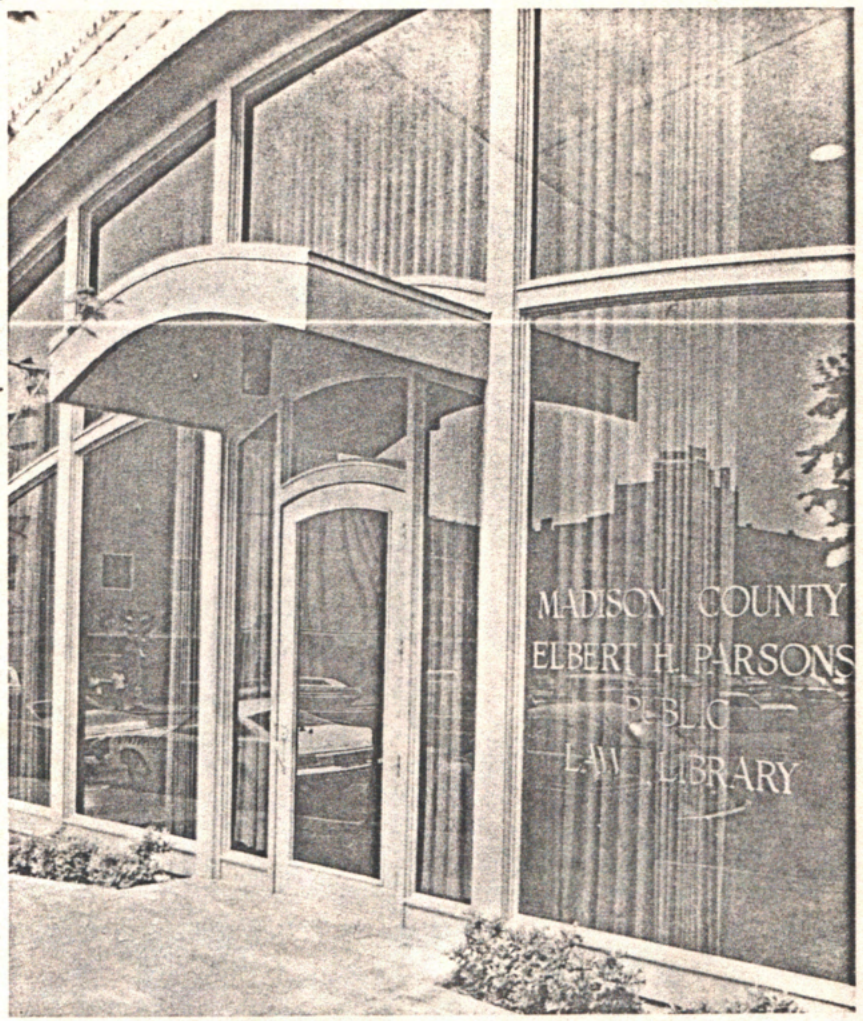
EAST SIDE SQUARE
PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

ANOR

1975
(Am. Inst. of Architects.)



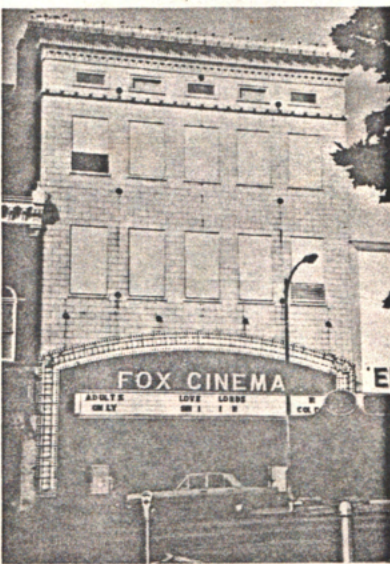
Merit Award



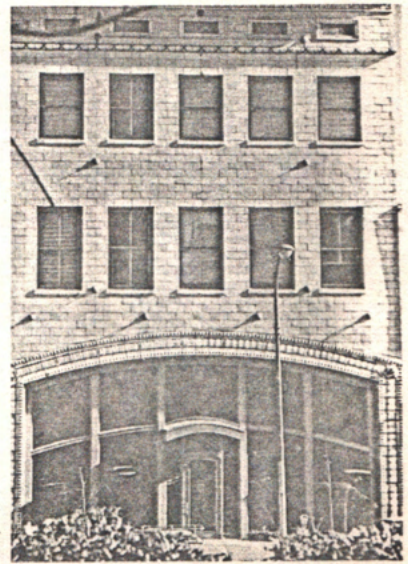
Restoration/Remodeling of a 1914 Department store, last used as a pornographic movie theater, into a Law Library open to the Legal profession and the public.

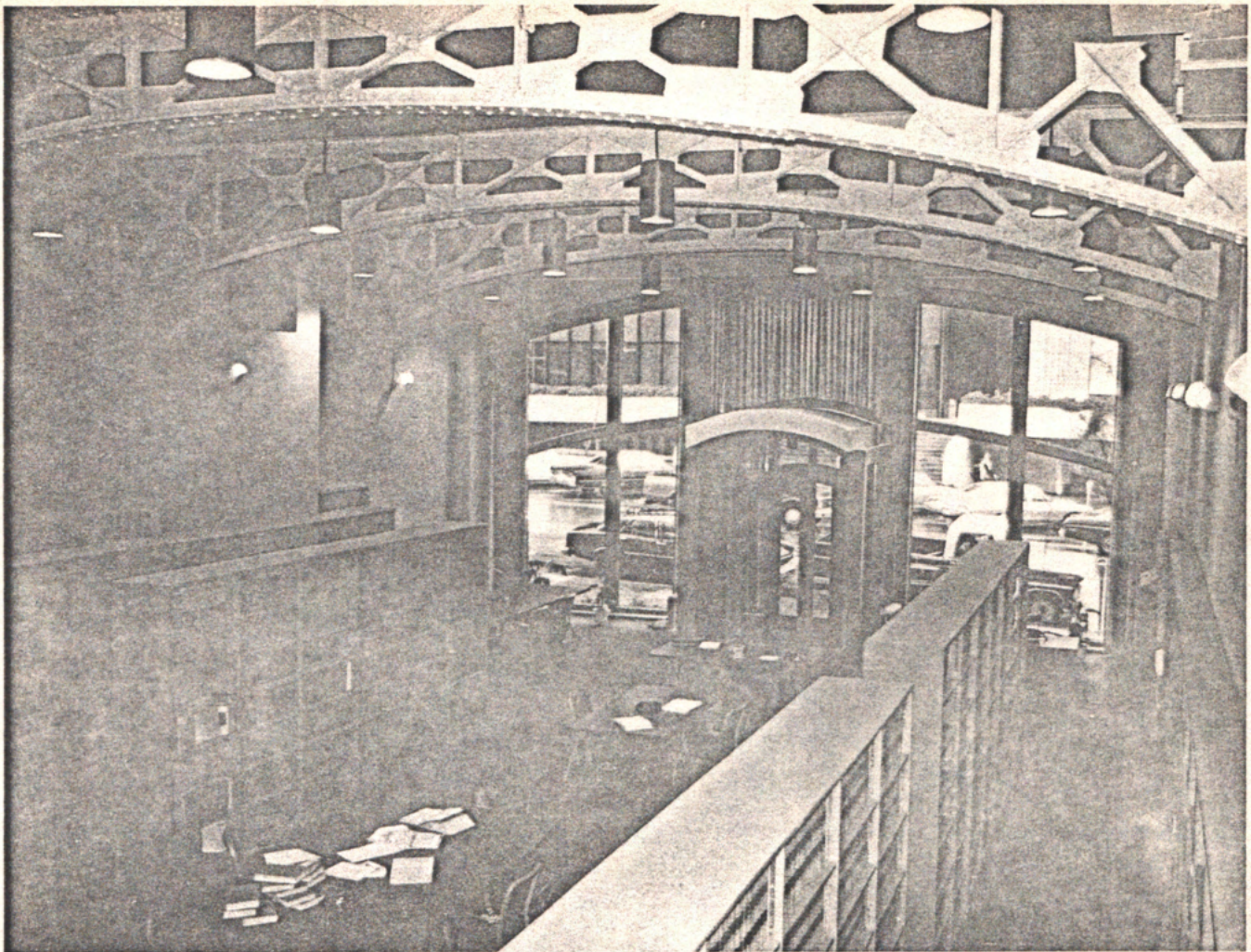
The interior was essentially restored to its original form, as was the terra-cotta facade. The original storefront had been obliterated since 1914, so a harmonious new storefront was provided. Trees, shrubs, and a brick walk were also installed. During construction portions of the original circa 1830 brick walk were found about 12" below the present grade. A skylighted brick "well" was installed so that a portion of the 140 year old walk could be seen.

BEFORE



AFTER





after

PROJECT:
Elbert H. Parsons Madison County Law Library

LOCATION:
Huntsville, Alabama

OWNER:
Madison County

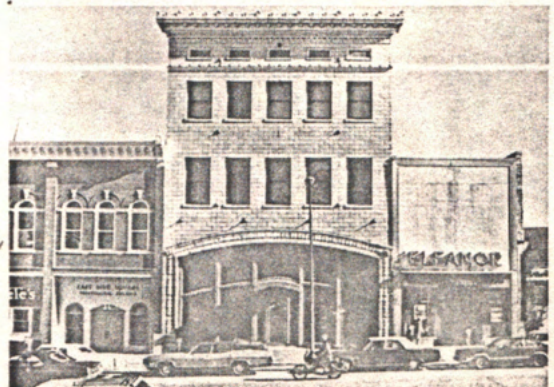
ARCHITECT:
Jones & Herrin, Architects, A.I.A., Huntsville,
Alabama

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Three Bees Construction Company — Huntsville,
Alabama

RESTORED COST OF BUILDING & LAND:
\$7.00/square foot ±

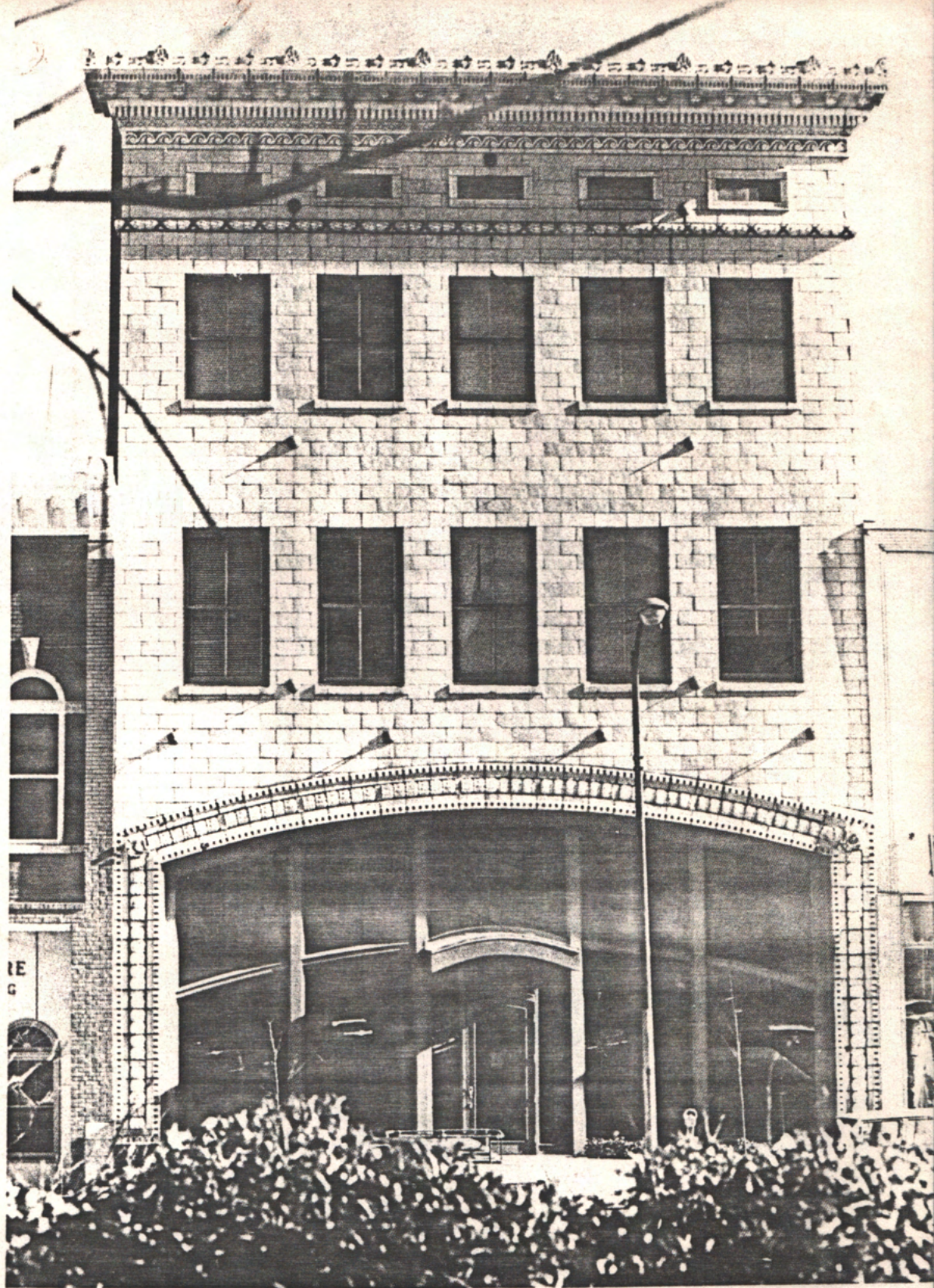


before

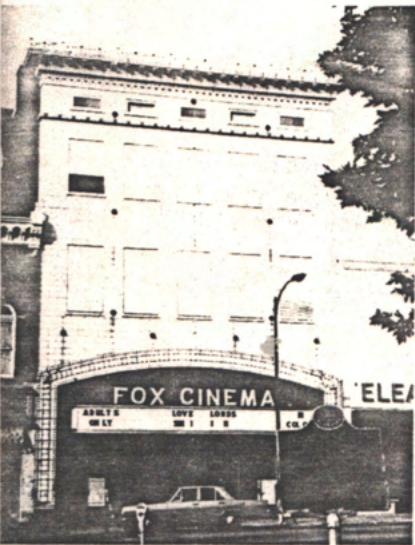


after

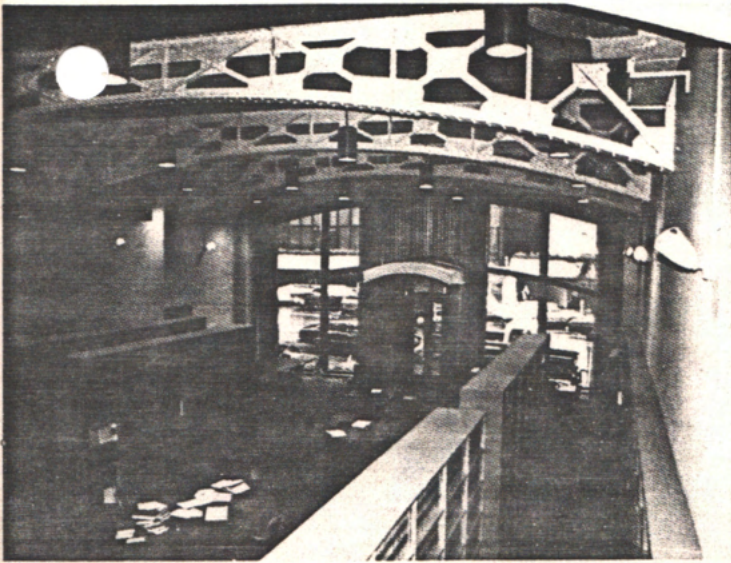
The interior of the building, initially a department store, was essentially restored to its original form, as was the terra cotta facade. Trees, shrubs, and a brick walk were added. During construction portions of the original circa 1830 brick walk were found some 12 inches below the present grade. A skylighted brick "well" was installed so that a portion of the 140-year-old walk could be seen. The law library is open to the legal profession and the public.



BEFORE



“A building of any period, old and recent, deserves to keep its own character.”



The client had initially thought of refacing the 1914 building in an early 1800's manner, in converting it from a second-rate movie theater to a new home for the county law library. Since the building was a handsome example of early 20th century terra cotta, it was suggested that it be restored rather than remodeled. A cost comparison demonstrated that such an approach would make good economic as well as historic sense. The "remodeling" would have cost over twice as much as the restoration, the architect advised, and a building of considerable design interest and integrity would have been lost to a building of "imitation history."

The large arched opening at the front is a direct reflection of the shape of the steel trusses on the interior. Because of the attractiveness of the arched, riveted trusses, it was decided to leave them exposed and to highlight them for visual interest.

No documentation remained on the original entry arch infill design. However, rather than inventing "a simulated 1914" entry, a harmonious but contemporary arch infill was designed. The 60-year-old terra cotta required only mild chemical washing and minor repointing to restore it to good condition.

In the words of the architect, "The low cost of this project again demonstrates that 'preservation pays,' in both the economic and the cultural sense. The best rule of thumb in both respects is to keep all good aspects of the existing structure, and to recognize that a building of any period, old or recent, deserves to keep its own character. Countless good late-19th and early-20th century buildings have been expensively ruined because someone thought they ought to look a century older than they are. It is useful to keep in mind that if we take care of the 60-year-old buildings, someday they will be 160 years old," the architect concludes. "Fake preservation is expensive; good preservation saves money."



JONES & HERRIN ARCHITECTS, AIA

Old & New

Design relationships in architecture

National Trust for Historic Preservation

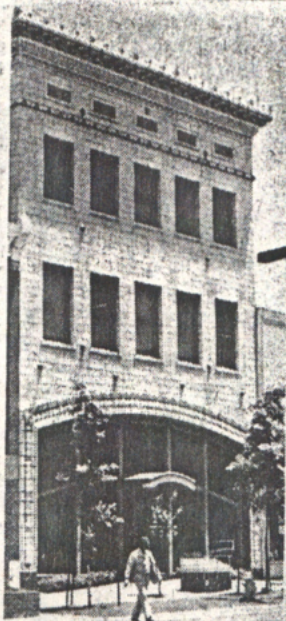
A Preservation News Supplement

April 1978

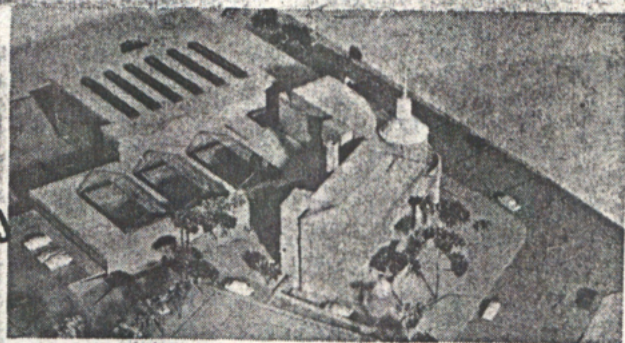


Robert Lautman

Washington, D.C., architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen, FAIA, chose to echo this Gothic Revival cottage by duplicating part of it. The Robert Elliott house in Chevy Chase, Md., was built in 1871 and when the owner required additional space recently, the wing at the left was the result. The link between the two sections is glass, the only contemporary element on the exterior. In contrast, the interior is entirely contemporary. All windows are double-glazed for insulation.



The owner of this 1914 commercial building in Huntsville, Ala., had intended to "modernize" it by giving it an early 1800s look. Architects Jones & Herrin showed the Madison County Law Library that it would cost more than twice as much to do that as to restore the authentic early 20th century terra cotta facade. Since there was no documentation about the original entrance, and rather than speculate, the architects created a harmonious, but contemporary, arch infill doorway that complements the rest of the facade.



Several years ago, there was serious consideration given to building a new YMCA in Greenwich, Conn. The present building was old (1916), outmoded and lacked the necessary facilities. Concern was voiced that the prime location at a main downtown intersection would be sold for development and a decision was made to stay downtown and restore the old structure, while adding a new wing to accommodate increased needs. The addition by architect James Lothrop is at the far end and behind the main building, thus giving it primacy. A fund drive for the \$3 million project is under way and construction is expected to begin during the summer.



POOR PRINT - SEEP.3

44

East Side
S.D.
→

MOON &
COHEN &
STOLTZ 1914

photo 1975 (H. Jones) - 1914 Maynard Cooney Dry Goods Store, East Side Sq., Humboldt. All
 Later Pennys Dept. Store until c. 1965. Jan 1974 = X - Rated Movie Hqs.
 Madison Co. Commission bought in 1973 for Law Library (Jones & Herring Arch - HS)

10/15



MAY • 73 •



MAY • 73 •

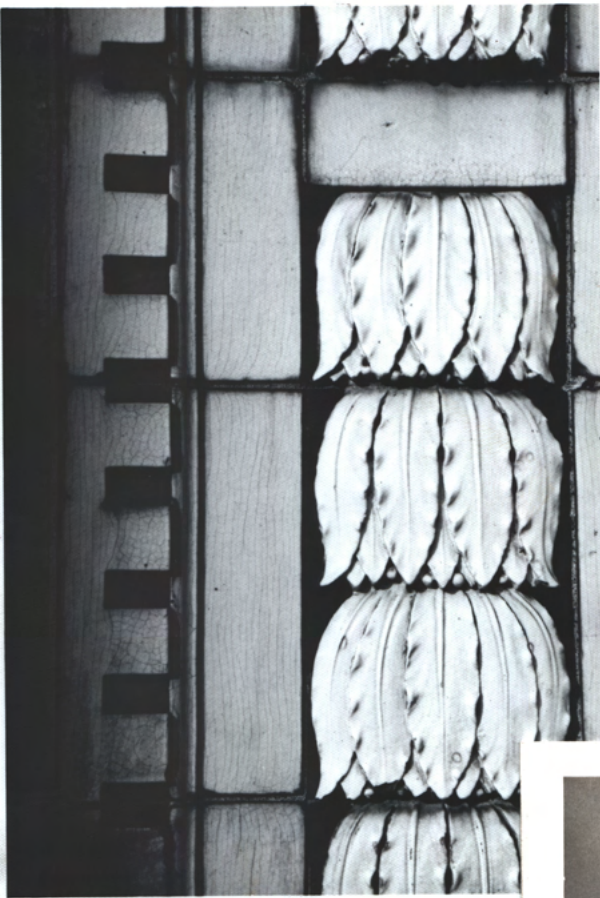
"Before" photos 1973 HJms



MAY • 73 •



MAY • 73



MAY • 73 •

Terra Cotta 1914 d
(various colors)

1973
"before"
photo
NJ



52

3.4.15



"After" photos 1975 - HJms
 Small street, no walk is covered section
 of early 1800's brick walk. See history

NAT

Dirty terra-cotta was just
 washed w/ soap & water.



N ←

1975 "After" - No photos available of 1914 storefront, so this is a modern 1974 (but harmonious) storefront. AIA Award in 1975, pub. by Nat. Trust. in 1976

1975 "After" photo



MM

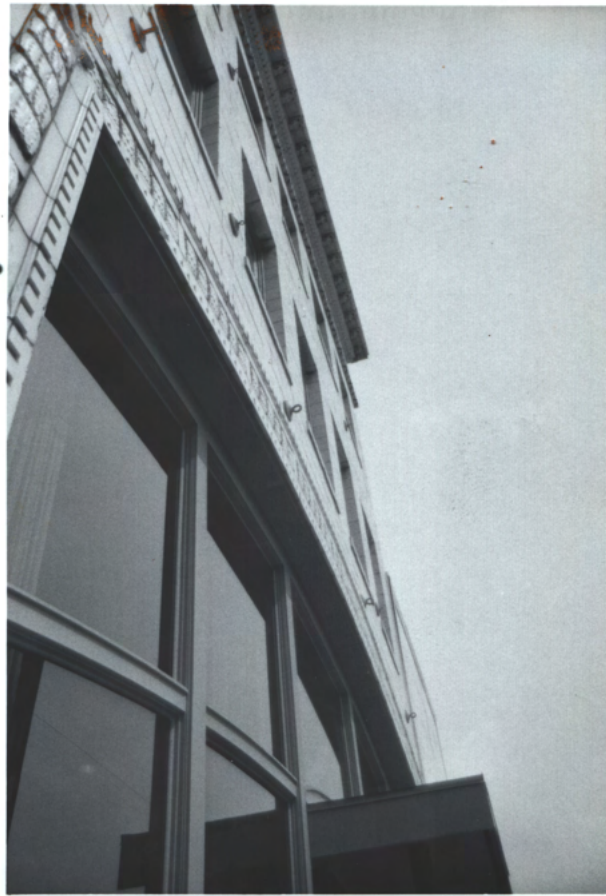
photo
1975

9



NA 1978 "After" photo - Ralph Allen (JFH)

7 of 15



"After" - R. Allen photos (J&H)



WZ



"After" - K. Wilson photos, JFH



N ←





HA →

"After" - R. Allen

NA →



June 1974 photos
 Early 1800's brick walk uncovered about 12" below
 present walk. A section was left exposed inside
 a brick enclosure about 3' x 6'

11 of 15

"Skyline" 1975 photo, R. Allison (D&H)

↑





NY 117
AL

12

Low Lib - Aug 1995 photo - HP Jones



→ 0



→ 0A



→ 1

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

→ 1A



→ 2

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

→ 2A



→ 3

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

→ 3A



→ 4

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

→ 4A



→ 5

SAFETY FILM 5062



→ 6

SAFETY FILM 5062



→ 7

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

→ 7A



→ 8

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→ 8A



→ 9

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→ 9A



→ 10

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→ 10A



→ 11

SAFETY FILM 5062



→ 12

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→ 13

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→ 13A



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→ 17

SAFETY FILM 5062



→ 18A



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SAFETY FILM 5062



→ 24A



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→ 27A



→ 28

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

→ 28A



→ 29



→ 30



→ 31



→ 32



JONES & HERRIN
Architects AIA
104 Jefferson St.



→ 34

"After" photos - R. Allen - 1975 - 1914 May of Canyon Dry Goods Store
Here - Huntsville - Madison Co. Long Library (AL)
James J. Harris Architects, Harris P. Jones

KODAK SAFETY FILM

KODAK TRI-X PAN FILM



→ 0 ← 17A

→ 10 ← 17

→ 1 ← 16A

→ 11 ← 16

→ 11A ← 15A

→ 2 ← 15

→ 2A ← 14A

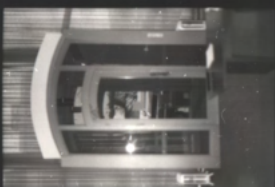
→ 3 ← 14

→ 3A ← 13A

→ 4 ← 13

→ 5 ← 12A

→ 5A ← 12



KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

SAFETY FILM 5062

→ 11A ← 6

→ 11 ← 6A

→ 10A ← 9

→ 10 ← 9A

→ 9 ← 8A

→ 9A ← 8

→ 8 ← 7A

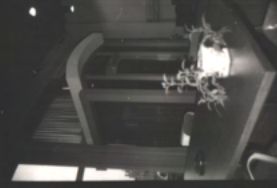
→ 8A ← 7

→ 7 ← 6A

→ 7A ← 6

→ 6 ← 6A

→ 6A ← 6



KODAK

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

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KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5062



→ 0

→ 0A

→ 1

→ 1A

→ 2

→ 2A

→ 3

→ 3A

→ 4

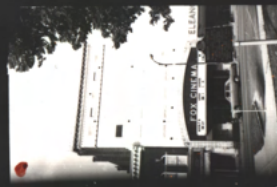
→ 4A

→ 5

→ 5A

PLUS X PAN FILM

KODAK SAFETY FILM



→ 9A

→ 10

→ 10A

→ 11

→ 11A

→ 12

→ 12A

→ 13

10A-12A = 1973 "before" photos
as X-Rated cinema

"After" photos 1975

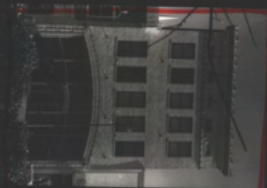
1914 May & Creamy Day Books

E.S. Sp. Hunt with Al.

(Hv.-Mad. Co. Low Lib.

- James J. Herrin (Arch. - H. J. J.)

KODAK SAFETY FILM



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"After"

"After" photos - R. Diller, JH Arch, 194 May of Cooney Store, Wills

(15) of 15