

210 West Commercial

In 1880, Mayo Grocery was located here.

The 1885 city directory listed Taylor & Company Coal, Wood & Hay at this address.

In 1920-1925, Jared Brothers Furniture was listed at this address. Frank Nelson (wife Fayne) managed Nelson Furniture at this address in 1930-1940. In 1930, they lived at 1307 Prospect. In 1935, they moved to 1424 Robberson Avenue.

In 1946-1961, Newton Jared (wife Geneva) was proprietor of Jared Brothers Furniture at 210 West Commercial. They lived at 612 Loren. In 1965, Herman Cox (wife Dorra) became the proprietor. They lived at 1173 Roanoke. In 1970, Dwight Walker (wife Virginia) became proprietor of the same business. They lived at 2430 Seminole.

In 1975, Marie Ross of 2528 Main Avenue became proprietor. She changed the name to Marie's Furniture in 1980.

Ozark Repair was located here in 1985. Jim Bloomer of 1326 Cedarbrook owned it.

In 1990, the business at this address was Loafer's Glory Flea Market, owned by Anna B. Gordon, living at 2001 College Street, and Earl and Antoinette Blain of Willard, Missouri in 1993 that lived at 1522 North Robberson, Springfield.

Galleries & Gifts and Twin Town Studios in 2008.

213 West Commercial

Luther Gilbert (wife Georgia) owned Gilbert Upholstery here in 1946, and later Gilbert Furniture in 1950-1961. They resided at 1505 Walnut Street.

213 was home to Cardin's Salvage in 1970. Floyd Cardin (wife Jurea) was owner. They lived at 404 Morningside.

Greg Weiner of Republic, Missouri was proprietor of PBS Sanitary Supply at this address in 1980.

The K.C. Express Lounge was located here in 1985, owner Ernie Bedell who lived at 1213 Sherman Avenue.

In 1990, the Zodiac Lounge occupied this address, owned by Dan Thurman. Mark Dickson owned it in 1993.

Yesterday's Treasures Thrift Store in 2008.

215 West Commercial

Lowery Produce Shipper, owned by Sam Lowery was located here in 1878-1880.

In 1890, this was the location of Parce, Bechtell & Company (agricultural implements). E.D. Parce was proprietor, living at 1465 Jefferson Avenue.

In 1910-1925, Morgan Studio occupied this address. The owner was H.C. Morgan (wife was Minnie) of 217-1/2 Commercial.

215 was home to Commercial Printing in 1935-1940. The owner in 1935 was Lura Ray and in 1940 was James Peabody (wife was Fay) who lived at 2127 Booneville.

Homer Qualls (wife was Thelma) was proprietor of Davis Electric in 1946. Gilbert Furniture was located here in 1955. Luther (wife Georgia) Gilbert was owner. They lived at 1505 Walnut Street.

In 1965-1970, Ruth Yakey owned Ruth's Fashions at this address. She lived at 2302 Cedarbrook. Fashionable Wig Salon was located here in 1975, owned by Richard Hinton of Kansas City. Lois Trantham owned Lois' Wig & Beauty Salon here in 1980. Lois lived at 2007 Lyon.

In 1985-1993, Tess' Wigs & Beauty Salon, owned by Tess and Larry Hinds, occupied this building.

Red Books & Chairs in 2008.

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

216 West Commercial

This building has a rich past. Built in 1886 by the Schaeffer family, it was occupied by a hardware store on the first floor. In the early 1900s, Dr. Solomon

Tickle, a prominent Springfield physician had his office here. Known as “the doctor who made house calls”, he provided free medical services door-to-door during the great Influenza Epidemic of 1918. Tickle helped in the creation of Springfield’s water system while serving on the Public Health Committee in 1918. Dr. Tickle lived on Douglas Avenue where he would walk to work everyday.

Epps hardware, located on the 1st floor, added about 25 feet to the back of the building between 1903-1910, including a large wooden freight elevator. In 1920-1946, Epps Hardware was located here. The owner was Howard Epps (wife was Cora) who resided at 1914 Missouri.

Long Hardware occupied this address. The proprietor was Ken Long (wife was Ruth) who lived at 513 Florence.

The 1955 City Directory listed Missouri Electronic at 216 with proprietor as Robert Leftwick (wife was Chloris) who resided at 822 Pickwick.

Jared Brothers Furniture occupied this building in 1965, with proprietor Herman Cox (wife was Dorra). The couple lived at 1173 Roanoke Avenue.

In 1970, the proprietor was Dwight Walker (wife was Virginia) lived at 2430 Seminole Street.

In 1975-1985, the Electric News occupied this address. Owner, Curtis Plotner who lived in Rogersville in 1980, and at 5725 Catalpa Street. He was married to Ann in 1975-1980, and Brenda in 1985.

Renaissance Studios was located at 216 in 1990. The owner was Gary Waldrop (wife was Amy) who resided at 2321 Howard.

In 1993, this address was home to Louise’s Hair Boutique, owned by Louise Goodwin. In Spring 1994, Gary Waldrop, resident of the building, discovered a deep man-made sinkhole on the property, believed to patch into the Underground Railroad and the subject of extensive media coverage.

Askinosie & Bilyeu Law Offices in 2008.

217 West Commercial

This building is a two-story structure, a vacuum store for the last 8 years, built in the 1870s.

In 1935-1940, Daily Events was located at this address, proprietor Lura Ray who lived at 1871 Broadway. Davis Electrical occupied 217 in 1950. Owner Homer Qualls (wife was Thelma) lived at 217-1/2 Commercial.

In 1965, Floor Covering occupied this address. Donald Clough (wife was Sandra), attorney, was located at this address in 1975. They lived at 4202 Tilden.

Rainbow Sweeper Exchange occupied this address in 1980, owned by Bobby Givens who lived at 1942 Glenco.

Charles and Jacqueline Givens of 2630 West Jean Street occupied the building in 1990-1993 where they owned House of Vacuums. They purchased it ten years ago from lawyer Donald Clough who used the building as a law office. Clough had a very successful practice. When the Givens family purchased the place, they sold Random Sweepers. This business eventually became The House of Vacuums. Structurally, the building appears to be in good shape compared to some other buildings on the block. One feature that stands out is the ceilings, metal and tile with fine detailing. The two floors above the vacuum shop are used primarily for storage.

219 West Commercial

In 1878, Doling Commission Merchant was located at 219. The proprietor was J.M. Doling.

219 in 1910-1925 was Western Grain owned by W.P. Walker (Walker was single in 1910, wife was Mollie in 1915, Mary in 1920, Ella in 1925) who resided at 2246 Campbell Avenue, but 2155 Johnson after wed.

Standard Motor Company was located here in 1930. Owner was C.E. Woodruff (wife was Grace) lived at 1500 Meadowmere.

At 219, Fredrick's Used Cars occupied this address in 1935. Frederick's wife was Virginia. They resided at 911 University. Clutter Motor was located here in 1940 with owner L.M. Clutter (wife was Mabel) who lived at 901 University.

In 1946, Brite Furniture was located here. Proprietor Lon Brite (wife was Lillie) lived at 438 Elm Street.

Rowland's Department Store occupied 219 in 1950, Lewis Roland (wife was Olive), proprietor who lived in Willard.

Heers Appliances was located here in 1955-1960 with proprietor W. N. McClerkair (wife was Elvira) was proprietor who lived at 1470 Meadowmere.

In 1965, at 219 was Abe's Furniture. Ellis Mitchell was the owner (wife was Rayma). They lived at 2007 Walnut Street.

Elkins Bargain House was located here in 1970 with owner Robert Elkins (wife

was Pernice) who resided at 1007 Division Street.

In 1975, J. & B. Distributors occupied 219, owner Jack Reynolds (wife was Wanda) who resided at 3419 Westwood.

R.R. Salvage Company was located here in 1980. The proprietor was George Supik (wife was Franziska) who lived at 3361 Fairway.

In 1985, this was the address for Hayes Vending. The owner was Thomas Hayes (wife was Inez) who lived at Rt. 6, Box 520.

219 was home to Class Act Variety Store in 1990. Proprietor was Barbara Erwin (husband was Murl) who lived at 639 Grant Avenue.

In 1993, James and Karen Givens of 1608 Brower Street occupied this building. Their business was Stanford Medical Systems.

In 2008, Fusion Stained Glass Studio and Hudson Bryce Advertising were located here.

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