



Kondoff's Music Store

After WWII, Vangel Kondoff retired from the shoeshine and shoe repair business. The family then opened the Kondoff Music Store run by Chris and his mother, Evangelia. Kondoff's was the place to get the latest hit records during the 40s, 50s, and 60s. They had everything from the top 45s to LP vinyl—all from an exhausting array of artists in every category: big bands, blues, jazz, gospel, Christmas, classic rock.

Chris and Evangelia decided to end their more than 30-year downtown Miamisburg business in 1971. Chris left the showroom exactly the way it was. On the last day, he locked the doors and hung paper in the windows—leaving everything intact, all the original 50,000 to 60,000 45s and LPs. Thousands of Billboards, Record Worlds, Cashboxes, and other lesser-known industry magazines of the '50s, '60s and '70s remained, a complete history of the evolution of music from the pre-rock-n-roll 1940s to the hard rock 1970s.

A young Scottish man named John Anderson, obsessed with soul music and all it stood for, came to the US in search of his favorite records in 1968. He also heard the family's story and that there was a "huge amount of vinyl" inside. Anderson came back every year during the 1970s, but the answer was always the same: "no record sales." In 2009 John Anderson bought most of the items on display and were auctioned off at the Austin Record Convention. The "Last Record Store" made a final sale.

A mural in downtown Miamisburg pays tribute to building's record store past. "The Last Record Store in America" is an artwork that covers the side of the building at 72 S. Main St. It pays tribute to the building's past when it was Kondoff's Records, a shop that sold vinyl records and music publications in the 1950s and 1960s before it closed in 1970.



Visit these sites for additional details:

History of Kondoff's Music Store:
<https://www.historicalmiamisburg.org/star-city-stories>

Story of *The Record Store* mural:
<https://thelastrecordstore.org/>

