

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 10 1979**
DATE ENTERED **NOV 15 1979**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morrison Block (M. O'Connor, Grocery Wholesalers)

AND/OR COMMON

Peoples Outfitting Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

47 South Meridian Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

Eleventh

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

97

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

___ PUBLIC

___ OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

___ YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

NO

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

47 South Meridian Company

STREET & NUMBER

10400 North Michigan Road

CITY, TOWN

Carmel

___ VICINITY OF

Indiana,

STATE

46032

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Office Building

STREET & NUMBER

East Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1977 Survey of Marion, by the IHPC

DATE

1977

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indianapolis Historic Preservation Comm.
Room 1842, City-County Bldg.

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

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

Located at the northeast corner of Meridian and Maryland Streets, the Morrison Block/M. O'Connor & Co.; Grocery Wholesalers building is a rectangular four story commercial loft structure of Italianate design. The building is four bays wide along the west (Meridian Street) elevation and fifteen bays deep along the east (Maryland Street) elevation. The structural system consists primarily of load bearing exterior masonry walls; heavy timber floors supported by cast iron columns; and wood trusses at the roof spanning from exterior walls to an interior masonry wall which bisects the building in an east/west direction.

The original cast iron columns and storefront windows have been removed from the Meridian Street elevation at the first floor level and have been replaced with an aluminum and glass projected storefront. A porcelain enamel projected steel panel system covers the original double hung windows at the second through fourth floors along Meridian Street and part of Maryland Street. These double hung windows have circular limestone head moldings which blend with a similar horizontal molding that form a continuous banding at each story along the Meridian Street elevation. The original windows along with their interior and exterior moldings are, for the most part, operable and intact behind the porcelain skin. The windows along the Maryland Street elevation have been in-filled with four inch concrete block that also cover over the original wood double-hung window sash.

The original bracketed sheet metal cornice was removed from the building during a modernization in the late 1940's. A small masonry two story addition was built in an offset at the rear northeast corner of the structure.

The large, open interior spaces have been retained by the subsequent owners and as such the interior has been spared any significant alterations. The most prominent features include cast iron Corinthian columns, oak turned post and panel stair cases, ornamental stamped metal pan ceilings on the first floor, heavy timber columns, beams trusses on the upper two stories. Much of the interior base and wall moldings remain.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 15 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Peoples Outfitting Building
September 27, 1979

Since the above description was written, the porcelain enamel steel panels have been removed from the west and south elevations, revealing the original window openings and sash. In addition, masonry has been removed from openings on the south elevation.

As a result, the building is beginning to resemble more closely its appearance in Photo # 1.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peoples Outfitting Building is significant because it is a good representative example of a mid-19th Century commercial loft building, few of which remain in the commercially active core of downtown Indianapolis. It is also important for its association with commerce in Indianapolis, and in particular with the wholesale trade associated with railroad terminals about 3 blocks to the South.

Architecturally, the building is similar to many of the commercial structures that once lined South Meridian such as the original Merchants National Bank and the Schnull & Co. buildings which were close neighbors. The building typifies the Italinete design which was popular for commercial buildings in this area of Indianapolis from the period just before the Civil War to about 1880. The building also is illustrative of the typical treatment for a corner lot, i.e., public entrance, storefront windows and decorated facade treatment along the primary street (Meridian Street) and a more or less utilitarian treatment for the secondary street (Maryland) elevation along with service entries.

The structure retains most of its original features on the interior and many of the exterior elements which have been covered over with subsequent facade remodelings. Photographical documentation exists on the original cornice which would permit exact replication as restoration is undertaken. Aside from the cast iron columns at first floor on the front elevation, the cornice is the only significant part of the original building fabric which has been lost.

The building is located in an area which was the heart of the wholesale grocery and dry goods trade in Indianapolis from 1865 until just after World War II. The structure is in close proximity to the existing C.A. Schrader & Co. (presently Business Furniture) and the Schnull and Co. (LaScala's restaurant) buildings which also originally housed wholesale grocery and dry goods operations. Based upon an examination of the abstract of title, it appears that the structure was built by William H. Morrison in 1870. Morrison apparently had this building constructed after the "Morrison Opera Block was destroyed by fire on Jan. 17, 1870. Morrison was a well known early Indianapolis businessman, and a director of the State Bank of Indiana. He is listed in the book "Sketches of Prominent Citizens of 1876" by John Nowland. The second, and a well known long standing owner, was the M. O'Connor & Co. Wholesale Grocers.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Indianapolis City Directory of 1886
 Indianapolis Star of February 19, 1944
 Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission Survey of Marion County of 1977
 Sketches of Prominent Citizens (Indianapolis) of 1876 by John Nowland, Copyright 1877

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Indianapolis West, Indiana

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 57.212.0 4.410.18.6.0

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 12 in Square 65 of the Donation Lands of the City of Indianapolis

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

James T. Kienle, AIA

ORGANIZATION

Archonics Corporation, Architects

DATE

November 10, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

156 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

317-632-6069

CITY OR TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James T. Kienle

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9-27-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William A. Roush

DATE 11-15-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William A. Roush*

DATE 11-13-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 15 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Continuation	8	2

M. O'Connor and Co. occupied the building from 1886 until 1924. W. L. O'Connor, president of the firm for most of that time, was active in Democratic politics; a benefactor of S.S. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish; and a president of the Indianapolis Board of Trade. From 1924 to 1977 the Colonial Furniture Co. and its successor Peoples Outfitting occupied the building. It was during this period that the exterior remodelings took place. The first floor "Art Moderne" storefront was added about 1940 by Colonial Furniture.

The second, and most extensive alteration, occurred around the late 1940's and was done by the Peoples Outfitting Co. This remodeling involved; removing the 1940 "Art Moderne" storefront and bracketed cornice; adding the porcelain enamel covering at 2nd through 4th floors; and blocking over the Maryland Street windows and doorways. Although these remodelings have made changes in the building's appearance and are not of any particular architectural merit, a significant amount of the original building ~~building~~ fabric remains. A restoration to at least approximate the 1940 appearance would not be difficult or cost prohibitive.