The Evolution of a Corner

The Northeast corner

of

3rd and Washington

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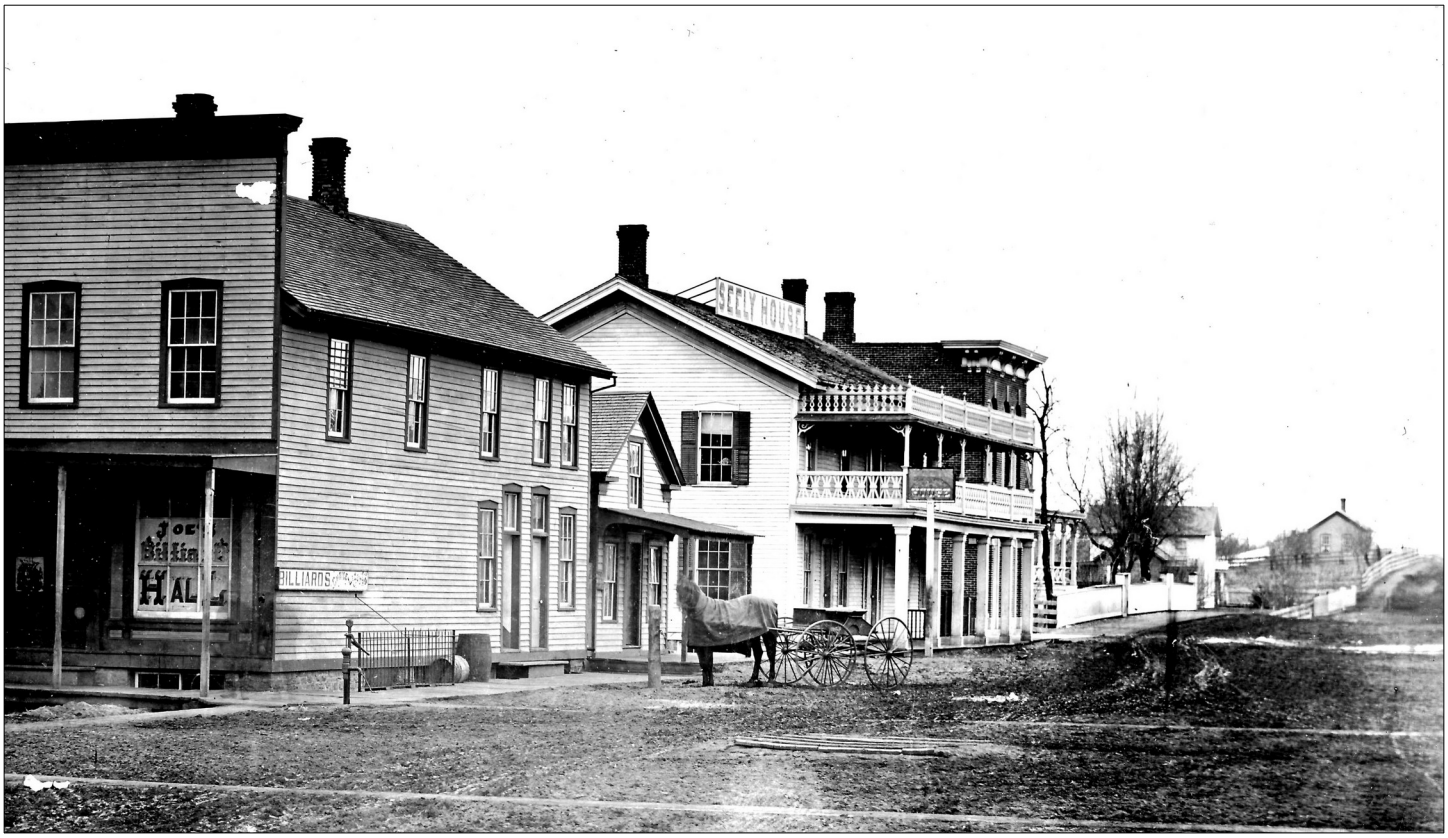
by

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Prophetstown Area Historical Society
Prophetstown, IL
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This is a look at the present-day northeast corner of 3rd and Washington. And it has looked like this for many years. However, this corner has a history, which we will attempt to to show here. The first picture we have of the area is shown below, taken in the 1860s, looking east from the northeast corner of 3rd and Washington. You can see some buildings on the south side of the street, but there appears to be only one building on the north side.





We have no date on this picture. But we know that the Seely House (Eureka Inn) was moved in from Portland in 1872, so the picture was taken after that, but before 1883, for another building was constructed next to it by then. The Eureka address is 110 E. 3rd St. The little building to the left of the Eureka sat at 106 E. 3rd St. The picture was taken from the corner where the old Bank of Prophetstown building sets (now the Historical Society) looking east.

Address: 106 E. 3rd St.

The buildings at 221 Washington, 223 Washington and 106 E. 3rd St. were on property transferred by the United States, May 1, 1843, to George W. Campbell, Dixon S. Morehouse, James Craig, Asa Crook, Erastus G. Nichols, Jabez Warner and Daniel Webster. It comprised 77.9 acres in the southwest fraction of the southwest fractional quarter of Section 33, Township 20 North, Range 5 East.

Mattson Bank

This land was obtained by A. J. Mattson in 1857 from George W. Campbell and Dixon B. Morehouse. Mattson had a bank in this building for many years.

Revenue and Enlisting Office

During the Civil War, A. J. Warner, father of C. J. Warner, was revenue office and Enlisting Officer and had his office in this building, along with Mattson.

Lampkin Barber Shop (there in the 1890s)

Edwin Lampkin owner.

Soft Drink & Rest Parlor

S. N. Langdon opened a "restroom" in the Hotchkiss Building on 3rd St. in February 1913.

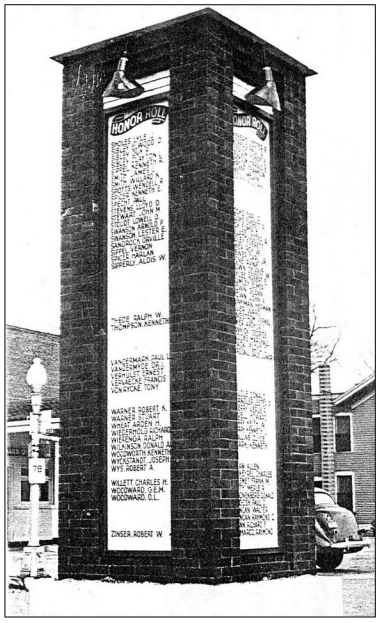
Griswold Produce

Produce buyer-Mrs. Anna Griswold. There in 1927 when building was torn down.



The next photo we have was taken in October 1919, during what was called the “Homecoming”. It was an event to honor our WWI soldiers. You can see the monument erected for the event. Part of the ceremony included its dedication. Unfortunately, it was made of wood, so deteriorated and was replaced by one made of brick, as seen below. Because our Washington Street was also a State highway the State made us remove the monument in the early 1950s. Years later we found that it was unceremoniously dumped out by the City salt bin and covered with dirt.







The building on the corner is 223 Washington. Below is what we have been able to piece together about that location.

Address: 223 Washington St.

The buildings at 221 Washington, 223 Washington and 104 E. 3rd St. were on property transferred by the United States, May 1, 1843, to George W. Campbell, Dixon S. Morehouse, James Craig, Asa Crook, Erastus G. Nichols, Jabez Warner and Daniel Webster. It comprised 77.9 acres in the southwest fraction of the southwest fractional quarter of Section 33, Township 20 North, Range 5 East. It was the Loomis Estate Building in 1927.

Jay Seeley's Restaurant

Carl Hansen Bakery

Joe's Billiards & Pool

Joe's Sample Room

Charles Carlson Rest Room
There in 1927 when building was torn down.

Standard Oil Gas Station
There from 1928-1988. Then was Al Vorhees barber shop, then sat empty. Torn down in 1988.

Eureka parking lot
In July 1988 the old Standard Oil Station was demolished.



Notice the small building that sits just to the left of the Eureka Inn. Its address was 108 E. 3rd St. What we know about it is listed below.

Address: 108 E. 3rd St.

This building, located at 108 E. 3rd St., just west of the Eureka, along with the brick building at 217 Washington St. and a home at 110 2nd St. were offered at a public auction June 27, 1936. They were part of the Samuel G. Baldwin Estate. Pritchard & Rollo (auto dealers) purchased the buildings at 217 Washington and 108 E 3rd St. in the June 1936 auction, planning to tear down the one at 108 E 3rd St., opening a driveway to the rear of their Washington St. building, which held their car dealership. It was torn down in September by the Swanson Brothers.

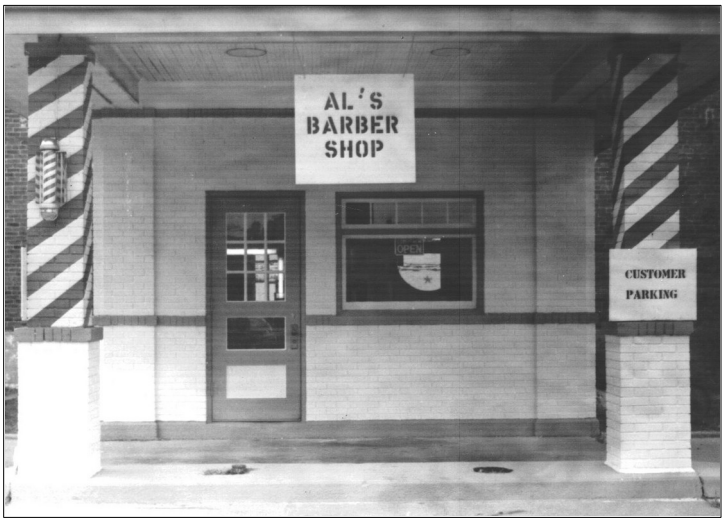
The building was built, according to the Echo, by Mr. A. J. Mattson, an early Prophetstown businessman about 1876. Its first occupant was the Fassett Harness Shop.

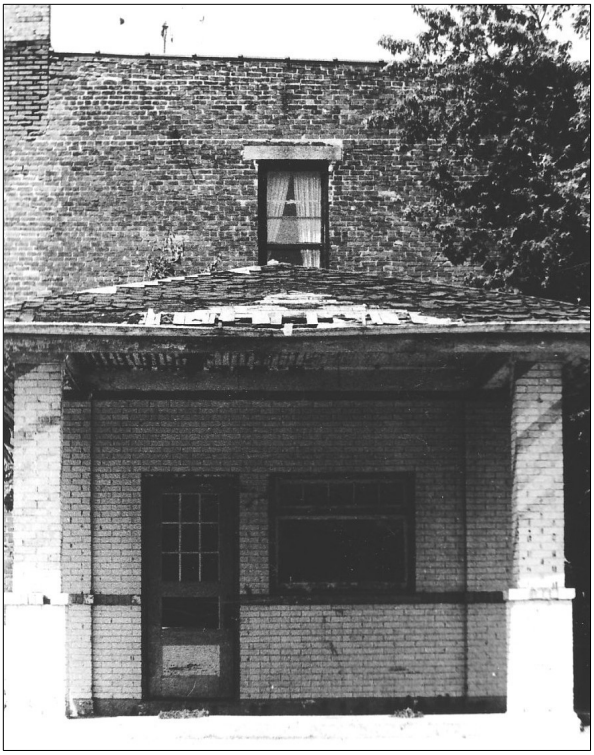
Harness Shop (there in 1876)
Owned by Edwin Fassett.

Paxton Millinery (there in 1883)

Frederick Barber Shop in the 1919 photo
It is the wood building with the canopy, next to the Eureka. However, there is a small space between the two buildings.







When the corner building was torn down in 1927 a Standard Oil station was erected in its place. Roger Schaeffer worked there, since his dad owned it for a few years.. After the station closed, Al Vorhees opened his barber shop there. When he closed his business the building fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1988, becoming the parking lot for the Eureka Inn.



To the right of the Seely House (Eureka Inn) you see a brick building. That building, built about 1870, was the location of the First National Bank of Prophetstown. Later, it was changed to the Bank of Prophetstown, a private bank, which eventually moved to 302 Washington about 1892, which now houses the Prophetstown Area Historical Society. At the turn of the century the Bank of Prophetstown moved to a new building at 322 Washington. This is where it was when it did not open for business in January 1921. Unfortunately, due to financial irregularities carried out by George and Hugh Paddock everyone lost their money in the biggest scandal in Prophetstown history.