

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Kress Building

other names/site number Kress Wholesale Company Store; Mehornay Furniture Store

### 2. Location

street & number 1025 E. Broadway [N/A] not for publication

city or town Columbia [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Boone code 019 zip code 65203

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [  ] nomination [  ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [  ] meets [  ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [  ] nationally [  ] statewide [  ] locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments [  ].)

Mark A. Miles 01/20/05  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [  ] meets [  ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [  ].)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[  ] entered in the National Register.  
See continuation sheet [  ].

[  ] determined eligible for the National Register.  
See continuation sheet [  ].

[  ] determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

[  ] removed from the National  
Register.

[  ] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Kress Building  
Boone County, Missouri**

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources Within Property	
		Contributing	Non-contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of Columbia, Missouri

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

Work in Progress

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architecturai classification**

Other: Two-Part Commercial block

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Stone

roof not visible

other cast iron

metal

See continuation sheet [ ]

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet [x]

**Kress Building  
Boone County, Missouri**

**8. Statement of Significance  
Applicable National Register Criteria**

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1910-1954

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See continuation sheet [x].

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography** See continuation sheet [x].

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

#

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

**Kress Building**  
**Boone County, Missouri**

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	558450	4311440			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Debbie Sheals  
 organization Private Contractor  
 date May, 2004  
 street & number 406 West Broadwav telephone 573-874-3779  
 city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FOP for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Charles and Sue Franklin  
 street & number 905 Audubon Drive  
 telephone 573-443-7557  
 city or town Columbia state MO zip code 65201

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**Kress Building**  
**Boone County, Missouri**  
**Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri**

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**Summary:**

The Kress Building, at 1025 East Broadway, in downtown Columbia, Missouri, is a large two-part commercial block with brick walls and Classical Revival styling. It was built in 1910 to serve as a Kress "Five and Ten Cent" store, and remodeled in ca. 1946 for the second occupants, the Mehornay Furniture Company. It appears today much as it did after that early remodeling and is immediately recognizable to its period of significance. The building is distinguished by oversized scaling and refined Classical Revival ornamentation. It is relatively large, with a 40 foot wide façade and very tall floors. This two-story building is as tall as a three-story building two doors away. It has an open storefront at the ground floor, tall windows at the second floor, and a bracketed cornice and shaped parapet at the front roofline. The upper façade contains two sets of windows and three large rusticated brick pilasters. The one-over-one wood windows are set in groups of three, with narrow cast iron pilasters between the sash openings. In form and function, the Kress Building can be classified as a two-part commercial block. It is therefore representative of Property Type A. Commercial Buildings, Subtype: Two-Part Commercial Block, as discussed in the Multiple Property Submission cover document "Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri." It meets the registration requirements set forth in that document under Criteria A and C, in the areas of Commerce and Architecture. The building is currently undergoing a comprehensive rehabilitation project, and when finished will be in excellent condition.

**Elaboration:**

The Kress Wholesale Company Building sits near the eastern edge of the commercial center of Columbia, at Broadway and Hitt Streets. Broadway is the main commercial artery in the business center of Columbia, and all of the properties around the Kress Building serve a commercial function. Several of these buildings are also historic. There is a small two story building directly east of the Kress lot, and a narrow building with a modern three story façade to the west. The Kress building occupies all of its lot, and shares side walls with those adjacent buildings. It is the only resource on the property. A wide sidewalk runs in front of the building and a narrow public alley in the rear.

The Kress Building consists of two main sections, each of which is two stories tall. The main block of the building was erected in 1910. A small rear addition probably added in 1946, when the property changed owners. The alley elevation is

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about a half-story above the front elevation, and both floors of the addition are slightly higher than those of the main building.

The façade of the building is typical of two-part commercial blocks, in that the ground floor is relatively open, and the upper floor is more enclosed. The lower section of the façade contains an open storefront topped by horizontal metal banding, all of which appear to date to ca. 1946. The storefront consists of large plate glass windows, set over very low bulkhead walls. More than half of the storefront components appear to have been in place since the 1940s or before. The main entrance is recessed along the east side wall, and a door to the second floor is recessed along the west wall. The main doors are of wood and glass, and appear to be several decades old. (See Figure One, ca. 1946 photo.) The west doorway is modern.

The upper façade contains two sets of windows, separated by three large rusticated brick pilasters. The upper wall and pilasters are constructed of hard brownish bricks, and accented with smooth sawn limestone. The pilasters have limestone capitals and bases, and wide smooth limestone bands span the façade above and below the windows. Each set of windows has a continuous sill of the same type of limestone. (See photo 2.)

The windows are set in groups of three, with narrow cast iron pilasters between the sash openings. The one-over-one windows are very large – they measure approximately 10 feet by 4 feet, and are topped with 2 foot by 4 foot transom vents. The wood windows are new, custom-made, units which replicate the originals. (Although sash for some of the early windows were found in the building during the present rehabilitation project, they were too deteriorated to reuse; none of the early frames had survived.)

The cast iron pilasters between the second story windows are all original, and in fair to good condition. They are slender flat units, with simple capitals and bases. Matching paneled cast iron pieces ornament the space between the window sash and the transom vents. The vents, which open to the attic space above the second floor ceiling, are faced with rectilinear cast iron grills which appear to be original.

The top of the façade is distinguished by an oversized bracketed metal cornice. The cornice is just over three feet tall, and the brackets are nearly four feet tall. (See photo 3.) The painted cornice is made of metal and has a row of large mutules over a row of smaller dentils. The brackets support the center and the ends of the cornice; they line up with the brick pilasters below.

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Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri**

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Figure One. This photo appeared in the Columbia Missourian, probably in 1946, the year occupants changed from the Kress Co. to Mehornay Furniture. (Used by permission, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia.)



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A shaped parapet wall extends several feet above the cornice. It has a tall center section with sloping sides, and small squared extensions at the side walls. (The name "Kress" originally appeared in the raised center section.) The parapet is topped with smooth squared limestone coping, and built of the same type of hard brown brick used elsewhere on the façade.

The side and rear walls of the building are also of load-bearing brick, but differ from the front in that they utilize rougher, less refined bricks. Most of the side walls are attached to the neighboring buildings. The back wall, which is part of the ca. 1946 addition, contains a service entrance and four small windows. The back wall has no architectural embellishment.

The interior of the building retains open plans and a good deal of original material. The front door opens to a large room which has a very high ceiling, and wood floors which are early or original. The ceiling in the main space is approximately 14 feet tall. It is covered with embossed metal panels which feature square field tiles, and wide border and cornice pieces. A row of slender cast iron columns runs along the center of the room, and there is an open mezzanine along the west half of the space. The columns support a deep center beam, which has the same type of ornamental cornice used along the edges of the ceiling.

The mezzanine, which runs from the west side wall out to the line of the columns, probably dates to 1946, when Mehornay Furniture took over the space. A metal I-beam on the outside edge of the mezzanine has the name "Mehornay Furniture" painted on it, and steel support posts located next to the center posts appear to be about the same age. (Those structural items were temporarily uncovered during the rehabilitation project.) The mezzanine was definitely in place when the above photograph was taken; lights visible in the windows on the left show the line of the mezzanine floor.

The rear addition was also probably added by the Mehornay Company. That addition, which is just over 32 feet deep, is two stories tall. The lower floor of the addition now contains a commercial kitchen and support spaces. A door at the back of the ground floor leads out to the alley. The second floor of the addition has a large walk-in cooler and smaller storage and office rooms. None of the interior spaces in the addition retain any historic materials.

The main part of the building does have a small basement near its back wall. The basement has brick walls and concrete floors. It does not appear to have ever served as finished space. The rest of the ground floor sits over a low crawl space.

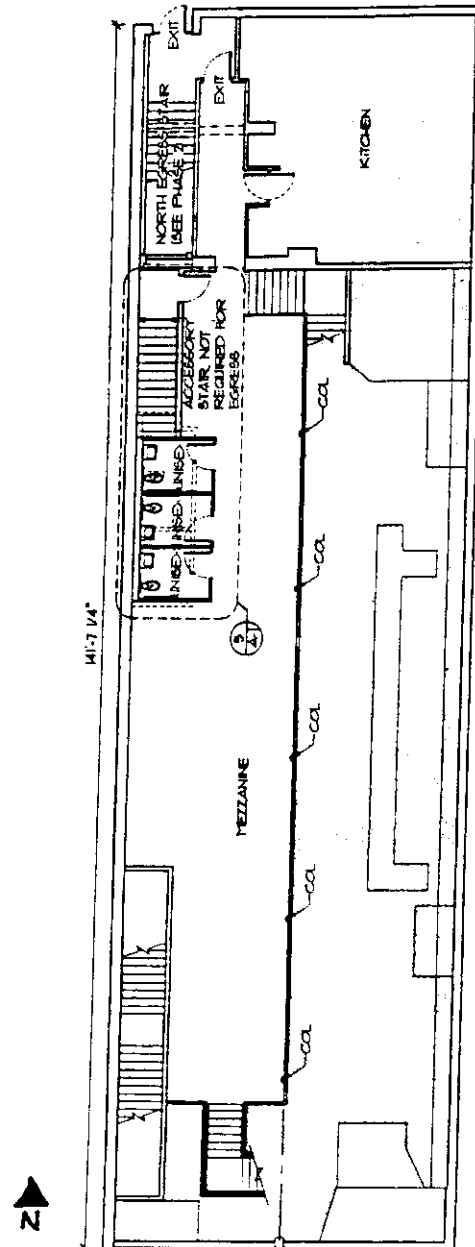


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Figure Two. First Floor and Mezzanine. Plan drawn by Brian D. Connell, Architect.



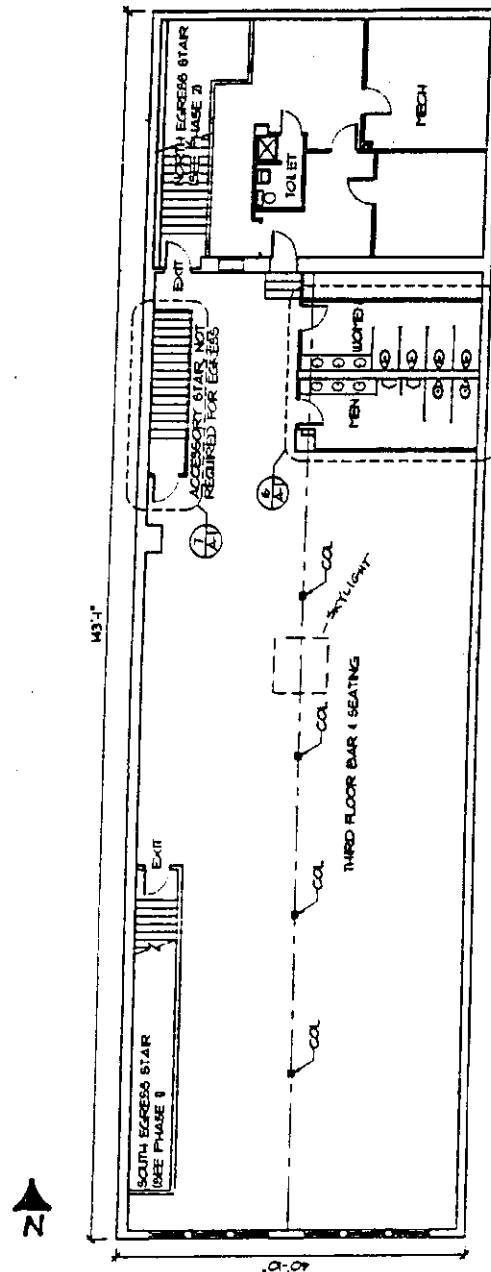
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Figure Three. Second Floor. Plan drawn  
by Brian D. Connell, Architect.



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The second floor is also mostly open, and it, too, has tall, ornamental ceilings. The second floor ceiling is approximately 12 feet tall. It is covered with embossed metal sheathing which has a much simpler pattern than that used on the main level. The second floor has some original wood flooring and a row of square wooden posts along the center of the room. There is one large room in the front of the building, and smaller bathrooms near the back; the bathrooms are modern. The walls are plastered, and most are in good condition.

There is a large skylight near the center of the main room. It is currently covered with plywood, but will be reopened in the near future. A new enclosed fire stair runs along the west wall near the front of the space. (It was required for new code-compliant egress to the front sidewalk.) The stairs lead down to the newer recessed entrance on the front of the building.

The windows take up most of the front wall of the second floor. The interior sills are roughly two feet above the floor, and the tops of the windows are almost level with the ceiling. The vents above the windows are not visible from inside the building. They open to the space above the ceiling and appear to have been built specifically for attic ventilation. The attic is a small space between the sloped roof and the flat second story ceiling.

Overall, the Kress Building looks today very much as it did when new, and it has seen no changes of note in the last half century. It is one of the larger historic two part commercial blocks in Columbia, and it clearly evokes its period of significance.

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**Kress Building**  
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**Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri**

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**Summary:** The Kress Building, at 1025 East Broadway, in Columbia, Missouri was built for the Kress Company in 1910. It was home to the local Kress store until 1946, when the Mehornay Furniture Company moved into the space. Mehornay stayed into the late 1970s, and the building continues to serve a commercial function today. The refined Classical Revival styling of the building can be attributed to the Kress Company, which was known for its well-designed buildings. The Columbia building is one of only a handful of historic Kress stores anywhere in Missouri. A list of known Kress buildings in the files of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office includes information on just six other historic Kress stores in the state. In form and function, the building serves as an intact representative example of Property Type A. Commercial Buildings, Subtype: Two-Part Commercial Block. It meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the Multiple Property Submission Cover Document "Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri," and falls under the historic contexts *In Every Way Far More Metropolitan than Her Sister Cities: Downtown Columbia, 1900-1955*, and *Log Stores to Capitoline Hill: Architectural Development in Downtown Columbia, 1821-1955*. The Kress building has served continually in a commercial capacity for nearly a century, and it is currently undergoing a comprehensive rehabilitation which will ensure similar patterns of use for many years to come. It is significant under Criterion A, in the area of Commerce, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, with a local level of significance. The period of significance runs from 1910, when construction began, to 1954, the arbitrary fifty year cut-off point. The building today looks very much as it did in the first half of the twentieth century, and it reflects its important place in the commercial history of downtown Columbia, Missouri.

**Elaboration:** The first decade of the 1900s brought unprecedented growth to Columbia, Missouri. A local paper noted in August of 1910 that the population had doubled in the last decade and boasted that "the commercial advantages offered here are greater than those offered in other parts of the state."<sup>1</sup> The same issue of the paper had a long article about recent construction projects which included a breakdown of expenditures for recent projects in the area. The newspaper cited figures compiled by the local Commercial Club, which documented \$1.5 million worth of new buildings,

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<sup>1</sup>"Columbia's Population Doubles in a Decade." *University Missourian*, Aug. 28, 1910, p. 7.

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streets and sidewalks. Many of the new buildings listed in that article were multi-story commercial structures which were located in the downtown business district.<sup>2</sup>

Although most of those new business buildings were built by or for local merchants, at least one was constructed by an out-of-town company. A local paper announced in February of 1910 that "The Kress Wholesale company will soon begin the construction of a double store building between Tenth and Hitt Streets on Broadway. The building will be used as a department store. This company has seventy five such stores in different parts of the United States. The plan of the company is to attract trade from a radius of forty miles around Columbia."<sup>3</sup>

Just a few months later, on November 12, 1910, the Kress store opened for business. The Kress store on Broadway was one of the first department stores of any kind to operate in Columbia, and it appears that it was the very first "Five and Ten Cent Store" in the community. Although the term "department store" was used to describe all retail operations that carried a variety of products in the early years of the twentieth century, more specific terminology was in place by the 1920s. A review of Columbia city directories shows that by the early 1920s, the term "department store" applied only to businesses such as J C Penney and Montgomery Ward, while the heading of "Five and Ten Cent Stores" was used to describe what came to be known as variety stores, which offered less expensive items. The Kress store belonged in the latter category.

City directories show that there were only two other "department stores" in operation when the Columbia Kress store opened, and both of those were of the more formal end of the genre. The Kress store was, therefore, the first "Five and Ten Cent Store" known to open in Columbia, and one of only a few to operate downtown during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>4</sup>

The Kress store in Columbia opened relatively early in the business life of the Kress Company. The Kress Company was founded by Samuel H. Kress in 1896, and steadily expanded over the next half-century. It has been estimated that there were

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<sup>2</sup> "Million And A Half For Improvements." University Missourian, August 28, 1910, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> "Many New Buildings Are Going Up Here." University Missourian, February 17, 1910, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Based upon a review of city directories published between 1909 and 1947.

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eventually close to four hundred Kress stores in the United States.<sup>5</sup> Most of those stores were in buildings specifically designed for the company. After about 1905, Kress stores were almost always located in professionally designed buildings, and most of those buildings were designed by Kress' own staff architects. The Kress architectural division at one point had approximately 100 employees who handled new construction as well as updates of existing Kress facilities.<sup>6</sup>

In a rare bit of luck for scholars of historic commercial architecture, hundreds of documents from that division have survived to modern times. The vast majority of the surviving Kress architectural files are now the property of the National Building Museum in Washington, D. C. The significance of the Kress Company's architectural legacy was recognized by the Building Museum in 1997-1998, with a large exhibit titled "Main Street Five and Dime: The Architectural Heritage of S. H. Kress and Co."<sup>7</sup> Although plans for the Columbia store are not part of that collection, notes from the many other files in the collection offer insight into the architectural practices which guided the Columbia construction project. A guide to those records published by the museum contains information about scores of historic Kress buildings, and reveals that the Kress Store in Columbia was in many ways a typical early Kress Building.

The location for the Columbia Kress Building followed national trends, in that it was located on the busiest street in the town's commercial center. The Columbia store was built on Broadway, the main commercial artery in town. The block on which it was constructed had recently seen a good deal of new development, making it an attractive location for the Kress Company. To the east of the lot was a large stone theater which was built in 1906, and to the west sat a large recently completed brick commercial building. (The building on the west is still there; the theater burned in the 1970s.) Both of those existing buildings were the work of local developer Josiah Wilson Stone, the same man who sold the Kress Company the land for their new store.

The local paper reported in 1909 that the Kress Company had paid \$8,000 for the

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<sup>5</sup> Susan Wilkerson and Hank Griffith. A Guide to the Building Records of S. H. Kress and Co. 5-10-25 Cent Stores at the National Building Museum, (Washington, D. C.: National Building Museum, 1993) p. 111.

<sup>6</sup> Jim Sweeny. "Remembering the House of Kress: Kress Stores are Still Landmarks in Several South Carolina Cities," Sandlapper: The Magazine of South Carolina, p. 2. (Online version <<http://www.sandlapper.org/kress.htm>>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.nbm.org/exhibits/past/2000-1996/main-street.html>, April 15, 2004. (See attached photo copy.)

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lot on Broadway.<sup>8</sup> The price paid for the lot reflects its favorable location; construction costs for new buildings in the area at the time ranged from \$15,000 to \$30,000, and the cost for the Kress Building itself was around \$20,000.<sup>9</sup> The Kress Company's attention to detail is also evident in the purchase agreement, which stipulated that Stone build a building in the empty space between their lot and the three story building to the west.<sup>10</sup>

**Figure Four. Photo of Broadway taken in 1941. The Kress store is on the right side of the photo.** (Photo from the State Historical Society of Missouri was reprinted in Russell, Vicki, et. al. Images of Our Lives Since 1901. Columbia, MO: Columbia Daily Tribune, 2001.)

The design of the Columbia store also followed early company practices. It fit its surroundings, and used design elements common to other early Kress stores. Records in the Kress Collection show that staff architects took the context of the buildings into account as they developed the design. The more complete building files in the collection include photos of the



Broadway 1941. (State Historical Society of Missouri)

building sites and of surrounding streetscapes, information used to ensure the store fit their sites. A photo of Broadway in Columbia, which was taken in 1941 (above), shows how well the Columbia store related to the larger neighboring buildings. The extra height of the two-story Kress Building may be a response to the three-story structures

<sup>8</sup> "Two New Buildings on Broadway Soon." University Missourian, Oct. 20, 1909, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> Construction costs for a number of new buildings in the area were included in "Million and A Half in Improvements." p. 9.

<sup>10</sup> "Two New Buildings on Broadway Soon." p. 1.

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which flanked it when it was new.

The refined Classical Revival styling of the Columbia store also reflects local and national trends. Prior to the first decade of the twentieth century, Victorian design principles dominated architectural design in downtown Columbia area. Many of the buildings which were built there in the first years of the twentieth century, however, utilized more Classically-derived proportions and ornamentation.<sup>11</sup> That change in architectural tastes in Columbia can be seen in the use of classical ornamentation, square-topped windows, and a generally heavier overall scale--all design elements present in the façade of the Kress store.

Information about other Kress stores in the country show that the Columbia store also had much in common with early Kress stores in other locations. A note in the introduction to the Kress Collection catalogue noted that there was a "stylistic consistency of most early stores (1905-1930)."<sup>12</sup> That account noted that a "typical early building was brick, two-story, located on a corner, and had a façade with restrained Classical Revival trim, including a cornice at the level of the second story ceiling." That description also noted the nearly uniform placement of signs -- there was usually a red signboard along the lower façade, a hanging sign, and finally, one "on a raised central portion of the parapet."<sup>13</sup> Historic photos show that the Columbia store had all three types of signs, and the raised portion of the parapet still bears a very faint outline of the Kress sign, which is clearly visible in the photo taken shortly after Mehornay Furniture moved in. (See Figure One.)

The Columbia store may have been designed by one of the Kress Company's first staff architects, Julius H. Zeitner, who began his tenure with Kress in 1905.<sup>14</sup> Although Zeitner's first jobs involved the renovation of existing buildings, by 1909 he was also designing new facilities. It is likely that Zeitner was involved with the design, possibly

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11 See "Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri: *Log Stores to Capitoline Hill: Architectural Development in Downtown Columbia, 1821-1955* for a discussion of architectural development in the area.

12 Wilkerson and Griffith, p. xi.

13 Wilkerson and Griffith, p. xi.

14 Wilkerson and Griffith, p. 111.



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in connection with Seymour Burrell, who started working for the company in 1910. Those two teamed up on another Missouri Kress store which opened the same year in Trenton, Missouri, and it appears that the two stores were quite similar when new. Plans for the Trenton store are part of the Kress Collection, and that building is described as being "almost a pattern for the early stores: corner location, two floors, brick façade with cut-stone trim and galvanized-iron cornice..."<sup>15</sup> The only thing missing in the Columbia store was the corner location.

Although the company and its architects were from out of town, most of the people who worked at the Columbia Kress store were Boone County residents. Mrs. Ruth Haun, who worked at the Kress store in the late 1920s and early 1930s, has fond, and surprisingly clear, memories of her job with the Kress Company.<sup>16</sup> She was from a small town a few miles from Columbia, and lived in town with her older brother during the week so that she could work at the store and attend night school. Mrs. Haun recalls that the Kress Company kept a close eye on store operations; a regional manager would come for a thorough inspection at least every six months, an event which usually sent store employees into a preparatory frenzy.

Mrs. Haun also remembers many things about how the store was physically arranged. Long counters lined aisles which ran from the two front doors to the back of the store, and merchandise was grouped into various departments. She recalls that candy, stationery, "toilet goods," and notions were all near the front of the store, and that the toy, hardware, hosiery (separate sections for men and women) and music departments sat further back.

The office and cashier stations were located in a balcony near the back of the showroom. As was the case for many of the stores in the area at that time, the Kress store used a "Lamson" system, which involved having sales clerks send cash up to the cashiers in small containers attached to wires. The cashiers would make the required change and send the cup back down to the floor. (Mrs. Haun worked her way up to the position of cashier after a couple of years at the store.) The second floor was used for stock, which was delivered to the sales floor via a freight elevator in the southwest

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<sup>15</sup> Wilkerson and Griffith, p. 57.

<sup>16</sup> Haun, Ruth. Telephone Interview with Debbie Sheals. May 13, 2004.

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corner of the building.

The store also served a social function. There was a large "Victrola" near the music section at the back of the store, which customers could use to preview records they were interested in purchasing. The company also used it to play music during business hours, and the back of the store became a favorite hang-out for local boys who liked to listen to the music while waiting for their girlfriends to end their shifts at various downtown stores. The Kress store was often open until 9:00 p.m., and Mrs. Haun remembers that an average work week was 54 hours long. She had worked up to a weekly salary of \$7.50 by the time she left her job there in the early 1930s.

The Kress Company operated the Broadway store in Columbia into the middle part of the twentieth century, after which the building gained a new tenant. Early in 1946, the building became home to the Mehornay Furniture Company. It is likely that the lower part of the façade was remodeled by the Mehornay Company to call attention to their new space. The earliest known photos of the furniture store show their name spelled out in block letters on the horizontal metal banding which is still in place over the front display windows. (See Figure One.) The new furniture store was apparently quite a hit; a recently published local history included a photo of a large crowd in front of the remodeled façade, with the caption that "some 5,800 people took in the grand re-openings at Mehornay Furniture Co., 1017 E. Broadway, after its remodeling..."<sup>17</sup>

Mehornay Furniture occupied the building on Broadway almost as long as the Kress Company; they remained in business there until late 1979 or early 1980. Over the past quarter of a century, there have been a variety of tenants in the building, none of whom effected major changes to the way it looks or functions. The greatest impact upon its appearance came in the late 1960s, when a heavy concrete canopy was built across the front of it and many other buildings in the adjacent blocks of Broadway. The section of the canopy in front of the Kress Building has recently been removed, and the building today looks much as it did after the mid-century remodeling of the lower façade. The current rehabilitation project will ensure that it continues to function much as it has for the last 96 years.

The Kress Building is a significant survivor of early twentieth century commerce in downtown Columbia, Missouri. It shares many characteristics with other historic commercial buildings in the area, and provides an intact, representative example of

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<sup>17</sup> Vicki Russell, et. al. *Images of Our Lives Since 1901*, (Columbia, MO: Columbia Daily Tribunes, 2001) p. 153.

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Property Type A. Commercial Buildings, Subtype: Two-Part Commercial Block, as discussed in "Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri."<sup>18</sup> It is one of the oldest known "Five and Dime" stores in the community, and one of few Kress stores known to survive anywhere in the state. It strongly evokes a sense of its time and place, and it continues to reflect its role in early 20<sup>th</sup> century commerce in Columbia, MO. △

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<sup>18</sup> See MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, Missouri," Section F, Associated Property Types," for a full discussion of the Commercial Buildings property type.

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**Appendix: Known Kress Stores in Missouri**

From a list in the files of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, MO.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date Opened</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Carthage 329 S. Main Street Historic District	July 6, 1907	Contributing to Courthouse Square
Moberly 500 to 502 W. Reed St.	August 17, 1909	
Trenton 1100 Main Street National Building Museum.	September 1, 1910	Records part of Kress Collection, Architects Julius H. Zeitner and Seymour Burrell.
<b>Columbia</b> 1017 E. Broadway	<b>November 12, 1910</b>	
Jefferson City 215 E. High Street Historic District.	December 7, 1912	Non-contributing to State Capitol
Nevada 103 N. Main Street	August 16, 1913	
Webb City 4 S. Main Street National Building Museum.	June 16, 1917	Records part of Kress Collection, Architect, Seymour Burrell.

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**Sources**

(See the MPS Cover Document "Historic Resources of Downtown Columbia, MO," for further discussion and a biography of general sources.)

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

A tract of land beginning at a Point Sixteen (16) feet East of the Southwest Corner of Lot Two Hundred and Twenty-five (225) in the Original Town (now City) of Columbia, Boone County, Missouri, the same being the West Eighty (80) feet of the Lot Numbered One (1) in M. R. Conley's Plat and Subdivision now recorded in Book Ninety-four (94) Page Two Hundred and Sixty-one (261) of the Boone County records, and fronting on Broadway Street; thence North One Hundred and Forty-two and One-half (142 1/2) feet to alley; thence East Forty (40) feet; thence South One Hundred and Forty-two and One-half (142 1/2) feet; thence West Forty (40) feet to place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The current boundaries encompass all of the land historically associated with the building.

**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Kress Building  
1025 E. Broadway  
Boone County, MO  
Debbie Sheals  
December, 2004

Negatives on file with Debbie Sheals 29 S. Ninth Street, Suite 204, Columbia, MO  
65201

**List of Photographs**

See photo key for description of camera angle.

1. Streetscape, looking west on Broadway.
2. Façade (south elevation)
3. Façade, from the east side.
4. Second floor windows and cornice.
5. Upper façade.
6. Rear, looking west from alley.
7. Interior ground floor, looking north.
8. Interior, mezzanine and metal ceiling, looking north.
9. Interior Second floor, looking north.
10. Interior second floor, looking south to front.

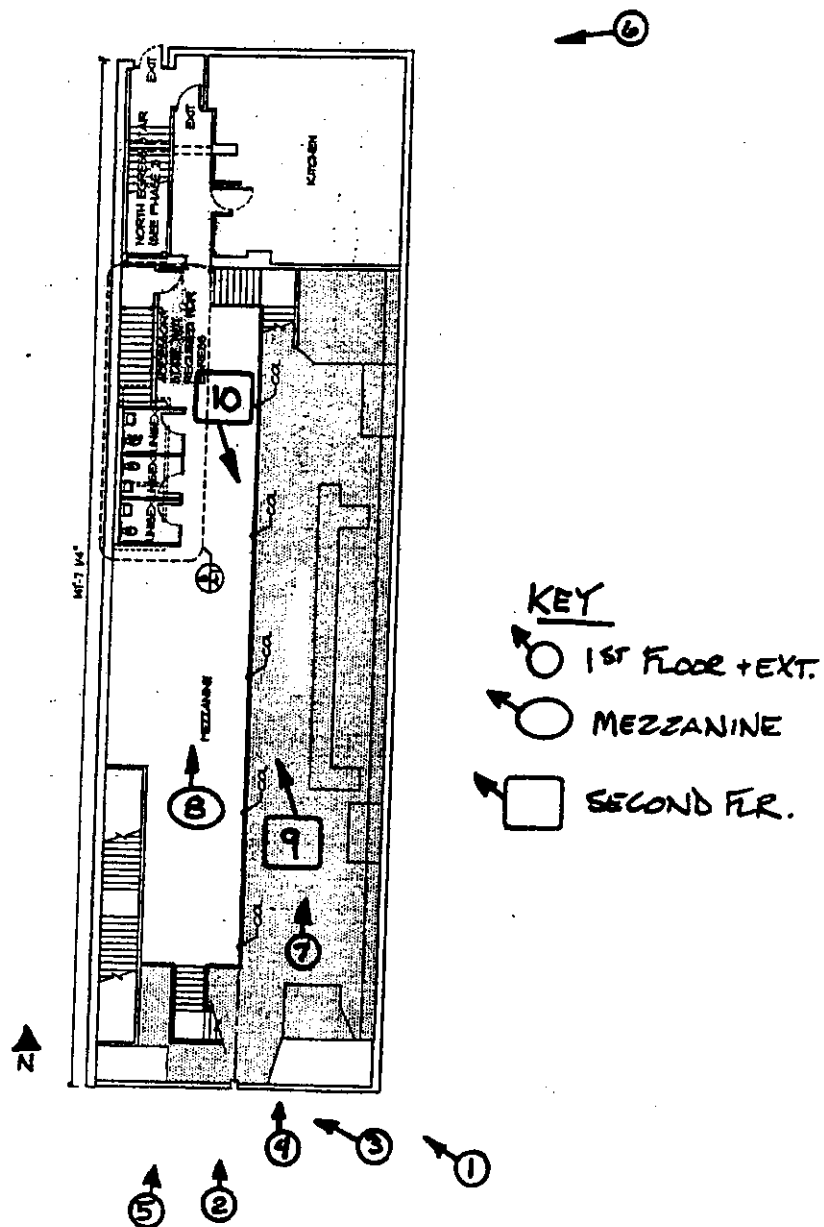
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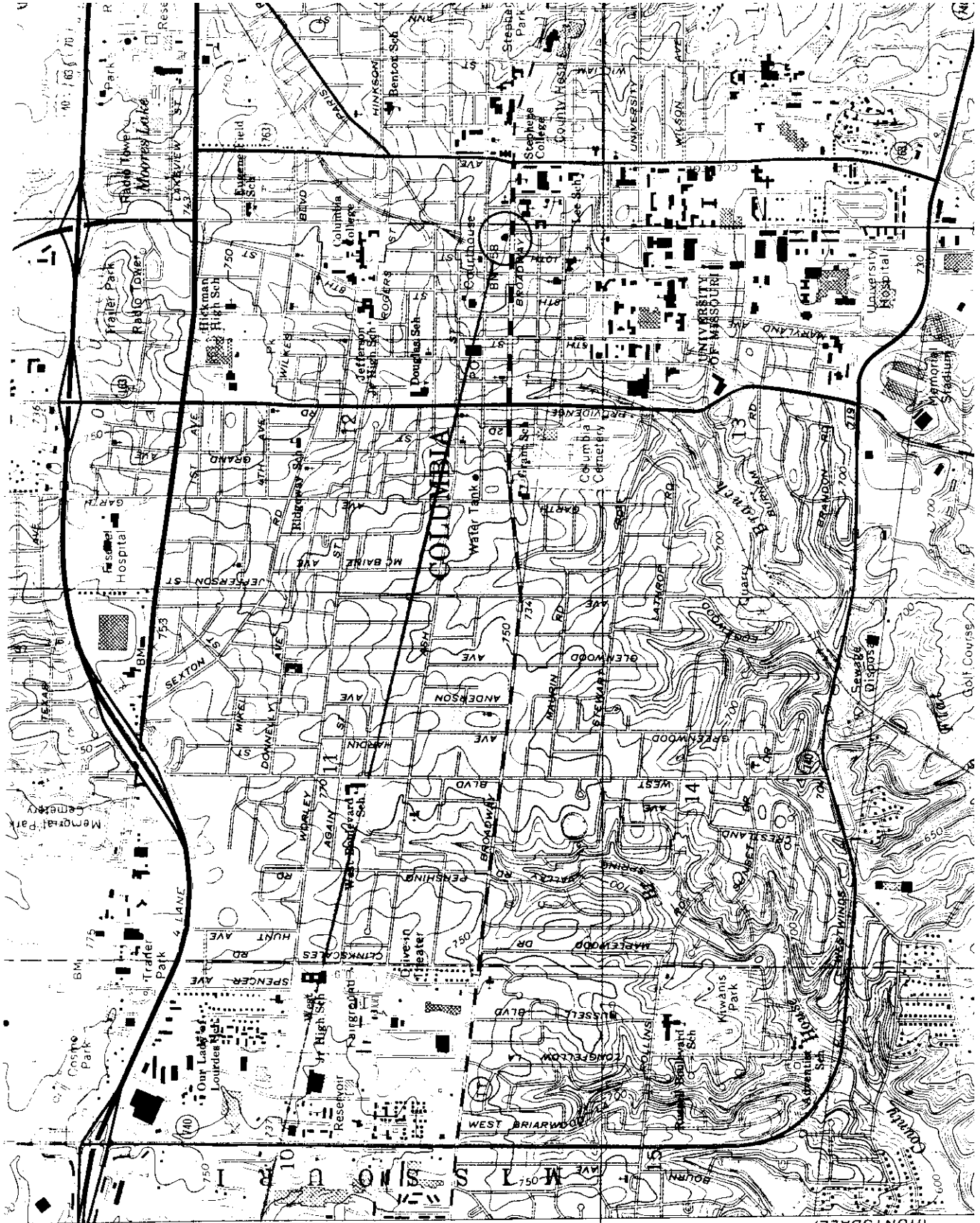
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Photo Key. Base Plan drawn by Brain D. Connell, Architect.







7561 IV NW (HUNTSDALE) 4312

Glass Building  
 255 E Broadway  
 Columbia,  
 Boone County 65201  
 UTM:  
 1588450/4311440







