

Community Engagement Learning Grant:

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Human and Environmental Design

Downtown Mahomet Revitalization

Fall 2011-Mahomet, Illinois

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Historical downtown Mahomet ,Illinois in the late 1800's and today



Preparation for the site visit



Architectural Survey

Downtown Survey – Carter Building

Address: 406 E Main Street

Photo Range: 354, 365, 360

Overall Building

Shape

Rectangular 1:2.7 (width:length) and two story's tall. This is the largest building in the area, but does not overly impose on other buildings along the corridor. The view at the rear of the structure helps calibrate the scale.



Roof

The building has a gable roof with a vertical façade at front and a raised gable roof at the rear.

Openings

The building has two entrances, one at either side of the building. One storefront window is paired with the entrance on the east side of the building.

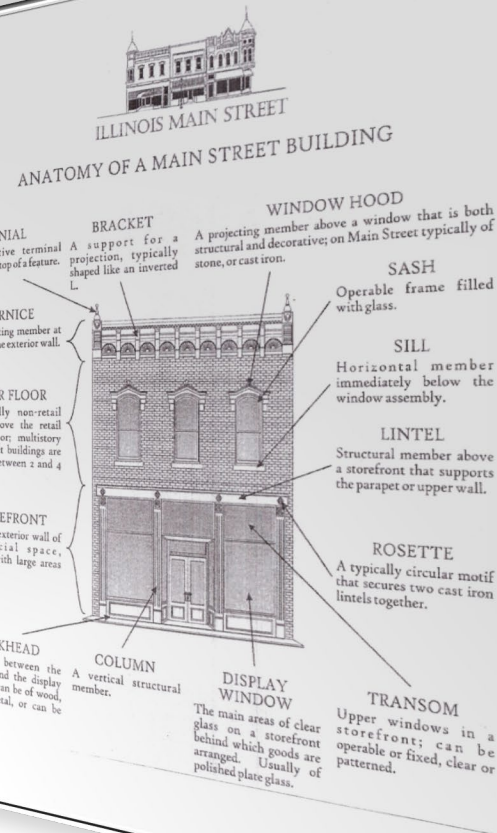
Projections

The structure has two features which provide separation between the first story and second story. The faux shingled roof and second story balcony almost diminish the first floor.

Trim and Secondary Features
The building has a second story balcony and awning with wooden shingles.

Materials

- Brick



Welcome by Mayor Braunig and team



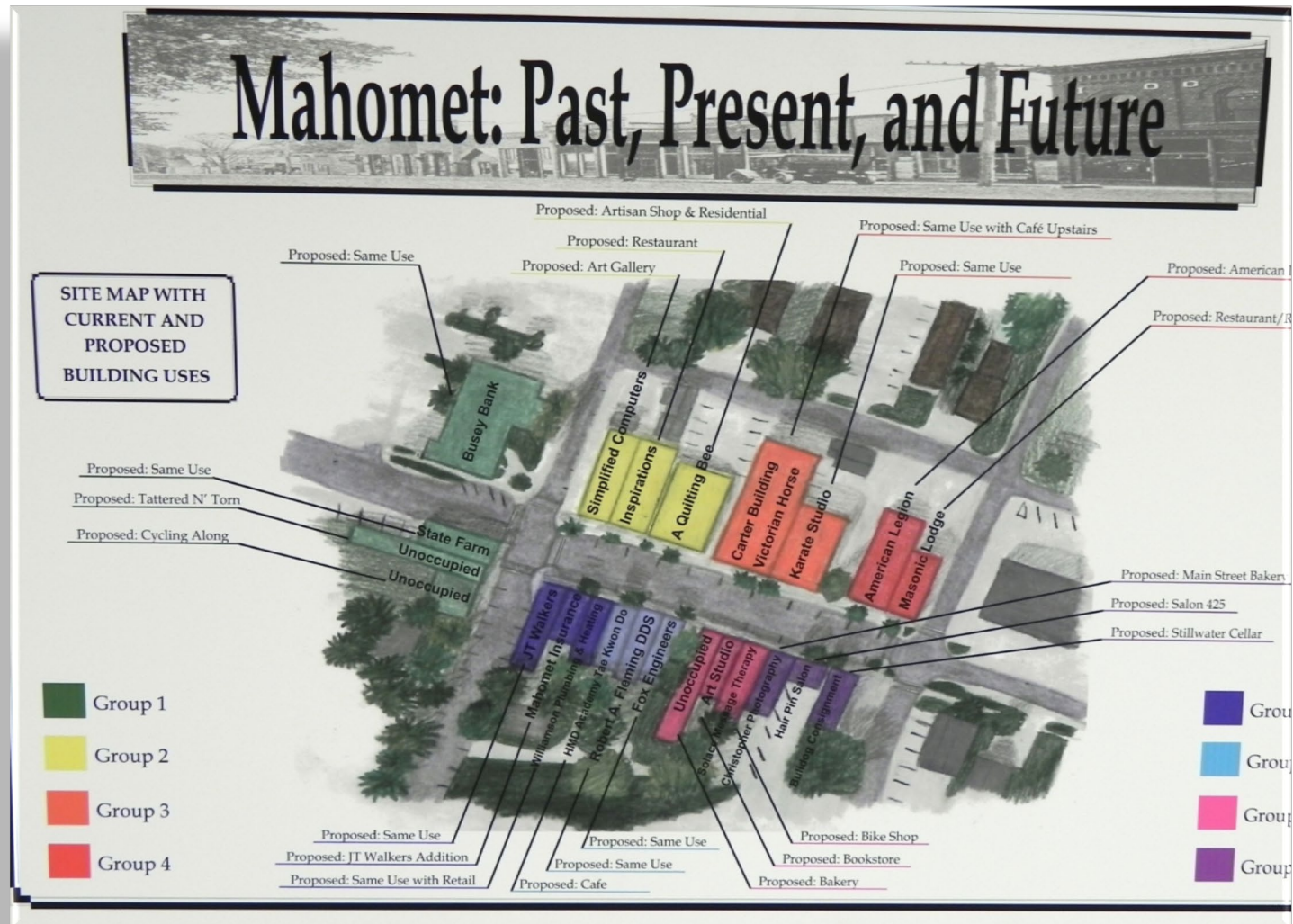
Site visit



Assigned Buildings



Presentation Boards



Presentation Boards



Presentation Boards



Presentation Boards



Presentation Boards

Restoring Downtown Mahomet

408 E. Main

Existing Conditions

The existing structure and layout of the Carter Building demonstrates strong craftsmanship and design. However, wear and tear is prominent from the street, making the building appear dilapidated.

The shape of the building has strong linear characteristics with a multi-level parapet to add height and historical significance to the facade. "The Carter Building" is displayed in forest green shortly below in fading and weathered font, showing that the name has traveled with the building for many years. A line of four windows sits on top of a small balcony showing there is a second floor to the building, with a door leading to the balcony. The windows and door are very simple with no detail or trimmings to draw any attention to these architectural features. The balcony is narrow, leading a viewer to question its functionality. Additionally, the current state of the worn down balcony does not appear to be safe enough for any actual use as well as the much needed paint job making this element look weathered. Under the balcony hangs a rickety shingled awning that has clearly seen its days. The wooden shingles are splintering and coming off of the awning, and the structure itself is in need of significant repair, if not removal, as it is gapping from the Carter Building's main structure.

While it has a purpose to shelter people below, it extends two feet from the balcony that creates an uneven exposure. The red door on the left is not to commercial grade and has chipping paint, almost looking as if it was an afterthought in design and color scheme. A bench sits to the right of the door that has clear purpose to allow people to sit and rest but does not invite anyone with the darkness of the looming awning. Two windows are towards the center of the building, but are two different sizes and off center. Similar to the second story windows, there are no architectural features such as trim or shutters to make the windows look inviting. The door on the right of the building is again not to commercial grade and a random white color that does not coincide with the existing tan brick. The sidewalk in front of the Carter Building clearly shows where the property line of the building and city meet, with the Carter Building's sidewalk popping up and growing weeds, and the city's sidewalk paved evenly and clean. To the side of the Carter Building is a very highly used gravel parking lot that gathers puddles and is uncomfortable to drive and walk on.

Renovation Plan

We were inspired to remodel this building from a restaurant in Wauconda, Illinois, demonstrating columns and a railed balcony. We are planning on keeping the brick facade, just freshening it up with a coat of neutral paint. Color will be brought in through the railings, corner and trim in navy and burgundy. We plan on removing the shingled overhang and utilizing the improved extended balcony as shelter for the people below. A wooden plank sidewalk that carries to the neighboring building will define the space from the public walkway. The layout of the windows and doors will remain the same, but we will change the upper story door to be French doors, and all will be commercial doors. Our group also will suggest paving the gravel parking lot to the side of the building for aesthetics and ease.

410 E. Main

Existing Conditions

The current building appears to have a "western" theme that is out of character with the rest of the traditional downtown area. It gives off a residential feel that confuses patrons as to the purpose of the building.

The top parapet extends disproportionately high from the lower parts of the rest of the building, displaying minimal architectural detail that is only evident when the viewer is close up. The small cornice appears similar to the wood siding therefore blends in. The detail is not scale with the rest of the building, making it difficult to notice from the street. The wood siding on the parapet appears weathered and of a blue-grey that does not match the color schemes of the other downtown buildings. A small sign for the old dance studio hangs centered on the parapet that is too small for the large surface. The roof of the porch hangs approximately half way down the facade, with thick wood shingles. The "western" theme of the building is brought further through the facade with the white porch posts. Banners carry on the white color scheme but do not have much visual impact to the building. The porch itself has the appearance of a wood deck with a ramp allowing accessibility for all persons. Double doors bring patrons onto the building and are visible between the porch posts from the street. Two wooden steps raise the building above the ground and show purpose for the ramp. A row of bushes flank the right half of the building, but there is no shrubbery on the left side of the building. On the right of the building is a gravel parking lot.

Renovation Plan

Our group is planning a significant change to the facade of this building, abolishing the country look and tying traditional aesthetics to blend better with the downtown area and neighboring building. The current tenant owns a karate studio and has a clear vision about her wants for the remodel. We are going to work with some of her ideas while incorporating our own to create a building that she will be happy with but will also be useful to the next renter. We are going to remove the wood paneling and replace it with a beige brick finish, carrying throughout the whole front. The wood shingled overhang has been removed to open up the front facade of the building. We are adding a cornice to the top of the building that matches the Carter Building's to make the two cohesive. Below, we will replace the porch with a wood plank walkway that extends in front of the Carter Building as well. The walkway is divided from the public sidewalk by 2 1/2 foot stone planters. Since the roof will be raised, signage will fit better in the upper area, but will also be made larger so it is proportional to the building and visible from the street. The ramp will be removed because the planned sidewalk from the direction of the Carter Building is on a slight incline so patrons can reach the front of the building even though the front of the building has two steps.






Presentation Boards

MAHOMET RESTORATION

FOX ENGINEERING, AT 411 E. MAIN, WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO A MORE TRADITIONAL "MAIN STREET" BUILDING WITH ATTRACTIVE DETAILS AND RICH COLORS. THE BUILDING WILL GIVE THE FEELING OF PROFESSIONALISM WITH GEOMETRIC LINES IN THE LIGHTING, SIGNAGE, AND WINDOWS. THE COPPER AWNINGS AND DECORATIVE CORNICE WILL GIVE THE BUILDING A WHIMSICAL FEEL, WHICH BRINGS IT BACK TO ITS SMALL TOWN ROOTS. THE EXISTING BAY WINDOWS ARE BEING SWITCHED OUT FOR LARGER, FLAT WINDOWS. THERE WILL BE SMALLER WINDOWS ADDED TO THE UPPER PART OF THE STOREFRONT TO GIVE THE BUILDING SOME HEIGHT AND INTEREST. BELOW THESE WINDOWS WILL BE THE LIGHTING THAT WILL SHINE ON THE "FOX ENGINEERING" SIGN. THE BUILDING HAS A RECESSED ENTRYWAY THAT WILL REMAIN BUT THE FRONT DOOR WILL BE CHANGED TO A MORE HANDSOME, UNIQUE DOOR. THE WALKWAY WILL BE TILED WITH STONE AND THERE WILL BE AN OVERHEAD LIGHT THAT WILL MATCH THE LIGHTS ON THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. THE RENOVATION TO 411 E MAIN WILL BRING THE BUILDING BACK TO ITS SMALL TOWN, "MAIN STREET" ROOTS.

BEFORE



AFTER

COPPER AWNING



BEFORE



411 DOOR



THE DR. ROBERT A. FLEMING DDS OFFICE AT 409 E MAIN ST. IS CURRENTLY A ONE STORY BUILDING THAT WILL BE ALTERED TO APPEAR AS A TWO STORY BUILDING WITH THE USE OF A FAKE SECOND STORY AND TWO WINDOWS. THE FIRST FLOOR WILL KEEP THE MAIN ENTRANCE AS IT IS BUT THE TWO WINDOWS WILL BE REPLACED WITH ONE. LARGE WINDOW THAT WILL ALLOW MORE NATURAL DAYLIGHT INTO THE OFFICE. A NEW SIGN WILL BE PLACED IN BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND STORY WITH ACCENT LIGHTS TO SHOWCASE THE SIGN AT NIGHT. THE SHINGLE OVERHANG WILL BE REPLACED WITH A COPPER OVERHANG THAT WILL RUN THE LENGTH OF THE BUILDING UNDERNEATH THE SIGN. THE COPPER WILL ACCENT THE PAINTED BRICK FAÇADE WHICH WILL BE PAINTED A DEEP RED COLOR. THE CORNICE WILL BE DETAILED TO MATCH THE WINDOW HOODS ON THE SECOND STORY. THE LIGHT POST THAT IS CURRENTLY IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING WILL BE MOVED TO THE EAST AND WILL BE POSITIONED IN BETWEEN THE ADJACENT BUILDING AND 409 E MAIN ST. RESTORING THIS BUILDING WILL MAKE THIS OFFICE A MORE INVITING PLACE FOR PATIENTS AND MAHOMET CITIZENS.



AFTER

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



THE EXTERIOR OF 407 E MAIN STREET WILL BE VERY INVITING AND FRIENDLY, A BIG CHANGE FROM WHAT IT WAS. INSTEAD OF EXTENDING THE BUILDING OUT TO MAKE IT EVEN WITH THE OTHERS, TO AVOID AWKWARD CORNERS, THERE WILL BE A PATIO ADDED FOR TABLES AT THE CAFÉ. THERE WILL BE A LOT OF HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL LINES, FROM THE FLOWER BOX FENCE TO THE WOODEN PERGOLA MOUNTED ABOVE THE EATING AREA. THE PATIO WILL BE PERFECTLY SYMMETRICAL HAVING ONE OR TWO TABLES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAFÉ. THERE WILL ALSO BE SOME COLOR ADDED TO THE FACADE, THE BUILDING WILL BE PAINTED A BEIGE COLOR THAT WILL CONTRAST NICEY WITH THE NATURAL TAN STONE THAT WILL BE USED FOR THE PATIO GROUND. ALONG WITH THAT, BLACK DETAILED WINDOW FRAMES WILL BE ADDED TO CONTINUE WITH THE CONTRASTING OF COLORS.

WOOD PARABOLA



AFTER



ANGLED VIEW OF BUILDINGS



CAFÉ PERSPECTIVE

RESTORATION BY JACOB JENSEN

Kathrina Rice, Sarah Wood, Kate Ramsey

Results:

- Eight Mahomet Village officials traveled to ISU for the final presentations.
- The Mahomet team was very impressed by the students work. The officials noted the student's passion for their field and toward making Mahomet a more inspirational town.
- Our story was featured in two additions of the area newspaper.
- Student feedback was very positive, they enjoyed being part of a community effort. They also enjoyed learning more about historical restoration as well as designing for economic growth and community development.
- With the grant money we were able to give our guest lecturer a small stipend to pay for his traveling expenses. We also had a small reception for the Mahomet officials with cookies and punch.