

MINNESOTA ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY INVENTORY FORM

Property Location			
Property Name:	Tobkin's Jewelry	Inventory No.	ME-LTC-0185
Address:	219 Sibley Avenue North	County:	Meeker
City/Twp:	Litchfield	PIN	27-0750000
T-R-S Quarter:	T119N R31W Sec. 11 SW ¼	Block:	59
USGS Quad	Litchfield North, Minnesota	Lot:	-

Property Information			
Architect:	Unknown	Style:	Commercial
Date Const:	1946	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:

Tobkin's Jewelry is a one-story Commercial Style structure built on the site of an east-west alley that originally bisected this side of the block. It is faced with medium-brown brick. The storefront has a 1950s façade with jewelry display cases and ribbed metal fluted siding. Doors on each side of the storefront provide access to the adjacent buildings' second stories. The rear façade is built of common brick and has rectangular window openings filled with glass block.

History:

The building was constructed by Ray McGraw in 1946 and housed Berquist Electric Company (1946), Leland Eckerman Radio repair shop (1947), Litchfield Furniture Mart (1949), and Thomas Furniture Mart (1950). In 1956, became the home of Tobkins Jewelry, which was owned by Eugene Tobkins and Bill Stewart. It later became Stewart's Jewelry. The business remained at this location until 1990; it is now the Chamber of Commerce.

Evaluation:

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

Integrity: Good

Although modest in size and style, several of the features that define this as a jewelry store remain intact, particularly the storefront with raised knee wall, recessed entry, and specially secured display cases, which encourage browsing the precious commodities. Flanking doors have been replaced.

Condition:

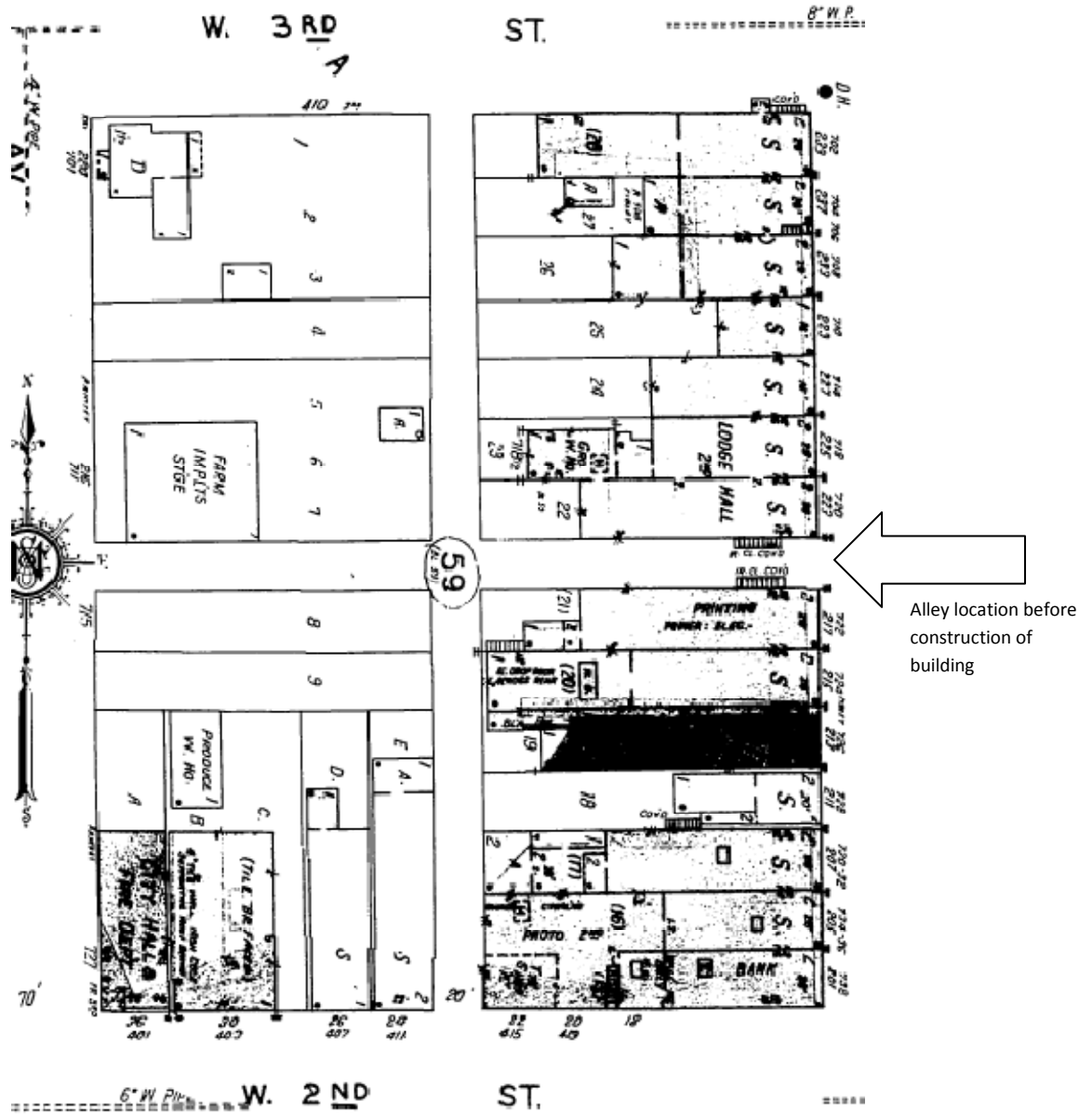
Several items related to conditions were observed, including selective repointing of brick masonry, needed repairs to the soffit and replacement of the worn awning.



Facing W



Facing E



1941 Sanborn Map