

# The May Brothers Building



Established 1881



In 1868 Joseph T May, the youngest of four brothers, ventured to Fremont from his home in Ohio. While barely in his 20's, he started a small grocery store called 'Staples and Fancy' on the intersection of 6th & Broad streets. A year later his brothers, Jacob and William joined him in the adventure. His last brother, Charles, eventually joined them in Fremont as well. Soon the brothers took this small grocery and turned it into the 'May Brothers Wholesale Grocery' company. The store became known regionally for providing food and goods to Westward travelers and pioneers settling in the area.



In 1881 the May brothers moved their enterprise to 6th & F Street (Park Ave) and built a 3-story brick building. In the beginning, the business was known as 'May Brother Jobbing Grocers'. Jobbing refers to the practice of buying in bulk and then repackaging and selling to retailers. That practice eventually ended and they became true 'wholesalers'. Business was going very well for the brothers, so much so that in 1885, they built a second brick three-story building behind and adjacent to the first building. The two buildings form an 'L' shape with the East wing going all the way to the alley.



In 1890 Joseph sold his share of the May Brothers Grocery to his brothers and entered into the banking industry. He became Vice President of Fremont National Bank and President of First National Bank of Arlington and was an officer among many banks in the area. In 1891, he was the founder of the Nebraska Building & Loan Association, located in the building currently occupied by Don Peterson Realty. In 1920, the May Brothers Grocery was sold to H.P. Lou in Lincoln Nebraska. The Fremont operation was moved to a building located at 2nd & Park.

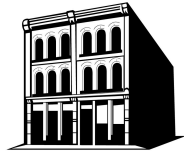


In 1920 John Petrow purchased the building from the May brothers. Petrow was responsible for the major renovation work done to combine the two buildings. Petrow converted the second-floor warehouse space into luxury office space. In 1928, Petrow landed Kresge's, a five-and-dime store, as a tenant that would remain in the building for the next 40 years. Petrow also used some of the building as his office for the candy business he had on Main St. In 1969 when KMart, the successor of Kresge's, came to town, the building became home to Jupiter, a discount store, until 1973.



In 2014, Glen and Nancy Ellis purchased the building and started major renovations. In May of 2017, Milady Coffeehouse opened its doors. The name comes from the brand of coffee that the May brothers sold within the same walls some 130 years ago. The coffeehouse and venue provide a space for community gatherings. The East Wing Venue offers the perfect place to hold that party, family reunion, or social gathering. The May Brothers Building is a perfect example of a truly renovated multi-use building, with the Milady Coffeehouse and the East Wing Venue anchoring the first floor, the Next Level business offices on the second floor, and the third floor offering the Top of the May apartments. Eat, work, and sleep all in the same building.

# The May Brothers Building



Re-Established 2014



## Milady Coffeehouse

The Milady Coffeehouse occupies the first floor of the May Brothers Building and offers a massive gathering space with hard and soft seating, 17' ceilings, and many original architectural details. It is 'the' spot to spend the morning catching up with friends and family, or finding a comfortable chair for the day and finishing that book. The Milady Coffeehouse offers many coffee and non-coffee drinks a variety of fresh pastries and a light lunch menu.



## East Wing Venue

The newly established East Wing Venue within the May Brothers Building continues with the authentic feel of the 140-year-old building with a touch of contemporary. This space is ideal for larger birthday parties, graduation parties, smaller weddings, and general overall receptions. A catering kitchen is available for use at the back of the venue.



## Next Level

The second floor of the May Brothers Building is currently in the middle of a project to renovate the 1920s office spaces into an entrepreneurial center for Fremont. We've created a community for small business founders, remote workers, startups, and freelancers to collaborate and get things done. Rent a micro-office, a studio, or an office suite and become a member of this encouraging community.



## Top of the May

The third floor is an empty canvas waiting to become home to several Fremonters apartments. With beautiful views of Fremont's downtown skyline and access to a private rooftop greenspace, the Top of the May will be the premier place to live in Historic Downtown Fremont.