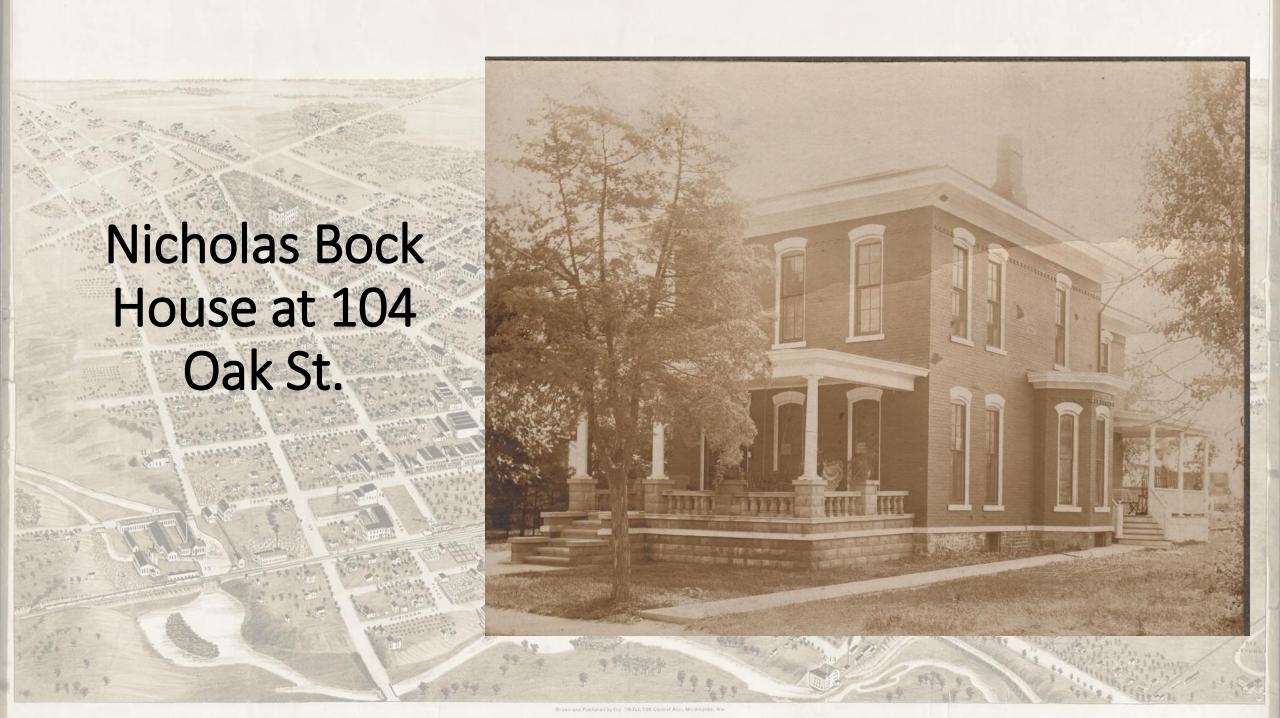
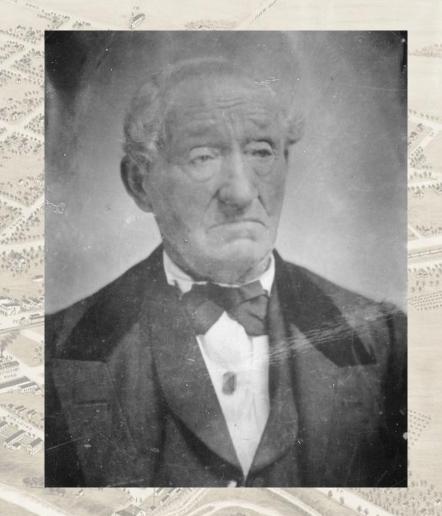


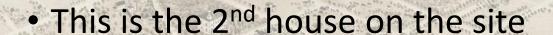
Downtown Dowagiac 1890



Nicholas Bock

- Built by Nicholas Bock in 1877
- Bock was a Belgian immigrant who served as a 'teamster' in the army of Napoleon and was at the Battle of Waterloo
- Bock immigrated to the USA in 1832, finally settling in Dowagiac in 1849
- He built the American House Hotel (next site)





- First house burned down in a fire in 1876
- After he retired from the hotel business, he reportedly took in borders at his residence
- Bock died in 1885

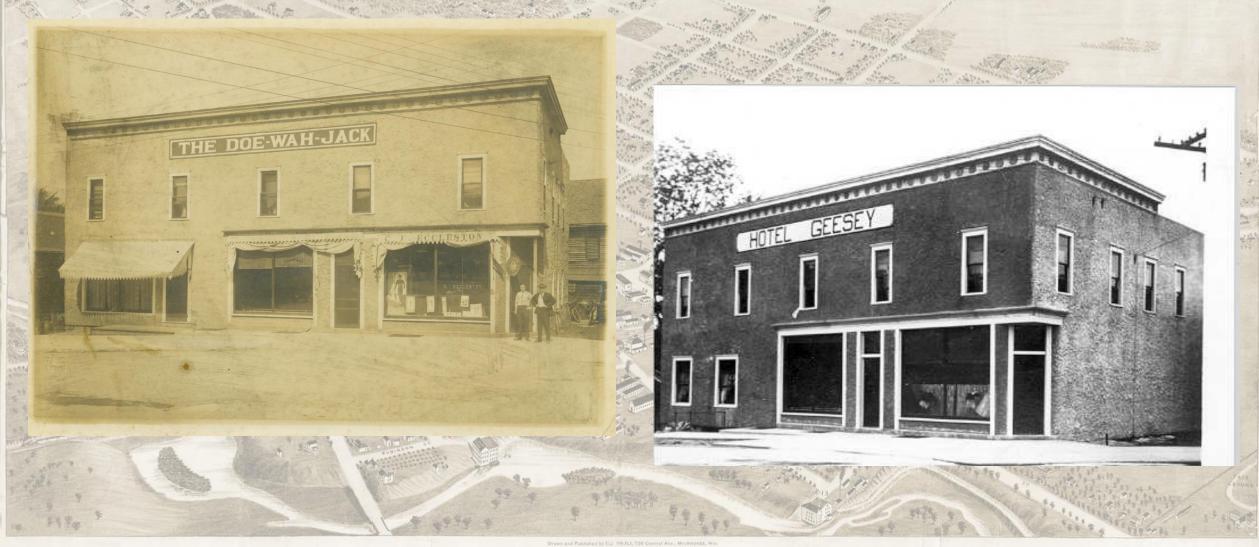


The American House Hotel



- Built by Nicholas Bock in 1849
- One of first hotels in Dowagiac
- House the riders of the first
 Orphan Train when it arrived in
 Dowagiac in 1854
- Early tavern in the city
- Polling place for Silver Creek Township

Later incarnations of the original American House Hotel



The Fair Store: 117-123 S. Front St.

- Opened as early as 1899
- In 1899 City Directory owned by Emanuel Tobias
- After 1899, various businesses at these addresses until 1941 when The Fair Store reappears
- The Fair Store operates into the 1970s as a large department store

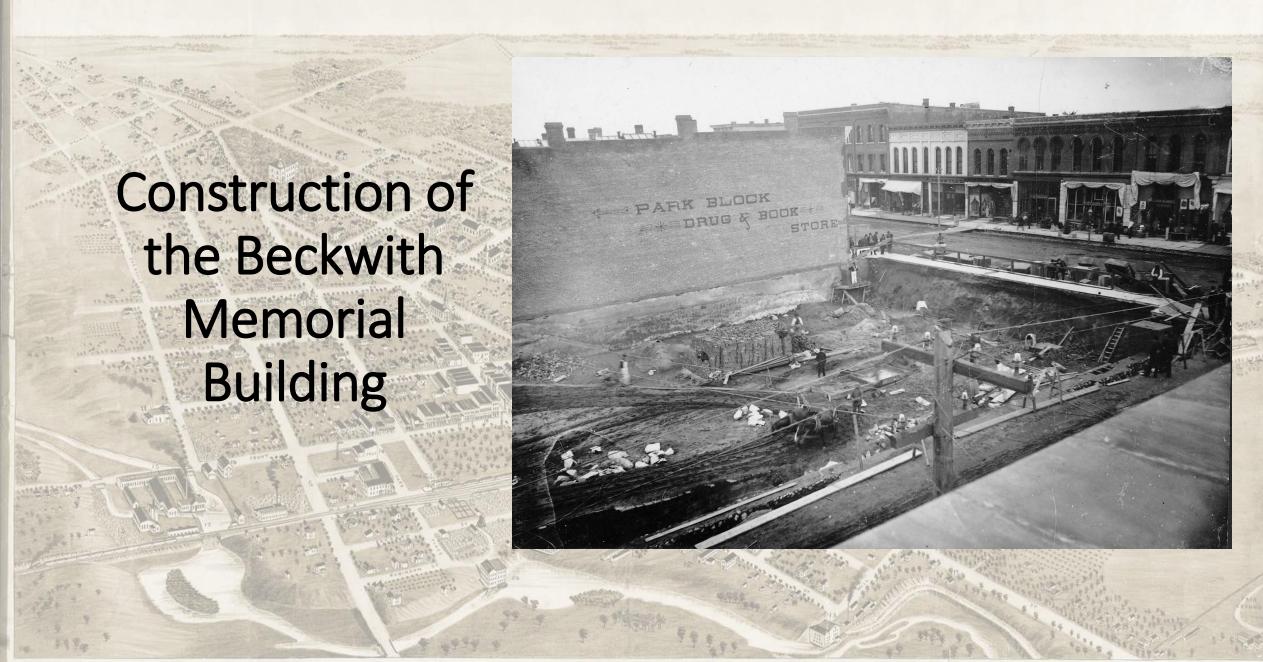


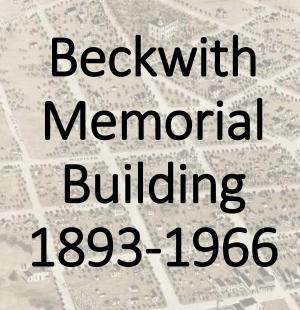


Beckwith Park

- Historically was a park from 1848-1892
- 1892, construction begins on Beckwith Memorial Building
- Beckwith Building torn down in 1966 and property returns to park status









Beckwith Theater 1893





Caruso's Candy Kitchen



- 130 S. Front Street
- Original building on this property burned in the fire of 1864. Andrews & Cooper Grocery Store occupied the site
- Property built by 1874 (photo of Front St. in collection
- Van Hise Barber shop in 1890s, Plato's Department Store in 1899 City Directory, State Savings Bank in 1908-09

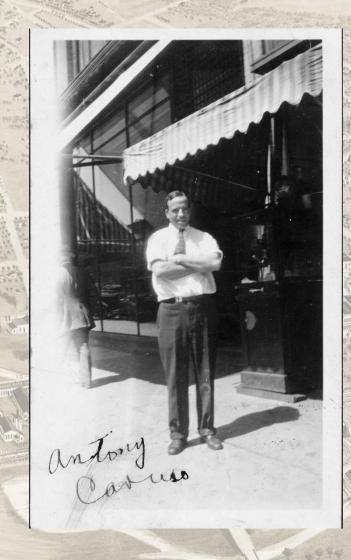
Chicago Candy Kitchen



- Article in April 1910 states that the Savings Bank will move to the corner of Front and Commercial Streets
- Chicago Candy Kitchen will remodel and move in under G.P. Perentesis and Brother (Greek)
- Chicago Candy Kitchen opens on April 29, 1910, making ice cream and candy
- Soda fountain installed in 1914
- Business and building sold to Antonio Storti in 1916

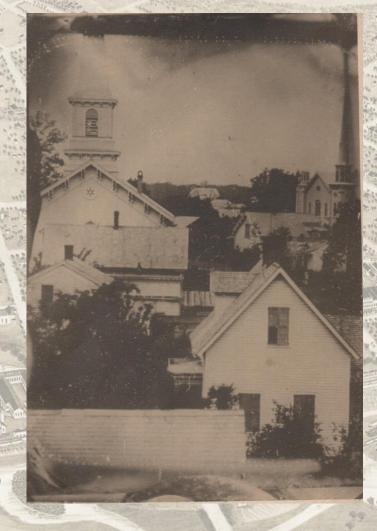
Interior of Chicago Candy Kitchen, Antonio Storti and children, c. 1920

Caruso's Candy Kitchen



- September 12, 1922, Storti sells the Chicago Candy Kitchen to Anthony Caruso
- Still Caruso's 103 years later and operating through generations of Caruso family

Current Beckwith Theater Company



- Original site of the first all denominations church in Dowagiac
- That church was where the riders on the first Orphan Train went to be 'adopted' in 1854
- Methodist Church built here in 1859
- Veneered in brick, steeple removed and other modifications in 1906

Methodist Church on left side, c. 1960



Methodist Church Until 1974



Commercial and Pennsylvania

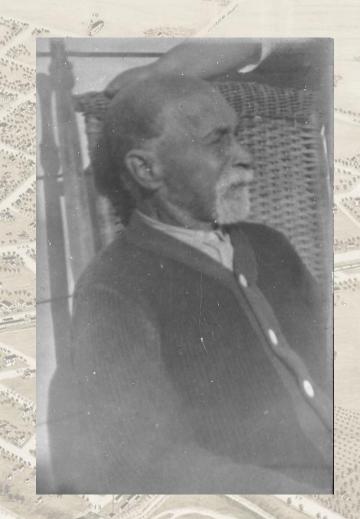
- Small commercial district established in the early days of the village/city
- Original buildings destroyed in fire in 1860s
- Location of the barbershop of Thomas Jefferson Martin





Thomas Jefferson Martin

- Born into slavery (father was the slaveowner) in Tennessee
- Freed upon father's death and learned the barber trade
- Worked steamboats on Mississippi and Ohio Rivers
- Moved to Dowagiac in 1855
- Leader of Black Michigan community from 1860 to 1880s
- First Round Oak stove placed in his barber shop
- Shown in photo in previous slide at this site



Mark Oppenheim Dry Goods and Clothing Store

Mark Oppenheim, a Russian immigrant, opened his store in 1871. It eventually became a men's clothing store, run by Israel and Ben Oppenheim. It was a family-run business (last owner was Maurie Oppenheim) until 1994.



Interior of Oppenheim's Dry Goods, c. 1902







View looking north from the Pray Building (Hardings today), c. 1890.

Original general stores from 1847-48 on corner of Main and Front Streets.



Current business building built by George Moore around 1900 as a grocery/butcher shop. Moore arrived in the area as a rider on the Orphan Train in the 1860s, worked on a farm in Silver Creek Township until he was old enough to move to town.

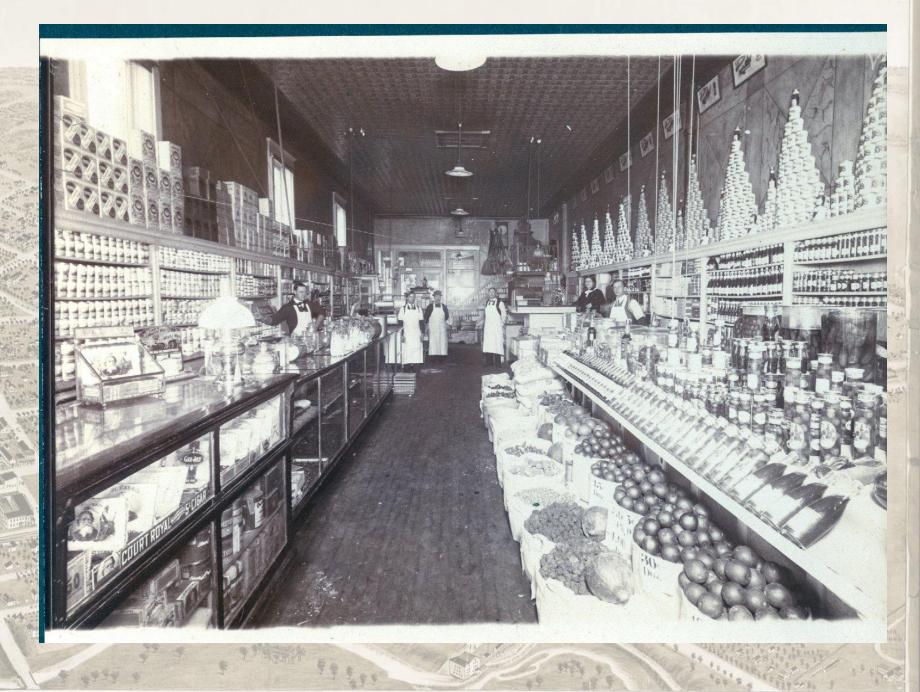


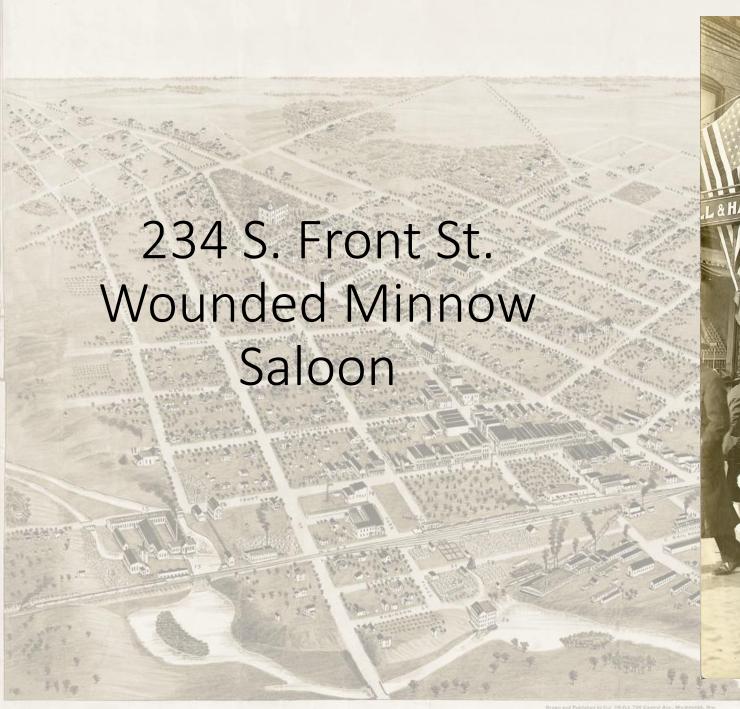
Groceries and Funerals



- George Moore retired by 1908
- Merwin and Bonnell into the 1920s
- W.F. Lyon and Son Funeral,
 Undertaking and Furniture in
 1938
- Assortment of businesses over the next decades

Interior of 238 S. Front, c. 1914







BOPE (Elks) Temple, Opened in 1913



- Commercial space on ground floor has housed grocery stores, state liquor store, taverns (Hook's, Wounded Minnow today)
- Second and third floors for BPOE 889. Included a lounge, meeting areas, pool hall, theater

Michigan State Liquor Store, c. 1950s 'Cardinal' Charlie Gill at the counter





Judd Lumber Company

- Judd sawmill built by Mark Judd in 1859
- Lumber yard built by Mark and William Judd in 1889
- Sawmill operational into the 1950s
- Outbuildings for lumber yard added throughout the years
- Today it is the longest continually operated lumber business in Michigan (Judd family owned until 2019)



Dowagiac depot, c. 1860 with Judd sawmill in background



Mark Judd and the original buildings





