

**Litchfield Heritage Preservation Commission
Historic Commercial District
Property History**

Parcel Identification Number: 27-0722000

Block: 58 Lot: 6

**Current Address: 230 Sibley Avenue North
Contributing**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Owner/Name</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1886	Beren's Furniture & Undertaking	Furniture and undertaking	
1889	Johnson & Nelson Hardware		Rear of building
1906	Beren's & Son	Furniture and undertaking	
1911	Beren's & Sons	Furniture & undertaking	
1921	Johnson Furniture & Undertaking Dewey E. Johnson		
1930	IGA Star Grocery Ted Kohlhoff & Frank Miller	Grocery	
1946	Super Valu Ted Kohlhoff	Grocery	
1949	Bergquist Electric Stan Bergquist	Electrician	
1969	Gibson's Discount Center Pamida	General merchandise General merchandise	
1984	Johnson's Children Store Donald and Alice Johnson	Remodeled for children's clothing	
1992	O'Keefe	Remodeled	
1995	Natural Food Co op		
2003		Gubrud Corp. purchased	Fixed roof
2008		Big River Investors	New flooring

Sources cite different histories of the construction of the three buildings (PIN 27-0723000 or 226 Sibley Avenue North, PIN 27-0722000 or 230 Sibley Avenue North, PIN 27-0723000 or 234 Sibley Avenue North). To clarify the sources we have listed the information about all three properties on all three property history sheets. Both sources are clear that all three buildings are identical.

National Historic Register Application

The building, currently 226 to 230 Sibley Avenue North, was built in 1888 as a double building by Peter Berens . It is an elaborate Italianate style two story building. It is constructed of cream style brick. The main façade is divided into two halves by a central brick pier. The building stands immediately north of an east-west alley and therefore has two facades.. The storefronts were altered in the 1940s with stucco and new brick work. The north half of this building is parcel identification number 27-072200; the south half of the building is 27-0723000.

The building currently at 234 Sibley Avenue North was built in 1888 from cream colored brick. The main faced has four window openings. The 1940 photograph of this building indicates it was identical to the buildings to the south at 230 and 226. It has been altered with stucco, new brick work, and new display windows. The cornice has been removed. The windows were changed to segmental arched to rectangular.

Terry Tales by Terry Shaw

In 1885 Mrs. John Nockels built a 25 by 70 foot two story building at what is now 226 Sibley Avenue North. In December of 1885 Charles Dart bought the lot at 234 Sibley Avenue North and began construction of a "double block" building that was joined to Peter Berens structure at 230 Sibley Avenue North in April 1886.

The First 100 Years by P.J. Casey

The Berens building was built in 1886 and a Mrs. Ostrom tried to start a laundry that same year.

City tax records state 1886.

Building Data, City of Litchfield Tax Assessor

Land Appraisal

General Desirability: Good

Lot Record: Topography: Level

Improvements: Sidewalks Curb & Gutter City Water Sanitary Sewer

Street: Asphalt, Alley

Zoning or Use: Commercial 2

Description of Principal Structure:

Building: Yr. Built 1886 Sq. Ft. 25' x 105' first story, 25' x 70' second story

Foundation:

Exterior Walls: Brick

Roof: Flat, built up

Interior Finish: First floor Walls plaster Ceiling tin Floors wood

Heating:

Wiring: Rigid Conduit

Basement: Partial

226-230 N. Sibley Ave.
Behren's Furniture and Mortuary (now Natural Foods Co-op
and Main Street Cafe)
Circa 1888
1 Contributing Building

1996 Application National
Register of Historic Places

This elaborate Italianate style two story building has an ornate brick cornice, brick window hoods, limestone sills, and closely-spaced segmental-arched window openings with 1/1 sash. It is constructed of cream-colored brick. The main facade is divided into two halves by a central brick pier. The first story has two storefronts, both with central, recessed entrances. The building stands immediately north of a narrow east-west alley and therefore has two principal facades (west and south). Like the main facade, the southern side wall has closely-spaced window openings with brick window hoods. There is an early fire escape stairway on the southern wall. The rear facade is cream-colored brick. Two, one story concrete block additions have been added at the rear. The storefronts were altered with stucco and new brickwork around the 1940s. During the early 1900s Peter Behrens' Furniture and Mortuary was located in the northern storefront. Later it became a grocery store, Berquist Electric, and then a Pamida Store. Cox's Market, established in 1914, was located in the southern storefront from the 1920s through the 1960s. Freeman Cox operated this business for many years and then his son, Merlin, ran the meat market until the 1960s. After that, the Farmer's Daughter Restaurant was located here.

Here's Looking at a Bright Future
BERQUIST ELECTRIC
Electrical Contractors
Complete Line of Electrical Accessories & Fixtures
Ranges, Refrigerators, Air Conditioning, Radios
BERQUIST ELECTRIC
228 N. Sibley Phone 86 Litchfield
Established 1944
STANLEY J. BERQUIST, Owner
Ralph Thompson Erwin Schauer
Ralph Thompson Erwin Schauer

Meeker County
Centennial Program
Meeker County
Historical Society



Meeker County Historical Society, 1939