

400 East Commercial

The brick building at 400 East Commercial Street stands alone, on the corner of Commercial Street and Jefferson Avenue, was built in the mid-1880s and was the original location of People's Bank.

This bank was robbed about a half-dozen times until the bank moved in 1915. As you look at this building, pay particular attention to the carved, gingerbread-style trim, especially visible on the Jefferson Avenue side.

In 1920-1930, the building was the office of People's Bank.

It was home to a real estate office owned by John L. Dorsey, Jason Jones and William Murphy in 1935.

Ollis & Company Real Estate was located here in 1940.

S&S Package Store Liquor occupied this building in 1946.

In 1950, this address was vacant.

Bars have occupied this location since at least the mid-1950s.

1955 saw Rogers Lunch & Bar located here.

Jim's Bar & Grill was at this address in 1959.

Met the Tavern was located here in 1965-1980, owned by Charles F. Watts and Verl J. Maples.

In 1993, this was the location of Ruth's Restaurant & Bar, later changed to the name Ruthie's Bar & Grill before 2008.

408-410 East Commercial (Kitchen, Inc.)

Between 408 and 410 East Commercial stands an arched doorway to the building once known as the Ollis Building. Richard Ollis, former owner of the Ollis Building and R.A. Ollis and Company, was a well-known businessman on Commercial Street. He was involved in real estate, insurance, and loans as well as a prominent member of the early St. John's Episcopal Church. After his death in 1944, ownership of the company passed on to his sons. Arched windows with flat Corinthian-like capitals and decorative brickwork along the roofline grace the more historic red brick front of the second floor. Inside and atop a tall staircase, the wood floor, doorways, and windows are still present. To the left remain eight small peculiar doorways about five-and-a-half feet tall with one half-doorway in the middle.

In 1920, customers enjoyed Shepard and Shupe Soft Drinks at this address.

This building was home to Smith and Russel in 1925.

Earl L. Smith Billiards was located here in 1930.

In 1935, Morris and Jeffries Liquors was at this address.

Ernest Liar Liquor was located here in 1940.

Darden's Tavern was at this address in 1946.

In 1950, Fred and Van Northside Record Store occupied the building.

The building was often vacant in 1959-1959.

In 1965, Springfield Washer Parts occupied the building.

Goetze Niemer Company (hospital and physician supplies and equipment) occupied the building in 1970-1975. Marion A. Carroll owned this business.

About 1980-1990, 410 and 410-1/2 were vacant. However, for a period surrounding 1985, the City Health Department used 412 for storage. At that time, Ronald A. Ollis owned the building.

In 1994, renovation was made by the new owners, The Kitchen Inc., who converted the interior into assisted home living facilities, transitional housing as a part of their "Continuum of Care" program. *Justin Wieberg: This building was built early this century. The lower level had been used for a variety of purposes while the upper level had never been renovated. The Kitchen acquired the building in 1988. Since that time until 1993, the building was used for The Kitchen Clinic, a GED classroom, and offices for the Burrell and Lakes Country social workers.*

HOME Investment Partnership and the Community Development Block Grant through the City of Springfield, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines along with Guaranty Federal Savings & Loan Association of Springfield, and generous contributions provided funds for the renovation of this building according to historic guidelines from Springfield citizens.

The building now has eight apartments to be used as transitional housing. The upper level apartments are exceptionally beautiful due to the restoration of all the original wood floors and trim. These apartments like the K.I.N.D. Place are dedicated to families who need an opportunity to rebuild their lives and regain hope.

412-414-420 are all part of the Missouri Hotel Complex (The Kitchen Inc.) 412-414-420 East Commercial

In the center of the 400 blocks at 412 and 414 stands a building that was built around 1900, which originally housed a meat market and jewelry store.

Later, it became a pool hall and tavern where some of the most notorious characters in Springfield liked to hang out.

By 1930, it had become a hotel serving a clientele of railroad men, teamsters, and road-weary travelers. Note the ornate trim and the sculptured appearance of the top of the building. Inside and beyond the modernized front you can still see the old wood floor and tall ceiling that are characteristic of the once thriving buildings. Along the west wall remain stately wood window frames that are evidence of a time gone by. J. Kearney Pool was located here in 1920.

In 1925, Thompson & Woods occupied 412. 413 was home to Church Products Company, owned by E. A. Brashears.

The Greene Tavern Hotel was located here in 1930-1935, which preceded the Milner Hotel and Frisco Tap Room, occupants of 412 in 1940-1946.

The Marshall Auto Store was also in 412 in 1950.

In 1950-1965, 412 was address to the Missouri Hotel and L.B. Price Mercantile Company. Campbell Display Service occupied 413 in 1965-1970.

Independent Printing & Litho Company was located at 413 in 1935-1980, owned by Wally Hemingway, named Independent Box Print Company in 1930.

In 1950-1993, the Missouri Hotel occupied 412 (mostly) and 414 (owned by Jack Walker) while Christian Family Fellowship was listed at 413 in 1993.

In 1990, for a period of time, the General Education School for Adults was located also located in 412.

420 East Commercial

In 1983, the Kitchen, Inc. leased the hotel and opened a shelter for the homeless. In 1993, this building was still occupied by The Kitchen, part of the Missouri Hotel complex through 2008. Some time ago, there was a bowling alley in basement. Beth Riechers: Property, which it is located on, was purchased by the founder of Springfield, John Polk Campbell, in 1838 for \$1.25 an acre. In 1881 a hotel was built. The property was sold 3 different times, continuing to be a hotel just under different names and owners. It was eventually torn down to make a new hotel, called the Greene Tavern. The Greene Tavern was actually considered to be the finest hotel west of the Mississippi. It was then sold and became the Milner Hotel. Ten years later it was sold and became what it is called today, the Missouri Hotel.

445 East Commercial

In 1905-1925, this location was home to William A. Reed & Sons Drugs.

In 1930, the business was under the name of Reeds Drug Store.

Chittim Tent & awning Company was located here in 1935-1940.

In 1946, this was home to Russell Nash Auto Supply.

Allen Company was at this address in 1950.

In 1955-1959, the business here was called Wade Allen Supply Company, a soda fountain supply company.

Allen Rents (furniture rental) was located here in 1965.

From 1970-1985, this building was home to Allan Rents & Sales, Inc. (medical and hospital supplies and equipment). The owner was Bradley G. Thomas.

Springfield Mattress Company (show room) in 1990-2008.

Liz Blasé: The building was a drug store at one time, but for the past 50 years it has been a mattress store. People used to live upstairs. The man who owns the mattress store is John Reynolds who is the 3rd generation.

450 East Commercial

In 1990, the business here was called East Commercial Pawn.

In 1993, this building was vacant.

Maggie's Boutique in 2008.