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41

Date April 4, 2022

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM RUETER FARMS INC. TO DEMOLISH THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS (IOOF) HALL 576 BUILDING (ALSO KNOWN AS FAIRGROUND HARDWARE) LOCATED AT 2951 EAST WALNUT STREET, PURSUANT TO DES MOINES MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 58-70 HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, Rueter Farms Inc. has made an application for a demolition permit demolish the building located at 2951 East Walnut Street; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-70, Historic Review, an initial review has been conducted by the Development Services Director has determined that the building is greater than 50 years old, is historically significant and meets the criteria for landmark designation set forth in Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-58; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Subsection 58-70(d), the application for demolition has been referred to the City Council for review at this regularly scheduled meeting and the owner of the building, Rueter Farms Inc., has been provided the required notice of this City Council review; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Des Moines Municipal Code Subsection 58-70(d), the City Council must consider comments from all interested parties and determine whether or not to refer the applicant for proposed demolition to the Landmark Review Board for further study and review; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that all oral and written comments from all interested parties with respect to the proposed demolition of the building located at 2951 East Walnut Street, have been given full consideration.

ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTIONS

- A. The City Council hereby determines that the application for demolition of the building at 2951 East Walnut Street shall be referred to the Landmark Review Board and, in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-70(e), the Landmark Review Board is directed at regularly scheduled and/or special meetings of the Board to work with the owner of the building to determine within 90 days whether any alternatives to demolition are feasible.
- B. The City Council hereby determines that the application for demolition of the building at 2951 East Walnut Street shall not be referred to the Landmark Review Board and in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-70(d), the Development Services staff shall provide guidance for the owner to complete the requirements for documenting and photographing the building and for salvaging for re-use as many fixtures and as much material as possible from the building to the satisfaction of the Development Services Director prior to authorizing issuance of the demolition permit.

(Council Communication No. 22-161)



Roll Call Number

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Agenda Item Number

41

Date April 4, 2022

MOVED BY _____ and SECONDED BY _____
to receive and file all documentation provided by staff and all oral and written comments and documentation from all interested parties, and to adopt Alternative _____ above.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Judy K. Parks-Kruse
Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
GATTO				
SHEUMAKER				
MANDELBAUM				
VOSS				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

_____ City Clerk

Coupee, Jacob T.

From: Pat Meiners <dmhistoryhappens@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 9:59 PM
To: Coupee, Jacob T.
Subject: Please Deny permit - 2951 E. Walnut (Fairground Hardware)
Attachments: FAIRGROUND HARDWARE bldg. history.docx; July 26 1978 Trib RE Fairgrounds Hardware and Odd Fellows Lodge.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jacob,

This email is regarding the permit requested by Rueter Farms to disconnect the sewer and plumbing at 2951 E. Walnut, better known as the Fairground Hardware Building.

I have been interested in this building and compiling information about it for several years and have attached the file having this information.

In 2018 a Building Permit was issued when the plans were to make a whiskey distillery/restaurant in the building. The faded permit is still in the window, but I have an older legible photo of it.

Those plans derailed when a car hit the east wall of the building and it took about a year to repair due to insurance issues. There is some new framing inside the building that was done before the damage.

It seems unlikely that the building was fine for remodeling just 4 years ago and is now a blight!

A couple of other articles about the building are attached too. An article from 1978 calls it a 'Landmark.'

A woman wrote today that her father rode the streetcar to the end of the line in the 30s at the store and he walked the rest of the way home, to Pleasant Hill, carrying groceries from the store.

The streetcars ran until 1951.

Many have responded to my Facebook post with fond memories of the hardware. It was there for campers and exhibitors at the fair and nearby residents. Others just remembered the unusual building being there as they visited the fair. The building architecture is also unique, it is far larger (4400 sq ft per floor) than most built at the time and the double bay style and columns are uncommon.

Another building that most said should be razed is the East Union Depot at 120 E. 5th; **it is now the jewel of the East Village and this building be the jewel of the Grant Park/Fairground area.**

Should you want additional information please let me know. We hope this process may be stopped or at least put on hold for now so other ideas may be considered.

Thank You!

Pat Meiners, Secretary
Des Moines Heritage Trust
(the group that restored the East DM Union Depot)

FAIRGROUND HARDWARE

Address – 2951 and 2955 E. Walnut, (the SE corner of E. 30th and Walnut)

Overview –

Fairground Hardware closed its' doors forever as of January 31, 2018 after being in business almost 75 years. The building has not been used since then although those that purchased it from the Robinsons worked with a group having the intentions to develop it as a whiskey distillery. During that ownership some construction began on the interior and the eastern wall was rammed during a car accident. It took a while for the insurance issues to be resolved and the developers walked away from it. It has since been sold and the proposed use is not known.



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Fraternity: The upper level of the Sherman Lodge on Des Moines' east side was the headquarters for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows 576 from about 1893 to 1998.

September 9, 1893 pioneer citizens Sarah and James Dean sold the land to Sherman Lodge #576 of the Odd Fellows for \$375.00. The upper floor was used by the lodge until 1998. A store relief above the front doors still proclaims the building as the home of Lodge #576. The lodge was chartered in 1893 and the building went up about 1896. Beginning in 1886 the Iowa State Fairgrounds moved to its' permanent home across the street.

The retail bays provided income for the lodge expenses. Two stores occupied the lower level, the first tenant of the eastern location (2955) was the grocery of M. E. Strong which was robbed in 1895. It was followed by A. R. Corning's Cash Grocery and Feed store. The grocery store bay would later be named E. E. Moon, Paul's and Fairground, with Borrall Brothers being a tenant for many years. The Fairground Grocery held selling out events in December of 1939.

For several years in the 1930s the western side (2951) was home to Curtis Pharmacy. The American Federation of Hosiery Workers and other labor groups used the western bay during the 1940s. The Rollins Hosiery Mills were nearby on Dean Avenue. For many years a group portrait of Rollins workers hung above the cash register.

As shown in the photograph, the building was along the streetcar tracks, so it was convenient for shopping. In the late 1920s an addition was constructed on the south side of the building, with the address of 242 E. 30th St. In 1927 Hawkeye Bakery and Lunch first occupied the new site; which by 1943 housed Sonderleiter Beverages. The basement was used as a dressing room for the 'Hawkeyes' semi-pro football team from Valley Junction in the 1920s when games were played at the State Fairgrounds against other Iowa communities. The building has also housed a pool hall.

The Lodge shared the upstairs from about 1922 – 1952 with the Eastgate Masonic Lodge which obtained their own building in 1952. Other organizations have also used the building. In 1946 William Davis opened the Fairground Hardware in the western bay of the building. Riley James, who had worked at the hardware store and was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, purchased the store from Gerald May, his employer, in 1961 with his wife Doris and it was expanded to include the entire first floor. Jim and Lois Cox bought the store in 1982 and sold it to Mike and Debra Robinson in 1996. The lodge owned and used the building until 1998 when it moved to East 9th and Garfield. When the Robinsons purchased the building it was used as only a hardware store.

This building has served the city well and is known to many in Des Moines and throughout the State of Iowa. It is imperative that the city now do everything possible to keep the building as an example of life over 125 years ago to show our future generations.



DAVID ARNTHOLZ/THE REGISTER
Lois Cox weighs nails on an old-fashioned scale while her husband, Jim, looks on. The Coxes have owned the Fairgrounds Hardware Store for the past 12 years.

February 15, 1995 *Register* (above)

Grenolas Will Have Another Grid Team

Meeting Held Monday Night to Make Plans for Coming Football Season.

The Grenolo Manufacturing company will be represented by another strong football team this coming season.

Zell Green, who piloted the team to a city championship last year, has called a meeting for Monday night at the Odd Fellows hall, East Thirtieth and Walnut streets.

All of last year's players and other grid stars in the city, who want to try out for the team this year, are urged to attend the meeting. A number of important subjects will be discussed Monday night.

Manager Green announces that he has already communicated with many of the strong pro clubs in this section of the country and a number of good contests will be arranged this season.

Pete Welsh, former Drake university grid star and one of the best known officials in this section, will probably coach the Grenolos.

August 13, 1921 *Tribune* (right)



The plaque above the front doors naming the I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) Sherman Lodge #576

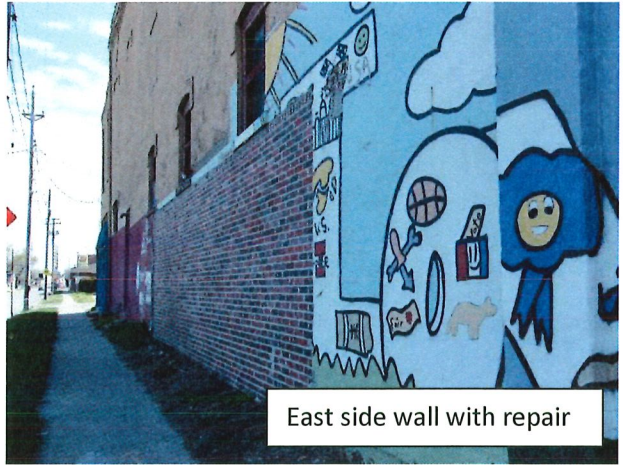
RECENT PHOTOS



New Sidewalk &
traffic lights



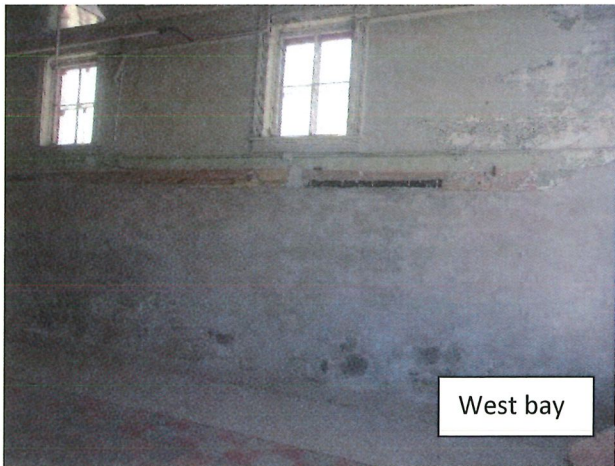
East side windows



East side wall with repair



Some construction was started in the east bay.



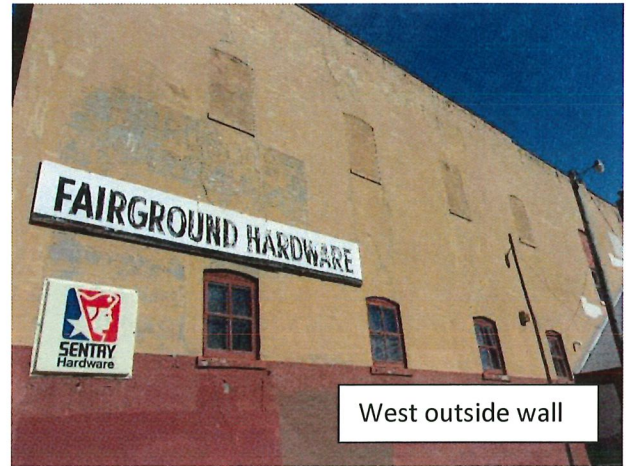
West bay



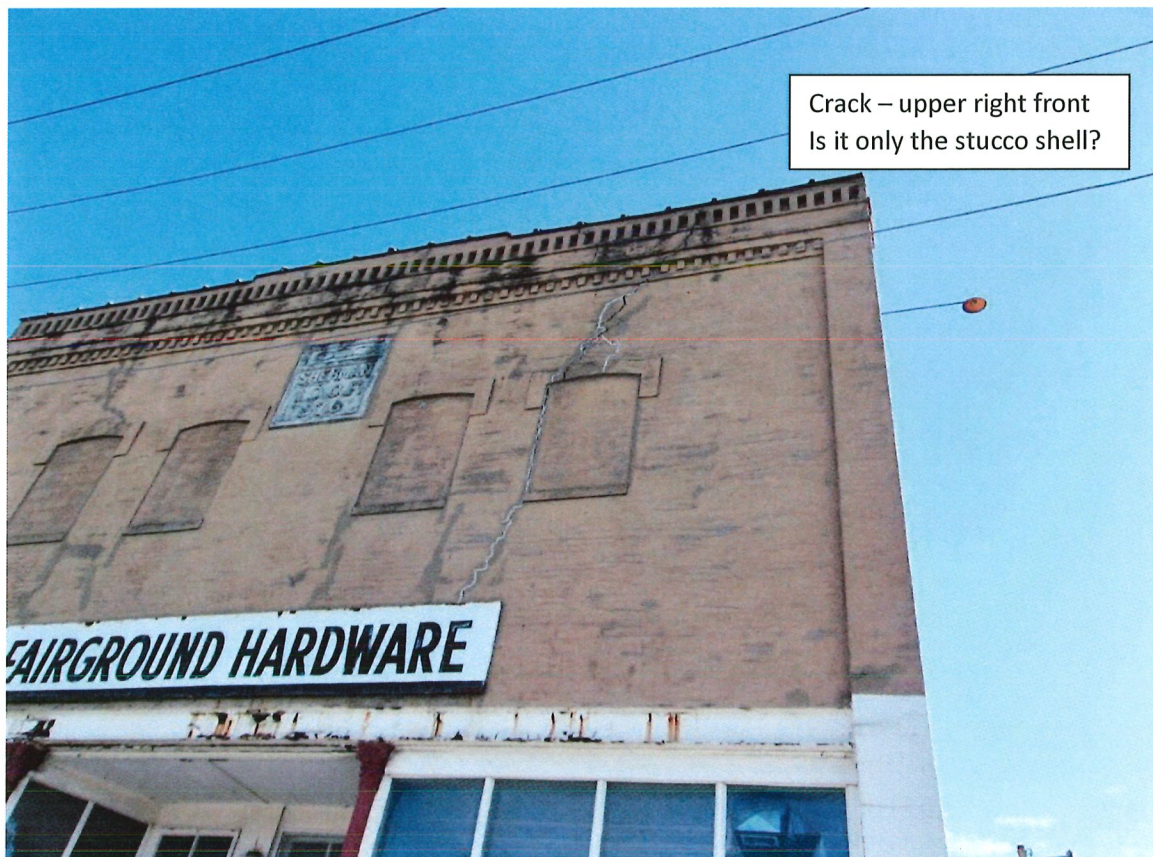
West bay



East Bay



West outside wall



Crack – upper right front
Is it only the stucco shell?

FURTHER INFO –

1940 – 242 E. 30th – Frank Celsi, Restaurant

1947 – 2951 ½ - Ogan Young 2953 – Borrall Grocery

1954 the east side 2955 was being used by Paul Goldfarb Grocery, so Fairground Hardware didn't begin by using both sides.

1958 – 2955 was vacant. 242 E. 30th – Horse Shoe Tavern

1959 – Only 2951 listed, as Fairground Hardware

MEET ME ON THE CORNER

East 30th and East Walnut streets

Hardware store building was built for Odd Fellows

By RENDA LUTZ

Neighborhood store Fairground Hardware continues to thrive after 54 years in the same building despite competition from super-hardware giants such as Lowe's and Home Depot.

The history of the building on the southeast corner of East Walnut and East 30th streets dates more than 100 years and has housed an Odd Fellows lodge, a grocery store, a library and even the dressing room of a semipro football team.

It was Sept. 9, 1893, when Sarah and James Dean sold a large corner lot to the trustees of the Sherman Lodge for \$375. The two-story Sherman Lodge was built for local members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows 576.

The Odd Fellows was created in the 18th century when life in England was at a low, morally and economically. A group of Manchester men made a covenant of eternal friendship. They pledged to assist each other in times of need. So strange was their action in those times that others called them odd fellows.

The name stuck, and the fraternal organization spread across the globe. The first Odd Fellows lodge was established in the United States in 1819. Shortly before the Civil War, the women's auxiliary of the Odd Fellows — the Rebekahs — were organized. The first Rebekahs lodge was established in Bloomfield, Ia.

Sherman Lodge on Des Moines' east side was built to house the organization on the upper level, with storefronts on the ground level. The rental property paid for the expenses the lodge would incur. The photo at top was taken in the early 1900s when trolley cars operated on tracks along the dirt roads.

Two storefronts served area residents. In the early years, Corning's Cash Store — a general grocery store — filled the east side of the building. The grocery later was Barrell's and then Paul's. The Fairgrounds Branch Library operated for years on the other side of the



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Fraternity: The upper level of the Sherman Lodge on Des Moines' east side was the headquarters for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows 576 from about 1893 to 1968.

READER FEEDBACK

After reading last week's Meet Me on the Corner featuring Apple Grove Orchard, Kay Gebhardt of Farrar called to say that her parents had met one another while working at the orchard in the early 1930s. Gebhardt's

mother, Helen Cox, took a seasonal position at the orchard. There she met Francis McFarling, a young man who worked at the orchards. Love eventually blossomed and the McFarlings married about two years later.

building. In the 1920s, the building was expanded.

The basement served as a dressing room for a semipro football team in the 1930s. The Hawkeyes football team, a group of Valley Junction men, traveled across town to tangle with other teams from Iowa communities at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

The lodge shared the second floor with other fraternal organizations, at times. The Eastgate Masonic Lodge used the Odd Fellows' quarters for nearly 30 years. The Masons built their own lodge at the corner of East 29th Street and Grand Avenue in 1962.

William Davis started the Fairground Hardware store in 1946 on the west side of the building.

Davis eventually sold the

hardware store to an employee, Riley James. In 1961, James and his wife, Doris, expanded the store, taking over the entire first floor.

In 1983, Jim and Lois Cox bought the store, where an old-fashioned scale was still used to weigh nails, screws, bolts and other items sold in bulk. Mike and Debra Robinson bought the business 13 years later.

Lodge members continued to meet weekly in the building, using it as their headquarters to carry out community service projects. In 1998, the Sherman Lodge bought a building at East Ninth and Garfield streets and sold the old brick building to the Robinsons.

Reporter Renda Lutz can be reached at (515) 284-8228 or lutz@news-desreg.com

PROUTY MEETINGS BIG, HULL'S SMALL

Congressional Candidates Try Powers in City Same Evening.

PROGRESSIVE IN LEAD

Captain Hull Is Detained by Obstinate Janitor and Forced to Pay Hall Rent Before Addressing "Crowd" of Seventeen Voters.

If the size of audiences is indicative of the feeling of the people of Des Moines toward Judge Prouty and Captain Hull, then Judge Prouty is the leader in the congressional nomination fight now on.

For both Judge Prouty and Congressman Hull were on the stump in Des Moines last night, and the crowds which greeted Judge Prouty were far larger than those which faced Captain Hull.

In Chesterfield Judge Prouty was received by a crowd which filled the Odd Fellows' hall.

At the same time Captain Hull was speaking to seventeen people in the Odd Fellows' hall near the fair grounds, Thirtieth and Walnut streets.

From Chesterfield Judge Prouty hurried to West Thirrd and Walnut streets, where he was greeted by a crowd of nearly a hundred, enough to more than fill the pool hall meeting place.

Haines Attracts Twenty.

At Ninth and Park streets at a Hull meeting, Attorney Robert Haines, talking for the congressman, began with an au-

Jun 14, 2018 at 3:05:50 PM
Des Moines



Jun 14, 2018 at 3:29:05 PM
Des Moines



Oct 12, 2018 at 10:00:53 AM
Des Moines

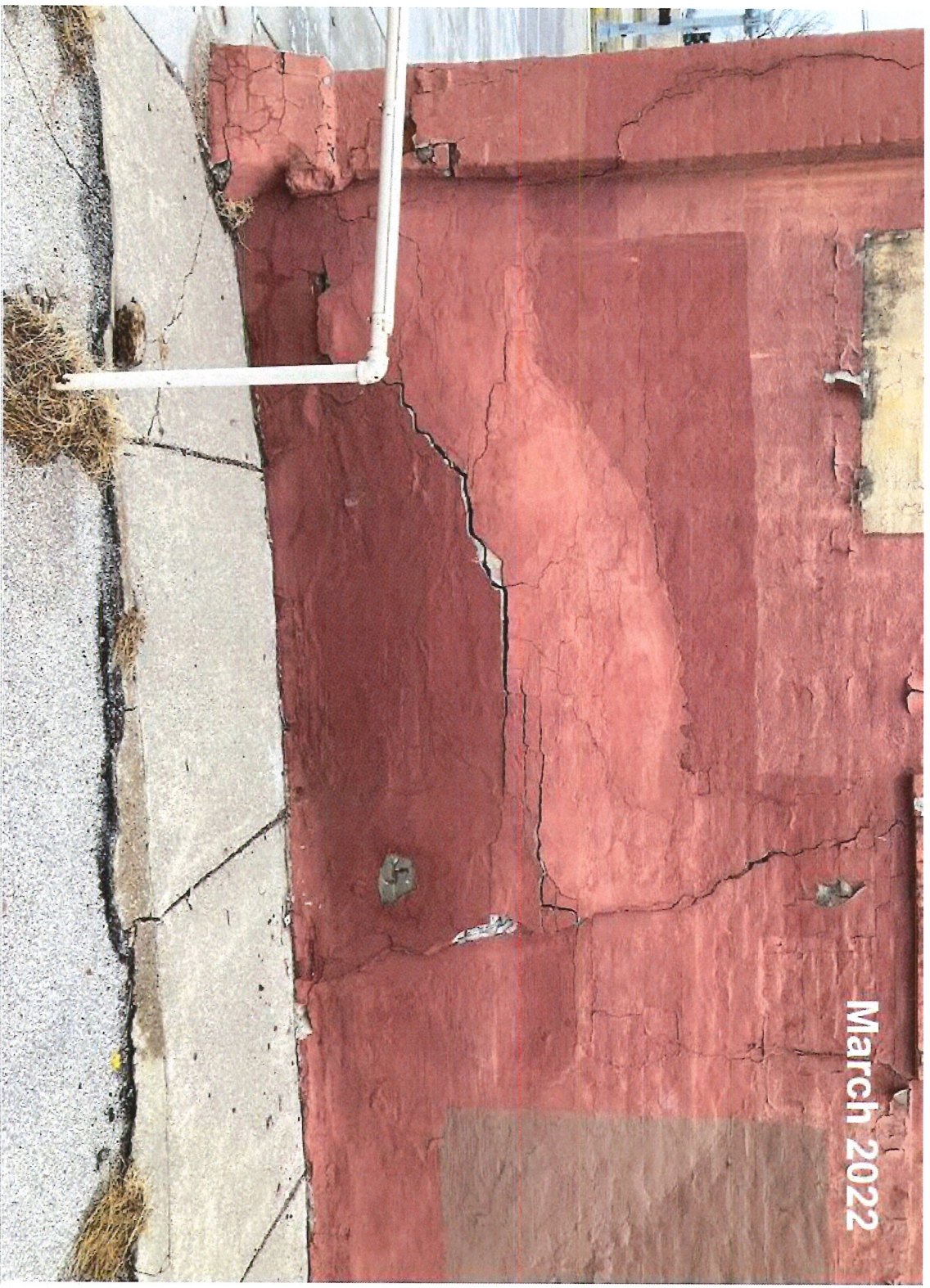




March 2022



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