

2013-215 West Main Street -- John Mulvey Building
211 W. Main St.
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-125 C

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
24-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

201-215 West Main Street -- John Mulvey Building HABS No. IN-135C

Location: 211 West Main Street, Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana.

Present Owner: Anthony and Leonard Dattilo

Present Occupant: Dattilo Fruit Company

Present Use: Wholesale and retail sales

Significance: Although altered in the early twentieth century, this building fits in well in its nineteenth-century commercial streetscape.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: 1841-1842. According to the tax lists of Madison, the assessed value of this building increased from \$750 in 1841 to \$2100 in 1842. The facade of this structure appears to have been replaced ca. 1910, leaving the remaining 1840s arrangement and fabric intact.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The legal description of the property is Part of lot 26 in the First Addition West to the Town (now City) of Madison, being 20 feet on the south line of Main Street. The following deed references may be located in the Recorder's Office of the Jefferson County Court House, Madison, Indiana.
 - 1827 Warranty Deed, dated May 24, 1827; recorded in Deed Book 1, page 241-242 on (unrecorded) 1834. Sanford and Matilda Branham sold the title to the property, measuring 22 feet on Main (Cross) Street, to John Mulvey for \$80.
 - 1855 Warranty Deed, dated August 30, 1855; recorded in Deed Book 12, page 57 on August 30, 1855. John and Rebecca Mulvey sold the title to the property, measuring 20 feet on Main (Cross) Street, with two other parcels in the City of Madison, to Thomas T. Crittenden for the consideration of \$5200.00.
 - 1868 Warranty Deed, dated April 20, 1868; recorded in Deed Book 30, page 155 on April 23, 1868. Thomas T. and Lizzie L. Crittenden sold the property to William Bowman for consideration of \$3000.

- 1876 Warranty Deed, dated April 14, 1876; recorded in Deed Book 30, page 155 on April 23, 1868. William Bowman sold the property to his sister, Mary S. Lory, for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1897 Warranty Deed, dated November 22, 1897; recorded in Deed Book 66, page 528 on November 22, 1897. Mary S. Lory sold the title of the property to Julia Meyers for \$3,000.
- 1906 Administrator's deed, dated November 9, 1906; recorded in Deed Book 78, page 525 on November 12, 1906. Marcus R. Sulzer, acting as administrator to the estate of Julia Meyers, sold the property to George and Louis Diederich (at the same time conveying a life interest in the property to Louis Diederich), for consideration of \$2550.
- 1908 Warranty Deed, dated August 21, 1908; recorded in Deed Book 30, page 427 on August 21, 1908. Louis G. and Laura A. Diederich sold the property including the life interest in the premises of Louis Diederich, to George Diederich for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1909 Warranty Deed, dated January 5, 1909; recorded in Deed Book 81, page 66 on January 5, 1909. George and Christena Diederich sold the property to Elmer S. Frost for \$2,575.
- 1909 Warranty Deed, dated April 10, 1909; recorded in Deed Book 81, page 288 on May 3, 1909. Elmer S. Frost sold the property to his wife Bessie M. Frost, for consideration of \$2,575.
- 1912 Warranty Deed, dated June 11, 1912; recorded in Deed Book 84, page 210 on June 18, 1912. Bessie M. and Elmer S. Frost sold the property to the Home Building Association #5 for \$3,190.50.
- 1918 Warranty Deed, dated September 30, 1918; recorded in Deed Book 89, page 96 on January 27, 1919. The Home Building Association #5 sold the title to the property to Mathais and Anna K. Greiner for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1931 Warranty Deed, dated February 23, 1931; recorded in Deed Book 98, page 456 on February 23, 1931. Mathais Greiner sold the property to Maude O. Greiner, his daughter, for \$1.00 and other considerations. Mathais Greiner was the husband and heir at law to Anna K. Greiner, who died on September 16, 1930.

- 1931 Warranty Deed, dated August 14, 1931; recorded in Deed Book 99, page 46 on August 15, 1931. Maude O. Greiner sold the property to William H. Rahe for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1931 Warranty Deed, dated November 7, 1931; recorded in Deed Book 99, page 117 on November 7, 1931. William H. Rahe sold the property to Mary Ann Dattilo for consideration of \$1.00.
- 1968 Quit-claim Deed, dated February 26, 1968; recorded in Deed Book 144, page 423 on February 27, 1968. Mary Ann Dattilo conveyed the property to Anthony J. Dattilo, Jr., her husband, for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1974 Quit-claim Deed, dated May 29, 1974; recorded in Deed Book 158, page 917 on June 20, 1974. Anthony J. Dattilo conveyed the property to Anthony J. and Leonard Dattilo for \$1.00 and other considerations.

4. Original plan and construction: This building had the standard plan of a commercial structure, in that the first floor was intended as a retail sales or business space, comprising one large open room. The second floor and the attic were intended either as storage or living space for the owner or business occupant of the building.

The original facade of this structure was probably very similar to the buildings that border this structure, but as no early photographs of this building were found, the determination of its original appearance is impossible. The present facade dates from ca. 1910, and is little changed from its original appearance other than the possible enclosure of the third-story attic windows with brick before 1927. The cast-iron storefront is original to this newer facade, and has probably had much of its original detailing removed.

5. Alterations and additions: The ca. 1910 alteration included a new facade and the installation of the present cast-iron storefront, which appears to have had much of its original detailing removed. The three small panels located at the third-floor level appear to have once been used as windows, but were later bricked in.

- B. Historical Context: John Mulvey was an early resident and merchant tailor in Madison, who was born in Connecticut in 1810. Mulvey moved to Madison in either the late months of 1826 or early in 1827, and set up his tailoring shop very soon after. In 1836 Mulvey married Rebecca Collins, daughter of Andrew Collins, who bore him one son, named

Oliver, in 1837. It is believed that John Mulvey had this structure built for his business house, and it is often referred to as "John Mulvey's Storehouse" in the deed descriptions of this property, and its western neighbor at 213 West Main Street (See Warranty Deed dated February 28, 1842; recorded in Deed Book U, page 52 on August 23, 1842). In 1845 Mulvey was working his trade with a partner named "Latterner" on Main Cross between Mulberry and West Street, so it could be that this building was built by Mulvey as a rental property, into which he moved after fire destroyed his shop between Mulberry and West Street in 1845. In 1852-1853, Mulvey served as City Assessor, and was re-elected to that position in 1855-1856. His political career was capped by his election as Mayor of the city of Madison, serving in that position until 1865. Mulvey and his wife Rebecca moved from Madison about 1871-1872, and nothing else is known about him.

John Mulvey's son Oliver became an apothecary, and worked for many years with J. R. Gorgas at the corner of Main and West Streets (the firm of Gorgas and Mulvey first appears in the Madison Directory of 1859-1860). Gorgas and Mulvey also ran a "daguerrotype salon," or photographic studio, at this location during this period, and their photographs of Madison are highly prized by collectors. Oliver Mulvey left his partnership with J. R. Gorgas around 1869-1870, and became a "vinegar manufacturer." He and his wife Frances moved from Madison between 1872 and 1875.

Other businesses and occupants located in this building, according to the Madison Directories:

1879	J. N. Meyers, Clothing Drygoods, etc.	
1887-1888	J. Meyers	"Gents Furnishing Goods," Hats and Caps, Trunks and Valises
1909	Edward C. Hoffman	Produce
1927	Matthew Greiner	Grocer
1939	A. Dattilo Fruit Co.	

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Tax Lists and Assessments of the City of Madison, 1837-1906.

These records are presently located in the basement of City Hall, Madison, Indiana.

Secondary and published sources:

Madison Daily Courier: March 19, 1945.

U. S. Census for 1870; Jefferson County, Indiana.

Prepared by: John Linn Hopkins
Project Supervisor
Summer, 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This simple brick structure forms a part of an earlier nineteenth century commercial streetscape on Main Street.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This two-and-a-half-story building measures approximately 19'-0" x 80'-0".
2. Foundation: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Running-bond red brick with a string course just under the brick denticulated cornice. There is a cast-iron storefront.
4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick walls with wooden framing.
5. Porches: There is a covered wooden porch on the rear at the second floor that has a wooden banister around it and a large wooden column at the corner supporting the roof. A part of the porch is enclosed with wooden clapboard siding. There is a loading dock across the rear of the building, which is brick with an asphalt-shingled gable roof.
6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys on the west wall, two on the east wall and one in the center of the roof on the rear wall.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The center entrance has a cast-iron surround on each side that is a part of the front facade,

supporting a simple cast-iron architrave. The wooden door has a two-light glass panel above a small wooden panel, metal sill, wooden surrounds and a transom panel. The doorway in the east bay leads into a stairway to the second floor. There is a cast-iron surround with a transom window above the door. The wooden door has a glass panel above a raised, wooden panel, wooden surrounds and a metal sill. There are several large overhead loading doors on the rear.

- b. Windows and shutters: The fixed glass display windows on the north facade are raised above the floor and have a wooden panel below them. Wooden windows on the second floor have one-over-one-light single-hung sash. A larger window in the center has a one-light sash below a small leaded, stained-glass panel. The windows have wooden surrounds, stone sills and lintels. Attic windows with stone sills and lintels have been bricked in.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The shed roof has a standing seam metal covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The corbeled brick cornice on the front forms a series of alternating large and small brackets. At the rear is a wooden boxed cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: The cellar has a concrete floor and is used for storage.
- b. First floor: The first floor is one large space and houses walk-in refrigeration, packing and sales spaces. There is an opening on the west wall into the next building.
- c. Second floor: The second floor, used as an apartment, is inaccessible.
- d. Attic: Inaccessible.

- 2. Stairways: There is a wooden, enclosed stairway to the second floor, with an exterior entrance on the north. There is an enclosed wooden stairway near the southwest corner of the building leading into the cellar.

3. Flooring: Wide wooden boards.
 4. Walls and ceiling finish: Painted plaster walls and pressed tin ceiling.
 5. Doorways and doors: Wooden panel doors with wooden surrounds.
 6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Modern unit heaters.
 - b. Lighting: Modern lighting fixtures.
- D. Site: The building, facing north, is part of a row of commercial buildings. There is an alley along the rear at the loading docks. There is a concrete sidewalk extending along the front facade that continues along Main Street.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
July 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with Historic Madison, Inc., and the Indiana Historical Society. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1978 at HABS field office, Madison, Indiana, by John P. White, Project Supervisor, (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University), John L. Hopkins, Project Historian (Skidmore College), and Student Architects Richard Berliner (Rhode Island School of Design), Jon Lourie (University of Maryland), Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo). The written data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.