

## **500 West Commercial**

In 1993, the East Pawn Shop occupied this building.

Owner and soon-to-be proprietor in 1993 was Grace Tyler. Her previous business location was 300 W. Commercial. The business Grace Tyler will continue in this new location is a tavern, Gracie's.

In 1990, this was the location of Park Paisley (new and used furniture).

In 1985, the building was occupied by B&J Furniture & Auction Company.

The building was vacant in 1980.

In 1975, it was occupied by a business called Furniture Mart Warehouse.

During 1960-1970, it was vacant again, at least periodically.

In 1965, this was the location of House of Prayer Church.

In 1950-1955, Keener & Keener Company, a food supply business owned by Howard and Ruby Keener who lived at 1155 South National, occupied the address.

From about 1950-1955, Welhener Tent & Awning occupied the building.

In 1945, this building was vacant for some time. It is believed that it was a "house of ill repute."

Midtown Appliance in 2008.

*Lida Barry: In this building I was lucky to find an occupant, a gentleman who owns the building and runs a used appliance store at the moment, Midtown Appliance. This building I had the least amount of information on so I was glad to talk to the man about his building. He said the deed to the property dated back before Springfield was even a city, so this building probably was one of the first in the area. He also pointed out that it used to be a hotel back in the heyday of the railroad and offered extra fun for gentleman (it used to be a brothel). He also told me that a couple came into the store about a year ago and told him they use to live in the two rooms above the first floor for about \$50 a month back in the 1950's.*

## **504 West Commercial**

McCurdy's Amusement Samantha Schaefer: Owner and proprietor, Drew Harris is the grandson of the original owners of the business occupying this building. McCurdy's started a pinball distribution operation in the garage of their home in 1966. In 1972, McCurdy Amusement Company moved to its present location on

Commercial Street.

### **522 West Commercial**

The owners and proprietors are still the Martins, after 75 years. It has been E.A. Martin Industrial Equipment Company since 1980.

From about 1970-1975, the business was called Farmco, Inc.

From 1946-1965, it was called the E.A Martin Machinery Company, the name of the original business in 1930 on Commercial. Because it started out also as a mining machinery company, that too was part of the business name back in the 1930s. E.A. Martin lived at 932 E. Stanford in 1955.

Broyle's, Inc. in 2008.

*Josh Jackman: Broyles Inc. is currently in this establishment. They are an automotive service and equipment supply company. Broyles Inc. didn't know much about the history of the building. Broyles moved into the building in August of 2003. The lady did know that the building was built in the late 30's early 40's and before they moved in there was a forklift company by the name of E.A. Martin. The building adjacent to 522 burnt down due to a wood-burning fireplace in a mechanic's shop.*