

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80203

HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORD

project name: Grand Junction Downtown Survey
county: Mesa city: Grand Junction
state ID no. 5ME 4125 temporary no.
current building name: Crystal Books & Gifts
address: 439 Main, Grand Junction, CO 81501
owner: James & Cheryl Lucas, 439 Main St., Grand Junction, CO 81501
township: 1S range: 1W section: 14, NE 1/4, SW 1/4
historic name: Union Block
USGS quad name: Grand Jct., CO 1962 N3900-W10830 X 7.5' 15'
district name:
block: 118 lot(s) 10 addition: City
yr. of addition
film roll by: Marty Alexandroff no.
negative nos. 6138-5
location of negatives: City of Grand Junction

date of construction: _____ estimate 1890 actual
source: 1981 Historic Survey of City
use: commercial present commercial historic
condition: _____ excellent X good _____ fair _____ deteriorating
extent of alterations: _____ minor X moderate _____ major

describe: recessed entry, display windows, signage, painted brick

style: Italianate Commercial Building

stories: 2

original moved date(s) of move:

materials: brick (painted)

square footage: 3125

National Register Eligibility:

Individual: yes no

Contributing to district: yes no

local landmark designation: _____ name _____ date

associated buildings? yes type:

if inventoried, list ID nos.

architectural description: Two-story, painted brick commercial building with large display windows with wood kickplates in recessed entry and glass door. A large recessed arched doorway is offset and leads to the second floor. The second level has four one-over-one double hung windows with wood paneling in the clerestories. Two smaller one-over-one windows are on the left with "Union Block" signage above. Windows all have painted voussoirs. Painted wood paneling covers the transom and contains signage. A corbelled brick cornice spans the front. Upper story windows have flatstone arches and sit on a rusticated stone belt course. Upper level and arched doorway appear to be original.

architect: unknown

source:

original owner: unknown

source:

builder/contractor: unknown

source:

theme(s): Plateau Country/commerical

construction history: (description, names, dates, etc. relating to major additions or alterations to original structure)

recessed entry, display windows, signage, painted brick

historic background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure)

This structure is located within the original platted area of Grand Junction and was representative of the 1890s town building.

The first Sanborn map that shows this building as a 2-story is the 1899 one. By that time, clothing retailer Morris Strouse was the owner. There may be additional alterations in 1901. The only 2 owners of this property may be Strouse and his son (or grandson?) Samuel. This is a "double" building, sharing a common stair with the building to the east (torn down to allow its inclusion into the Woolworth's store). The Sampliner cousins, rival retailers, apparently owned the other half of this building (Lot 11); this might be fun to research further - Strouse is reported to have complained something along the lines of "I can't compete with those boys. Every time I turn around they have another sale." In 1905 the Orpheum Theatre was downstairs at 437; upstairs at 439-1/2 was Stark's Studio. According to the Polk Directory, Strouse continued to operate his clothing store at 341 Main - although one portion of the Polk directory lists 439 as the Union Block, another lists 441 Main as the Strouse Building. There may be a typo here, or 441 may be the half of the building to the east. Western Auto Supply occupied the downstairs ca. 1946, while Mrs. G.H. Starks and Mrs. Myrtle Blackstone continued to run the photographic studio upstairs through ca. 1946. In the 1950s the Jack & Jill Shop was downstairs; with more than one commercial photographer continuing to occupy the old studio above.

significance: (check appropriate categories and briefly justify below)

architectural significance:

historic significance:

represents the work of a master
 possesses high artistic values

associated with significant persons
 associated with significant events or patterns

represents a type, period or method of construction

* contributes to an historic district

statement of significance:

Contributing, with qualifications; alterations are reversible.

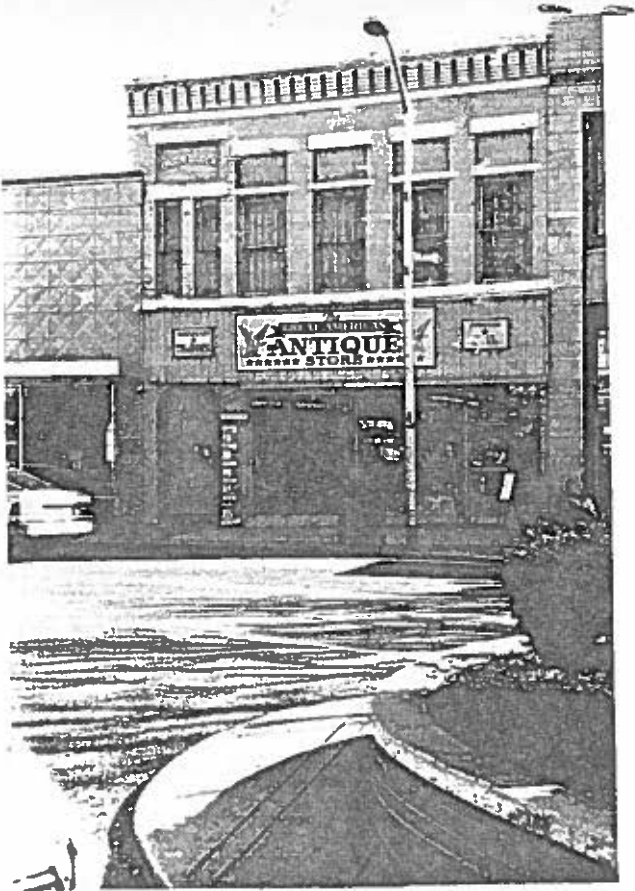
references (be specific)

1981 Historic Survey of City

Mesa County Assessor's Records

surveyed by: Marty Alexandroff affiliation: Winter & Company

date: July, 1994





439 Main Street

More Current Google Street View

July 2012