

6. 235 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (1859) John Borger / Henry Meirose (Meyrose) Building

Much like the Salentine Building this building historically was divided between two owners. The north 20 feet consists of three bays while the south 30 feet consists of four bays. Tax rolls from 1858 show no improvements on the property except for the west 20 feet on which was a dwelling in the early years. In 1859 the North 20 feet showed an improvement of \$1000 while the south 30 feet showed improvements of \$1200. We know from city directories that John Borger occupied the north part of the building as of 1859 and had a fancy dry goods store on the premises. His ownership continued into the 1870s. Henry J. Millmann followed into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The south part of the building was owned/occupied by Henry Meirose (sometimes Meyrose) from at least 1868 through the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century or longer. The upper floor held a rental hall. To quote from the National Register nomination: "As an important example of pre-Civil War architecture, it evokes the post and lintel construction of the Greek Revival with its rectilinear form, restrained facades and stone lintels incised with compressed ogee arches. It is a substantial block that is sited at the northwest corners of South Second and West Oregon Streets. It is four stories high, seven bays wide, nine bays long and clad with cream brick [actually solid masonry]. Across the top is simple saw tooth corbelling." The use of corbeled masonry at the top of the building was a feature of these early years and would later make way for the less expensive sheet metal cornices that would be produced in Milwaukee's burgeoning metal shops.

Drake Brothers, a pharmacy company, occupied the south part of the building for a number of years in addition to other locations.