



Union Block - Richland County History Room photo.



Union Block, 100-124 North Main Street - 1892, 1911.

Visually evident in Richland Center in the 1890s, classical design sources were used in a rather vernacular manner in the Union Block at 110 North Main Street. (Vernacular: Indicative of a structure not formally designed by an architect. Usually simple, and may exhibit ornamentation suggestive of a particular style, but does not otherwise conform to the pattern typical of that style). Built in 1892 as investment property for W.H. Pier and Mrs. Laura McCarthy, the Union Block exhibits various cornices, a parapet above a simple cornice, elevations divided by applied brick pilasters, and a classical frontpiece comprised by a triangular pediment by capped pilasters on the Main Street façade, all of which are associated with classical architecture. Among the best preserved of the large commercial blocks in Richland Center, the Union Block is one of the few commercial buildings retaining the iron columns, capped brick piers and classical frontpiece of its original storefront. The site of the Wolf Shoe Store for many years, the Union Block's ownership was divided when the north one-third was sold before the turn of the century for a drug store to the Dieter Brothers who had an addition built in a similar style in 1911. The interior of the Dieter Brother's addition still has many of its original design features intact such as the entry doors, tin ceiling, wood floors and shelving.



Richland County History Room photos.



Looking north on Main Street - Richland County History Room photo.

The Honor Day held in Richland Center on July 7, 1919, was a celebration of the return of the local Doughboys who had served in the Great War. The whole town was decorated with flags and banners; a large parade was held along with numerous speeches witnessed by huge crowds of Richland County citizens.