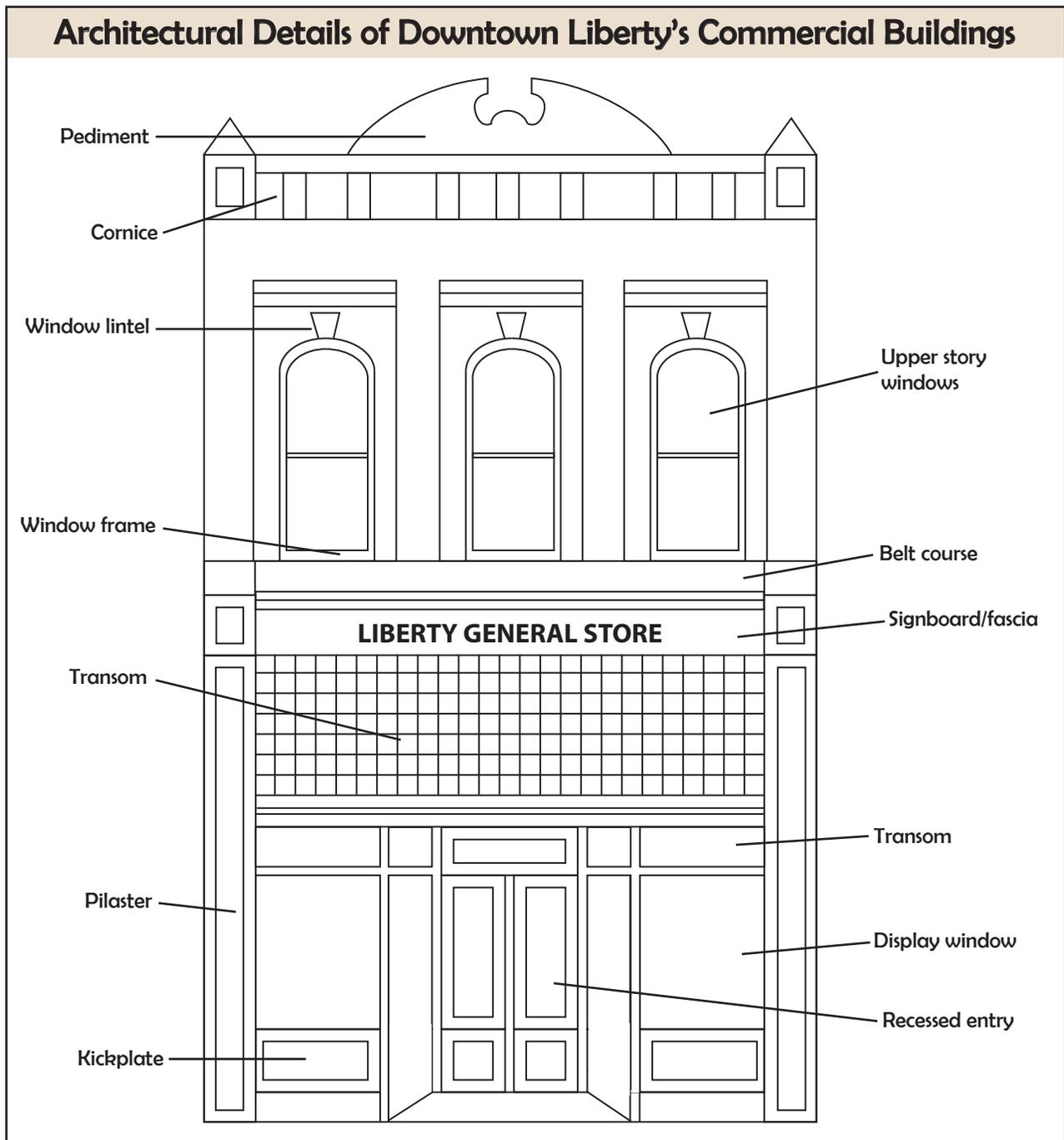


# DESIGN IN THE LIBERTY SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The entire downtown Liberty Square is designated as a local historic district. Many of the buildings, which date from about 1875, have retained much of their historic integrity. Most of the buildings have features associated with traditional commercial designs. Ground level floors of the buildings are oriented to pedestrians, with large display windows designed to showcase the merchandise and services offered for sale inside. Recessed entries are common, and transom windows above the door and display windows let in natural light. A horizontal band of molding is commonly found separating the ground floor from the upper floors, and the roofline is often capped with a decorative cornice. In Liberty, most commercial buildings are two stories, although there are a few exceptions.



## DESIGN IN THE LIBERTY SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The sensitive rehabilitation of historic storefronts will not only enhance the architectural character of the building, but will contribute to the historic character of the downtown business district as well.

### Recommended

- Whenever possible, preserve windows, sashes, doors, transoms, signs, and decorative features in order to retain the historic character of the building.
  - Maintain the size, shape and placement of original openings.
  - Where an original or early storefront no longer exists or is too deteriorated to save, the commercial character of the building should, nonetheless, be preserved – either through an accurate restoration based on historic research and physical evidence, or a contemporary design that is compatible in scale, design, materials, color, and texture of the historic building.
  - Scale: Respect the scale and proportion of the existing building design.
  - Materials: Select materials that are appropriate to the storefronts; wood, cast iron, and glass are usually appropriate replacement materials.
  - Cornice: Respect the horizontal separation between the storefront and the upper stories. A cornice or fascia board traditionally contained the store's sign.
  - Frame: Maintain the historic planar relationship of the storefront to the facade of the building and the streetscape. Most storefront frames are generally composed of horizontal and vertical elements.
  - Entrances: Differentiate the primary retail entrance from the secondary access to upper floors. In order to meet current code requirements, out-swinging doors generally must be recessed. Place entrances where there were entrances historically, especially when echoed by architectural detailing (a pediment or projecting bay) on the upper stories.
  - Windows: Keep the storefront as transparent as possible. Use of glass in doors, transoms, and display areas allows for visibility into and out of the store.
  - Secondary Design Elements: Keep the treatment of secondary design elements such as graphics and awnings as simple as possible in order to avoid visual clutter to the building and its streetscape.
- (From: U.S. Department of the Interior. Preservation Briefs #11. *Rehabilitating Historic Storefronts*, by H. Ward Jandl.)



These are three of the oldest commercial buildings on the square and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.