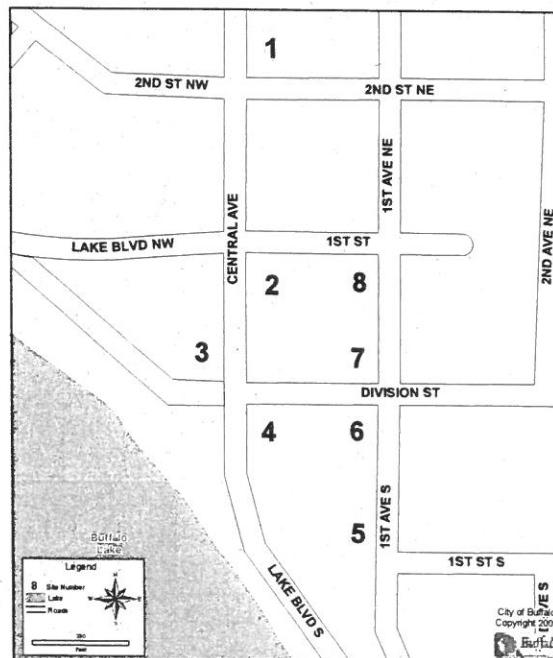


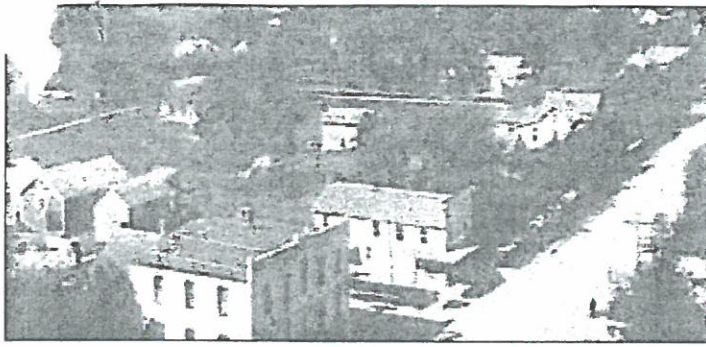
# *A Walking Tour of Buffalo's Historic Central Business District*



**Buffalo Drive 1942**







View from Court House tower, looking up Court House Ave., Buffalo hotel in foreground early 1900s.

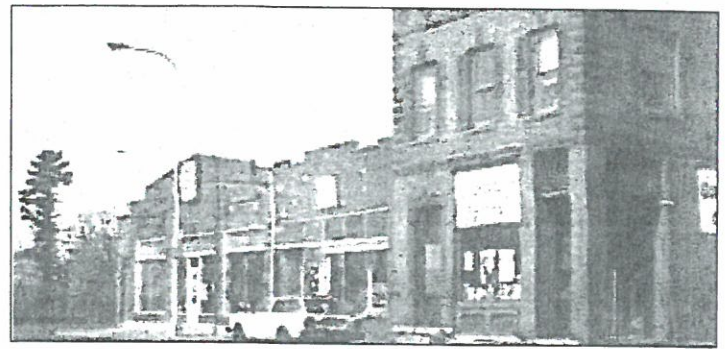
**1.** For a number of years (1900-1940's) Bacon Street (now 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE) was one of the busier streets of the village. Built in 1897 as the Odd Fellows Lodge at **#200 Central Avenue**, this wooden structure has served a succession of businesses, including Olson's Garage from 1932-1945; and now being greatly remodeled it has a restaurant and office suites. The large red brick building **#2-4 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE**, built in 1903 by Dr. Shannon for his medical practice has long been the home of the Masonic Lodge on the second floor and various businesses on the first floor – including being the Post Office from 1953 through 1965. **#6 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE** is a small brick building (newly remodeled) that was the first site of the Buffalo State Bank. Bacon Street had a number of businesses including an Egg & Produce company, grocery store, appliance store, and on the far corner a gas station and the town's first drive-in fast food business.



Huber Hotel 1920 - 1945

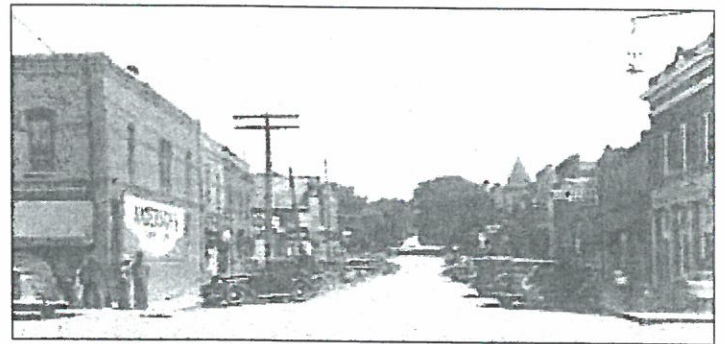
**2.** For 26 years **#32 Central Ave** served as the town's Post Office (1902-1928), and the first phone company offices were on the second floor until 1913. In 1931 the building was remodeled to serve as the Purity Dairy – where milk was bottled and ice cream was frozen for local customers. It then served as a corner grocery, and most recently has had a variety of businesses. The Buffalo hotel **#27 Central** was built in 1895. Originally known as the Park hotel, it was an elegant three-story brick structure, extremely fine when first opened. After numerous owners it became the Huber Hotel in 1920 and later the Anderson hotel from 1945-1960. It is now a rooming house. One business from 1913 through 1981, Beutner Drug (**#10 Central Ave**) had a long history in our city. A main feature was its elaborate soda fountain and tin ceilings. The phone company was upstairs from 1913-1964. With the closing of the drug store, the building has held a variety of businesses.

**3.** **#1 West Division** was built in 1899 as a saloon by the



West Division Street 1987

Minneapolis Brewing Company. In the early 1900s Buffalo was one of the leading advocates of prohibiting liquor sales. Eventually saloons were outlawed in the village in 1913 and the Buffalo State Bank was then located here – the bank vault can still be seen. With the demise of the State Bank, the Post Office was located here from 1928-1953. Many retail businesses have been located here since that time. Dr. Buselmeier had his dental offices upstairs for many years. **#9 West Division** was the Peterson Feed & Implement business built in 1919 and in 1937 **#3 West Division** was added as their new showroom. Later it was Leinbach Equipment, then Trueman-Welters Equipment before they moved out to Hwy 55 about 1969. **#2 West Division** was a gas station first built in 1929, then replaced in 1953. In the early 1970s it was converted to a restaurant.



1st Ave NE 1940

**4.** **#2 East Division** was built in 1888 and was the Wright County Farmers Cooperative Store from 1908 through 1921, and then was the Leader Grocery for over 25 years. It then has held a series of department stores (Edelman, Boyd, and finally Johnsons) and then it became an antique store until recently expertly remodeled and preserved by Nelson Builders, **#11 East Division**, now the home of Country Lane Clothing and Wreath of Franklin, is a part of Division that has long been the site of



West Division Street 1987





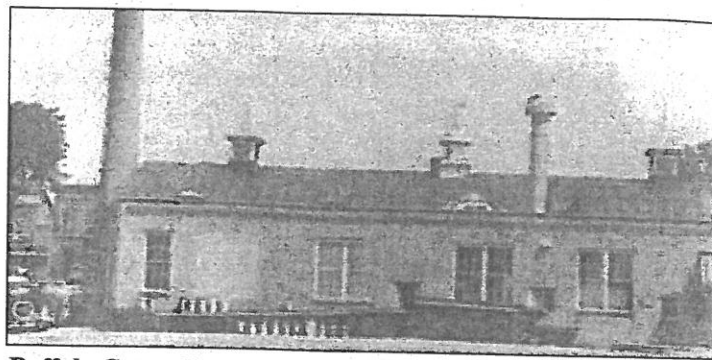
**Post Office, 1902 - 1928**

important retail businesses. O.L. Dudley built his Opera House here in 1886. The large three story building had a general store, barber shop and bank on the first floor. The Opera Hall on the second floor had a large stage and a high ceiling that allowed for basketball and other sports events, and a seating area for several hundred people (Says the advertisements). Torn down in 1922, it was replaced by the Schaefer Building in 1939 – a five store complex. Cohen's Clothing Store began as one of these stores and then grew to encompass the entire complex with remodeling and additions. Already having a long history in the village, Oakley Bank opened its new building at **#15 East Division** in 1922 – moving here from the Dudley Building next door. There were then additions in 1966 and in 1973. (Now owned by Klein Bank) **#8 East Division** was built in 1909 as a jewelry store and most of its history has had that purpose - Green's, Pelant's, and since 1948 Setterberg's Jewelry. **#12 East Division** was built in 1915 and for many years was Reider's Meat Processing and Market. **#22 East Division** was also built in 1915, replacing the older Shimmin Drug Store built in 1888. Upstairs was the offices of Dr. Catlin and his "hospital" until the hospital was built up on the hill in 1951. The first floor was the Schmidt Drug Store (1915-1950), succeeded by the Wagner Drug Store until 1971. Since then it has been a hardware store, an appliance store, gift shop and now a restaurant.



**Swenson & Peterson Lumber Company 19xx**

**5.** A swamp/wetland area until the course of the Willow Creek was diverted through an underground culvert in 1956, this area now encompasses some of the newer buildings in the business district. The Buffalo Creamery was a large industrial complex from 1896 until 1958 that covered the area now taken by the parking lots and the Holmquist/Szarke building. The various buildings built in the 1960s and 1970s as part of that redevelopment were the National Bank and the Holmquist Supermarket in 1961, the Buffalo Cleaners in 1960, the Gallery



**Buffalo Co-op Creamery, 1910**

Building (**#114 1<sup>st</sup> St. So**) - then a hardware store - in 1974, and the City Liquor Store/Dollar Store (**#120 1<sup>st</sup> St. So**) in 1971 – then a Ben Franklin Variety Store.

**6.** From this busy corner you can see several stages of Buffalo business development. At **#1 1<sup>st</sup> Ave So** you now find Edward Jones Investment co. On that corner was the Standard gas Station from 1930 – 1985. Across the street at **#2 1<sup>st</sup> Ave so** was a Skelly Gas Station from 1923 – 1970s. The building had been rebuilt in 1951 and now houses a delicatessen/restaurant. The buildings to the east and to the south of that building were all built in the 1950s in another era of redevelopment, replacing earlier blacksmith shops, lumberyard areas, etc. **#12 1<sup>st</sup> Ave So** was Holmquist's first efforts as a "Supermarket" being earlier in a smaller store on 1st Ave NE. This building was built in 1950



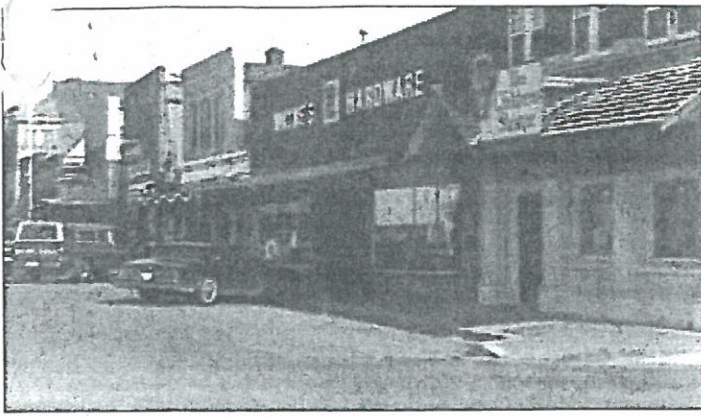
**Division Street 1992**

and later was a Ben Franklin (1963-1971) and Wagner/Snyder Drug Store (1971-1990s) and now an Ace Hardware Store. **#14 1<sup>st</sup> Ave So** was built in 1951 as a bakery, with Hallmark taking over the store in 1975. Many will remember the Bridgeman's Restaurant and later My Gal Sal's Restaurant being at **#110 Division**. At **#114 Division** Truax Radio & TV was built in 1951. It later became Buffalo Appliance and then Doc's Appliance.



**Division Street 1927**





**1st Avenue NE, looking north 1987**

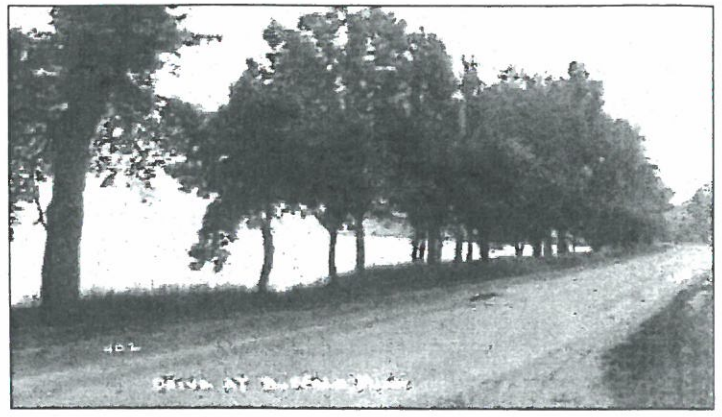
The Cota Garage (#111 Division) was built in 1920 as an auto repair shop and Hudson Auto sales dealership. It was remodeled and became Esau's Supermarket in 1953. It now has returned to its roots and is an automobile parts store.

**7.** The drug store at #25 East Division was built in 1975, replacing a number of earlier smaller businesses including the Buffalo hardware and the Christian Meyer building. The National Bank of Buffalo was built in 1917 at #2 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE and was at this site until 1961. The building then became a part of the Burkland Retail Complex. Touted as a 'modern' department store, the Burkland Store was built in 1910 at #10 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE. It was very large and had men's, women's and children's clothing and also had a grocery department. Growing over the years, it came to incorporate its surrounding buildings. Wayne's Hardware took over the building from 1984-1991. The various buildings in the complex have since housed a variety of businesses.



**A long time Chevrolet salesroom, the building now housing Jones Cable 1934**

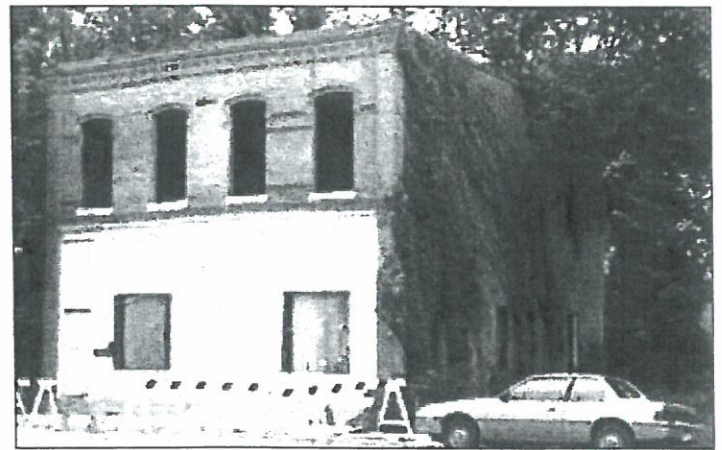
**8.** The Schmidt building located at #25 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE was built in 1923 as a Ford automobile salesroom and a dance hall. It was remodeled in 1944 for Allied Manufacturing Company which produced children's clothes – later known as Wonderalls. Bergstrom Furniture was here from 1968 – 2006. This building stands on the half block that was the first park in the city, privately owned by Mr. Dudley. The area had been mostly swamp land, and in 1895 he filled it with gravel and dirt, planted trees, built a bandstand and installed a fountain around an artesian well. Due



**Buffalo Drive Lake**

to its "swampy" character, Mr. Dudley soon gave up his park and sold off the buildable lots along Central Avenue to other businesses. The remaining lowlands are now city parking lots and still have an occasional flooding problem. #30 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE began as a general store in 1902. In 1920 Owen Haugland changed the old store into a service station, and in 1923 it became Buffalo Motor Co. which sold Chevrolets. Remodeling in 1931 put in the diagonal front that faced its new gas pumps. In 1963 that auto dealership was moved to Hwy 55, and this building has served a number of businesses since that time.

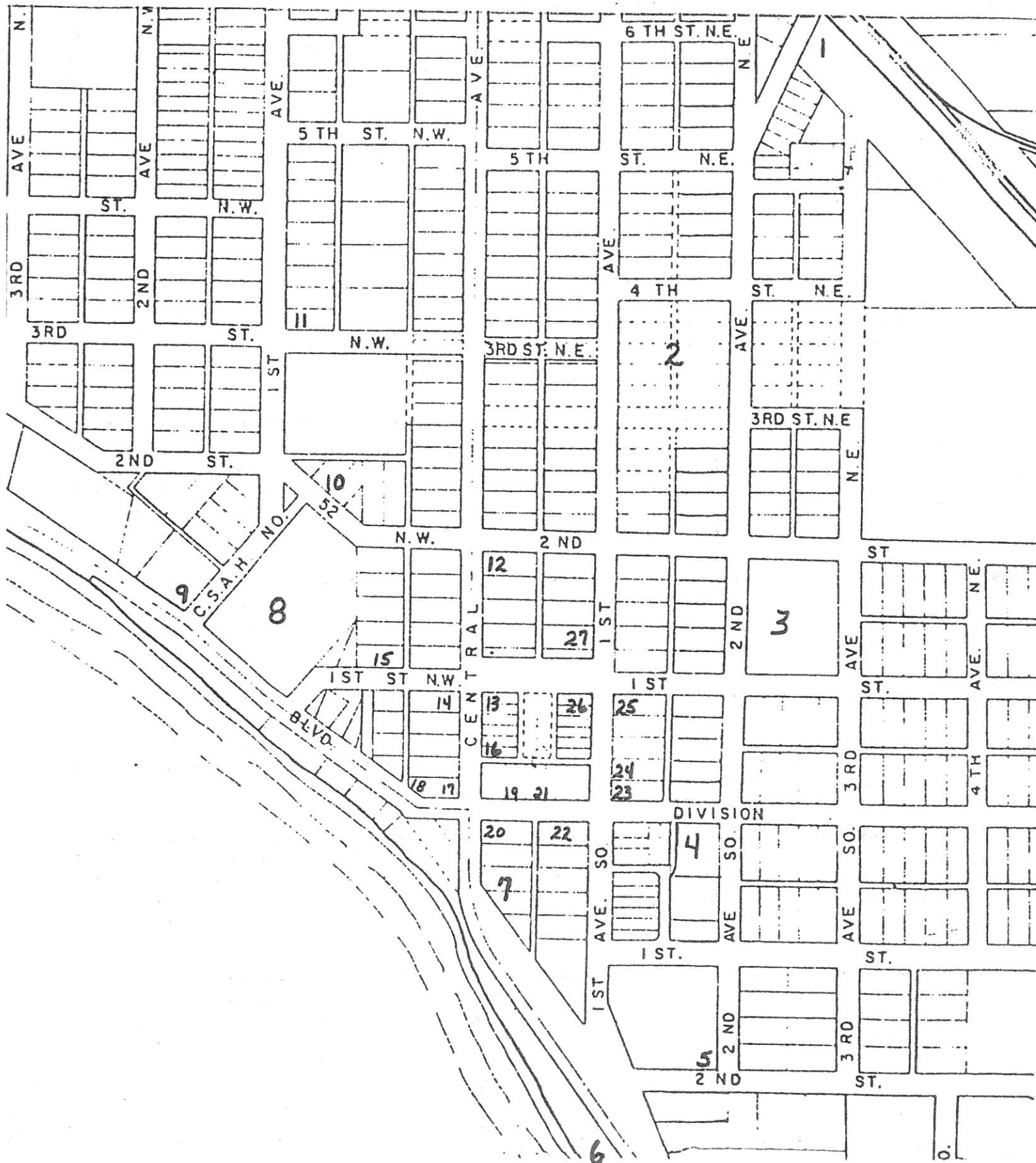
The earliest business district was on the hill to the south of Willow Creek. When the Court House was moved to its current location in 1878, the business district shifted to that area also. After a succession of disastrous fires destroyed those wooden structures, the more substantial brick structures mentioned in this tour were built in this 3<sup>rd</sup> business area. As seen in this tour, the downtown has had several periods of redevelopment, and now again faces a time of potential change and redevelopment.



**Old Buffalo Journal Press Building 1989**

# BUFFALO'S HISTORIC BUSINESS DISTRICT

## - A Walking Tour -





1

The railroad arrived in 1887, greatly altering life in the quiet village. Its depot has always been located at this site (#612 NE 3rd Ave), but the present building is the 4th to be built here. The others all burned down and had to be rebuilt each time - 1891, 1907, and 1954.

2

This School Building stands on the site of School Hill where a two-story four room school was built in 1885, at that time thought to be "large enough for all time." Although it saw several additions, it was demolished in 1915 when the brick High School, built in 1908, was enlarged. In 1936 a large WPA addition doubled the size of the building. Still a component of the present school on this site, numerous additions and alterations have greatly changed School Hill.

3

This block has had a varied history. Originally Taylor's Union Cemetery, the cemetery was closed in 1895 due to a smallpox epidemic. Eventually all graves were moved to the Lakeview Cemetery and in 1914 it became a city park. The watertower, built in 1920, changed the park's name to Tower Hill Park. In 1950 the city hospital was constructed here. The hospital moved out to Highway 25 No. in 1981, and now the old building is a senior citizen apartment center.

4

This area of the business district was a "warehouse" district in the early years, having a large lumberyard, green-houses, blacksmith shops that later became auto repair shops, etc. The Cota Garage, built in 1920, was remodeled and became Esau's Supermarket in 1953 and now is an automobile parts store. The old lumberyard has given way to the Holmquist Supermarket complex.

5

Second Street, originally Grey Street, was the original business district of the early village. Calkins general store, Taylor's Hotel and Tavern, and Oakley's general store were all located here. The first Court House, a two-story frame building was built here in 1867. It proved too small and in 1878 a new building was constructed (see #8). The old court-house building was sold to Mr. Oakley, moved across the street and added to his general store building. A private residence, that original building still stands at that site. By 1880 most of the businesses had moved to the new Court House Square area.

6

Sturges Park, the site of the village fort during the Dakota Uprising, was opened by A. E. Sturges as a privately owned park in 1903. He sold the land in 1916 to the Swedish Free Church, and it was a church campground for the next 40 years. The city purchased the old campgrounds in 1958, and the area became a city park.

7

A swamp/wetland area until the course of Willow Creek was diverted through an underground culvert in 1956, this area now encompasses some of the newer buildings in the business district. This area was a favorite Indian camping and hunting site before they were moved to reservations. The Buffalo Creamery was a large industrial complex from 1896 until 1968 that covered the area now taken by the parking lots and the old Holmquist Supermarket building.

8

This large square was given to be the site of the new Court House in 1878. That large brick building served the county, with additions, until 1958. The present Court House was build in 1958 and has had additions in 1970, 1973, 1979, amd 1990. The grounds were the site of many village occasions - Memorial Day celebrations, 4th of July celebrations, Owen Haugland's funeral, etc.

9

This stately brick home (#100 Lake Blvd) was built in 1921 by H. H. Sievers, then President of the Buffalo State Bank. After the Wright County Bank Scandal of 1925, it was sold to Siever's prosecutor, Thomas Welch. It has served as the home of the Wright County Historian, the Wright County Historical Society, and its collections for the past 15 years.

10

The Court House business district grew up around the new Court House and was the center of Buffalo from 1878 through the next 20 years - including law offices, stores, hotels, liveries, etc. The Eaton Building, on the corner of 2nd St. NW and 1st Ave. NW., served as Mr. Eaton's law office, Buffalo Journal offices, various stores, apartments, and now is again remodeled to serve as law offices.

11

Built in 1917, St. Francis Catholic Church (#9 NW 3rd St) replaced an older wooden structure that stood on the same street. The parochial school, just across the street, was opened in 1937 and serves kindergarten through grade 6.

12

For a number of years, 1900 through the 1940s, Bacon Street (now 2nd St. NE) was one of the busier business streets of the village. The large red brick Masons Building was built in 1903 by Dr. Shannon, who sold it to the Masons in 1907. The first floor has served numerous different businesses - including being the Post Office from 1953 through 1965. Built in 1897, the Odd Fellows Lodge also served a succession of businesses - including Carpenters General Store from 1897-1907 and the Olson Garage from 1932-1945. It is now extensively remodeled and serves as a business complex. The Wright County Egg Company was next door through the 1950s and 1960s. Next to the Masons Building is a small brick building that was the first site of the Buffalo State Bank.

13

For 26 years, this building (#32 2nd Ave. NE) served as the town's Post Office (1902-1928). The first phone company offices were on the second floor until 1913. In 1931 the building was remodeled to serve as the Purity Dairy - where milk was bottled and ice cream was frozen for local customers. It then served as a corner grocery store for numerous years.

14

Fred Boerner built the Buffalo Hotel (#27 Central) in 1895. An elegant 3 story brick hotel, it was extremely fine when first opened. After numerous owners, it became the Huber Hotel in 1920, and later the Anderson Hotel from 1945-1966. It now is a rooming house.

15

One of the city's oldest buildings, the Lakeview Apartments began as the Sturges House Hotel in 1867, later becoming the American Hotel. Major remodeling in 1892 turned it front to back and added a three story front. It, too, had numerous owners and managers over the years. In 1938 it was remodeled again into an apartment building.

16

One business from 1913 through 1981, Beutner Drug (#10 Central) had a long history in our city. A main feature was its elaborate soda fountain. The phone company was upstairs from 1913-1964.

17

#1 Division was built in 1899 as a saloon by the Minneapolis Brewing Co. When saloons were outlawed in the village in 1913, the Buffalo State Bank took over the building. With the demise of the State Bank, the Post Office was housed here from 1928-1953. Long owned by Dr. Buselmeier, many people remember it as the Buselmeier Building.

18

An implement and auto sales business, #7 W. Division was begun on this site in 1909 by B.D. Ahlm. Peterson took over in 1911. The present brick building was built in 1919. In 1937 the showroom between the Post Office and the Peterson building was built. In 1969 Peterson Implement's successor Trueman-Welter Implement moved to Hwy 55.



19

Now the home of Cohen's Department Store (#11 E. Division), this part of Division Street has long been the site of important retail businesses. O. L. Dudley built his Opera House here in 1886. The large three story building had a general store, barber shop and bank on the first floor. The Opera Hall on the second floor had a large stage and fitting rooms, a high ceiling that allowed basketball and other sports events, and a seating area for several hundred people. Torn down in the 1920s, it was replaced by the Schaefer Building in 1939 - a five store complex. Cohen's began as one of those stores and has grown to encompass the entire complex, with remodeling and additions.

20

Since 1984 Johnson's Department Store has occupied #2 E. Division. The building was built by Fogarty in 1888, and he gave it its present brick veneer in 1893. It served Wright Co. Farmers Store from 1908 through 1921, and then was the Leader Grocery Store for over 25 years. Edelman had a department store here, beginning in 1950, and Boyds took over in 1957.

21

Already having a long history in the village, Oakley Bank opened its new building on this site (#15 E. Division) in 1922. There have been additions in 1966 and in 1973.

22

#22 Division was long the site of a drug store. Originally Shimmin Drug Store was built here before 1888. That wooden two-story structure was replaced by the present brick building in 1915. Schmidt Drug had this site from 1906 through 1950, when it was sold to Wagner Drug. On the second floor, the Caitlin Hospital served this city until the city hospital was built in 1950.

23

Built in 1917, the National Bank Building (#2 1st Ave. NE) served as a bank until the business was moved to their "round bank" in 1961. The original owners lost the business in 1925 due to the "Wright County Bank Scandal," and there has been new ownership since 1927.

24

Touted as a "modern" department store, the Burkland Store (#4 1st Ave. NE) was built in 1910. It was very large and had men's, women's, and children's clothing and also had a grocery department. Growing over the years, it came to incorporate its surrounding buildings. Wayne's Hardware took over the building in 1984.

25

The doublewide, brick Sternberg Building (#30 1st Ave. NE) was built in 1902 and was a general store until 1918. In 1920 Owen Haugland changed the old store into a service station. In 1923 it became Buffalo Motor Co and was enlarged to the rear. Remodeling in 1931 put in the diagonal front that faced its new gas pumps. In 1963 the auto dealership was moved to Hwy 55, and this building has served a number of businesses since that time.

26

Built in 1923 as an auto salesroom and a dance hall, the Schmidt Building (#25 NE 1st Ave) was remodeled in 1944 for Allied Manufacturing Co. Bergstrom Furniture & Appliance moved here in 1968.

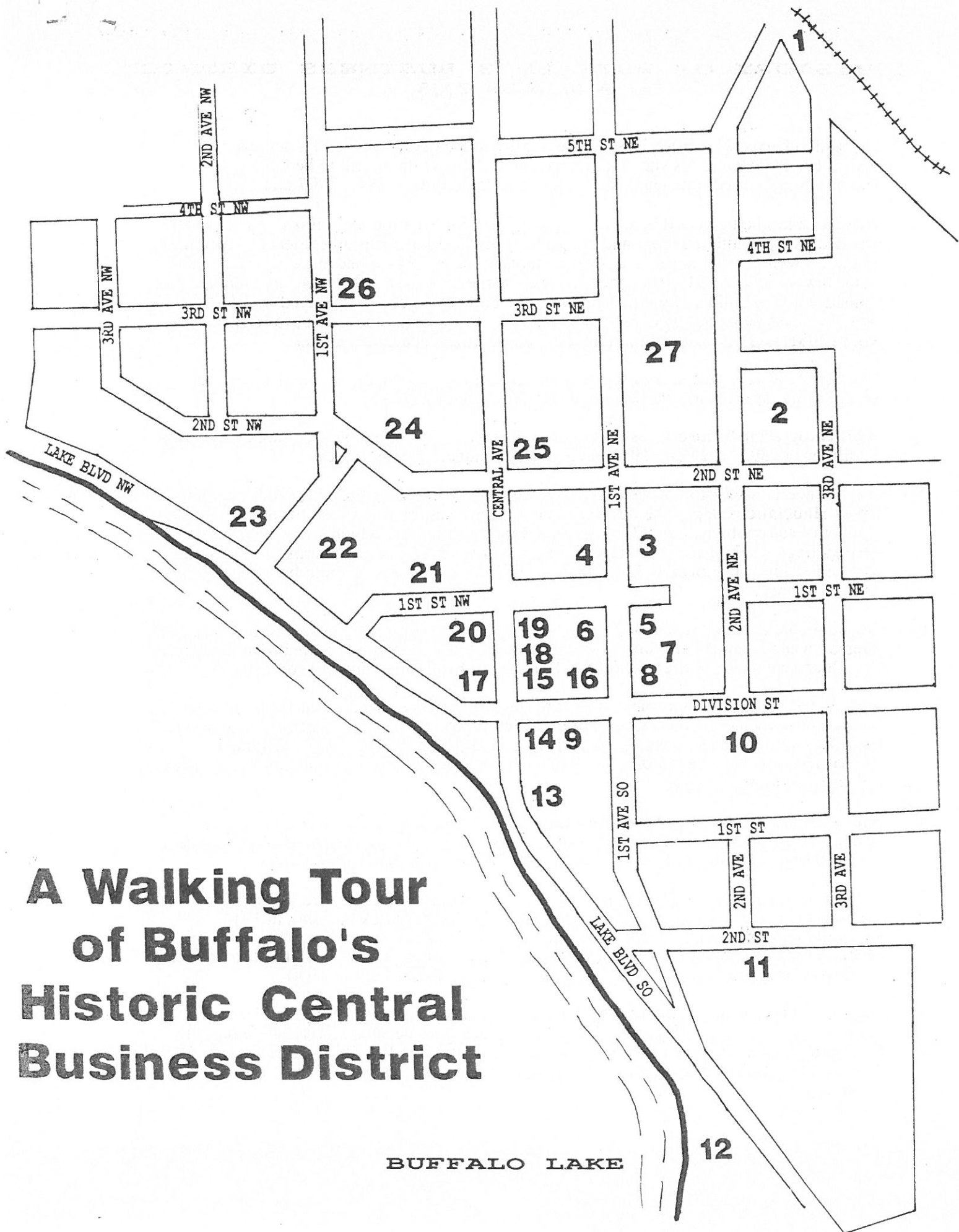
27

The Presbyterian Church was first built on this site (#101 NE 1st Ave) in 1876, the oldest church in the city. Additions in 1892, 1923, and 1961 have greatly changed its appearance.



# A Walking Tour of Buffalo's Historic Central Business District

BUFFALO LAKE



## A HISTORY OF BUFFALO'S BUSINESS DISTRICT -- A WALKING TOUR --

- 1 The railroad arrived in 1887, greatly altering life in the quiet village. Its depot has always been located at this site, but the present building is the fourth to be built here. The others all burned down and had to be rebuilt each time -- 1891, 1907 and 1954.
- 2 This block has had a varied history. Originally **Taylor's Union Cemetery**, the cemetery was declared a health nuisance and closed in 1895 due to a smallpox epidemic. Eventually all graves were moved to the Lakeview Cemetery and in 1914 it became a city park. The water tower, built in 1919, changed the park's name to **Tower Hill Park**. In 1940, the city council voted to build a city hospital at this site but the project was delayed by World War II. It was eventually constructed in 1950. The hospital moved out to Highway 25 No. in 1981, and now the old building is a senior citizen apartment center.
- 3 The site of the very first school built on the edge of the big woods. It was a 12' by 12' log cabin and lasted until the two-story school was built in 1885.
- 4 The **Presbyterian Church** was first built on this site in 1876, the oldest church in the city. Additions in 1892, 1923 and 1961 have greatly changed its appearance.
- 5 The Sternberg building at 30 1st Ave N.E. was built as a general store in 1902. In 1920 **Owen Haugland** changed the old store into a service station to provide for the increasing number of automobiles. In 1923 it became Buffalo Motor Co. which sold Chevrolets. Remodeling in 1931 put in the diagonal front that faced its new gas pumps. In 1963 the auto dealership was moved to Hwy 55, and this building has served a number of businesses since that time.
- 6 The Schmidt building located at 25 NE 1st Avenue was built in 1923 as a Ford automobile salesroom and a dance hall, this building was remodeled in 1944 for Allied Manufacturing Co. which produced children's clothes. **Bergstrom Furniture** moved here in 1968.
- 7 Touted as a "modern" department store, the **Burkland Store** was built in 1910. It was very large and had men's, women's, and children's clothing and also had a grocery department. Growing over the years, it came to incorporate its surrounding buildings. **Wayne's Hardware** took over the building in 1984 and then moved to its new location in the old **Ben Franklin** building in 1991.
- 8 Built in 1917, the **National Bank Building** (2 NE 1st Ave) served as a bank until the business was moved to their "round bank" in 1961. The original owners lost the business in 1925 because of Siever's involvement in the "Wright County Bank Scandal."
- 9 22 Division Street was long the site of a drug store. Originally built here before 1888, that wooden two-story structure was replaced by the present brick building in 1915. **Schmidt Drug** has this site from 1906 through 1950, when it was sold to Wagner Drug which eventually moved to the present Snyder Drug location in 1971. On the second floor, the **Catlin Hospital** served the city until the city hospital was built in 1950.
- 10 This area of the business district was a "warehouse" district in the early years, having a large lumberyard, greenhouses, blacksmith shops that later became auto repair shops, etc. The **Cota Garage**, built in 1920, was remodeled and became **Esau's Supermarket** in 1953 and now is an automobile parts store. The old lumberyard has given way to the **County Market** complex.



- 11 Second Street, originally **Grey Street**, was the original business district of the early village. Calkins General Store, Taylor's Hotel and Tavern, and Oakley's General Store were all located here. The first **Court House**, a two-story frame building was built here in 1867. It proved too small and in 1878 a new building was constructed (see #22). The old courthouse building was sold to Mr. Oakley, moved across the street and added to his general store building. A private residence, that original building still stands at that site -- the oldest remaining building in the city. By 1880 most of the businesses had moved to the new Court House Square area.
- 12 **Sturges Park**, the site of the village fort during the **Dakota Uprising**, was opened by A.E. Sturges as a privately owned park in 1903. He sold the land in 1916 and became a church campground for the next 40 years. The city purchased the old campgrounds in 1958, and the area became a city park.
- 13 A swamp/wetland area until the course of the **Willow Creek** was diverted through an underground culvert in 1956, this area now encompasses some of the newer buildings in the business district. This area was a favorite Indian camping and hunting site before they were moved to reservations. The **Buffalo Creamery** was a large industrial complex from 1896 until 1968 that covered the area now taken by the parking lots and the old Holmquist/Coast-to-Coast building.
- 14 Since 1984 **Johnson's Department Store** has occupied #2 E. Division. The building was built in 1888. It was the Wright Co. Farmers Store from 1908 through 1921, and then was the Leader Grocery for over 25 years. It was been a department store since 1950 (Edelman, Boyd's and finally Johnson's).
- 15 Now the home of **Cohen's Department Store** (#11 E. Division), this part of Division Street has long been the site of important retail businesses. O.L. Dudley built his **Opera House** here in 1886. The large three story building had a general store, barber shop and bank on the first floor. The Opera Hall on the second floor had a large stage and a high ceiling that allowed for basketball and other sports events, and a seating area for several hundred people. Torn down in 1922, it was replaced by the **Schaefer Building** in 1939 -- a five store complex. Cohen's began as one of these stores and has grown to encompass the entire complex, with remodeling and additions.
- 16 Already having a long history in the village, **Oakley Bank** opened its new building on this site (#15 E. Division) in 1922. There have been additions in 1966 and 1973.
- 17 #1 Division was built in 1899 as a saloon by the Minneapolis Brewing Co. In the early 1900's Buffalo was one of the leading advocates of prohibiting liquor sales and this resulted in much dissention among residents. Evidently saloons were outlawed in the village in 1913 and the **Buffalo State Bank** took over the building. With the demise of the State Bank, the **Post Office** was located here from 1928-1953. Many retail businesses have been located here since.
- 18 One business from 1913 through 1981, **Beutner Drug** (#10 Central) had a long history in our city. A main feature was its elaborate soda fountain. The phone company was upstairs from 1913-1964.
- 19 For 26 years, this building (#32 2nd Ave. N.E.) served as the town's **Post Office** (1902-1928). The first phone company offices were on the second floor until 1913. In 1931 the building was remodeled to serve as the **Purity Dairy** -- where milk was bottled and ice cream was frozen for local customers. It then served as a corner grocery store for numerous years.

- 20 The **Buffalo Hotel** (#27 Central) was built in 1895. It was originally known as the Park Hotel because it was located across from the large Dudley Park. An elegant three-story brick hotel, it was extremely fine when first opened. After numerous owners, it became the Huber Hotel in 1920, and later the Anderson Hotel from 1945-1966. It is now a rooming house.
- 21 The city's second oldest building, the **Lakeview Apartments** began as the Sturges House Hotel in 1867, later becoming the **American Hotel**. Major remodeling in 1892 turned it front to back and added a three story front. It, too, had numerous owners over the years. In 1938 it was remodeled into an apartment building.
- 22 This large square was given to be the site of the new **Court House** in 1878. That large brick building served the county with additions until 1958 when it was demolished. The present Court House was built in 1958 and has had additions in 1970, 1973, 1979 and 1990. The grounds were the site of many village occasions -- Memorial Day and 4th of July celebrations, Owen Haugland's funeral, etc.
- 23 This stately brick home (#100 Lake Blvd) was built in 1921 by **Mr. Sievers**, then President of the Buffalo State Bank, after clearing off several lots. After the Wright County Bank Scandal of 1925, it was sold to Siever's prosecutor, **Thomas Welch**. It has served as the home of the Wright County Historian and the Wright County Historical Society and its collections for the past 15 years.
- 24 The Court House business district grew up around the new Court House and was the center of Buffalo from 1878 through the next 20 years and included law offices, stores, hotels, liveries, etc. The **Eaton Building**, on the corner of 2nd St. NW and 1st Ave. NW., served as Mr. Eaton's law office, the Buffalo Journal offices, various stores, apartments, and now is again remodeled to serve as law offices. Large fires burned much of this district in 1893, 1894 and 1895 which resulted in much of the "downtown" district to move again by 1900.
- 25 For a number of years, 1900 through the 1940s, **Bacon Street** (now 2nd St. NE) was one of the busier streets of the village. The large red **Masons Building** was built in 1903. The first floor has served numerous businesses -- including being the **Post Office** from 1953 through 1965. Built in 1897, the **Odd Fellows Lodge** also served a succession of businesses -- including Olson's Garage from 1932-1945. The Wright County Egg Company was next door through the 1950s and 1960s. Next to the Masons Building is a small brick building that was the first site of the Buffalo State Bank (later moving to #17).
- 26 Built in 1917, **St. Francis Catholic Church** (#9 NW 3rd St.) replaced an older wooden structure that stood on the same street. The parochial school, just across the street, was opened in 1937 and serves kindergarten through grade 6.
- 27 The junior high school stands on the site of **School Hill** where a two-story four room school was built in 1885, at that time thought to be "large enough for all time." Although it saw several additions, it was demolished in 1915 when the brick High School, built in 1908, was enlarged. In 1936 a large WPA (Works Progress Association) addition doubled the size of the building. Still a component of the present school on this site, numerous additions and alterations have greatly changed School Hill.

Written by Marcia Paulson  
Modified by John Brady