

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

1. Name

historic Middle West Hotel (20th century)

and/or common Grand Opera House and Webb City Opera House (19th century)

2. Location

street & number 1 South Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Webb City _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Missouri 65870 code _____ county Jasper code 097

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Robert and Frances Nichols

street & number 2410 Stadium Drive

city, town Ft. Worth _____ vicinity of _____ state Texas 76109

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jasper County Courthouse

street & number Town Square

city, town Carthage state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 1982 _____ federal state county _____ local _____

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources; P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65101

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

The original Grand Opera House, built 1883, was one of Webb City's first downtown, commercial brick buildings. It stood on the southeast corner of Main (now Broadway) and Allen (now Main), 80' wide streets, at the hub of the town's financial and business district.¹ It was a Victorian vernacular building resembling Rifkind's "freestanding narrow and deep retail store, an Americanism that dots rural hamlets across the country, although it is particularly associated with the frontier...having faint echoes of high style sources in abstractly simple ornamental details."² Indeed, the exterior qualities reflected the interior functions: the first floor had large store-front glass windows facing Main Street and for the retail grocery and saloon, broadside advertisements facing Allen Street; the second story had the echoes of high style with stone lintels, corbelling, and scroll-like brackets throughout the cornice. Inside the second floor the opera house had a stage and a "small amount of scenery." The building stood on a Carthage limestone foundation.

The 1902 remodelling of the multi-purpose commercial building into a three story one only enlarged upon the 1883 functional concept. The first floor accommodated offices, saloon, pool hall and a pawn shop, while the second and third floor became rooms for the Middle West Hotel. The ground floor entrances were moved from north to west entrances, facing the track of the new interurban Southwest Missouri Railway. A stairway to the south of the building was added, replacing the old exterior stairway on the east side. The exterior walls were laid in flemish bond brick with brick pilasters at corners and along the sides. Windows are double hung sash with smooth Carthage limestone sills and lintels. Roof trim has a metal boxed cornice with frieze and brackets (the addition to the top of the cornice in 1902 no longer remains, but the 1883 cornice is intact). The skylight, located in the center of the roof, lights the spacious 2nd floor and accentuates the 3rd floor balustrade. The roof rests on heavy trusses.

The hotel's woodwork has retained its integrity including interior oak doors, machined casing trim, molding base with plinths, oak handrailing, spindles and corners, and oak stairway with handrails, newell posts, base and spindles. Walls are lath and plaster.

The first floor has been remodeled several times. The second and third floors remain the same in layout and texture as it has for the past eighty years.

1. Sanborn and Pettis Insurance map, 1885, confirmed that the Opera House was one of a handful of brick buildings at that time.
2. Carole Rifkind, A Field Guide to American Architecture, New York: New American Library, 1980: 195.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" 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 1883/1902 **Builder/Architect** 1902, Smith Brothers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Middle West Hotel is significant as a representative type of a turn-of-the-century multi-purpose, vernacular commercial building which was ubiquitous on boomtown and frontier landscapes, but for such structures only marginal or no preservation effort has been made; is significant as an anchor building on the "Main Street landscape" due to its strategic location at the historic and contemporary financial and business hub of Webb City; is significant as one of the town's first downtown brick buildings; is significant in the association of Joseph W. Aylor, mineral speculator and town father, as co-financier of the 1883 structure and for the role of the Smith Brothers, the leading local builders and contractors, who renovated the 1902 structure; and is significant as the first property to be given preservation attention in Webb City, its success may dramatically effect the future role of development and revitalization for the Webb City landscape.

Webb City is one of some thirty permanent settlements which were once a part of 81 Tri-State lead and zinc mining camps along the southwest border of the Ozark region. The Grand Opera House (Middle West Hotel) located in the downtown financial and business hub, represents a type of structure built during Arrell Gibson's third stage of mining camp and town urbanization i.e. workers lived in larger towns and commuted to the mines by electric trolley.¹ The 1880s downtown development in Webb City established a landscape and pattern of development along a grid street layout which has persisted for a century.

The Opera House/Middle West Hotel stands in the center of the original town laid out in 1875 following an accidental discovery of lead by pioneer-farmer, John C. Webb. The original six blocks were quickly added to in 1876 by four additions and in 1877 by six more. The town was incorporated in 1876 and within five years the mining boomtown boasted 2,000 population. The time had arrived for permanent property investments.²

East of town across Ben's Branch, Carterville was also developing; Carthage, the county seat, was a few miles to the northeast, Oronogo, another boom town developed a couple of miles north, and Joplin lay to the southwest. Webb City in the midst of Jasper County's mineral economy was a town that witnessed much travel among these centers of activity. That travel ate, slept, was entertained, shopped and did business along Allen Street where the Opera House/Middle West Hotel was located. Three major railroads did business in the town: St. Louis and San Francisco (1879), the Missouri Pacific (1881), and the Kansas City, Ft. Scott and Memphis.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Item #9 continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name WEBB CITY, MO.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 5	3 7 0 1 2 0	4 1 1 1 8 8 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of the North 81 feet of Lot 25; and all of Lot 26 in the original town of Webb City. This has been the location of the Middle West Hotel since construction.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lynn Morrow

organization: _____ date: May 25, 1982

street & number: 306 E. Georgia telephone: 417-485-3134

city or town: Ozark state: Missouri

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources
title and State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

MIDDLE WEST HOTEL

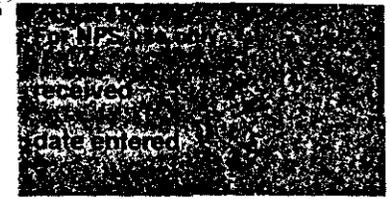
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

OMB NO. 1024-0018

EXP. 10/31/94



By 1883 the new Webb City was fast becoming a product of modernity ushered in by railroad transportation. The town had already built a telephone system, a new Union Church, J.C. Webb's Webb City Bank, masons lodges and volunteer organizations, a town band, a foundry and machine shop, and several "boomtown" frame commercial buildings. In February, 1883, a disastrous fire swept an Allen Street block destroying seven buildings.³

Almost immediately newspapers and town fathers called for rebuilding and voiced a need for an opera house. The rapid expansion of services, 1879-83, made capital investments feasible. I.N. Lester and J.W. Aylor financed the multi-purpose commercial venture that year (1883). Local citizens proudly proclaimed that "now the cultural life as well as the religious life of the citizens was being cared for."⁴ The new brick edifice, seating 600 in the Opera House, became an anchor building for the downtown landscape at Main and Allen. In the absence of a town square, Main and Allen functioned as a center place. The new Opera House Saloon and Billiard hall advertised "choice wines and liquors. Gentlemanly treatment given and good order maintained." The Opera House Grocer dealt in "staple and fancy groceries, provisions, flour and queensware, nails, chills and miners' supplies; and agents for the old reliable giant powder."

The business section on Allen stretched for seven blocks. The following year, 1884, another opera house opened, but closed in a few years. Neighboring Joplin had some eleven opera houses altogether, but only one of those structures remains today. The opening of opera houses in Webb City at this time was a part of a "sudden proliferation of theaters or 'opera houses' as they were usually called, built after 1870 and directly attributable to the development of railroads."⁵ The Opera House was to be a focal point of the community's cultural life, especially social events, educational lectures and commencements, and as such the building was one of the town's first to display some pretensions of style and it was strategically located at Main and Allen. (Although the "opera house became recognizable as a distinct architectural type" in the 18th and 19th centuries, apparently no catalogue of types and significance exists for small town vernacular expressions. The standard work, Simon Tidworth's, Theaters An Architectural and Cultural History, New York: Praeger Publishers, 1973, treats high style in his chapter, "Opera Goes Grand," but does not address vernacular imitations).

Names of the actual tradesmen who constructed the 1883 building are unknown. However they were probably part of a dozen or more building tradesmen who lived in Webb City at the time. Carpenters, stone masons, plasterers, lumbermen, etc. tended to converge on boom towns and it took several years before prominent builders emerged with their own shops, mills and work force. No master builder or architect appeared on the 1880 census for Webb City.⁶

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

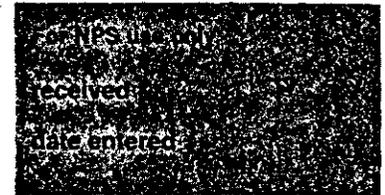
MIDDLE WEST HOTEL

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 2



However Joseph W. Aylor, co-partner in the investment, was long one of Webb City's most prominent town fathers. A Virginian by birth, he immigrated to Howard County, Missouri and served the Confederacy during the Civil War. Attracted by the Webb City boom of the late 1870s he successfully prospected for lead and by making wise land investments was known as a "capitalist." Aylor was partner with another locally well-known investor, Mr. A. McCorkle. The Aylor building was constructed just two blocks north (212 N. Main) of the Opera House, the Aylor mill was built in 1884 east of town, and to be seen today northwest of the Opera House/Middle West Hotel is the J.W. Aylor brick Queen Anne house, a long time local landmark. Aylor owned and sub-leased mining land to mining investors. These included the J.W. Aylor land leased by Lucky Budge Mining Company, Avondale and Dominion Mining Company, and James Luke Mining and Realty Company. J.W. and B.C. Aylor leased the E.J. Chinn land, where the Eleventh Hour Mining Company, a multi-million dollar zinc and lead venture, developed. Another Aylor lease was the Ten O'Clock Mining Company.⁷

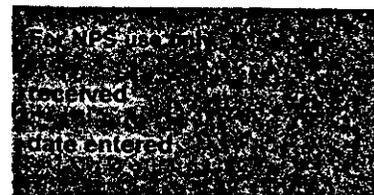
Through the 1880s Webb City prospered while theatrical troupes and dancing lessons provided entertainment at the Opera House. During the 1890s the town doubled in population. In 1891 the great Newland Hotel (only a remnant remains), with its 100 rooms opened two blocks south of the Opera House. In 1893, Springfieldian, A.H. Rogers, founded the Southwest Missouri Railway, one of the nation's largest inter-urban systems. The main power plant, car barn, repair shops, offices, and 150-175 employees were all located in Webb City adding to the traffic along Allen Street. The "West End" development near the Frisco depot began to rival downtown by the late 1890s.⁸

In 1901 Roe Blake built the Blake Theater, "considered the best playhouse in the district."⁹ This venture spelled a dramatic decline for the Webb City Opera House and a new use for the building had to be found.

The Joplin Brewing Company, owners of the building in 1902, developed a plan to renovate the structure into a hotel. The name, Middle West Hotel complemented the managerial company, Middle West Brewery. The opera level was rebuilt into two floors of rooms, windows were arranged accordingly, and the ground floor storefronts shifted from the north to the west side facing the trolley line. The exterior brick course was laid in flemish bond. Steam heat, electric lights, fans and baths awaited a travelling public. In 1909 the Middle West was described as "one of the most attractive buildings in the city...splendidly appointed and furnished, and contains thirty fine rooms, each and every one a complete home within itself...The bar of the Middle West Hotel, known as the 'Owl Bar,' is finely equipped and appointed and well stocked with the best liquors and cigars that good money and rare judgment will get. There is also a splendid cafe in the hotel building but it is under separate management."¹⁰

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

MIDDLE WEST HOTEL

Item number 8

Page 3

The hotel was obviously better equipped and managed than most. Only the Newland and Middle West advertised \$2 per day, while others advertised \$1 per day or \$4 per week.¹¹ Mrs. C.E. Cissna, manager of the hotel and saloon, also worked at the Newland, and is remembered as a popular downtown businesswoman.¹²

As J.W. Aylor was associated with the original building in 1883, a prominent local firm received the renovation contract in 1902. The Smith Brothers appeared to be the only contractors advertising from Webb City during the 1890s. Their business, located near the Frisco depot, was "Proprietors Webb City Planing Mill. Contractors and Builders. Plans, Specifications and Estimates Furnished."¹³ In October, 1902, the Webb City Sentinel carried the news,

Smith Brothers Have the Contract

Smith Bros. have been awarded the contract and received the plans today for the reconstruction of the old opera house or Jack Henson saloon building at the corner of Main and Allen streets and will commence work Monday morning. The building when reconstructed will be practically a new building three stories high and with three store rooms facing Allen street. It will then be called the Middle West, from the name of the brewery which now owns the building.¹⁴

The ground floor continued to have a variety of businesses as it always did: grocery, saloon, billiards, offices, pawn shop and a tailor. For a generation the travelling public and Webb Citians were accustomed to the Middle West Hotel. It is this early 20th century period in which the greatest historical significance for the building lay.

In the twenties the Hub Department Store took over the entire first floor. The hotel then became a rooming house. The Hub, "Webb City's Leading Department Store," was the town's principal store in clothing, shoes, fabrics and linens for the generation from the twenties until the fifties.¹⁵ A Five and Dime went into the first floor during the 1960s and a Ben Franklin in the 1970s. The construction of a Wal-Mart shopping center at the edge of town in 1980 began to re-orient downtown trade toward the outskirts.

However the "center" of town is still very much in evidence at Main and Broadway. The downtown commercial district still fronts Main street (formerly Allen). Across the street from the Middle West is the Webb City Bank on one corner, and the Webb City Bank motor facility on the other. One block to the west the Merchant and Miners Bank have built a new facility and the Chamber of Commerce is only a block away. Two of the town's most prestigious domestic landmarks, the J.W. Aylor and J.C. Webb houses, are also nearby. It is crucial and timely that the present Middle West owners are attempting to revitalize this anchor building on Main Street. "Rehabilitated hotels contribute to the momentum of Main Street revitalization by creating attractive lodging..."¹⁶ In this case the Middle West effort may be the first in a larger revitalization effort as other local business and professional people await the outcome.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

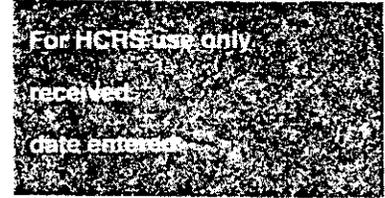
Continuation sheet MIDDLE WEST HOTEL Item number 8 Page 4

Footnotes

1. Milt Rafferty, The Ozarks Land and Life, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980: 129-131.
2. "A History and Economic Survey of Webb City, Missouri," Henrietta Crotty, compiler and editor, Webb City Daily Sentinel, June, 1937: 5. Neighboring Carterville, the other half of the "twin cities" was founded the same year as Webb City.
3. Ibid., and Harry Hood, "Times Listed Many Early Businesses," Webb City Sentinel, December 1, 1978.
4. Norval M. Matthews, An Amazing City, Webb City: Sentinel Printing Co., 1976: 6.
5. Information: from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation of Concert Halls, Opera Houses and Movie Palaces, Washington D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation: 10. This period was dubbed "The Age of Opera Houses."
6. Population Census, Jasper County, 1980. The tradesmen represented included only one native-born Missourian. Others were an Irish stone mason, one Kentuckian, and ten Northerners from Illinois to Vermont.
7. History of Jasper County, Missouri, Des Moines, Iowa: Mills and Company, 1883: 618; Hoye's Directory, 1905-06, Joplin, Carthage, Carterville, Webb City and Jasper County, n.p.: 76; and Mines in Jasper County, 1906, compiled by Harry C. Hood, Sr., Hood Collection, Joint Manuscripts, UMR Library, Rolla. The J.C. Webb brick Queen Anne house is also west and only a couple of blocks from the Middle West Hotel.
8. Harry C. Hood, "Growth in the Nineties was Spectacular," Webb City Sentinel, June 15, 1979; Matthews, Amazing City, p. 12; and Harry C. Hood, "Southwest Missouri Railroad," Webb City Centennial 1876-1976.
9. The Blake Theater burned in 1931. In 1932 the Civic Theater was built on the site. "A History and Economic Survey...." p. 6.
10. Industrial and Commercial Review of Webb City, November, 1909: 6.
11. Business Directory of Joplin, Missouri 1905-06, Joplin: Mid-West Printing, 1905: 43.
12. The Middle West, c. World War I, expanded 13 more rooms eastward over the adjoining building. The expanded area was built in a commercial brick building which has been constructed by 1891. It had housed a grocery, the Orpheum Theater following the closing of the Webb City Opera House, a saloon during WWI boom years, and by the 1920s commercial store space occupied the front lower story while the back was used as storage. By then the upstairs had become rooms attached to the Middle West enterprise.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



MIDDLE WEST HOTEL

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

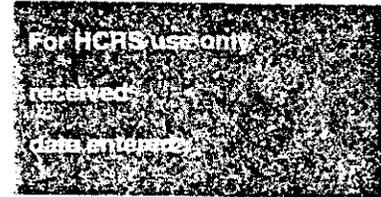
Page

5

13. Jasper County Atlas, n.p., 1895, "Webb City." "Smith Brothers, Contractors and Builders" is the only such enterprise identified on the Sanborn Insurance maps of the period.
14. Webb City Sentinel, October 9, 1902.
15. Apparently absentee owners leased the department store (including Rice-Stix Dry Goods, St. Louis) until Kamisar Mercantile, a local business, managed the store for two decades. See abstract of property.
16. Floy A. Brown, "Rehabilitating Historic Hotels," Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Interior, et al, 1980: 7.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Middle West Hotel

Item number

9

Page 1

1. Brown, Floy A. "Rehabilitating Historic Hotels." Washington D.C.: United States Department of Interior, et al, 1980.
2. Business Directory of Joplin, Missouri, 1905-06. Joplin: Mid-West Printing, 1905.
3. Crotty, Henrietta. "A History and Economic Survey of Webb City, Missouri." Webb City Daily Sentinel, June, 1937.
4. History of Jasper County, Missouri. Des Moines, Iowa: Mills and Company, 1883.
5. Hood, Harry. "Times Listed Many Early Businesses." Webb City Sentinel, December 1, 1978.
6. Hood, Harry. "Growth in the Nineties was Spectacular." Webb City Sentinel, June 15, 1979.
7. Industrial and Commercial Review of Webb City, November, 1909.
8. Information: from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation of Concert Halls, Opera Houses and Movie Palaces. Washington D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation: 10.
9. Jasper County Atlas. n.p., 1895.
10. Matthews, Norval M. An Amazing City. Webb City: Sentinel Printing Co., 1976.
11. Population Census, Jasper County, 1880.
12. Rafferty, Milton. The Ozarks Land and Life. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.
13. Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: New American Library, 1980.
14. Sanborn and Pettis Insurance Maps. 1885, 1891, 1893, 1900, 1906, 1915, and 1925.
15. Webb City Sentinel, October 9, 1902.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MIDDLE WEST HOTEL

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

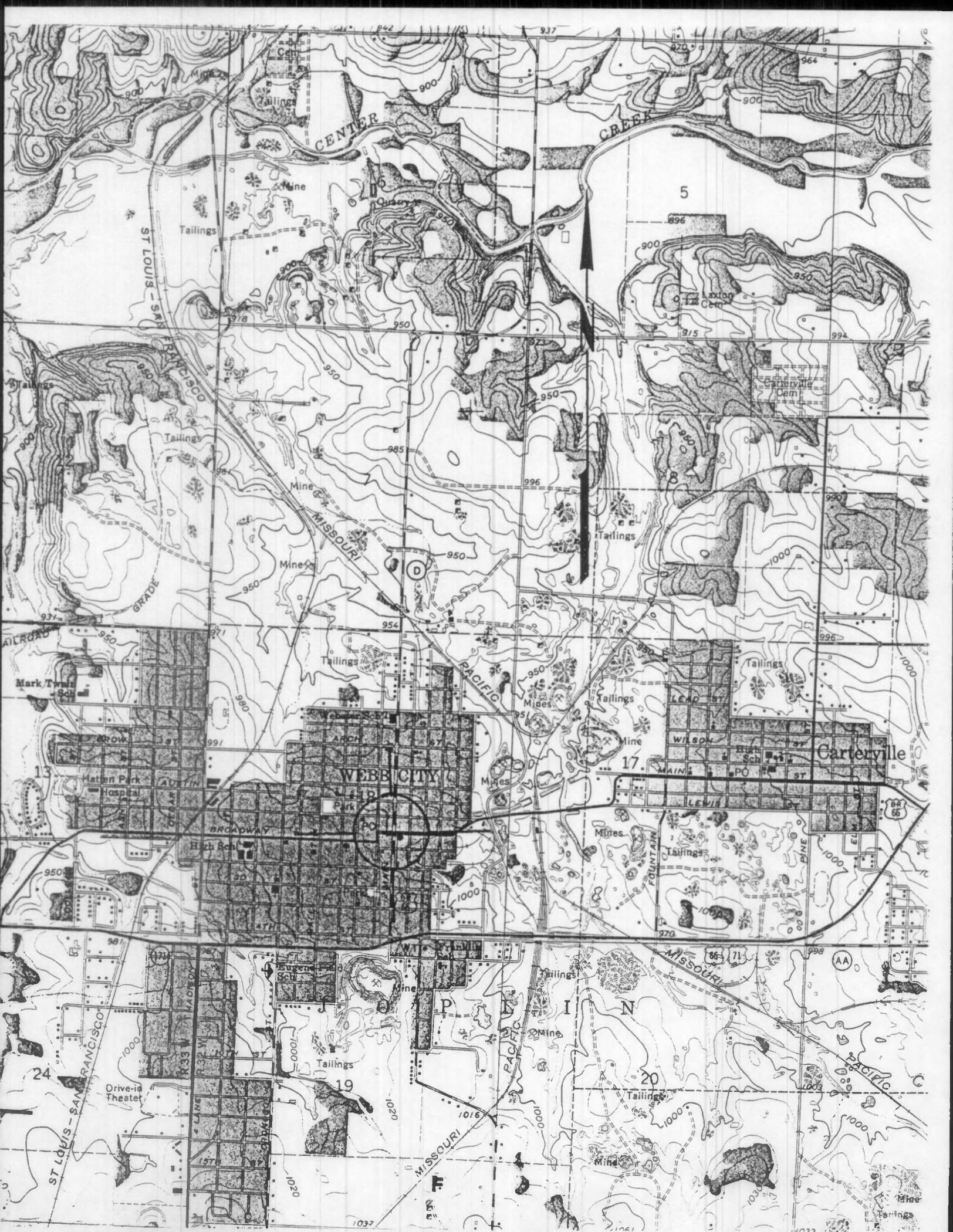
Item number

11

Page

1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person June 1982
Department of Natural Resources 314-751-4096
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102



CENTER

CREEK

5

ST LOUIS - SAN FRANCISCO

FRANCISCO

MISSOURI

RAILROAD

BROADWAY

ST LOUIS - SAN FRANCISCO

FRANCISCO

MISSOURI

MISSOURI

PACIFIC

WEBB CITY

PACIFIC

PACIFIC

MISSOURI

MISSOURI

MISSOURI

5

8

17

MISSOURI

20

MISSOURI

Cartersville

MISSOURI

PACIFIC

MISSOURI

Mark Twain Sch

Hatten Park Hospital

Drive-in Theatre

Eugene Sch

Laxon Cem

Cartersville Cem

Fountain

MISSOURI

PACIFIC

MISSOURI

Cartersville

MISSOURI

PACIFIC

MISSOURI

Mark Twain Sch

Hatten Park Hospital

Drive-in Theatre

Eugene Sch

Laxon Cem

Cartersville Cem

Fountain

MISSOURI

PACIFIC

MISSOURI

Cartersville

MISSOURI

PACIFIC

MISSOURI

MIDDLE WEST HOTEL

#549

COUNTY:

Jasper

LOCATION:

Webb City

OWNER:

Robert & Frances Nichols

ADDRESS:

2410 Stadium Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76109

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

June 25-26, 1982

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

August 10, 1982

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

August 13, 1982

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

September 16, 1982

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR):

April 20, 1983
Mailed from Central Office

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Middle West Hotel is significant as a representative type of a turn-of-the-century multi-purpose, vernacular commercial building which was ubiquitous on boomtown and frontier landscapes, but for such structures only marginal or no preservation effort has been made; is significant as an anchor building on the "Main Street landscape" due to its strategic location at the historic and contemporary financial and business hub of Webb City; is significant as one of the town's first downtown brick buildings; is significant in the association of Joseph W. Aylor, mineral speculator and town father, as co-financier of the 1883 structure and for the role of the Smith Brothers, the leading local builders and contractors, who renovated the 1902 structure; and is significant as the first property to be given preservation attention in Webb City, its success may dramatically effect the future role of development and revitalization for the Webb City landscape.



ALLEN STREET, SOUTH FROM MIDDLE WEST HOTEL, WEBB CITY, MO.

1917

Middle West Hotel # I of IO
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Top inset: historic 1917 streetscape
Large format: 1982 streetscape. The integrity
of the Middle West Hotel block is apparent.
Both views look southward.

*



Middle West Hotel # 2 of 10

Webb City, Missouri

Photographer: Lynn Morrow

Date: May 12, 1982

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

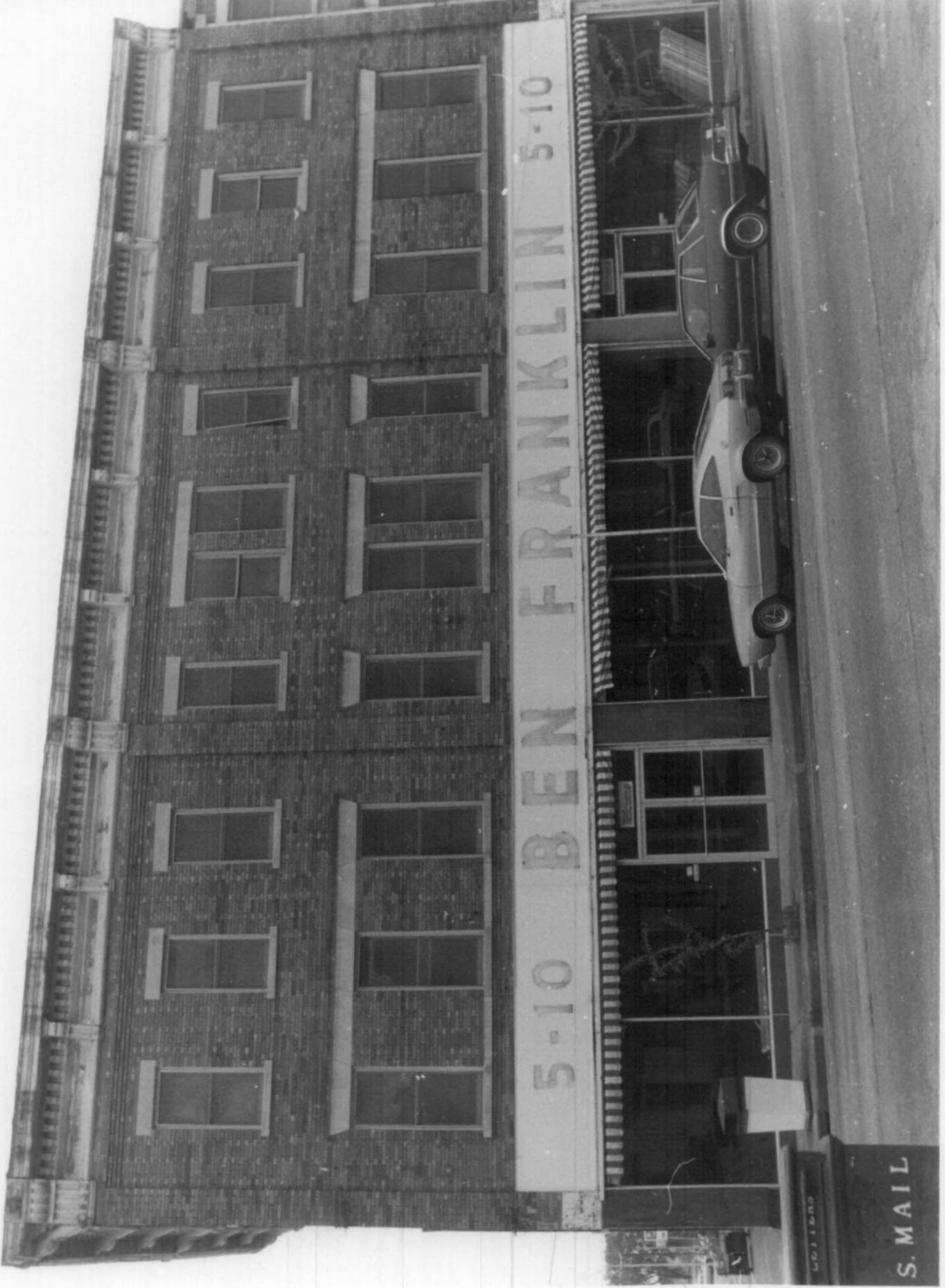
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Looking northeast along the Middle West block.

Middle West is building at extreme left.



Middle West Hotel # 3 of 10
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Middle West front facade on west side of
building.



5-10 BEN FRANKLIN 5-10

S. MAIL

Middle West Hotel # 4 of 10

Webb City, Missouri

Photographer: Lynn Morrow

Date: May 12, 1982

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

"Middle West Hotel" in faded letters is on the
north side of building.



BIG SMITH
WORK and
CASUAL CLOTHES
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

BEN FRANKLIN
NATIONALLY KNOWN

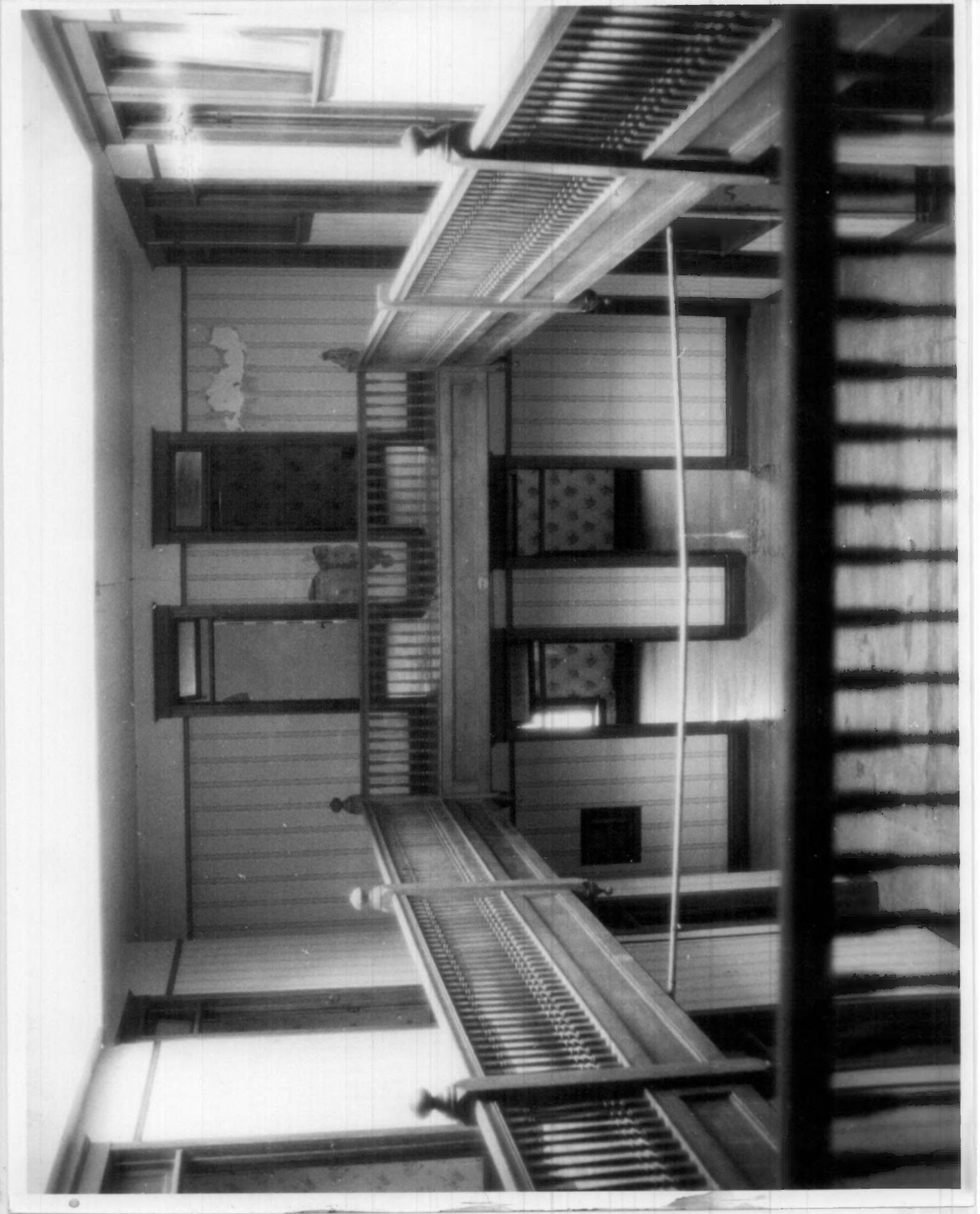
Middle West Hotel # 5 of 10
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Commercial store space on lower floor of
Middle West.



Middle West Hotel # 6 of 10
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Interior of second floor showing skylit center.



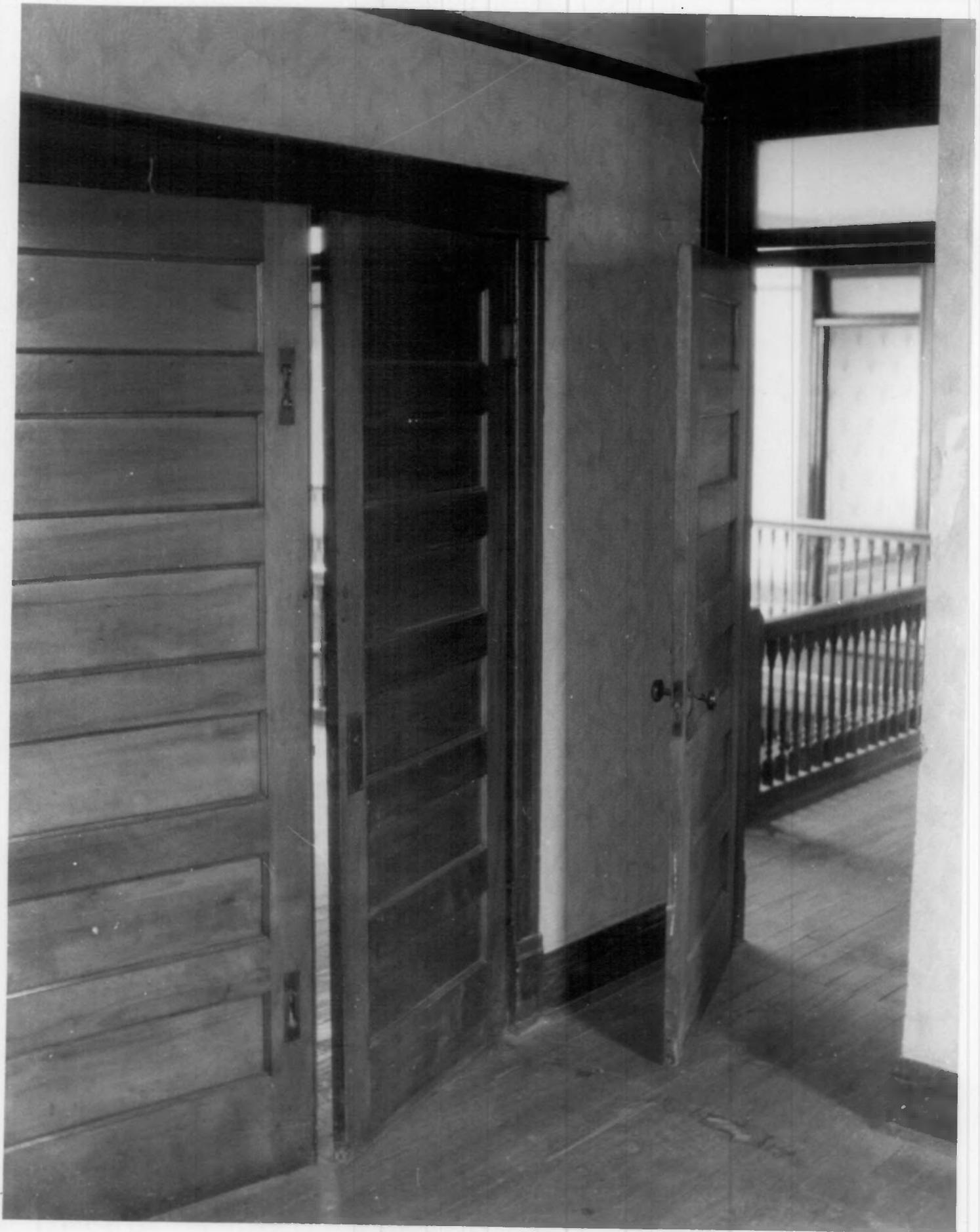
Middle West Hotel # 7 of 10
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Interior of third floor hallway around balastrade.



Middle West Hotel # 8 of 10
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Looking out a doorway into the 3rd floor
hallway.



Middle West Hotel # 9 of 10
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Interior of one of the 3rd floor suites.



Middle West Hotel # IO of IO
Webb City, Missouri
Photographer: Lynn Morrow
Date: May 12, 1982
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Balustrade detail

