

Turner Hall
Name of Property

Cape Girardeau County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall
COMMERCE/TRADE
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
RECREATION AND CULTURE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Romanesque Revival
Missouri German

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone/sandstone
walls: brick
roof: metal
other: limestone sills

☒ NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

☒ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☒ University

☐ Other. Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Areas of Significance

ETHNIC HERITAGE/European: German

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1868-1955

Significant Dates

1868, 1888, 1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gonner, Nicholas

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 37.306388 -89.52089239 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven Hoffman, Ph.D., and Dawson Berglund

organization Southeast MO State Univ. Historic Preservation Program date March 27, 2024

street & number One University Plaza, MS 2960 telephone 573-651-2808

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63701

e-mail shoffman@semo.edu

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Turner Hall**

City or Vicinity: **Cape Girardeau**

County: **Cape Girardeau** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Steven Hoffman**

Date **Photos 1-5, 7: March 3, 2024, Photos 6, 8-12: March 4, 2024, and Photos 13-15:**
Photographed: **March 22, 2024**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0001)
View of south and east elevations, facing northwest.

2 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0002)
View of south façade, facing north.

3 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0003)
View of west and south elevations, facing northeast

4 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0004)
View of east and north elevations, facing southwest

5 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0005)
View of north elevation (rear), facing south.

6 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0006)
View of rear (north) elevation details including exhaust fan, window infilled with wood slats, and door opening infilled with brick, facing east.

7 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0007)
View of entryway addition on west elevation, facing east.

8 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0008)
View of west elevation wall and original stone foundation, facing south.

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9 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0009)

View of concrete steps on west elevation of building, and portions of original sandstone foundation, facing north.

10 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0010)

View of second floor interior, looking south.

11 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0011)

View of historic flooring in second floor hall, looking south.

12 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0012)

View of large archway in rear elevation that originally contained movable doors to allow for patrons to view performances from beer garden located in back of the hall, looking northwest.

13 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0013)

View of bricked in doorway on east wall of front (southern) portion of western commercial space on first level, facing southeast.

14 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0014)

View of original limestone columns and brick arches in western commercial section on first level, facing southwest.

15 of 15: (MO_Cape Girardeau_Turner Hall_0015)

View of grotto and loft, facing north.

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

1 of 31: Contextual Map. Source: Google Maps, 2024.

2 of 31: Site Map. Source: Carol Peters, Planning Technician, City of Cape Girardeau, June 25, 2024.

3 of 31: Floor Plan: First Floor. Source: Chris Dirnberger, 2024

4 of 31: Second Level Floor Plan and location of non-contributing concrete steps (along west wall) and non-contributing remains of brick wall along rear (north) property line: Source: Chris Dirnberger, 2024.

5 of 31: Photo Map: Exterior and First Floor: Source: Chris Dirnberger and Steven Hoffman.

6 of 31: Photo Map: Interior Second Floor: Source: Chris Dirnberger and Steven Hoffman.

7 of 31: Photo showing first floor exterior, 1967. Source: Ken Steinhoff, "1967 Cape Student Protest," <https://www.capecentralhigh.com/cape-photos/broadway/1967-cape-student-protest/> (accessed March 16, 2024).

8 of 31: *Southeast Missourian* photo showing 1990 fire, Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations. Source: Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Fire destroys Royal N'Orleans," March 9, 2015, <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/61604> (accessed March 15, 2024)

9 of 31: c. 1918 photo showing Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations. Source: Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Old Opera House was Turner Hall," <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

10 of 31: c. 1940s photo showing Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations. Source: Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Wagon Wheel, Eat Shop front old Opera House," <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/32024> (accessed 3/26/2024).

11 of 31: 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Turner Hall detail. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1884 June, sheet 3, <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139628> (accessed March 15, 2024).

12 of 31: 1893 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1893 May, sheet 4, Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139632> (accessed March 15, 2024).

13 of 31: 1900 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1900 September, sheet 04, Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139639> (accessed March 15, 2024).

14 of 31: 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1908 January, sheet 03, Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139648> (Accessed March 15, 2024).

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- 15 of 31: 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1915 August, sheet 04, Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139667> (accessed March 15, 2024).
- 16 of 31: 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, building detail. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1923 May, sheet 04; Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139690> (Accessed March 15, 2024).
- 17 of 31: Comparison photo: Masonic Hall, 121 Broadway Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 18 of 31: Comparison photo: Elks Building, 115 Themis Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 19 of 31: Comparison photo: Park Theatre, 213 Broadway Street. Source: <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/34412> (accessed September 21, 2024).
- 20 of 31: Comparison photo: Orpheum Theatre, 615 Good Hope Street. Source: Source: <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/7240> (accessed September 21, 2024).
- 21 of 31: Comparison photo: Broadway Theater, 805 Broadway Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 22 of 31: Comparison photo: Academic Hall auditorium, 1906. Source Southeast Missouri State University Special Collections and Archives.
- 23 of 31: Comparison photo: 536 Broadway Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 24 of 30: Comparison photo: St. Mary's Cathedral, 615 William Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 25 of 31: Comparison photo: Sturdivant Bank Building, 101 N. Main Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 26 of 31: Comparison photo: Kage House, 120 Broadway Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 27 of 31: Comparison photo: House at 323 Themis Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 28 of 31: Comparison photo: Julius Vasterling Building, 635 Broadway Street. Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 29 of 31: Comparison photo: 528 Broadway Street (Broadway Middle Commercial Historic District). Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 30 of 31: Comparison photo: 626 Broadway Street (Broadway Commercial Historic District). Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.
- 31 of 31: Comparison photo: 716 Broadway Street (Broadway Commercial Historic District). Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Summary

The Turner Hall building, 300 Broadway Street in Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, was constructed in 1868 and is located in the historic commercial corridor extending west along Broadway (originally Harmony Street) from the historic commercial core located along the Mississippi River. Situated on top of the bluff at the corner of Broadway and N. Lorimier Streets, three blocks from the river, this building has entrances on both streets and is the only resource on the property. This two-story, red brick rectangular plan building has a moderately pitched south facing gable, with a stepped parapet cross gable, and tall, round-arched windows on the second level. The first level facing Broadway consists of a series of large, round-arched openings. The building is constructed in a simple Romanesque style characteristic of German building patterns in Cape Girardeau, with the rounded arch motif repeated in miniature as an arcaded corbel table beneath the raking cornice of the gable end. Missouri German Vernacular influences also include characteristic dogtooth cornice line details under the eaves on both the east and south elevations. The period of significance is from 1868 to 1955 and corresponds with its history as a German Turner Hall, an Opera House, and first level use as commercial space and restaurants. Although the storefront openings along Broadway were enclosed in glass, several window and door openings on the east, north and west elevations were infilled with brick, and a covered entranceway was constructed along the western elevation c. 1955, these changes occurred during the period of significance and the building still retains its significant openings along both the Broadway and Lorimier elevations. The second floor has a large open hall which has survived the loss of a balcony, dressing rooms, and an exterior fire escape to a fire in 1990. An apartment created in c. 1954 by enclosing and remodeling the balcony and extending it across the north end of the building was also destroyed in that fire. A metal canopy extending the width of the south elevation was removed between 1967 and 1990. With the exception of a non-historic metal replacement roof, the loss of the non-historic apartment conversion, the non-historic wood wall supports installed on the interior of the second floor after the fire, and some interior reconfigurations on the first floor, the building looks much as it did when it was saved from demolition and remodeled as the restaurant that would become the Royal N'Orleans c. 1955. Non-contributing concrete steps are located on the west side of the building. The building retains most of its historic character defining features and reflects a sense of its time and place.

Character defining features

The building retains many of its character defining features:

- Red brick construction characteristic of Missouri German construction patterns
- Form and pattern of fenestration, including arched openings on the street level, large second story windows, and central doorway openings on both the Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations (photos 0001, 0002, 0003, and 0004)
- Rounded arch brick corbel table along front facing gable
- Parapet cross gable

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- Dogtooth details in cornice under the eaves along east and south elevations
- Open hall on second level

Setting

300 Broadway Street is located along one of Cape Girardeau's major historic commercial corridors connecting the west end of town with commercial development along the riverfront. The building has a zero-lot line with non-historic concrete sidewalks on both the Broadway and Lorimier Street sides. The Broadway streetscape was renovated with larger sidewalks on the north side, stamped concrete details, and trees and plantings added in 2012. To the north of the property, the property line abuts a concrete parking lot associated with the Hirsch Tower property located immediately west of the property. The Hirsch Tower is a 13-story concrete building with the entrance to its covered concrete parking deck set back approximately 30 feet and located immediately adjacent to the Turner Hall. This section of Broadway is fully developed with a variety of commercial and institutional buildings. The Southeast Missourian Building (NR 2005) is directly across the street, First Presbyterian Church, a large red brick building is located diagonally across Broadway, and several 1950s era brick commercial buildings line the north side of Broadway on the block east of Turner Hall. The Broadway and North Fountain Street Historic District (NR 2003) and Broadway Middle Historic District (NR 2007 and 2013) are immediately west. A residential neighborhood of older homes and infill apartments extends to the north. The historic Courthouse-Seminary Neighborhood Historic District (NR 2010) and Cape Girardeau's City Hall, located in the historic Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas (NR 2010), are located a block south of Turner Hall on Lorimier Street.

Elaboration

Façade/South Elevation (Broadway Street side)

The façade of Turner Hall has a front facing gable with a moderately pitched metal roof. Comprised of red brick construction, piers located on the east and west ends of the façade rise approximately four feet above the roof line (see photos 0001 and 0002). The piers have a simple raised brick cornice capped by a decorative stone cap. A similar brick element tops the roof at the peak of the gable end, although the stone cap is missing and the top of the brick element appears to be broken. Beneath the gable is a decorative brick cornice with dogtooth detailing characteristic of Missouri German Vernacular buildings. Immediately below this cornice is a round arched corbel table characteristic of Romanesque revival buildings. A round-arched ventilation window covered with non-historic wood slats, brick hood molding, and a limestone sill, is centered in the gable end above the second level windows. Seven tall, double height historic wood windows are symmetrically arranged across the façade. Each window is topped with an original brick arched hood molding, has a historic round-arched fixed transom and is comprised of two sets of historic wood six over six sash windows separated by a historic decorative wood panel. An original limestone sill, currently painted black, runs across the façade separating the upper level from the storefront level.

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The first level of Turner Hall has seven large, round-arched openings symmetrically arranged beneath the upper story windows (see photo 0002). The Broadway-facing first level south elevation was painted as early as the 1940s, and the Lorimier-facing east elevation was painted most likely as part of the c. 1954 renovations, but no later than 1985.¹ The first level was most recently repainted in 2023.² The center arch contains a non-historic wooden two-leaf door that is non-operable, and is flanked by large, historic wood 16 pane fixed sash windows with a large wood panel beneath the window glass, installed as part of the c. 1955 renovations. This center door originally led to a stairway to the second level, however the stairway was removed during the 1955 renovation to convert the entire first floor into a restaurant.³ Each opening has a round arched recessed transom covered in stucco or similar material supported by an original stone sill running across the tops of the windows and between the tops of the original stone columns and the recessed transoms. Based on a photograph from the 1940s (see Figure 10), it appears the transom windows existed at that time and were removed subsequently, potentially as part of the c. 1955 renovations. A photo from 1967 (see Figure 7) shows the transoms filled in with wood and window air conditioning units located in the transom area of the windows. The transoms were covered with stucco at an unknown time after this. Non-historic decorative lights installed at an unknown time after the c. 1955 remodeling are located in the center of the transoms over the six openings with windows. An original recessed brick sign board is located between the tops of the arches and the stone sill separating the lower level from the upper. In each of the openings, historic iron fencing approximately three feet tall is attached to the columns and rests on the stone foundation. This configuration was installed during the first-floor renovations in c. 1955 and is clearly evident in a photograph taken in 1967 (see figure 7).⁴

To the west of the original façade is a small, historic (1955) entryway addition (see photo 0003). This red brick entrance is recessed to attach to the building just behind the western brick pier and has a large, gated opening with a cloth awning. The entry is approximately 30 feet long, has a non-historic hipped standing seam metal roof, and was constructed as part of the 1955 renovations. A door in the west wall of the building allows entry into the restaurant and has been a primary entrance since 1955.⁵

South Elevation Alterations

Although the south elevation of Turner Hall has experienced significant alterations over the years, it still retains its integrity of design. A historic metal fire escape evident in the earliest photos of the building was removed after the 1990 fire. A historic metal canopy extending the

¹ Figure 10 shows Broadway side painted in the 1940s; photo postcard of unknown date but marked 1985 in author's possession shows both Broadway and Lorimier elevations painted on the first level.

² Communication with current owner, Randi Dimberger, June 21, 2024.

³ Judy Barnhouse, interview by Steven Hoffman, March 25, 2024.

⁴ Barnhouse, interview.

⁵ Barnhouse, interview.

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full length of the south elevation was removed sometime between 1971 and 1990 (see Figure 8).⁶ It is difficult to discern the configuration of spaces on the first level, and how they changed over time. The 1884, 1893, 1900, and 1908 Sanborn maps (see Figures 12-14), list two addresses on Broadway and highlight a wall dividing the first level into two spaces, a larger space to the west and a smaller space to the east. Although the drawings indicate the wall being located in slightly different locations over the years depicted in the Sanborn maps, the extant physical evidence suggests the actual wall location remained unchanged. The 1915 and 1923 Sanborn maps show three addresses, with the center space marked as vacant in 1915 (Figures 15 and 16). A photograph from 1918 seems to show a laundry occupying the three westmost bays, the middle, or fourth bay, enclosed as a storefront four light window with wooden bulkhead, a double-leaf wood door in the fifth bay and a recessed storefront occupying the two east-most bays (see Figure 9). By the 1940s, the entrance was located in the center bay and appears to consist of a door of unknown material flanked by 15 pane sidelights, and all the other bays have been enclosed with four light storefront windows and solid bulkheads (see Figure 10). In c. 1955, a red brick, one story passageway was added to the western elevation and served as the new entrance to the restaurant. The previous center opening on the south elevation was enclosed with a non-operable double leaf door, the windows in all the other bay were replaced with 24 pane fixed sash windows, and a cast iron railing was installed in each bay (see Photo 0003).

East Elevation (Lorimier Street side)

The east elevation is comprised of five symmetrical bays (see photo 0004). The center bay protrudes slightly and has a corbie stepped parapeted cross gable. This center bay was the historic entrance to the Turner Hall which listed a Lorimier Street address. Brick piers, identical to those described on the façade/south elevation, separate the other bays. Limestone caps the brick construction on the parapet wall of the cross gable and the piers. The historic upper-level wood windows on this elevation are identical to those on the façade/south elevation, with the exception of the center bay which has a double width configuration of the same window arrangement. Although the three northern most windows suffered some damage in the 1990 fire, they appear to have been restored rather than replaced (see Figure 8).⁷ A circular window vent housed in a square stone inset is located in the peak of the cross gable. The same decorative brick cornice with a dogtooth design as on the façade/south elevation runs immediately under the roof, and all the windows have the same type of raised brick arches above, with stone sills below. On this elevation, however, the sill is not continuous, but rather appears under the windows and in the brick piers separating the lower and upper levels.

⁶ "Repair Work Gets Underway on Canopy Above Sidewalk of Old City Opera House," *Southeast Missourian*, April 2, 1971,

https://books.google.com/books?id=pWMfAAAAIBAJ&pg=PA2&dq=cape+girardeau+opera+house&article_id=3641,3553563&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjQr6H72vSGAxWgkIkEHQqKAWg4KBD0AXoECAQQA#v=onepage&q=cape%20girardeau%20opera%20house&f=false, accessed June 24, 2024.

⁷ Dirnberger, June 20, 2024.

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The first level of the east elevation is painted brick, and rests on a stone foundation. The windows on the two southernmost bays have brick hood molding above and are non-historic 18 pane, fixed wood replacement windows. These windows were likely installed after the 1990 fire. A photograph of the fire suggests these lower windows had operable sashes at that time (see Figure 8). At some point between 1918 and 1940 these windows were replaced with smaller windows, and the space between the tops of the new windows and the arched hood molding was bricked in (See Figures 9 and 10). A non-historic wood door with sidelights is centered under an awning installed after 1990. Evidence of a round-arched opening, perhaps a transom or relieving arch, is visible above the awning and below the paired windows above. It is likely that the original arched opening was filled in with brick to create a trabeated opening at the same time as the window alterations occurred and is visible in Figure 10. The openings in the two northern bays were altered in size, perhaps as early as the 1940s. Figure 10 suggests the first bay north of the doorway may have been widened by that point, although it is difficult to discern from the photography. Regardless, that window opening was significantly widened at some point, and the opening in the northern bay was widened and offset slightly to the south. Both openings were enclosed with wooden panels prior to 1990 and are currently painted black, (Figure 8). The brick hood molding above the openings is still visible.

East Elevation Alterations

A roof dormer, visible in early photographs depicting the east elevation (Figures 9 and 10), was not replaced when a new roof was installed after the 1990 fire. Most of the other changes on this elevation involve changes to the first level windows, which were made smaller sometime between 1918 and 1940. The two southern most bays had their sash windows replaced with non-historic wood, fixed sash windows sometime after the 1990 fire. The two northern bay windows were fully enclosed with wood sometime between 1940 and 1990, and the openings significantly widened in the bay just north of the doorway, and slightly widened and offset to the south, in the northernmost bay. In addition, the ledge on the molding of the sill course on the façade and on the stone windowsills of the second floor facing Lorimier Street and the chimney extension on the cross gable east side visible in Figure 9 are missing. The arched entryway on the east elevation visible in Figure 9 was decreased in height and changed from an arched opening to a trabeated one sometime prior to the 1940s (see Figure 10).

North Elevation (rear)

The north elevation has been altered over the years, but still retains its overall shape and form. The gable end of the roof is covered in non-historic wood shingles, and has a triangular vent covered with wood slats in the peak (see photo 0005). Brick piers, identical to the piers on the other elevations, are located on the east and west ends. Four openings are located in the upper portion of elevation, corresponding to the top set of the stacked windows visible on the Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations. The easternmost opening is wider than the others and is likely non-historic given the lack of a double brick segmental arch over it. There is also a rowlock course, which acts as a sill for the opening, that is not in line with any of the other

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openings on this elevation. This may have accommodated a doorway to the balcony from the rear of the building, as possibly indicated in the 1900, 1908, 1915 and 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (Figures 13-16). This opening is covered in non-historic plywood with an exhaust fan for the restaurant protruding from it. The other three openings are non-historic wood sash windows installed after the 1990 fire. Although it is unclear when these openings were made in the building, they likely occurred after the building was converted from an Opera House to a commercial building in c. 1927, or in the c.1955 renovations that added an apartment on the balcony (third floor) level inside the former Turner Hall/Opera House auditorium.

The lower portion of this elevation has an arched opening covered with non-historic wood slats located directly below the exhaust vent (see photo 0006). To the west of this opening is what appears to be a doorway with a brick segmental arch that has been filled in with brick. To the west of this feature is a doorway with a brick segmental arch similar to the other historic openings on this elevation, but it is covered with plywood. Immediately to the west of this feature is a large, arched opening that was bricked in at an unknown date. Reportedly, this archway contained a removable wall that could be opened up so that patrons could view the performances from a beer garden located behind the building (see photos 0005 and 0006).⁸ The beer garden is not evident on any of the Sanborn maps and based on the appearance of the brick used to fill in the opening, this alteration occurred at an early date. There are two openings located at the ground level inside this large bricked-in arched opening; a narrow door or window with a brick segmental arch which has been infilled with brick at an unknown date, and a larger double door opening with a brick segmental arch and a non-historic double-leaf wood door that serves as the entrance to the second level. There is evidence of another bricked in opening above and slightly to the east of this door, with a similar segmental arch still visible. This elevation suffered the most damage from the 1990 fire and evidence of brick repairs are visible, particularly on the westernmost portion of the building (see photo 0005).

West Elevation

The brick piers described in the south and north elevation sections above are located on the corners of the building. A one-story red brick addition with a metal hipped roof is located on the southern end of the elevation, likely added as part of the c. 1955 renovations, as discussed above (see photo 0007). This addition is set back from the corner of the front elevation approximately four feet and serves as an entrance corridor. The fenestration pattern of the addition is symmetrical and contains five, large wood non-historic round-arched 16 light fixed pane windows with transom lights similar to those in the original building. All the windows have a decorative brick arch above and a brick lintel below, and a brick string course runs across the façade of the addition at the transom line. Decorative lights are located between the windows and above the brick string course. A beer cooler has been inserted into the northern end of the entry

⁸ Crow, Judith Ann, Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage, *Southeast Missourian*, December 10, 1968, republished as Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Old Opera House was Turner Hall," <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024); "Repair Work Gets Underway," *Southeast Missourian*, April 2, 1971.

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way and is visible through the two northernmost windows. The north side of the addition has a non-historic metal gate/door with decorative metal detailing, and the plumbing from the beer cooler is visible within (see photo 0008). According to Judy Barnhouse, the daughter of Richard Barnhouse, who grew up in the balcony apartment, when initially constructed, this doorway served as a passage to the concrete steps leading up to the second level in the rear of the building.⁹ The northernmost portion of the c.1955 passageway addition obscures a bricked-in window opening with the original brick arch partially visible above the passageway roof. Immediately to the north of this infilled opening is a smaller, rectangular opening that has also been infilled with brick. Approximately one foot to the north of this rectangular infilled opening is an arched window opening with stone lintel, also infilled with brick.

The upper level has three openings in the rear (northernmost) portion, two windows and a door, and is a blank brick wall above the addition. A set of non-historic concrete steps behind the addition on the north leads up to the second level of the building in the rear (north elevation). The sandstone foundation of the previous building located on the site is visible on the first level (see photos 0008 and 0009). A window opening on the second level, as well as the window directly above, are covered with plywood. The lack of brick segmental arches over these openings suggest they were added later, likely when an apartment was inserted into the balcony level (third floor) in c. 1955.¹⁰ To the north on the upper level is a non-historic wood sash window, likely replaced after the 1990 fire.

The building immediately to the west of Turner Hall was razed in 1961.¹¹ Barnhouse also recalls that the space immediately west of the building was a terraced yard with picnic tables prior to construction of Hirsch Tower in 1967.¹²

Interior

The current main entrance is located on the western side of the building, through the entryway addition described above (see Figure 3). This door leads into what is now the bar, with seating to the south and the bar and a men's bathroom to the north. At the far north end of this space is a two-tiered section, with a grotto located down a set of stairs and a loft located up some stairs (see photo 0015). This configuration has been in place since the c. 1955 renovations which converted the retail spaces into a restaurant.¹³ The wall separating this room from the rest of the first level room appears in the 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance map and is historic (see Figure 11). There is evidence of a doorway opening bricked in at an unknown date between the current opening in the middle of this wall and the windows (see photo 0013).

⁹ Barnhouse, interview.

¹⁰ Barnhouse, interview.

¹¹ Fred Lynch, "f/8 and Be There," *Southeast Missourian* blog, October 13, 2009, <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/30653>.

¹² Barnhouse, interview.

¹³ Barnhouse, interview.

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The large opening located roughly in the middle of this interior wall leads into the main dining room and a hallway that leads to the entrance on the Lorimier Street (east) side of the building (see Figure 3). A woman's bathroom and the kitchen are located north of this hallway. Based on an examination of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1893, it appears that stairs to the second level may have been located in this hallway kitchen space and would have been accessed from the Lorimier Street entrance (see Figure 12), although it is possible this instead indicates where stairs from the second level Opera Hall went up to the balcony. According to an interview with Judy Barnhouse, who grew up in the apartment created on the third floor, a narrow staircase from the kitchen area to a foyer on the second level was used by Royal N'Orleans busboys delivering food to the family above.¹⁴ This stairway still exists but terminates in a closed trap door in the second level floor. The owner uses the small storage room between levels (above kitchen but below second level floor) as an office.¹⁵

Four original brick arches resting on original limestone columns run north-south in the middle of the dining room space, and three snug booths are located on the west wall (see photo 0014). The construction of the limestone columns and brick arches suggest they are original to the building, and perhaps the wall was infilled somehow to create three retail spaces in the years after 1915, and before that space was unified again prior to 1940s when the Eat Shop appears to occupy the eastern half of the first floor at a minimum (see Figures 15 and 10). The area where the snug booths are located is where the original stairs to the second level from the Broadway entrance were located. The stairs were removed in the c. 1955 renovations.¹⁶

The second level of Turner Hall is a single large open room (see Figure 4, photo 0010). Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1893, 1900 and 1908 show the building as being "2-3" stories, with the third story likely the balcony located on the east side of the room. Although the location of the balcony and stage is difficult to determine precisely based on the drawings in the Sanborn maps over the years which seem to show different configurations, Judy Barnhouse, who grew up in the apartment that was constructed by enclosing the balcony and extending it across the northern end of the building, confirmed that the balcony ran north-south along the Lorimier Street side of the building and the stage was located on the west wall.¹⁷ If the stage were on the west wall, it would have been viewable through the removable wall reported to exist at the rear of the building. The 1908 Sanborn map shows posts running north-south, which may refer to balcony support posts (see Figure 14). Barnhouse also confirmed the existence of the dressing rooms located beneath the balcony running north-south on the Lorimier Street side of the building indicated in the 1915 Sanborn map (see Figure 15). Barnhouse noted three small bedrooms were rented to individuals for several years prior to the construction of the balcony level apartment in c. 1955.¹⁸ Physical evidence of these rooms exists in several places in the

¹⁴ Barnhouse, interview.

¹⁵ Dirnberger, June 20, 2024.

¹⁶ Barnhouse, interview.

¹⁷ Barnhouse, interview.

¹⁸ Barnhouse, interview.

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flooring, but their exact configuration is unclear. Unfortunately, no interior photographs of the auditorium space appear to have survived.

The large brick archway, noted on the north elevation (photo 0005) and seen on the interior (photo 0012), indicates the west side of the second level at the north end was open to the roof level. It is unclear when this arch was filled in with brick, but possibly when the building no longer served as the opera house and performances ceased. Although the stage and balcony are indicated in the 1915 Sanborn Map, there is no indication of a stage (or balcony) on the second level in the 1923 Sanborn Map (see Figures 15 and 16), although the description still indicates it is a 2-3 story building. The Sanborn Map drawings also appear to show the building with a hipped roof in some years (1900, 1908 and 1915) (Figures 13-15), however, no references to such a change in roof configuration have been found, nor is this conclusion supported by the physical evidence visible on the north and south elevations. In addition, this roof configuration is not represented in Sanborn Map drawings in 1884, 1893 or 1923 (Figures 11, 12 and 16). It may have been an attempt to depict the vaulted nature of the second story auditorium, although it is difficult to know for certain. Any interior evidence has been lost as a result of the fire and complete roof replacement.

At an unknown point in time, this interior space was reconfigured to include 2 or 3 very small apartments on the second level, likely in the space formerly used as dressing rooms (see Figure 15).¹⁹ Mr. Barnhouse had an apartment built on the balcony level, either when he converted the building into a restaurant c. 1955 or when he purchased the building in 1961. The balcony ran along the Lorimier side of the building, and the apartment was built on the foundations of the balcony and then extended across the rear (north) side of the building. The entrance to the third-floor apartment was through a set of stairs that came up from a small foyer located at the rear (north side) entrance door on the second level. Adjacent to this stairway up to the apartment was the small narrow staircase down to the kitchen described above. The second level dressing room/apartments were used for storage by the Barnhouses.²⁰ The 1990 fire destroyed the rear portion of the building, including the Barnhouse's apartment and the stairs leading up to the third level and down to the kitchen. After the fire, 17 large wooden braces were installed to reinforce the brick wall, and all evidence of the third story apartment and balcony were eliminated. All the windows on the Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations appear to be original. Although the northernmost windows on the Lorimier Street elevation were likely repaired after the fire (see Figure 8), they appear to have been repaired rather than replaced as they match the other windows well. In addition, original wood flooring still exists in the front (southern) two-thirds of the room (see photo 0011).

¹⁹ Barnhouse, interview.

²⁰ Barnhouse, interview; Judy Barnhouse, comment on "Gregory A. Lincoln," *This Day in Cape Girardeau History: August 24, 1868*, August 24, 2020, Facebook, "Cape Rewound," <https://www.facebook.com/groups/caperewound/posts/1235127920179244/>, accessed June 24, 2024.

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Additional Resources (see Figure 4)

Concrete steps on the west elevation leading to the second level in the rear of building were likely constructed when Hirsch Tower and the parking garage were constructed on the adjacent lot in 1967, replacing a terraced yard with steps and tables for outdoor dining (see photo 0009).²¹ Non-contributing due to age and lack of association with the property's significance.

Integrity

Although the building has been altered at various times and suffered a fire in 1990, its character-defining features are notably intact. The brick detailing characteristic of Missouri German buildings and the round arch motif characteristic of the Romanesque Revival Style are both readily evident. A metal fire escape providing egress from the balcony level and a metal canopy extending the length of the south elevation were removed. In addition, the ledge on the molding of the sill course on the façade and on the stone windowsills of the second floor facing Lorimier Street, the chimney extension on the cross gable east side, and the roof dormer facing east are missing. The entryway on the east elevation was decreased in height and changed from an arched opening to a trabeated one. The bulkheads on the south elevation are now partially concrete, and the south elevation openings changed from storefronts to divided light windows. The window in the south gable is now covered or replaced with latticework. The large interior volume of the performance space is retained, and although the balcony is gone, evidence of the large arched opening at the rear of the stage area is plainly visible. The fenestration pattern of both the Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations remains largely unchanged, with the exception of the lower-level windows on the Lorimier Street side which had their transoms filled in and smaller windows inserted into the openings. This change, however, occurred during the period of significance and helps tell the story of the building's changing commercial uses. The addition of a passageway entrance along the western elevation also occurred during the period of significance, is minimally intrusive, and does not significantly detract from the overall architectural look and feel of the building. Overall, the interior changes resulting from the 1990 fire have been minimal, and the building appears much as it did when the property was renovated to be a restaurant c. 1955.

The building retains integrity of design, workmanship and materials, which are most notable in the details of the brick construction, the repeated round-arched motif on the exterior and in the load bearing supports in the first floor dining room, and the large upper story windows. In addition, the large open volume of the second level auditorium, recaptured as a result of the 1990 fire, minimizes the negative effect of the earlier conversion of the balcony to create a residential apartment. Turner Hall looks much as it did following the c. 1955 remodel, exhibiting strong integrity of feeling and association, and clearly evoking its sense of time and place.

²¹ Barnhouse, interview.

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Summary

The Turner Hall, 300 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, is locally significant in the areas of Ethnic Heritage/European: German, Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Commerce under National Register Criterion A, and in the area of Architecture under National Register Criterion C as a good local example of Romanesque Revival styling with Missouri German Vernacular influences. Built by Nicholas Gonner in 1868 as a Turner Hall for Cape Girardeau's German community, the building also served as an Opera House beginning after it was sold to the Masons in 1888, and the first level was home to numerous commercial establishments and restaurants over the years. Threatened with demolition for a bank parking lot, the building was saved in 1954 and renovated as the Royal N'Orleans restaurant. Designed in Romanesque Revival style with round arched openings and the round arch motif repeated in miniature in the brick corbel table in the raking cornice of the gable end, Turner Hall also exhibits design elements characteristic of Missouri German Vernacular construction. The period of significance corresponds with the period beginning with the building's construction in 1868 and ending in 1955, when the building attained its current first level configuration.

Criterion A Elaboration

Ethnic Heritage/European: German and Social History

Beginning in the 1830s, the United States began to experience a significant influx of German-speaking immigrants from abroad, spurred largely by a potato famine, a failed democratic revolution, as well as social instability that can be linked, according to Gottfried Duden, a doctor in law and medicine who resided in Warren County, Missouri, to overpopulation.²² Believing America "offered the solution," Duden's letters would cause many Germans to settle in the region, particularly south of St. Louis where land was cheaper and the opportunity for religious and ethnic cohesion existed due to the presence of rural areas.²³ Cape Girardeau, which boasted a thriving economy and busy port, was one such city within the Mississippi Valley that attracted many of these German immigrants who had arrived through the port of New Orleans.²⁴ Set in motion by Otto Buehrman, William Cramer, and Reverend Frederick Picker, who in 1834 established a German settlement in Cape Girardeau with their farm along the "Big Bend" of the Mississippi River in 1834, German immigrants such as William Bierwirth, Daniel Bertling, Henry Friese, and Christopher Schatte would soon follow and begin the event known as "chain migration" which would have a significant effect upon the city's demographic makeup.²⁵ This process is characterized by settlement families writing "glowing accounts" of employment

²² Shannon Bryant, et al., "German Architecture in Cape Girardeau" (Unpublished manuscript, Southeast Missouri State University, May 13, 1987), 1.

²³ Bryant, et al., "German Architecture in Cape Girardeau," 2.

²⁴ Scott Cross, "Early German Vernacular Cottages in Cape Girardeau, Missouri 1840 – 1865" (Unpublished manuscript, Southeast Missouri State University, November 17, 1995), 2.

²⁵ Bryant, et al., "German Architecture in Cape Girardeau," 4.

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opportunities and living conditions in their newfound place of residence (Cape Girardeau) back to their friends and families living in the various German states, causing those individuals to immigrate themselves.²⁶

By 1860, Cape Girardeau would boast a substantial German population, as evidenced by the more than 60 artisans of German origin residing in Cape Girardeau and working in the building trades during this time. Among them were “twenty-eight carpenters, nine masons, eleven stone masons, six brick makers and molders, four brick masons or layers, two plasterers, two painters, and one stone cutter.” This made possible the formation of several German work crews to build structures and homes in their traditional styles and methods while modifying them to adapt to local resources and conditions, in turn dramatically influencing the built environment within the city by creating a German vernacular landscape.²⁷ This is evidenced by the more than forty Brick German cottages identified as still standing in a Cape Girardeau survey conducted in 1995,²⁸ as well as the several commercial style structures along Broadway Street that were constructed by German immigrants between 1850 and 1900, such as The Vasterling Building located at 633-637 Broadway Street in Cape Girardeau (NR 2009), and Turner Hall.

Turner Hall was constructed in 1868 for a German social and cultural organization called the Turner Society. The building served as a social center (called the Turnverein) for German Americans and the broader community and helped to foster solidarity among German immigrants through its hosting of “parties, dances, weddings, election rallies, beer busts, minstrel shows, operas, melodramas, wrestling, and boxing matches.”²⁹ While the building has been home to numerous businesses over the years, including its more contemporary uses as a restaurant, much of its German character remains evident and can be spotted through its features that are in keeping with the German commercial style. These German-built commercial structures display distinctive characteristics associated with Cape Girardeau’s German community, such as brick construction, symmetrical fenestration, arched openings, dogtooth detailing along the cornice line, gable roofs, and metal roofing.³⁰ See Criteria C elaboration for more detail on the character-defining features of Missouri German architecture.

Entertainment/Recreation

Turner Hall’s significance in the area of Entertainment/Recreation is inextricably intertwined with its significance in Social History. The Turner Hall served as both a meeting hall and entertainment venue for Cape Girardeau’s Turnverein Association from its construction in 1868

²⁶ Cross, “Early German Vernacular Cottages in Cape Girardeau, Missouri 1840 – 1865,” 2.

²⁷ Cross, “Early German Vernacular Cottages in Cape Girardeau, Missouri 1840 – 1865,” 6-7.

²⁸ Cross, “Early German Vernacular Cottages in Cape Girardeau, Missouri 1840 – 1865,” 5-6.

²⁹ Bryant, et al., “German Architecture in Cape Girardeau,” 5.

³⁰ Julie Ann LaMouria, “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Vasterling, Julius, Building” (Unpublished manuscript, Lafser & Associates, September 24, 2008), 10.

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until it was sold to the Masons in 1888.³¹ In a 1927 reminiscence, Philip Steck recalled the impressive cornerstone laying ceremonies and noted that the “Turner Society was made up of 200 or 250 men representing leading families in the life of the town at that time; it was THE most important social organization of the community and very popular.”³² Judith Crow, writing in the *Southeast Missourian* in 1968 in an article entitled “Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage,” noted that the building was “more than a meeting place for the German Turner Society—it was for many years to be a center of culture and recreation for the entire community.”³³ The hall accommodated a wide variety of entertainments and events, including the first commencement ceremony of the newly founded Normal School established in Cape Girardeau in 1873.³⁴

When the Masonic Lodge purchased the building, they changed the name to “Opera House and Masonic Hall,” although their tenancy was to be relatively short-lived. Complaining that “the work of the lodge was disturbed by theatrical plays and music,” they sold the property to John F. Schuchert in 1891 and the Mason’s built a new lodge on the corner of Broadway and Spanish (NR 7/20/2000, contributing building in Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District)³⁵ Schuchert was a German American musician and is credited with starting Cape Girardeau’s municipal band. The building was passed on to his son, Dr. C.E. “Clarence” Schuchert who owned it from 1912 to 1921. Dr. Schuchert continued the family music tradition, taking over the municipal band in 1911. He is also credited with being instrumental in getting statewide legislation passed in 1927 allowing Missouri cities to impose a tax to support local bands.³⁶ Under the leadership of Dr. Schuchert, the Opera House continued to provide a space for a variety of entertainments, from theater and lyceums to concerts of all kinds, including a performance by “Blind Boone,” the gifted African American pianist.³⁷ Although the 1915

³¹ Crow, Judith Ann, Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage, *Southeast Missourian*, December 10, 1968, republished as Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, “Old Opera House was Turner Hall,” <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

³² Crow, Judith Ann, Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage, *Southeast Missourian*, December 10, 1968, republished as Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, “Old Opera House was Turner Hall,” <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

³³ Crow, Judith Ann, Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage, *Southeast Missourian*, December 10, 1968, republished as Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, “Old Opera House was Turner Hall,” <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

³⁴ “Perry-Ste. Genevieve State College alumni group elects Bennett president,” *Southeast Missourian*, April 2, 1971, https://books.google.com/books?id=pWMfAAAAIBAJ&pg=PA2&dq=opera+house+cape+girardeau&article_id=3641.3553563&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8d7YlveEAXVjhYkEHWwAAbc4KBD0AXoECAUQAg#v=onepage&q=opera%20house%20cape%20girardeau&f=false (accessed March 26, 2024).

³⁵ Sanders, Sharon, “Tracing Cape Girardeau’s Masonic roots,” *From the Morgue*, *Southeast Missourian*, January 24, 2023. <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/fromthemorgue/entry/78830> (accessed 3/25/2024).

³⁶ Long, jeff. “Marking Misosuri’s bicentennial: Cape’s enduring community band,” *Southeast Missourian*, June 1, 2021, <https://www.semissourian.com/story/2886850.html> (accessed March 25, 2024).

³⁷ Crow, Judith Ann, Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage, *Southeast Missourian*, December 10, 1968, republished as Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, “Old Opera House was Turner Hall,” <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024); Hinchey, Allan, “Stories of Cape Girardeau: Old Opera House Built in 1868 as Turner Hall,” *Southeast Missourian*, March 22, 1932, <https://books.google.com/books?id=Uf8hAAAAIBAJ&lpg=PA5&dq=opera%20house%20cape%20girardeau&pg=PA5#v=onepage&q=opera%20house%20cape%20girardeau&f=false> (accessed March 26, 2024).

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Sanborn Map depicts areas for the stage and scenery, balcony, and dressing rooms, by the time of the 1923 Sanborn, those elements are no longer denoted suggesting that the Opera House function ceased when Dr. Schuchert sold the building in the early 1920s (see Figures 15 and 16), bringing to an end the entertainment/recreation functions of the building.

Commerce

Cape Girardeau has served as a commercial and economic hub since Jean Pierre Girardeau established a trading post in the early 1760s on the Mississippi River just north of the present day downtown. Officially platted in 1806 and incorporated in 1808, the town itself traces its origins to 1793 when Louis Lorimier received a large trade concession, which included Girardeau's trading post site, to establish a military and trading outpost along the Mississippi. Due to flooding concerns at that site, within a few years Lorimier moved his operation to the city's current location in a bend in the river.³⁸ For much of the early 19th century, Cape Girardeau's commercial activity concentrated along the waterfront, but as the population began to grow the commercial area expanded west along Broadway.³⁹

Located at the top of the bluff overlooking the riverfront, the corner of Broadway and Lorimier where Turner Hall is located has long played an important role in the city's commercial development. Charles G. Ellis opened a hotel there in 1810, which he operated along with a store until his death in 1831.⁴⁰ According to some sources, the building was used as a school from 1843 to 1867.⁴¹ By the time the Turner Society purchased the property to build their hall in 1868, the corner was well established as part of Cape Girardeau's expanding commercial district. Cape Girardeau's population increased from 2,663 in 1860 to 3,585 in 1870, with nearly a third of the population being foreign-born, and a significant number of those coming from the German states.⁴² With this population increase after the Civil War, and the continuing influx of German immigrants, the location of Turner Hall enabled it to play an important role in Cape Girardeau's westward expanding economy. The city's Common Pleas Courthouse (NR 2010) was completed in 1854 one block south on Lorimier, and the city's market was located on Lorimier on the courthouse square. An 1871 city directory lists Gustave Schliecker operating a saloon on the

³⁸ Slinkard, Charlotte Young. *The Girardeaus, An Eighteenth-Century French Colonial Family in Upper Louisiana* (Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2024), 194-197; Philip Thomason, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, June 20, 2000.

³⁹ Thomason, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri*.

⁴⁰ *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri*, Volume 1, edited by Howard Louis Conard (1901), 484; K.J.H. Cochran, "Ogle, State's First Hotel, Was Built in Cape Girardeau in 1806," *Southeast Missourian*, January 2, 1992; "Ellis Family, Ellis and Ranney Families, Papers, 1787," finding aid, State Historical Society of Missouri, <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/rolla/R0251.pdf> (accessed June 20, 2024).

⁴¹ *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri*, Volume 1, 484; "Ellis Family, Ellis and Ranney Families, Papers"; "A reflection of the Past: 300 Broadway," unpublished manuscript in possession of property owner.

⁴² 1870 Census, Population of civil divisions less than counties, p. 187; Thomason, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri*.

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premises.⁴³ By 1884, signs of commercial development moving west along Broadway are evident in the Sanborn map, with multiple businesses located on the next block west from Turner Hall.⁴⁴ This section of Cape Girardeau's downtown above the bluff was becoming increasingly important to the city's overall growth and commercial activity. Although the 1870s did not see much growth, the city grew from just under 4,000 inhabitants in 1870 to over 10,000 in 1920, and the city's commerce and trade was primarily concentrated along Main and Water Streets along the river, a commercial district located south of the downtown (Haarig Commercial Historic District, NR 2000), and above the bluff extending west on Broadway.⁴⁵ When Turner Hall was constructed, the Turner Society either recognized the importance of maintaining a commercial and hospitality presence along Broadway, or merely recognized the importance of incorporating commercial operations to the success of their new venture of a meeting and performance hall. Regardless of their motivation, from its inception, Turner Hall played an important role in the westward expansion of Cape Girardeau's commercial development by housing significant commercial operations on the first level, including establishments that provided food and drink, a function which the building continues to perform through today.

Throughout its period of significance, from its construction in 1868 through 1955, Turner Hall has housed a variety of commercial businesses on the first level, including food and beverage operations. The 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows a saloon operating on the first level (see Figure 11), and an article on the history of the building first published in 1968 by *Southeast Missourian* historian Judith Crow noted that "almost continuously there has been an eating place of some sort there."⁴⁶ In 1893, the street level of the Opera House featured a hardware store and a restaurant and confectionery store (see Figure 12). By 1900, the space previously occupied by the hardware store boasted a plumbing store, and the restaurant was occupied by a grocery (see Figure 13). In 1904 the *Daily Republican*, now the *Southeast Missourian*, got its start in the building, but was later asked to move out because the printing presses made too much noise during performances in the Opera Hall.⁴⁷ In 1908, a laundry occupied the western storefront for many years, and both the grocery and laundry are evident in a photo taken around 1918 (see Figures 14 and 9).⁴⁸ A restaurant known as "The Eat Shop" occupied the building from 1927 to

⁴³ *Wiggin's and Weaver's City Directory for Cape Girardeau, 1871-1872* (Cleveland: Fairbanks, Benedict & Company, 1871).

⁴⁴ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*. Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1884 June, sheet 3. Accessed March 15, 2024, <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139628>.

⁴⁵ Thomason, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri*.

⁴⁶ Crow, Judith Ann, Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage, *Southeast Missourian*, December 10, 1968, republished as Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Old Opera House was Turner Hall," <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

⁴⁷ "New Orleans," Local Business Profile, *Southeast Missourian*, July 31, 2005, p. 27, https://books.google.com/books?id=dH9FAAAABAJ&pg=PA39&dq=n%27orleans+restaurant&article_id=3732,3832082&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjcntm0jIyFAxWukIeHWONDE8Q6AF6BAGNEAI#v=onepage&q=n'orleans%20restaurant&f=false (accessed 3/26/2024).

⁴⁸ Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Old Opera House was Turner Hall," <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

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1945, and from 1945 to 1954 the restaurant in the building was called the Wagon Wheel.⁴⁹ Purchased by First Federal Savings and Loan in 1950, the building was slated to be razed for a parking lot. In 1954, Richard Barnhouse and his wife Alene, purchased the building, renovated it, and established a restaurant initially called The Petit N'Orleans, and ultimately, the Royal N'Orleans, a name under which it operated until it closed in 2009.⁵⁰ A close read of newspaper reports, advertising, and former patrons' comments on such platforms as the Cape Rewound Facebook Group, the Royal N'Orleans became one of the most significant fine dining restaurants in the city, continuing the tradition first enacted by Charles Ellis when he located his hotel on the corner in 1810.⁵¹ The restaurant reopened as Katy O'Ferrell's Publick House in 2014, a use which continues the property's long tradition of meeting the commercial and culinary needs of residents and visitors alike.⁵²

Criterion C Elaboration

Architecture: Romanesque Revival

The Romanesque Revival gained popularity in the United States from 1840 through the end of the 19th century. The Romanesque style originated in the 11th century in Europe, where it was eventually supplanted by the Gothic.⁵³ The original style was characterized by classical details, such as the Roman inspired round-arched openings and simple geometric forms, but with attenuated shapes that vertically stretched the original classical language.⁵⁴ When these styles were revived in the early 19th century, the Romanesque Revival became popular beginning in the 1830s in the area of Europe that was to later become Germany. This German Romanesque Revival influenced building patterns throughout the United States and was especially popular

⁴⁹ "New Orleans," *Local Business Profile, Southeast Missourian*, July 31, 2005, p. 27, https://books.google.com/books?id=dH9FAAAIAIAJ&pg=PA39&dq=n%27orleans+restaurant&article_id=3732,3832082&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjcntm0jlyFAxWukIkeHWONDE8Q6AF6BAgNEAI#v=onepage&q=n'orleans%20restaurant&f=false (accessed 3/26/2024).

⁵⁰ David Hente, "Old Opera Building 'Total Loss'," *Southeast Missourian*, March 8, 1990.

⁵¹ "New Orleans," *Local Business Profile, Southeast Missourian*, July 31, 2005, p. 27; Dawn Bollinger, "The Royal N'Orleans sets the atmosphere for any celebration," *Southeast Missouri*, April 24, 2008, <https://www.semissourian.com/story/1397267.html> (accessed June 20, 2024); Peggy Scott, "N'Orleans workers see 'home' burn," *Southeast Missourian*, March 8, 1990, https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=Oc-rVwKPngoc&dat=19900308&printsec=frontpage&hl=en&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR0qchhjJMLn8xGVicEXW7LlvORKZB4A73OPR7R0hMLGZRt0oGpEJ1pUbc_aem_ZmFrZWRIbW15MTZieXRlcw (accessed June 20, 2024); Cape Rewound, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/257300861295293/search?q=royal%20n%27orleans> (accessed June 20, 2024).

⁵² "New Orleans," *Local Business Profile, Southeast Missourian*, July 31, 2005, p. 27; Neumeyer, Tom, *Cape Girardeau then & Now* (Cape Girardeau: Center for Regional History, 2009), p. 159; "N'Orleans Building History," typescript in possession of property owner Randi Dirnberger.

⁵³ Naffziger, Chris, "A brief history of the Romanesque Revival style in St. Louis architecture," *St. Louis Magazine*, April 29, 2021. <https://www.stlmag.com/history/architecture/romanesque-revival/>, accessed 3/24/2024.

⁵⁴ Mark Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 2001), 151; Naffziger; and Kathleen Curran, "The German Rundbogenstil and Reflections on the American Round-Arched Style," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 47, no. 4 (December 1988): 351-373, <http://www.jstor.com/stable/990381>.

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with German immigrants who built in the “Rundbogenstill,” which translates as “Round Arch Style.”⁵⁵

The Romanesque Revival style was especially popular for commercial buildings and is characterized by rounded arch openings, smooth blank walls, and the round-arch motif repeated in an arcaded corbel table along the eaves.⁵⁶ The south and east elevations of Turner Hall exhibit these characteristics well. The south facing gable end has seven double height round-arched windows with brick hood molding above the windows, a round-arched opening in the attic level with the same brick hood molding, and an arcaded corbel table below the eaves of the gable end repeating the round-arched motif in miniature (see photo 0002). A series of round-arched openings comprised of brick arches covered with stucco or similar material resting on limestone columns characterizes the first level. The east elevation, which would have been the main entrance when the hall was constructed, has a central projecting pavilion and on the second level there is a double width, double height round-arched window flanked by the same double height windows with brick hood molding as the south elevation. Brick hood molding is also evident over the first level windows, although the window openings themselves have been altered (see photo 0004).

Missouri German Vernacular

In addition to its Romanesque Revival details, Turner Hall also exhibits the decorative brick detailing commonly associated with Missouri German Vernacular commercial architecture.⁵⁷ These features include the building’s primary use of red brick laid in a common bond pattern, front facing gables, a symmetrical number of bays (7) on both the first and second floors that extend along its entire facade facing Broadway and consist of large one-story arches on the first floor and seven historic two story 2-stacked, 6-over-6 sash windows, topped by 5-segmented fan-lights and projecting brick arches that give the building a Romanesque flair, as well as the building’s decorative brick cornice complete with diagonally protruding dentils and 25 small, projecting brick arches in a unique crow-step pattern. Although the arches are more rounded in the Romanesque style than the more typical segmental arches seen in many Missouri German Vernacular buildings, this is in keeping with the German community’s embrace of Romanesque Revival as discussed above and is entirely appropriate for a landmark building such as Turner Hall. The Romanesque features blend with the character-defining features of Missouri German Vernacular architecture, creating a close association of the building with the German community

⁵⁵ Naffziger; Whiffen, Marcus and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture, Volume I: 1607-1860* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1992), p. 197; and Beetem, Jane Rodes, “Historic Southside (Munichburg) Multiple Property Submission, National Register of Historic Places, (2002),” p. 27.

⁵⁶ Whiffen and Koeper, pp. 197-98; Gelernter, p. 152; Blumenson, John J.-G., *Identifying American Architecture, a Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*, Second Edition, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1981), p. 43.

⁵⁷ Emilie M. Eggemeyer, *From Germany to America: A Comparative Study of Small Town German Vernacular Architecture in the Midwest* (Master's thesis, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, May 2009), 65.; and *Missouri: The WPA Guide to the "Show Me" State* (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1998), 186.

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in Cape Girardeau. The building's east facade also features a similar arch and window pattern seen on the building's second story front facade but includes a centrally located projecting stepped roofline and historic double window flanked by two wings that house similar historic two story 2-stacked, 6-over-6 sash windows topped by 5-segmented fanlights and projecting brick arches, with each wing being 2-ranked.⁵⁸ A three-course band of slightly protruding brick, comprised of stretcher bricks above and below a middle course of bricks with their corners facing outward in a dogtooth pattern, runs under the eaves on both the south and east elevations (see photos 0002 and 0004).

Given the building's significant role as a social haven for newly arrived German immigrants into Cape Girardeau as well as its representation of the city's strong German influence in the region through its display of German commercial style elements, Turner Hall strongly exemplifies the German communities embrace of the Romanesque Revival and the distinctly German architectural imprint left on the city's built environment.

Comparisons

As a Turner Hall and Opera House there are no real comparative properties in Cape Girardeau. The Masons, who occupied Turner Hall from 1888 to 1891, built a stand-alone Masonic Hall at Broadway and Spanish (NR 2000, contributing building in district) in 1891 with commercial spaces on the first level but no performance venue.⁵⁹ Although the Masonic Hall has round-arched openings on the third floor reminiscent of Romanesque Revival, it lacks the other character-defining features of that style and the segmental arched openings on the first and second levels are more in keeping with Missouri German Vernacular influences (see Figure 17). The Elks built a building downtown on Themis Street in 1907, but that building was largely destroyed by a fire in 1939 and the current two-part commercial block building located on the site was rebuilt using many of the original materials (see Figure 18).⁶⁰

Although there have been many entertainment venues established in Cape Girardeau over the years, none appear as early as Turner Hall and few survive to the present day. The first purpose-built theater in Cape Girardeau was the Park Theatre, which opened in 1913 but was demolished between 1985 and 1989 (see Figure 19). The Orpheum Theatre was built in 1913 and demolished in 1993 (see Figure 20). The Broadway Theatre (NR 2015) opened in 1921, and may have been a factor in the closing of the Opera House component of Turner Hall in the early 1920s (see Figure 21).⁶¹ Another potential venue for public entertainment would have been the auditorium in Academic Hall on the Southeast Missouri State University Campus, which was constructed in

⁵⁸Bryant, et al., "German Architecture in Cape Girardeau," 17.

⁵⁹ Philip Thomason, "Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000), Section 8.

⁶⁰ Morgan Meyr Lake, Steven Hoffman and Terry Foley, "Main-Spanish Commercial Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2008), Section 8.

⁶¹ Alyssa Lage and Steven Hoffman, "Broadway Theatre," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2015), Section 8.

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1906, but it likely was not available for the same kinds of public entertainments as those performed at the Opera House (see Figure 22).

Cape Girardeau's commercial expansion west along Broadway, of which Turner Hall's first level businesses are an early example, has been recognized as being significant. Philip Thomason wrote about this phenomenon in his 2000 *Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau* (NR 2000), and both the Broadway-Middle Commercial Historic District (NR 2007) and Broadway-Middle Historic District boundary increase (NR 2013) articulate well the significance of the commercial expansion westward along Broadway.⁶² If any dual function buildings representing both entertainment and commercial activity were constructed along Broadway, none have turned up in research, and more importantly, none have survived. Additionally, few resources constructed as early as 1868 documenting the westward expansion of commercial activity along Broadway are extant. The only other listed building (536 Broadway) that dates from 1868 was originally built as a residence (see Figure 23).⁶³

Another institutional building of note associated with Cape Girardeau's German community is St. Mary's Cathedral at 615 William Street, built the same year and also designed and built by the Turner Hall architect Nicholas Gonner, who was a civil engineer, architect and contractor.⁶⁴ The church was built to accommodate the large influx of Catholic German immigrants who wished for sermons to be preached in the German language. It displays similar Romanesque Revival and Missouri German Vernacular features to that of Turner Hall, with its red brick construction laid in a common bond, arched windows with segmented projecting brick arches, and decorative dentition along the cornice (see Figure 24).⁶⁵ The only other surviving example of Romanesque Revival style architecture in Cape Girardeau is the Sturdivant Bank building on the corner of Main and Themis Streets (NR 2007, contributing building in Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District boundary increase)(see Figure 25).⁶⁶

The features noted on Turner Hall are also common in other German style commercial and residential structures seen throughout Cape Girardeau. The two-story brick building at 120 Broadway Street, known as the Kage House, also displays red brick laid in a common bond pattern, large one story arches that span its entire facade facing Broadway Street, a decorative

⁶² Thomason, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri*; Adam Cashler, et. al., "Broadway-Middle Commercial Historic District", National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2007), Section 8; and Wilson Newman, et. al., "Broadway-Middle Commercial Historic District" (Boundary Increase), National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013), Section 8

⁶³ Cashler et al., "Broadway-Middle Commercial Historic District."

⁶⁴ Crow, Judith Ann, Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage, *Southeast Missourian*, December 10, 1968, republished as Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Old Opera House was Turner Hall," <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

⁶⁵ Bryant, et al., "German Architecture in Cape Girardeau," 19; Crow, "Turner Hall: Symbol of Heritage."

⁶⁶ Terri Foley, "Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase), National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2007), Section 8.

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brick cornice complete with a dentilated motif, and similar projecting brick arches that cap its second story windows (see Figure 26).⁶⁷ Similar cornice line detailing to that found on Turner Hall is also found on other buildings associated with Missouri German Vernacular architecture in Cape Girardeau, including House at 323 Themis Street (NR 1997)(see Figure 27), Julius Vasterling Building (NR 2009)(see Figure 28), and several buildings in the Broadway-Middle Commercial Historic District (NR 2007 and 2013) and Broadway Commercial Historic District (NR 2016)(see Figures 29, 30 and 31).

Registration Requirements

Turner Hall meets the registration requirements set forth in the Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri Multiple Property Documentation Form. Approved in 2000, the form outlines the eligibility of commercial buildings within the 1999 boundaries of the City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri which includes Turner Hall. To be eligible under Criteria A, the form states that buildings must “be the site of a business of particular importance to the community, exemplify a notable building type or use, or be associated with an important event or occurrence.”⁶⁸ Turner Hall meets this requirement since it housed significant commercial operations which attest to its importance in the westward expansion of Cape Girardeau’s commercial development. This is represented by a saloon (see Figure 11), hardware, restaurant, and confectionary store (see Figure 12) which all operated on the premise in the late 19th century. Restaurants such as “The Eat Shop” and “Wagon Wheel” also occupied the building from the early to mid-20th century and testify to the building’s continued importance in meeting the commercial and culinary needs of people in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.⁶⁹

In addition to meeting the registration requirements for Criteria A, Turner Hall also meets the requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form to be architecturally significant under Criteria C. These requirements state that the building must not only retain its integrity and “be a notable example of a particular style or possess unusual design elements and detailing,” but “retain the majority of its original storefront design, original upper facade decoration, and notable interior details” if it is to be individually eligible.⁷⁰ Turner Hall meets these requirements since the building is an excellent example of a Romanesque Revival style building with Missouri German Vernacular influences as evidenced by its characteristically German brick detailing and Romanesque Revival round arches. Aside from retaining its

⁶⁷Morgan Lake, “Missouri-German Vernacular Architecture” (Unpublished manuscript, Daughters of the American Revolution, October 5, 2010), 1.

⁶⁸Philip Thomason, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Cape Girardeau, Missouri,” *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*, June 2000, https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Historic-Architectural_Resources_Cape-Girardeau_MO.pdf (accessed 4/9/2025), Section F, Page 5.

⁶⁹“New Orleans,” Local Business Profile, Southeast Missourian, July 31, 2005, p. 27, https://books.google.com/books?id=dH9FAAAABAJ&pg=PA39&dq=n%27orleans+restaurant&article_id=3732,3832082&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjcntm0jIyFAXWukIkeHWONDE8Q6AF6BAGNEAI#v=onepage&q=n%27orleans%20restaurant&f=false (accessed 4/9/2025).

⁷⁰Thomason, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” Section F, Page 5.

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integrity, which makes the building immediately recognizable to its time and place, Turner Hall also retains its original storefront configuration and upper façade decoration. This is visible by the seven large, round-arched openings on the first level and retention of the historic fenestration pattern and decorative brick detailing in the upper façade. Notable interior details are also intact, such as the original limestone columns with brick arches in the dining room (see photo 0014).

Conclusion

Turner Hall is a good local example of the German contribution to Cape Girardeau's built environment and looks much as it did when it was constructed in 1868. Despite the alteration of the balcony into an apartment c. 1955 and its subsequent loss in the 1990 fire, the characteristic red brick construction, Romanesque Revival features and Missouri German Vernacular details illustrate well the important role Cape Girardeau's German community played in shaping the city's look and feel.

Originally built to be a center of recreation and commerce for the entire community as well as a gathering place for the German American Turnverein society, the building has housed a variety of groups and entertainments over the years, serving both as a Masonic Lodge and an Opera House. Since its beginning, Turner Hall has also played a role in the city's commercial development, being home to a variety of commercial businesses as well as a long line of restaurants and eateries, a function it still performs today. One hundred and fifty years after its construction, Turner Hall continues to exemplify the significance of German immigration to the region and its importance in fostering the physical and commercial expansion of the city, and it is immediately recognizable to its time and place.

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https://books.google.com/books?id=pWMfAAAAIIBAJ&pg=PA2&dq=opera+house+cape+girardeau&article_id=3641,3553563&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjcntm0JyFAxWukIcEHwONDE8Q6AF6BAgNEAI#v=onepage&q=n'orleans%20restaurant&f=false (accessed March 26, 2024).

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

That part of Lot Numbered 11 in Range "E" in the City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, described as follows: Begin at the Southeast corner of said Lot Numbered 11 in said Range "E" of said City, said corner being on the North line of Broadway; thence with the South line of said Lot 11 and the North line of Broadway, North 83°45'14" West, 64.89 feet to the East edge of a concrete wall; thence with the East edge of said concrete wall North 06°12'20" East, 42.62 feet to the parking building wall for the KFVS TV building; thence with said parking building wall South 83°45'14" East, 1.52 feet to the Southeast corner of said parking building wall; thence with said wall North 06°12'20" East, 0.97 feet to the South face of the most Southerly concrete step; thence with the face of said step South 83°45'14" East, 0.24 feet to the West line of a tract described in Deed Book 947 Page 668; thence leaving the face of said step and with the West line of said tract North 06°12'20" East, 46.52 feet; thence South 83°45'15" East, 63.13 feet to a point on the West line of Lorimier Street; thence with the West line of Lorimier Street South 06°12'20" West, 90.11 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.13 acre (5,764 square feet), more or less.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property include the parcel of land associated with the resource since at least 1923. Prior to 1923, it appears the property may have extended a little to the north. The 1884 Sanborn map does not include property lines but shows an empty lot between Turner Hall and the next building which appears to be a small frame structure at 204 Lorimier Street. This empty lot may have served as a beer garden where patrons could view the performances through the removable wall at the rear of the building, although this activity cannot be verified. By 1893 the frame structure shown in 1884 had been replaced, and a new dwelling with a small outbuilding, noted as a water closet in subsequent Sanborn maps. The water closet is indicated as being shared between the two properties (Turner Hall and the dwelling at 938 Lorimier), beginning with the Sanborn map in 1893 and continuing through 1915. The 1923 Sanborn shows the property line moved a few feet to the south and the outbuilding, presumably still a water closet, now clearly part of the property to the north of Turner Hall. The boundaries of the Turner Hall property appear to have remained unchanged since at least 1923.

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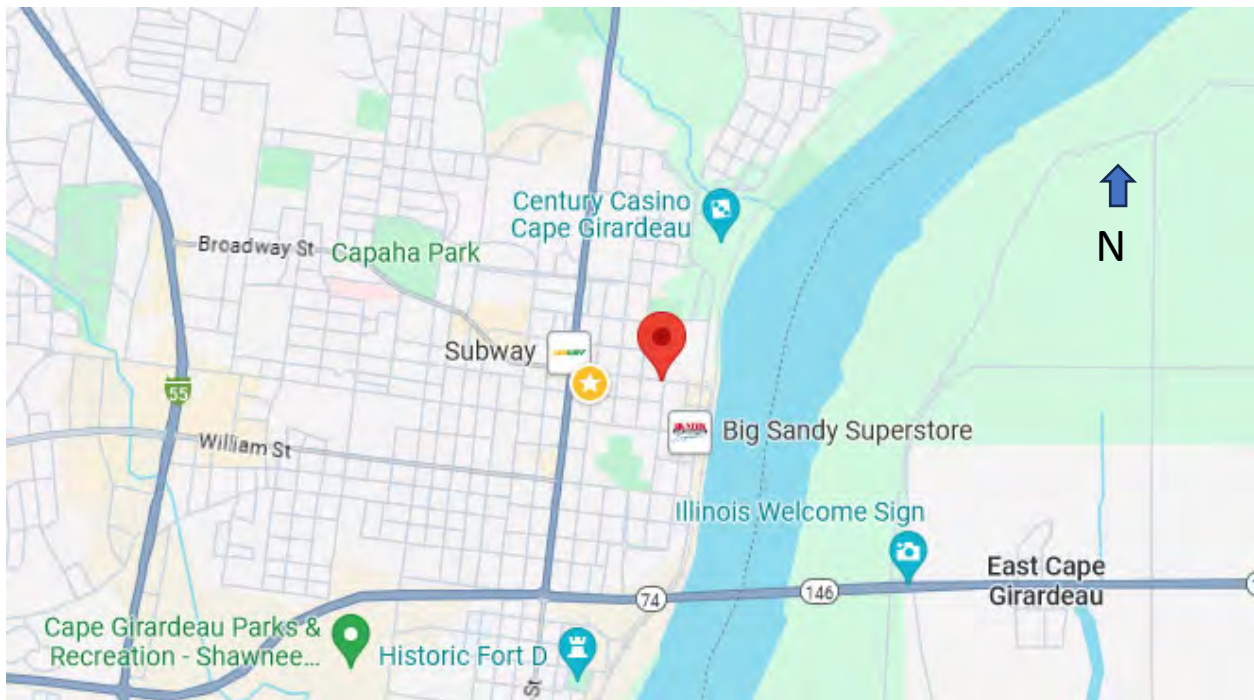
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Figure 1

Contextual Map



Source: Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/300+Broadway+St,+Cape+Girardeau,+MO+63701/@37.3137066,-89.5393001,13.5z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x887787854fdca4af:0x688860137b8e7781!8m2!3d37.3063073!4d-89.5208236!16s%2Fg%2F11bw3wtys2?entry=ttu> (accessed 3/26/2024)

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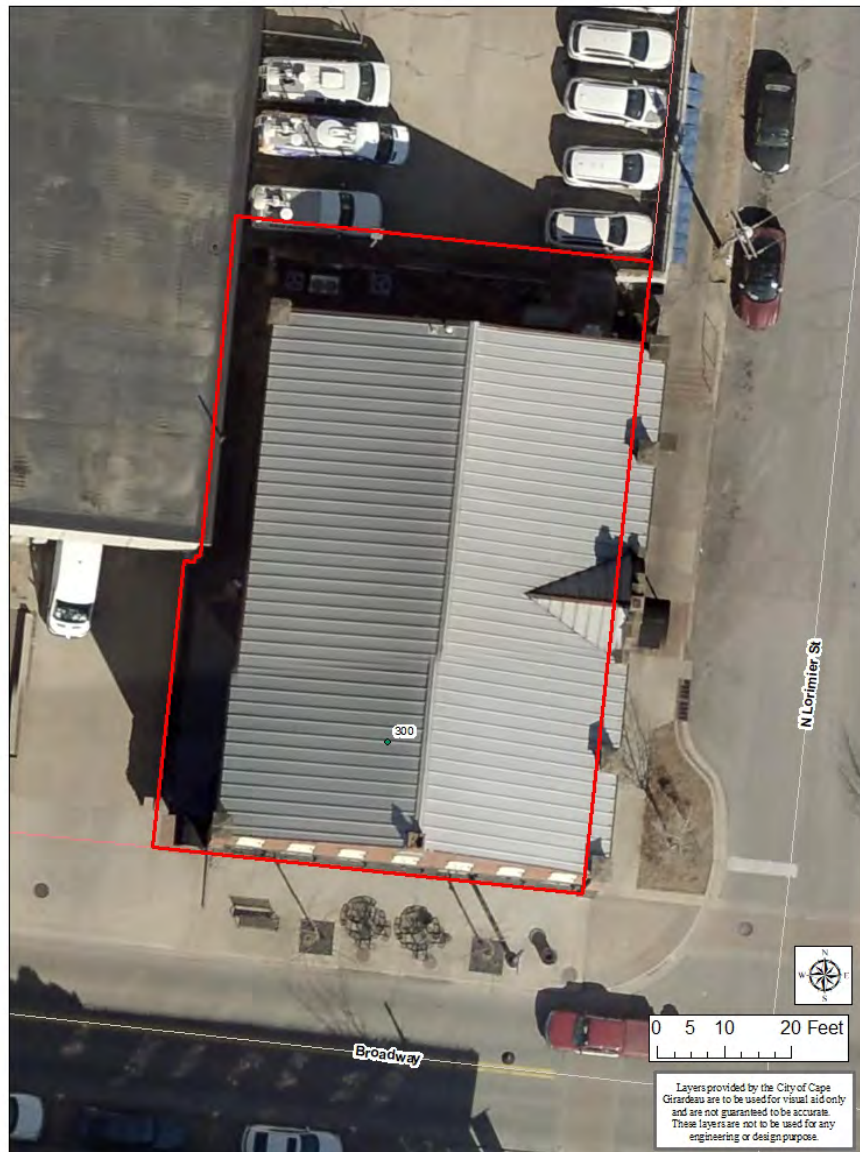
County and State

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Figure 2

Site Map:



Source: Carol Peters, Planning Technician, City of Cape Girardeau, June 25, 2024

Location:

Latitude: 37.306388

Longitude: -89.52089239

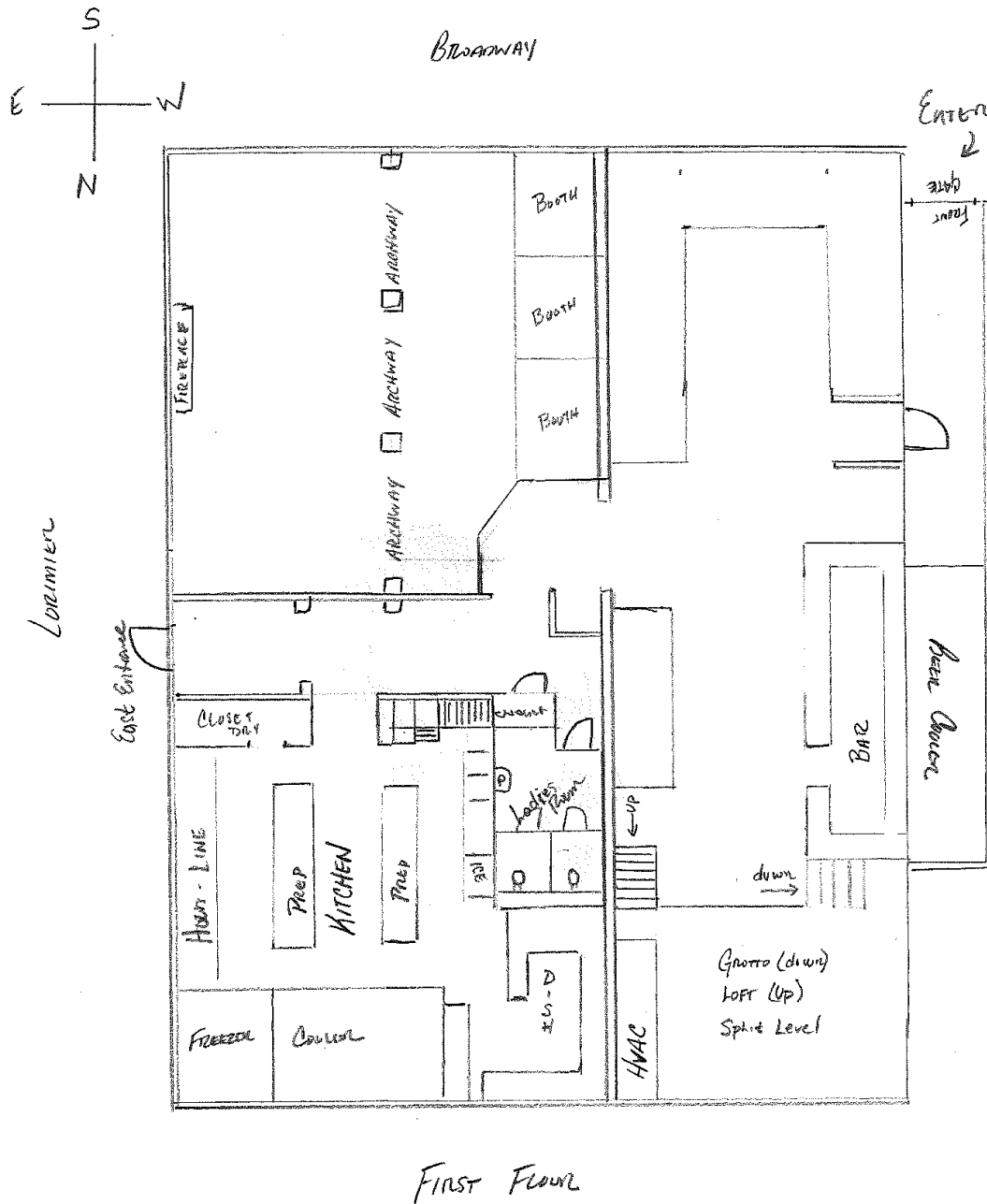
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Floor Plan: First Floor



Note: Not to scale

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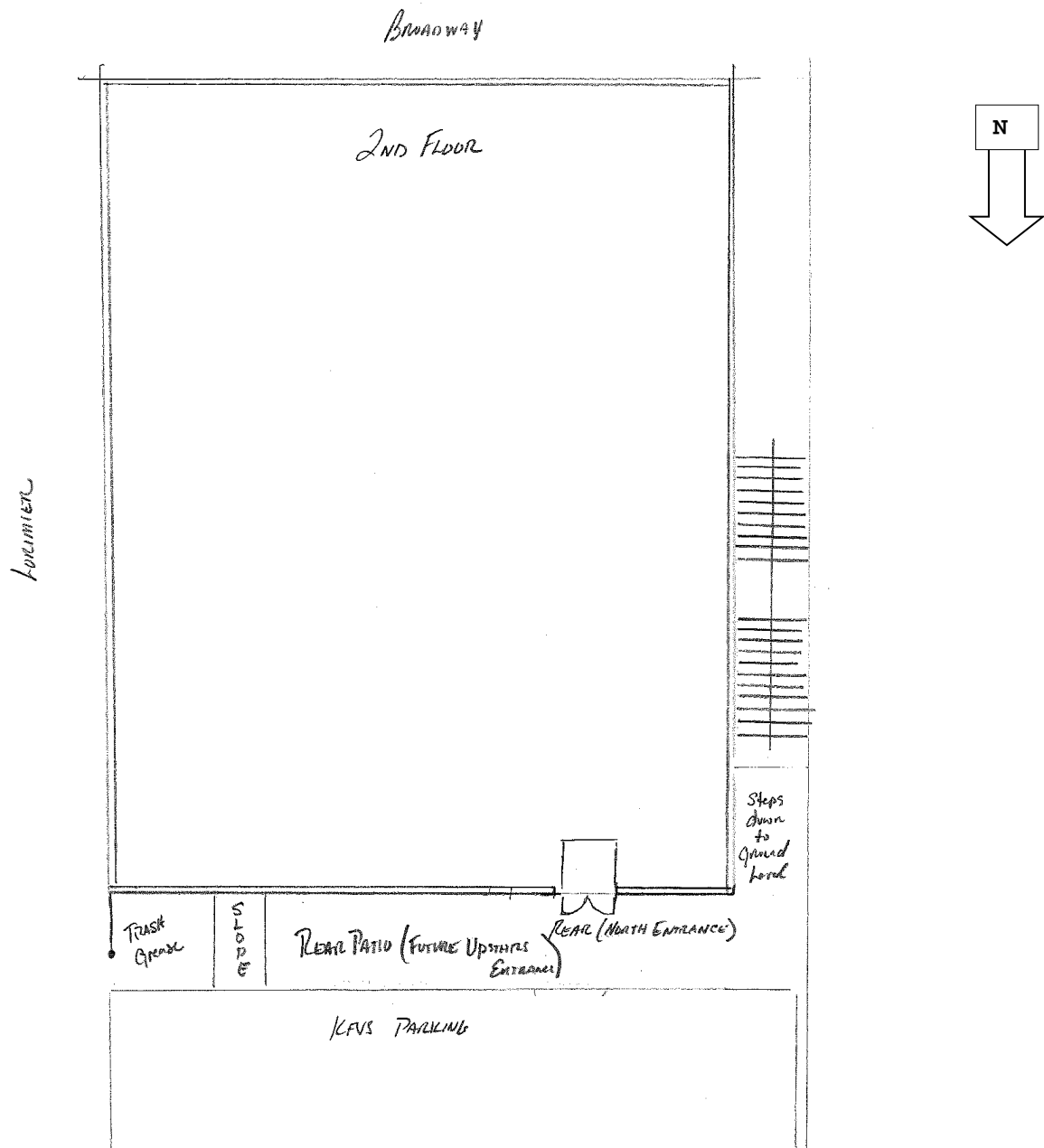
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Figure 4

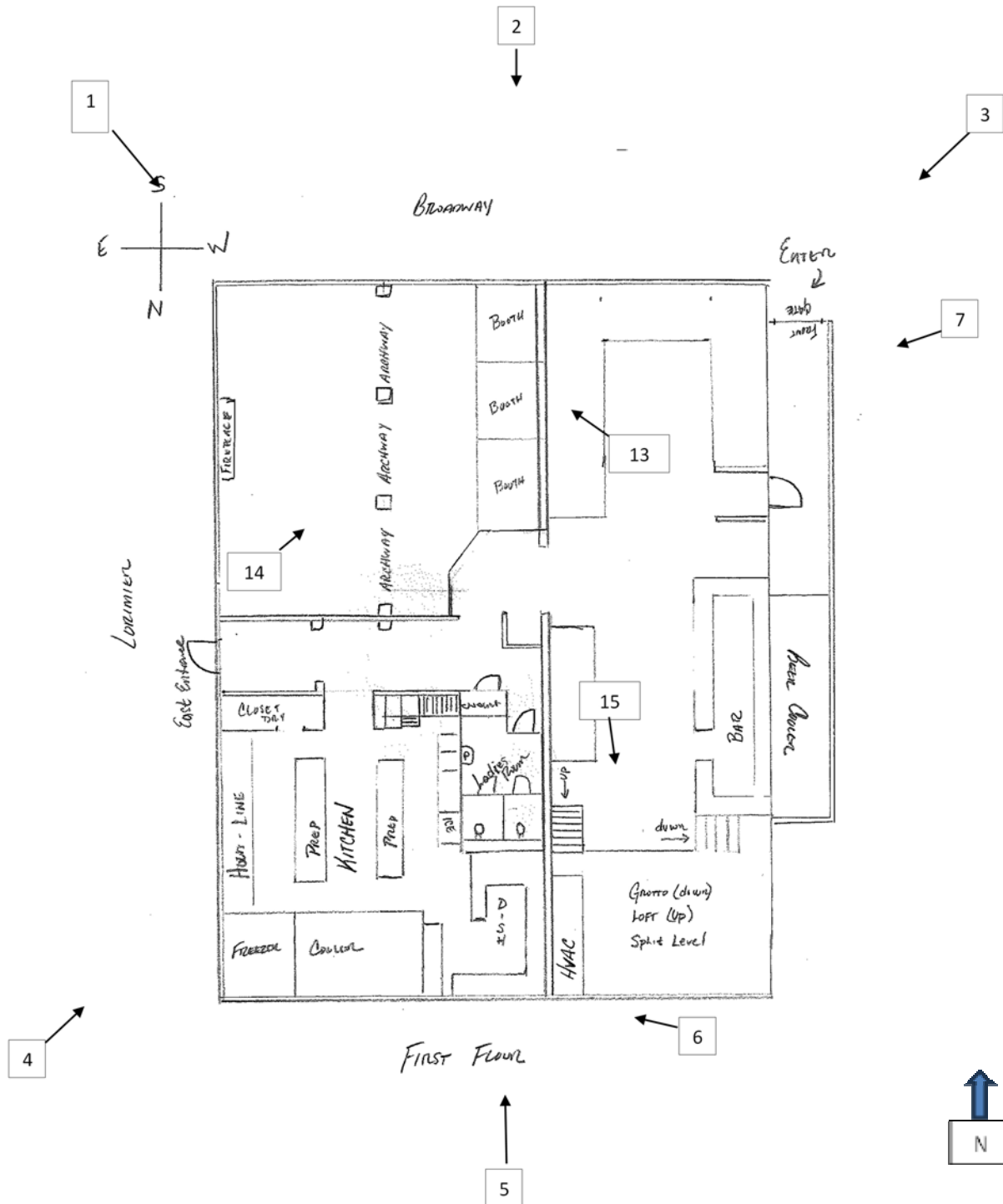
Second Level Floor Plan and Location of non-contributing concrete steps (along west wall) and non-contributing remains of brick wall along rear (north) property line.



Note: Not to scale

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Photo Map: Exterior and First Floor



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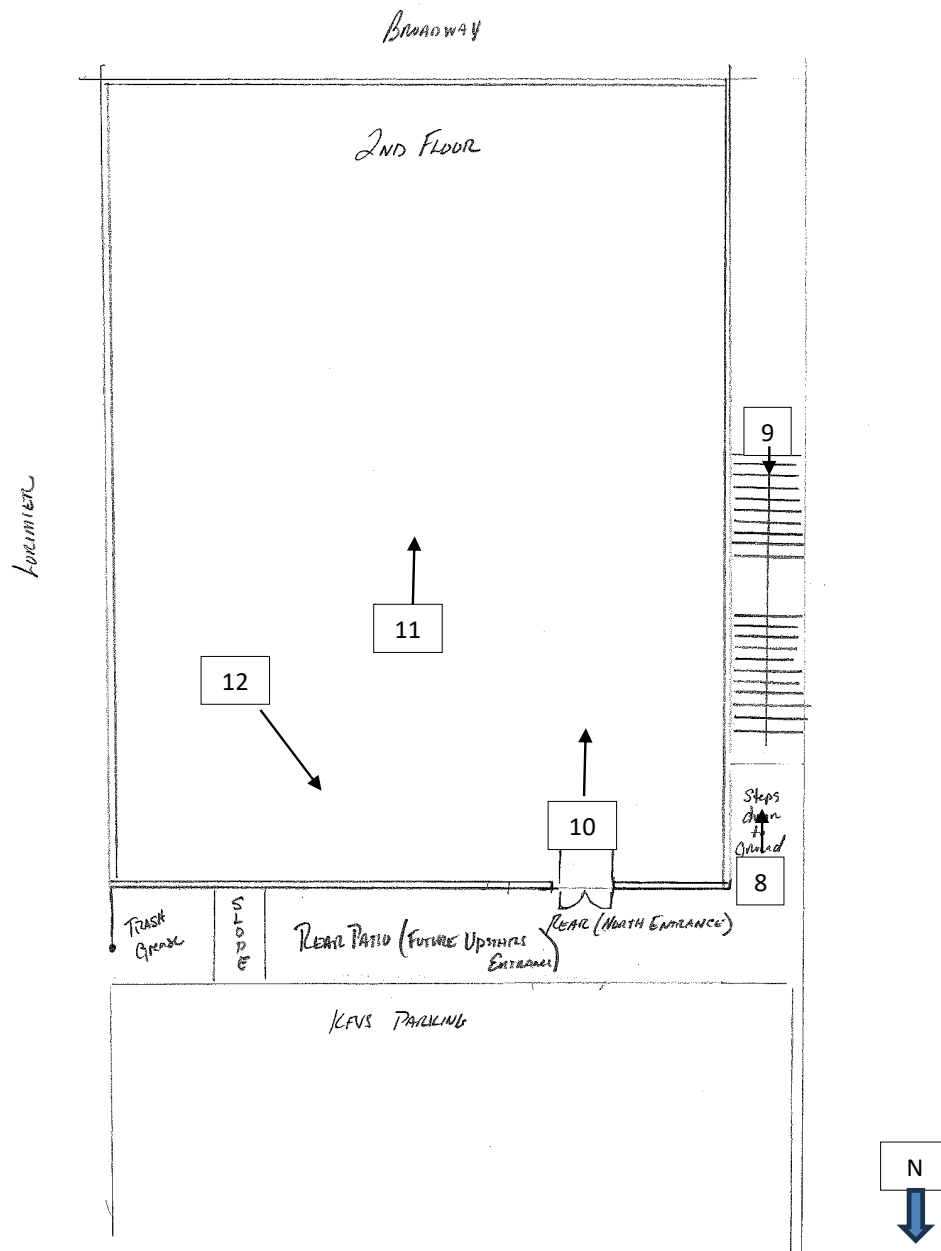
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Figure 6

Photo Map: Interior Second Floor



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Figure 7

Photo showing first floor exterior, 1967



Source: Ken Steinhoff, "1967 Cape Student Protest," <https://www.capecentralhigh.com/cape-photos/broadway/1967-cape-student-protest/> (accessed March 16, 2024).

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Figure 8

Southeast Missourian photo showing 1990 fire, Broadway and Lorimer Street elevations.



Source: Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Fire destroys Royal N'Orleans," March 9, 2015, <https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/61604> (accessed March 15, 2024)

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Figure 9

c. 1918 photo showing Broadway and Lorimer Street elevations



Source: Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Old Opera House was Turner Hall,"
<https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/31888> (accessed March 15, 2024).

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Figure 10

c. 1940s photo showing Broadway and Lorimier Street elevations



Source: Lynch, Fred, f/8 and Be There, "Wagon Wheel, Eat Shop front old Opera House,"
<https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/32024> (accessed 3/26/2024).

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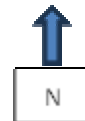
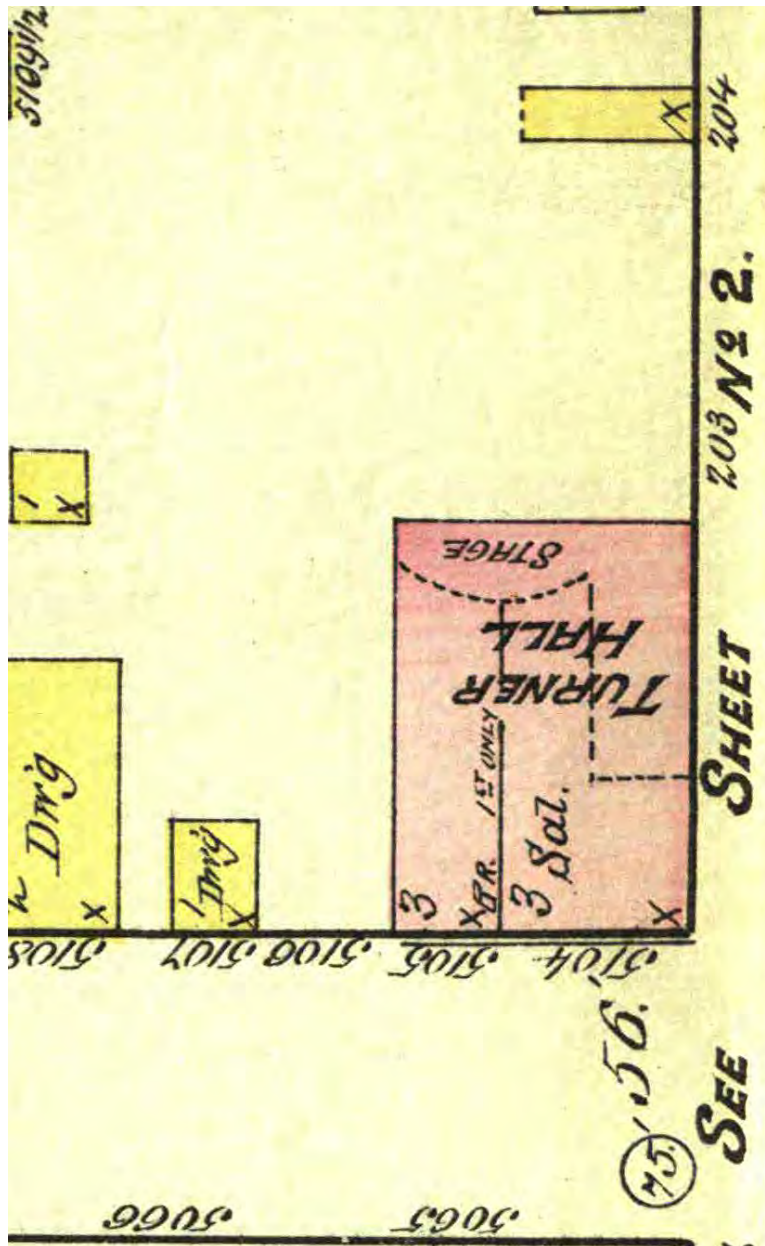
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Figure 11

1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Turner Hall detail



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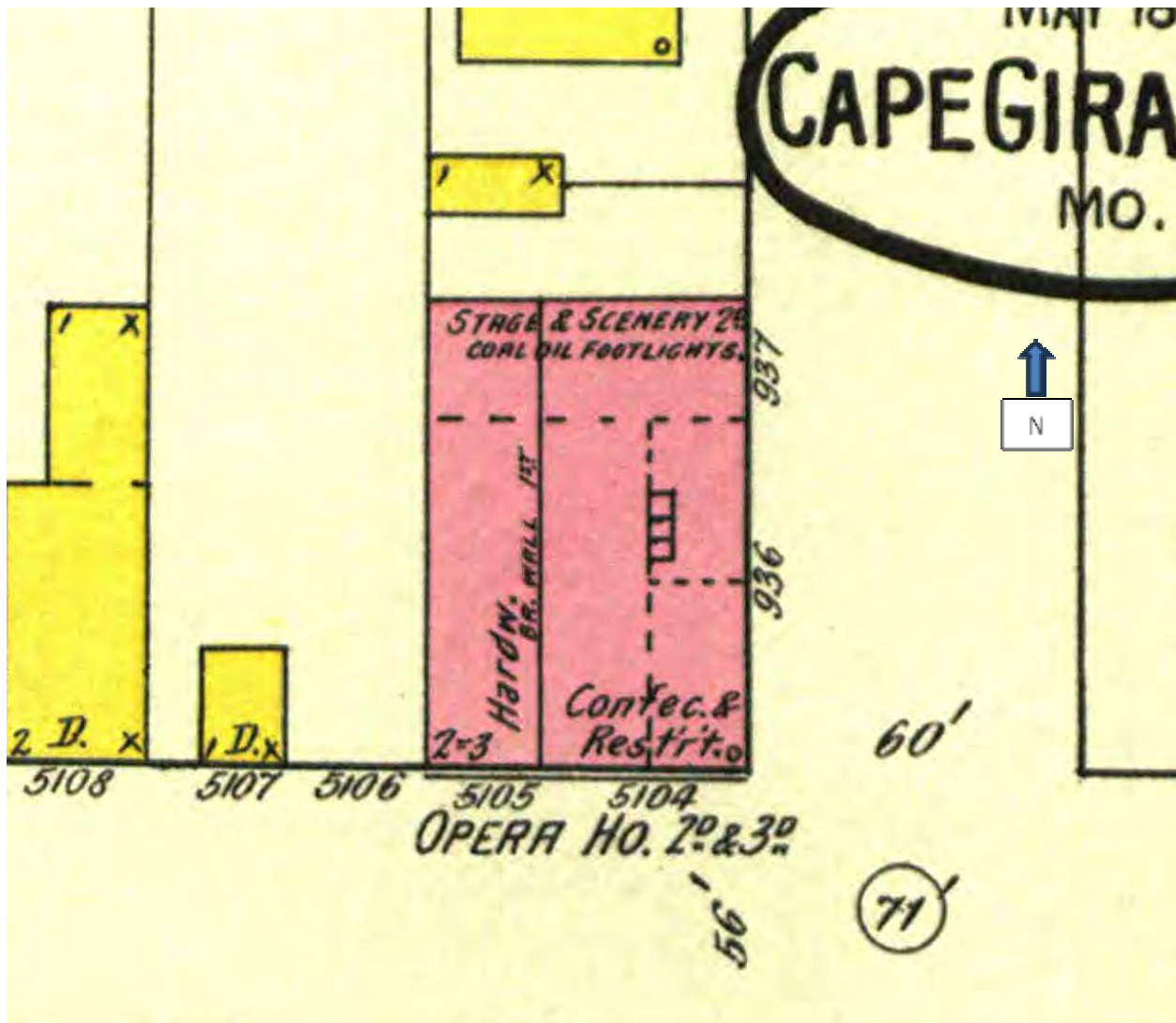
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Figure 12

1893 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail



Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1893 May, sheet 4

Persistent link:

<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139632>

(accessed March 15, 2024)

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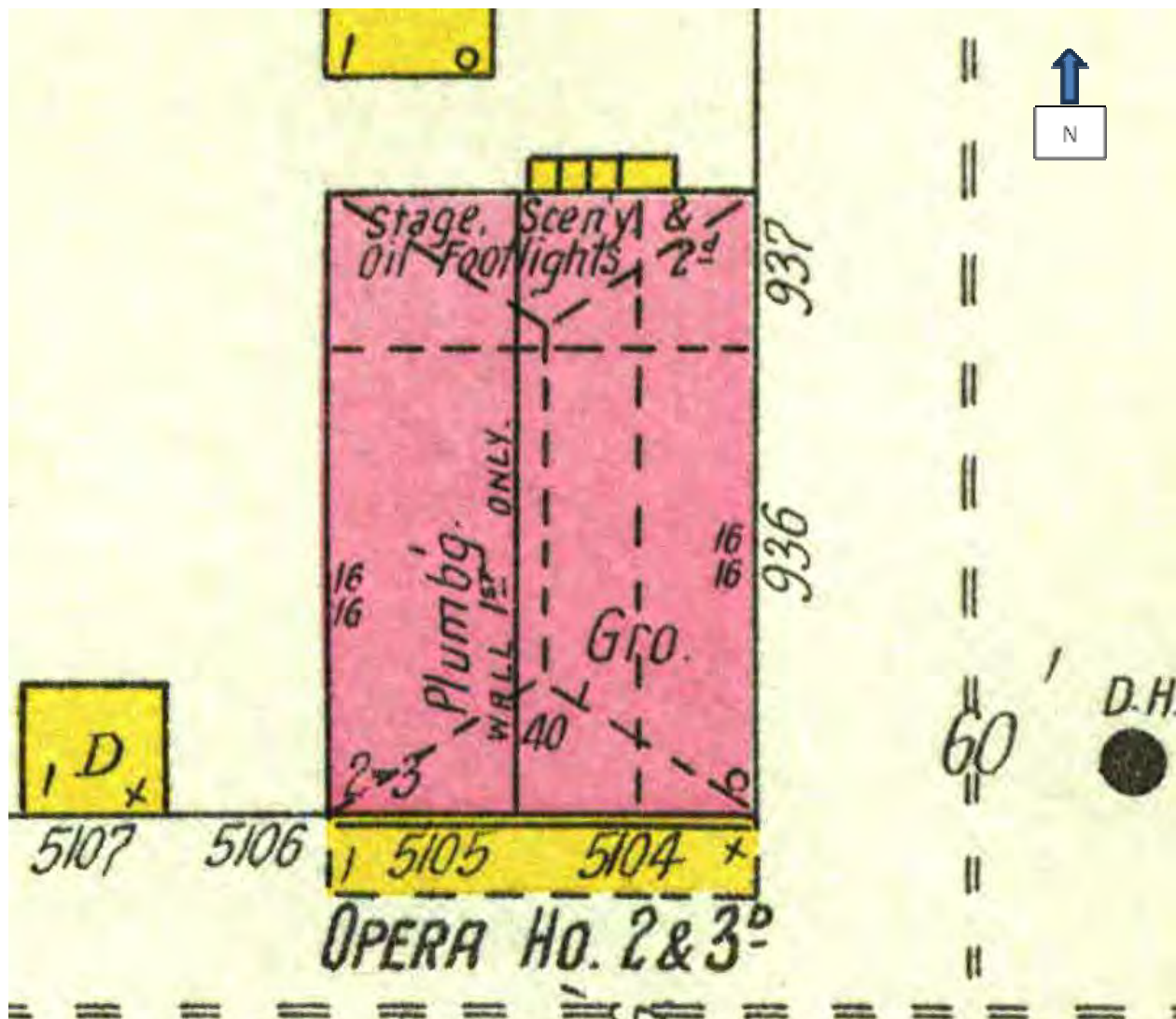
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Figure 13

1900 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail



Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1900 September, sheet 04

Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139639> (accessed March 15, 2024)

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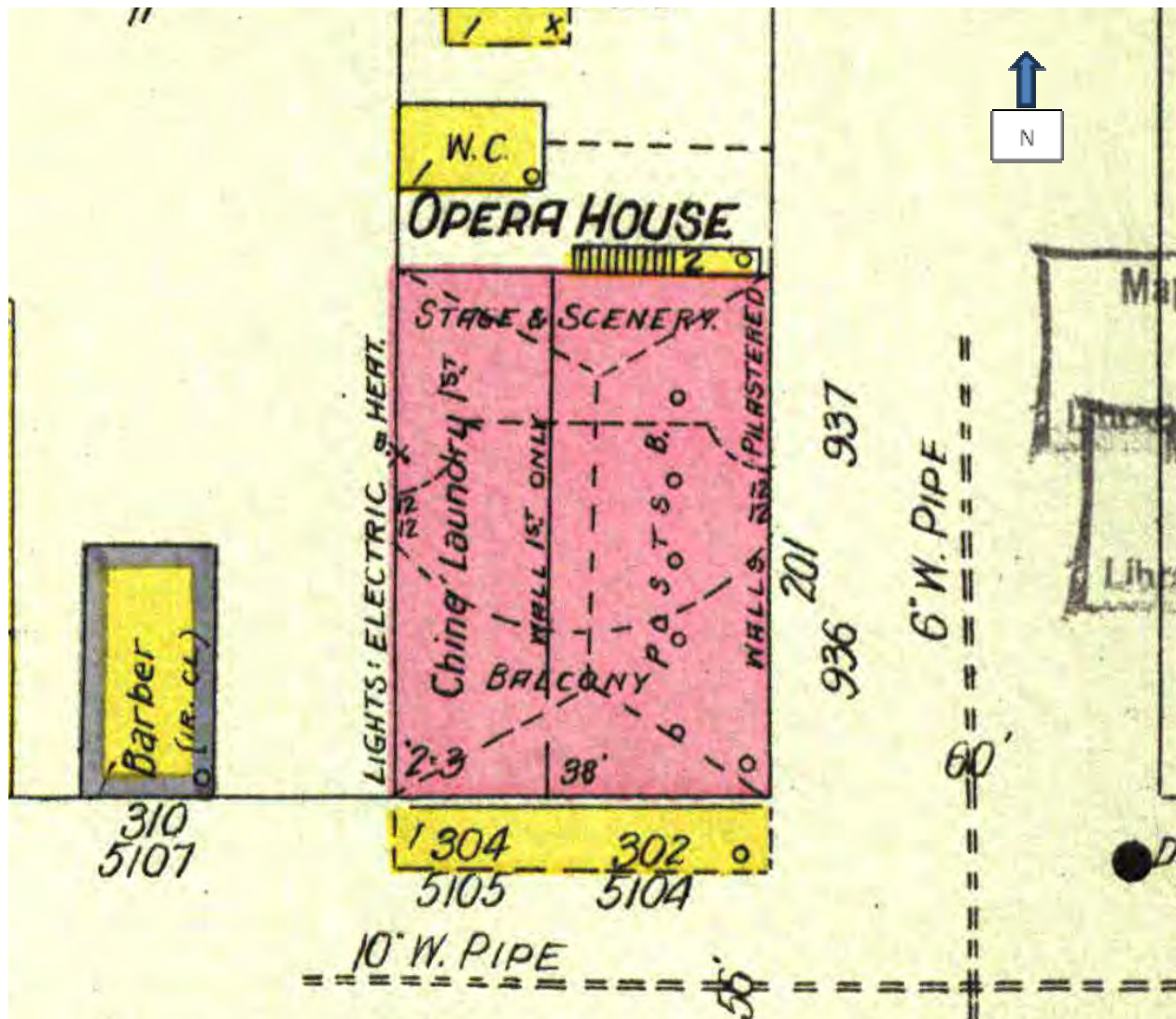
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Figure 14

1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail



Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1908 January, sheet 03

Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139648> (Accessed March 15, 2024).

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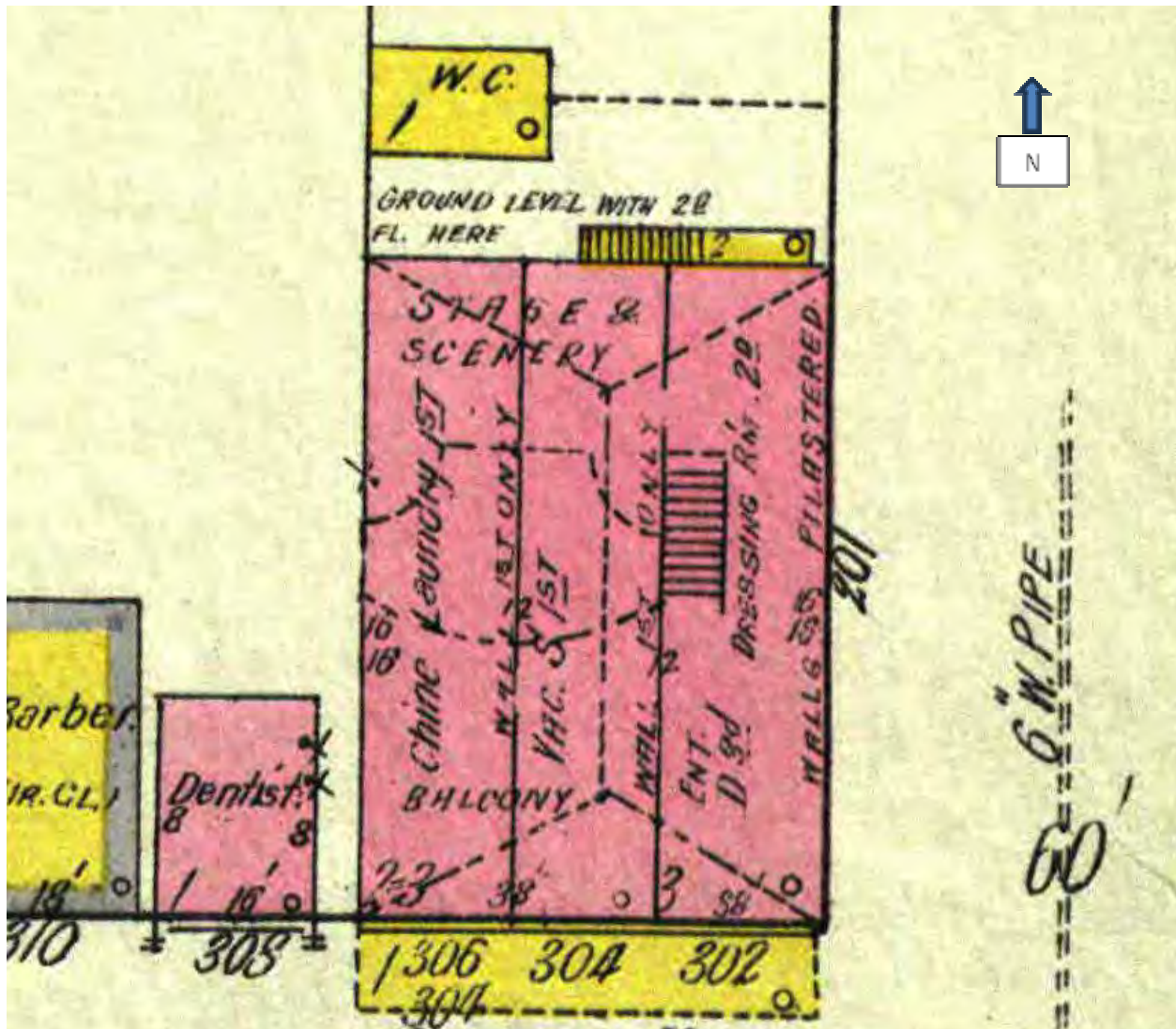
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Figure 15

: 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Opera House detail



Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1915 August, sheet 04

Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139667> (accessed March 15, 2024).

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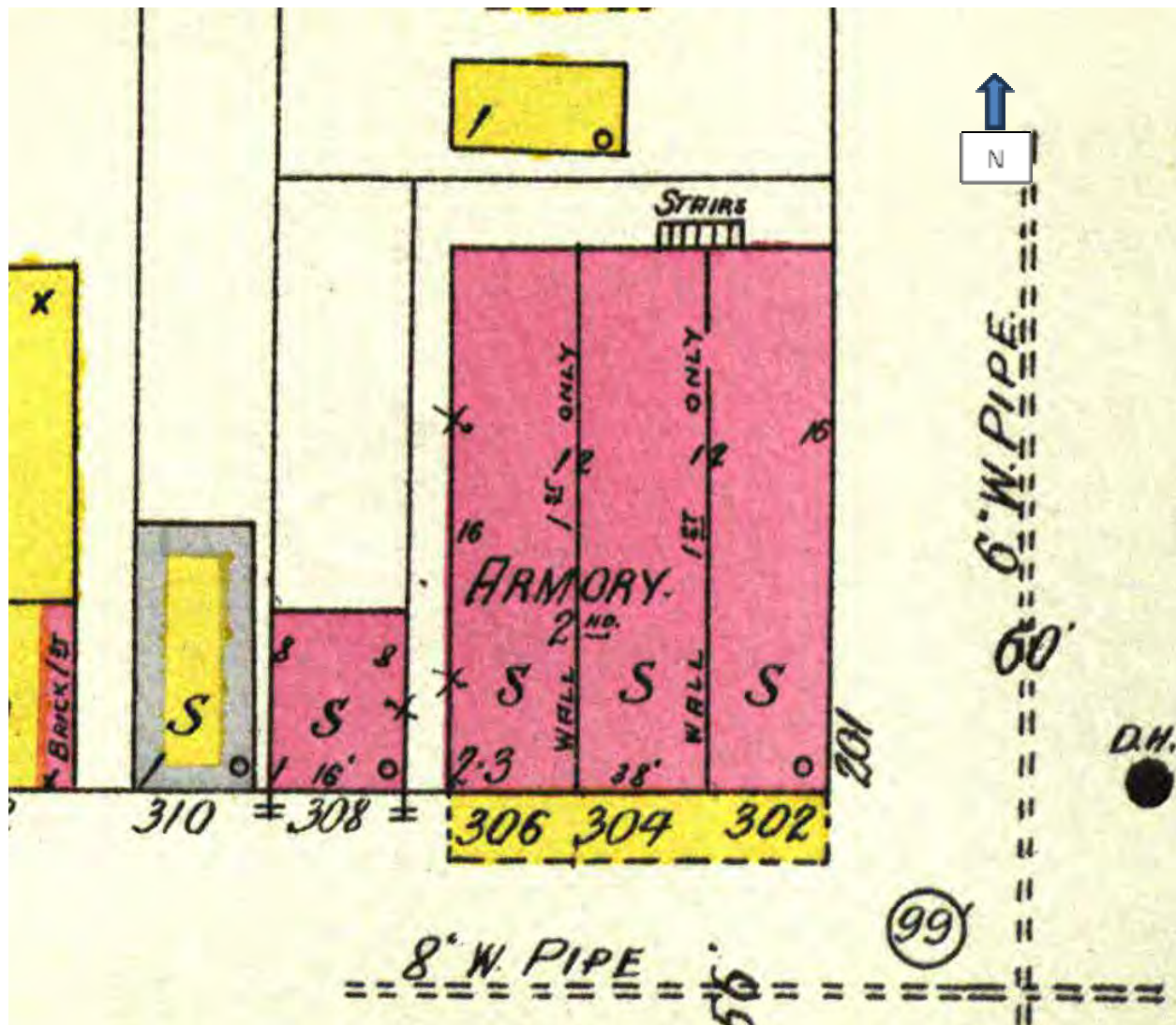
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Figure 16

1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, building detail



Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1923 May, sheet 04

Persistent link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A139690> (Accessed March 15, 2024).

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Figure 17

Comparison photo: Masonic Hall, 121 Broadway Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 18

Comparison photo: Elks Building, 115 Themis Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 19

Comparison photo: Park Theatre, 213 Broadway Street



Source: <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/34412> (accessed September 21, 2024).

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Figure 20

Comparison photo: Orpheum Theatre, 615 Good Hope Street



Source: <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/7240> (accessed September 21, 2024).

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Figure 21

Comparison photo: Broadway Theater, 805 Broadway Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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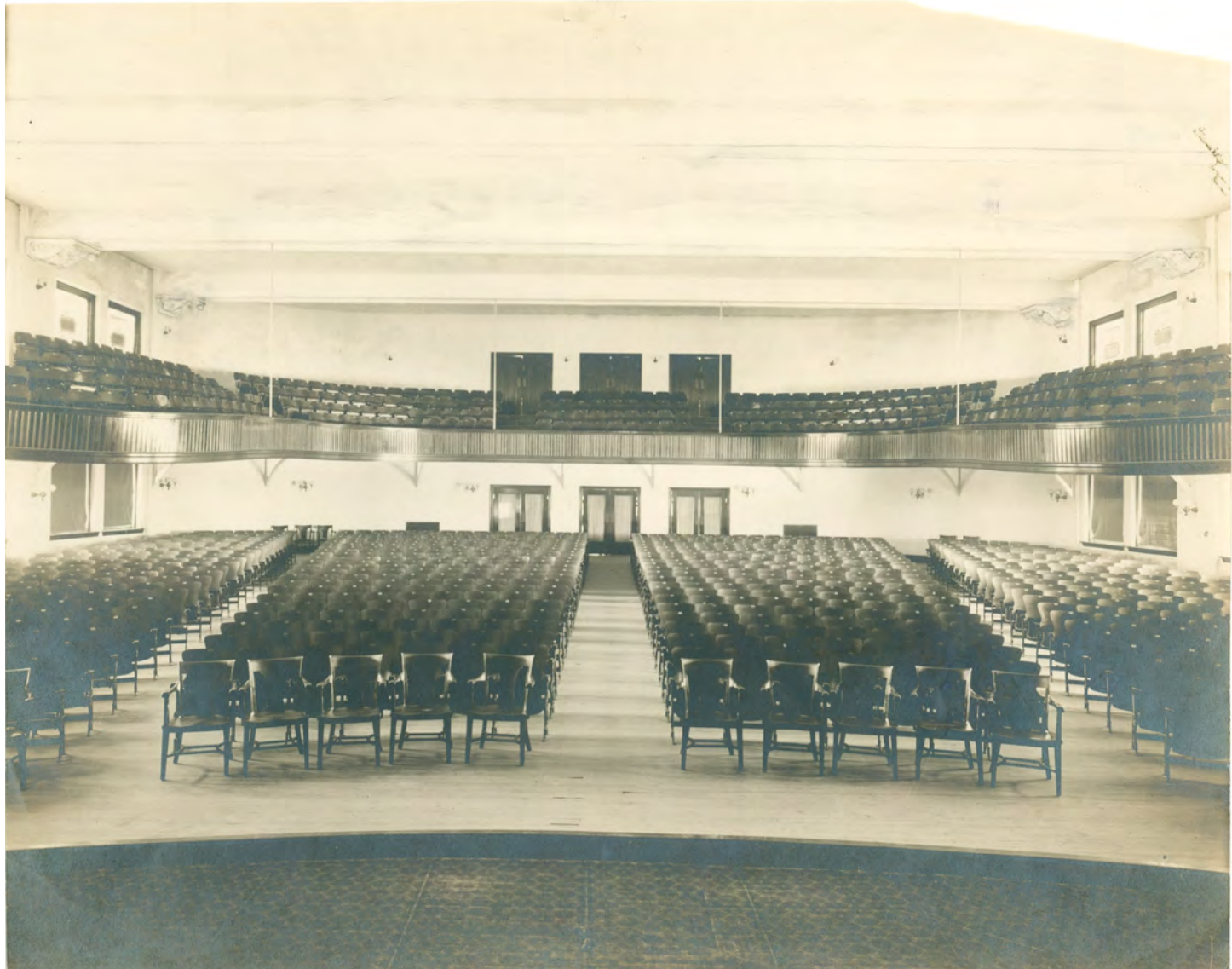
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Figure 22

Comparison photo: Academic Hall auditorium, circa 1906



Source: "Academic Hall Auditorium," *Southeast Missouri State University Photographs*, Special Collections and Archives, Kent Library, Southeast Missouri State University, <https://semo.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/semophotos/id/172/rec/1> (accessed September 23, 2024).

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Figure 23

Comparison photo: 536 Broadway Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 24

Comparison photo: St. Mary's Cathedral, 615 William Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 25

Comparison photo: Sturdivant Bank Building, 101 N. Main Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 26

Comparison photo: Kage House, 120 Broadway Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 27

Comparison photo: House at 323 Themis Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 28

Comparison photo: Julius Vasterling Building, 635 Broadway Street



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 29

Comparison photo: 528 Broadway (Broadway Middle Commercial Historic District)



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 30

Comparison photo: 626 Broadway (Broadway Commercial Historic District)



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.

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Figure 31

Comparison photo: 716 Broadway (Broadway Commercial Historic District)



Photo source: Steven Hoffman, September 21, 2024.





























