

302 East Commercial

Staton's Cleaners & Dyers was located here in 1915-1920. Mrs. Ethel L. Staton, widow of Ed M. Staton, was owner. She resided at 1834 N. Grant Avenue. Eva J. Coates lived upstairs at 302-1/2 in 1925.

In 1930, Bert and Ora Utt owned a furniture store at this location. They lived at 1945 N. Broadway Avenue.

In 1935, Sidney H. and Blanche Williams owned Williams Furniture Store here. They lived at 1536 Benton Avenue.

In 1940, William and Lillian Chandler owned a shoe repair shop here.

In 1946, this was home to Sleeth Bros. Shoe Repair, owners Walter and Elmer Sleeth. Elmer and wife Winnie were natives of Cassville. Walter and wife Nellie lived at 324 W. Locust. Mrs. Thelma O'Bannon lived upstairs, clerk for Model Market.

In 1950, North Side Salvage occupied this building.

In 1970, this address was home of Shoeland, managed by Bill G. Cobb.

In 1965 and 1975, it was the Family Shoe Store, managed by James "Fred" Williams, residing at 2021 Oak Grove Avenue and by Fred and Genelle Williams in 1955-1965 who lived at 725 E. University Street.

In 1980, this building was vacant. In 1985, it was home to the Springfield City Human Resources Department. Chester D. Dixon was director. He lived at 299 E. Commercial Street.

In 1990-1993, the building was vacant.

Smart Design occupied the building in 2008.

312 East Commercial

L.B. Price Mercantile Company was located here in 1915-1920. William C. Chapman (wife Bertha) was manager. They lived at 2251 Pierce. Mike C. Costello lived upstairs from 1884.

In 1925, the Herhalzers owned The Ozark Plumber here. At this time, they lived at 1037 W. Kearney Street. Flossie M. Jenkins lived upstairs at 312-1/2.

In 1930-1940, this location changed names to Ozark Plumbing Supply with owners Martin S. and Lulu L. Herhalzer of 2150 Kings Avenue.

In 1930, Steve A. Jenkins, Frisco lubricator made his home upstairs.

In 1935, Robert and Clara Meadows lived upstairs. Robert was a messenger for the Commercial Street Echo (publisher).

Carpenter Harry E. Hill and George Zeed lived upstairs in 1940.

In 1946, Farmers Second-Hand Store, owned by Frank and Belle Poston of 1343 N. Robberson Avenue, occupied this address. Charles Hammons lived upstairs.

Home to the Iron Horse Tavern in 1950, managers were Fred Morton, Frank J. and Roy J. Adams. Charles A. Hammons and James M. Wallace lived upstairs at 312-1/2.

Floyd's Bar was here in 1961. Floyd and Millie Cain were owners and residents at this address.

In 1965, Bill & Jack's Bar was located here. Owners were Jack D. Gannon of 1123 W. Division Street and William Hubbard of 1114 West Locust Street. William R. Beisiegel, retired, lived upstairs at 312-1/2.

This address was home to The Chaparral Tavern in 1970. The owner was Charles R. Love of 2435 N. Delaware Avenue.

Ruth's Bar & Tavern was located here in 1975. Owner Ruth Russell lived at Lakeview Trailer Park, #80.

In 1980, this address was known as the Tackle Box Bar, or The Tavern, owned by Donald Atwood who lived at 2710 N. Fulbright. Joe Keithley, retired, lived upstairs at 312-1/2.

The building was vacant in 1990-1993.

Peabody's Restaurant in 2008.

314 East Commercial Street

The building located at 314 Commercial Street dates back to the year 1895 when it was the residence of coachbuilder Price Abraham. Before this, there is some record of a Miss Lena Meissbach as a milliner and Louis of the same surname operating an early barbershop at the address. Sometime during that era, a funeral home occupied the building. Not much is known of the building before about 1920.

It was home to an earlier Princess Theater that moved to 408 E. Commercial.

In 1920, a baker, Clarence M. Spicer (wife was Amy L.), moved into the facility. At that point, the second floor was primarily their residence. The first floor

was used as their retail business.

In 1925, it again changed operations when William E. John opened a shoe repair store here. At that time, Isaac (Frisco brakeman) and Ella Holt, and Ancy B. and Phoebe E. Hensley were living upstairs.

For the next ten years it remained in the shoe business until Jacob C. Lotze opened a sewing machine company here in 1935 in the same building.

In 1940, this was the address of William E. John Shoe Repair. Mr. John and wife Martha lived upstairs, as they had in 1935. They moved here in 1925 from 1620 Washington Avenue.

Then, in 1945, it became Roush's Loan & Second-Hand Store. Bertha Roush lived at 1925 N. Grant Avenue. Upstairs, Carl G. (laborer) and Florence Teed, and Claire (welder) and Alice Millard lived.

In 1950 the Continental Auto Supply Store went into operation here.

And, once again in 1955, it went back to shoes for 314 Commercial as Odell's Shoe Store. Owners Leonard C. and Venice A. O'Dell lived at 838 S. Kickapoo Avenue.

Another name change came in 1960 with Blackwell's Bookstore with owners Mark and Blanche E. Blackwell of 1458 South Avenue. Earlier, in 1961, they lived at in the same building as the store.

Books have been there ever since with name changes in 1970 to Ace Bookstore, owned by Richard and Norene Fronabarger who lived at 1241 E. Stanford Street, and then finally in 1980 to its name in 1993, Addison's Bookstore and Antiques, owner Richard N. Addison who lived at 528 E. Normal Street. In 1980, Mr. Addison lived on Rt. 2, Ozark.

318 East Commercial Street

In 1884-1885, Bettie Millikan (dressmaker) and G.W. (undertaker) were located at this business address. Bettie listed her residence at 330 Commercial, and G.W. at 336 Commercial Street.

In the year of 1890, this street number still didn't appear on Commercial Street.

Four years later in 1894, Susan Stevring, a domestic, and George Knelle, a butcher, occupied the building.

By 1910 the building switched over to Jewell Barber and Catherine Stough who was a Jewell storeowner for fifteen years. They lived at 470 W. Commercial Street in 1920, moving from 17 West Park Street.

In 1930, Commercial Printing Company took over the building (owner Mrs. Ima E. Ray of 1717 N. Broadway Avenue). They printed such things as Ridget Magazine, Daily Events, and Ray Geo-Lawyers. Commercial Printing only stayed in the structure for five years.

In 1935, it became Farmer's Meat Market, owned by Charles "Frank" and Belle Poston of 1343 N. Robberson Avenue. Maude E. Steiner had been living in the apartment since about 1930.

In 1940, the upstairs apartment was vacant.

In 1946, 314-318 Commercial was converted to a second-hand store owned by Stanley F. and Bertha R. Roush who resided at 2025 N. Grant Avenue. William J. (Frisco switchman) and Alice Doran lived upstairs at 318-1/2. Roush stayed in business for over 30 years before changing its name in about 1950 to Roush's Loan & Second-Hand Store at this location.

The building stood vacant for eight years before Paul Hall of 1451 Brown Avenue, who opened Robin's Nest, an antique store that was still there in 1993, occupied it. Over a 100-year time period, this one building changed occupants nine times with different businesses.

Paul Hall Signs was located at 318 in 2008. Liz Blasé: In the year of 1890, this building was split between two numbers, the front was 84 and the back was 86. Four years later the building was occupied by Susan Steving, a domestic and George Knelle, a butcher (the guy I talked to said that those name didn't ring a bell however, he knows for a fact that the butcher's name was Mr. Garlick and his first name could have been George). By 1910 the building switched over to J. Stough who was a Jewell barber for 15 years. In 1930, Commercial Printing Company took over the building. They printed such things as Ridget Magazine, Daily Events, and Ray Geo-Lawyers. Commercial Printing only stayed in the structure for five years before it became a farmer's meat market. In 1946, 314-318 Commercial was converted to a second-hand store owned by Roush (who was a city councilman). Roush stayed in business for over 30 years before changing its name to Roush's Loan Office Inc. The building was then a flea shop for a little while called Robin's Nest, an antique store. Paul Hall eventually bought the site and now runs a sign business out of it called Paul Hall Signs.

320 East Commercial

Creative Images in 2008.

326 East Commercial

Mr. Burman went into partnership with Mr. Emery and opened Burman & Emery Jewelers & Opticians at 326 Commercial in 1910. The business lasted about five years when Burman took complete ownership in 1915. Thus the business

became solely a jewelry shop. Mr. Burman operated the jewelry store for 35 years when Mr. Burman became ill, preventing him from working any longer.

In 1950 Everett R. Gammon took over operating the jewelry store, thus changing the name to Gammon Jewelry Company. Although Gammon did not stay in the jewelry business long at this location, it is believed that he gave the business his all.

In 1955 it is reported that 326 Commercial became the new home of House of Charm, Beauty and Cosmetic Salon. This salon was under the management of James and Isabelle Croghan until 1961 when it became Queen City Beauty School. Operated until 1987 when dissolution of marriage was granted to Mary H. and Loy N. Brixey.

Since then it has been vacant of any business, but is still residence to Loy, former operator of Queen City Beauty School. Although many of the buildings that occupy Commercial Street have seen many businesses come and go, 326 Commercial cannot boast of such. Maybe this infrequent change of owners can account for the good condition of the building. All windows and doors in front and back of the building are still intact. Even the front door to the once beauty school and jewelry store still boasts a built-in mailbox displaying the Brixey name. In the possible restoration of Commercial Street, No. 326 will probably be one of the first to welcome a new business.

328 East Commercial

Peering through the windows of the building at 328 Commercial, one can see the remains of what once was a pawn shop. Throughout its history it has housed many different businesses. The first documented business was the Perkins Boarding House and Restaurant, operated by Leonard Perkins. In 1890, he served in the Federal Army during the Civil War. He and his wife ran the boarding house and used it as their residence until 1920 when Howard Van Dyke bought it and used it as a confectionery. This business was short-lived.

Harry Monday bought the store in 1925 and ran a confectionery and shoe shining parlor here. He found this not to be very profitable. He then used the building for a hotel and his residence for the next fifteen years.

After the hotel, Fayette and Eloise Davenport ran a business named "Davenports" for ten years.

Then Charles and Mary Cates ran the "Mary Anna Shoppe" which lasted for only five years.

Then the building sat vacant for five more years until Carl Haden, a member of a prominent family in Springfield, bought it. He was a member of a singing group with his family, called The Hadens. He opened Uncle Carl Haden's Jewelry and

Loan Company. He also published some music. After his death his nephews, Kenneth and Tom Haden, ran Uncle Carl Haden's Jewelry and Pawn Shop.

The building has been vacant since 1990.

330 East Commercial

Eclectic Antiques, in 2008.

Joey Rekowski: owner/operator- Tony

--I spoke with Tony briefly, as he was on his way out the door when I arrived. He told me that at one point the structure was once a boarding hotel. There are lofts above his store for evidence of this.

It is also the only remaining framed structure on commercial; the rest being some form of brick/concrete. Eclectic has been in operation since April of 2007.

334-336 East Commercial

Many businesses have had to close because of financial difficulties in the Commercial Street area, but there are stories that still remain. You can speak with many different owners and gain a respect for a time when Commercial Street was the "hub" of Springfield. Not far from Joe and Kathy's Recreation you will find an old business with a sign above it that just states "Barber Shop". This shop was once owned by Burton C. Fellows and was officially named Bel Air Barber Shop. As you pass, if you let your imagination go, you can still hear the stories being told by the old men sitting around a checkerboard. Although this was the last business located this address, there were many before it. From the mid-1930s until the 1980s, 332 East Commercial housed a barbershop although the names of the owners and the name of the shop changed several times.

Before it became a barbershop, it was a photography studio in the early '30s.

In the early 1920s, it was the home of a restaurant owned by William F. Davis.

Between the years of 1895 and 1915, this was the location of a dry cleaning, pressing, and drying shop; J. Ed Black Music Dealership; and the private residence of James A. Perkins, a confectioner.

So as you can see there are a number of stories told about the owners of 332 East Commercial Street, about the business and families that once resided at this address. As you walk down Commercial Street, you can still see the remnants of the barbershop that was once there, even the chairs, sinks, and a hat and coat rack. As you look through the windows, just imagine stories that were told, games of checkers that were played and gossip that was spread by men that once visited the building.

332 E. Commercial St.

Jackson Hewitt now inhabits a small shop on Commercial Street that has a long history and has had many inhabitants.

Between the years of 1895-1915 it was the private residence of James A. Perkins, J. Ed Black music dealership, and a dry-cleaning pressing and drying shop.

A restaurant owned by William F. Davis was at this location in the early 1920s.

From the 1930s to the 1980s, a number of owners operated a barbershop in the small building. One person who owned it while it was a barbershop was Burton C. Fellows when it was the Bel Air Barber Shop.

334 and 336 East Commercial

The Murray Building was built in 1908 by Thomas Murray and now occupies 334 and 336 East Commercial. It is a two-story structure. The original interior had iron columns and brass lights.

In 1914, it was made into a clothing company with the upstairs into offices.

In 1930 it was bought by Model Market and remained in their possession until Koger Market Co. bought it in 1947.

From 1950-1953, Morgan Furniture Company owned it.

From 1953-1968, it was made into a wholesale dry goods store.

In 1968 the baker's union ran the whole building. Today that union still occupies the top floor.

Then, from 1980-82, the building became a summer theater set up by college students.

After that it was turned into a dance club, which lasted until 1986.

It was later bought and turned into Purrs & Spurs Square Dance Club.

In 1986, it was bought and turned into Joe and Kathy's Recreation Place, which still existed in 1993.

338 East Commercial

Was a restaurant, vacant in 2008, was Katie's Kitchen, before Blue Ribbon Bar.