

66-68 MONROE AVENUE (COMMERCIAL)
Detroit
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-327

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MICH
88-DETRO,
56-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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56-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

66-68 MONROE AVENUE (Commercial Building)

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Location: 66-68 Monroe. Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

USGS Detroit, Michigan Quadrangle
UTM: 17.331460.4688560

Significance: This building contributes to the last intact pre-Civil War commercial block in Detroit.

Description: The structure is a four-story (plus basement) commercial building constructed in brick masonry in 1852. It measures 20' wide and 100' deep on the first story, but is only 75' deep on the second through fourth stories. The cornice has since been removed, and the second-story fenestration altered, but third and fourth story one-over-one windows with their cast iron sills and lintels with urn and scroll motifs remain intact.

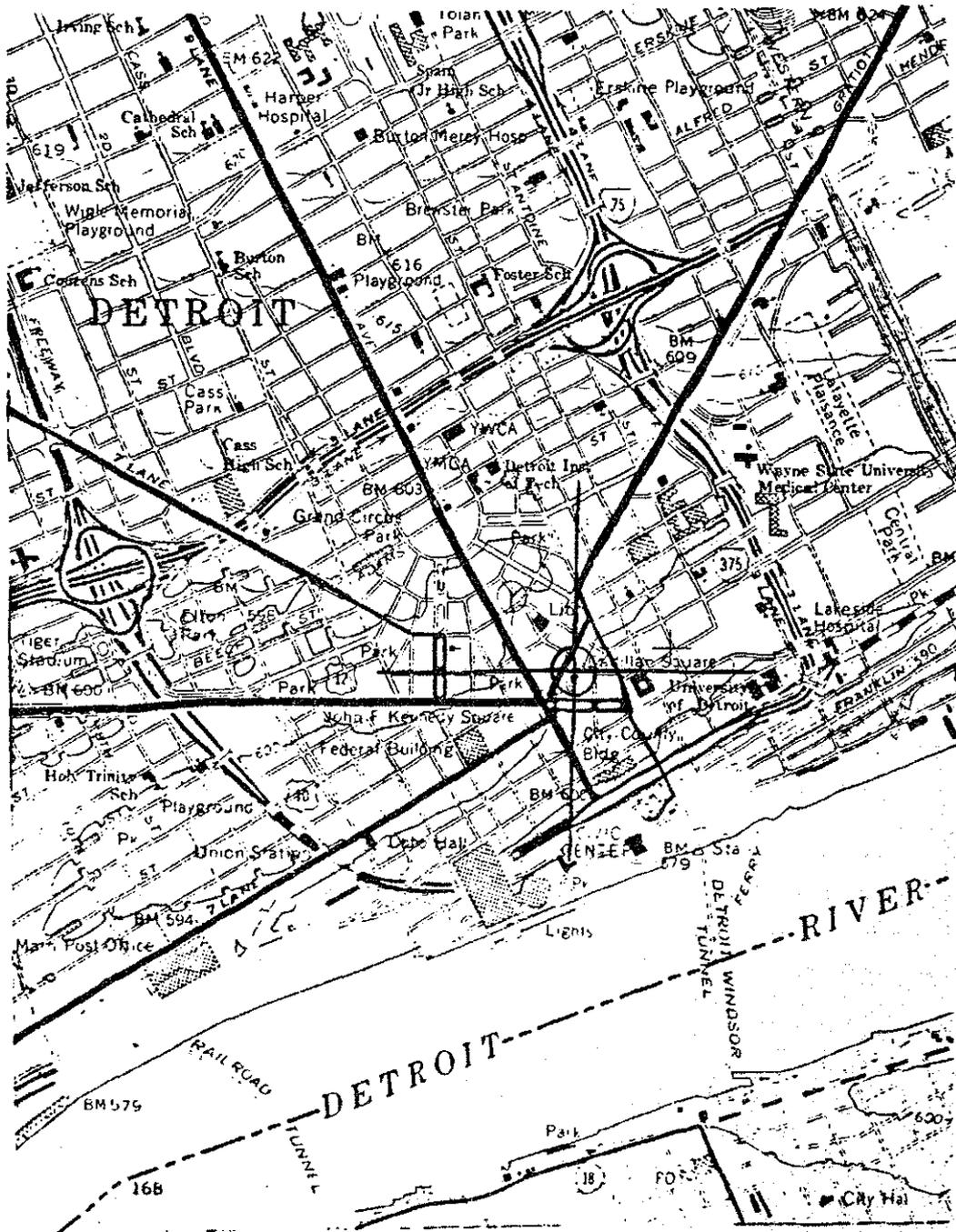
History: Hiram R. Johnson (1825-1894), a prominent Detroit businessman, bought the real estate where this building stands in 1852 and erected a series of commercial buildings known as the Johnson Block. The architect is unknown. Tenants in the two first floor spaces have included an umbrella manufacturer continuously from 1888 through 1912, a pawnbroker in 1910-1918, followed by a series of men's clothing stores from 1920 through 1933. Later tenants included a shoe repair shop and the Tip Top Book Store. The upper-floor tenants are not listed in the City Directories and are unknown.

Sources: Fred Carlisle, Chronology of Notable Events in the History of the Northwest Territory and Wayne County (Detroit, 1890); Silas Farmer, History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan (Detroit, 1890); and Monroe Avenue Historic District Nomination Form. National Register of Historic Places, November 7, 1974.

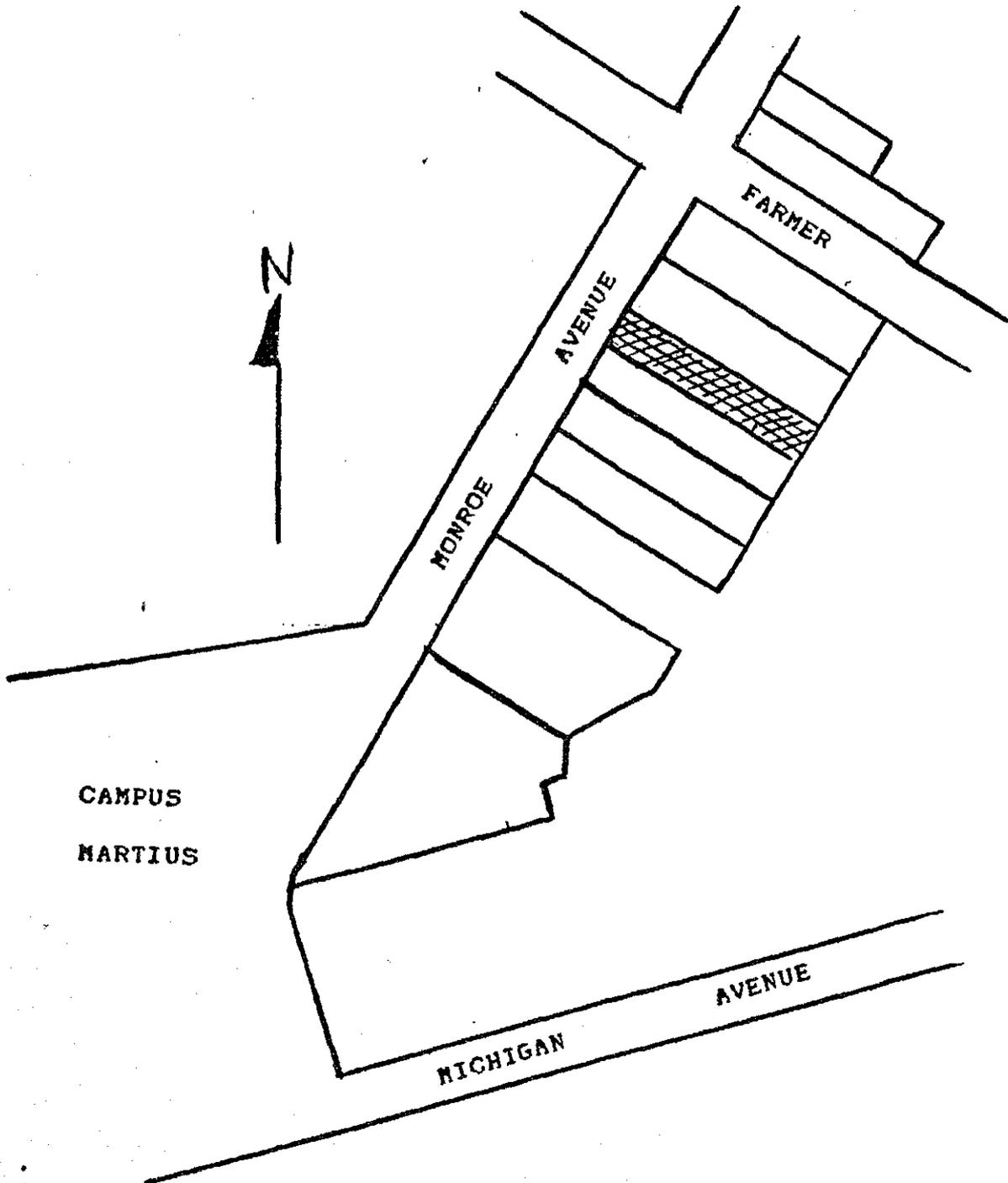
Historian: Charles K. Hyde, Department of History, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

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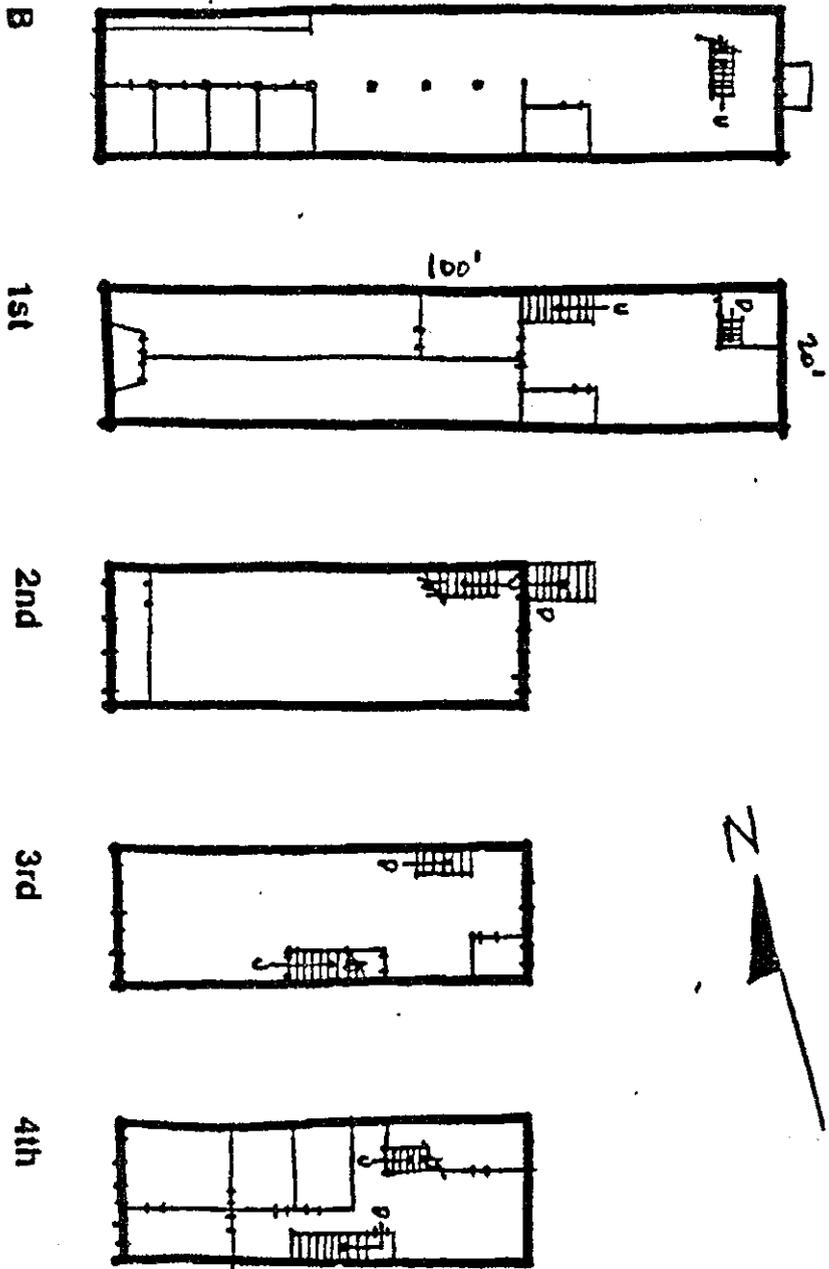
DETROIT, MICHIGAN QUADRANGLE
UTM: 17.331460.4688560



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EXISTING FLOOR PLANS