

Main Street District



17 26 Milwaukee Ave. E. U.S. Postal Office

The U.S. Postal office was built in 1916 and upgraded 50 years later. In 1915, the postmaster in Fort Atkinson had the distinction of doing more business than any other post office in a city of comparable size in the nation.



18 19 Milwaukee Ave. E. Fort Theater

The Fort Theater and the first municipal building occupied this site. Both were demolished in 2000. The new building incorporated some of the Mediterranean Revival elements of the original theater.



19 201 S. Main St. International Order of Odd Fellows

What is currently Humphrey Floral & Gifts, built in 1884 and remodeled before 1940, was first used as a grocery store. The upstairs hall was used by the Knights of Pythias, English Odd Fellows Lodge and a labor temple.



20 225-229 S. Main St. Langhoff Hotel

Originally the Langhoff Hotel & Saloon, this building, which today is occupied by a tavern and an insurance agency, was built in 1875. It was known for years as the Farmer's Home Hotel and was also used as a boarding house.

21 222-234 S. Main St.



234: This furniture store, built in 1888, was used as A. H. Downing's furniture shop in 1888-1891, and then for W. D. Hoard & Sons printing in 1891-1908. It again was used for furniture from 1910-1970.

232: This retail store was built in 1895 by W.D. Hoard to join his two other buildings, the present cellular phone shop also had housed A. R. Hoard's Better Sox Knitting Mills.

228: This financial office building was constructed in 1883; a second floor was added in 1914. It was used by W. D. Hoard & Sons for printing from 1883-1908, and for a hardware store from 1936-1980.

226: Built in 1893 with storefront remodeling in 1968, this restaurant building has been used as Fred Dawes' bakery, a billiards room, grocery as well as several restaurants.

222: This building housed a thrift store for many years, and is currently an architecture and engineering firm.



22 218 S. Main St. Citizens State Bank

Built in 1884 as the Citizens State Bank building. The Art Moderne facade was added in 1937.



23 210 Milwaukee Ave. W. Black Hawk Hotel

The Black Hawk Hotel & Restaurant began as Milo Jones' Green Mountain House in 1848. The Black Hawk Tavern was built in 1915 by Frank W. Hoard and Harry Curtis. When the Green Mountain House was razed in 1929, the tavern expanded streetward.



24 28 Milwaukee Ave. W. W.D. Hoard & Sons

In 1908, William Dempster Hoard built the W. D. Hoard & Sons Co. building, which today houses the Daily Jefferson County Union and Hoard's Dairyman offices. An addition was built in 1973.



25 18 S. Water St. W. A. C. Krueger Block

What currently is the Café Carpe originally was A. C. Krueger's tavern, built in 1901-1902. In 1906-1968 it was owned by Spaeth Brewery. Construction was begun by Gustaf Heth, who operated the tavern for a short time until he was sued by the contractor. The structure was completed by Heth's brother-in-law, Krueger, after Heth was jailed for forgery.



26 102 S. Main St. Drug Store

What is currently Tuttle's Pharmacy was built by W. F. Hovey in 1870 as a one story building, the second floor was added in 1884. Successive hardware stores and Judd Gates, a druggist, occupied the building. There have been three generations of Tuttle pharmacists.



27 101 S. Main St. Reuben White Building

Located in this 1871 building (rear addition built in 1904-1909 with storefront remodeling in 1960), have been Harriet's Dress Shop, Ron and Kay's Tavern and the Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, it has housed Reuben S. White's drugs and grocery store, as well as shoe, variety, and hat stores.



28 99 S. Main St. Office Products

What is currently Jonas Office Products' building, constructed in 1895 (the rear wing between 1898 and 1904), housed Becker's Dry Goods until 1918 and Niepert's Clothing, 1918-1976.



29 96-98 & 88 S. Main St. Retail Store Fronts

E. R. Strong built this cream city brick on the river in 1886. It was subsequently Westphal's Dry Goods and J. C. Penney's. Also in 1886, Dr. L. C. Bicknell built on the corner. Dr. Bicknell's office and various retail establishments occupied the building. An intervening building was removed and the two buildings were joined to allow combined stores and a restaurant.



30 Main St. Bridge

In 1843 the first wooden bridge was built, with citizens of the town doing the work and supplying the materials themselves. In 1872 the wooden bridge was replaced by one of iron. This served the community for fourteen years until another iron bridge was constructed in 1881.



31 70 N. Main St. First National Bank Building

Premier Bank was built at this location in 1922 as the First National Bank of Fort Atkinson. Founded in 1863 and located across the street, it was the third oldest national bank in Wisconsin.

32 79-89 N. Main St.



79: The Andra Building, home for Vance, Wilcox, Short & Johnson law offices, was constructed in 1894 and remodeled in 1959. It was occupied by the Andra Saloon in 1894-1897 and Perry jewelers until 1905. It was one of four buildings constructed on the site of structures destroyed by a fire in 1893.

87: Currently a tax office, this building creates an intact transition to adjacent facades.

89: Brandel Block, this current retail store was Brandel's Boots and Shoes, built in 1893.



33 96 N. Main St. Heuchtel Building

The Premiere Bank annex, built in 1895 and remodeled in 1969, was known as the Heuchtel Building. It housed a grocery and tailor shop from 1895-1935, and since has housed Jensen & Jones clothing, and a sporting goods store.



34 99 N. Main St. Retail Store

W. H. Tancre constructed this building of locally made brick in 1858 for use as a grocery. The Good Templars Lodge was on the second floor. Later, the building was occupied successively by druggists Asa Foote, Eighmy Brothers, and Winterburn and Schlei.



35 101 N. Main St. Municipal Building

The Fort Atkinson Municipal building was constructed in 1929. Madison team Law and Potter created this well-proportioned, neoclassical building. It received a modern canopy in the late 20th century.



36 100 N. Main St. Hanneman Building

This current financial office was built in 1883 and remodeled 90 years later. Until 1942 it was used as a grocery store, succeeded by Wilson's fur and clothing stores. From 1884 to about 1904 the Hahnemann Lo. 9, the local German lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows, used the upstairs for meetings.



37 112 N. Main St. Abe Mack Building

This former Sears and Roebuck catalog store was built by local mason John Becker in 1898. The Abe Mack building has been used for sales of carriages, bikes, pianos, and real estate. It was remodeled in 1952.

38 117-131 N. Main St.



117: Originally the A. E. Kump Building, the current exercise studio was built in 1901 and remodeled in 1955. It was used for Mayor Giles Hibbard's Bakery and Ice Cream in 1907-1919; as Hibbard's Grocery from 1919-1938, and Bertha Dinse's K&F Restaurant in 1940-1970.

125: The Fitch building was built in 1904 as a dry goods store, and became Bammel's Furniture in 1931. It is currently an antiques store.

131: This Cream City brick storefront with decorative metal cornices over the top windows was Albert Winslow's Grocery starting in 1857. The storefront was remodeled in the mid-1960s. It has had many occupants over the years.



39 201 N. Main St. Creamery Package & Manufacturing

Built in 1919 for the Creamery Package Company, this building is a major landmark in the district because of its sheer size. It was designed by Martin Tullgren & Sons of Milwaukee. The building currently houses the headquarters and factory outlet for a mattress company.

State Landmarks



Panther Intaglio 1200 block of Riverside Drive

(Circa 1000 AD) In 1855, when Increase Lapham published *The Antiquities of Wisconsin*, he documented a remarkable series of Indian mounds that

ran along what is now Riverside Drive in Fort Atkinson. At one end was the most interesting of all: an effigy mound in reverse, or cut into the ground. Called an intaglio (in-tol-ee-oh), its shape follows the lines of a panther. Its length measures 125 feet. When Lapham did his surveys in the 1850s, he found eleven intaglios in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, all but this one were destroyed as a result of farming and development. The Daughters of the American Revolution and city officials led the campaign to preserve this unique landmark back in 1920. "Instead of an embankment of earth thrown up, we have here a cavity in the ground." Increase A. Lapham, *The Antiquities of Wisconsin*, 1855.



Lorraine Niedecker Cottage W7307 Blackhawk Island Rd. (Const. 1946)

20th Century poet Lorine Niedecker is known as the Poet of Place. Her imagery is grounded by her home on Blackhawk Island, its culture, wildlife, landscapes and bird songs. The small cedar cabin, built by her father, sits near an often flooding river. The cottage closest to the river was built by Lorine's second husband Al Millen. They lived there at the end of her life. The cabin and cottage are now privately owned.