

201 East Commercial

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

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, Jones Department Store occupied this address.

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

MJ's Flea Market in 2008.

In 1993, was New Life Evangelistic Center.

In 1985-1990, Value World, a variety store, occupied this building.

In 1980, it was a restaurant called The Lunch Box.

In 1965-1975, it was often vacant.

In 1950-1960, Hunter's M L 5 Cents To One Dollar Store owned and operated by Willard L. Hunter who resided at 826 South Fort Avenue occupied it.

In 1945, the building was home to J.W. Crank Drug Store, owned by William C. Fahrenhorst 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, A.F. Trogdon Wallpaper occupied the building. 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 is empty today.*

209 East Commercial

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, A.F. Trogdon Wallpaper who in 1910 owned the A.F. Trogdon Livery occupied the same address. Mr. Trogdon lived at 857 N. Jefferson Avenue.

211-215 East Commercial

In 2008, 211 were The Style, and 214 Sunlight Studio. 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.

217 East Commercial

Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar in 2008.

219 East Commercial

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 bookstore 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, Ozark Empire Fleet Reserve Associates occupied the building.

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, Aaron B. Conkling & Sons Retail Dry Goods, residence 1237 North Benton Avenue, occupied the building.

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

Bridgefield Galleries, Catfish & Crystal Shoppe.

229 East Commercial

Professional Massage Training Center, Inc. in 2008.

234 East Commercial

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.

Jerry Israel 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 Deliverance Center Church occupied the building.

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.