

NR M4006

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Gray - Wood Buildings
English, Kay & Cartwright Office Building
and/or common White Residence & Gallery

2. Location

street & number 401, 403, 405, & 407 North High Street not for publication
city, town California vicinity of
state Missouri code 29 county Moniteau code 135

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name 1) John English, John Kay, & Zachary Cartwright (403-407 N. High)
street & number 405 N. High Street
city, town California vicinity of state MO 65018

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds
street & number Moniteau County Courthouse
city, town California state MO 65018

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This complex of four storefronts is constructed of brick with a stone foundation & a flat roof. All 4 buildings have the typical early commercial design with large windows flanking inset entrances & capped by an open transom area. The 2 northern most buildings have decorative cast metal columns at the 1st story level. Those to the south have brick columns with vermiculated bases & caps & an I beam lintel with decorative rosettes. The 2nd stories are punctuated by smaller double hung windows. A decorative cornice accents the roofline. The rear facade is punctuated by 2/2, 2nd story, arched windows. This arched header is repeated over the 1st floor openings - basically a window-door-window pattern of finestrations for each building (see rear elevation).

Despite the fact that each building is different in its detailing, as a unit they work well together to form an integral commercial complex to blend with the adjacent historic district. Below is a brief description of each building:

407 N. High Street (see photo 2)

This is the earliest of the structures as indicated by the softer type brick & the 2 over 2 windows with their pedimented hoodmolds. The 1st story has fluted columns flanking the double leaf entrance & fluted pilasters at the corners. All of these supports have decorative, elongated bases & capitals. The corner pilasters once extended upward to support an ornate iron balcony (see photo 6). The southern most bay is a single leaf entrance which leads to the 2nd story, where the windows are rectangular in shape. A curvilinear, intaglio pattern is featured in the arched wooden headers. Deeply molded pediments on carved bosses cap the windows & the single leaf entrance. This entrance is over the primary doorway, but has been converted to a window opening. Single, ornate carved brackets support a projecting cornice with molded entablature & a raised parapet. This parapet is the only one remaining; each building originally had such a crown, as well as ball finials (see photo 6). The present corner final is the last remaining element. Along the alley, the grade drops away to partially expose the stone basement where there are several small openings. Only 1 arched window is located in the 1st story & it is toward the west edge of wall. Five windows which repeat the 2/2 pattern & intaglio header are at the second story. These have a raised brick, segmentally arched hoodmold. Of special note to this building is the stone step at the front doorway which reads "J.P.H. Gray".

405 N. High Street (see photo 3)

This storefront is somewhat of a mystery (see Item 8) since it combines both older & later styling. To look at the 1st story only, one would think the building dates shortly after the northern storefront. Its floor level is the same as the original. Slender, fluted columns with a corinthian capital & rosette-applied base flank the double leaf entrance. However, above this c 1870 storefront is what appears to be a continuation of the 1880's building to the south. It has rectangular 1/1 windows with an ashlar stone lintel & a narrow sill on small consoles. Between the windows & the heavily bracketed, projecting, metal cornice is a corbelled brick course.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | |

Specific dates 1869, 1882 **Builder/Architect** J.P.H. Gray/Lashley Wood/William Meyer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of The Gray-Wood Buildings is found in their importance to the community of California in the areas of architecture, community planning, commerce, & their associations with a number of prominent citizens. These merits comply with both items B & C of the criteria for establishing significance toward listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

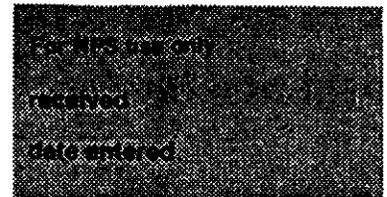
ARCHITECTURE: This group of storefronts reflect the standard of construction not only in California, but throughout mid-Missouri. They are unique in detail, but typical in overall design; therefore presenting both a unified complex & a close association with the buildings to the north which surround the courthouse square & form the current historic district. The roof parapet, bracketed cornice, bay window, & typical 3 bay pattern of finestration are motifs which are echoed in these buildings & in those around the square. All four building, according to local tradition, were built by William Meyer, a contractor who reportedly had a hand in a majority of structures in the next block north along High Street. A study of the historic photograph & the buildings as they appear today reveal a consistent architectural scheme. This cohesive quality was once displayed in many commercial areas in communities of various sizes; however, due to recent alterations, many towns & villages have lost this quality. It is significant for its purity as found in this complex of 4 storefronts. (See Moniteau County Courthouse Square Historic District nomination for further information on building similarities.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING: What is now California, Missouri was originally platted in 1845 as the Town of Boonsborough, with the county courthouse square & commercial district as its center. The present courthouse was constructed in 1868. Most commercial buildings date to the second half of the 19th century on all streets facing the square & on a secondary commercial area which extended three blocks south along High Street to the old postoffice, located at the southern edge of Boonsborough. The courthouse & square area, being one-half block from the courthouse in all directions (see map), are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gray-Wood Buildings adjoin the district to the immediate south, separated only by an alley & are a part of those commercial buildings extending along North High Street (west side).

COMMERCE-HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS: Because each storefront supported its own commercial ventures, they will be discussed under separate addresses:

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Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

2) Beryl White
401 N. High Street
California

MO 65018

Continuation Sheet

Item Number 7

Page 1

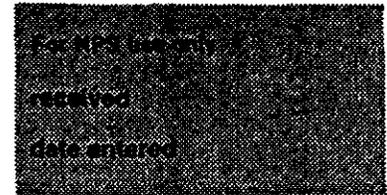
403 N. High Street (see photo 4)

Due to the grade of the street, the floor level is somewhat lower than those to the north. The inset double leaf doorway is no longer highlighted by cast metal columns. Two small terracotta panels are placed on the wide brick pilasters. A lion's head is at the sill level of the 2nd story windows & a round floral motif is inset at the corbelled cornice. The 2nd story has a central projecting polygonal bay window. The bracketed cornice continues to extend across this facade.

401 N. High Street (see photo 5)

A single leaf entrance with an elongated transom forms the northern bay of this section. Above it the bay has a lintel & sill, but from, at least, the turn of the century, the opening has been bricked in. The primary inset entrance is slightly off center due to the large circular window at the SE corner where a number of small raised decorative motifs accent the lintel. This bay continues upward where a transom of small lights once capped the circular 2nd story window. These lights have been replaced by a solid closed panel; however, the decorative lintel above remains intact. The bracketed cornice sweeps around this bay & once supported a conical roof. Today the roof, as well as the parapet & ball finials are gone. Windows on the south facade are 2 over 2 & double hung, & have a double rowlock segmentally arched header. Eight windows are at the 2nd story, while only 2 full windows & a small transom type window are located on the 1st floor. Seven openings are cut into the exposed basement level. On the rear facade is a basement & one story addition built of brick. It has 2 windows to the south, 1 opening at each level on the west side, & a wooden porch & doorway to the north.

Interiors have been altered through the years to meet the various needs of individual businesses. Only a few pieces of millwork remain intact.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

407 N. High Street

Dr. J.P.H. Gray, pioneer physician in Moniteau County, arrived from his native Virginia in 1840, and married Hester Wood, daughter of Lashley Lucas Wood, generally recognized as the founder of Boonsborough-California. In 1869, Dr. Gray purchased the land upon which buildings of 407 & 405 are located, and began construction of the present structures. 407 High Street was completed first, and contained Dr. Gray's medical offices on the second floor, with the ground floor separately serving as a store area, which was rented. Access to the Doctor's office was through a staircase opening on High Street. The entire structure was known as "The Gray Building" and remains so by virtue of a large flagstone at the main entrance upon which is engraved "J.P.H. GRAY".

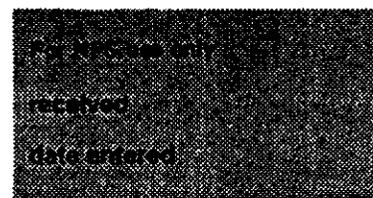
Dr. Gray died in 1909, but the medical office continued in the same location until World War II under his son, Dr. Lashley Monroe Gray. During the same era as Dr. Lashley Gray, the ground floor of the building served as the Charles E. Tieman Jewelry, widely noted for its fine merchandise. Following the deaths of Messrs. Gray and Tieman, the building was used by a few short-lived businesses, with the second floor used for living quarters. Since the 1950's, the building was used for storage only, most recently by Bixler Furniture Company.

405 N. High Street

Upon completion of the J.P.H. Gray Building, Dr. Gray began construction of a second building immediately south. The uniqueness of this structure is mentioned in item 7. It is thought that Dr. Gray's influence was felt in the 1st story. It is unclear if the 2nd story was added in 1882 or if it was removed & altered at that time. Despite that confusion, this upper story, without a doubt, dates to the same period as 403 & 401 High Street (c 1882). 405 N. High Street is on the same level as the first building and shares a common party wall. Access was provided between the buildings by a doorway on the ground floor located at the center of the buildings. The staircase opening on High Street providing access to Dr. Gray's medical offices also served the second floor of the second building. The second floor, until its abandonment in 1970's, always served as living quarters. As far as is known, the ground floor was originally a restaurant, and remained so until the 1960's. For the majority of this period, it was known as "Mueller and Heinrich's", owned originally by C.C. Mueller and Fred Heinrich, German immigrants, and subsequently operated by Mueller's son, A. Eugene Mueller, who married Cordelia Gray, daughter of Dr. L.M. Gray and granddaughter of Dr. J.P.H. Gray. The ground floor served as a taxi stand from the mid-1960's until its abandonment in the 1970's.

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Continuation sheet

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403 & 401 N. High Street

The deed records of Moniteau County show that Lot 13, upon which these buildings are located, was owned at various times beginning in 1871 by Dr. J.P.H. Gray, Lashley Fountain Wood, John D. Wood and Samuel Owens, among others. Lashley and John Wood were brothers of Mrs. J.P.H. Gray and Samuel Owens was their cousin. Messrs. Lashley Wood and Owens were prominent attorneys who began a partnership together in 1867 that lasted until the death of Mr. Owens in 1882. Following the death of Mr. Owens, Lashley Fountain Wood constructed these buildings. Although constructed as one structure, these buildings were designed to have completely separate commercial areas on the ground floor. An exterior front entrance leads to a large common staircase leading to the first floor of both buildings. At the top is a large landing with skylight providing direct access to four separate offices in each building. These offices housed physicians, attorneys, dentists and California's first telephone company, founded by Dr. J.P.H. Gray, Lashley F. Wood and another relative, C.M. Gordon. The ground floor of 403 N. High Street housed the Herfurth-Buchanan Mercantile Co. and subsequently the Buchanan Drugstore, both founded by James Buchanan, which continued as the H.S. Stephenson Drugstore until the early 1970's, from which time it has been an antique and book store. Since at least the 1930's the 2nd floor has served as living quarters. The corner building was known for the first half of this century as the Frederick Rohmbach Bakery and Restaurant, a business continued by his son, Emil Rombach as an appliance store until the 1960's. Subsequently the building housed upholstery businesses.

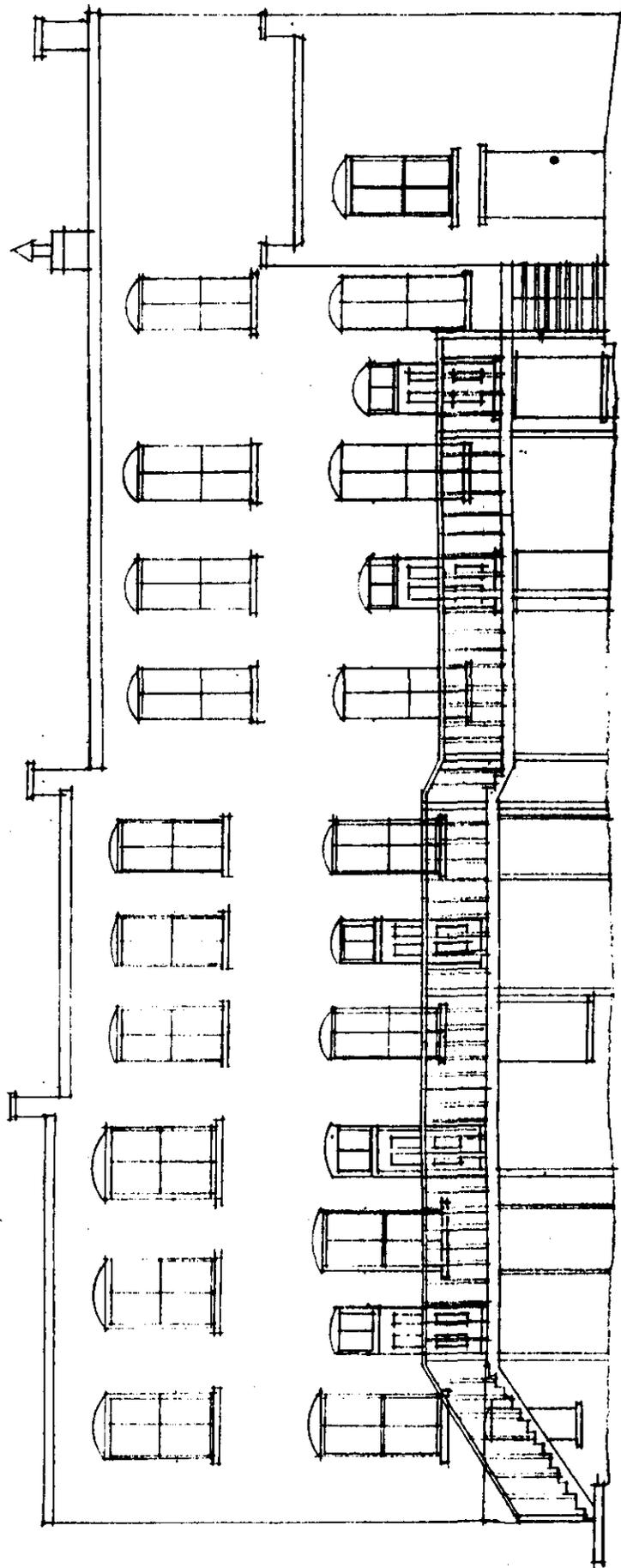
Since renovations, which began in 1982 & is an ERTA project, the firm of English, Kay & Cartwright have had law offices, as well as 3 government offices, an abstract company & a tax service in 403, 405 & 407 N. High Street. 401 N. High presently is the residence (2nd floor) & studio & gallery (1st floor) of artist Beryl White.

Continuation Sheet

Item Number 10

Page 1

grassy area is located at the back of the buildings, between them & the alley which runs N to S.



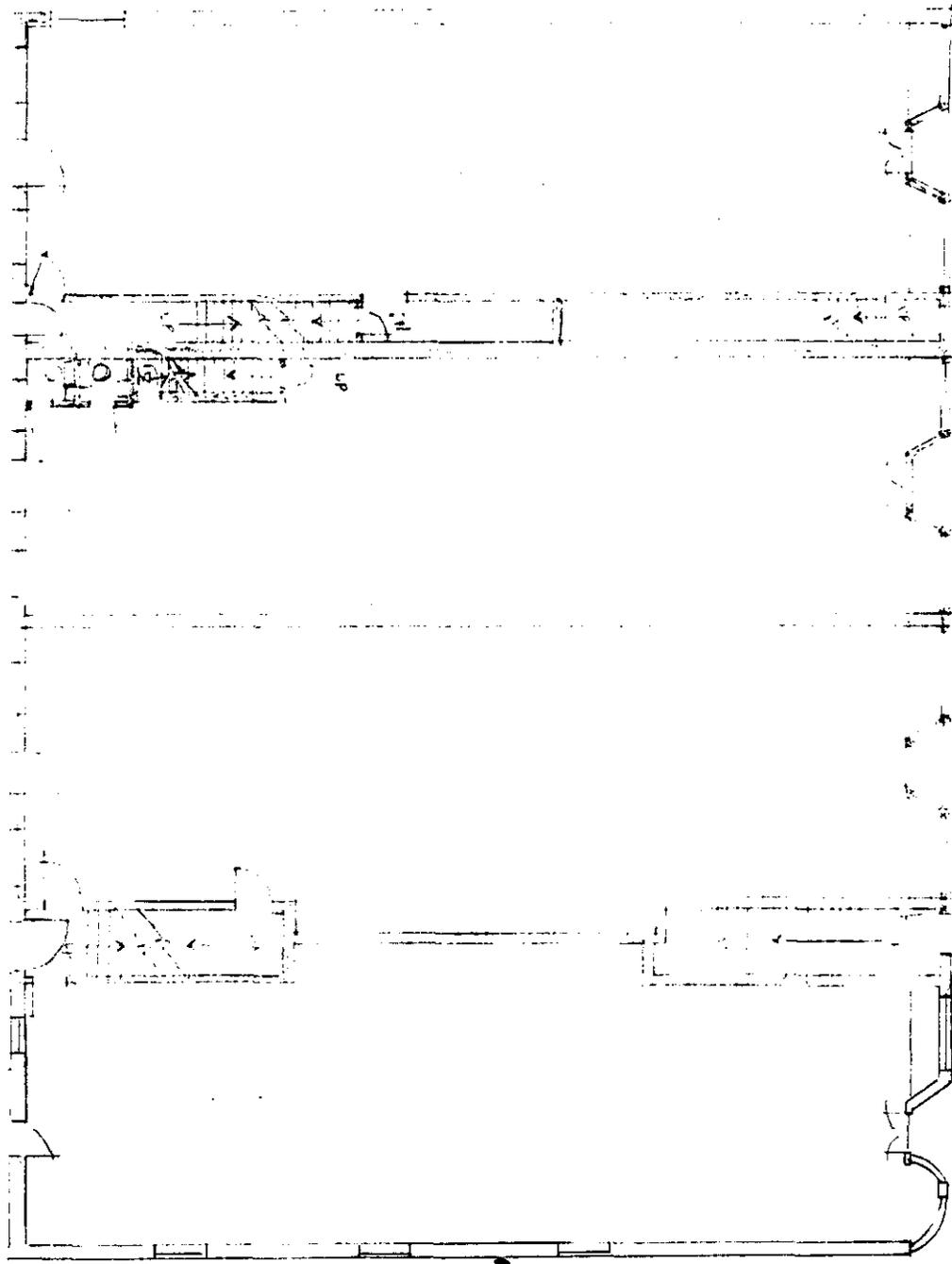
THE GRAY-WOOD BUILDINGS

WEST ELEVATION

SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

NOTE:

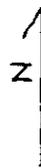
- ELEVATION SHOWS EXISTING FACADE WITH PROPOSED PORCH.
- EXISTING PORCH TO BE REMOVED.
- WINDOWS, DOORS & TRIM TO BE PAINTED
- NEW STAIRS DOORS ADDED.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

THE GRAY-WOOD
BUILDINGS

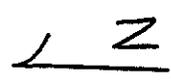
CALIFORNIA, MD.



CALIFORNIA, MO.

DISTRICT

HISTORIC

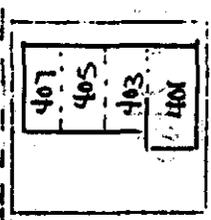
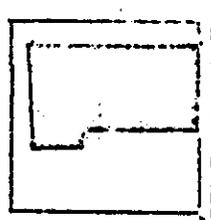
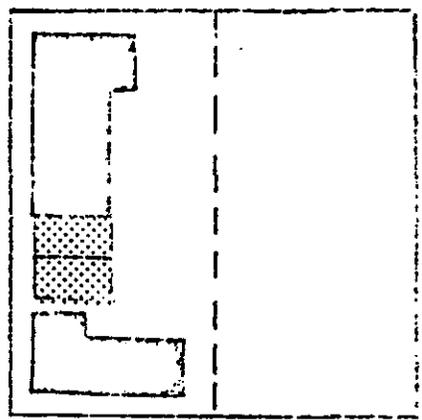
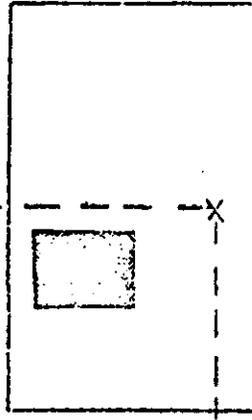
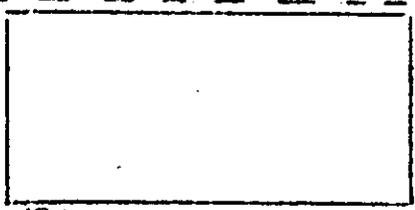
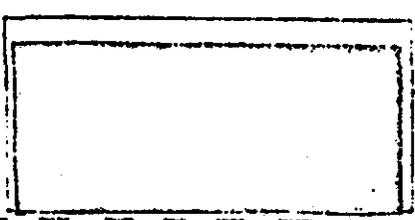
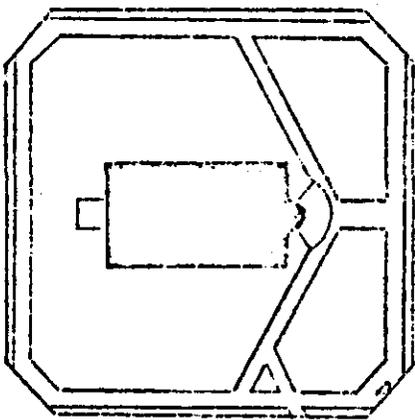
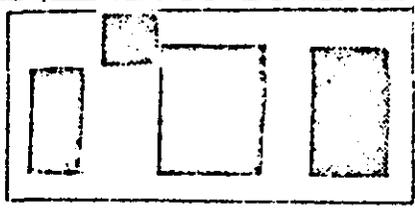
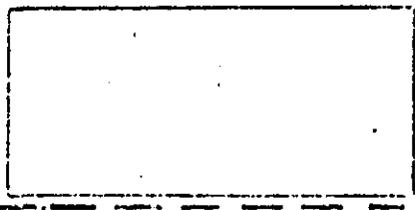
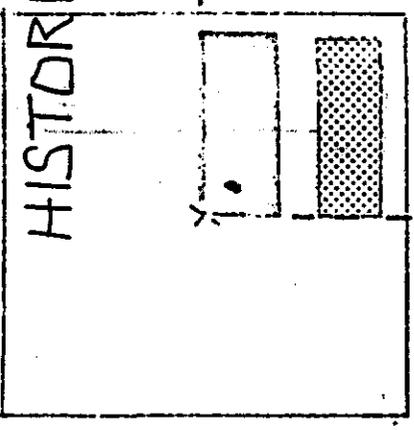
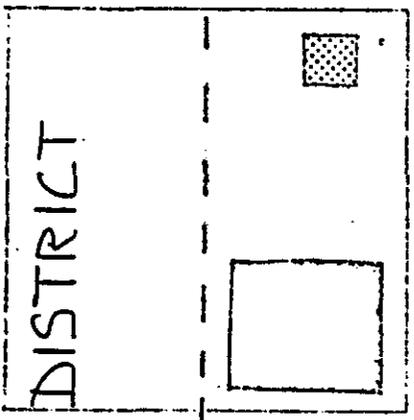
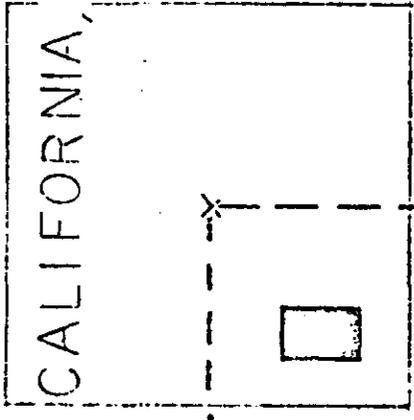


EAST STREET

NORTH STREET

MAIN STREET

HIGH STREET



2nd half 19th Cen.
Recent
Further Study Needed

407
405
403
401

THE GRAY - WOOD BUILDINGS 1 of 6
401-407 N. High St., California, Moniteau Co.,
Missouri 65018

PHOTOGRAPHER: Linda Donovan Harper
DATE: Fall, 1983
NEG. LOC.: English, Kay & Cartwright
405 N. High St.
California, MO 65018
Streetscape; primary facades (E), looking
southwest.



THE NICOLAS AGENCY

407

FOR THE
SPECIAL
AGENCY

THE GRAY - WOOD BUILDINGS 2 of 6
401-407 N. High Street, California, Moniteau
Co., MO 65018

PHOTOGRAPHER: Linda Donovan Harper
DATE: Fall 1983
NEG. LOC.: English, Kay & Cartwright
405 N. High St.
California, MO 65018
Primary facade (E) of 407 N. High St.;
Looking west.



407

MISSOURI
ABSTRACT & TITLE CO.

THE
NICKLAS AGENCY
INC.

MIDWEST INSURANCE EXCHANGE INC.
PROPERTIES UNLIMITED INC.
ESTATE & PENSION SERVICES INC.
LAWYER MEMBER OF THE BAR

THE GRAY - WOOD BUILDINGS 3 of 6
401-407 N. High St., California,
Moniteau County, MO 65018

PHOTOGRAPHER: Linda Doanvan Harper
DATE: Fall 1983
NEG. LOC.: English, Kay & Cartwright
405 N High St. MO 65018
California, MO 65018
Primary facade (E) of 405 N. High Street,
Looking west.



INGLISH, KAY
CARTWRIGHT
& RINER, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

405

LAW OFFICE
JOHN W. ENGLISH
JOHN T. KAY
T. CARTWRIGHT
JAMES W. RINER

THE GRAY - WOOD BUILDINGS 4 of 6
401-407 N. High St., California, 65018
Moniteau County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER: Linda Donavan Harper
DATE: Fall 1983
NEG. LOC.: English, Kay, & Cartwright
405 N. High St. 65018
California, MO
Primary facade (E) of 403 N. High St.,
Looking west.



ROHRBACH'S
TAX SERVICE

403

BETTY M
ROHRBACH

INSH, KAY
& TWRIGHT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ONE HOUR
PARKING
MON-FRI
9-5 PM

THE GRAY - WOOD BUILDINGS
401-407 N. High St., California
Moniteau County, Missouri 65018

PHOTOGRAPHER: Linda Donovan Harper
DATE: Fall 1983
NEG. LOC.: English, Kay, & Cartwright
405 N. High St.
California, MO 65018
Primary facade (E) & secondary facade (S) of
401 N. High St.; looking northwest.



Le FRIGIDAIRE
AND SAVE
APPLIANCE
ROHBACH'S SHOP

fresh
up
with
7UP

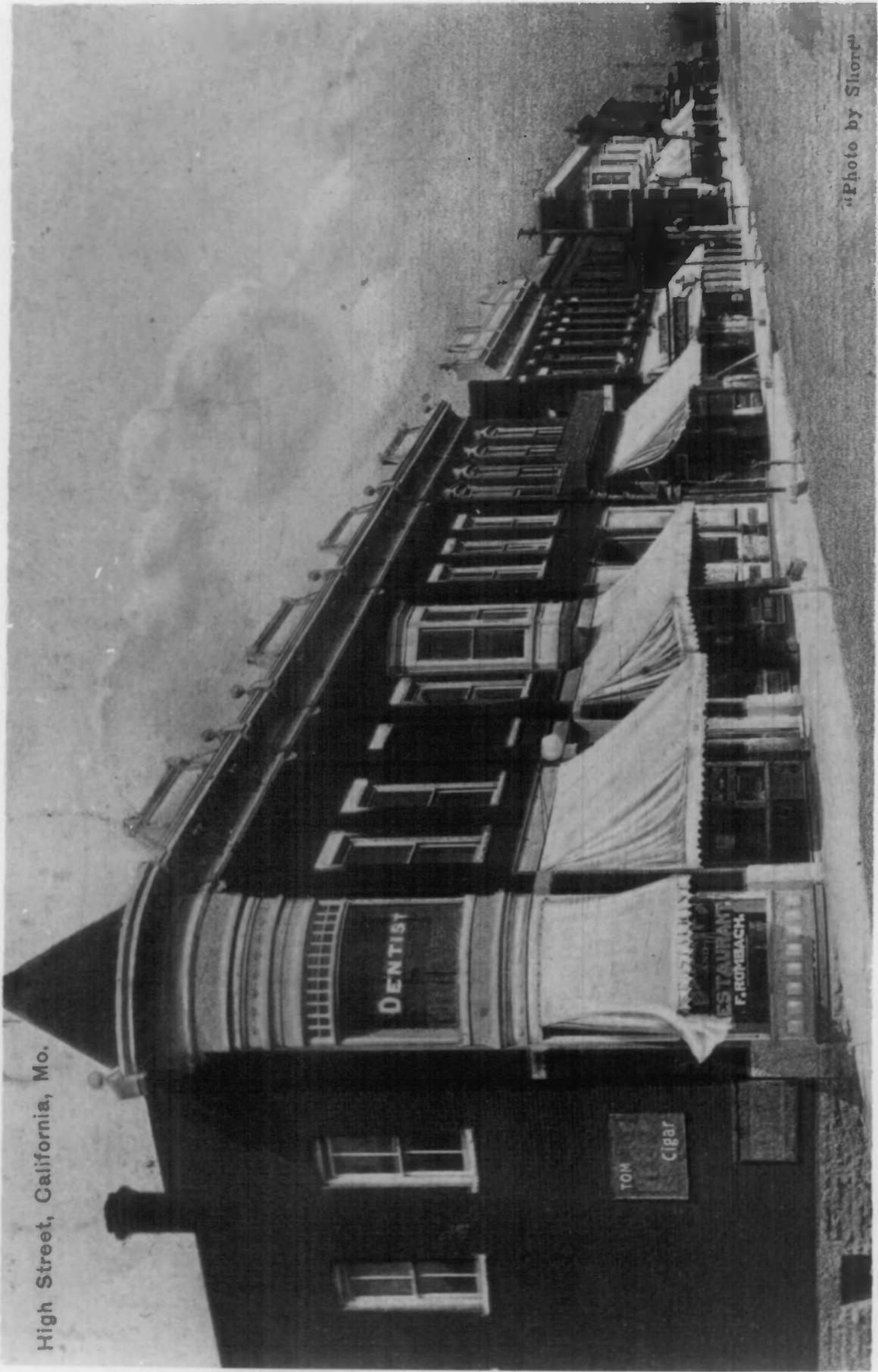
THE GRAY - WOOD BUILDINGS 6 of 6
401-407 N. High St., California,
Moniteau County, Missouri 65018

PHOTOGRAPHER: "Photo by Short"
DATE: unknown c. 1908
NEG. LOC.: State Historical Society of
Missouri

Columbia, MO
Streetscape from historic photo/postcard;
looking northwest from 401 n. High St.

PERMISSION GRANTED TO REPRODUCE
THIS PHOTOGRAPH. CREDIT: STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

High Street, California, Mo.



"Photo by Stone"