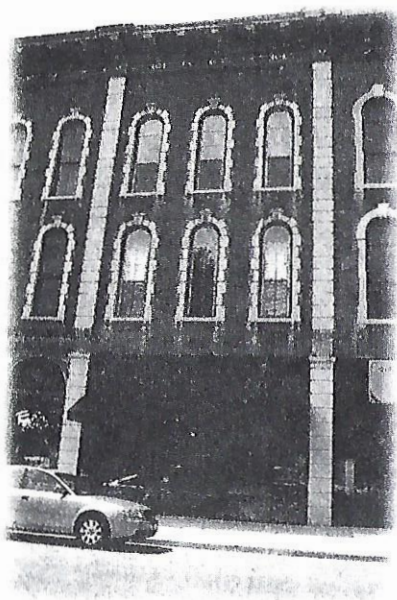




117 North 4th Street
Italianate Style • circa 1867
James Pitman Building

The building that now houses Celia's Gifts and More is known as the James Pitman Building. The building is one of the intact segments of the Union Block (1865-7) constructed in the post Civil War rebuilding of Washington Park.

James Pitman was Mayor of Quincy from 1854-6. Pittman arrived in Quincy at age 22 and operated a sawmill. In 1844 he was elected sheriff and held that position until 1848. At that time he went into the lumber business with Amos Green, Esq. In 1850 he became a State Representative for this area and was able to obtain a charter for the gas company, the Mississippi River Bridge and the charter under which the CB&Q Railroad was built. In 1858 -67 Pitman served as Warden of the State Penitentiary. He returned to Quincy in 1867 and once again became mayor for one year. Pitman also speculated in real estate and his building was built during that time. The building housed the Samuel Seger and Sons, wholesale grocers for many years. The Quincy Morning Whig also occupied the building along with Economy Furniture.

The building is a fine example of Commercial Italianate architecture. The entablature of the building has a detailed cornice with dentils and elaborate brackets. The horizontal loops under the brackets continue along with the cornice across the adjoining buildings giving them a unified appearance along with the matching pilasters. The tall narrow arched windows are surrounded by rusticated window surrounds with keystone.

Celia's has become a favorite shopping spot for local residents and visitors coming through town. Through its façade program, Quincy Preserves assisted Celia's with the restoration of the front windows on the second and third stories. The second story is also the owner's loft apartment, and tour participants are allowed behind closed doors today as part of the tour.

Behind Closed Doors