

LEE NIEDERHAUSER
"LEE'S TOWN & COUNTRY" REAL ESTATE

Interview for My Grandma About the Office

What businesses was there before you were?- A Resraurant

When was this building built?- 1881

Did you pay for the reconstruction by your self?- yes

If so how much did it cost?-\$ 35,000

Who did the reconstruction?- William Sewell Company did the stone and Garry and Bob Gain did the windows

What year did the reconstruction start?- 2001

What is the address of the building?- 101 1st street west Mt. Vernon 52314

What businesses are by you?- Randal's Tap and Hands On Embroidery

Did you ever add on to this building?- Not that I know of but I think someone else did before I was in the building

When did you start your business here in this building?- 1979

Who owned the building before you did?- Clyde Lutz

*The History of Businesses of 101 1st
Street West That We Know of For Sure*

Coldwell Banker Lee's Town and Country

EM Body Health

J - Bo's Pizzeria

Big Johns Cafe

Up Town Cafe

The Poor House Restaurant

Star Accupuncture

The Right Frame of Mind

Good Food Grocery Store

Bachelor Trucking

Bible Church

Offices of different kinds

The Hair Studio

Haunted House Down Stairs- Jay Cees

Living Quarters- 2nd floor



AFTER RECONSTRUCTION



— Sun Photo

Workers with William Sewell & Co. Building Restoration, Iowa City, removed the steel facade from Lee Niederhauser's uptown Mount Vernon building last Saturday.

Renovation at First & First gets green light

By Margaret Stevens
Managing Editor

There's something different about First Street. Almost overnight, a brick building appeared — revealed after steel siding was removed. It's part of a restoration project undertaken by Lee Niederhauser on her building on the corner of First Street and Highway 1. Niederhauser, who has owned the building since the 1970s, said she has wanted for a long time to restore the building but she always worried that the job would be too large.

"I've always wanted it off," she said of the steel siding. "But I was always afraid to tackle it because we had no idea what was under it."

Niederhauser was relieved to find the brickwork in fairly good shape and can now dive deeper into research and restoration.

"I'd like to see it as original as we can do it," she said of the 1881 building. "Over the years I've almost totally remodeled the building on the inside and it's time to get outside."

Niederhauser took on the job this year with the encouragement of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission and many other Mount Vernon citizens. She said she was willing to do it

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because she was not required to remove the siding from the highway side of the building, just the front facing first street.

The commission also provided a seed grant, which theoretically offsets the incremental cost of the historic restoration, said architect Ed Sauter, a member of the historic preservation commission.

"But I'm sure the project will cost several times what we have offered," he said. "By accepting the money she has to take our recommendations regarding restoration, but we're here to help her out however we can."

Niederhauser said removing the canopy has already made a huge difference and she is anxious to uncover the transom glass.

Niederhauser would like to replace the hoods, ornamental tin accents above the windows. There is enough of the original tin left to make a pattern.

Niederhauser has a picture of the building before the siding went up and said it matches the building next door. Sauter figures they'll be able to find craftsmen to do the windows and the brickwork, though a ti

smith may be harder to find. He said they may try to test a small area of the brick to see if the paint can be removed with minimal damage.

But Sauter, who was gone the

Saturday the siding came down, has already seen a big difference.

"I certainly did a double take when I came back to town," he said.

RECONSTRUCTION STARTS

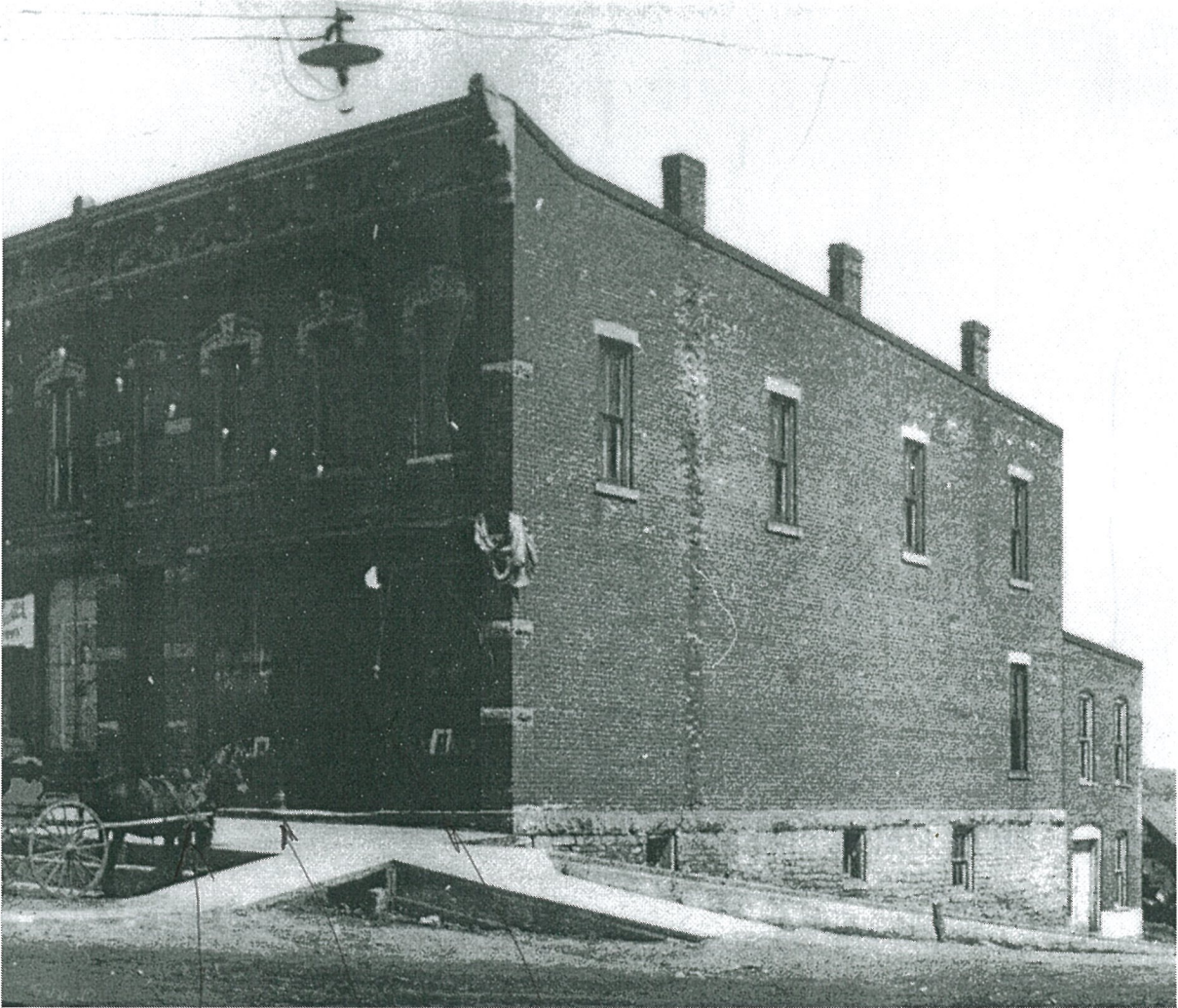




BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION







Pier

Iron Column Base

Probably 2nd iron
column base