

THOMAS EARL HOUSE

1840

415 North Main

This three-bay red brick "gable-fronter" type Greek Revival house has been exceptionally well preserved. Solidly proportioned and white painted crown moldings, cornices and returns give visual emphasis to the roof edges. Door surrounds include sidelights and transom. On each floor the window treatments are different. The first floor windows are capped by entablature moldings, while those on the second floor are crowned with shaped lintels, and the attic window resides under a flat stone lintel. Eighteen inch thick walls filled with crushed brick and the stone "Michigan basement" are notable construction features, while the bold, strong planes of the interior wood moldings of the doors and windows emphasize the nineteenth-century feeling of the rooms. The only significant modification to the facade is the Colonial Revival style porch with rounded and tapered columns set high on square piers between which run a picketed balustrade.

Thomas Earl, born in Ireland in 1810, immigrated to the Ann Arbor area in 1833. He immediately purchased 200 acres of land in Northfield Township, and in a few months he married Mary Duncan. An ambitious man, he rapidly accumulated a fortune and took an active part in the political life of the township. In 1840, saddened by the death of their young daughter, the Earls moved into the city.

Earl, who became a merchant, planned to conduct his business in his newly built home on Main Street at Kingsley, supposing that the business district would develop northward to connect the original settlement at Huron and Main with the newer area developing across the river on Broadway. But "Lower Town" failed to prosper as a commercial center, and growth shifted eastward toward the new University of Michigan campus. The home remained Earl's private dwelling and he located his general store several blocks to the south. Mary Earl survived her husband by many years, living to be a very old woman and providing her own subsistence by raising fowl and keeping a good garden. It is said that she sometimes sheltered her geese in the third floor of the house. At her death in 1899 she bequeathed the house to St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Fred Schaible bought the house at auction the following year for \$1,300. In 1910 he borrowed \$500 to renovate the badly run down structure. With a family of four children and a wife, and at a wage of \$6 a week, this was considered a major loan, but with it he was able to install a bathroom, a new furnace, hardwood floors, gas pipes, electric wiring, and new chandeliers which could be used with either gas or electricity.

The present owner, Lucille Schaible Schmid, came to live in the house with her parents shortly after her birth in 1900. When Lucille married Harry Schmid they continued to live in the family home. Mrs. Schmid still has the pewter number "57", which identified the house until the street numbering system was changed in 1897.

References:

Ann Arbor City Directories

Interview with Lucille Schaible Schmidt, 1976.



GLAZIER BUILDING 1906

100 S. Main Street

In the 1890's the development of the steel frame building coupled with the perfecting of the passenger elevator by Elisha Otis caused a change in the skyline of many American cities. Impressive office buildings of ten or fifteen floors were erected, and even medium sized cities strove for the metropolitan image which resulted from their construction.

Ann Arbor, however, was not a burgeoning commercial center, but a quiet university town whose business interests were dominated by unpretentious Germans who seldom affected the grand style. Not until 1906 was the city's first tall office building erected, and only then because of a very ambitious businessman from out of town.

Frank P. Glazier had developed his father's small iron foundry in Chelsea, Michigan into a prosperous stove factory. But one local historian noted that Glazier had a "lust for power"¹ -- a lust which eventually corrupted him and caused his downfall. Glazier established a political power base in Chelsea by becoming State Treasurer in 1906, and his dream was to be Governor. In order to influence and control area Republicans he started his own newspaper, the Ann Arbor News, in nearby Ann Arbor. In the same year he began construction of a new building in Ann Arbor, to be known as the Glazier Building. It was a grand 7-story structure with red brick exterior, fluted columns, rosettes, garlands over the windows and an elaborate cornice (recently removed). In the election of 1906, however, the Democrats noted that Glazier as State Treasurer had deposited state funds in his own bank in Chelsea and had used them to construct his Glazier Building in Ann Arbor. By 1907 Glazier was convicted of embezzling state funds and lost everything.

After Glazier was jailed the First National Bank moved into the building and stayed there until 1929, when it built the city's second skyscraper (see 201 S. Main). Since 1929 the Glazier Building has been occupied by another venerable local institution, the Ann Arbor Trust (now known as Citizen's Trust). The upper floors have housed a variety of law and medical offices, while the ground floor has remained in use as a bank for almost all of the building's existence.

¹ Doll, Louis, *History of the Newspapers of Ann Arbor*, Wayne State University, 1959.

References:

Much of this information is from an article in the *Ann Arbor Observer*, March 1977.



575

BANK BUILDING (GOODYEAR'S) 1867

118-124 S. Main Street

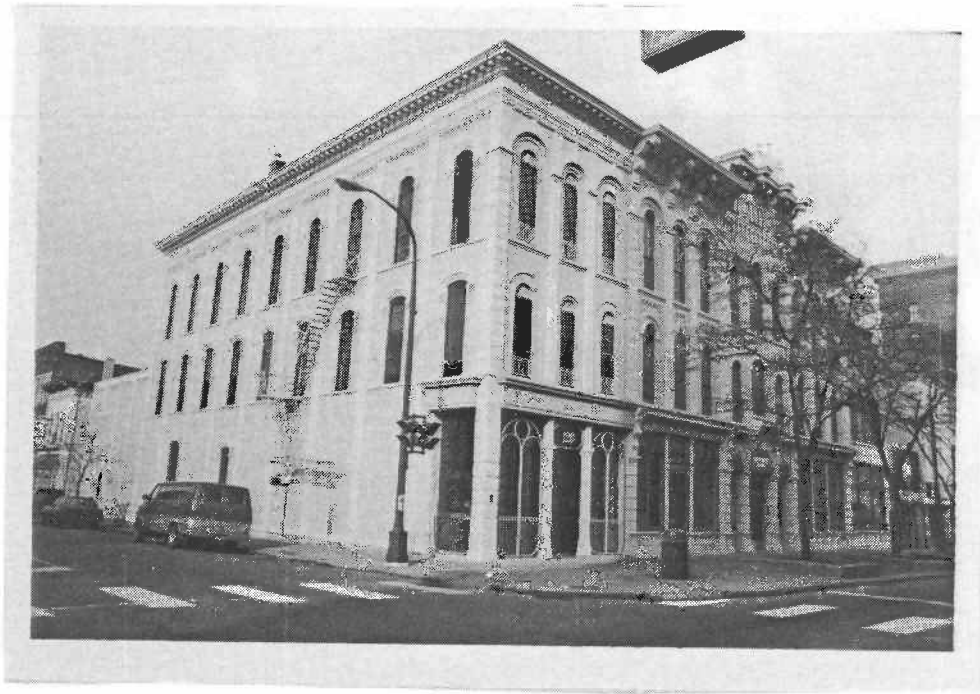
Shortly after "The Bank Building" opened in 1867 it was described as having "... a freestone front, in which are large and elegant stores, and the First National Bank."¹ At the time it was seen as one of the new buildings which showed "... the magnitude and growing importance of this inland city."² An 1867 photograph visually illustrates this importance. On it can be seen the building's elaborate Gothic facade in its central portion, which was intended to draw attention to the primary tenant, the bank. The pointed-arch windows and arched doorways are also in marked contrast to the buildings flanking it, which have facades in the more common Italianate style of the period. A very elaborate pinnacled cornice topped the bank's portion of the building, adding again to its visual domination on Main Street. This was appropriate, since the First National Bank had the distinction of being the first federally chartered bank in Michigan and only the 22nd in the United States.³ In addition to the bank, the other known tenants included the Wines and Worden Dry Goods Store, The Phoenix Insurance Company, G.A. Gilbert, a merchant tailor, Philip Bach's Dry Goods Shop and a Business College (see also the history for 126 S. Main St.)

The building was known throughout most of its history, however, as the Goodyear's Building. In 1888 William Goodyear and Bruno St. James founded their retail business that was to stay and expand in this location until 1983, only five years short of the business's centennial. Initially Goodyear's (known then as Goodyear and St. James) occupied only one of the four storefronts, but after World War II it expanded into all but the most southern portion of the building. As such, Goodyear's was a primary retail anchor for the central business district. Its closure in 1983 by the State for non-payment of taxes was a blow to downtown retail trade in general. Yet in 1984, spurred by tax credits and the goodwill of the community, developers undertook an authentic restoration of the building, with the restoration design based on the original 1867 photograph as a guide. The only portion not restored to the original design was 118 S. Main, which had been changed to a Tapestry Brick facade style in 1920.

1 *Ann Arbor City Directory*, 1872: p. 11.

2 *Ibid*: p. 12.

3 *Ann Arbor News*, June 28, 1963.



126 South Main Street

A photograph taken in 1867 pictures this impressive Italianate block, built earlier in that year for Philip Bach's dry goods business at an expense of \$20,000. "Prices were quite high at the time and a single staircase cost \$500" a later historian recalled. The photo shows the original wide flat cornice supported by ornate Italianate brackets. The name, Philip Bach, is over the awning, and a large "Business College" sign above the cornice indicates the use of the third floor.

Bach formed a partnership with Peter H. Abel in 1867. Some years later the firm became Bach and Roath. Around the turn of the century Bruno St. James Jr. left the firm of Goodyear and St. James to purchase the store, and hired Miss Bertha E. Muehlig as the bookkeeper for the new firm. She took over management of the business in 1911, and in 1924 she became the owner of the building as well as the business, continuing to do the bookkeeping as before. It was known as B.E. Muehlig, Inc from 1911 until 1981.

Bertha's paternal grandparents emigrated from Germany in 1840. A devoutly religious family, they were part of the early Lutheran congregation led by the Reverend Frederick Schmid. Bertha was certainly a successful business woman but she was even better known for her readiness to provide food and clothing for those struck by misfortune. She became a special patron of the Patrick Donovan School on Wall Street, where the pupils did not have the normal advantages. When the Donovan School was replaced by the new Northside School, she donated dining room furniture, a silver tea service, and an aquarium. Each year she sent the children candy at Christmas time and pencils on Valentine's Day. A friend also of the ladies at the Anna Botsford Bach Home of Liberty Street, she remembered the residents' birthdays and provided many necessities.

Bertha Muehlig received many honors in recognition of her services to the people of Ann Arbor. After her death several local businessmen invested in the store, continuing the business as before and perpetuating the name of this kind and generous woman.

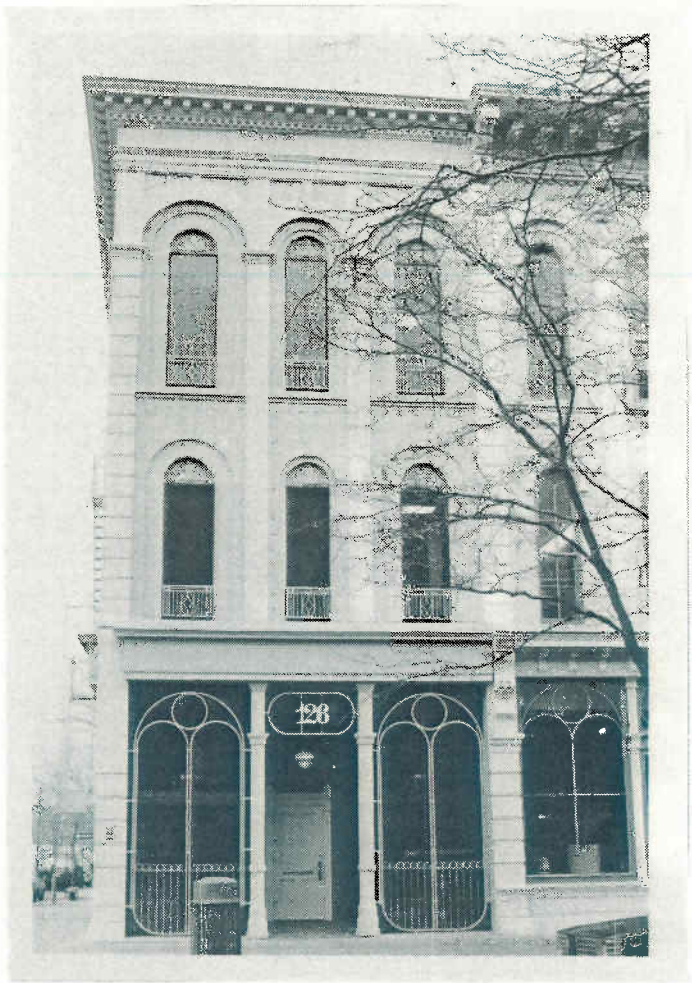
In 1975 it received a historical marker from the Historic District Commission and the owners received a Bicentennial Award in 1976 as an example of preservation through private initiative. In 1981 the law firm of Hooper, Hathaway, Price, Beuche and Wallace purchased the building for its legal offices. The building was renovated inside and out, with many windows being unblocked and an iron entry created to mimic the original 1867 storefront.

References:

Ann Arbor Architecture, 1974, p. 94.

Ann Arbor News, January 26, 1963.

History of Washtenaw County, 1881.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING 1927-30

201 South Main Street

Occupying a prominent corner on Main Street in the heart of Ann Arbor's central business district, the First National Bank Building was constructed between 1927 and 1930. A steel-frame office block, the building consists of units at three different heights. It consists of a ten-story tower and subsidiary two and five-story side and rear sections. The principle facades are sheathed in light colored terra cotta and exhibit a restrained and elegant Romanesque decorative scheme. The northern portion was completed in 1929, the southern in 1930.

Architect Paul Kasurin (of the firm Fry and Kasurin of Ann Arbor) described the exterior in 1929 - "The richness of the terra cotta is accentuated by the polychrome ornament about the main entrance, in the spandrels between the windows of the third and fourth floors and again in the upper part of the building."¹ The broad vertical bands of terra cotta and the banks of narrow windows separated by thin terra cotta mullions give the building strong vertical lines. Gargoyles are mounted immediately below a decorative roof cornice.

When the bank opened on February 19, 1929 a special edition of the *Ann Arbor Daily News* honored the opening as a proud symbol of the prosperous city of the 1920's. Most of the 85 original stockholders were residents of Washtenaw County. Originally, floodlights of 1000 watts illuminated the tower and the gargoyles, making it a focal point of the city and subject of a widely circulated picture postcard.

The First National Bank was the first bank chartered in Michigan under the National Bank Act of 1863. After occupying buildings at 120-124 S. Main and 100 S. Main, the bank moved to the first floor of this building in 1929. The safety of its vaults and the security of its system were advertised far and wide. The Crash came in October of that year and in 1935, during the depths of the depression, the bank merged with two others to form the Ann Arbor Bank (now First of America of Ann Arbor).

When it opened, the bank's customer lobby occupied the corner. One entered through "...an arched entrance with elaborately grilled glass,... through a marble vestibule, protected by massive iron grilles of Romanesque design, into the banking room, two full stories in height."² The lobby entrance for the remaining offices was also sumptuously appointed, "...finished with black terrazzo floor, black and gold marble base and trim, Italian travertine walls, bronze doorways and richly decorated coffered ceiling..."³

After 1935 the former banking space was subdivided horizontally and the first floor became retail space. The corner was altered to provide an entry into the store, done in the sleek, streamlined style popular in the late 1930's. Despite changes to the interior and a change to the corner, the building remains surprisingly intact and, though not the tallest building in town, still remains the tallest building on Main Street, and is fondly regarded as downtown's only "skyscraper".

The first floor facade was restored to its original appearance in 1982 by First Martin Corporation, which purchased the building in 1981. First Martin has subsequently renovated the entire structure. They removed the dropped ceiling in the lobby and revealed and restored the painted coffered ceiling (among other things). It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in November of 1982.

1 National register nomination, 1982.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

References:

Ann Arbor Daily News, February 19, 1929.

Historic Buildings, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1977.

National Register nomination prepared by Margaret Slater, Michigan History Division,
1982.



FOREST HILL CEMETERY

415 Observatory

In 1856, a Cemetery Company was formed to choose a site for a new cemetery. The cemetery in use then, Felch Cemetery (now Felch Park) was becoming too small and hemmed in by the expanding town and university. The committee chose the hilly part of the Taylor farm southeast of the Observatory. Subscriptions were taken and the grounds were laid out in a pattern reflecting the new philosophy of death and cemeteries. No longer were they to be laid out in rows surrounding churches, but rather they were to resemble English gardens.

Recent research¹ has shown that Forest Hill was inspired by the first and most well-known of the Romantic cemeteries, Mt. Auburn in Boston, which introduced the naturalistic English landscape style to American cemeteries. Like Mt. Auburn, Forest Hill has a varied topography. It is flat along Observatory and Geddes, with several high knolls in the interior and eastern border. Also like Mt. Auburn, it features paths that follow the sides of slopes and has frequent triangular intersections of curved paths. Many bear the same picturesque names as those at Mt. Auburn: Verbena, Myrtle, Snowdrop, Eglantine and Moss.²

The original map was drawn by Col. J.L. Glen of Niles and he also was probably the designer as well. He was a civil engineer who had also surveyed and laid out the city of Lansing and had been in charge of the construction of the State House.

The new cemetery was dedicated on May 19, 1859 and what a dedication it was. It is described by Stephenson³: "Under the direction of George D. Hill... a great procession marched to the grounds. First came a band, then several military companies, officiating clergy, the orator for the day, the President of the Cemetery Board, W.S. Maynard, and other members... In order after these came the Common Council of Ann Arbor and several other cities, the faculty of the University, the members of the Board of Education, teachers of different schools, editors and printers, the student body of the University, members of the fire companies, another band, the Masons, Oddfellows, private citizens and children of the public schools."

After the dedication, the graves of many early settlers buried in Felch Cemetery were moved to Forest Hill. In its 103-year history over 17,000 people have been buried there, from University Presidents and prominent citizens to foreign students and people without families. Its first permanent interment was Benajah Ticknor, the Navy surgeon who built the Cobblestone Farm house.

In 1866, the Cemetery Board instructed the building committee to proceed with plans for an office, gate and section's house at the cemetery entrance. The buildings were designed by the well-known Detroit architect Gordon W. Lloyd. He built several other major buildings in Ann Arbor, including St. Andrews Church. The material is cut fieldstone of varied hues, providing a sturdy structure of remarkable beauty. Fancy bracketed eaves and a roof designed with multi-colored shingles add to the picturesque effect.

Today, Forest Hill still very much reflects its original plan, despite a few changes. Two ponds have been drained and two shrubby areas---The Wild Rose Copse and the Bramble Copse---have been used for grave sites. Flush stones along Observatory preserve the open view to the large monuments. And as trees and shrubs have matured, the intended contrast between wooded areas and grassy meadows have also been obscured. Just beyond the gateway and dominating the entry stands the Civil War Memorial, which formerly stood in front of the Old Washtenaw County Courthouse on Main Street.

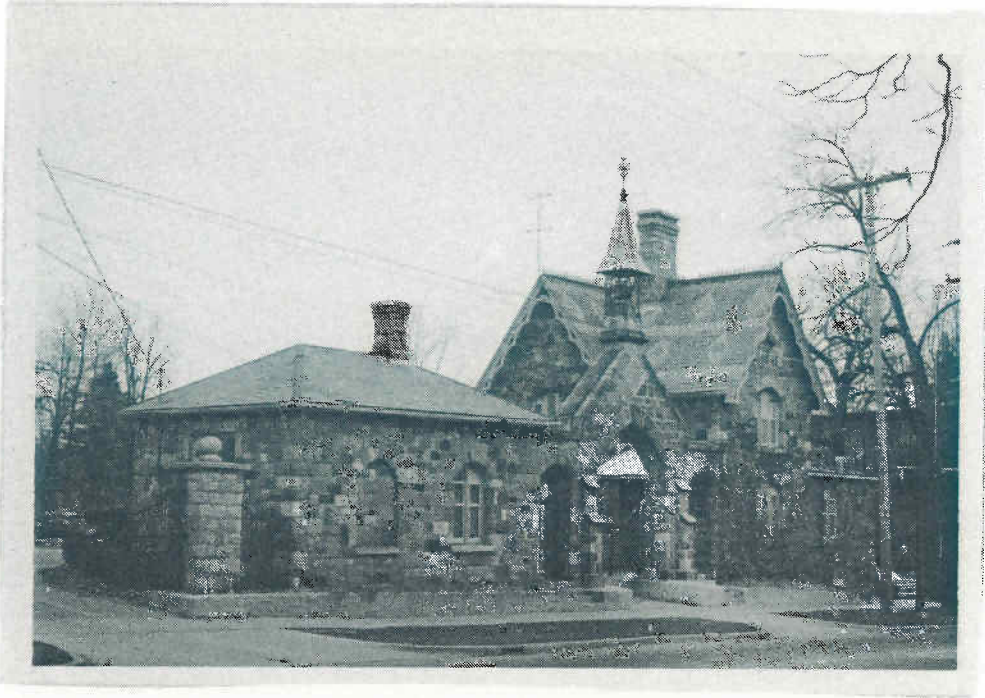
References:

Rollet, Karen, *Forest Hill*, 1979, Bentley Historical Library

Hunt, Mary, "Then and Now", *The Ann Arbor Observer*, October 1987.

Stephenson, O.W., *Ann Arbor's First One Hundred Years*, 1927.

Also files from the Forest Hill Cemetery Office and Assessor's Office of the City of Ann Arbor.



THE ALBERT LOCKWOOD (SIGMA NU HOUSE) 1910

700 Oxford

Albert Lockwood came to the University of Michigan School of Music as the Head of the Pianoforte Department in 1901. When his parents, Charles and Albertine Lockwood, came to Ann Arbor in 1908 they and their son built this remarkable house to be the center for their musical interests. The style is Tudor. Although the building is composed of multiple units, the facade presents the appearance of symmetry with front-projecting gables at each end of the main roof. Adding to the apparent symmetry is the central entry located under an open gabled portico. All roof gables, including the main and secondary porticos, are flared and covered by terra cotta tile. In keeping with the Tudor style, the exterior of the building is faced with stucco and emulated half-timbers forming cross and loop patterns. The second story jetty is also evocative of Medieval England.

Every Tuesday at four o'clock Albert, a gifted pianist, held recitals at one of the two grand pianos he kept in the spectacular three-story dining room, which was surrounded by wooden staircases leading to the second and third floors. Students and neighbors would listen from two large second floor balconies that opened on to the dining/music room. During colder weather a cheery fire burned in the impressive fireplace, offsetting the chill of the tall windows on two sides of the room. Albert's own master bedroom, and a nursery opposite it, opened onto the room by way of the balconies. These are the finest rooms in the house, one with a bay window overlooking the back garden, the other with a handsome fireplace.

The interior is rich. The floors, balconies, bannisters and ceiling beams are made of black walnut. Two plaster pillars, imported from Italy, supported the master bedroom. Shaped plaster, painted black, and carved walnut decorate the room. A large iron chandelier hangs from the ceiling. Several plaster gargoyles, stolen in a fraternity prank over thirty years ago, formerly looked out from the balconies. Sigma Nu is having all thirteen reproduced from three that survived. A turret shaped sub-balcony divides the staircase leading up to the balcony. Several curved beams support the ceiling. The dining room faces the back garden and leads out to a large covered back porch.

The living room is lit by a smaller version of the dining room chandelier. Bearded heads carved from oak top the beams of paneling. The windows of this room overlook the "moat" which surrounds the house. French windows lead to the porch. Small shaded wall lamps decorate the room. The library shares the same decor. Fireplaces stand opposite one another at each end of the first floor.

On the upper floors no two rooms resemble one another. Slanted ceilings, three-sided window views and fireplaces make each room unique.

Unfortunately Charles Lockwood died not long after the house was completed and when Albertine died in 1919 Albert Lockwood sold the house to the Sigma Nu fraternity. Sigma Nu is proud of their house, although it suffers badly from the wear of fraternity life. As former president, Jim Doyle, wrote, "700 Oxford was already magnificent when it was built... Today, that magnificence is increased by the knowledge it could never be recreated."

References:

City Directories

A description furnished by Sigma Nu



WILLIAM ANDERSON HOUSE AND WISDOM CHAPEL 1851

2301 Packard

William Anderson seems to have come from Orange County, New York and settled in Michigan about 1832. Very little else is known of him except that he served as Washtenaw County's first sheriff from 1835 to 1839. In 1833 he purchased two tracts of Pittsfield Township land - one being the tract on which the house stands. Tax records seem to indicate he constructed the present house about 1853. It is a modest 1-1/2 story end-gable Greek Revival structure, or "temple cottage". It is arranged on a side-hall plan and has a front portico of four square piers supporting a full pediment. Above and between the piers are window grilles of ornamental cast iron. The structure is clad in vertical board and batten siding on the sides, and in flush horizontal boarding on the front facade.

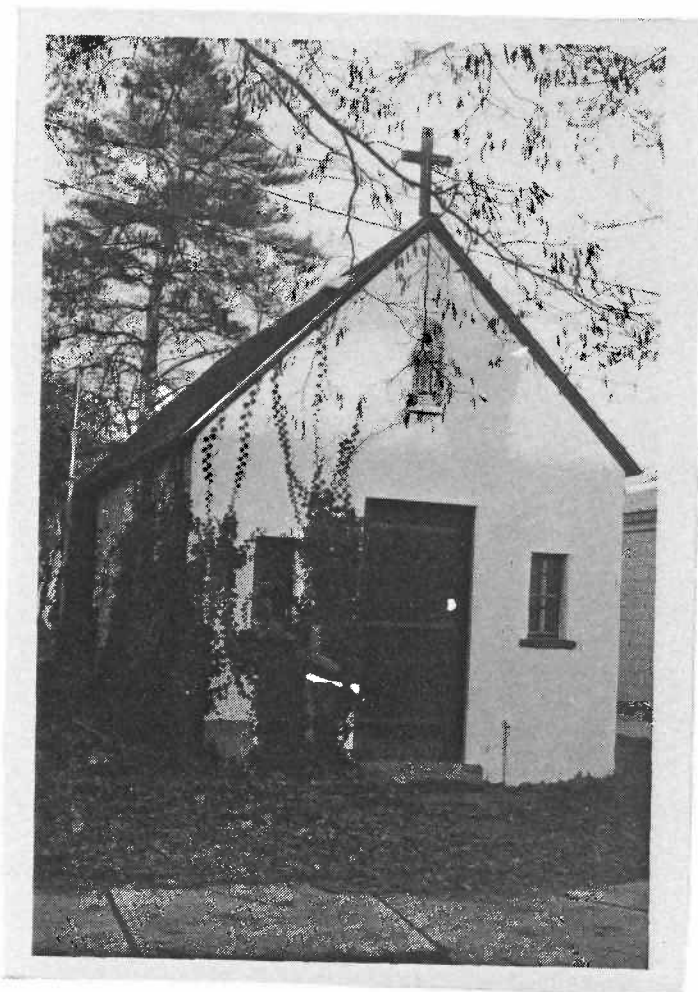
As county sheriff, Anderson carried on a public feud with Probate Judge Robert S. Wilson, who built a much larger Greek temple on Division Street (at Ann). "A dastardly coward", Wilson had called Anderson. Wilson soon left town, but Anderson lived in this house until his death. It remained in the Anderson family for three generations until 1937, when it was sold to Dr. Inez Wisdom.

Dr. Wisdom was a prominent local physician and served as President of the Washtenaw County Medical Society and the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Medical Society. She was a member of the AMA and was especially active in Episcopal Church affairs. In 1940 she erected a small chapel for private prayer next to the house on the south side. It was patterned after those she had seen in Europe. In 1953 she and her joint tenant (and companion), Miss Gertrude Griffith, gave the chapel and grounds to the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan for a mission church. Today, St. Clare of Assisi Church shares the facility with Temple Beth Emeth in a unique religious association. In 1968 Miss Griffith obtained full title to the house and later gave it to the church.

The little roof over the side door of the Anderson house is the only change which has been made to the exterior. A notably pure temple style, the house was studied and drawn for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1934 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. It was recognized for being one of the few Michigan examples of a Greek Revival house sheathed in board and batten siding, a newly fashionable form of construction when it was built.

References:

- Abstract of title: Copy in possession of Michigan History Division.
- Beakes, Samuel W., *Past and Present of Washtenaw County, Michigan*, Chicago: S.J. Clare Publishing Co., 1906.
- Historic Buildings*, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1977, P. 71.
- History of Washtenaw County*, Chicago: Chas. C. Chapman and Co., 1881.
- Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, Collections, Letter from William Anderson to Gov. S.T. Mason, January 1, 1835, Vol. XXXVII, 1909.
- National Register Nomination, 1981.
- "Records of Washtenaw County, Tax Rolls", Microfilm, State Archives.



STONE SCHOOL

1911

2600 Packard Road

The Stone School District dates from 1826, when a small band of settlers who had arrived to homestead around the present Packard-Platt Road area decided their children needed schooling. They picked a site in an oak grove on the Nordman farm and hired Miss Elzada Fairbrother as teacher for the open air school. By 1827 there was a building, which was called the Mallett's Settlement School.

In 1853 the district was divided because of the number of children. The new district was called Pittsfield District No. 7 fractional, and the first stone building was erected on this site by volunteer labor and from materials hewn and quarried in the neighborhood. This building served until 1911, when it became too small. With great enthusiasm the people of the district tore down the old structure and helped in the construction of the new. All the extra stone needed, in addition to that salvaged from the old building, was donated and came from the Ticknor and Hutzel farms. Miss Anna Klager was the last instructor in the old Stone School and the first in the new. The school bell was installed in ceremonies on October 17, 1914.

As time went on additional wooden buildings were erected to accommodate the growing school population. From 1918 to 1927 the buildings were used as a training school for student teachers from Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti (now Eastern Michigan University). By 1947 the school population had increased sharply, and a bond issue was approved for a new school across the highway from the stone structure. This school was completed in 1949 and the older Stone School was boarded up.

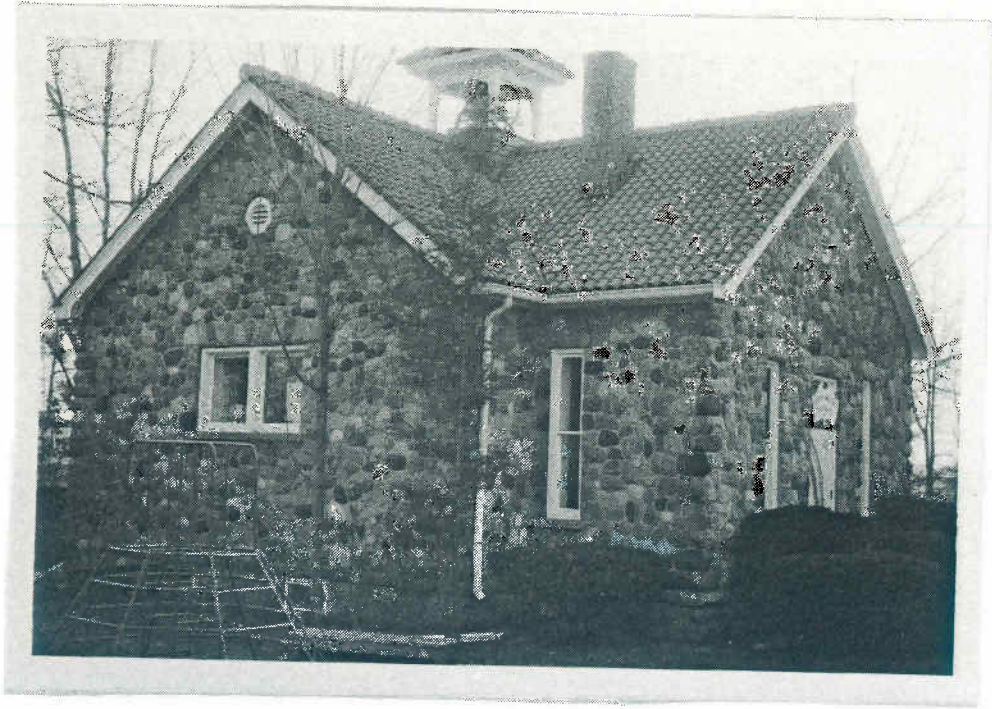
Countless people, seeing the charming but boarded up school house, sought to acquire it for a home, but it remained boarded up until 1958, when Miss Jean Dickinson opened a nursery school in the building. To this day it remains a nursery school - and a building which is universally regarded with affection by local residents.

The building, one of the most charming rural type schoolhouses in the state, although not associated with any historical style, is architecturally significant. A one story building with a high attic, the building forms a four-gabled cross plan. It is of granite, uncoursed fieldstone construction, and the roof is covered by terra cotta tile, topped at the intersection of the cross by an open, hip-roof belfry with a ball-shaped ornament at the peak. White painted boxed cornices vividly contrast with the multihued fieldstone and red tile. Oculus air vents are located in each gable.

References:

Story of the Stone School Centennial, 1853-1953.

48



JONATHAN M. LUND HOUSE 1847

1324 Pontiac Trail

The Jonathan Lund house is both architecturally and historically significant. Ten years after Jonathan Lund and his wife arrived in Ann Arbor in 1837, they built this large and gracious Greek Revival house with its sweeping view of the Huron River valley. The dominant architectural motif exemplified by this building is that of the classical entablature, echoed first by the denticulated cornice of the wraparound colonnaded porch, then by the cornice of the flatroofed, squarish two story core block, and finally by the roof pavilion. A matter of comment at the time, and to historians since, is the fact that the stucco was mixed with barrels and barrels of skim milk to give it a particularly adhesive quality. The builders, Robert and John Davidson, finished in time for the Lunds to celebrate Thanksgiving in their new home.

The fine details and features of the house aroused envy and exaggeration in the village. Known as "The Place" during the years when the Lunds were famed for hospitality, the house was surrounded by gardens and groves; white pillars at the street marked the entrance to the drive. Peacocks strutted on the lawn; turkeys and Spanish chickens scratched among the bushes. Family letters tell of an excess of cream, eggs, and strawberries which were sent into the village for sale.

Lund was man of many enterprises. He built the first paper mill on the river in Lower Town, and manufactured book-, tobacco-, colored-, and wrapping papers which were sold in Chicago and beyond. In the 1850's, Volney and Charles Chapin, father and son, bought into the firm and another mill was constructed at Geddesburg, a small town on the Huron River east of Ann Arbor. The partnership was a happy and prosperous one until ill health forced Lund to sell in 1858. Lund's office was an attractive little building with classic columns which stood for many years at the the northwest approach to the old Broadway bridge.

After Lund's death the house passed through a number of hands and in the 1890's the Weeks family purchased it. Weeks wrote that he so much appreciated the plantings and flowers he filled his carriage with flowers one Decoration Day and placed them upon the Lund graves.

In 1908 young Fremont Ward came to Ann Arbor to supervise the construction of the Main Street Post Office. He and his wife Flora spied the house on an evening's walk, admired it, bought it, and settled in Ann Arbor, remaining in the house for nearly half a century. Early in the 1930's they divided the home into apartments without affecting the outside appearance. In 1936, in one of the apartments, University student Arthur Miller regaled an election night faculty party with humorous readings from some of his recent "finger exercises".

References:

Ann Arbor Architecture, 1974, p. 22.

Duff, 1962.

Quirk, Paul Jr., "History of Paper Making in Washtenaw County", Washtenaw County Historical Society Papers, Bentley Historical Library.



GUY BECKLEY HOUSE

1842-45

1425 Pontiac Trail

Oak and glossy black walnut were used in the interior construction of this house built in the 1830's for the Reverend Guy Beckley. A man of firm and ardent beliefs, active in the antislavery movement, he published an influential abolition paper in Ann Arbor, *The Signal of Liberty*, edited by Theodore Foster. A station on the "underground railroad" when owned by Pascal and Harriet Mason, they helped smuggle slaves to freedom in Canada. The house was reputed to have secret chambers and passages, but a trap door to the attic and lowered ceilings over closets are all that have been found. Perhaps a rear wing, removed many decades ago, had more wrenching tales to tell.

The house forms an elongated five-bay rectangle and is two stories in height. The fenestration pattern and the two end chimneys form a balanced composition symmetrically organized around a central hallway. The dwelling rests on sixteen-inch foundation walls of brick and fieldstone. The style can be said to be transitional Federal-Greek Revival. The entry is of a classical design featuring sidelights, recessed panels and pilasters, and is sheltered by a pedimented portico with Ionic columns. Two-story corner pilasters support a classical cornice and returns. Professor of Architecture Ralph W. Hammett and his wife acquired this house in 1933 when it was sadly run down, and their interior renovation gave the rooms the appearance they have today. The Bertoni family owned the house for many years, until the 1970's, and today it remains a single family house with the beauty of its exterior well preserved by appreciative owners.

References:

Ann Arbor Architecture, 1974, p. 32.

Duff, 1962, p. 57.

Kooker, Arthur, "Brief History of the Residence and Property Owned by Ralph W. Hammett...", Arthur Kooker collection, Bentley Historical Library.

Lorch, Emil, Emil Lorch collection, Bentley Historical Collection.

Michigan Guide To the Wolverine State, 1941.



SAMUEL MILLER HOUSE

1893

1136 Prospect

An 1874 map of Ann Arbor shows just beyond the south edge of the city a tree-bordered drive running east from Grove Street (Packard) to an estate of orchards and gardens rivaling those of the nearby Christian Eberbach farm. Although owner Solon Cook, an early pioneer and the proprietor of a temperance hotel on Fourth Avenue, planned to build a home to match the grounds, he never did so and in 1879 the land was purchased by Samuel G. Miller. Listed in the city directories as a "capitalist", Miller and his wife, the former Harriet Eberbach, subdivided the acreage in 1892 and in 1893 built this romantic Victorian home on the hilltop at the edge of the orchard. Prospect Avenue was opened as an access road and the drive from Packard became a part of the lots of the Miller Addition to the city.

Although Samuel and Harriet Miller died early in this century their daughter, Aura, lived in the house until 1936. Older residents of the area remember her, the orchard (of which a few trees remain), and a bog at the bottom of the hill which closed off Church Street in wet seasons.

The Miller house is a particularly fine example of the Queen Anne style, with a boldly curved chimney enveloping an oriel window on the first floor. The house, which neighbors call the "castle", contains nine apartments and is an impressive landmark on its hill.

References:

City Directories

Mrs. Draper (caretaker), 1975 interview.

Interview with Paul Mohn (owner), 1943.



NICKELS ARCADE

1915-18

326-30 South State Street

This small but charming example of the glass-roofed shopping arcade popular in Europe, but rare in the United States, was designed by Ann Arbor architect Hermann Pipp. Other Pipp designs include the Marchese Building (319-323 S. Main St.) and the Barton Hills Country Club. The contractor for Nickels Arcade was A. R. Cole, and the original cost of the Arcade was \$150,000.

The Arcade's State Street facade, faced with terra cotta, is essentially Beaux Arts Classic in design and proportion with details anticipating the Art Deco designs of a few years later. A glass skylight illuminates the passageway of the steel and brick structure. Of the eighteen shops which open into the 265-foot tiled arcade, four -- Bay's Jewelers, Van Boven's, The Caravan and the Post Office -- have been there from its earliest days. Shops and offices also occupy the second and third floors.

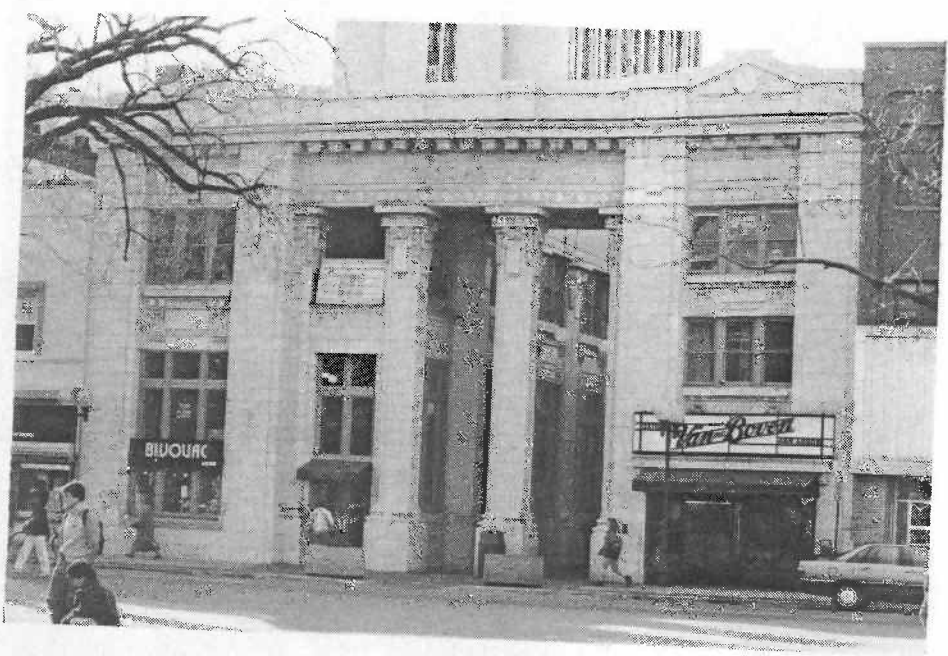
The land extending from State Street to Maynard was owned by John H. Nickels, proprietor of a meat market on State Street. When his son, Tom E. Nickels, inherited the market he razed the building (which had earlier housed the merchant tailoring firm of Voorheis and Co.) and bought out other portions of the property left to his brothers and sister. A man with strong feelings about Ann Arbor's need to grow, Nickels began the Arcade in 1915. He moved to a residence at 513 E. William to be near the construction, which took three years to complete.

The Farmers and Mechanics Bank, which originally occupied the south corner on State Street, owned its portion of the Arcade. Only after its successor, the Ann Arbor Bank, moved out did the Nickels family finally complete its ownership of the entire structure in 1960.

Today, some seventy years after its construction, the Arcade remains essentially unchanged. Nominated and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, it is now undergoing a thorough refurbishing. The terra cotta exterior and interior have been repointed, the mosaic tiles have been reset in the floor, and new lamps have been installed. It remains today, as it did when it was built, one of Ann Arbor's most unique and most attractive commercial structures.

References:

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730-34 Tappan

When Mrs. Sarah Hawley Scott of Detroit left a large sum of money to the Church of Christ and the Christian Women's Missionary Society the entire amount was put at the disposal of the Christian Women's Board of Missions. Under great pressure to locate a mission church in Ann Arbor they used the money to erect a building on South University near State Street. At the dedication services on October 11, 1891 Ann Arbor church leaders made an eloquent plea for Christian unity.

The church was built in the shingle style of the late 19th century, a simpler, quieter and purely American derivative of Queen Anne design. Ground story walls are typically of stone with wood shingled walls on the upper level. In this handsome church built for the Disciples of Christ congregation, red slate was used instead of wood shingle siding. The arrangement of the pews reflects the Disciples' emphasis on lay participation in the service. The pews surround the projecting front chancel area in a wide sweep to achieve a sense of intimacy and group unity. The cost of the original building, with furnishings and the spectacular rose windows, was \$17,000.

So well did the Disciples like their building that when it was threatened by the construction of the University's Law Quadrangle they dismantled the church, stone by stone, for reassembly at the present location in 1925. In 1950 the organ pipes were concealed and the beams and pews were painted; otherwise the interior is largely unchanged. A wing was added in 1969.

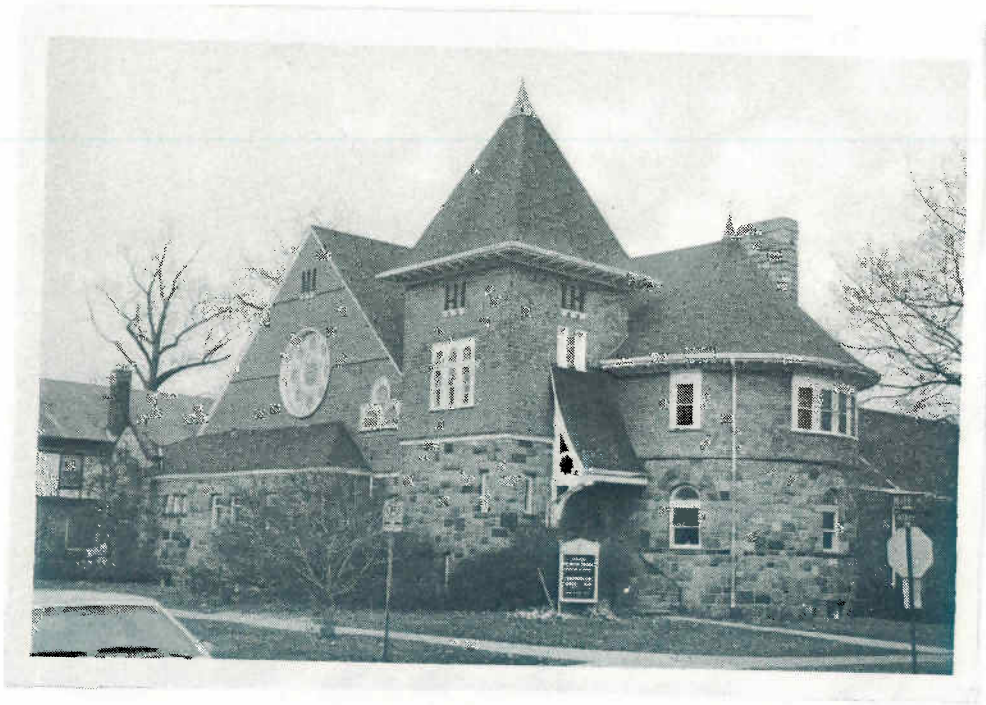
References:

Ann Arbor Architecture, 1974, p. 122.

Brochure from the Church, 1987.

Wystan Stevens

28



AMOS COREY HOUSE and
JACOB AND SOLOMON ARMSTRONG HOUSE 1830's

1219 and 1223 Traver

These two tiny Greek Revival houses illustrate the simple yet elegant forms used in the early settlement years by the average workingman for his own home. They both probably date back to the 1830's when much of this part of town, known as Lower Town, was being developed. Development of this area was stifled, however, with the growth of Main Street as the primary commercial area, and Lower Town became a noble backwater. This has resulted in the fortuitous preservation of many older architectural forms - forms that have long since disappeared elsewhere in town.

1219 Traver represents the more common style of early Greek Revival house. A simple structure, it has a pitched roof with simple returns. The long side of the house faces the street; the gable ends, with two windows each, face their neighbors. The house was occupied by Amos Corey, who was a local carpenter from at least 1868-1899.

1223 Traver, probably built by the millwright Armstrong family, is a nice example of an unusual Greek Revival houseform which is virtually unique to southern Michigan. Known colloquially as the "hen-and-chicks" house form, this dwelling type has a taller central portion with a gable roof facing the street, flanked on either side by two somewhat shorter additions, each with a roofline sloping below that of the taller central portion. Looking like a mother hen protecting her babes, the name seems quite appropriate.

These two buildings and their relationship to each other form a unique grouping and represent idealized versions of our rural and unhurried past. Hence, these two houses have often appeared in books on historic houses in Ann Arbor. Most recently they appeared in *Ann Arbor Architecture, A Sesquicentennial Selection*, published by the University of Michigan Museum of Art in 1974 to celebrate the city's Sesquicentennial.

References:

- Ann Arbor Architecture*, 1974.
- Ann Arbor Observer*, October 1976.
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21-
p wyl

WEINMANN BLOCK

c. 1867, 1892

219-221 East Washington

The meat cutting and supply business must have been quite lucrative after the Civil War when Michael Weinmann and John Gall were able to build the elaborate brick building at 221 E. Washington (c. 1867) to house both their meat market and their families. Only two stories high, it nevertheless made a strong architectural statement with its fancy bracketed cornice, oculus window under the pediment, and shuttered windows. Originally numbered as 31 E. Washington, this building continued to serve as the Weinmann Meat Market until 1892, when the owners were prosperous enough to build an even fancier building just to the west (now 219 E. Washington). Decorative pressed sheet metal storefronts were an innovation of the late 19th century - an inexpensive and practical way to simulate cast iron or stone pillars and carved decoration. Only a few survive in the entire state of Michigan and the Weinmann Block is the only one remaining in Ann Arbor. When building their new addition, the owners were careful to carry the cornice line over from their older building.

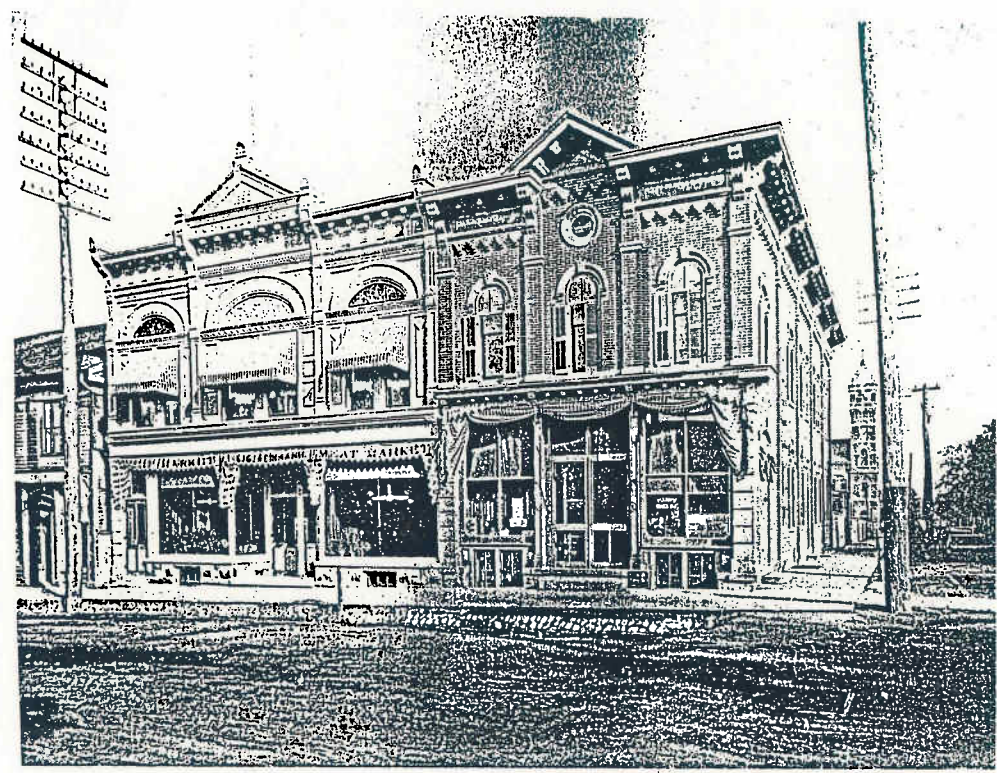
The Weinmann Meat Market occupied the new building after 1892 and the older building was leased to other businesses (over the years it has housed a confectionery, saloon, produce shop, grocery and hardware store). The butcher shop, known in its later years as the Weinmann-Geisendorfer Meat Market, survived until 1937. Like markets of the day, it purveyed a variety of foods, including meats, cheeses and pickles and was a favorite stop for high school students on their way to school. Their frankfurters were judged the best in town.

In 1937 another venerable Ann Arbor institution took over the space. This was the Jno. C. Fischer Company, a hardware store whose antecedents could also be traced back to the 1860's. "Fischer Hardware" remained until 1982, when the buildings were purchased by real estate developer Peter T. Allen. Allen immediately began to restore the buildings to their 1890's appearance. The cornice was rebuilt, windows were unblocked, shutters replaced and the storefronts re-done to emphasize the differences between the two structures (changes made in the 1960's had attempted to obliterate this distinction). In 1983 the buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

References:

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- Ann Arbor News*, May 11, 1983.
- Ann Arbor Observer*, May 1983.
- Art Work of Washtenaw County*, 1893.
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- Huron Valley Ad-Visor*, June 2, 1965.

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WEINMANN BLOCK—ANN ARBOR,
Art Work in Wash. Ch., 1893

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