

WEST EXCHANGE STREET

INTENSIVE LEVEL SURVEYS

Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 110 W. Exchange Street
Site: Owosso Community Pharmacy
Date: 1892 or earlier
Status: Contributing



Description:

This 2-story brick late-Victorian commercial building must have been built after its neighbor, 112 W. Exchange, as it has only one thick brick sidewall, on the east side. Although this throws off the symmetry of the street façade, the second floor façade is rich in architectural detail, exhibiting the mason's expertise.

There is a strong verticality to the second floor façade with three thick, plain piers running from below the sills of the windows up to the plain frieze. (Visually, the eye uses the pier from the neighboring building to create the symmetry lacking because of the missing west pier.) There are three bays, with single double-hung windows to the left and right and a pair of double-hung windows in the wider, center section. These bays, and the brick ornamentation above them, are all recessed so that the piers dominate.

In each of these recessed brick sections, moving upward, are the following components: a rusticated stone sill stretching from pier to pier; the double-hung window; a smooth stone lintel just a tad wider than the window; some small stepped brick detailing; a transom the same width as the window below; a wider, smooth lintel running from pier to pier; a flat panel of brick with a smaller inset panel of textured brick the width of the transom; then a row of raised stepped brick designs; and finally a horizontal row of another brick design. When the building's brick was unpainted and these various stone accents were their natural color, these bay openings would have been much more interesting.

The plain, raised piers rise to meet a plain brick parapet, with a shallow cornice running the width of the building (excepting the east pier). The top of this pier has been decorated with (probably metal) ornamentation, rising above the cornice line, and topped with a metal decoration that looks rather like a crown. In an attempt to create symmetry at this level, someone applied a matching detail (sans crown) onto the raised pier of 112 W. Exchange, which is a 3-story building. If both these buildings were unpainted brick, the effect would be much more convincing.

The first floor has been reworked in the mid-20th century, though the street-level door to the second floor remains.

History & Significance:

- 1905-1907 N. A. Goodyear Meats
- 1910-1921 Bowers & Underwood Meats
- 1921-1930 Bartz Meat Market
- 1932-1953 Owosso Dairy Store
- 1953-1972 Family Optical later Owosso Optical, along with
- 1970-1983 J. & R. News Center Book and Newspaper Store
- 1983-1991 The Printed Word Book and Newspaper Store owned by Marcia Wert and Diane Cuter, who also owned the building from 1983-1989.
- 2000 Owosso Community Pharmacy owned by Dave Lerner and Jane Baker, pharmacists. The building is owned by Thomas Simington.

Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 112 W. Exchange Street

Site: Sobak's

Date: 1895 ca.

Status: Contributing



Description:

This three-story brick late-Victorian commercial building exhibits design characteristics that indicate it dates from near the end of the 19th century, when advances in steel construction allow for larger spans of windows. The second floor facade is dominated by a large arch, under which four abutting windows once occupied the space; this area has been filled in the mid-20th century by metal windows and brickwork. The third floor façade features four large square-topped, double-hung windows (currently boarded over) separated by thin brick dividers, probably more decorative than structural.

Ornamentation includes thin slabs of rusticated stone extending the full width of the building, serving as sills for the second and third floor windows. Raised piers, with insets of brick designs and capitals of stepped bricks, rise up along both sides of the building. There is a large expanse of textured, beveled brick around the second floor arch and another thick bank in the frieze.

There is a design element in the surround of the third floor windows that deserves mention. Above each window is a decorative wooden trim piece, cut into a swoops and point design that seems Pennsylvania Dutch in style. It is an incongruous element in an intricate Victorian façade.

The first floor has been reworked in the mid-20th century though the thick sidewalls are still evident on the second level.

History & Significance:

1905 Bunting and Miller, grocers

1905-1908 G. B. Hiller , dentist, with practices on the second floor.

1910 E. L. Bunting, grocery

1910 Flora Price, Hair goods

1911-1928 William A. Sherman, notions

- 1924 Thomas A. Viet Restaurant operates in the basement of the building
- 1928-1931 Bitting Grant Company, dry goods, operates on the main level. U. S. Home Restaurant does business in the basement.
- 1960-1969 Wachter Shoe Store
- 1970-1975 Ken's Shoes
- 1989-present Sobak's Home Health Supplies

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 113 W. Exchange Street

Site: The Fletcher Block

Date: 1905 ca.

Status: Contributing



Description:

This wide three-story brick commercial building exhibits some design elements suggestive of the Chicago School of architecture. The ornamentation is restrained and somewhat neoclassical, contrasting with the exuberant detailing of the neighboring late-Victorian buildings. Although the first floor has been reworked in the mid-twentieth century, the second and third floors feature light stone details set into dark red brick walls.

Built with a thick brick sidewall on the eastern face of the building, the opposite side abutted an existing sidewall for its late-Victorian neighbor at 117 W. Exchange. The builders of 113 (three stories) added a third story sidewall atop 117's existing East sidewall in order to marry the two buildings. While this slightly skews the rigid symmetry of the façade, it is only noticeable on close scrutiny.

The second and third floor façade is organized around three large window openings on each floor, with each opening containing a pair of windows. (The current windows are later replacements.) The overall emphasis of this façade is horizontal, with smooth stone stringcourses running under the window openings and spanning the distance from sidewall to sidewall on both floors. The lintels are simple, straight rows of bricks, with smooth square stones at each corner and in the middle, in place of a keystone. Above the second floor lintels, one centered over each window opening, is a smooth diamond-shaped stone, further accenting the horizontal emphasis. Above the third floor lintels, in a broad, flat parapet and centered over each window opening, are three rectangular brick frames, not quite as wide as the window openings. Inside the left and right frames are plain brick expanses, while the center frame contains a smooth stone panel on which is incised FLETCHER.

At the top of the parapet a stepped brick design acts almost as a cornice.

This brickwork bears some resemblance to that of the neighboring Victorian buildings although, on the older buildings, this stepped brick pattern usually decorates the frieze.

History & Significance:

1905-1911 Singer Sewing Machine Company

- 1907-1908 Oakes and Tone Chinese Laundry
1910-1911 O. C. Whitney, optician (upper floors)
1924-1931 Morris Five and Ten Cent Store
Knights of Pythias Hall
1936 The Outlet Store

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 114 W. Exchange Street

Site: Sobak's

Date: 1895 ca.

Status: Non-contributing



Description:

The three-story facade visible today is the result of a mid-twentieth century remodeling. The street level facade features huge windows on either side of a recessed entry. There is a flat metal overhang jutting over the sidewalk. Just above this overhang, a mezzanine level is evident, with small metal windows set in a section of cream-colored aluminum siding. From this mezzanine up to the roofline, the blue tiles present an unbroken wall; this blue tile has been continued to the ground as ribbons of blue flanking, left and right, the mezzanine and street level.

By examining the facade from inside the upper floors, it has been determined that the original high-Victorian brick facade has been completely removed and replaced with a blank wall of concrete blocks. Therefore, this building has been rated non-contributory, as the architectural integrity of the building has been completely compromised.

Vintage photos show that this address's original facade matched that of its neighbor, 116 W. Exchange. In fact, it is extremely likely that these two addresses, 114 and 116, were built as one structure with two storefronts. The facades matched in almost every detail the twin facades at 115 and 117 N. Washington and the single building at 112 S. Washington.

History & Significance:

1872 Dwight Dimmick has a crockery and dry goods store at this address which evolves to Dwight Dimmick & Son Grocery and Baker. The business was likely not in the building extant today. Dwight Dimmick continues to own this property as he signs a party wall agreement with his neighbor at 116 in 1890, which is the likely construction date of this building. In 1872 Dwight Dimmick lived at the southwest corner of Exchange and Park. His business dealings evolved into real estate which is where he made his fortune. His son and heir, Guerdon Dimmick developed the area from the River north to Oliver Street and from Gould Street close to the downtown into residential properties. The measure of their success is evident in the fine brick home built for Guerdon at 713 W. Oliver in 1876. The

Dimmick's also owned 107 N. Washington, known as the Dimmick Block; in 1907, according to local newspaper accounts, he purchased the Williams Block at 109 and 111 N. Washington as well.

Dwight Dimmick was born in Plymouth, New York in 1813 and died ninety-one Years later in 1897 while living at his son's home on Oliver Street.

- 1892-1894 Nicholas Goodyear Meats, moved from 110 W. Exchange.
- 1900s early G. N. Finch, dentist, practices on the second floor.
- 1905-1908 Harry Putterville Bazaar
- 1910-1921 Star Bargain House Store operates here before moving to 113 W. Exchange.
- 1921 Owosso Cooperative Association of Grocers
- 1926-1942 Grant's Hat Shop, Ladies Wear and Furniture subsequently move to 111 W. Exchange.
- 1930-1932 Lee & Candy Wholesale Grocers
- 1945 Carl Bekofski operates a bowling alley upstairs.
- 1960-1963 Sears Roebuck & Company Mail Order Center
- 1965-1972 Owosso Typewriter Company
- 1972-1988 Shattuck Office Supply
- 1989-2010 Sobak's Medical Supply

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 116 W. Exchange

Site: The Strawberry Patch

Date: 1890

Status: Contributing



Description:

This three-story brick high Victorian commercial building features one of the most elaborate and exuberant facades in Owosso (with near twins at 115-117 N. Washington and 112 S. Washington). The second and third floors, each 3 bays wide, were designed to imply strong verticality, an effect created by constructing four strong piers running from the sills of the second floor windows to the tops of the third floor windows, not including the demilune transoms. The outside piers are the fronts of the thick masonry sidewalls. The vertical effect is accentuated by the tall windows, with the center windows wider than those flanking, and the third floor windows taller than those on the second floor. An inset field between the top of the second floor windows and the bottom of the third floor windows reinforce the upward visual sweep. The original windows on the upper floors survive intact.

Horizontal accents, including rusticated stone stringcourses act as partial sills for the three second and third floor windows, with horizontal inset panels of textured brick between the second and third floor windows. This distinctive textured brick appears to feature a flat surface interspersed with various round projections. The impression from the street below is of rocks affixed to a smooth surface, although the round projections are in fact integral to the brick.

The façade is divided horizontally by two contrasting bands of smooth stonework (cream against the red brick). A continuous band runs the width of the building at the tops of the second floor windows, acting as lintels. Matching pieces act as capitals for the four piers at the tops of the third floor windows beneath the ornamented brick lintels (with rusticated stone keystones) over the three demilune transoms.

The masterful brickwork on the second and third floors includes a large textured field of brick set with corners projecting outward, creating a uniform, rhythmic pattern between the outside piers and above the three demilune transoms. There is even a brick pattern inset into the brick lintels. The building is capped by a plain brick parapet.

This building and its near twins on Washington Street are some of the best surviving examples of high Victorian commercial structures in Owosso. While the first floor has been extensively reworked, the upper floors remain largely in their original state.

History & Significance:

Prior to 1890 when Joseph Schuknecht constructed the building, the property was owned by many early Owosso people including, of course, the Williams brothers who, in essence, owned the entire town by land grant transfer, The Dimmicks, Mrs. Ebenezer Gould (Irene), Seraphine LeValley, who was the second wife of Guerdon Dimmick, Dr. John B. Barnes are among the names on the abstract.

- 1890 Joseph Schuknecht enters into a party wall agreement with Guerdon Dimmick and Charles Duff, which indicates the date of the construction of this building, Dimmick owned a grocery and dry goods store at 114 W. Exchange and Charles Duff his wholesale tea and coffee business at 118 W. Exchange.
- 1894 M. A. Stanhope, dressmaker
- 1896 Crowe Brothers Shoes and Boots
- 1898 Foster Furniture Company and Hardware
- 1905 E. W. Main, books and H. W. Main, wallpaper with R. D. Crawford, Real Estate
- 1908 C. W. Danforth, Jeweler, Ida M. Hook Stationery, H. F. Schulter, Tailor and Singer Sewing Machine Company.
- 1910 J. F. Hartle 5 & 10 cent Store
- 1915 John Lebowski, clothing and Emma M. Shaw, Milliner and at 116-1/2 May Jacobs, Milliner
- 1921-1944 The Salvation Army headquarters
- 1923 Joseph Schuknecht and Matilda Schuknecht sell building to Salvation Army for \$9,700
- 1944- The Salvation Army sells the building to David and Sylvia Bowman
- 1945-1951 the United Auto & Aircraft Workers Local 4743
- 1953 Scott Sales, Company, selling tires
- 1955 Josling Tire and Appliances
- 1959-1983 Bowmans lease the building to Montgomery Ward's, Inc. of Chicago, Ill. Montgomery Ward's primary location was two doors to the West at 120 W. Exchange, but they also leased the 118 building as well as 116 W. Exchange to

expand their business floor space. This building housed their tire and automotive product line, and later their catalogue store.

1884-2007 Dr. John and Joanne Morovitz purchase the building. Mrs. Morovitz's business called "The Strawberry Patch," featured yarn, stitchery and artist's supplies, as well as holding instructional classes. Dr. and Mrs. Morovitz are ardent supporters of The Owosso Community Players, she for years making and storing the costumes in the basement of the building, and Dr. Morovitz designing and constructing the sets for the productions.

2010 John and Sue Hankerd purchase the building for their Hankerd Sportswear business with the tee-shirt printing factory in the basement.

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 117 W. Exchange Street

Site: Jackson Block / vacant

Date: 1895 ca.

Status: Contributing



Description:

This two-story brick late-Victorian commercial building is distinguished among Owosso buildings by its width, with four bays on the second floor. The façade of the second floor remains unpainted and retains its original design elements. Strong vertical piers frame the building, culminating in applied metal ornamentation. Three raised brick piers run vertically between the four window bays, rising to meet a plain brick frieze on which is overlaid an ornate metal frieze and cornice.

The wide, double-hung windows are original, retaining their upper panels of stained glass. The rusticated stone sills under each window are matched on the side piers, but not on the three piers between the windows.

Above the lintels of wide, smooth stone are inset panels of patterned brick. These panels feature a smooth surface and raised circles, identical to those on buildings around the corner, in the 100 block of N. Washington. Above these panels are stepped bricks in shallow, corbel-like formations, meeting the base of the metal frieze.

The wide horizontal metal frieze features half circles, a strong horizontal line and an elaborate floral pattern. An ornate metal cornice crowns the width of the building.

117 W. Exchange retaining its metal ornamentation and original elements, stands as an important component of downtown Owosso's architectural heritage.

History & Significance:

1907-1936 Lulu Ruess, milliner, was succeeded at this location by a family member, Dora Ruess.

1941-1948 Singer Sewing Machine Agency

1941-1955 Vogue Beauty Salon

1953-1980s Upham's gift shop was operated by a couple and their son who owned the building.

The bar of the Owosso City Club, on the second floor, was accessed from Exchange Street via a long staircase.

2010 The building is currently owned by Leon and Marilyn Bonner of Northville, Michigan.

Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 118 W. Exchange Street
Site: The Duff Building / Raymond James
Date: 1890
Status: Contributing



Description:

This 3-story brick late-Victorian commercial building features a remarkably well-preserved façade. The thick brick sidewalls form projecting piers, running the full height of the building. On the street level, these brick pilasters frame a wood entranceway, with matching windows to the left and right of a centrally-placed entrance door. This handsome and dignified entry is capped by a wide, flat surface – perfect for displaying the business name – topped by a wooden cornice stopping just below the second floor window sills.

There are thin stringcourses of rusticated stone running just below each row of windows that continue through the piers. These stringcourses also serve as sills for the windows. The arrangement of the fenestration on the second and third floors is unusual among Owosso's surviving commercial buildings: the second floor features two sets of two double-hung windows, square-topped inside a low-arched brick opening. The lintels for these two openings are also unusual in that they span the entire expanse from the tops of the window openings to the bottom of the upper stone stringcourse, forming a sunburst like pattern in brick.

The third floor window arrangement is much more common, with four symmetrical double-hung, square windows under plain brick lintels. More unusual is the band of smooth stone running across the entire width of the building, just over the brick lintels and cut into an unusual pattern over, and slightly forward of each of the four windows. This ornamental stonework is very unusual, though it can also be seen nearby at 112 W. Exchange.

The building is capped by a thin, stepped-brick frieze.

History & Significance:

The Duff Building was constructed by Charles C. Duff in 1890 (according to his biography in "Past and Present Shiawassee County 1906"). This was the building in which Charles Duff conducted his grocery and wholesale coffee and tea business in 1890 through 1922 when Charles retired. He had previously conducted his grocery business on W. Main and at the southwest corner of Washington and Mason. Charles Duff was born in Monroe County, Michigan, was a

Civil War veteran and fought at Antietam. He moved to Owosso in 1865 and worked at his brother-in-law, Matthias Stewart's, grocery store for five years before striking out in his own grocery business. Charles was known as a supporter of any endeavor that would help make Owosso a better place and was choir master at the Congregational Church for almost thirty years. (B. 1842 - D. 1925)

Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 119 W. Exchange Street

Site: Book and Beans

Date: 1895 ca.

Status: Contributing

Description:

This 3-story brick late-Victorian commercial building is unusual in downtown Owosso because it is easily identifiable as an in-fill building, constructed between two existing structures. Both sidewall piers, left and right, are obviously part of the neighboring buildings, with their ornamentation intact. Only the left, or East wall, on the third floor of this building was constructed for this building.

Although the first floor has been reworked in the mid-20th century, the second and third floors, each three bays wide, display all the original design elements except window sashes. There are rusticated stone sills under each window, running in a continuous line from sidewall pier to sidewall pier. There are open holes which were once graced by wide double-hung windows and transoms, topped by a band of smooth stone serving as lintels. After a horizontal band of plain brick is is, under the three windows, another course of rusticated stone, this one narrower than its counterpart below. The original windows on third floor were double-hung windows with transoms above, mirroring the second floor; currently, the spaces are occupied by smaller, modern windows and plywood in-fill. The third floor window openings are also topped by a smooth stone bandcourse.

After a frieze of stepped brick ornamentation rises an impressive applied, intricately-patterned metal frieze. As the builder constructed the left sidewall atop the existing right sidewall of 117 West Exchange Street and capped it with an impressive metal ornament, faced with the existing sidewall to the right and having no other place in which to end the wide cornice, he was forced to place the right side metal ornament at the end of this building, not atop a pier. This throws off the symmetry of the top of the building but is barely noticeable from below.

History & Significance:

1904-1916 O. C. Whitney, optometrist

B. S. Gaylord, jeweler

F. B. Holman, opticians



- 1905-1915 Charles Jackson Insurance Company
- 1910-1911 U. S. Post Office
- 1921 Knapp and Smith, undertakers
Wren Jewelers
- 1921-1924 George B. Gilbert, optometrist, adding “& Sons” in 1928.
- 1930s-1970s Gilbert Madison, optometrist
- 1945 U.S. War Price and Rationing Board
- 2010 Book Mark bookstore occupies the building, which is currently owned by Leon and Marilyn Bonner of Northville, Michigan, who purchased the property from the widow of William Upham.

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District



Address: 120-22 W. Exchange Street

Site: The Grow Block

Date: 1890

Status: Contributing

Description:

This 3-story brick late-Victorian commercial building features a remarkably well-preserved facade. The thick brick sidewalls form projecting piers, running the full height of the building. On the street level, brick pilasters frame a wood entranceway with matching windows flanking a centrally-placed entrance door. This handsome and dignified entry is capped by a wide, flat surface, topped by a wooden cornice beneath the second floor window sills.

Thin stringcourses of rusticated stone run below each row of windows that continue through the piers and serve as sills for the windows. The arrangement of the fenestration on the second and third floors is unusual among Owosso's surviving commercial buildings, as the second floor features two sets of two double-hung windows each, square-topped inside a low-arched brick opening. The lintels for these two openings are also unusual in that they span the façade from the tops of the window openings to the bottom of the upper stone stringcourse, forming a sunburst-like pattern in brick.

The third floor window arrangement is more common, with four symmetrical double-hung, square windows under plain brick lintels. More unusual is the band of smooth stone running across the entire width of the building, just over the brick lintels and cut into an unusual pattern over, and slightly forward from, each of the four windows. This distinctive ornamental stonework can also be seen in the building three doors to the east at 114 W. Exchange. The building is capped by a thin, stepped brick frieze.

History & Significance:

This site, shortly after the founding of Owosso in 1836, was the location of Moses' Store and Owosso's first post office. A ten year-old-boy, Ebenezer Gould, nephew of Col. Gould, son of Daniel Gould, was the first mail carrier, carrying mail to Chesaning and Lyons, covering hundreds of miles some weeks on an Indian pony.

Also in 1890, Mandeville Grow and his wife, local farmers, constructed the building next door at 120-122 W. Exchange, "The Grow Block." The third floor of the building was used for meetings and social gatherings.

The Owosso Business College was located on the second floor of the Grow Block from approximately 1905 to 1921, during which time the U.S. Post Office occupied the west storefront. Alexander Johnson, a former slave and color bearer during the Civil War, settled in Owosso and established a barbershop in the basement of the Grow Block, beneath the post office. In 1906, Johnson advertised that his redecorated barber shop had been “fitted up with new furniture and mirrors for the comfort of farmers, laborers and businessmen. All served alike.” Johnson lived a block away at 202 W. Exchange and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in a place of honor with other Civil War veterans.

Willis E. Hall (b. 1959) moved his store, Hall Bros., from 113 N. Washington to 120-122 W. Exchange in 1910, renaming the establishment W. E. Hall & Son, operating there until 1924. Willis Hall was a director of the Citizens Savings Bank and president of the Burnett Knitting Works. He served two terms as city treasurer. A contemporary description of his store reads: “The stock consists of a complete line of groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes—in brief, a general store. The firm keeps two finely equipped wagons on the road, selling through the country and gathering up produce.” The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan met in the building’s third floor during this period.

The Montgomery Ward Company department occupied the Grow Block from the 1930s until around 1980. When Ward's lease expired, the building was donated to the City of Owosso. The building restoration was purchased by David Juneau of Midwest Restorations, who began the renovation. Sam McClaren, an Owosso businessman, completed the effort.

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District



Address: 121-23 W. Exchange Street

Site: The Connor Block

Date: 1890 ca.

Status: Contributing

Description:

This prominent three-story brick commercial building at the northwest corner of Ball and Exchange Streets features distinctive architectural elements characteristic of high Victorian style and appropriate to one of the city's main intersections. The elaborately ornamented façade on W. Exchange is carried over onto the façade on N. Ball until halfway down the block, at which point the features become less ornate.

The structure is framed by thick masonry sidewalls and another such wall in the middle, effectively dividing the building into two units. The visible portions of these walls on the W. Exchange façade constitute strong piers with rounded brick and prominent ornamentation. Integrated into these piers between the second and third floors are stone carvings and rusticated stone blocks, above which the brick construction resumes, with ornamental insets. The piers flanking 121 W. Exchange extend above the roofline, a treatment not repeated at the corner of 123.

The first floor façade on W. Exchange has been extensively remodeled in the twentieth century, but the exuberant masonry work on the second and third floors survives intact and unpainted. The original windows on the upper floors have, unfortunately, been replaced with smaller ones. A wide rusticated stone stringcourse runs just below the second floor windows, serving as sills. The prominent central window bay is flanked by smaller bays, separated by substantial brick piers. A smooth stone band spans the façade, serving as lintels for the second floor windows. Above this band runs a course of staggered, stepped bricks, surmounted by another stringcourse of rusticated stone that serves as sills for the third floor window bays.

The third floor window openings on the W. Exchange side have been filled with plywood into which have been set four small windows. The corresponding arch-topped opening on the N. Ball elevation has been bricked in. In place of lintels, these arched openings feature elaborate sunburst brickwork extending to the frieze which is, in turn, ornamented by more staggered, stepped brick.

The cornice has been lost from 121 W. Exchange, exposing the thin brick parapet to which it was once attached. The cornice still caps the building at 123, extending around the corner onto the N. Ball façade.

The plainer section of the N. Ball elevation consists of brick with symmetrically spaced windows on the upper floors, simple lintels of vertical brick, a frieze of stepped brick and a simple cornice.

History & Significance:

121 W. Exchange

- 1890-1924 C. A. Conner constructs this building and opens Conner's Café, a.k.a. The Popular Café Restaurant. The Connor family also operated, around the corner on Ball Street, the Conner Ice Cream and Dairy Company, once the largest distributor of ice cream in Michigan. The dairy was housed in a barn on Ball Street at the corner of the alley, a building previously associated with the Exchange Hotel (later the Hauck Hotel) which was, in turn, located on the southwest corner of Exchange and Ball Streets. The barn was probably built by George Fauth, the hotel's proprietor, who made many improvements to the property during his tenure.
- 1910-1911 YWCA operates on the upper floors of the building.
- 1924-1930 Will E. Lovett's Café
- 1930-1932 Sweet's Home Bakery
- 1940s-50s U. S. and Michigan State Unemployment Compensation
- [date?] The second floor of the building was incorporated into the Owosso City Club, serving as the women's dining room, the ladies' lounge and the men's club room in the back.
- 1990s Home Sweet Home restaurant, owned by Mrs. Elliott, features home-cooked meals.
- 2010 Consignment shop

123 W. Exchange

- 1890 ca. The building was constructed by Ludwig Struber, who was born in Waldeck, Germany in 1827. Struber and his brother came to Owosso in April 1857, opening a boot and shoe store in a frame building built on land they purchased from Luther Comstock. He operated the business on W. Main from 1873 to 1923. Struber lived in a home at 320 N. Washington.

- 1905-1908 Henry Clay Barber
1907-1908 Ferris Brothers Dry Goods
1910-1911 Marble Bros. Electronics
1915-1924 James E. Everden Hard Goods and Furniture
1930-1932 Miller Jones Company shoe store
1948 Urick-Friess Appliance Company
1950-1951 Surplus Mart Men's Clothes
1950s Knoll's Merchandise Mart
1970s –now Forrester's Paint Store
2010 The building is owned by Leon & Marilyn Bonner of Northville, Michigan.

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District



Address: 200 W. Exchange Street (Also includes 207 N. Ball Street)

Site: Cadwallader-Lord-Hahn Insurance

Date: 1890 ca.

Status: Contributing

Description:

This two-story brick, Victorian commercial building was erected on a corner site, with a slightly taller section with primary façade on W. Exchange and a service wing running parallel to N. Ball. It is believed that, originally, a storefront faced W. Exchange and family quarters were on the second floor. Over time, the rear section of this building housed various business enterprises so a separate address, 207 N. Ball, was assigned to the side entrance of the building.

The W. Exchange façade features three symmetrical bays on the second floor, with each window capped by a strongly-arched Italianate brick lintel. There was probably a comparable span of windows on the first floor, with an entry door on the surviving cut corner. The N. Ball Street façade is five bays wide with five windows placed asymmetrically from front to back. The five bays on the first floor are also irregularly placed. A large brick lintel on the N. Ball side of the building is the vestige of a likely larger opening, perhaps a doorway or loading dock, now bricked-in, including a window placed to the right of center.

On the service wing, facing N. Ball, there are four symmetrically-balanced windows on the second floor elevation. The first floor, however, has been reworked for the businesses that occupied the rear section. There is now a glass entrance door and large window, both framed by a wooden surround that covers (or replaces) the original brick. It is presumed that, as originally built, the first floor mirrored the 4-bay design still evident on the second floor. This theory is supported by the one surviving first-floor window, which is exactly in alignment with the second-floor window above. Where the front and rear sections meet, there is a raised brick pier running up to the roofline.

An exterior railed stairway descends to a basement level entry on the N. Ball side, a feature once common among the city's buildings. A second large brick lintel is visible above the grating that now covers the stairs at sidewalk level, reflecting a large lower entrance to this commercial building, perhaps to a basement store room. Raised brick quoins at the building's corners rise to an elegant stepped brick cornice. A small brick parapet surmounts this entire section.

History & Significance:

The first building to occupy this site was a cabin built by Daniel Ball, a millwright who was born in New Hampshire, moved to New York State and then to Owosso. He and several other families, referred to as “Ball's Colonists,” came to Owosso in the late summer of 1836. Ball and his “colonists” built the town’s mill race and dam in 1837, and a sawmill on the current site of the Owosso Armory in 1838. The Ball family moved to nearby Chesaning in the 1840s and later to Grand Rapids, where they were influential in civic development.

The family of John Judson Bagley lived in this cabin for a year or two around 1846, when the future governor of Michigan was about fourteen years old. The cabin burned in 1876.

From 1895 the building was home to the Argus Publishing Company and the Izor Printing Company until 1916 when the newspaper moved to the current location at 201 to 205 West Exchange. Izor Printing remained in this location until the 1950's. George T. Campbell, owner of the Argus Press, was related via his sister, Mrs. Manford Izor, to the Izor family that also published the Durand Express in nearby Durand, Michigan. An original printing press from these enterprises, apparently too cumbersome to move with the publishing businesses, remains in the basement of the building.

The building has been the home of Cadwallader, Lord and Hahn, an insurance firm founded in 1903, since 1924. The company was later owned by partners Jack Bremer, Jim Bremer and Dick Reynolds. It is now owned by Michael Ardelean.

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 202 W. Exchange Street

Site: New York Style Salon

Date: 1890 ca.

Status: Contributing

Description:

This two-story brick Victorian commercial building features a raised brick pier on the west side of the façade with no counterpart on the east end, indicating this building was built after 200 W. Exchange and that this building relies on 200's masonry sidewall for support. The façade features a stepped brick frieze and plain brick cornice.

The two original windows have been replaced by small modern windows, with the remainder bricked in. The outlines on the façade of the second floor indicate that the windows were probably arch-topped and may have had arched lintels.

The first floor has been completely reworked some time in the mid-20th century.

History & Significance:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1905-1916 | Pacific Express Company |
| | United States Express Company |
| | Wells Fargo & Company Express |
| | Western Express Company |
| | Domination Express Company |
| 1921 | Godard & Blair, painters |
| 1928 | Orser's Printery |
| 1941-1942 | Owosso Wallpaper & Paint Company |
| 1948 | Cheney's Appliances |



- 1950s Christian's Garage, occupying portions of 202 and 204 W. Exchange, provided parking for customers of Christian's Department Store, across the street.
- 1950-1955 George Robbins Linoleum & Title Company
The Navy Club (201 1/12, upstairs)
- 1960s Gordon Graham, artist and decorator
- 2010 New York Style Salon, owned by Robert Dedic.

Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 204 W. Exchange Street

Site: Dr. Angela Bhadra

Date: Unknown

Status: Non-contributing



Description:

This two-story commercial building has been substantially remodeled, effacing its resemblance to the Victorian buildings that flank it on both sides. The altered façade features medium brown brick, painted wood trim and a mansard-style roof that elevates the building above its neighbors. Large-scale dentil molding runs beneath the eaves across the width of the building.

The first floor windows are tall and narrow, paired within what are probably the two original window openings. The entry door at the eastern corner was probably, as originally configured, the street-level entry to the second floor stairwell. The second floor windows, with shutters and awnings, appear to be of later origin.

History & Significance:

1905-1911 C. S. Gilbert, Shoemaker

1921 Union Telephone

1950-1955 Christian's Garage, occupying portions of 202 and 204 W. Exchange, provided parking for customers of Christian's Department Store, across the street.

Christian Science Reading Room was located in a small area at the front of the building.

2010 Owned by Michael Ardelean, occupied by the medical practice of Dr. Angela Bhadra.

Downtown Owosso Historic District



Address: 208-12 W. Exchange Street

Site: J. Oliver's Restaurant

Date: 1883 ca.

Status: Contributing

Description:

There are three two-story brick buildings on the 200 block of W. Exchange Street which are unique among Owosso's commercial architecture. It is obvious that these buildings were built as separate structures (there are visible seams between each building) and history records they were built at different times, but the builder or builders made great attempts to match the facades. Other buildings are one structure, with matching facades dividing the building into sections. These buildings on Exchange are the only surviving buildings built separately but designed to form a cohesive unit.

Each building is two stories tall and three bays wide on the second floor. (The first floors of all three buildings have been massively reworked.) On the Western-most building, there is more space between each bay, so this building must be slightly wider than the others. The construction is fairly simple and reflects mid-Victorian architectural traits: heavily-arched brick lintels with stone keystones over round-topped windows (since replaced), a simple brick dentil design several rows above the keystones, an alternating pattern of stepped brick design on the frieze, and a very simple cornice.

Close observation shows the builder tried to visually tie the three buildings together by repeating the dentil moulding and the rhythm of the alternating stepped brick frieze.

History & Significance:

The first floor of this row of buildings is currently vacant, but has until recently been the site of J. Oliver's Restaurant. The current owner of the buildings is Jane Idle. The name of the restaurant is a reference to James Oliver Curwood, a notable writer who lived in Owosso in the early 20th century.

210 W. Exchange

1884 Owosso Gas Light Company installed seventy gas lights in Owosso at a cost of \$1,073.73.

1905-1908 F. G. Smith, Upholsterer

1905-1911 G. H. Bedford, Sign Painter

1921 Smith and Greenwald Implements Company

1924 Shiawassee Printing Company

212 W. Exchange

1905-1906 H. W. Martin Harness (later at 216 Exchange, 1921-1928)

1921-1924 Mrs. Anna E. Martin, rug weaver

1945 Calvary Baptist Church

1948-1951 Al's Electric Motor Service

1953 Schafer Tobacco and Candy Store

Photos:



Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 214 W. Exchange Street
Site: J. Oliver's Restaurant (west end)
Date: Unknown
Status: Non-contributing



Description:

This three-story brick late-Victorian commercial building exhibits design characteristics consistent with architecture of the late 19th century, when advances in steel construction allowed for larger spans of windows.

The second floor facade is dominated by a large arch, under which four abutting windows once occupied the space, filled in the mid-20th century with metal windows and brickwork. (Surviving photos from the early 1900s and surviving windows and frames in the nearby Wesener Building provide instructive points of reference.)

The third floor facade features four large square-topped, double-hung windows (currently boarded over) separated by thin brick dividers, probably more decorative than structural.

Ornamentation includes thin slabs of rusticated stone extending the full width of the building, serving as sills for the second and third floor windows. Raised pilasters serve as quoining, with insets of brick designs and capitals of stepped bricks. There is a large expanse of textured, beveled brick around the second floor arch and another thick band in the frieze.

The first floor has been reworked in the mid-20th century.

History & Significance:

1883 Alexander Johnson is reported in the Owosso Press, dated January 10, 1883, to have rebuilt his house at 214 W. Exchange, a building which predates the current one. Johnson had been a former slave and color bearer during the Civil War, who settled in Owosso and established a barbershop in the basement of the Grow Block, at 120 W. Exchange, beneath the post office. In 1906, Johnson advertised that his redecorated barber shop had been "fitted up with new furniture and mirrors for the comfort of farmers, laborers and businessmen. All served alike." Johnson had also (previously?) lived at 202 W. Exchange. He died in 1907 and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in a place of honor with other Civil War veterans.

- 1948-1951 John's Brothers Wholesale Produce Company expanded in 1953 to include 216 W. Exchange.
- 1955 Automatic Laundry Self -Service

Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 216 W. Exchange

Site: Dr. C. A. Trethewey, podiatrist

Date: 1906 ca.

Status: Contributing

Description:

This asymmetrical second floor windows in this early twentieth-century, two-story brick commercial building appear intact and original, consistent with the variable window configurations often favored by post-Victorian architects. The thick flanking brick sidewalls are marked by raised, plain piers that run the full height of the building. These piers meet the raised parapet, under which is a frieze with stepped brick designs acting as shallow corbels. Squares of vertical bricks set in the horizontal masonry parapet lend the façade a vaguely Mission flavor. The piers rise above the parapet, while a raised brick section, a merlon between two embrasures, creates crenellation atop the parapet. The configuration of windows and doors may be original, although the first floor has been otherwise reworked.

History & Significance:

- 1911 George W. Martin Harness Company (moved from next door at 212 W. Exchange, where they had operated 1905-1911). This longest surviving harness shop in Owosso was passed from George Martin to his son.
- 1945-1948 Chandler's Studio Photography
- 1955 U.S. Post Office annex
- 1989-present Dr. C. A. Trethewey, podiatrist



Downtown Owosso Historic District

Address: 224 W. Exchange Street

Site: Verizon Telephone

Date: 1950s

Status: Non-contributing

Description:

This monolithic blond brick building was originally built to house the offices of the General Telephone company and is now used solely for the storage of equipment by Verizon Telephone.

History:

See above.

