

MINNESOTA ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY INVENTORY FORM

Property Location			
Property Name:	Johns Brothers Hardware	Inventory No.	ME-LTC-0184
Address:	218-222 Sibley Avenue North	County:	Meeker
City/Twp:	Litchfield	PIN	27-0724000
T-R-S Quarter:	T119N R31W Sec. 11 SW ¼	Block:	58
USGS Quad	Litchfield North, Minnesota	Lot:	8 and 9

Property Information			
Architect:	Unknown	Style:	Brick Commercial
Date Const:	c. 1915	Historic Context:	Railroad and Agricultural Development 1870-1940
Historic Use:	Commercial	Present Use:	Commercial
Property Type:	Building	Survey Name:	Downtown Historic Resources Resurvey
NR Status:	Contributing	NR Recommendation:	Contributing
Prepared by:	William E. Stark, based on National Register nomination by Susan Granger and Kay Grossman (1996)	Survey Date:	October 2009

Description:

The main façade of this two-story building is faced with dark reddish-brown brick with white mortar joints. It has a row of six rectangular window openings at the second story with brick-faced lintels and brick sills. There are slightly projecting brick cornices at the roofline and above the storefront. Historic photographs indicate that lettering reading "Johns Brothers Co Hardware" was once installed above the second story windows. The building stands immediately south of an east-west alley and therefore has two principal facades (west and north). The northern wall is faced with common brick and has tall, narrow rectangular window openings covered by wood panels. Inside the southern storefront is an intact pressed metal ceiling and a row of cast iron support columns. The rear wall is common brick which has been painted. A frame additions with board and batten siding in a Western Frontier style is added to the rear.

History:

This structure was built in 1915 for Johns Brothers Hardware, and later became Olson Hardware Company owned by Earl Olson. When the building was divided into two storefronts, the hardware remained in the southern storefront, and a succession of other businesses and services moved into the northern storefront, including a temporary post office, Wiedenheft's Cash 'n' Carry general store, and Cook's Meat Market. Wiendenheft's Grocery and Abdnor's Hardware also occupied space in this building in later years. In the early 1960s, KLF radio was housed upstairs. The Nelson Horton Post 104 of the American Legion moved into the north half of the building in 1972, and occupied the entire building by 1996.

Evaluation:

This building is a contributing property to the Litchfield Commercial Historic District.

Integrity: Fair

The entire ground floor façade has been rehabilitated with a new brick veneer, windows and a central glass and aluminum trim door. The upper story window openings are covered with wood. Side windows have been closed in with brick and boards, and an exterior stairway has been removed. There is a one-story concrete block rear addition.

Condition:

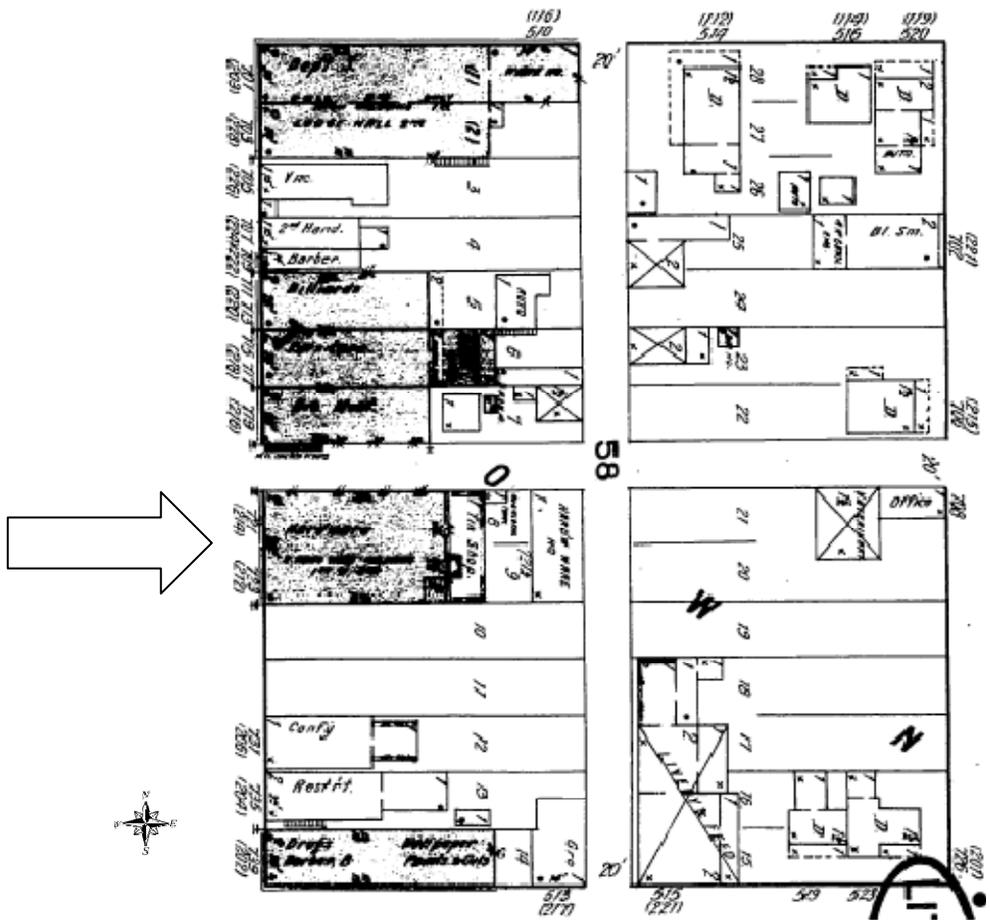
The building condition of good. Observed issues are a missing metal cap on the parapet wall and some re-pointing in selected locations. Stress cracks on secondary elevation do not appear to be concern at this time.



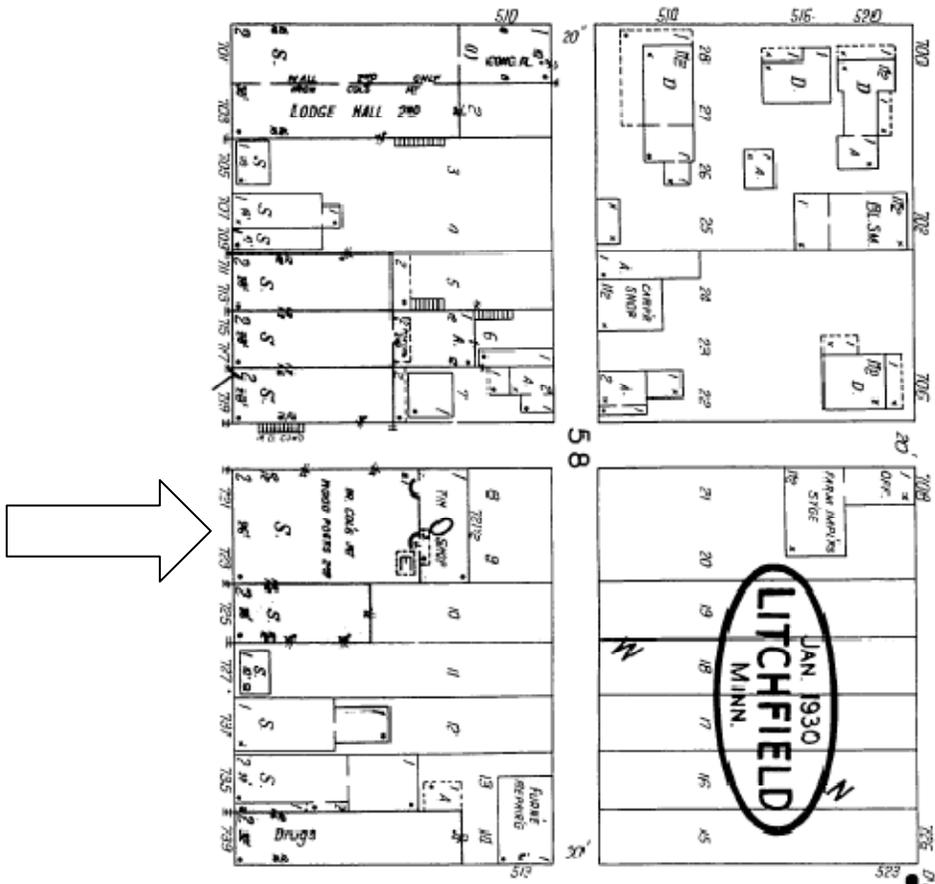
Facing SE



Facing SW



1917 Sanborn



Sanborn 1930

