

City of Columbia Map Project 2010-2011

Inventory Form Prepared by Deb Sheals for the Columbia Historic Preservation Commission

Property Name McKinney Building

Address 411-413 E. Broadway

Year Built: ca. 1917

Year of HPC Notable Designation: 2003

Other designations:

District name, if applicable:

Link(s):

Style: Vernacular

Property Type: Commercial Building

Architect (s):



Description and History

The ca. 1917 McKinney building was a popular venue for African-American musicians in the first part of the 20th century. Now-famous musicians who played there on tour included Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald.

When new, the building had three shops on the ground floor and an open dance hall and ticket window on the second. (Known as McKinney Hall.) Access to the second floor was provided by an exterior stairway. Shows at McKinney Hall were popular with the local African-American community as well as whites, especially college students. Early music promoter for the house, Dick Tibbs later recalled one July 3rd-4th event that included two separate concerts, one for whites and one for African-Americans.

The hall was a leading music venue in town until the 1940s, when Mr. McKinney died and his family closed the hall. The ground floor continued to house shops and the upper floor later became a chicken hatchery. The hatchery closed in the 1960s and the second floor sat vacant until the mid-1970s, when the building was remodeled to house a two-story department store, Ancel Richards. The remodeling project include the addition of a skylights and a large open staircase to the second floor, to better link the two levels of the building. The historic exterior remains largely intact; it features polychromatic brickwork, one of the most complete historic storefronts in downtown, and distinctive round-arched windows on the second floor of the facade.

Text by: Deb Sheals and the Columbia
Historic Preservation Commission

Sources: Columbia Missourian, Nov. 19, 1981 p. 10.

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