

Typical Storefront Elements

Roof and Cornice

Decorative Cornice

Upper Facade

Window Hoods/Lintel

Masonry Wall

Regularly Spaced Windows

Storefront

Storefront Cornice

Transom

Masonry Pier

Masonry Pier

Bulkhead



WALKING TOUR OF THE HISTORIC WOODSTOCK SQUARE



Woodstock Historic
Preservation Commission
Community Development Department
City of Woodstock
121 West Calhoun Street
Woodstock, Illinois 60098
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Presented By
**The Woodstock Historic
Preservation Commission**

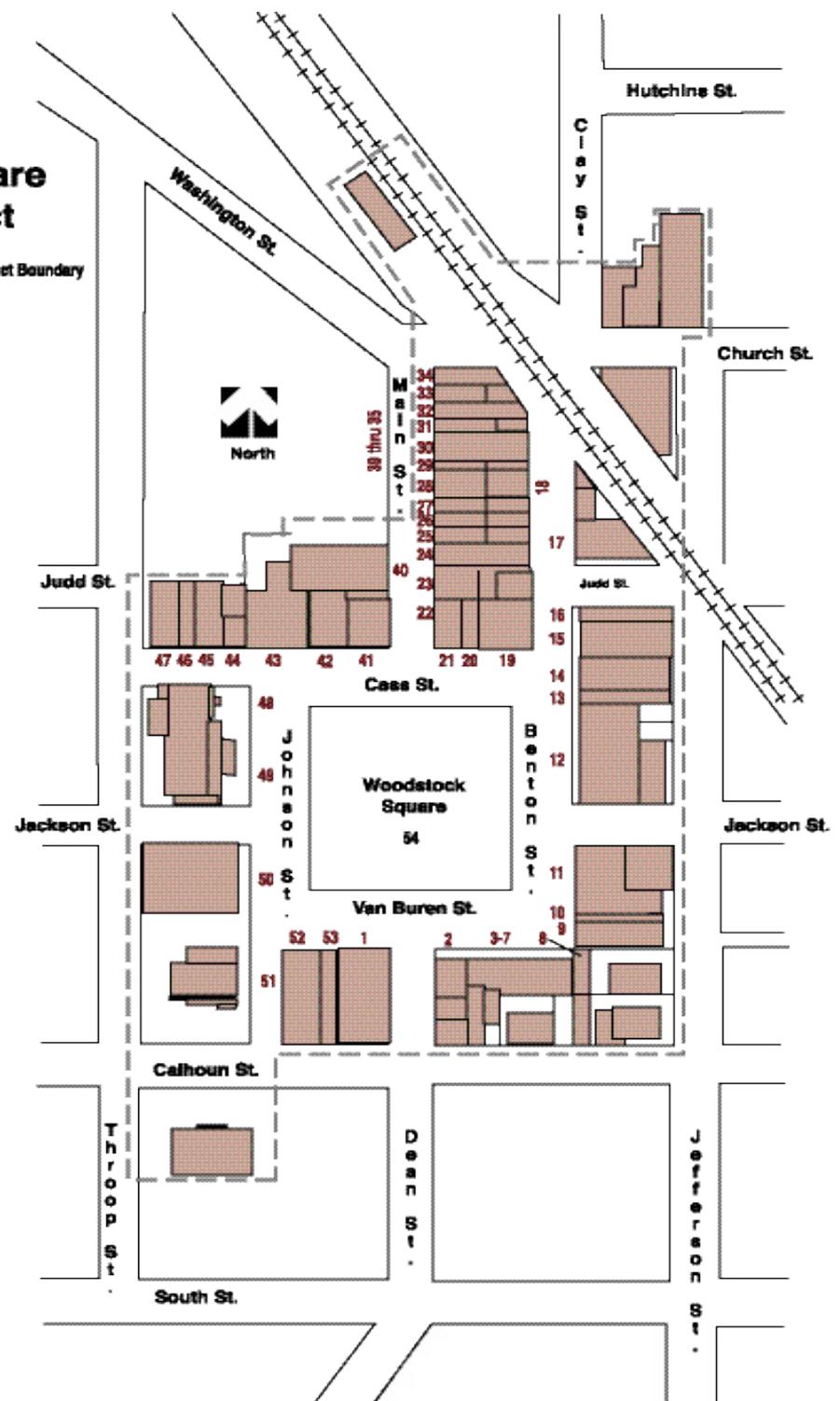
KEY



- 1. 121 Van Buren St.
- 2. 117 Van Buren St.
- 3. 115-111 Van Buren St.
- 4. 109 Van Buren St.
- 5. 107 Van Buren St.
- 6. 105 Van Buren St.
- 7. 103 Van Buren St.
- 8. 101 Van Buren St.
- 9. 113 S. Benton St.
- 10. 111 S. Benton St.
- 11. 109-101 S. Benton St.
- 12. 100-108 N. Benton St.
- 13. 110-112 N. Benton St.
- 14. 116-118 N. Benton St.
- 15. 120-124 N. Benton St.
- 16. 126 N. Benton St.
- 17. 224 N. Benton St.
- 18. 207-237 N. Benton St.
- 19. 101-104 Cass St.
- 20. 106 Cass St.
- 21. 108-110 Cass St.
- 22. 208-210 N. Main St.
- 23. 212-214 N. Main St.
- 24. 216 N. Main St.
- 25. 218 N. Main St.
- 26. 220 N. Main St.
- 27. 222 N. Main St.
- 28. 224 N. Main St.
- 29. 226 N. Main St.
- 30. 228 N. Main St.
- 31. 230 N. Main St.
- 32. 232 N. Main St.
- 33. 234 N. Main St.
- 34. 236 N. Main St.
- 35. 231-235 N. Main St.
- 36. 229 N. Main St.
- 37. 225 N. Main St.
- 38. 223 N. Main St.
- 39. 215 N. Main St.
- 40. 209-213 N. Main St.
- 41. 114-116 Cass St.
- 42. 118-120 Cass St.
- 43. 122-128 Cass St.
- 44. 130 Cass St.
- 45. 132-134 Cass St.
- 46. 136 Cass St.
- 47. 138-140 Cass St.
- 48. 115 N. Johnson St.
- 49. 101 N. Johnson St.
- 50. 100-110 S. Johnson St.
- 51. 120 S. Johnson St.
- 52. 129 Van Buren St.
- 53. 127-125 Van Buren St.
- 54. Park In The Square

**National Register of Historic Places
Woodstock Square
Historic District**

--- National Register District Boundary



The Historic Woodstock Square

The Woodstock Square is in the center of the original town plat of Centerville recorded by Alvin Judd in 1843, when the town was selected as the new county seat of McHenry County. In anticipation, Judd and others had preempted a claim as close to the center of the County as possible and built a cabin. The plat established a central square oriented to the compass points, with streets originating at the center of the four sides, the whole surrounded by a rectangular grid.

In 1845, because there were many other Centervilles throughout the country, the name of the town was changed to Woodstock at the suggestion of early settler and county clerk Joel Johnson, to honor his hometown in Vermont.

Many early buildings were constructed of wood. With no fire department and no river or lake to draw water from, residents relied on water collected in cisterns, pumped from wells and eventually a public water supply to battle the frequent blazes. Over the years, major fires claimed almost all of Woodstock's oldest buildings.

Streets and sidewalks were uneven and muddy or dusty. Newspapers in the 1880's reported complaints about all the ashes dumped in piles on the streets, which were then tracked into stores and offices. Paving bricks were not installed until 1912.

The first automobile on city streets was reported in 1901. In 1914, a speed limit of ten miles per hour was established for the square and other business streets. The speed limit

around the corners was five miles per hour. In 1924, the City made Main and Benton Streets one-way routes.

Wooden sidewalks were often hazardous as storeowners built different sections at different heights. Compounding the danger was the problem that wood sidewalks rotted quickly. In 1866, an ordinance was passed that required the owners of real estate on the west side of Main Street to construct a sidewalk. The walk was to be made of good plank, not less than two inches in thickness, and running lengthwise. It was to be supported by good beams, not more than four feet apart, nor less than six feet in width. Owners were given twenty days to comply, but for the next several decades, sidewalk complaints were reported in the local newspapers. Finally, in 1906, the City Council outlawed the construction of any more wooden sidewalks.

Photographs from various eras show a variety of electric streetlights, ranging from a bare bulb hanging over an intersection, to the very ornamental multiple globe fixtures of the 1920's and 30's.

The buildings included in this walking tour are just some of the many structures located in the Woodstock Downtown Business Historic Preservation District. Most of these buildings are also part of the Woodstock Square National Register of Historic Places Historic District.

1

City Hall

121 Van Buren St.

The City Hall was constructed in 1889-90 as a multi-purpose building, complete with offices, a council room, public library, police department, jail and fire department with the Opera House/auditorium above. The building was designed by Elgin architect Smith Hoag in the Romanesque style and constructed by Woodstock contractor Simon Brink. An addition was added to the south end of the building in 1938 to provide space for the fire department at street level with the City Council Chambers above.



The building had some close calls with fire including a 1904 fire in the auditorium when movie projection equipment caught fire. It created dense smoke which caused panic among some of the audience members including a few who broke windows and jumped onto the portico roof. On March 12, 1914, a more damaging fire virtually destroyed the library and caused significant smoke and water damage throughout the building. During the 1960's and 70's, concern about the deterioration of the building led to the formation of the Woodstock Fine Arts Association which worked to restore the Opera House to its former glory. In 1974, the Woodstock Opera House was listed as a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. An exact replica of the original front portico was installed in 1999.

City offices moved from this building in 1975, but the Opera House is still owned and managed by the City of Woodstock. A 2003 addition was built on the site of the C.W. Hill blacksmith shop. For additional history, go to www.woodstockoperahouse.com

Phoenix Block

A fire in 1851 claimed the buildings on the south side of the square. A row of storefronts collectively referred to as the Phoenix Block were rebuilt over the next year or so. Initially, the individual structures looked like they were one big building, constructed of the same brick with matching cornices, 9 pane storefront windows, evenly spaced 6 pane, over 6 pane, upper story windows with matching stone sills and lintels. Over the years, the 9 pane storefront windows were replaced by single panes of plate glass and storefront cornices were removed or changed.

2

117 Van Buren St.

The first structure built after the fire was known as No. 1 Phoenix Block.



Among its early tenants were the E.W. Blossom jewelry store, the Park House Hotel on the second floor and the Phoenix Hall on the third floor. The Park House was operated during the 1880's and 90's. Dr. I.B. Carolus, had a dental office in this structure during the same time period.

Eventually, this structure was acquired by John R. Kellogg who added a three story addition to the back. In the basement, Kellogg constructed public showers and tub baths. Customers were instructed to inquire at the barber shop under the S.W. Perkins tailor shop.

In 1930, the Busy Corner Grocery was located in the west half of the building and a women's clothing store occupied the east half. By the 1940's, the third story of

the building was gone and the façade was completely altered. The Woodstock Grill had replaced the Busy Corner Grocery, and the space has been used as a restaurant ever since.

Chester Gould, *Dick Tracy* creator and Woodstock area resident, reportedly owned the building and maintained an office on the second floor.

111 Van Buren St.

3

The only true four story building on the square was known as both the Pratt House Block



and the Bunker Block. The Pratt House was a hotel, kept by T.J. Pratt. It included the hotel rooms, a billiards room, a barbershop and hair dresser. The hotel was also called the Woodstock House for a period of time. The Bunker Brothers bought the hotel building in 1871, converted it to a business building, and moved their grocery, hardware, and crockery business.

George K. Bunker, born in New York in 1826, was the oldest of 13 children who were descendents of the Bunker family who owned the land where the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought. George was a three term mayor, director of the State Bank of Woodstock, president of the Citizen's Bank of Nunda, and had extensive real estate holdings.

Amos K. Bunker, the youngest of the 13 children, was born in Woodstock in 1846. He, too, was active in civic affairs, banking and real estate, served as alderman, school district treasurer and State Bank director.

Bunker Brothers occupied what was a four story structure until sometime after 1912. The fourth story was removed in the 1930's. The present brick front dates from the 1950's when the building was modernized" with the

second and third story windows bricked in and a new layer of bricks were added to the entire



front façade. In the mid 1990's, Centerville Associates renovated the building and restored the window openings to their approximate original size and location. In the years following Bunker Brothers grocery and hardware business, Field's Hardware and Bohn's Hardware were also located here.

109 Van Buren St.

4

For a considerable part of the past 150+ years, the 109 Van Buren Street structure has contained a drug store. C.B. Durfee put up the building and opened a bank, but by the 1860's, No. 5 Phoenix Block was a drug store run by W.P. Adams. The Wheat and Wright Drug Store, which is shown in the McHenry County 1872 Combination Atlas, followed. Wright, who first worked for W.P. Adams, soon bought out Wheat's interest in the business and continued the drug store business until 1940, when a National Tea grocery store replaced it. Wright's store was known as the "Red Front Drug Store" or the "Old Pioneer Red Front Store." Like other drug stores of the time, Wright sold drugs, patent medicines, books, stationery and paint. In fact, in 1904, a reporter for the *Woodstock Republican* newspaper reported that Wright's paint trade had been tremendous. More than 100 houses were painted by Wright's crew of painters that year.

5

107 Van Buren St.

One of Woodstock's earliest residents, Joel H. Johnson, put up the building which



became the I.T. and A.L. Salisbury Dry Goods store. Ichabod Thompson Salisbury (and for a period of time his brothers Alexander and Joseph) started their business in 1860, and ran the Salisbury Dry Goods Store for 42 years.

6

105 Van Buren St.

This structure was built by a Mr. Dufield and first occupied by the E.E. Thomas and Son company which sold boots and shoes. The E.W. Blossom Store moved from No. 1 Phoenix Block in



1871 to this location. In 1886, Blossom decided to move his jewelry business to Sterling, Illinois and A.R. Murphy took over the drug and jewelry store business.

7

103 Van Buren St.

The Choate Block building (also known as No. 8 Phoenix Block) was also built by Mr. Dufield. Choate started in business in 1857 on the site of the present Opera House. He moved into the 103 Van Buren building in 1868; the same year he acquired the Oakland Cemetery property. Choate is credited for most of the cemetery layout. He was active in City and cultural affairs and was described as an enthusiastic traveler and collector of geological specimens.

Choate sold groceries, clothing, dry goods, household furnishings, carpets, and even nursery stock for a time. In 1900, he added a dressmaking department on the third floor in what had previously been the International Order of Odd Fellows hall.

Choate experienced two fires in his building. The 1884 fire completely gutted the interior the building and damaged the Murphy & Blossom store next door. In 1887, a chandelier that fell onto a pile of cloaks on the second floor caused a fire which was contained on the second floor, but caused smoke and water damage to the entire building. Following the 1884 fire, Choate replaced the storefront windows with plate glass.

The Stafford Furniture and Undertaking business succeed Choate in this corner of the square.

8

101 Van Buren

This one story structure is the only building on the square that still retains the black structural glass (known as Vitrolite or Carrera glass) which was once installed on the storefronts of several buildings in Woodstock. The pigmented structural glass was especially associated with the Art Deco and Art Moderne architectural styles. Unlike other buildings in Woodstock where

the pigmented glass was added to modernize the appearance of a 19th century building, this building was probably constructed in the 1920's during the peak of popularity of pigmented structural glass.

9

Church Block

113 S. Benton St.

In 1893, a fire in Malachi "Mac" Church's livery stable destroyed all the structures between Choate's store and East Jackson Street. In



1899, Church, who had twice been elected County Sheriff, erected a new structure and though Church died before he was able to move into the structure, the stone bearing the name "Church Block" near the top of the building, can still be seen today.

For 76 years, the Woodstock Dry Goods Store was located in the Church Block. The store opened in 1902. In 1904, a 40 ft. deep addition, designed to conform with the original building, was added to the rear. E.S. McFadden had a tinsmith and general repair shop in the basement below Woodstock Dry Goods. In 1910, the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. exchange moved into the second floor.

Woodstock Dry Goods store manager, W.F. Weaver, caught the public's attention during the store's silk sale in 1904. He obtained a large shipment of silkworms which were placed in the store window where they fed on mulberry leaves and grew larger. The local newspaper reported on the puffs of silk that began to fill the store window and residents flocked to view the display. Eventually, store patrons were given the silky cocoons.

10

111 S. Benton

This structure was also constructed after the 1893 fire. Over the years, it contained a wide variety of uses including a saloon, a meat market, and the J.P. Alt Clothing Company in the early part of the 20th century. The original brick façade was covered in the 1980's to match the style of the adjoining bank building.

11

101 S. Benton

The Harris Bank building consists of two Benton Street commercial blocks. The southern 36 feet was the Primm Block and the north 54 feet was the Sherman Block, built on the site of a building that will forever be known as the Rat Hole. The Rat Hole was constructed in 1846 to provide additional county offices when the original courthouse became too

small. It had thick brick walls and a tin roof. Accounts say that in the winter of 1847,



there was a terrific wind which suddenly lifted the tin roof from the county office building. The frightened county officers rushed out of the building and were greeted by a shout from merchant Henry Petrie who gleefully exclaimed, "*See the damned rats crawl out of their holes.*" At the time of its demise, there were several businesses in the structure and the attached wood shack including a beer depot, D.T. Ring's Boots and Shoes shop, and D. Tripp's Harness Shop. These were destroyed by fire in 1893.

Primm Block

Following the fire, the Primm Block was erected by Dr. J.W. Primm who had both his office and his residence in the structure.

The Primm Block had a small second story balcony projecting out from the building, graceful arched windows, and a decorative, presumably sheet metal cornice.

The Mead and Charles Grocery Store opened in the Primm Block in 1899 and remained there for almost three decades. In 1898, the YMCA used a portion of the building for reading, writing and recreational rooms. Among other early tenants of the building were the *McHenry County Democrat* newspaper on the second floor, and a restaurant and ice cream parlor in the basement.

Sherman Block

Marvin Sherman built the Sherman Block building in 1893. Sherman, who started his jewelry business in Woodstock in 1866, moved into the corner space. Besides jewelry, Sherman sold musical instruments, sheet music, and sewing machines. The Sherman building had a distinctive castellated turret-like feature at the northwest corner of the building and a decorative metal cornice. Three storefronts opened onto Benton Street.



In 1910, the State Bank of Woodstock moved from their Cass Street location to the corner space occupied by Sherman. The bank expanded in 1918 and 1942 by purchasing of adjacent storefronts. In 1950, the entire façade was remodeled and “modernized” in keeping with the styles of the time. The façade was of brick and stone, with the addition of an electric clock and a large planter running along the front of the building. In 1962, the bank purchased the old Primm Block and in 1973-74 the entire bank building was given a new red brick façade. In 1983, the bank acquired the vacant Odd Fellows building immediately to the east, at the corner of E. Jackson and S.

Jefferson streets and constructed an addition to the bank on that site.

12

Murphy Block

100-108 N. Benton St.

The Murphy Block, erected by John J. Murphy in 1875, sits on the site of the first frame



house erected in Woodstock. The house was a portion of the Exchange Hotel, which was erected in 1844. The Exchange Hotel, along with 19 other buildings on the east side of the square were destroyed by fire in August of 1872.

John J. Murphy was born in Ireland in 1832. He moved to Hartland Township, in McHenry County in 1844. At the age of 14, he clerked in a general store in Chicago. In 1850, he went to California and engaged in mining. Upon his return he established a general store. He became cashier of the First National Bank, of which his father in law (Donnelly) was president. In 1894, he founded the McHenry County State Bank but subsequently withdrew and established the American National Bank of Woodstock which was located in southwest corner of the Murphy Block. Later, the First National Bank of Woodstock moved to this location. John J. Murphy served as a mayor and school board member and was involved in many other civic affairs.

Being a large structure, the Murphy Block was home to many different businesses over the years. George L. Murphy, John J.'s son, was a member of the Murphy and Doering Dry Goods firm, which was later replaced by Koblenz Grocery, Fruits and Vegetables store. The Woodstock Post Office moved into the building even before construction was

finished. T.J. Jacobs ran a cigar factory and store from one of the smaller storefronts in the building.

In 1885, Sam McNett and C.F. Thorne bought the boot and shoe business of E.J. Jewett at 108 N. Benton. In 1886, Thorne bought out McNett's interest in the business and thus was the beginning of a menswear business that lasted more than a century. Thorne's son acquired an interest in the property in 1904 (Thorne and Son) and eventually the business was sold to Wienke and Beard. By 1955, the business was operated as Beard and Stovall—a name which endured for over four decades.

The Woodstock Hotel, which was first known as the Richmond House, occupied the second and third stories for several decades. Fire insurance maps from 1885 show the Richmond House occupying the southern part of the building, and a hall with scenery and footlights (which presumably functioned as an opera house before the completion of the Woodstock Opera House on Van Buren Street in 1890), was located on the third floor above the northern three storefronts. In 1903, it was reported that "a beautiful new electric sign has been suspended above the entrance to the Hotel Woodstock."

110-114 Benton

Following the 1872 fire, these three two story "blocks" were constructed as a single building with matching arched 2 pane over 2 pane windows like those on the second floor of 110 Benton. The structures



had a continuous decorative brick cornice and matching storefronts with 9 pane windows. Like many buildings included in this tour, there were exterior stairs with decorative iron railings leading from the sidewalk to the basement entrances.

The oldest known photo of the building shows the Excelsior Market at 110 N. Benton, the George F. Stone Drug Store at 112 N. Benton, and Thomas Whitson's Hardware Store at 114 N. Benton.



Later, the first floor of the 110 N. Benton Street was further divided into two stores, according to old fire insurance maps. Maps from 1885 through 1912 show a barber shop and a harness shop each occupied half of the 35 ft. wide storefront. In 1893, a restaurant was located in the basement; in the early 1900's, B. Sherman ran "Sherman's Sporting Resort" which sold guns, ammunition, bicycles, fishing tackle, and other sporting goods, along with a billiards parlor and bowling alley—all in the basement. Several jewelry stores occupied the first floor during the 20th century, and various saloons occupied the basement for many decades.

Dr. George F. Stone's original store was destroyed by the 1872 fire, but he reopened his business in the 112 N. Benton St. building. Stone came from Vermont to Woodstock in 1857 and established a drug store on the east side of the square, in partnership with son Edward. He remained at 112 N. Benton until his death in 1887, when his son E. E. Stone took over. The business remained a drug store until 1966 when it became a gift shop known as "Stone's on the Square" for another three decades. Like other early drug stores, Stone's sold drugs, patent medicines, books, stationery, school supplies,

a variety of paints, and sundries.

114 N. Benton is the site of the first store in Woodstock—the Dwight and Beach store. The pre-sent structure was for many years

owned by the Whit-son family. Thomas Whit-son, the father, established a hardware, stove, and



tin store in 1854. Sons Edwin and W.H. took over management in 1869. In addition to selling general hardware, they did an extensive plumbing contracting business, worked sheet metal, manufactured their own tinware including several hundred milk cans each year, and installed tin roofs on many buildings of the time.

114. N. Benton underwent a dramatic change in 1912 when it was remodeled for the McHenry County State Bank. White glazed brick was installed, the second story windows were replaced with a large “Chicago style” window, and ornamental columns were installed to create a fairly typical early 20th century bank appearance. The bank later sold the building to the McHenry County Abstract Company (abstracts of title). In the late 1950’s or early 1960’s the building was “modernized” and covered with wood and metal panels. In 1996-97, Lloyd’s Paint and Paper, who has occupied the building since the 1960’s, restored the upper story windows, white glazed brick, and installed a new more appropriate storefront.

116-118 Benton

The M.L. Joslyn Building consisted of two store-fronts, offices on the second floor and a hall on the third floor. One of the earliest tenants was Frank M. Bunker who operated

a grocery, crockery, and fruit store in the 116 N. Benton space. When Bunker



moved out in 1903, the Wittenburg & Bodenschatz Palace of Sweets leased the space for a confectionery and bakery.

The 118 W. Benton St. storefront was occupied by various dry goods businesses into the early 1900’s when it became a grocery store. In 1938, the A & P Tea Company occupied the store. The third floor hall was used as a Masonic Hall, Knights of Columbus Club, American Legion Hall, Navy Club, and a Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

120-124 Benton

The brick detailing and windows on the three smaller two story buildings extending from 120 to 124 N. Benton is very similar to that found on adjoining buildings to the south.

An 1885 fire insurance map indicates the second story of the 120 N. Benton building was used as a dormitory, with a confectionery and bakery below. Before prohibition, a saloon was located at street level; later the space was occupied by a restaurant. The same map shows a bowling alley in the basement of 122 N. Benton and a saloon on the second floor. The National Tea Company grocery store leased the property in 1938.

A saloon was in the basement of 124 N. Benton in 1885, with a grocery store on the first floor and a cigar and tobacco business above. A postcard from 1910 shows a YMCA sign on the building. John Dacy ran an appliance store from this building for many years, retiring in 1979. In the late

1980's, bluish gray paint was removed from the brick wall and cornice and the brick was repaired.

16

126 Benton

Old photos of 126 N. Benton show it to be the only building in the block between E. Jackson and E. Judd without arched windows and a brick cornice. The northwest corner of the original storefront had a glass display window on both the Benton Street and Judd Street sides. Fire insurance maps show a harness shop on the first floor with *The McHenry County Democrat* newspaper printing business below. In 1914, the Model Restaurant was located in the basement. It was replaced by the Budweiser Café and Bar.

At some point in time, the second story window openings were changed and a concrete or stucco coating was applied to the façade of the building, but this was removed in the late 1980's. The original segmental arch brickwork above the two original window openings can still be seen on the second story.

17

Dacy Block 103-107 E. Judd St.

The Dacy block is named for Timothy J. Dacy who was described as being both "original" and "colorful." He was born in Ireland in 1838 and came to the United States at the age of 12. His mother died on the trip over and was buried at sea. The family settled in Hartland Township and the father found work with the railroad, leaving the children to rely on their own resources.



T.J. work-ed on a local farm and attend-ed school when he could.

He moved to Woodstock in 1861 and in 1863 invested in a patent gate and obtained a sales territory that eventually included the entire country. In 1865, Dacy returned to Woodstock and formed a partnership with W. B. Austin selling agricultural imple-ments. He eventually became sole prop-rieti-or. The business was located in a wood structure, constructed in 1869, on the site of the present day buildings.

In March 1880, his entire business was destroyed by fire. Two safes were discovered blown open in the Express Office which was located in the same city block. An unlighted fuse was found on the railroad track. Dacy cleared the debris, auctioned off the damaged machinery and other goods, formed a new partnership with John D. Donovan, and rebuilt. After three years, the partnership dissolved and Dacy was again sole proprietor. In 1886, he demolished a windmill and platform and constructed a new building to the west of the first one. Dacy continued in business until his death in 1896, when he was struck by a train at the Woodstock depot.



A great variety of businesses had stores and offices in the Dacy Block. Some, such as Sherman's jewelry store and Wien's clothing store rented a space there until they could afford to own their own buildings.

Though not originally part of the Dacy block, **228 N. Benton** was listed in the 1950 City Directory as the E.F. Perkins Barber Shop. It was constructed around 1940.

West Side of Benton

209-235 N. Benton St.

The west side of Benton Street did not really develop until



around 1900. This side of the street is a combination of small buildings, some which were constructed behind buildings on Main Street, and others which are actually the rear side of buildings which front on Main Street. 239 and 233 N. Benton will be described on Main Street.

235 N. Benton was the last building constructed on the west side of Benton Street. It was built between 1922 and 1932 and was the Heniken Barber Shop in 1944, the Fabric Shoppe in 1952 and again a barber shop in 1968.

231 N. Benton was the office of D.F. Quinlan, a real estate and fire insurance agent. Quinlan, a Woodstock native, was a very successful promoter who relied on extensive publicity and advertising.

229 N. Benton will be described with 228 Main Street.

227 N. Benton was the back side of a bowling alley in 1912 and later, the Stompanatos beauty salon.

A sign for a tailor business can be seen hanging from the second story of **225 N. Benton** on a c. 1913 postcard photograph. The 1914 city directory lists the Hobb and Kniebush Saloon. This was replaced by a bowling alley during Prohibition.

223 N. Benton was erected by J.B. Swamb for T.C. Black in 1903. Black and his family lived on the second floor, and Black ran the Oliver Tonsorial Parlor below. Duffy's Tavern has been located here since 1952.

221 N. Benton was a vacant lot in 1905. Old city directories list the F.J. Hendricks News Depot at this location in 1914, a dry cleaner in 1923-24, and Northern Illinois Publications in 1948. Photos from the 1950's show a large sign for the Singer Sewing Center attached to the building.

219 N. Benton was known as the Schroeder Block. It was constructed in 1899 for merchant tailor F.J. Schroeder and an addition was constructed in 1902. The building originally had a bay window on the second story. The *Woodstock Sentinel* stated that Mr. Schroeder "sets the styles in Woodstock and the best dressed merchants, professional men, and citizens are his patrons."

217 N. Benton was the home of Malte Schwabe's jewelry store before it moved to Main Street in 1929. The structure was built at the turn of the 20th century. In 1954, "The Fabric Shop" was located here.

215 N. Benton was originally a bakery. Its oven had the capacity to bake 300 loaves of bread and was located in the basement under the store in the rear of the Waverly House.

211 N. Benton was added to the Waverly House block (*see Main Street*) around 1920 when Slavin, Eastman and Pierce occupied the first floor of the building and ran an ambulance service. It was originally used as a garage.

209 N. Benton was considered an addition to the Hoy Block (which faces Cass Street) when it was constructed in 1904. It was built to house the *Woodstock Sentinel* newspaper company.

The first issue of the *Woodstock Sentinel* was published on July 17, 1856. The *Sentinel* occupied the building through the 1950's.

Excelsior Block

100-104 Cass St.

The buildings from 100 through 106 Cass Street were constructed in the mid-1850's.

Newspapers referred to the structures as the Excelsior Block in the 1860's.



H.W. Richardson's drug store was located in the 100 Cass space in the mid 1860's. Richardson took on Anderson Murphy as a partner, then sold his interest in the business to Luman (L.T.) Hoy and the firm became Murphy and Hoy, around 1869. Hoy became the sole proprietor in 1880 and ran the drug store at this location for many years.

Hoy's drug store was commonly referred to as the "Corner Drug Store."



Various offices were

located above the drug store, and for many years, the *Woodstock Sentinel* was published from the third floor. D.R. Ring sold boots and shoes in the basement.

In 1926, the Hoy Pharmacy installed a "magnificent" new electric sign. It was described as a combination of a chaser and a speller, with a border of red and green lights that continuously traveled around the sign; the name "Hoy" would flash on and off, and 320 bulbs would spell out the word "drugs".

A.W. Fuller of Fuller and Sherwood Dry Goods Store at 102 Cass was one of the first shopkeepers in Woodstock. He was followed by Marmaduke (M.D.) Hoy and Sons mercantile business in 1874 and the Farmer's Exchange Bank in 1887. Son George Hoy later became the bank president.

J.S. Medlar's Photography Gallery, established in the 1850's, was located above. Medlar's studio later moved to Dean Street.

104 Cass was the L.J. Gates hardware store and tin shop, with offices on the second floor. In 1885, the **106 Cass Street** building was occupied by the G. Blakeslee grocery store. The International Order of Odd Fellows had a hall on the third floor.

In 1886, the 100-104 portion of the block was raised four feet. Workmen from Chicago cut holes in the basement walls to admit jackscrews and supports, and slowly the building was raised, giving higher ceilings in the basement and first story. At the same time, the 104 storefront windows were refitted with new plate glass and a galvanized iron cornice with the inscription "Hoy Block 1886" was added.

The Pleasure Club was established in 1897. It first occupied the third floor of 102 Cass, and then expanded into the former Odd Fellows Hall at 104 Cass in 1899. The Pleasure Club was a social club where young men could spend idle hours. There was a billiard table, a punching bag, rings, dumbbells, and Indian clubs, card tables, daily newspapers, leading periodicals, and various other games and amusements. The club's bylaws prohibited gambling or drinking of intoxicating liquors in club rooms, and according to the newspaper, they were strictly followed.

In 1903, the old front of the Farmer's Exchange Bank (102 Cass) was completely removed and modern plate glass was installed. A Luxfer prism transom window was installed over the plate glass.

In 1916, A.D. Osborn who was operating a hardware and variety store at 104 Cass, installed "the new style" storefront with deep windows. Osborn's hardware business occupied two floors and the basement. In 1929, Minnie and Ernest Bohn purchased the entire stock of Osborne Hardware and continued the business as Bohn's Hard-

ware—a business that continues today in a different location.

20

106 Cass

106 Cass Street was originally part of the Excelsior Block, but it was not acquired by the Hoy family and consequently was not raised four feet in 1886. It was described as the mammoth dry goods store of Edward A. Murphy, John J. Murphy, and John H. Mullen in 1869. On the ground floor was the dry goods department, with a grocery section in the rear; the second floor was occupied as a salesroom for ready-made clothing, and the third floor was used as a carpet hall.

Fire insurance maps show a saloon in this location from the 1890's through at least 1912. In 1902, Gustav Behrens, who came to the United States from Germany in 1890, ran "The Board of Trade" which was described as the "coolest and neatest sample room in the City."

21

108 Cass

On January 28, 1936, with temperatures 10 degrees below zero, fire destroyed



the last remaining two story wood frame structure to overlook the square. The building was said to be 80 to 90 years old at the time of the fire. The Henry Stone & Son boot and shoe store (previously known

as Stone and Hart) had been in business there for many years. Stone had succeeded W.H. Dwight who had been in the same line for 25 years. A portion of the first floor was also used by the McHenry County State Bank for a period of time beginning in 1903.

The fire also destroyed hundreds of photographic negatives chronicling Woodstock's people, buildings, celebrations and tragedies. At the time of the fire, Bransby's photo gallery was occupying the second story space which had previously been occupied by the photographer Mel Tripp and even before that by G.A. Burbank and M. Colton.

The one story black tile structure that replaced it was the home of the Woodstock Clothing Company in 1938. Wien's women's clothing store, run by Julius Wien, the son of Main Street merchant M.N. Wien, moved into the building in the 1940's, and though the business was later sold, it continued to carry the Wien's name into the 1980's.

Main Street Fire

In February, 1892, a disastrous fire claimed most of the buildings on the east side of Main Street and threatened



many other buildings. A newspaper account of the fire reports that buildings as far away as Madison Street caught fire. The west side of Main Street was largely spared, but over time, those buildings have been replaced.

22

208-210 Main

The historical record is unclear, but it appears that the J.J.



Herdklotz Tavern was damaged, but not destroyed by the fire. A few months after the fire, the newspaper reported that H.J. Herdklotz opened the Crystal Palace with new fixtures, cigars, and liquor. Due to failing health, Herdklotz sold the saloon to Joseph Connors and Charles Stone in 1901. The 1922 fire insurance maps show a shoe store in the north half of the building and a barber shop in the south half. The building continued to be used as a shoe store, at least through the 1950's.

Waverly House

The present three story structure originally had a decorative pediment and cornice with a



graceful balcony projecting over the Main Street sidewalk. It was built on the site of the first Waverly House, the wood frame structure where the 1892 fire had originated.

The new Waverly House was erected by Marcellus L. Joslyn in 1900 at a reported cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000. The first floor on the Main Street side contained the office, kitchen and dining room. The south part was used as the Rowe and Nails barber shop and bath rooms. (The bakery on the back side was described on Benton Street.)

Seventeen rooms ranging in size from

10' x 15' to 9.5' x 10.5' were located on the second floor, along with two bath rooms, a gents toilet, and washroom and a large linen closet. The third floor was leased to the Odd Fellows as a lodge hall. It was also used by the Modern Woodmen of America, the Eagles Club, and the Knights of Pythias.

The main part of the basement was occupied by bowling alleys which were 124 feet in length—including an 8' by 21' area that extended under the Main Street sidewalk. The maple alleys were put in by the Brunswick—Balke—Collender Company.

In the 1920's, Slavin Eastman & Pierce sold rugs, pictures, and stoves, and ran an undertaking and ambulance business out of the building. By the 1940's, Thomas B. Merwin ran a funeral home, ambulance, and furniture store business here.

24

216 Main

In 1902, this building was the location of the Main Street Buffet (a saloon).

In the 1920's a confectionery shop sold tobacco, light lunches, candy and ice cream. In the 1930's, Malte Schwabe moved his jewelry business from 217 Benton and the building has been used as a jewelry store ever since.



Malte Schwabe came to Chicago from Germany in 1896 and a year later moved to Woodstock with almost no capital. In just a few years, he was the owner and proprietor of a brick building and a stock of valuable jewelry on Benton Street.

In the late 1940's, Ray Wolf bought the

business and though it is now under different ownership, the Ray Wolf Jewelers name remains. The Ray Wolf Jewelers sign is typical of the type of signs found around downtown Woodstock in the 1940's and 1950's.

218 Main

25

This building was shown as a confectionery in 1905, then a restaurant, a meat market, and again a confectionery in the 1930's and 40's. A second story was added to the building between 1924 and 1932.

220 Main

26

The Huntzinger Main Street Restaurant was located in one of the first buildings to be



constructed after the 1892 fire. John Huntzinger also ran the Waverly House when it first opened in 1900.

Photographs of Main Street show two different movie theater signs at this location—the first, was the Star Theatre. Another taken during a tug of war contest on July 4, 1910 shows The Gem Theater in the background. The Gem was first owned by John C. Miller (see 209 Main Street.) The theater did not last long— City directories list a saloon in 1914, the Splendid Restaurant in 1923, and Buckley's Tea Room in the 1930's.

222 Main

27

David R. Joslyn built the 218 Main Street building to house the Wittenburg and Bodenschatz candy company in 1902. The

first floor contained a soda fountain, candy counters, tables, and chairs. The candy factory was located in the rear of the building and in the basement. A gasoline engine was used to run the ice machine. The business moved to 116 Benton Street in 1903, and the Vincent & Lee saloon took its place. The same photograph which shows the Star Theatre at 220 Main Street shows Vincent & Lee on the awning at 222 Main. The July 4, 1910 photograph shows the name E. G. Knutson and Son Wines and Liquors on the awning.

224-226 Main

28-29

In 1908, the Gaulke Brothers sold their billiards hall to D.R. Joslyn and E.R. Hoy, who in turned leased the hall to George Tompkins who ran the adjoining Oliver Bowling Alley. Together, the businesses were known as the Oliver Amusement Parlors. (The Oliver name comes from the large and successful Oliver Typewriter Company, located a block away). Tompkins also installed an automatic shooting gallery in the basement under the bowling alley. The business was called the Mills and White Bowling and Billiard Parlors in the 1914 City directory, and the Main Street Amusement Parlors in the 1922-23 directory.

In 1929, John Stompanato leased 226 Main Street for a barber and beauty shop. His daughter ran the beauty shop which was at the Benton Street end of the building. Stampanatos Real Estate was also run from this building, thorough the 1960's. In the 1975 City Directory, Stompanato's Barber Shop Lounge was listed under "barber shops;" in 1978 it was listed under "taverns."

30

228 Main

The Main Street Livery (known as the Knight & Casey Livery Stable in 1893 and the C.R. Lines Livery in 1898) was rebuilt immediately after the 1892 fire. It was replaced by the Moses N. Wien's Department Store around 1910. M.N Wien came to Chicago from Telchi, Russia in 1887 and came to Woodstock a few years later. In Woodstock, he started a boy's and men's clothing store in the Dacy Block. His ads referred to him as the "Chicago Clothier." Gradually he added shoes, boots, women's apparel and dry goods to his business. When he moved to 228 Main Street, he also sold furniture, kitchen cabinets and refrigerators. Wien died in 1929, but the business continued until it went bankrupt in 1934.

The newspaper reported that T.B. Merwin purchased Wien's furniture stock in 1915 and was adding an undertaking business over the Wien store. The business was to be managed by J.C. Pierce. In 1925, the American Legion moved into the second floor, and in 1929 it was reported that there were new bowling alleys on the second floor.

31

230 Main

The modest brick building is shown as a postcards store in a 1910 photo of Main Street. The 1912 fire insurance maps show a cobbler shop. In the 30's it was Eddie's Tavern which advertised fish fries on Friday and Saturday nights. In 1954 it was the home of the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce.

32

232 Main

Like several other Main Street buildings, this building had a bowling alley in its past. In this case, the structure was originally

built as a bowling alley at the turn of the century and the original building façade had a pediment feature with a bowling pins and a bowling ball design. The bowling alley was dismantled in 1903 and W.A. Voltz leased the store and operated the Model Bargain Store. Belcher Brothers then acquired the business a couple years later and ran it as a general store. Over the years, the Belcher product line changed with more of an emphasis on giftware and flooring. A more modern storefront later covered the original brick, but in 2001-2002 the front façade was renovated to look more like the original building façade.

33

234 Main

The Davis building was saved from the 1892 fire, primarily because it had brick



walls, unlike most structures on Main Street. Dr. L.H. Davis tore down an old blacksmith shop and erected the brick building in 1879. Fire insurance maps show it being used as a dwelling on the first floor with the doctor's office above. According to these maps it was used as a dwelling until around 1912 when it is shown as a fruit store. The 1914 City directory lists Alvin M. Heywood selling fruit, cigars and tobacco at this location.

The original arched, tall, second story windows can be seen in photographs from Woodstock's homecoming celebration at the end of World War I. The façade was altered by the early 1950's.

236 Main

34

The 1871 Allen Giles grocery store building also survived the 1892 fire. Between 1905 and 1912 either a new structure extending through to Benton Street was constructed on the property, or the original structure was greatly expanded and altered. In 1914, the C.W. Ritt Saloon was located on the first floor of the building, but then Woodstock voted itself dry and Ritt acquired the McConnell & Hoy news depot business and moved it to the former saloon. Though the business would change hands several times (Wicks and Conley's, Conley's, Beyer's and Lang's) it remained a news depot until about 1995.

A photograph of the building taken in 1919 shows a second story bay window facing Main Street where a pair of windows are today. The bay window was removed and the Main Street storefront was altered by the early 1950's.

231 Main

35

Behind the façade installed in the late 1970's is a 1940's era concrete block building. The building was constructed on the site of a frame house that sat at the north end of Main Street for several decades.

The building was a Kroger grocery store in the 1940's and early 50's, a Piggly Wiggly in 1955, and Farm and Fleet's first Woodstock location in the 1960's.

229 Main

36

David Floyd owned and operated a blacksmith shop here at the turn of the 20th century. Eventually, his business changed to a "5 and 10 Cent" store and in 1914 he moved from 229 Main to the former Behnke

Saloon at 222 Main. Floyd's son Dale remodeled 229 Main Street into a automobile garage. The storefront was removed and the display window was replaced by a double door. The back end was joined to an old garage making larger quarters for the ever increasing automotive business.

Dale Floyd overhauled his old truck and added a double row of seats for the convenience of picnic and excursion parties; he also started a taxi service. In 1915, Floyd sold his auto garage business to the White Brothers so he could concentrate on hauling people and goods. The building was later used as a grocery store and a dry cleaners.

225 Main

37

In 1901, Ed Griebel built a new machine shop. By 1914, this building had become a machine



and auto shop with Griebel as proprietor. The building was an "electrical shop" from the 1920's until the mid-40's. In 1948, Hansen's Confectionery was located here, which was succeeded by Two Bill's Confectionery in 1955.

223 Main

38

The Republican newspaper sign can be seen painted on the wall and hanging over the sidewalk in photographs from 1910. In the 1920's and 30's, 223 Main was used as a pool hall. Thompson Appliance is listed at this address in city directories from the late 1940's through 1975.

217 Main (Parking Lot)

The Main Street parking lot was the site of the J.D. Donovan farm implement business. Donovan sold to Schuett & Schaff in 1902, due to declining health. They continued the implement business, and added Buick automobile sales to their product line a few years later. The building was demolished some time after 1932.

Movie Theater

203-211 Main St.

Early movie theaters advertised extensively but never seemed to provide their



exact locations. By comparing fire insurance maps and newspaper descriptions, it seems that 211 Main Street was the original Princess Theater, which was run John C. Miller, after he left The Gem Theater, across the street. In November 1913, Wittenburg and Bodenschatz opened the new Palace Theater and described it having white enamel brick with green trim. Inside was a main floor and balcony with a seating capacity of 429 and a stage. The film projection equipment was located in what was hoped to be a fireproof room, and the theater had seven exits. The Palace Theater only advertised for a year or two. Its description matches photographs of the Princess Theater in the 1920's, so it appears that the Princess business moved into the former Palace Theater building. The Princess had wicker lounge chairs in the balcony for the more affluent patrons.

In 1920, the Beverly Theater opened in the 211 Main Street space which had housed the first Princess Theater, but the Beverly

only lasted a couple of years. In the 1930's Shufield's Lunch Room was located in the former theater building. In 1939, a Piggly Wiggly store was established. In 1955, after Piggly Wiggly moved into larger quarters, the P.O. Knuth's office supply and sporting goods store moved here.

In 1927, John Miller demolished the second Princess Theater along with the E.J. Field Hardware store that was located between the two theaters and a new, larger theater was constructed. A contest was held to name the theater, and the name J. C. Miller Theater was selected. The new Miller Theater opened with ushers in costume, an 11 piece band playing the Star Spangled Banner, and Miller's daughter Helen playing the organ. In 1929, the theater was equipped for sound; air conditioning was installed in 1935.

In 2002, Tivoli Enterprises, expanded the former Miller Theater into the former Beverly Theater building.

Conway's Clothing store was variously described as being in the Miller Theater and in the Miller Theater Annex (the 203 Main Street building.) The original building façade was covered with new brick and the beautiful upper story window was replaced in the 1980's.

Kendall Block

112-114 Cass St.

The 24' by 65' Kendall Block was completed in December of 1883.



Dr. C.N. Kendall had his dentist's office and living quarters on the second floor. In his office, Kendall had a Cereus plant that was quite newsworthy. The night-blooming Cereus is a desert plant that looks almost

dead for most of the year, but for one midsummer's night, an exquisitely scented, large waxy white flower opens. This attracted many visitors to Kendall's office. In 1888, a newspaper advertised that Kendall



was also the agent for the Clark Cycle Company. Kendall died suddenly in 1893 at the age of 54. He had been in good health and had attended a meeting at city hall shortly before his death.

Beneath Kendall's office, on the first floor, was the B.S. Austin grocery store—a fixture at this corner for 30 years. Austin was assisted by his son and several other clerks who delivered groceries throughout the City. Bart Austin was locally famous for his annual fireworks display on July 4th. The tradition began in 1881 and was still being reported in 1897.

In 1921, A.J. Dushnak purchased the building and began remodeling the basement into the A.J. Dushnak's Cozy Inn Café and Lunch Room and the Karmel Korn shop. The same year, he purchased the old wood structure to the west and replaced it with a new brick building. He tied the two buildings together with a new brick façade and matching storefronts. The Petiet and Sahs Grocery moved into the first floor, but was soon replaced by the National Tea Company.

In the late 1930's, Wien's Women's clothing was located on the main floor. Bowman's shoe store occupied the corner

store from the 1940's into the early 1980's and the Bates Smartwear Shop was located next door.

42

Pratt Building

118-120 Cass St.

At the same time Dushnak was working on the 112-114 Cass buildings,



Reid Pratt purchased and tore down the old McGee building and constructed a new brick building which was first occupied by the The Wardrobe—a cleaner and tailor business which had occupied the old building as well.

Pratt, who owned the adjoining meat market, also served as mayor, volunteer fire fighter, and with his brother Jay owned an ice business. Both the ice truck and Pratt's Hudson auto had customized steering wheels to accommodate his ample girth. Pratt and his wife Luzena lived upstairs in the new building.

Reid Pratt's father constructed the Pratt Meat Market building in 1899 on the site of the old McManus building. The front section of the McManus building had been moved down the hill from in front of 130 Cass Street when Cass Street was extended through to Throop Street. At the time of demolition, it was known as the A.B. Pratt & Son Meat Market. Prior to that it had been run as the Bradley and Bradley Meat Market and the Cash Meat Market. In the early 1920's, John Asmus and his son Charlie were full time butchers for Reid Pratt. City directories list the building as the Asmus Meat Market in the 1930's and 40's which later moved to 126 N. Benton St. It became the R.W. Schultz Meat Market in the 1950's.

118 Cass St. became the First Savings and Loan Association of Woodstock in the early 1960's. The façade of 118 and 120 Cass were altered as the savings and loan expanded.

43

F.W. Woolworth Co.

122-128 Cass St.

Rudolph Diesel came from Germany in 1848, before eventually moving to Woodstock in 1860. He conducted a business selling and manufacturing furniture and coffins, and provided undertaking services at 122 Cass for many years.



In 1928, the Diesel building was demolished, along with the old clapboard sided boarding house with the white picket fence located to the west and a new F.W. Woolworth Company store was built.

The F. W. Woolworth store was constructed by local building contractor Henry Ohlrich. The building had an ornamental terra cotta façade and the trademark F.W. Woolworth Co. gold lettering. The tilework came from the American Terra Cotta and Tile Co. in Crystal Lake which also produced the terra cotta designs of noted architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. The western third of the building was occupied by the A&P Tea Co. in 1930's and by True Value Hardware in the 1940's and early 50's. The terra cotta was removed and replaced with brick in the 1970's.

44

State Bank Building

130 Cass St.

The State Bank of Woodstock was organized in 1889. Mayor E.C. Jewett was the cashier and other bank officers were all well known members of the community. In 1903, "the bank on the hill" installed new modern fixtures and the offices of Richards, Jewett & Wright Abstract Co. moved to the second floor. In 1910, the State Bank bought the Sherman Block (101 S. Benton) and the building became known as Moncur's Flower Shop. Moncur maintained a greenhouse behind the present day movie theater and had a truck farm outside of town. Moncur supplied fresh vegetables to the Palmer House and the Cohen Co. in Chicago.

For approximately 60 years, the building was the location of Attorney Hugh Deneen's law office. The 1951 City Directory shows the "Vogue Shop," a woman's apparel store, at this location also. Though the storefront window has been changed, and the awning added, the second story brickwork can readily be identified in old photos of this block of Cass Street.

45

132-134 Cass

Construction of a new two story brick and stone structure for Peter Nester was underway in 1903. This building had a brick wall dividing the first floor into two stores, and the second floor was intended to be used as three flats. This building is well preserved and looks much like it must have appeared when it was completed more than one hundred years ago.

Over the years the two storefronts have housed a harness shop, two bakeries, stores, offices, a tire and vulcanizing shop, a billiards parlor, and a movie theater. The Vaudette Movie Theater was short lived and later became The Rex, but it too did not last.

A. J. Zoia Building

136 Cass St.

As the engraving at the top of the building indicates, the A.J. Zoia building was constructed in 1905. The building is next to the site of the original Zoia monument works. Antonio Zoia came to America in 1881 and moved to Woodstock in 1886. He entered into the partnership of Stafford and Zoia Marble Dealers and eventually became sole owner. His three sons worked for him and the Zoia family still operates a monument company in Woodstock today. In addition to monuments, Antonio Zoia carved the datum on each side the stone steps leading into the McHenry County Courthouse in 1892 (373' above Lake Michigan; 954' above sea level.) He erected the Civil War Soldier's monument in 1909.

The Zoia building was rented for a variety of businesses. In 1929, Leo Dittman of Crystal Lake purchased the plumbing business of Ernest "Curly" Ries that was located here. The second floor was used as a hall by the Eagles Club in 1918.

Woodstock Elks Lodge

140 Cass St.

When built in 1923, this building housed the Elks Lodge, a



doctor's office, a dentist's office and Knuths' ice cream store. Traces of the original building façade can be seen on the Throop St. side, where the original window openings and doorways have been bricked in. Nine double hung windows and two doorways were originally located on the first floor of

the Cass Street side. The upper windows remain the same.

Courthouse Complex

101 N. Johnson St.

The McHenry County Courthouse was completed in 1857 at a cost of \$47,000.



It replaced the wood courthouse in the middle of the square that had burned two years earlier, and the offices in the Rat Hole building at 101 S. Benton Street. The building contained the sheriff's residence at the south end of the first floor and jail cells in the basement. The land and the Hill Tavern which sat on the site were purchased by the citizens of Woodstock for \$3,000 and donated to McHenry County in exchange for the old Courthouse and park in the center of the square.

Neill Donnelly who owned the general store immediately to the north was the chairman of the County Board of Supervisors committee that selected the new site and oversaw the construction. Donnelly was born



in Ireland and orphaned at age 13. In 1833, he came to America and eventually settled on the Queen Anne Prairie northeast of Woodstock. In 1848 he moved to Woodstock and opened the store which he ran until his death in 1883. Donnelly served as county coroner, county sheriff, village president and city mayor. He was very involved in St. Mary's church. In 1862, he purchased the

site of the Catholic cemetery and laid out burial plots.



In 1886, the need

for a new jail became apparent. Newspapers reported that children at a neighboring home observed a light shining through the brick wall of the jail. An investigation revealed that the prisoners had displaced bricks making a hole about two feet square, and were just about to escape.

In 1887, the Board of Supervisors appropriated \$20,000 to purchase a suitable location and erect a new jail and sheriff's residence, and remodel the old jail into records vaults. The old Donnelly property was selected and the building was razed in 1887. The dirt that was excavated for the new building was hauled and dumped onto Calhoun Street on either side of the railroad tracks to make it safer for travel.

Multiple additions and interior alterations were made to the courthouse as the County grew. Finally, in 1972, the offices, courts, and jail moved to a new facility at the north end of Woodstock and the old buildings were sold. In 1973, the structures were listed as landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places.

Montgomery Wards

110 N. Johnson St.

Two buildings owned by members of the Donnelly family stood on the site of the present Woodstock Square Mall. The northernmost structure was a residence and store owned by John Donnelly who was born in Ireland in 1805. In 1839, he pre-empted

a claim in Hartland township, pitched a tent, built a cabin and began farming.



He and his wife moved to Woodstock and bought the property at this corner of the square.



Donnelly died in 1884. His daughters, the "Donnelly Girls," lived in one half and ran a highly regarded millinery store in the other half of the building in which they were born.

To the south, was another two story wood building which was the John J. Stafford Furniture and Undertaking establishment prior to it's relocation to 103 Van Buren St. This structure was replaced by a Montgomery Wards store in 1928.

In 1930, fire destroyed the millinery shop building. It was described as the oldest building in Woodstock at the time of the fire. An addition to the Montgomery Wards building was constructed on the site and in 1934, the public was invited to visit the remodeled store. Another major remodeling occurred around 1960.

Montgomery Wards closed around 1970. In 1972, the Schultz Brothers five and dime store moved into the building, removed the upper windows, and covered the American Terra Cotta and Tile Co. terra cotta walls with blue ribbed metal panels. The building was renovated in 1984.

51

Woodstock Post Office

124 N. Johnson St.

In 1913, the federal government purchased the Conway lot at the southwest corner of the square for \$15,000 for



a future post office. In 1922 or 1923, the City negotiated to use the lot for public parking to relieve congestion on busy afternoons. Post office construction did not begin until 1931. The building was one of the first facilities constructed under the Depression era's U.S. building program. Shortly before construction was scheduled to begin, the citizens of Woodstock learned that the post office was planned to face Calhoun Street. Woodstock Postmaster Lucy H. Renich filed a protest which was followed by a hurried visit by a representative of the Treasury Department. In January 1931, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect, agreed to face the building to Johnson Street.

The post office moved from the former Odd Fellows building at the corner of E. Jackson and Jefferson Streets to this location in 1932. By 1991, it had outgrown its location and moved to the east end of town. Home State Bank purchased the building in 1996 and undertook a major restoration and renovation. The original lobby, including the original mail boxes, were completely restored.

52

129 Van Buren

The Great A & P Tea Company built a new store and moved to this location in the early 1940's. The A& P replaced a small, two story structure that had been used as an

up-holstery shop and awning manufacturer, earlier in the 20th century. Following A&P's departure, the Schultz Brothers five and dime was located here, followed by a True Value Hardware store, which closed in the early 1980's.

53

127-125 Van Buren

The old C.W. Hill blacksmith shop, which had been used for stores and offices for much of the 20th century, had deteriorated and was compromising the integrity of the Opera House foundation. Following its demolition, the Stage Left Cafe addition was built in 2003.



54

Park in the Square

The Park in the Square was the site of the first courthouse and jail in Woodstock. The two story wooden structure was located just south of the center of the park. It was used for the first school classes



and church services as well. McHenry County gave the courthouse and park to the citizens of Woodstock in exchange for the property on Johnson Street where the new courthouse was constructed. The old courthouse in the square was consumed by fire in 1855.

The original Spring House was constructed

in the 1870's over the site of a natural spring that was believed to have curative health benefits. However, it was later determined that the water had no unique healing properties.



The Spring House deteriorated and was eventually demolished. The structure that stands today is a replica of the original.



The bandstand is the fourth such structure since city band concerts began in 1885. Over many years the City Band and others have performed weekly concerts throughout the summer.

The Women's Relief Corps raised funds to erect a monument to honor the soldiers who served the country during the Civil War. The statue was made by Antonia Zoia and unveiled in 1909. Cannons were placed on pedestals around the statue. They were removed to be melted down for the war effort during World War II.

The Park in the Square has been a place where residents have gathered for many occasions—among them the World War I homecoming celebration. Servicemen from around McHenry County were invited to participate. A large “Welcome Home” arch was erected at the north entrance to the park and patriotic bunting was draped from buildings around the square.

Residents continue to use the Park in the Square for entertainment and reflection.