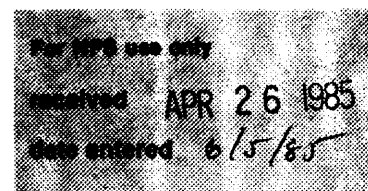


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of Item number Page 11
Downtown South Bend

John G. Kerr & Company
121 W. Colfax
141-56038-598
d. 1891

Owner: Mr. Ken Peczkowski
Griffon Book Store
121 W. Colfax Avenue
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Description:

Photo #1, 2, 4; Building #2

The John G. Kerr and Company Building is a three-story brick Italianate structure built in 1891. The structure is flanked by the Second St. Joseph Hotel (building #1) on the east and the Pioneer Savings and Loan Association on the west.

The building is rectangular in plan. Its decorative elements are restricted to the front or south facade, the most significant being the window trim on the second and third floors and the cast iron columns of the street level storefront. The round-arched, double-hung windows with their metal sills have flush brick voussoirs accented by projecting metal keystones containing faces. The two-light transoms of the tall, narrow windows are divided by tracery which forms a double arch in the upper sash.

Significance:

The John G. Kerr & Company Building is architecturally significant to the Central Business District of South Bend since it is the only remaining example of a commercial Italianate structure from the late 19th century, a style that was once prevalent in downtown South Bend. Although there are several extant, small Italianate commercial structures scattered throughout older neighborhoods in South Bend, the J. G. Kerr Building appears to be one of the early three-story structures in the city and has one of the most elaborate window treatments. The original cornice and brackets were probably removed in the late 1940's after a fire. The storefront, which has undergone numerous changes, has recently been remodeled, exposing the original cast iron columns.

Built in 1891, the first occupant was the J. G. Kerr & Company, dealers in new and second hand goods. Kerr & Company occupied the building until 1896. Following the Kerr & Company was William Downes, Plumbing and Gas Fittings, and the Transfer Line and Moving Van Company, which remained until 1913. The building has been occupied since 1914 by a number of small commercial concerns.

UTM Reference: 16/562310/4614080

Acreage: Less than one acre

Legal:

West 21.5' of East 87.5' of Lot 7 original plat
Parcel #18-1008-0307