

62 MONROE AVENUE (COMMERCIAL)
Detroit
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-326

HABS
MICH
82-DETRO,
55-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABS
MICH
82-DETRO,
55-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

62 MONROE AVENUE (Commercial Building)

HABS No. MI-326

Location: 62 Monroe, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

USGS Detroit, Michigan Quadrangle
UTM: 17.331455.4688550

Significance: This building contributes to the last intact pre-Civil War commercial block in Detroit, and was the site of Detroit's Bijou Theater.

Description: The structure is a four-story (plus basement) commercial building constructed in brick masonry in 1852. It measures 20' wide and 100' deep. Originally, the design of the structure was similar to that of 58 Monroe. The cornice was removed in 1958 (City of Detroit Building Permit No. 14961). The rear wall was rebuilt in cinder block in 1957 (City of Detroit Building Permit No. 96735).

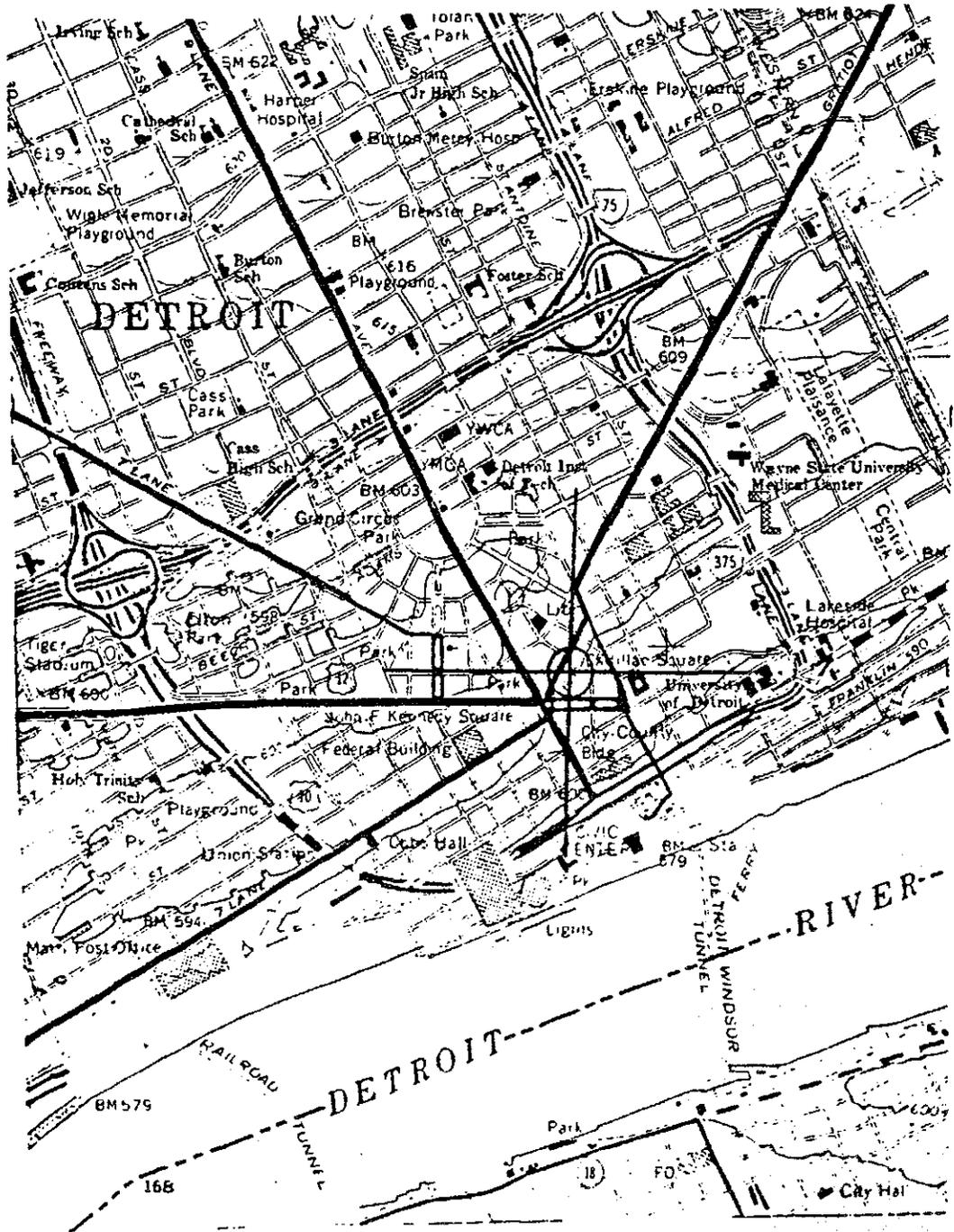
History: Hiram R. Johnson (1825-1894), a prominent Detroit businessman, bought the real estate where this building stands in 1852 and erected a series of commercial buildings known as the Johnson Block. The architect is unknown. The building housed a furniture store from 1888 to 1901. William H. Klatt opened a cent-odeon, a precursor to the nickelodeon, in 1905 and in 1906, he converted the second floor into the Bijou Theater, Detroit's second movie house. Renamed the New Bijou Theater in 1918, it ran until 1966. The Cinex, featuring "adult movies," used the theater facility until 1978.

Sources: Fred Carlisle, Chronology of Notable Events in the History of the Northwest Territory and Wayne County (Detroit, 1890); Detroit City Directory, 1888-1974; Silas Farmer, History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan (Detroit, 1890); Monroe Avenue Historic District Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, November 7, 1974; Andrew Craig Morrison, Opera House, Nickel Show, Palace: An Illustrated Inventory of Theater Buildings in the Detroit Area (Dearborn, Michigan, 1974).

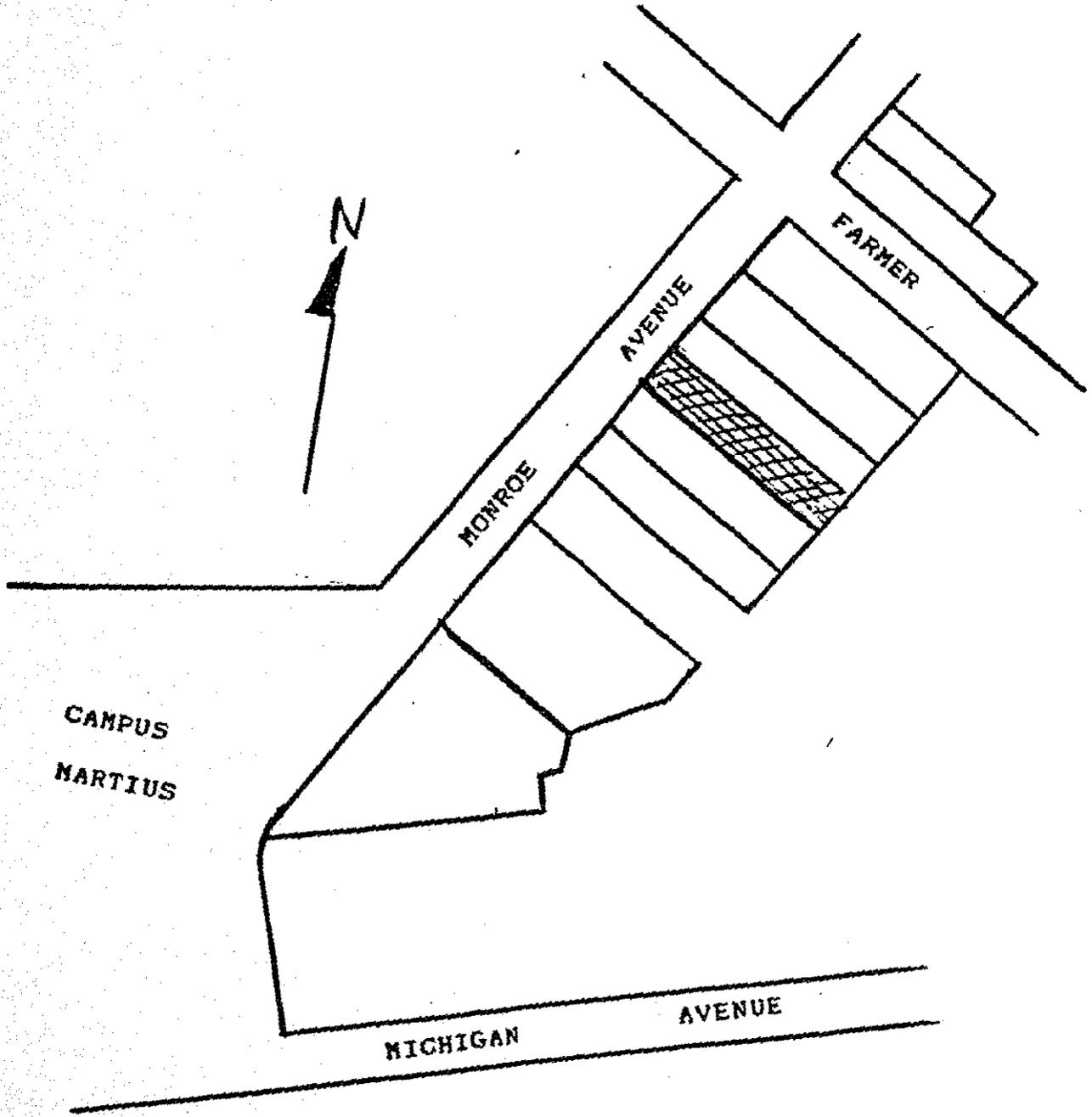
Historian: Charles K. Hyde, Department of History, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

62 MONROE AVENUE (Commercial Building)
HABS No. MI-326 (Page 2)

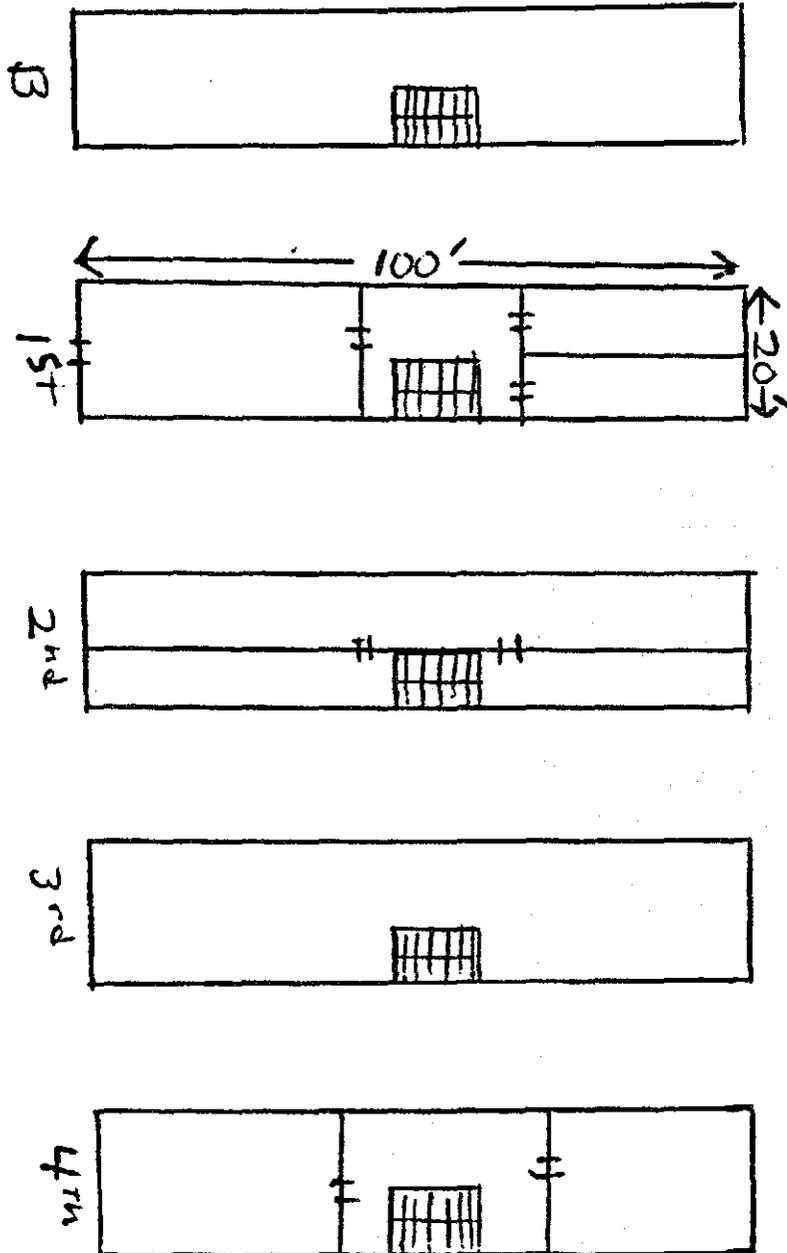
DETROIT, MICHIGAN QUADRANGLE
UTM: 17.331455.4688550



62 MONROE AVENUE (Commercial Building)
HABS No. MI-326 (Page 3)



62 MONROE AVENUE (Commercial Building)
HABS No. MI-326 (Page 4)



EXISTING FLOOR PLANS