

58 MONROE AVENUE (COMMERCIAL)
Detroit
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-325

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MICH
82-DETRO,
54-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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Location: 58 Monroe, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

USGS Detroit, Michigan Quadrangle
UTM: 17.331450.4688540

Significance: This building contributes to the last intact pre-Civil War commercial block in Detroit.

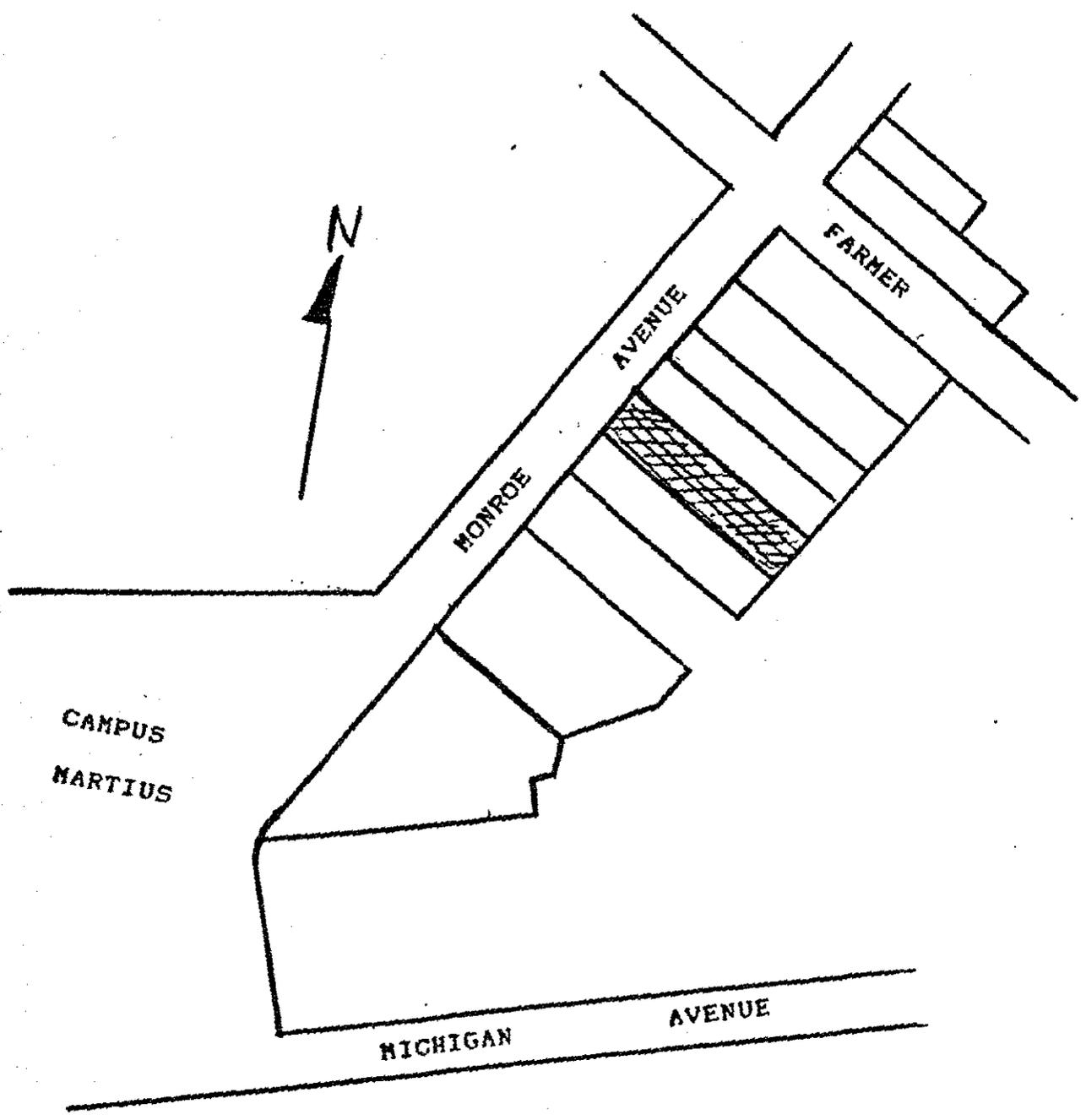
Description: The structure is a four-story (plus basement) commercial building constructed in brick masonry in 1852. It measures 20' in width and 100' deep on the first three stories, but only about 75' deep on the fourth story. Its design is similar to the building at 52-54 Monroe. The fenestration on the second through fourth stories consists of three rectangular, one-over-one windows per story. Each window has a cast-iron sill and a lintel featuring urn and scroll motifs. The widely-overhanging cornice, its brackets, and cornice ornamentation were removed in 1958 (City of Detroit Building Permit No. 14961).

History: Hiram R. Johnson (1825-1894), a prominent Detroit businessman, bought the real estate where this building stands in 1852 and erected a series of commercial buildings known as the Johnson Block. The architect is unknown. The first floor commercial space has typically had only one tenant. Francis Petz & Company, Jewelers, occupied this space from at least 1888 through 1907, followed by the Pittsburgh Dairy Lunch (1908-1920), several clothing stores from 1921 through 1932, and a pawnbroker for the rest of the 1930s. Several jewelry stores used the first floor in the 1950s and 1960s. The upper floor tenants cannot be identified.

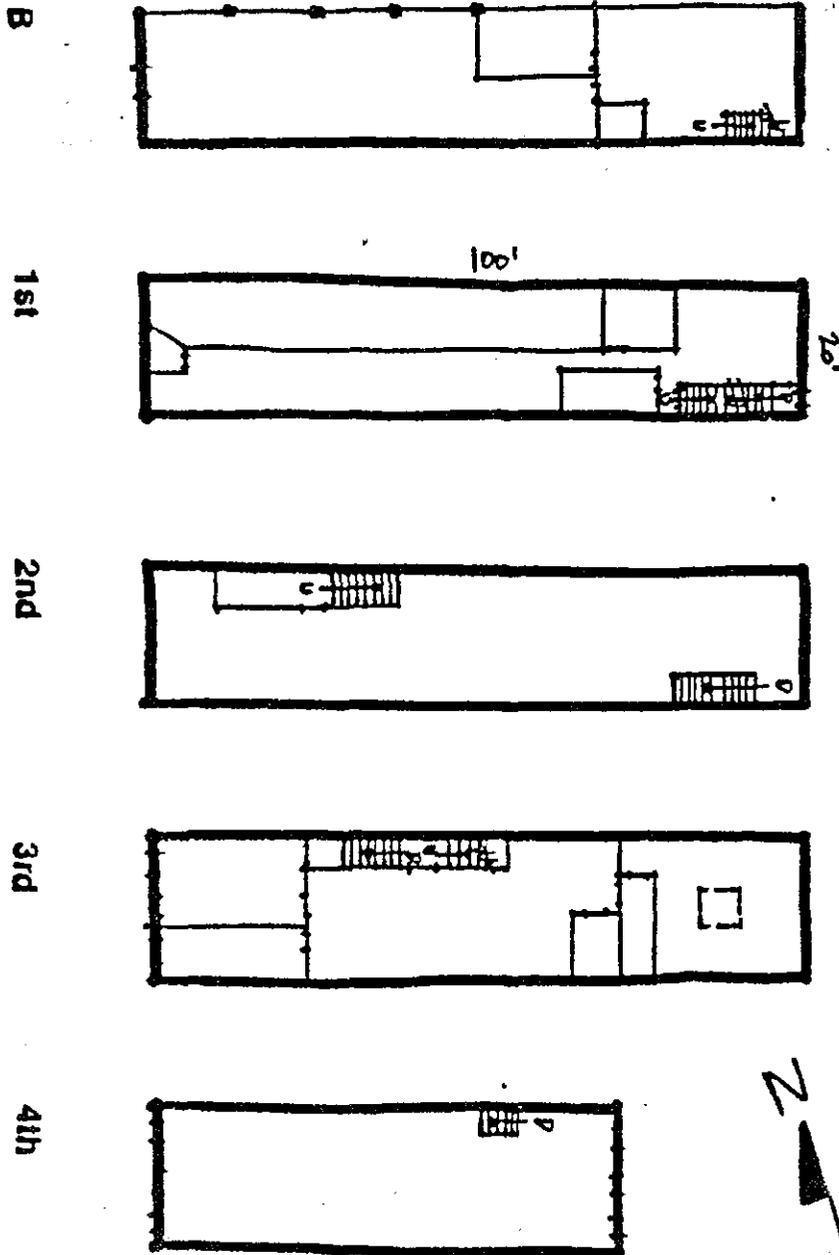
Source: Fred Carlisle, Chronology of Notable Events in the History of the Northwest Territory and Wayne County (Detroit, 1890); Detroit City Directories, 1888-1974; Silas Farmer, History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan (Detroit, 1890); and Monroe Avenue Historic District Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, November 7, 1974.

Historian: Charles K. Hyde, Department of History, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

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EXISTING FLOOR PLANS