

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NRHP

JUL 30 2024

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name 505-507-509 North Farish Street

other names/site number The Redmond Building

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 505-507-509 North Farish Street not for publication

city or town Jackson vicinity

state Mississippi county Hinds zip code 39202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: X national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D

Katie Blount 3-27-24
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social-Civic
- Commerce-Restaurant
- Commerce-Specialty Store
- Healthcare-Medical Business/Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Vacant/Not in Use
- Work in Progress
- Vacant/Not in Use
- Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Early 20th Century American Movement:
- Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: Concrete
- walls: Brick/Stucco
- roof: Other
- other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The two-story brick building at 505-509 North Farish Street, known as the Redmond Building, is located within the Farish Street Historic Neighborhood District in Jackson, Mississippi. Constructed in 1947, this structure is a two-story, commercial style building. It has a flat roof, brick façade and concrete stucco on the sides and rear. Fixed metal frames for awnings remain over two of three street facing commercial spaces, but only the awning on the right has its interlocking aluminum pans intact. The building is set directly onto a concrete sidewalk approximately three feet from the street. Its street frontage measures 42.11 feet and its depth spans 76 feet. Its North Farish Street location is a two-lane, one-way thoroughfare which begins with the intersection at Capitol Street and continues to Bell Street, a distance of approximately 1.1 miles. To the south of the building is Collins Funeral Home, which has operated at 403 North Farish Street since 1903. To the north of the building, Central United Methodist Church Family Life Center occupies the building built in 1966 as the segregated Negro Branch YWCA, which operated for 20 years. Directly across from the Redmond Building is the Central United Methodist Church building which was built in 1960 and maintains an active congregation today.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

Exterior-Front Elevation

The brick veneer on concrete block façade is divided into three bays defined by large storefront windows and door units with corresponding awnings. The southernmost (left) space is a wood frame divided into a window door unit with a three-light transom above. The metal frame for the awning is present, but the aluminum pans that created the awning top are not. The windows and doors of this unit have been covered to secure the space. The northernmost space has the metal frame and awning intact. Windows and doors have been repaired to secure the space. The central space is defined by a large two-light windows to the south and a door to the right. Windows have been repaired to secure the space. The metal frame and awning over the center space have been removed. There are four doors on the lower level, three for the corresponding commercial spaces and a fourth which grants access to the upstairs space. On the second level, there are two paired casements, eight-light steel windows. Each has a 4-light fixed transom above it and brick window sills below.

Exterior-Side Elevations

The south side of the building features two small, fixed windows and two double casement steelframe windows with transoms on the first level. On the south side's second level, there are four double-casement windows and one single casement window. The north side of the building features five double casement windows on the second level, with no windows on the lower level. A narrow driveway on the south side of the building leads to an unpaved parking area in the rear of the building.

Exterior-Rear Elevation

The rear of the building has stucco or Portland on concrete block veneer and has a split-level metal fire escape staircase with an intermediate and upper-level landing that leads from the ground to the second floor. The rear of the building's lower level has three doors, one for each of its commercial spaces. There are also two steel paired casement windows, each with a fixed transom, and a small, fixed window. On the second level of the building's rear are four double casement windows, a fixed window and the door at the top of the metal stairs.

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Interior-Lower Level

The lower-level interior space is divided into three commercial areas. The southernmost area measures approximately 915 square feet at 11'8 feet at its widest point by 76 feet long. The space is rectangular in shape with ceilings approximately 13 feet high. As a result of water damage, all flooring, wall and ceiling materials have been removed. Only wall framing and ceiling joists remain leaving this as one large open space. There is a front door for street access and rear door for parking lot access.

The center lower-level interior space measures approximately 988 feet at 13 feet wide by 76 feet long. This space is rectangular in shape with ceilings approximately 13 feet high. As a result of water damage, all flooring, wall and ceiling materials have been removed. Only wall framing and ceiling joists remain leaving this as one large open space. There is a front door for street access and a rear door for parking lot access.

The northernmost lower-level interior space encompasses approximately 944 square feet measuring 14'3 feet at its widest point by 76 feet long. This space is occupied by a restaurant. It is divided into three areas. The front area serves as the kitchen which is open. A counter running lengthwise toward the rear separates customers from cooks. The middle space is a seating area with tables and chairs for diners. The rear section has some food storage, prep sink, small bathroom and rear exit door.

Interior-Upper Level

The upper-level space is divided into sixteen spaces, a restroom and two closet/storage areas. Access from the ground floor comes by way of a staircase which leads from the ground floor to the upper level. At the top of the stairs is a hallway which measures approximately 6'4 feet wide and 27 feet long which gives access to the 8 offices parallel with Farish Street. That space is divided into four sections. Each has a space off of the hallway leading to an interior office space which overlooks the street. In each set of offices overlooking the street, the only access to the interior space is through the space adjacent to the hallway. The first set of offices is comprised of an entry space measuring about 100 square feet which leads into an interior space that measures about 150 square feet with two steel paired casement windows with a fixed transom above it and brick windowsill below. The second set of offices is comprised of an entry space that is 100 feet which leads to an interior space that measures about 150 square feet with two steel paired casement windows with a fixed transom above it and brick windowsill below. The third set of offices is comprised of an entry space which measures about 100 square feet which leads to an interior space which measures about 150 square feet with two steel paired casement windows with a fixed transom above it and brick windowsill below. The fourth set of offices is at the end of the hallway and is the largest of the group. The office off of the hallway measures nearly 200 square feet and has a steel casement window. It leads to an interior space that measures about 150 square feet with two steel paired casement windows with a fixed transom above it and brick windowsill below.

Intersecting the hallway which is parallel to Farish Street is a second perpendicular hallway which is approximately 6'6 feet wide by 44'7 feet long which gives access to four offices on each side. To the right of the hallway, each of the four offices measures approximately 200 square feet and has a space which formerly held windows with brick windowsills below. The fourth office has an additional window space with a brick windowsill below. At the end of the hallway on the right, there are two closets/storage spaces which measure approximately 20 feet each. One is accessible through the fourth office, the other is accessible from the hallway. Each also has a fixed window. To the left of the hallway, each of the four offices measures approximately 200 square feet. At the end of the hallway on the left, there is a restroom which measures approximately 35 square feet and has a small fixed window. The hallway leads to an exit door which provides rear access via a split level metal staircase.

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As a result of significant water damage, all flooring, wall and ceiling materials have been removed. Only wall framing and ceiling joists remain. Rotten wood on both flooring and framing has been replaced throughout the upper level, but the original space separation remains intact.

Integrity

Overall, despite some interior changes over the decades, the building retains good integrity, which supports the statement and period of significance.

Location: The building remains in its original location. The location of the building, its setback from the street, and the retention of some of the neighboring buildings still extant from the time of its construction add to the Redmond building's integrity of location.

Setting: While the building remains in the predominately-historic African-American Fairish Street Neighborhood of Jackson, the area has become economically depressed, and the population has decreased substantially. The building retains sufficient setting integrity.

Design: Though the interior has been altered due to deterioration, the floor plan, room layout, studs of the walls remain in the same positions as they did when the building was constructed. The design of the building retains good integrity.

Material: The exterior materials of brick veneer, concrete stucco siding, and metal sash windows remain intact. The interior materials have been removed, though the original wooden studs remain; retaining sufficient material integrity.

Workmanship: The changes to the interior of the building have affected the workmanship of the building in that those original materials have been removed. However, since the exterior of the building is still intact, along with the original wooden studs on the interior, the workmanship of the building retains sufficient integrity.

Feeling: The Redmond Building retains the character and architectural elements of a mid-20th century commercial building. Although the building and the neighborhood has changed in that there are vacant spaces, it is still a predominately Black neighborhood and the African American owned Redmond building is the flagship of Farish Street. The only remaining business in the building, Big Apple Inn, still serves its famous pig ear sandwiches and hot sausages insuring that the building retains its integrity of feeling.

Association: The Redmond Building retains many of the elements that were present when the various businesses and Civil Rights workers were utilizing its spaces. Therefore, the building retains integrity of association

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Social History: Civil Rights

Commerce

Period of Significance

1947-1968

Significant Dates

1948-Big Apple Inn opens

1951-Dr. David White Optometry office opens

1955-NAACP Opens Mississippi office with Medgar Evers as first Field Secretary

1964-Council of Federated Organizations, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, National Lawyer's Guild, Medical Committee for Human Rights and National Council of Churches offices open

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Redmond Building meets the national level of significance under Ethnic Heritage: Black and Social History: Civil Rights as it served as a workplace for those engaging in civil rights activities in Mississippi during the 1940s through the 1970s. The building served as the first office for NAACP field secretary Medgar Evers. Later, the building served as office space for the Council of Federated Organizations or C.O.F.O., the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and as the state

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headquarters for The National Lawyers Guild's Committee for Legal Assistance in the South, which helped represent civil rights workers who had been arrested, the Medical Committee for Human Rights and the National Council of Churches Commission on Race and Religion. Although the work by these groups was mostly confined to the state of Mississippi, it had cumulative implications on the Civil Rights Movement nationwide.

The building is significant at the state level for its significance under Criterion A: Commerce, as it is the last but most significant building to be constructed by Sidney Dillon Redmond. S.D. Redmond, the son of former slaves, was a successful physician, surgeon, attorney, businessman, and political figure in Mississippi. The property at 505-507-509 North Farish Street was not traditionally named for him, but the current owner and author of this nomination, after consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office, believes it should be named in his honor.

The Redmond Building is also locally significant under Commerce as it was an important location during segregation for Blacks seeking commercial space, residential options, and professional offices, including the first Black optometrist office in the state, an apartment shared by two Hall of Fame musicians, a beauty salon and clothing stores which catered to Blacks who were denied service with dignity from White establishments. The building's most well-known business occupying commercial space is the Big Apple Inn restaurant. The Big Apple Inn is one of the oldest restaurants in Jackson, Mississippi; it moved to 509 North Farish Street in 1948 and remains in operation today. Juan Mora opened the restaurant around 1939 selling smokes (sausage sandwiches), delta-style tamales, and pig ear sandwiches. The culinary contribution of this business to America's cuisine cannot be overstated.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1792, a French-Canadian trader named Louis LeFleur established a trading post on the Pearl River known as LeFleur's Bluff. In 1821, the area was selected as the site for the state capitol and named Jackson for Andrew Jackson.¹ "Jackson quickly became the center of the political, economic, and social activity in Mississippi."² By 1860, on the eve of the American Civil War, Mississippi was the country's largest cotton producer, with over 50 percent of the population enslaved.³

Mississippi's official secession in 1861 made Jackson an attractive military target. In 1863, it was occupied by Union troops and had much of its assets neutralized, including railroads, bridges, factories, and warehouses. Federal troops returned additional times to capture the city, which ended Jackson's ability to support the Confederate war effort.⁴

The American Civil War (1861-1865) left Mississippi in chaos with its social structures overturned and its economy in ruins. However, the war meant freedom for large Black enslaved population of the state.⁵ In the years immediately following the end of the Civil War, both Black and White Mississippians grappled with a devastated economy and new social structure. Reconstruction, the period from 1865 to 1877, marked the time when many attempts were made to

¹ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. (2024, January). *Jackson | History, Facts, & Attractions*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Jackson-Mississippi>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

²Smith, T. (2010, April). Jackson: The Capital City and the Civil War – 2010-04. www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov. <https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/jackson-the-capital-city-and-the-civil-war>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

³Johnson, A. (2021, October). Research Guides: Mississippi: Local History & Genealogy Resource Guide: Introduction. [Guides.loc.gov. https://guides.loc.gov/mississippi-local-history-genealogy](https://guides.loc.gov/mississippi-local-history-genealogy). Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁴Smith, T. (2010, April). Jackson: The Capital City and the Civil War – 2010-04. www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov. <https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/jackson-the-capital-city-and-the-civil-war>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁵Williams, C. (2002, April). The Road to War (1846-1860) – 2002-04. www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov. <https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/the-road-to-war-1846-1860>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

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redress the inequities of slavery while also addressing the problems that arose while readmitting Mississippi and other states that had seceded at or before the beginning of the Civil War.⁶

Some Reconstruction efforts were successful, but ultimately, progress achieved during Reconstruction sparked even greater violence towards and repression of Black Mississippians.

One of the greatest successes was Black participation in democracy, both as voters and officeholders. At least 226 Black Mississippians held public office during Reconstruction. Mississippi sent the first two (and only) Black senators of this period to Congress, Hiram R. Revels and Blanche K. Bruce. Those committed to White supremacy resorted to violence and intimidation to discourage Black political engagement.⁷

Despite challenges, Blacks were able to find independence in some aspects of society, especially within their own communities. One of these communities in Jackson would become known as the Farish Street Neighborhood.

Developed during Reconstruction, Jackson's Farish Street area, is one of the country's oldest African American neighborhoods. Home to the city's small Black middle class, which developed after Reconstruction, Farish Street became a hub of Black life as freed slaves migrated to cities searching for a more favorable social environment amid the reality of Jim Crow and enforced segregation.

The Farish Street Neighborhood embodied the dreams, ideas, and values of these freed Blacks, serving as their social, political, business, and cultural center. The district was home to a Black-run hospital, funeral homes, churches, theaters, and schools. By 1908 one-third of the district was owned by Blacks, and half of its Black families owned their homes. From 1890 to the 1960s residents of the district could proudly claim self-sufficiency and basic freedom from White domination.⁸

Historically significant as an economically independent Black community, the Farish Street Neighborhood Historic District is among the largest such communities in the state. The area retains historical associations with Black professionals who achieved prominence on state, local and national levels; Black businessmen who owned their own shops, and Black craftsmen who constructed many of the buildings in the district. Built by and for the descendants of slaves, it emerged as the largest economically independent Black community in Mississippi during the period following Reconstruction. As Jim Crow sharply divided all aspects of society based on race, many Black businessmen, tradesmen and professionals who were now excluded from working in White-controlled areas of Jackson were able to safely practice their trades on Farish Street. Businesses in the district ranged from legal firms to loan companies, from doctors and dentists to jewelers and banks, from retail stores to hospitals.

The Farish Street district was carved from Jackson estates in the 1870s and 1880s. Twenty years after Reconstruction, the 1896 *Plessy vs. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision codified Jim Crow segregation when it held that businesses and institutions could be separate as long as the accommodations were equal. Under that edict, self-reliant and insulated African American communities soon sprang up across the nation. Neighborhoods and districts such as Houston's Fourth Ward, Greenwood in Tulsa, Walnut Street in Louisville, and Jackson's Farish Street became havens for African Americans in the early to mid 1900s, serving a separate Black population in as equal a manner as the constricting social mandates made possible.⁹

⁶ Foner, E. (2018). Reconstruction | Definition, Summary, & Facts. In Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Reconstruction-United-States-history>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁷ Phillips, J. (2006, May). Reconstruction in Mississippi, 1865-1876 – 2006-05. <https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/reconstruction-in-mississippi-1865-1876>

⁸ Feldman, Eric. (2017, July). Farish Street. Mississippi Encyclopedia. <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/farish-street/>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁹ National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nominaton Form, "Farish Street Historic District," Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi. May 17, 1979.

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SIDNEY D. REDMOND

Among those who found self-sufficiency, wealth, professional success and political place was Sidney Dillon Redmond. His standing within the Black community throughout Jim Crow and segregation created a legacy upon which many Civil Rights era groups were able to stand. The last building he constructed, 505-507-509 North Farish Street, now known as the Redmond building, embodies the spirit of the Farish Street Neighborhood. It served as an important location for Black citizens seeking commercial space, residential options, professional offices, as well as a relatively safe location for those engaging in civil rights activities. This impact begins with its owner, Sidney Dillon Redmond. The Hinds County, Mississippi Land Roll detail shows that the building was built in 1947. The property remained in the estate of **Sidney Dillon Redmond** until private purchase for the purpose of preservation in 2020.

S.D. Redmond, the son of former slaves, was a successful physician, surgeon, attorney, businessman, and political figure in Mississippi. He was thought to be the “wealthiest Negro in America”¹⁰ and the “nation’s first negro millionaire”¹¹ at the time of his death in 1948. Sidney Redmond was born in 1871 to Charles and Esther Redmond, former slaves who worked as sharecroppers in Holmes County, Mississippi. As detailed in *Mississippi Black History Makers*, Redmond’s early years involved working on the family farm and attending school whenever possible. He was 13 before he learned to count and write his name. Charles Redmond’s death resulted in the family selling their farm and moving to Holly Springs where Redmond enrolled at Rust College. Sidney Redmond graduated from Rust College in 1893 and married Ida Revels, the daughter of the first African American to serve as a U.S. Senator, Hiram Revels. Redmond worked in education as vice-principal and principal at two different schools and instructor of mathematics at Rust College before attending medical school. He graduated from Illinois Medical College and completed post-graduate work at Harvard Medical College, Massachusetts General Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital in Boston. Redmond then returned to Mississippi to practice medicine in Jackson in 1898. Black doctors had not been successful in Jackson which made it difficult for Redmond to secure professional space and a place to live. Ramsey Wharton, who would become mayor of Jackson, heard of Redmond’s difficulties and helped secure office space for him.¹² In Redmond’s initial months as a practicing surgeon, he performed several successful operations. As a result, he was able to secure credit and Redmond built economic wealth along with his medical practice. Redmond purchased a major stake in Capitol Power and Light Company, bought dozens of houses, several brick office buildings and two drug stores.¹³ In 1904, Redmond also organized and served as president of American Trust and Savings Bank, the first Black bank in Jackson, Mississippi.¹⁴ Active in statewide and national politics, Redmond was elected as chairman of the Mississippi Republican state executive committee where he served for more than 24 years.¹⁵ By 1913, Redmond left medicine when his health began to fail and earned a law degree from Illinois College of Law in Chicago. His career then focused on business, law and politics. Redmond went to Paris in 1919 as a delegate of the Pan-African Congress, whose stated purpose was to improve race relations throughout the world. He was also a correspondent of the Paris Peace Conference which terminated World War I.¹⁶ Former U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt wrote Redmond seeking input on a Black man to second his nomination for president in the 1912 election. Redmond also had an impactful civil and criminal legal career. His defense of Ervin Pruitt, a Black man accused of murdering the mixed-race child he allegedly fathered with a married white woman challenged three cultural taboos of the time—infanticide, adultery and miscegenation. Redmond’s efforts in a case so controversial no other Black attorney would take the case likely spared Pruitt’s life.¹⁷ Redmond also

¹⁰ Greene, P. (1948, February 21). Funeral Rites Held for Dr. S.D. Redmond One of Nation’s Most Outstanding Citizens. *Jackson Advocate*.

¹¹ Greene, P. (1963, November 9). Dr. S.D. Redmond The Nation’s First Negro Millionaire. *Jackson Advocate*.

¹² Sewell, G.A. (1984). *Mississippi Black History makers*. p. 355-357.

¹³ Hamilton, G.P. (1911). *Beacon Lights of the Race*. Sagan Press p.137.

¹⁴Garrett-Scott, S. (2021). “All the Other Devils this Side of Hades”: Black Banks and the Mississippi Banking Law of 1914. *Business History Review*, 95(4), 631-670. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0007680521000763>.

¹⁵ Sewell, G.A. (1984). *Mississippi Black History Makers*. p.360.

¹⁶ Ibid, p.360.

¹⁷ *Pruitt v. State*, 139 So. 861 (Miss. 1932)

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represented a Black woman who claimed that emissions from a nearby cotton mill damaged both her health and her house resulting in a civil judgment of \$17,000,¹⁸ this at a time when open racism existed in the courts.¹⁹ Redmond himself fought disbarment and charges of legal misconduct likely aimed at causing him embarrassment yet maintained his legal practice and influence until his death in 1948.²⁰ The estate Redmond left to his heirs was valued at more than \$600,000 and included cash and property, including the Redmond Building which remained in the estate through the period of significance and was purchased from Redmond's grandson in 2020. Redmond's son Sidney Revels Redmond was a Harvard educated lawyer and continued much of his father's legal and political efforts. The two practiced together in Mississippi for a time, but then Sidney Revels Redmond moved to St. Louis, Missouri where he earned success in his own right as an attorney. Notably, he helped win a landmark Missouri school desegregation case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1939 which helped lay the groundwork for the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of 1954.²¹ He also made other contributions by serving as president of the St. Louis branch of the NAACP, president of the local bar association and sitting on the local Urban League's board of directors. Sidney Revels Redmond was St. Louis's first Black alderman. He died in 1974 without children, leaving his estate to relatives.

COMMERCE

In this single property, built and owned by Sidney Dillon Redmond, many significant contributions were made by Black Americans. In its first years, Black customers found shops, restaurants, professional offices and residential spaces which welcomed them during this era of segregation when they were not welcome elsewhere. Among its tenants and residents were the first Black optometrist in the state, a Blues Hall of Fame inductee, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants in Jackson. Importantly, the site was also selected by the NAACP's national office to begin their work to fight segregation in the state. They hired Medgar Evers as Field Secretary and his wife Myrlie Beasley Evers to support his work in that office. When Evers and the NAACP left the space, other organizations affiliated with the Civil Rights took their place. This property embodies the ethnic and social contributions made by Black Americans involved in the national Civil Rights Movement from segregation through integration.

The Big Apple Inn restaurant, one of the oldest in Jackson, Mississippi, moved to the 509 North Farish Street location in 1948.²² Juan Mora opened the restaurant around 1939 selling smokes, tamales, and pig ear sandwiches.²³ It has always been run by a member of Mora's family. More than a restaurant, the site was a gathering place for members of the Civil Rights Movement in both the 1950s and 1960s like Medgar Evers and Fannie Lou Hamer.²⁴ Steeped in history, the restaurant has maintained a cult following both in the United States and beyond.²⁵ It is one of the few businesses that has remained open on the street from the building's opening through today. The current and fourth-generation owner, Geno Lee, is quoted in a documentary as modestly stating it is just "a simple sandwich shop," but it is, in fact, a unique and culturally significant establishment.²⁶ The Big Apple was also a place where folks would meet and discuss business and the Civil Rights Movement. The restaurant earned a place in the national spotlight in 2014 when celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain visited the Big Apple Inn during an episode of his show *Parts Unknown* which aired on CNN.

¹⁸ *Buckeye Cotton Oil Co. v. Ragland*, 11 F. 2d. 231 (5th Cir. 1926)

¹⁹ Smith, Jr., J.C. (1993). *Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer, 1844-1944*. University of Pennsylvania Press.p.297.

²⁰ *Ibid*, p.298.

²¹ Epps, W.J. (2021). Black Lawyers of Missouri: 150 Years of Progress and Promise. *Missouri Law Review*, 86 (1).

²² The Big Apple Inn (July, 1948). *Good News!! The Big Apple Inn is Back Again* [Advertisement]. *Jackson Advocate*, Volume (Issue), 7.

²³ Graham, C. (1985, August 29). Big Apple Inn 'soul food' source since '39. *The Clarion Ledger*.

²⁴ Buchan, E. (2018, June). The Big Apple Inn, a Little Mississippi Diner with an Outsize History. *Serious Eats*. Accessed 29 June 2020.

²⁵ Bourdain, A. (2014). *Parts unknown: Mississippi*. Season 3.

²⁶ Joe York, *Smokes and Ears*, Southern Foodway Alliance, Media and Documentary Projects, University of Mississippi, Visit Jackson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDxatfJC4aw>

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In the Jim Crow era, Black-owned shops provided a variety of goods for Black customers who were denied service or poorly treated at White establishments. Several businesses operating in the building served their Black clientele with dignity during segregation. J.W. Lewis opened a store at 507 N. Farish Street selling a variety of goods for female shoppers in November of 1948. **Lewis's**, described as 'The Fine Store Where Ladies Trade,' offered Black shoppers practical items like hats, gloves, hosiery, lingerie, housecoats and negligees.²⁷ Two years later, another store opened at the North Farish Street location. **Sanders Millinery Shop** at 507 N. Farish Street offered the "smartest and most beautiful styles" of hats, clothing and accessories which could be paid for on a lay-a-way plan.²⁸ These stores provided Black customers an alternative to stores where they received poor service, could not use the restrooms, were banned from dressing rooms or could not even try on or return clothes.²⁹ Although the strict Jim Crow conditions were harsh, they also created opportunities for viable Black businesses like those in the Farish Street building to thrive and use economic development as a means to racial advancement.³⁰ Doris Anderson opened beauty shop **Doris' Beauty Rama** at 507 North Farish Street in 1966. "It was loaded with people. People would come by bus from Bolton and Pochahontas to shop on Farish Street," Anderson recalled.³¹ Beauty salons like this one were critical to Black society as "independent, Black-controlled spaces free from the surveillance of White supremacists; the parlors provided shelter for Civil Rights organizing in an otherwise hostile environment".³² **Dr. David White**, the first African American optometrist to practice in the state of Mississippi, announced the opening of his office at 505 North Farish Street "for the examination of eyes and fixing of glasses" in the November 3, 1951 edition of the *Jackson Advocate*.³³ In addition to treating Black patients, White also mentored others going into the field. During the Civil Rights era, members of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, located upstairs at 507 ½ North Farish, identified White as one "who is examining COFO (Council of Federated Organizations) people free of charge."³⁴ When asked about his early years, Dr. White said, "I was a pioneer then. Unfortunately, I am still a pioneer today. The need for skilled Negro optometrists in this state is still as clear today as it was when I began."³⁵

Rooms for rent were also an important part of the commercial history of the Redmond Building. In addition to local citizens, the building was also home to two notable residents. Two Hall of Fame musicians who recorded at nearby Trumpet Records lived upstairs at the Redmond Building. **Sonny Boy Williamson II**, one of the premier artists in blues history and perhaps the greatest harmonica player ever³⁶ was born on a plantation in Glendora, Mississippi around 1912. Williamson's mastery of the blues was displayed through his work as a singer, songwriter and harmonica player. He was the first star of blues radio broadcasting in the South, famed for his live performances on the influential King Biscuit Time radio show. From 1951-1954, he made several recordings for Trumpet Records, located on Farish Street nearby the Redmond Building. "This was his base of operations as he readied himself for his first Trumpet session."³⁷ On January 4, 1951 Williamson recorded the hits *Eyesight to the Blind* and *Crazy 'Bout You, Baby* and re-recorded them on March 12, 1951 when the original masters were lost. Trumpet was forced into bankruptcy and Williamson's contract was lost to Chess Records in Chicago, Illinois. Williamson gained fame touring Europe extensively and performing with other

²⁷ Lewis's (November, 1948). *Mr. J.W. Lewis, Owner of—Lewis's "The Fine Store Where Ladies Trade"* [Advertisement]. *Jackson Advocate*, Volume (Issue), 8.

²⁸ Sanders (September, 1950). *Hats Smartest and Most Beautiful Styles In Town* [Advertisement]. *Jackson Advocate*, Volume (Issue), 3.

²⁹ Lisicky, M. (2020, June). Racial Injustice Outlived The American Department Store. *Forbes*. Accessed 9 July 2023.

³⁰ Braden, D.R. (2018, February 21). Black Entrepreneurs During the Jim Crow Era [web log]. Accessed 9 July 2023, from thehenryford.org.

³¹ Bucci, M. (2001, August 20). '507' stands for blues, civil rights. *The Clarion Ledger*.

³² Driskell, J. (2016, November 3). Making Waves: Beauty Salons and the Black Freedom Struggle [web log]. Accessed 10 July 2023, from americanhistory.si.edu.

³³ Editor (1964, February 29). Optometrist Is Important to Many. *Mississippi Free Press*.

³⁴ Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, "Facts about Medical Committee for Human Rights from Corinne Freeman," undated, SCRID# 6-49-0-1-1-1-1, Series 2525: Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission Records, 1994-2006, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

³⁵ Editor (1964, February 29). Optometrist Is Important to Many. *Mississippi Free Press*.

³⁶ *Blues Trail Markers Archive*. The Mississippi Blues Trail. <https://msbluestrail.org/blues-trail-markers>. Accessed 10 July 2023

³⁷ Ryan, M. (2004). *Trumpet Records: Diamonds on Farish Street*. University Press of Mississippi.p.28.

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blues artists as well as rock bands.³⁸ Over the course of his career, Williamson teamed with such legendary artists as Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and Elmore James as well as British performers Eric Clapton and the Yardbirds and the Animals. Sonny Boy Williamson II was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 1980 on the first ballot.³⁹ One of the musicians on Williamson's 1951 Trumpet recordings and a "constant companion," **Elmore James**, lived with him at the Redmond Building apartment while they recorded. "He accompanied Sonny on all his sessions to this point, staying with Sonny and Mattie at their North Farish Street flat."⁴⁰ James was born in Richland, Mississippi in 1918. By the late 1930s, he was playing guitar while performing with Williamson and Robert Johnson in Belzoni, Mississippi. The blues guitarist, singer, songwriter and bandleader served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1945 and returned home a decorated war veteran. While working at a radio repair shop, he learned more about electronically amplifying his guitar. James' solo recording debut took place during the Trumpet Records sessions with Williamson playing harmonica on James' hit record "Dust My Broom" which reached #9 on the national R&B charts.⁴¹ This 1951 version was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998.⁴² James was known as the "King of the Slide Guitar" and his slide guitar technique significantly contributed to the development of rock music. "His hard-rocking style captured the attention of U.S. and British rockers such as Fleetwood Mac, Johnny Winter, George Thorogood, Eric Clapton, Paul Butterfield's Blues Band and the Allman Brothers, all of whom recorded his tunes."⁴³ James was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992.⁴⁴

SOCIAL HISTORY: CIVIL RIGHTS

The Redmond Building is nationally significant for its contributions to the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi and the impact those events had on the nation. In the post World War II era, Mississippi strongly resisted integration choosing defiance rather than compliance. The United States Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in May 1954 prompted the creation of the White Citizens' Council in Mississippi to battle the NAACP and fight integration.⁴⁵ Their membership spread quickly. Later that year, the NAACP met that challenge on the ground in the state by hiring a former insurance agency director, **Medgar Wiley Evers**, to be Mississippi's first Field Secretary. Gloster B. Current, NAACP Director of Branches, wrote to Medgar Evers on December 15, 1954: "We are happy to welcome you to the staff and know that through you much of the improvement in the economic and political status of Negroes in Mississippi will be achieved."⁴⁶ In the letter, Current also called Evers a 'dedicated man' who 'as a veteran is determined that the democracy for which he fought abroad' should also be available in America. Evers was charged with running the state office, helping branches and coordinating programs. One month later, Evers' wife, Myrlie, was hired to be the secretary for that office.⁴⁸ She later identified the office space as two rooms with windows overlooking Farish Street. "The office staff consisted of just the two of us," she said.⁴⁹

³⁸ Ward, D. Sonny Boy Williamson II: A Biography [web log]. Retrieved from <https://www.mswritersandmusicians.com/mississippi-musicians/sonny-boy-williamson-ii>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

³⁹ *Blues Trail Markers Archive*. The Mississippi Blues Trail. <https://msbluestrail.org/blues-trail-markers>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁴⁰ Ryan, M. (2004). *Trumpet Records: Diamonds on Farish Street*. University Press of Mississippi.p.49.

⁴¹ U.S. Department of the Interior. *Elmore James*. National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/locations/lowermsdeltaregion/elmore-james.htm>. Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁴² *Grammy Hall of Fame Award*. Recording Academy. (1998). <https://www.grammy.com> Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁴³ Sokolow, F. (1996). *Elmore James Master of the Electric Slide Guitar*. Hal Leonard Corporation.

⁴⁴ *This is the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame*. Inductees A to Z|Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. <https://www.rockhall.com/inductees/a-z> Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁴⁵ Stein, W. "The White Citizens' Council." *Negro History Bulletin*, 20: 1 (October 1956),p. 2.

⁴⁶ *Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers Collection*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. [manuscript] z/2231.000/s/Box 2, Folder 6. <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/collections>

⁴⁸ *Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Beasley Papers Collection*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. [manuscript] z/2231.000/s/Box 2, Folder 6. <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/collections>

⁴⁹ Evers-Williams, M., & Peters, W. (1996). *For Us, the Living*. Banner Books/University Press of Mississippi.p.139.

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The NAACP office at 507 ½ North Farish Street address is where Evers would “continue to investigate the activities of the Council county by county in which they are organized and supply us with as much concrete information as possible.”⁵⁰ That effort and its timing was important because “in early 1955, during the same weeks that Medgar and Myrlie Evers were establishing the Jackson NAACP office, the Citizens’ Council headquarters in Jackson opened.”⁵¹

Evers operated out of this location for about 10 months. This tenure began with an event attended by NAACP officials Gloster B. Current, Director of Branches, and Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Southeast Regional Secretary, joining Evers⁵³. Officials announced by press release that “the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will formally open its National Assistant Field Secretary’s offices at 507 ½ N. Farish Street, Jackson, Mississippi, Sunday January 23, 1955, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M. A ribbon cutting ceremony will officially inaugurate the opening of the first field office in the state of Mississippi which is regarded a step closer to the fulfillment of the American dream of freedom and equality.”⁵⁴

Following the event, members of the state NAACP Board of Directors met in the new offices and “acclaimed with much enthusiasm dedicated efforts to see segregation and discrimination ended in the state of Mississippi.”⁵⁵ Black residents responded immediately to their presence. “People called about everything. A woman had received threatening telephone calls; a man had been put off a plantation; a young boy had talked back to his White boss. They called about voting problems and police problems.”⁵⁶ Evers used the Farish Street location to investigate discrimination and also to promote NAACP membership. Myrlie Evers recalled, “I would look out the window and see him (Evers) on the sidewalk below, mixing and chatting with people...As time went by, I learned that this was an important part of Medgar’s job, for the very mention of the NAACP was enough to frighten many Mississippi Negroes, and the sight of a smiling, friendly young man who openly introduced himself as the association’s Mississippi field secretary could not help but reassure people.”⁵⁷

In addition to addressing everyday concerns and building the NAACP presence in the state, Evers conducted critical, groundbreaking work that impacted not only Mississippi, but the Civil Rights Movement nationwide. His efforts began in January of 1955 with gathering affidavits to document instances of White financial institutions denying credit to Black farmers, homeowners, business owners and others because of their views on civil rights. “Banks suddenly foreclosed mortgages that they had carried for years; stores cut off credit and supplies; landlords jacked up rents; bosses fired Negroes all over the South for seeking their rights within the new climate that the Supreme Court had created in the country.”⁵⁸ To help those people get loans, the NAACP coordinated an effort to have Black companies, groups and institutions move their deposits to Tri-State Bank of Memphis. Tri-State, in turn, agreed to use those funds—more than \$250,000 in 1955-- to make loans to those qualified applicants who had been caught in the “economic squeeze” and denied credit.⁵⁹ Evers also paid specific attention to the denial of Farmers Home Administration loans to Black farmers. His efforts resulted in a U.S. Department of Agriculture investigation, White House response and fairer handling of “applications from Negro farmers than they were previously.”⁶⁰

⁵⁰ *Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Beasley Papers Collection*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. [manuscript] z/2231.000/s/Box 2, Folder 6. <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/collections>

⁵¹ Evers, M.W., Evers-Williams, M., & Marable, M. *The Autobiography of Medgar Evers: A Hero's Life and Legacy Revealed Through His Writings, Letters, and Speeches*. (New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2006), p.14.

⁵³ *Medgar and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers Collection*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. [manuscript] z/2231.000/s/Box 3, Folder 2. <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/collections>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Editors (1955, January 29). No Retreat on Segregation NAACP Official Warns Mississippi. *Jackson Advocate*

⁵⁶ Evers-Williams, M., & Peters, W. (1996). *For Us, the Living*. Banner Books/University Press of Mississippi.p.167.

⁵⁷ Ibid, p.140-141.

⁵⁸ Wilkins, R., & Mathews, T. (1982). *Standing Fast* (pp.216-217). Viking Adult.p.216-217.

⁵⁹ *Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers Collection*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. [manuscript] z/2231.000/s/Box 2, Folder 39. <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/collections>

⁶⁰ *Medgar and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers Collection*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.[manuscript] z/2231.000/s/Box 2, Folder 8. <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/collections>

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The increase in acts of violence and intimidation against Blacks soared in 1955, and Evers would soon find himself investigating three high profile murders. On May 7, 1955, Rev George Lee was shot and killed while driving in Belzoni, Mississippi. Local officials called the death a traffic accident, but Lee's widow held the funeral with an open casket to show where the bullets tore away part of the left side of her husband's face. The funeral drew 2,000 mourners and garnered national media attention. In his 1955 annual report to the NAACP, Evers wrote that "Reverend Lee was the only Negro who had qualified himself in both County and City elections, in a county where Negroes have not voted since Reconstruction and where Negroes outnumber whites at the rate of more than two to one. His independent business, print shop and grocery, made it difficult for the Councils to squeeze him economically, so their only alternative was to kill him."⁶¹ His killers were identified, but never prosecuted.

Evers also detailed in the 1955 NAACP report that on August 13, 1955, Lamar Smith was shot dead on the Lincoln County Court House Square in Brookhaven, Mississippi with a number of white men as witnesses, "all of whom deny having seen what actually happened."⁶² Smith had organized Blacks to vote in a recent election. The killers were eventually apprehended, placed under a \$20,000 bond each, but were not brought to trial because "the grand jury had no witnesses and did not indict them."⁶³

Just two weeks later, on August 28, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till was kidnapped from Money, Mississippi and beaten, shot, bound in barbed wire before having his body dumped into the Tallahatchie River. The teen had come from Chicago days before to visit relatives and reportedly flirted with a female store clerk. When the woman's husband was told about the incident, he and his half-brother murdered the teen. Like Rev. George Lee before him, Till's casket was left open to show his swollen and disfigured body. Jet magazine published the image and the photo was seen internationally. Evers investigated the case and found witnesses for the trial which drew hundreds of journalists and an international spotlight revealing the plight of Blacks in the South. After a five day trial and just over an hour of deliberation, the all-white jury acquitted the men. Despite the lack of convictions, these three cases served to bring national attention to the violence Southern Blacks were subject to in their quest for equality and voting rights. These deaths underscored the need for civil rights. Evers' role of gathering evidence in each case was critical because in the murders of Blacks, local police generally labeled the deaths as accidents.⁶⁴ Myrlie Evers later recalled that "Medgar made many trips to the Delta, investigating, questioning, searching out witnesses before they could be frightened into silence."⁶⁵

Those efforts resulted in the publication of an NAACP pamphlet entitled "M is for Mississippi and Murder."⁶⁶ As Evers worked to build NAACP membership, encourage Black voter registration, and fight segregation, he faced competition close to his Farish Street office. By April 1955, Percy Greene, editor of the Black newspaper the Jackson *Advocate*, began criticizing the NAACP and its leadership from his offices at 406 ½ North Farish Street.⁶⁷ In October 1955, Evers moved from 507 ½ North Farish Street to offices in the Stringer Grand Lodge on Lynch Street. Myrlie Evers remembered, "Late in that violent year of 1955, we moved our offices from Farish Street to the Negro-owned Masonic Temple building in a part of town that includes Jackson's two Negro Colleges, Jackson State and Campbell."⁶⁸ When Evers was murdered eight years later, his funeral procession would carry the Civil Rights leader past his first office one last time.⁶⁹

⁶¹ *Medgar and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers Collection*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. [manuscript] z/2231.000/s/ Box 2, Folder 39. <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/collections>

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Williams, J. (2013). *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years 1954-1965*. Penguin Group. P.209.

⁶⁵ Williams, M., & Peters, W. (1996). *For Us, the Living*. Banner Books/University Press of Mississippi.p.172.

⁶⁶ National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "M is for Mississippi and Murder," November 1955. Retrieved from https://usm.access.preserve.a.com/uncategorized/IO_d7161caf-caac-4d51-92d0-7b97effc5533

⁶⁷ Greene, P. (Ed.). (1955, April 9). The NAACP And The States Multi-Million Dollar Education Program. *Jackson Advocate*.

Greene, P. (Ed.). (1955, April 30). The Jackson Advocate And The NAACP. *Jackson Advocate*.

⁶⁸ Evers-Williams, M., & Peters, W. (1996). *For Us, the Living*. Banner Books/University Press of Mississippi.p.184.

⁶⁹ Jackson, J.E. (1963). *At the Funeral of Medgar Evers in Jackson, Mississippi: A Tribute in Tears and a Thrust for Freedom*.

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Though Evers and the NAACP left the Redmond building, its role in Civil Rights Movement continued. The Redmond Building provided a layout that was conducive to providing large commercial spaces as well as small office or living spaces. Downstairs, the layout hosts three large spaces used at various times for a restaurants, clothing stores, a beauty shop and an optometrist's office. The upstairs area was divided into 16 separate office spaces. These were used as residential spaces, offices and even a small club. The large number of spaces in the building provided the opportunity for different organizations working collectively to have space in close proximity to each other which fostered both collaboration and support. While the majority of the spaces were used for offices, the fact that they could also be used as small apartments proved convenient for those who needed a temporary or safe place to sleep.

The Council of Federated Organizations (C.O.F.O.)

As efforts to secure equal and voting rights gained traction, the variety of supporting organizations decided to work together to increase their effectiveness. The Council of Federated Organizations or COFO was organized as an umbrella organization in 1961 to help civil rights organizations coordinate their efforts and avoid conflict. Voter registration and education was a top priority for the Mississippi Movement. COFO was instrumental in drawing national attention and support to the 1963 Freedom Vote, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, better known as Freedom Summer.⁷⁰

COFO headquarters was located at the Stringer Grand Lodge at 1072 J.R. Lynch Street in Jackson, MS, the same building where Medgar Evers moved his NAACP office when he left the Redmond Building. However, many of the supporting organizations which took part in the Civil Rights Movement and its specific campaigns used the Redmond Building location to carry out those operations. COFO maintained a communications office at the Farish Street site and worked with other groups that maintained office space there like the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the National Lawyers Guild Committee for Legal Assistance in the South, the Medical Committee for Human Rights, and the National Council of Churches Commission on Religion and Race.⁷¹ Through this coordination, both visiting and local civil rights advocates received practical support, and the organizations were able to embark upon the work of ending segregation and discrimination. COFO extended the programs begun during 1964's Freedom Summer into the fall and spring. Those efforts include Freedom schools, pre-school education, community centers, literacy programs, food and clothing distribution as well as meeting medical, legal and political needs. "Through 1964, COFO was the organizational vehicle of the Mississippi Movement coordinating campaigns, defining the major goals, and channeling resources and staff, and the strategic orientation developed out of the younger SNCC and CORE activists from outside the state and the older NAACP leaders from Mississippi."⁷²

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party was established in April of 1964 and used office at the Redmond Building as its state headquarters. Many Civil Rights efforts had been focused on voter registration as a means to achieving integration and equality through winning elections. However, activists found that despite their efforts to register Blacks, they were still excluded from the process. In 1964, the Mississippi Democratic Party controlled legislative, executive and judicial branches of state government.⁷³ All 49 state senators and 121 of 122 state representatives were Democrats and most of their efforts were devoted to restricting Black voters. "In its devotion to racism and suppression and oppression of minority expression, the Mississippi Democratic Party prevents Negro Democrats and white persons who disagree

Publisher's New Press, American.

⁷⁰ History.com Editors. (2009). *Freedom Summer*. History.com. <https://www.history.com/topics/blackhistory/freedom-summer>. Accessed 12 July 2023.

⁷¹ Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) papers (Social Action vertical file, circa 1930-2002; Archives Main Stacks, Mss 577, Box 16, Folder 1). Wisconsin Historical Society. <https://wisconsinhistory.org>.

⁷² Andrews, K. (2004). *Freedom is a constant struggle*. The University of Chicago Press. p 51.

⁷³ Ella Baker. *Ella Baker paper 1959-1965*. Wisconsin Historical Society, Archives Main Stacks, SC 628, pgs. 113-115. Accessed June 11, 2024, <https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/p15932coll2/id/18091/rec/11>.

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with the party's racist stance to participate in party program decisions."⁷⁴ The formation of the MFDPP was aimed at changing that through three major efforts: registration, candidates and a challenge at the National Convention.

MFDPP state officials helped organize voter registration and political action beginning in the counties. Registered voters were instructed to attend precinct meetings for the purpose of nominating delegates. In most cases, Black voters were told there was no precinct meeting or that it had already taken place. The MFDPP "challenged the legitimacy of the regular Mississippi Democratic Party as unrepresentative of the majority of the Democratic voters in the state."⁷⁵ The party held its own state convention and selected its own delegates to challenge Mississippi Democrats at the August 1964 National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The 68-person MFDPP delegation was comprised of a wide variety of Mississippians known for their determination to end the brutal racism that was a part of everyday life, including civil rights icon Fannie Lou Hamer.⁷⁶

As MFDPP co-founder and delegation Vice-Chair, Hamer told the convention and a national television audience about the inequities of Mississippi's voting system as well as the violence and brutality that those seeking the vote endured, including her own personal horrific and graphic experiences. In a compromise, the Mississippi Democratic Party offered two of its seats to the MFDPP which they refused. Upon return to Mississippi, the party continued important work registering voters and supporting candidates from within their ranks. They used the Farish Street location to send newsletters, hold meetings, initiate marches and document the lack of implementation of the Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965. "The Voting Rights Bill says that people will get help from the Federal Government, such as Federal Registrars, if there is discrimination. The Bill says that people have to prove this by filling out complaint forms, and sending them to the Justice Department. We have sent complaints from nine counties. In each case we sent 20 complaints or more."⁷⁷ The state office handled election concerns and an anti-poverty program as well as coordinating protest marches and economic boycotts of businesses that discriminated against Blacks. The Redmond Building office was maintained through 1966.

The National Lawyers Guild Committee for Legal Assistance in the South created what it called a "Lawyers Peace Corps" to provide free legal assistance for those involved in the Civil Rights Movement.⁷⁸ Of the four Black attorneys practicing law in Mississippi, only three would handle civil rights cases. With hundreds of arrests possible as a result of Freedom Summer protests, the organization's Committee for Legal Assistance in the South rented four rooms at the Redmond Building in May of 1964 to host volunteer lawyers from all over the country who arrived to meet the anticipated need. Attorneys at the office during this time provided legal guidance on the relationship between voter registration and jury service as well as undertook efforts to remove cases from local jurisdictions to federal courts where attorneys believed the outcomes would be more favorable. Detroit, Michigan-based attorney George Crockett, Jr. opened the office and said, "We are interested in making certain that civil righters, no matter where they may be in Mississippi, can always feel assured that the Guild will make every effort to provide them with competent legal assistance."⁷⁹ In his early work as Freedom Summer was just beginning, Crockett would advise Civil Rights worker Michael Schwerner on June 20, 1964 about investigating a church burning where civil rights activities took place. The next day, Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney would head to Meridian, Mississippi to seek witnesses. They were murdered that day. When they failed to check in or return, Crockett sent attorneys from the office and

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Sewell, G.A. (1984). *Mississippi Black History Makers*. University Press of Mississippi. p 128.

⁷⁶ "Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MDFP)," *SNCC Digital Gateway*, SNCCLegacy Project and Duke University, snccdigital.org. Accessed 10 July 2023.

⁷⁷ CORE—Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party-Memoranda and reports (1964-1966) [TVoter Registration Figures]. (Historical Society Library Microforms Room, Micro 793, Reels 2-3, Segment 37), Wisconsin Historical Society Freedom Summer Digital Collection Madison, WI, United States

⁷⁸ Morey, H. COFO Legal Coordinator-Correspondence, 1963-1965 (R. Hunter Morey papers, 1962-1967; Archives Main Stacks, Mss 522, Box 3, Folder 4) Wisconsin Historical Society Freedom Summer Digital Collection Madison, WI, United States

⁷⁹ Ibid.

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ultimately went himself to search for the missing men without success. Two days later the trio's burned station wagon was found. Six weeks later their bodies would be discovered in the dam where they had been buried.⁸⁰ These brutal murders brought international attention to the Civil Rights struggle. Over the course of the Freedom Summer Project, 70 Guild lawyers handled 45 cases and represented 315 defendants. At summer's end, both the Committee for Legal Assistance in the South and COFO predicted the need for legal services would continue. "This fall and winter will not bring any let up on the part of the State of Mississippi, but on the contrary, increased brutality and harassment..."⁸¹ COFO hired its own legal counsel and they occupied an office at the Redmond Building directly across the hall from the Guild's office. The Guild extended their work in Mississippi, officially re-opening the office in October of 1964. It stayed open for approximately one year. With a smaller staff, it focused on "aggressive suits to end segregation" rather than arrest cases.⁸²

The **Medical Committee for Human Rights** was formed in July of 1964 and opened an office in the Redmond Building as a part of the Freedom Summer effort. Just as there was a lack of lawyers, there was also a lack of health professionals to meet the needs of local and visiting activists. More than 100 doctors, nurses, dentists, psychologists and social workers volunteered their services to support the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. They provided first aid and emergency care for the hundreds of students from all over the country who were beaten or otherwise injured while engaged in various types of protest. The MCHR provided sympathetic medical personnel in what were often hostile situations. MCHR volunteers visited those in jail and arranged hospitalization for the seriously injured. They also educated the communities they served about health conditions.⁸³ From their Jackson headquarters, the program expanded to Clarksdale, Greenwood and Hattiesburg. In 1965, the work to protect the health of civil rights workers and develop local health programs continued under the leadership of Dr. Alvin Poussaint as Southern Field Director. In the position he coordinated and supervised MCHR activities in Mississippi and other Southern States. Focused on the effect of racism on the Black community, Poussaint conducted research by interviewing Civil Rights workers while coordinating their medical care. Three published articles drew upon his experiences as Southern Field Director: *The Stresses of the White Female Worker in the Civil Rights Movement in the South* (1966), *Black Power: A Failure for Integration with the Civil Rights Movement* (1968) and *A Negro Psychiatrist Explains the Negro Psyche* (1967).

During its two years in the South, MCHR made a significant contribution toward ending hospital segregation, creating community clinics, and putting a focus on mental health (AMA).⁸⁴ By late 1966, Poussaint had submitted 300 complaints against hospitals which helped support federal efforts to desegregate those institutions.⁸⁵ He left in 1967 to become the faculty director of psychiatry for Tufts University's Medical program and the MCHR shifted its focus to providing health care in local communities and integrating facilities. Poussaint would go on to be named Harvard University Professor of Psychiatry Emeritus where his research centered on how racism affects the African American community.

National Council of Churches Commission on Religion and Race. On June 7, 1963, the General Board of the National Council of Churches voted to create a Commission on Religion and Race to "establish a new role for its churches in the racial conflicts that were engulfing the nation."⁸⁶ The next year, about 400 ministers from around the country came to take part in Freedom Summer as minister-counselors to volunteer in projects around the state. They operated from an

⁸⁰ Montemurri, P. (1989, February 12). Lawyers poured in to test an insensitive legal system. *Detroit Free Press*.

⁸¹ Morey, H. COFO Legal Coordinator-Correspondence, 1963-1965 (R. Hunter Morey papers, 1962-1967; Archives Main Stacks, Mss 522, Box 3, Folder 4) Wisconsin Historical Society Freedom Summer Digital Collection Madison, WI, United States

⁸² *COFO Newsnotes/May 31, 1965*. https://crmvet.org/docs/6505_cofa_news.pdf

⁸³ The Medical Committee for Human Rights pamphlet, undated. Civil Rights Movement Archive. <https://www.crmvet.org> Accessed 12 July 2023.

⁸⁴ *Virtual Mentor*. 2014;16(9):745-748. doi: 10.1001/virtualmentor.2014.16.9.mhst1-1409.

⁸⁵ Dittmer, J. *The Good Doctors: The Medical Committee for Human Rights and the struggle for social justice in health care*. (2009) Bloomsbury Press (NY).p.139.

⁸⁶ The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA—a brief history. <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/about-us/history/> Accessed 24 February 2024.

505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

Name of Property

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office at the Redmond Building. Reverend Warren McKenna served as the Resident Director. Visiting ministers were briefed and had their activities coordinated through COFO. They were specifically charged with "helping in voter registration, counseling with the college students, assisting in Freedom schools, calling on white ministers and other citizens and securing registrants for the Freedom Democratic Party."⁸⁷ After Freedom Summer, many of their efforts were centered in the Mississippi Delta where they shifted their focus and remained active until 1974.

⁸⁷ Ministers' Project volunteers' reports, February-August 19, 1964 (Robert Beech Papers, 1963-1972; Archives Main Stacks, Mss 945, Box 6, Folder 6). Wisconsin Historical Society. <https://wisconsinhistory.org>.

505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

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Hinds County, Mississippi

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Hinds County, Mississippi
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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 049-JAC-2424-DNC

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

Local Location Map-Redmond Building-505-507-509 North Farish Street



505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

Location Map-Redmond Building-505-507-509 North Farish Street



505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

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Redmond Building
505-507-509 North Farish Street



505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

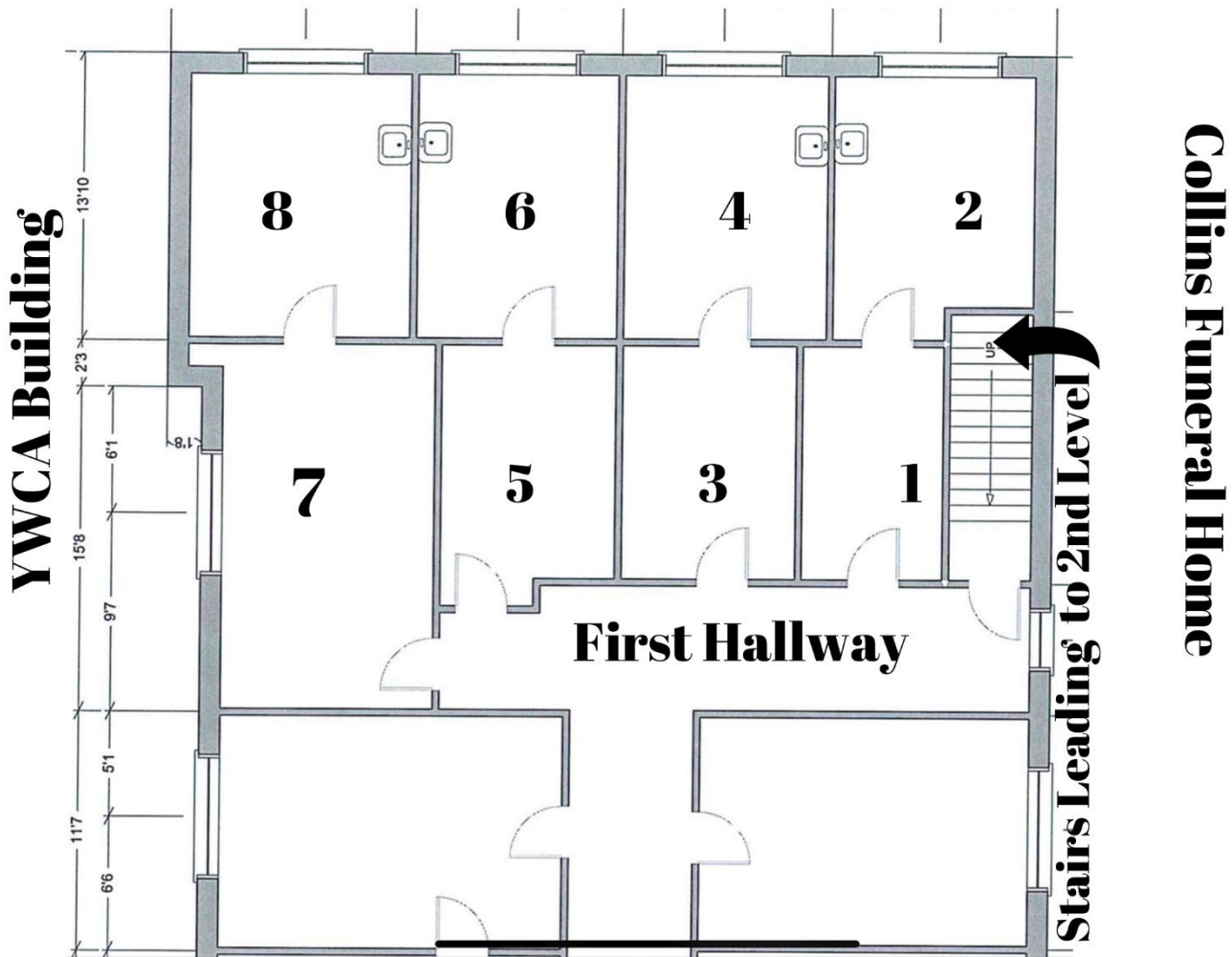
Name of Property

County and State

Redmond Building

505-507-509 North Farish Street

2nd Level Space



505-507-509 North Farish Street

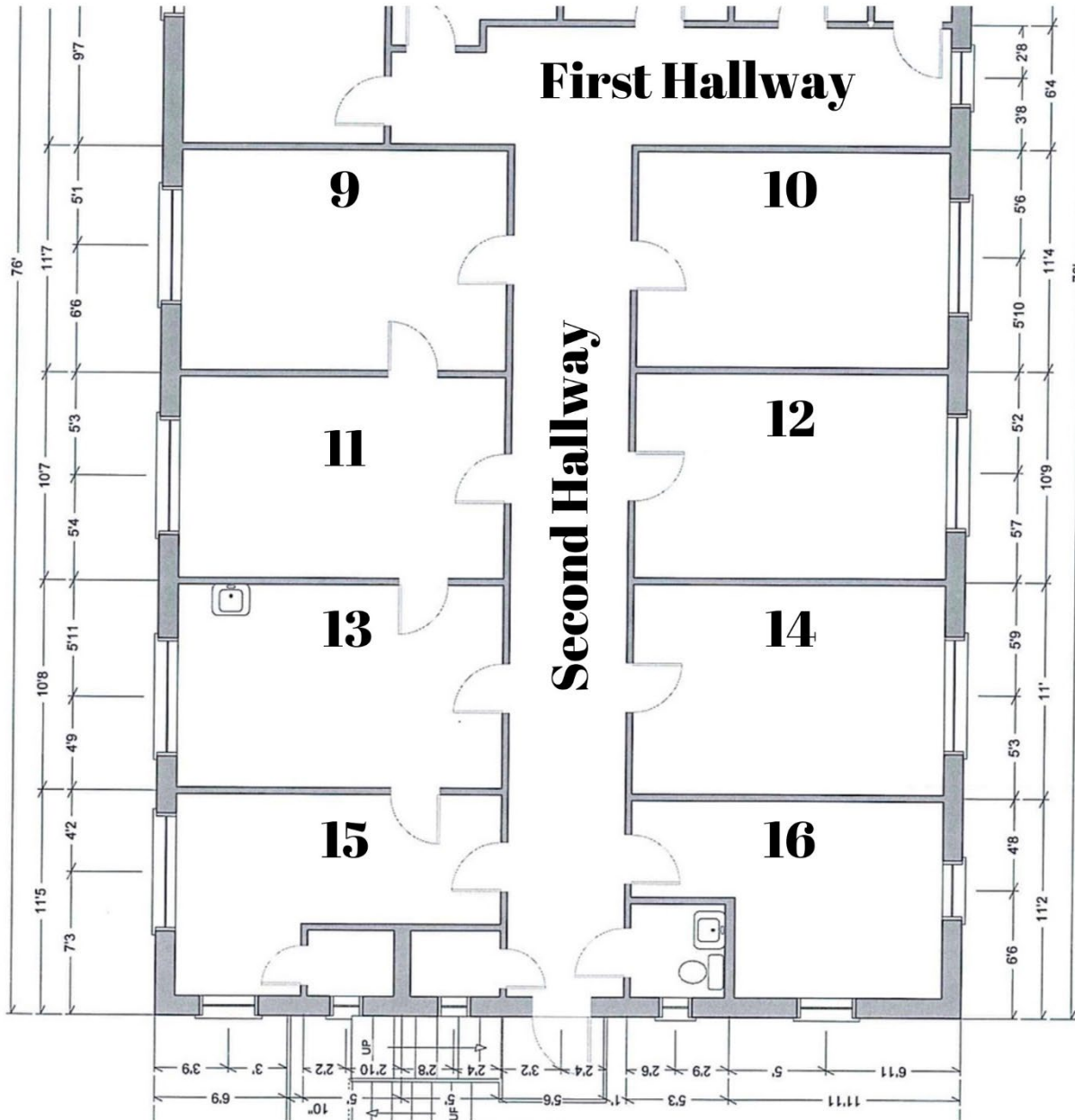
Hinds County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

Redmond Building - 505-507-509 North Farish Street Additional 2nd Level Spaces

YWCA Building



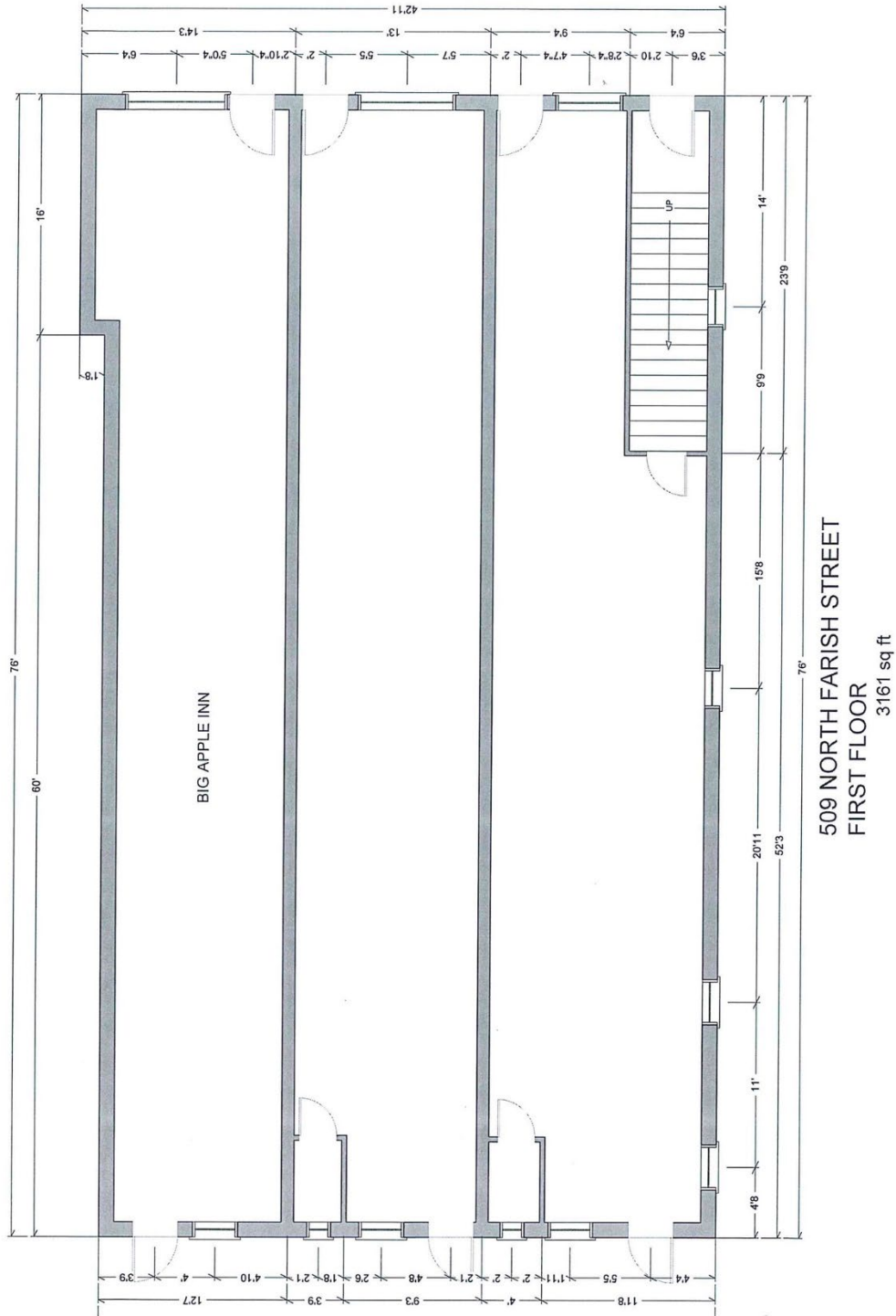
Collins Funeral Home

505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

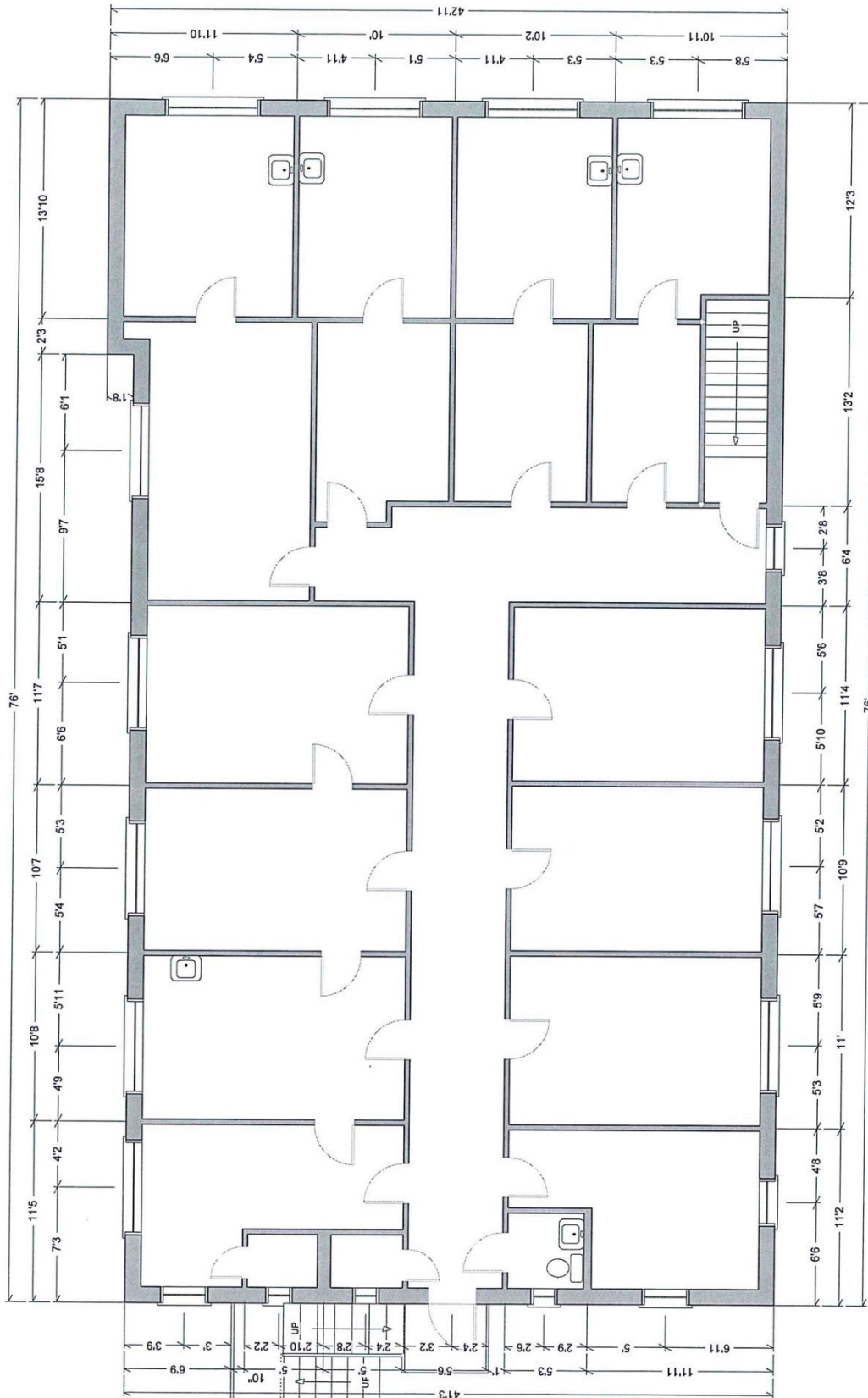


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509 NORTH FARISH STREET
SECOND FLOOR
3187 sq ft

505-507-509 North Farish Street
Name of Property

Hinds County, Mississippi
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: 505-507-509 North Farish Street
City or Vicinity: Jackson
County: Hinds **State:** Mississippi
Photographer: Kimberly Sweet
Date Photographed: July 15 and August 30, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 30: 505-507-509 North Farish Street Building Front-Street View
- 2 of 30: Farish Street Building South Elevation (Collins Side)
- 3 of 30: Farish Street Building North Elevation (YWCA Side)
- 4 of 30: Interior-505 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space
- 5 of 30: Interior-507 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space
- 6 of 30: Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space (Big Apple Inn)
- 7 of 30: Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space (Big Apple Inn)
- 8 of 30: Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space (Big Apple Inn)
- 9 of 30: Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space (Big Apple Inn)
- 10 of 30: Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space (Big Apple Inn)
- 11 of 30: Interior-Stairs Leading to Upstairs Space at 507 1/2 North Farish Street
- 12 of 30: Interior-Upstairs Hallway Leading From Street Level Staircase
- 13 of 30: Interior-Spaces 1 & 2 Farish Street Building 2nd Level
- 14 of 30: Interior-Spaces 3 & 4 Farish Street Building 2nd Level
- 15 of 30: Interior-Spaces 5 & 6 Farish Street Building 2nd Level
- 16 of 30: Interior-Spaces 7 & 8 Farish Street Building 2nd Level
- 17 of 30: Interior-Second Upstairs Hallway Leading to Eight Additional Spaces
- 18 of 30: Interior-Space 9 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)
- 19 of 30: Interior-Space 10 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)
- 20 of 30: Interior-Space 11 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)
- 21 of 30: Interior-Space 12 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)
- 22 of 30: Interior-Space 13 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)
- 23 of 30: Interior-Space 14 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)
- 24 of 30: Interior-Space 15 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)
- 25 of 30: Interior-Space 16 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)
- 26 of 30: Rear Elevation Farish Street Building
- 27 of 30: Structure at Rear of Farish Street Building
- 28 of 30: Structure at Rear of Farish Street Building-Interior
- 29 of 30: Structure at Rear of Farish Street Building
- 30 of 30: Structure at Rear of Farish Street Building-Ground Detail

505-507-509 North Farish Street

Hinds County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Redmond Building-505-507-509 North Farish Street
Front-Street View**



Redmond Building South Elevation (Collins Side)



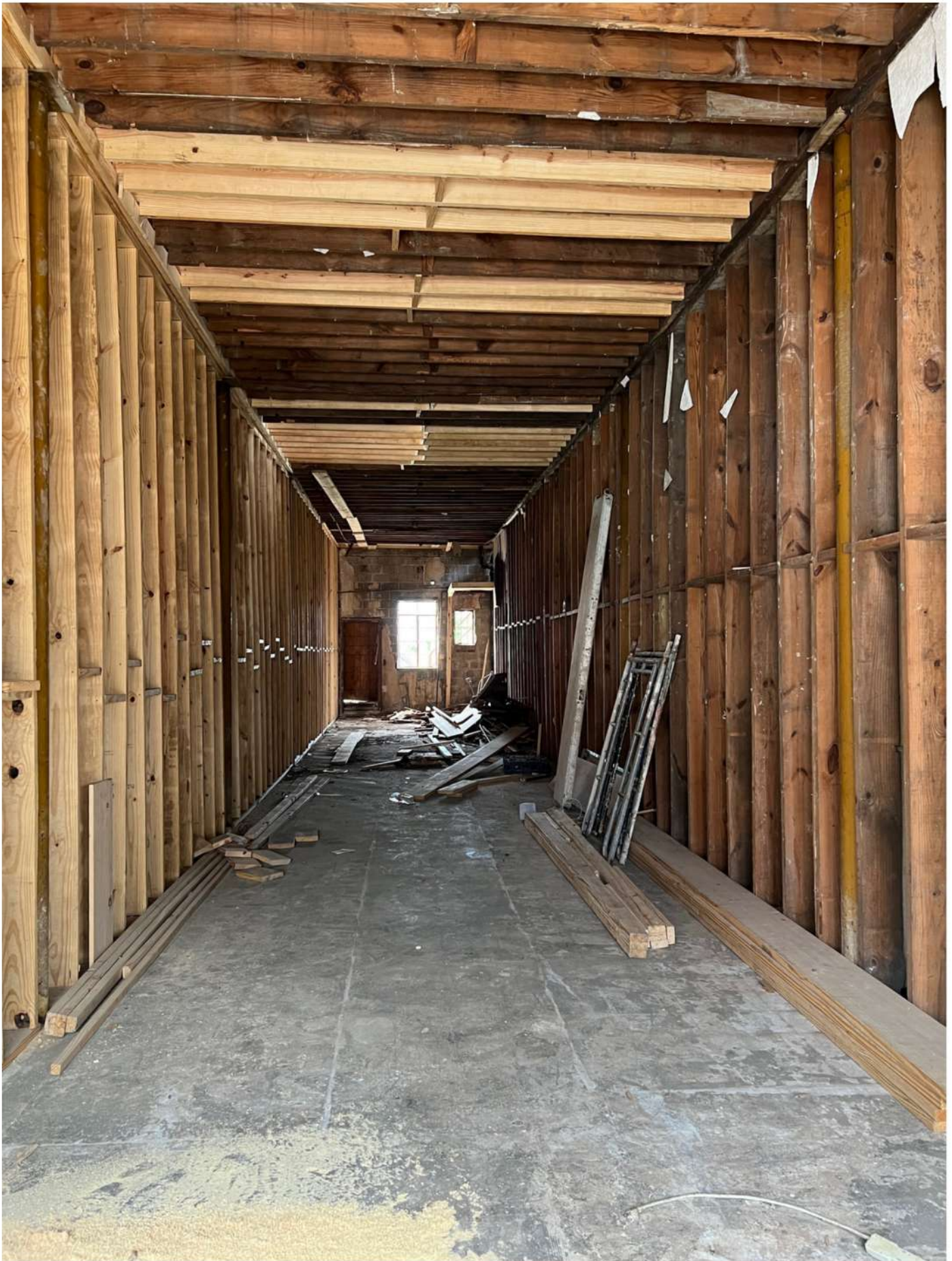
Redmond Building North Elevation (YWCA Side)



Interior-505 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space



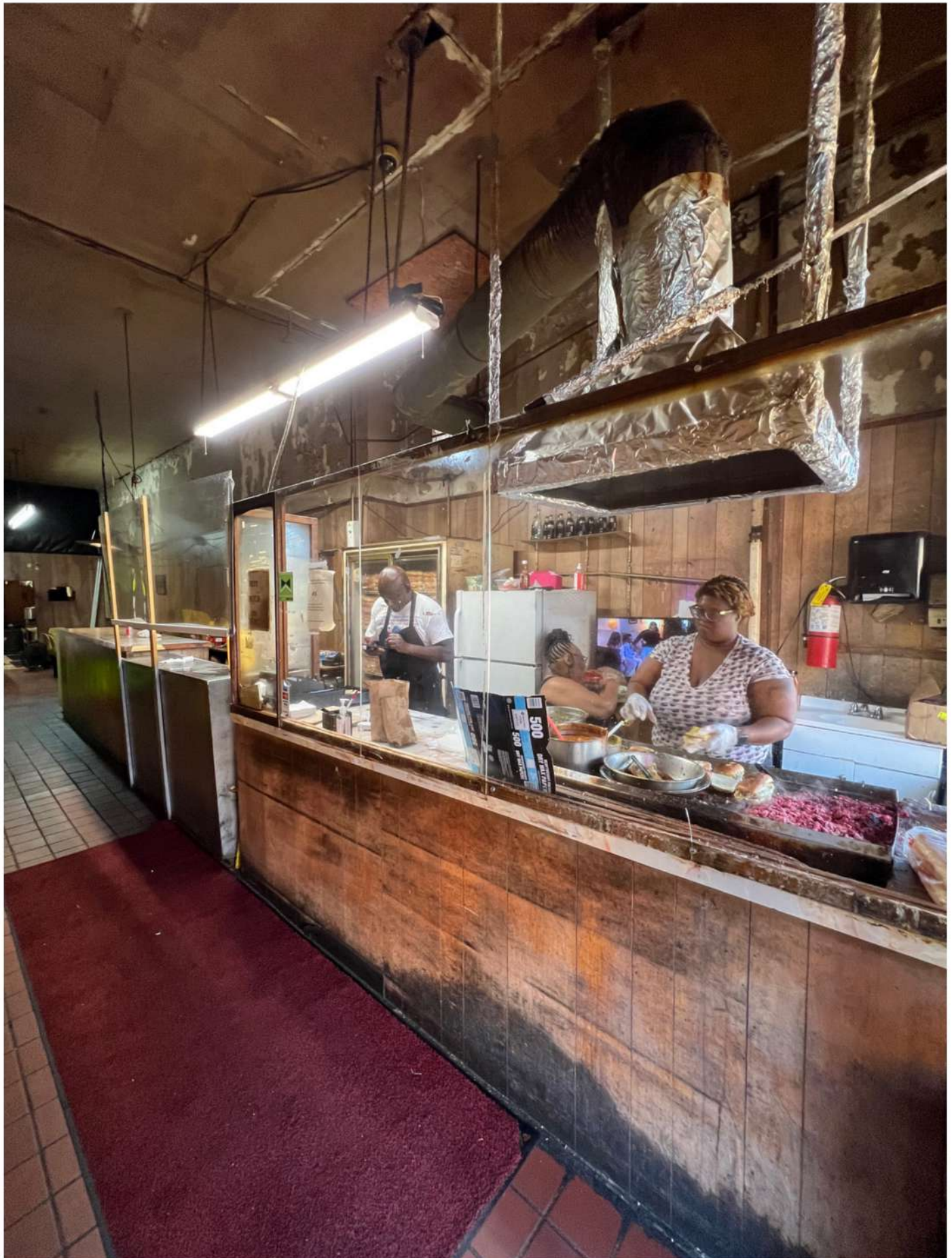
507 North Farish Street Interior Lower Level Commercial Space



**Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space
(Big Apple Inn)**



Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space (Big Apple Inn)



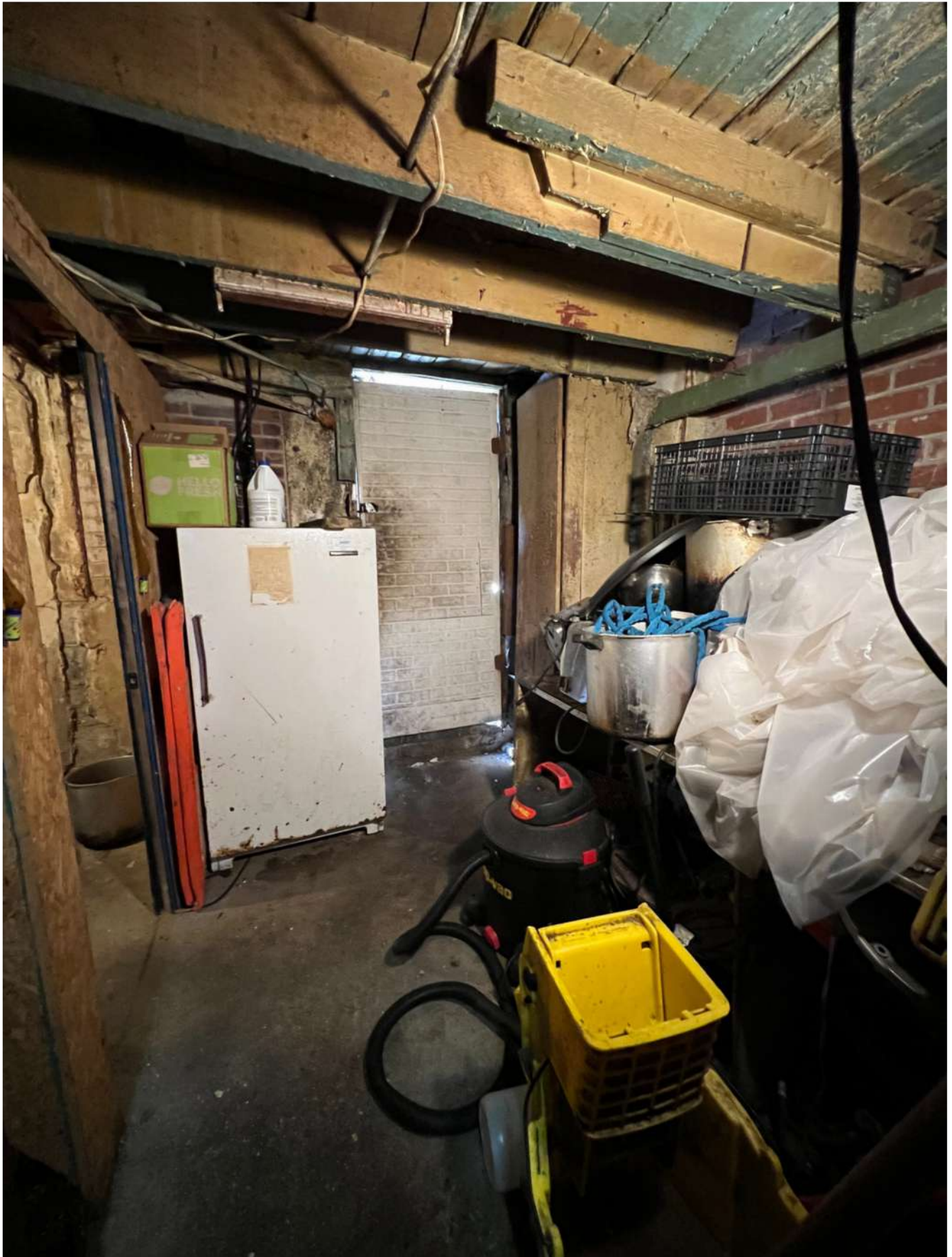
**Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space
(Big Apple Inn)**



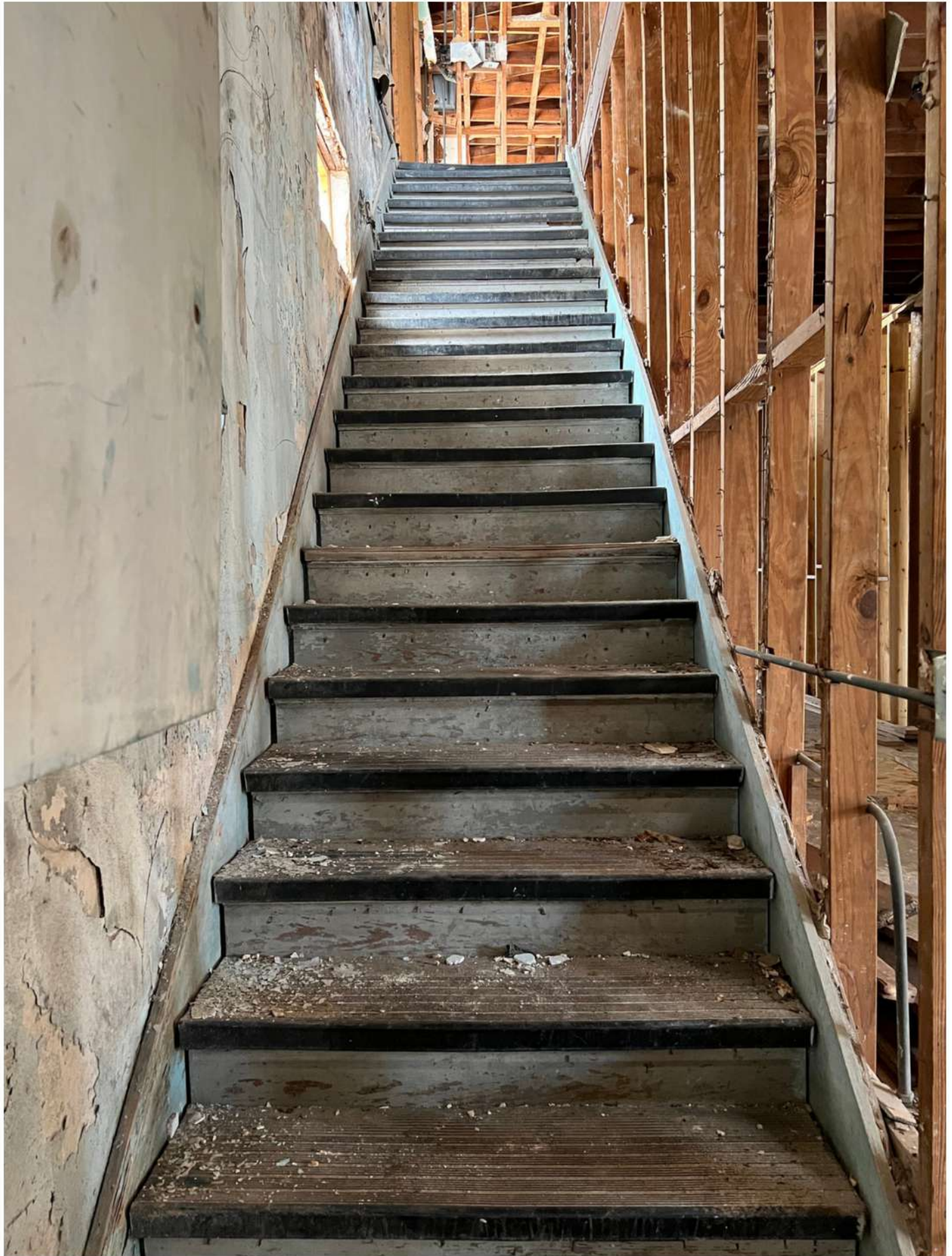
**Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space
(Big Apple Inn)**



**Interior-509 North Farish Street Lower Level Commercial Space
(Big Apple Inn)**



Interior-Stairs leading to Upstairs Space at 507 1/2 North Farish



Interior-Upstairs Hallway Leading From Street Level Staircase



Interior-Spaces 1 & 2 Farish Street Building 2nd Level



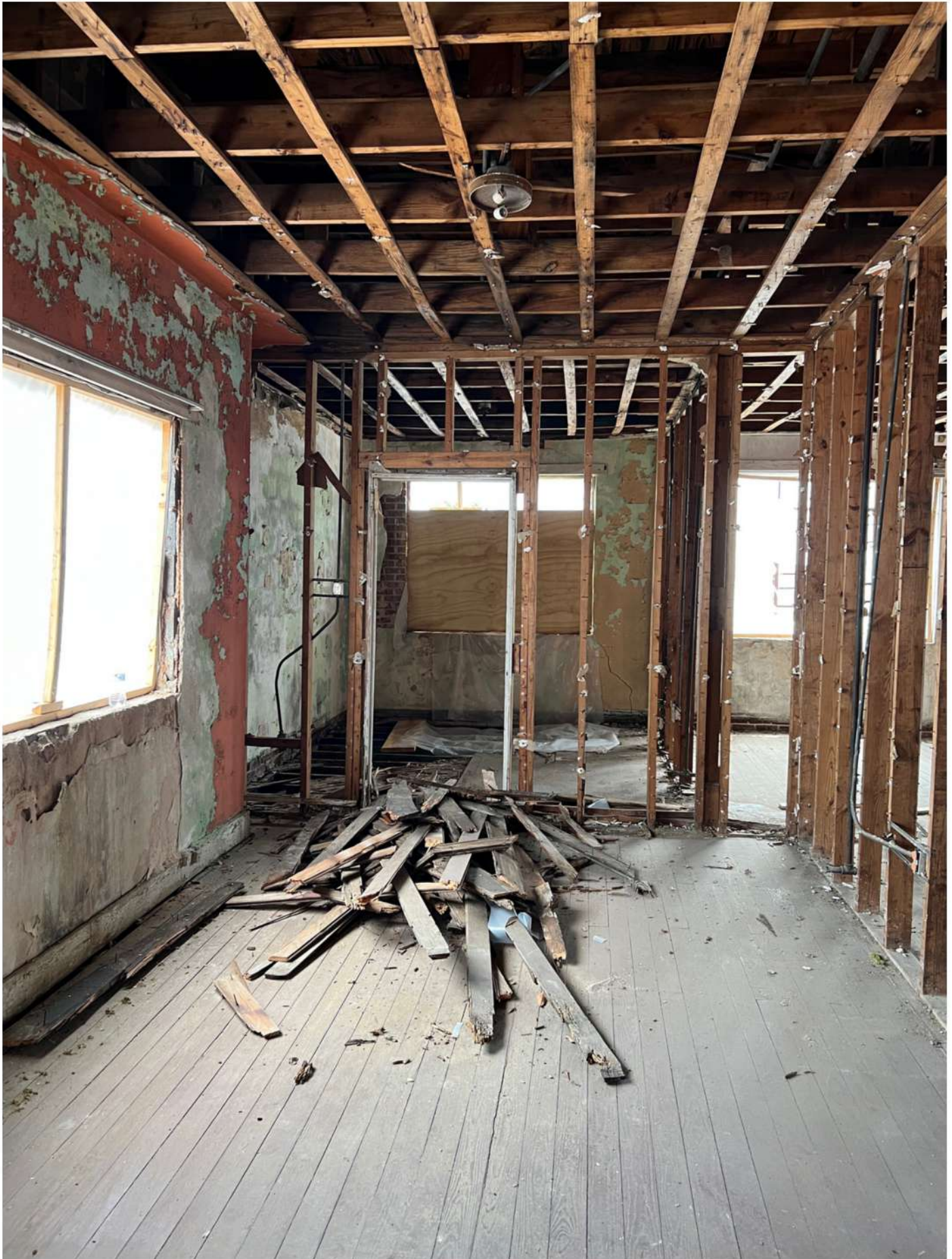
Interior-Spaces 3 & 4 Farish Street Building 2nd Level



Interior-Spaces 5 & 6 Farish Street Building 2nd Level



Interior-Spaces 7 & 8 Farish Street Building 2nd Level



Interior-Second Upstairs Hallway Leading to Eight Additional Spaces



Interior-Space 9 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)



Interior-Space 10 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)



Interior-Space 11 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)



Interior-Space 12 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)



Interior-Space 13 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)



Interior-Space 14 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)



Interior-Space 15 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (YWCA Side)



Interior-Space 16 Farish Street Building 2nd Level (Collins Side)



Rear Elevation of Redmond Building



Structure at Rear of Redmond Building



Structure at Rear of Redmond Building-Interior



Structure at Rear of Redmond Building



Structure at Rear of Redmond Building -Ground Detail

