Iowa Site Inventory Form State Inventory Number: 44-00371 ☐ New ☐ Supplemental **State Historic Preservation Office** 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: _____ (January 2016) □ Non-extant Year: Read the lowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website. **Property Name** A) Historic name: O'Connor Clothing Store B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-067 Location A) Street address: 121 W. Monroe St B) City or town: Mount Pleasant (Vicinity) County: Henry C) Legal description: Rural: Township Name: Township No.: Range No.: Section: Quarter: of Quarter: Urban: Subdivision: Original Block(s): _7 Lot(s): _Lot 4 - E 18.75' of W 93.75' - also same of S 5' of Lot 3 Classification A) Property category: Check only one B) Number of resources (within property): If eligible property, enter number of: □ Building(s) If non-eligible property. ☐ District Contributing Noncontributing enter number of: ☐ Site 1 Buildings Buildinas ☐ Structure Sites Sites ☐ Object Structures Structures Objects Objects Total **Total** C) For properties listed in the National Register: National Register status: Listed De-listed NHL NPS DOE D) For properties within a historic district: Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district. Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation. Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located. Historic district name: Mt Pleasant Downtown Historic District Historic district site inventory number: 44-02280 E) Name of related project report or multiple property study, if applicable: MPD title Historical Architectural Data Base # Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of Downtown Mt Pleasant, Iowa HADB-02986 Function or Use Enter categories (codes and terms) from the lowa Site Inventory Form Instructions A) Historic functions **B)** Current functions 02E03: COMMERCE/TRADE / clothing store 02E: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store **Description** Enter categories (codes and terms) from the lowa Site Inventory Form Instructions A) Architectural classification **B) Materials** 09F05: Commercial / brick front Foundation (visible exterior): <u>04C: Limestone</u> Walls (visible exterior): 03: Brick Roof: 15C: Rubber

Other:

Site Number: 44-00371 Address: 121 W. Monroe St	City: Mt Pleasant County: IA District Number: 44-02280
Statement of Significance	
A) Applicable National Register Criteria: Mark your opic Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events. Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant property in Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristic Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeology.	s.
 B) Special criteria considerations: Mark any special cor ☐ A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious ☐ B: Removed from its original location. ☐ C: A birthplace or grave. ☐ D: A cemetery 	
C) Areas of significance Enter categories from instructions 05: Commerce	D) Period(s) of significance
02: Architecture	
E) Significant dates Construction date 1860	F) Significant person Complete if Criterion B is marked above
G) Cultural affiliation Complete if Criterion D is marked above	H) Architect/Builder Architect
	Builder/contractor
Bibliography See continuation sheets for the list res Geographic Data Optional UTM references See continuation See continuation sheets for the list research See continuation shee	
Name and Title: Rebecca Lawin McCarley / research Organization/firm: SPARK Consulting / Mt Pleasant H Street address: 1630 Park Ave SE City or Town: Cedar Rapids	h by Lisa Oekten, Tina, & Pat Date: March 13, 2024 PC E-mail: sparkconsulting@octaspark.com Telephone: 319-200-9767 State: IA Zip code: 52403
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION Submit the follow	ving items with the completed form
unique photo number. 3. Photo key showing each photo number on a number to indicate the location and directional v	property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and map and/or floor plan, using arrows next top each photo
B) For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, See lists of special requirements and attachments in	historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only	
The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs with a Yes No More research recomm This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated property.	
	ocally designated district.
Comments:	ocally designated district.
Comments:	ocally designated district.
Comments: SHPO authorized signature:	Date:

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7. Narrative Description

This building was constructed in the 1860s, but the façade was fully remodeled in 1952. Thus, it retains historic integrity from this later period. The storefront was remodeled at this time, with a deeply recessed center entry installed. Aluminum display windows to either side have stone clad bulkheads. The upper story entry is to the right/east of the storefront. A modern awning has been installed across the upper portion of the storefront. The buff brick on the second story dates to the 1952 remodel, which was completed in the same summer as the Rukgaber building to the east. Thus, the brick continues in course across both buildings. The façade has a simple detail, which appear to reflect the earlier façade remodel two buildings to the east at 117 W. Monroe St. Two double-courses of projected brick extend partially across the frieze/parapet. While a simple detail, it is a detail, while most façade remodels in this period are a simple brick façade. The three second story windows are set in simple openings with rowlock sills and no lintel detail. The vinyl windows are more recent replacements.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This commercial building appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building within the potential Mount Pleasant Downtown Historic District. The building contributes to the historic commercial character of the downtown, and it reflects the period of downtown development in the 1950s. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a historic commercial building in a historic district.

Based on research and evaluation conducted to date, this building does not appear to likely be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Assessment of the interior features and modifications would be required for a full evaluation of the individual eligibility of the building.

Developmental history of property

This 2-story, brick commercial building was probably built in the mid-1860s.

P.C. Tiffany owned and operated the first hotel, the Tiffany House, to the west at the corner of Jefferson and Monroe. It was destroyed by a fire in 1857 that burned this half block to the alley to the east, including the post office, book store, and jewelry store (MPS 1985: 10). A note by C.S. Rogers in 1938 notes that the "narrow two-story building on north side of square to the east of the large Lauger building" was built for the dry goods store of McLeran & Gill. They originally occupied it and then moved to a location on the east side ("The Bystander's Notes," *Mt Pleasant News,* February 24, 1938, 2). The 1859-60 city directory lists McLeran & Gill in the Brazelton Block. By the original number system, this location would have been No. 21 Monroe (numbered west to east). The 1859-1860 directory does not show a business operating at 21 W Monroe. J.E. Marsh is shown owning the W ¼ of the E ½ of lot 4 block 7 in the 1860s (Transfer Book "A", page 8). The 1867 Mount Pleasant City Directory (page 95) shows Parker & Dougherty operating a dry goods store at 21 W Monroe. The directory indicates "J.W." Parker and "J.D." Dougherty run the dry goods store. On page 98, S.M. Wise is a "Merchant Tailor", also with a shop at 21 W Monroe. The 1870 Mount Pleasant City Directory continues to list these two businesses at 21 W Monroe, Parker & Dougherty (page 61) and S.M. Wise (page 63).

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On 20 November 1880, the W ½ of the E ½ of lot 4 block 7 is transferred from James Dougherty (by Sheriff) to Eliza Ann Allen (Transfer Book "A", page 49). On 22 December 1880, Eliza Ann Allen sells the property to Frances Phippen (Transfer Book "A", page 49). In March 1886: "G.H. Phippen proposes to improve his store property on the north side this summer, until it shall be fully up to the standard" (The Free Press, Mt. Pleasant, March 11, 1886, page 3). In December 1887, "A new front to the Phippen store next door to the post office will fix the north side of the square complete with as handsome a row of business houses as any town can boast of" (Free Press, December 8, 1887, 3). Then, "The Fashion is to be moved to the first room east of the post office. Miss Stella Bartruff has rented the Phippen store, and it is now being neatly fitted up for her use." (Free Press, December 15, 1887, 3).

The 1886 Sanborn fire insurance map shows a 2-story, brick building with stairs on the front, east wall, leading to the second floor. There appears to be an opening on the front, east wall of the 2nd floor leading into the adjoining building. The main floor is used for a dry goods store; the 2nd floor is a tailoring and shoemaker shop. The address is 110 Monroe.

In July 1890, Miss Stella Bartruff was rapidly closing out her stock of goods to move to Keokuk. Her millinery stock would be held for sale later. The room that she occupied would be taken over by Mr. Albert Anderson (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, July 17, 1890, 2). Albert Anderson opened his jewelry store in town around 1873. He would remain in this location from 1890 to 1913.

The 1892 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the building as the previous map. The 1st floor is a jewelry store; the 2nd floor is used for offices. The address for the building is 131 W Monroe as well as 110 W Monroe.

The 1893 Mount Pleasant City Directory advertises A. Anderson, jeweler, owning a business at 131 W Monroe. Anderson offers books, stationery, musical instruments, etc.

The 1899 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the building as the previous maps. The 2-story, brick building is 20' in height. The 1st floor is a jewelry store; the 2nd floor is used for offices. The address for the building is 131 W Monroe.

On 22 October 1900, Francis Phippen, and husband, sell the W $\frac{1}{4}$ of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 4 to Laura Phippen, via warranty deed (Transfer Book "B", page 17). On 23 April 1904, Laura "Phippen" Graves, and husband, sell the lot to F.E. McClary for \$3,500.

F.E. McClary, and wife, then sell the property to John A. Lauger, on 4 July 1908 (Transfer Book "C", page 12). An article on the sale of the adjacent property notes that the building was occupied by Anderson's jewelry store in July 1909 ("Jones & Lauger Buy Building," *Mt Pleasant Journal*, July 27, 1909, 4). The 1911-1912 Henry County Directory advertises under the "Jewelers" category: Anderson, Albert, north side square.

The 1909 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the building as in the previous maps. The 2-story, brick building is 22' in height. The opening on the front, east wall of the 2nd floor leading into the adjoining building is now gone. There is now a skylight. The building is used for a jewelry store. The address is 131 W Monroe.

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On 16 February 1910, W.A. Jones & John A. Lauger purchase from R.S. Galer, the S 5' strip of the E 18 ¾' of the W 93 ¾' lot 3 block 7. On 6 July 1910, Jones & Lauger sell the property to J.E. Holland for \$3,250. On 22 January 1911, John A. Lauger, and wife, transfer the property to W.A. Jones (Transfer Book "C", page 12).

On May 15, 1913, the *Mount Pleasant Journal* reports: "Albert Anderson has sold his north side jewelry store to F.B. Crane...Anderson has been in business here for nearly forty years." (page 1). He was listed prior to purchasing this stock on the north side of the square in the 1911-12 county directory, located further to the east at the current 105 W. Monroe St.

The *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reports in June 1913 that Ben Hur Wilson has purchased the stock of music of A. Anderson on the north side of the square and leased the building. He has plans for improvements. He will add a fine line of new sheet and book music and will also add pianos and wind/string instruments. He will call it "The Music Store" and will make it one of the most modern in southeastern lowa ("A New Music Store," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 6, 1913, 4). A postcard from this period shows "The Music Store" in this building. It appears to have operated only for a few years.

On 27 June 1919, J.E. Holland, and wife, sell to Emma A. Negus, and G.N., the W ¼ of the E ½ of lot 4 and "the strip N of the store". An article on the sale notes that G.N. Negus has purchased the business block on the north side owned by Dr. Holland and now occupied by the Ben H. Wilson Insurance Agency, who would move out. He planned to open a store for the sale of popcorn, peanuts, and other refreshments. He planned to live in the apartment above the store ("Negus Buys Block," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, January 10, 1919, 4). The 1920 Sanborn map shows a confectionary operating here. Negus then operated the Sanitary Pop Corn and Peanut Stand in this location. He sold the business to John Lynch and Ed Rokey in July 1921. They intended to install a fountain and open an ice cream parlor ("Shop Changes Hands," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, July 12, 1921, 3).

On 1 September 1921, Emma Andrews Negus, and husband, sell the W ¼ of the E ½ of lot 4 (and also "the strip N of the store") to W.S. Lessenger for \$5,000 (Transfer Book "1", page 8). Dr. W.S. Lessenger previously has an office on N. Jefferson, moving to a location on W. Monroe in the late 1910s. In the 1923 telephone directory, he is then listed as on the north side of the square, likely in this building. He continues to be listed on the north side of the square through the 1938 city directory. In July 1935, a new storefront was installed on the Lessenger building on the north side of the square, formerly occupied by Guy Perry's Sugar Bowl restaurant. The building would then be leased to a new tenant ("Workmen Remodel Lessenger Building," *Mt Pleasant News*, July 11, 1935).

In September 1935, Joe Panther and James O'Connor announced that they were opening a clothing store, stocking men's clothing, furnishings, and shoes. Both men were graduates from Iowa Wesleyan. The store opened on the north side of the square ("Announce Opening of New Store," *Mt Pleasant News,* September 5, 1935, 1, 5). The 1938 directory lists the clothing Panther & O'Connor on the north side of the square. They continue to be listed here in the 1940s telephone directories.

On 20 September 1938, W.S. Lessenger transfers the property to Alma Lessenger (Transfer Book "1", page 8). The 1942 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the building as the previous maps. The address is 131 W Monroe.

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The telephone directories for 1950 and 1952 continue to list Panther & O'Connor Clothing Store. James O'Connor then continued the business on his own in 1952, with O'Connor Clothing & Men's Wear listed at 131 W. Monroe in the 1955 city directory. The address shifts to 121 W. Monroe by the 1957 directory.

On 6 January 1945, Alma Lessenger sells the property to Wayne T. Garretson for \$10,000 (Transfer Book "1", page 190). However, a correction had to be made and the deed was recorded a second time (Transfer Book "2", page 8). On 1 May 1948, Wayne T. and Ann Garretson sell the W $\frac{1}{4}$ of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 4 and the 5' strip in lot 3 to Mary Keith.

The façade of the building was remodeled at this point of transition of owners in 1952. Work started in July on the adjacent Rukgaber building to replace the façade, with a project then announced to also replace the front on the two-story building of Mrs. Mary Keith occupied by the Panther & O'Connor clothing store. The front was replaced with brick similar to those brick used on the front of the adjacent Rukgaber building. It was noted as the third major improvement on the square in the month ("Third Major Improvement in Business Area," *Mt Pleasant News*, July 25, 1952, 1). The work was completed in October, with store then noted as O'Connor's Clothing Store. A brand new modern brick front had been installed along with new front windows. It was an established clothing store, which had occupied its present location for the past 18 years. The interior was also redecorated and rearranged, including a new asphalt tile floor in black and gray. The store was operated by James O'Connor and three employees ("O'Connor Store Presents Fine New Appearance," *Mt Pleasant News*, October 17, 1952, 1). City directories from 1957 through the 1960s list O'Connor Clothing & Men's Wear, or O'Connor's Clothing Store in ads, at 121 W. Monroe St.

On 26 June 1971, Mary E. Keith sells the property to James E. O'Connor (Transfer Book "2", page 8). O'Connor Clothing Store continues to be listed here through the 1970s. After 43 years in business, Jim O'Connor sold the sold to Joe Beames in June 1978 (*Mount Pleasant News*, June 30, 1978). O'Connor's Clothing, Inc. was listed here in 1981 and 1983.

Several businesses were subsequently located at 121 W Monroe, as shown in city directories: Fashion Boutique (1986), What Not Shop, Owner Janice Sinclair (1990), Iowa Gifts & Souvenirs (1993-1994), Galer McCormick Law Office (1997), McCormick Law Office (1997-2000), Adecco (2004) and A Head of the Rest (2011).

Danny Cornell purchased the building in August 2003, from Philip and Christy McCormick. The building has been owned since June 2021, by Salon Monroe, LLC, who purchased the building from Danny and April Cornell. This commercial building is currently occupied in 2023 by Salon Monroe, a full-service beauty salon and tattoo/piercing shop.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Review of Henry County, Iowa. Chicago, IL: Hobart Publishing Company, 1906.

Building and sign permits, City of Mount Pleasant, Iowa

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City and telephone directories, Mt Pleasant:

Bowron, Watson. *Henry County Directory for 1859-60.* Burlington, IA: Watson Bowron, 1859. *Annawalt & Lawrence's Bi-ennial Mt Pleasant Directory.* Burlington, IA: Hawk-Eye Steam Printing House, 1867.

Annewalt, E.H., compiler. *Mount Pleasant City Directory.* Burlington: Daily Gazette, 1870.

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Mount Pleasant Telephone Company. Telephone directories issued in 1913, 1915, 1918, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1937, 1939, 1944, 1948, 1950, 1952.

Groce, W.H. The City Directory of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Mt Pleasant: Groce, 1938.

Johnson Publishing Co. *Mt Pleasant, Iowa.* City directories issued in 1955, 1957, 1960, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1873, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1993, 2001, 2011. Manitowoc, WI: Johnson Publishing Co.

Cornerstones. Mt Pleasant: Mt. Pleasant Beautiful Committee, 1991.

Henry County Bicentennial Commission (HCBC). *The History of Henry County.* Dallas, TX: National ShareGraphics, Inc., 1982.

Henry County Historical Society. Vertical files and albums in files at Mt Pleasant Public Library.

Henry County Heritage Trust. Collection of historic images, in files and posted in Facebook albums. Collection in former Saunders School, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Henry County Recorder's Office / Henry County Auditor's Office. Property records, transfer books, and deed records. Henry County Courthouse, Mt Pleasant, Iowa

History of Henry County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

Jaynes, Peter H., ed. *Highlights of Henry County History 1833-1976.* Burlington, IA: Doran & Ward Lithographing Co., 1977.

Koch, Augustus. *Birds-Eye View of the City of Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa*. Chicago, IL: Merchants Lithographing Co, 1869. In collection of Henry County Heritage Trust and Mount Pleasant Public Library, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Mount Pleasant Beautiful. Mt Pleasant: Mt Pleasant News Company, 1909. Reprint issued in 1988.

Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Sesquicentennial, 1835-1985 (MPS). Mt Pleasant, IA: The Committee, 1985

Naumann, Molly Myers. *Architectural and Historical Resources of Mount Pleasant, IA.* National Register of Historic Places Multiple Documentation Form, May 1991. On file with the State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, IA.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing Co., 1888.

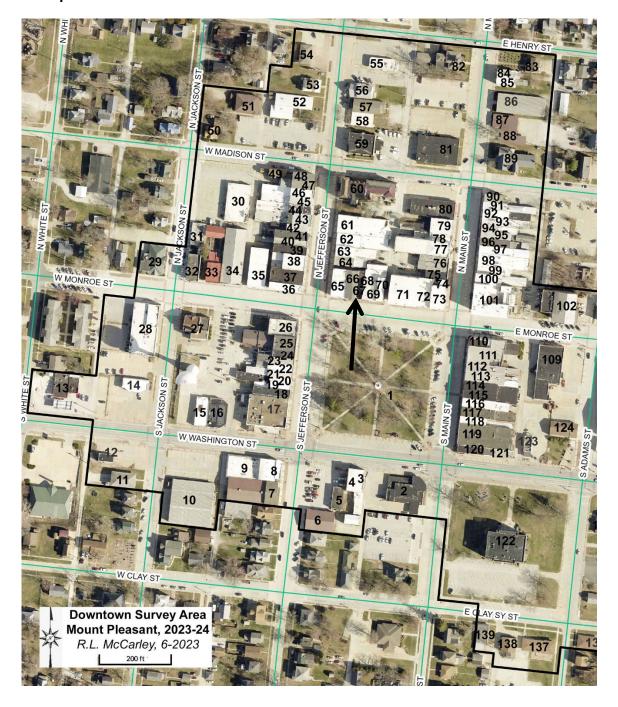
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Sanborn Map Company. *Mount Pleasant, Iowa*. Fire insurance maps for 1886, 1892, 1899, 1909, 1920, 1942. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Sanborn Maps Collection.

Location map

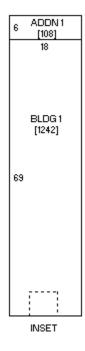


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Building footprint



Sketch by www.camavision.com

Henry County Assessor (https://beacon.schneidercorp.com)

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Historic images

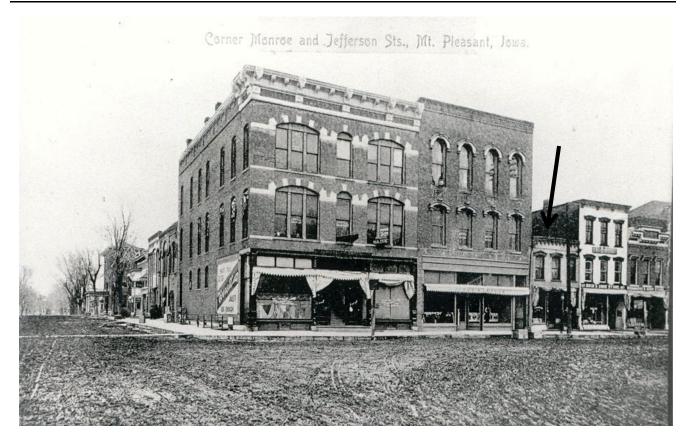


100 block of W. Monroe after June 1882 tornado (HCHT Facebook album)

top of building damaged

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West end of 100 block of W. Monroe Street in early 1900s (HCHT Facebook album)

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100 block of W. Monroe Street in the late 1910s (HCHT Facebook album)

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100 block of W. Monroe Street in early 1952 (Don Lamm, HCHT Facebook album)

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West end of 100 block of W. Monroe Street in 1956 (HCHT Facebook album)

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100 block of W. Monroe Street in 1957 (HCHT Facebook album)

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100 block of W. Monroe Street in 1965 (HCHT Facebook album)

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Storefront in 1960s (HCHT Facebook album)

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100 block of W. Monroe Street in December 1981 (Mt Pleasant News, December 2, 1981, 30, HCHT Facebook album / clippings)

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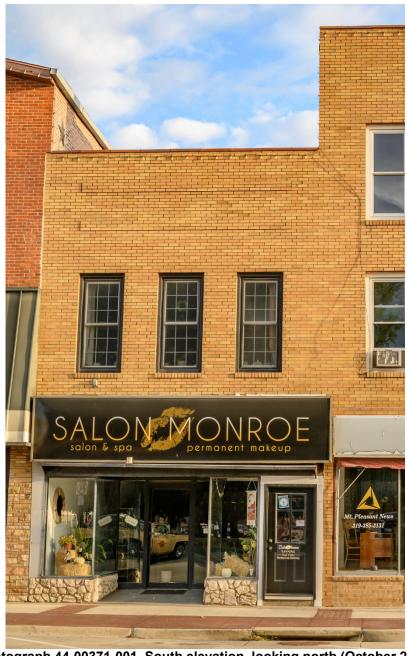
Storefront in 1990s (HCHT Facebook album)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 44-00371-001. South elevation, looking north (October 2023)