

NORTH WASHINGTON, 200 BLOCK

18 x 22 396SQI

200 Block North Washington (West Side)

According to early accounts, this block between Washington and Mason Streets was once one of the main gathering areas in the settlement that was to become Owosso. The community Christmas tree was displayed on the corner of Mason Street.



Next door to the M.L. Stewart Bank is E.L. Brewer Bootery, the Michigan Sewing Machine & Organ Co. and Parkhill's Drug Store.

M.L. Stewart Bank

Markus Lyon Stewart, born in 1832 in Ypsilanti, came to Owosso in 1849 and opened a grocery store in 1857 on the southwest corner of Washington and Exchange Streets. In 1882 he built the M.L. Stewart Bank across the street on the northwest corner. He is most likely pictured in this c. 1892 photo outside the bank. Stewart died in 1903. His bank failed in 1904 having over-extended loans to the Owosso Carriage and Sleigh Company.



Gute's Drug Store

Soon after Stewart's bank closed in 1906, Hoffman's Economy Drug Store occupied the building. In the early 1920s Gute's Drug Store occupied the building. Druggist, Frank Gute, born in Owosso in 1883, retired in 1947 and sold the store to his younger brother, Fred Gute. Frank, who died in 1976, left much of his estate (around \$700,000) to "the community." The majority went to the city of Owosso, churches and other organizations. The city used some of the funds to build the 1984 pedestrian Heritage Bridge to Curwood Park Park.

On a bitter cold February morning in 1948, Gute's Drug Store, the upstairs office of dentist, Dr. C.N. Finck, and The Sugar Bowl restaurant and candy store next door were destroyed by fire. A new one-story building was built soon after. In 1962, Bob Stone bought the building from Fred Gute and opened Stone's Drug Store.

25 x 39
975SQI



Brothers, Harry and Peter Capitan behind their soda fountain in The Sugar Bowl (later Capitan's restaurant). The candy counter is on the left. Oysters were on the menu at the time this photo was taken in 1927.

The Sugar Bowl - Capitan's

Harry Capitan came to Middleton, New York from Greece in 1900 and learned the candy trade. He moved to Owosso by accident, originally seeking to set up shop in Grand Rapids. Capitan's Sugar Bowl was established in 1903 at 205 North Washington Street. In 1907, Harry's brother, Peter Capitan came from Greece and joined the business.

The Sugar Bowl grew when Capitan began selling, in addition to his candy - sandwiches, beer tea, homemade soups and serving ice cream year-round - the first in Owosso to do so. Each type of candy was made in its own large copper kettle. All holidays were big candy days, especially Christmas - candy canes from 3-feet to 21-feet in length, hard candies, peanut brittle and coconut brittle - a total of four tons (8,000 lbs.) in 5,000 boxes of this type of candy were sold plus 3,000 boxes of hand-dipped chocolates were shipped all over the U.S. On April Fool's Day chocolate-covered beans, cardinals and gulf doves were popular.



Alex and Jim (pictured) Capitan, sons of Peter, took over the business in 1946. After the fire loss in 1948, the business resumed under the same family ownership, but with the new name, Capitan's.

Alex retired in 1975 and Jim, who served as mayor of Owosso 1983-1989, continued to run the restaurant until 1989. It has been said that there have not been more than 15-20 restaurants in the country that have had continuous operation, in the same location and by the same family for 50 years or more. The Sugar Bowl-Capitan's survived 86 years.



13 x 39
507SQI

The Charles E. Shattuck Family

One of the many dozens of entrepreneurs to do business in early Owosso was Charles E. Shattuck (1832-1900), who came to Owosso from Madison County, New York in 1848. A banker, an internal revenue service assessor, and a consummate merchant, Shattuck was also one of the first in Owosso to embrace and promote the modern inventions of the times.



In 1869, Charles E. Shattuck opened the Michigan Sewing Machine and Organ Company at 207-209 North Washington Street, pictured in 1884. The building was moved in 1890 to the current Emerson School site.

In 1891, Charles built a double, Henry building on the same site for his growing business. According to a Detroit newspaper, "It is the finest front of any business house between Detroit and Grand Rapids."



In addition to sewing machines and organs, Shattuck was the first person in Owosso to own and sell a "talking machine" (phonograph) and the first to sell pianos, sheet music, musical instruments, new-fangled moving picture machines and even bicycles.



Another relative of Charles Shattuck was Donald Shattuck who owned and operated Owosso's first radio station, which was located in the Shattuck Music House. As of June 30, 1925, WSMH (Wireless Shattuck Music House) 1250 on the dial, was one of only sixteen radio stations in Michigan.

18 x 39
702SQI
Hill - South Wall

120" wall



Charles and Abbie's son, Jose C. Shattuck, born in 1862 and a graduate of the University of Michigan in 1887, became president of the company in 1930. Jose was the first person in Owosso in 1891 to own an automobile, a motor-propelled vehicle with the brand name of Mobile. The automobile was such a novel addition to Owosso, that Jose led the city's Bannan Circus parade with it. His wife, Myrtle, owned another of Owosso's first cars and is believed to have been the first woman to drive a car in Owosso. J.C. is shown riding down Exchange Street on a "high" bicycle from Rugby, England in 1885.

Jose and Myrtle's son, Justin W. "Jeddy" Shattuck, was one of the first persons to own an airplane in Owosso and was one of the organizers of the Owosso Community Airport. He gave airplane rides at the Owosso Airport during the city's 1936 Centennial Celebration. He also sold De Soto, Plymouth and Packard cars at the Shattuck Auto Company at 207 North Dewey Street.



Jose C. Shattuck and "Danney," c.1885

J.W. Shattuck with his Packard car, Mrs. James (Helen Ford) Oliver Curwood, Jr., Mrs. James (Ethel) Oliver Curwood and D.E. McVey Asst. Wholesale Manager, Packard, Chicago at the Owosso Community Airport c.1930



Charles and his wife, Abbie built a large brick home at 302 East Exchange Street. The Shattuck family was considered the "first" family of Owosso to have lived for more than five generations in one home. The house, pictured in 1884, was torn down in 1955 to make way for the Salvation Army Citadel.

Charles C. Duff (grocer and chairman of the Congregational Church) is pictured with Charles Shattuck around 1895 at their favorite pastime, chess. The two men used to play by the hour. They participated in state and national championship games by U.S. Mail, once playing with a man in England. Often it required two years to complete a game this way. On one occasion, Shattuck directed a "live chess game" played on the stage of the Owosso Opera House. The stage floor was painted to resemble a chessboard and the "chessmen" were live girls dressed in white.

18 x 16
288SQI

Osborn & Sons

Osborn & Company, one of the oldest businesses in Owosso, established in 1857 by John M. Osborn, was first located on the 100 block of North Washington Street on the east side.



With sons, Morris, Charles, Fred and James, John moved the newly named Osborn & Sons to 217-219 North Washington. The building, Gould Hall, built by Amos Gould in 1868, was in response to the community's need for retail space as well as a location for social events. Next door to the north was Gould's First National Bank.

On the third floor of Gould Hall, with its 17-foot ceilings, social events abounded. Graduation ceremonies for Owosso High School's first five graduates were held there in 1876. Both plays, concerts, readings, and more were regularly offered. Before the city built the first Fire Station/City Hall on the corner of Main and Park Streets in 1885, its offices were on the third floor.



Osborn & Sons occupied the building into the 1920s. Later tenants were the W.R. Knapp Store, then the Morris 5 & 10 (pictured in 1934). Other occupants on the upper levels were the Masons and, prior to 1896, the Knights of Pythias, both fraternal orders.

The building was purchased in 1960 by the Pabst Brothers Furniture Co. In 1978, the CPA firm of Denis, Wotulick & Sommer acquired and restored the building.



17 x 39
663SQI



200 Block North Washington (East Side)

This impressive building, for its time, is pictured around 1872 and was located on the northeast corner of Washington and Exchange Streets. It was built on the former site of Ingersoll's Tavern, which had burned down. David Ingersoll, nicknamed "Old Blue" for his efforts recruiting volunteers for the Union Army, also served in the "Ingersoll Rifles," Company 14, 5th Michigan Cavalry. This "new" building was built by Amos Gould, who is standing in the center of the photo with a cane and top hat.

Tenants were the Palace Bakery and a dentist on the second floor, Hoyt & Davis Dry Goods, J.C. Dingman Grocer and Brewer & Howe Boots & Shoes. Ezekiel Salisbury later purchased the property (called the Salisbury Block) and made the two corner stores into the Salisbury Opera House. Patrons climbed an outside flight of stairs to the entertainment hall to see such stars as Will Rogers perform. The Salisbury family also ran a boozery on the ground floor.



This photo, c.1916 depicts the Strand, that "theatre beautiful."

Other businesses on Owosso Dry Cleaning, Hilliard & Bowling, Tanshiff's Home Bakery and the Elks Temple, formerly the Marel Hotel. Shown in the distance is the Salem Lutheran Church steeple.



The Strand Theatre and four additional stores, owned by the E.S. Brewer family, were demolished in 1955 to make way for the G.C. Murphy Co. store.

18 x 39
702SQI