



Democrat and Chronicle/Kevin Higley

The roof of the former Carriage Stop restaurant is crinkled by fire that hit the West Henrietta Road building.

Former restaurant building damaged

West Henrietta Road blaze is investigated

By GARY GEREW

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A fire early yesterday damaged the upper floor and roof of the former Carriage Stop restaurant on West Henrietta Road.

The fire apparently started in a second-floor bar area, said Investigator Michael Fantigrossi of the Monroe County district attorney's office, and then spread quickly into the third floor. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, Fantigrossi said.

The fire was discovered about 5:10 a.m. by a passing motorist who said smoke coming from the building at 5393 W. Henrietta Road made it impossible for him to see across the street, Fantigrossi said. Firefighters spent the next three hours bringing the blaze under control.

"The third-floor had quite a few blind alleys and false ceilings that made it difficult to put out the fire," said Henrietta Fire Battalion Chief Dennis Zavitz. "Most of the damage was there, although the first two floors did have smoke and water damage. There doesn't seem to be any structural damage that would re-

quire them to tear the building down."

The original cobblestone and wood building was put up about 1830 and used as workshop for shoeing animals and making wagons.

The building was later used as a sawmill and farm tool factory. The Carriage Stop restaurant opened there in 1968 after the owners remodeled what had been a gas station.

The Carriage Stop closed in 1980 and was reopened as Tidbits, a country-rock nightclub. The nightclub drew the ire of nearby residents who complained about noise and litter.

The Henrietta Town Board refused to grant the club a necessary operating permit, but was later ordered to do so by state Supreme Court Justice Richard D. Rosenbloom.

The club's name was recently changed to Mister D's. Daniele DiIulio, owner of the nightclub, said the third-floor was used for storage. "We had tables, chairs and items like that up there," DiIulio said.

DiIulio said he had no estimate yesterday afternoon of the fire's damage. DiIulio said the building itself is owned by Ray Hylan and Gus Werner of Wilcox Street.