

c. 1905



# Step Back in Time A Self-guided Walking Tour in the Heart of Bartlett

Presented by the Village of Bartlett Museums  
2023



2023

updated 10-23-2023





# Welcome to the Heart of Bartlett

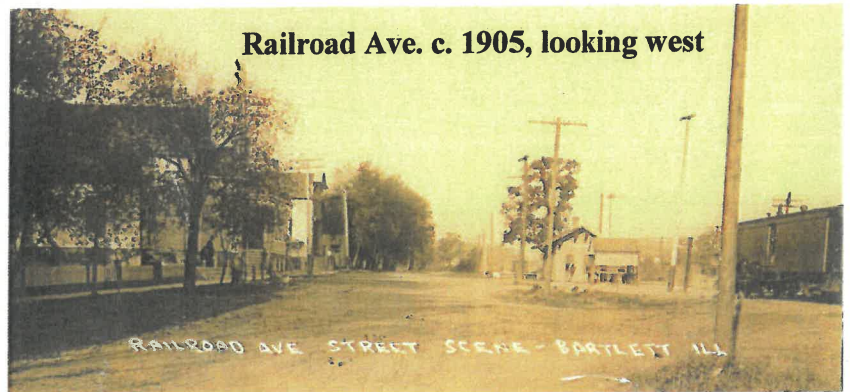
## Established 1873, Incorporated 1891

"Two and a half years ago there was no such town as Bartlett...and to-day we see a thriving village which has sprung up as if by magic, but with all the evidence of being substantial and prosperous."

*The Elgin Advocate*, January 1, 1876

Luther Bartlett (1817-1882) born in Conway, Massachusetts, made his way to Michigan in 1842 and moved to Illinois the following year. Luther and his physician brother, Lyman, bought 320 acres of farmland in Wayne Township in 1844 and another 345 acres the following year. Luther first tried his hand at sheep farming but abandoned this when the price of wool went down. He then planted wheat. Luther lived on the farm with his wife Sophia Bartlett (1826-1917), pictured above, also from Conway. The couple had 11 children.

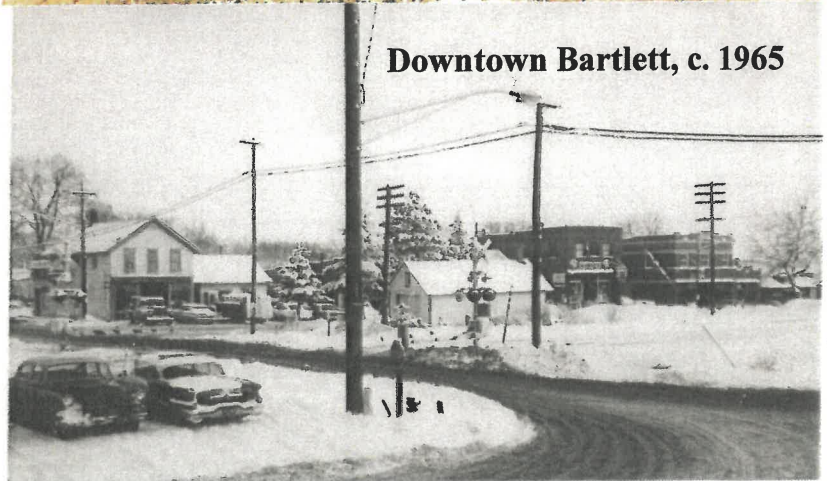
In 1873, when many a town lived or died according to its proximity to a railroad line, Colonel Roselle M. Hough, president of The Chicago and Pacific, began building a route west to Elgin, Illinois, to challenge the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. People donating land for depots along the right-of-way were allowed to name the villages that were formed. Luther and Sophia donated a 40-acre "woodlot" in Cook County, the source of the family's lumber and firewood. They named the town Bartlett.



Railroad Ave. c. 1905, looking west



Bartlett Ave., c. 1915  
looking west



Downtown Bartlett, c. 1965

Railroad Ave. c. 1977





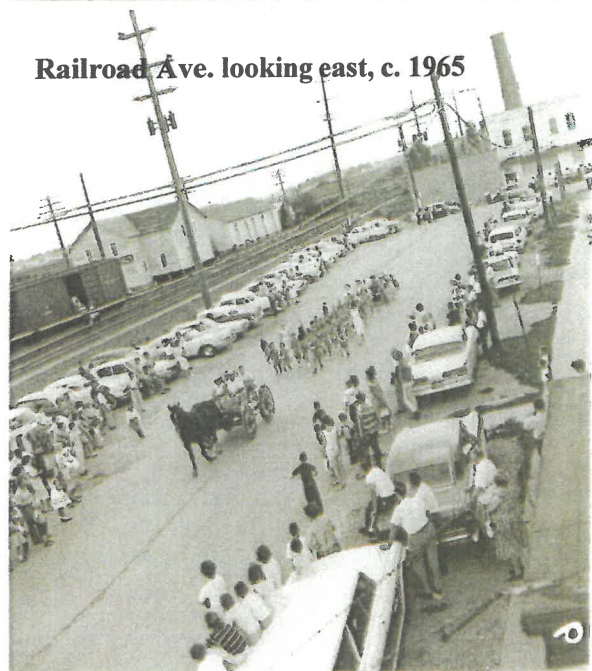
The original depot was built in June of 1873 with money donated by the Bartletts and others. It served the residents until December 2007, when the new Metra station opened to the east. The old station reopened in September 2010 as the Bartlett Depot Museum.

The railroad was a vital link between the farmers in the area and the city. It wasn't long before the lots around the train depot where found to be a hospitable home for the factories, stores, saloons and houses being built by the large number of German immigrants who settled in the community. Adorning their storefronts and homesteads with names like Schick and Struckman, Schultz and Thurnau, Krumpfuss and Niewisch, it is these founding families of Bartlett that laid the tracks for growth. The Village of Bartlett got its official start on February 11, 1891, when the petition for incorporation was filed in Springfield, Illinois. The election for incorporation was held on February 28, 1891 and became official on March 2, 1891, the date the laws were enforced.

Step back in time and discover the heart of old Bartlett through the buildings that housed many retail establishments and businesses along Railroad and Bartlett Avenues. The map on the next page will serve as your guide.



Railroad Ave. looking east, c. 1965



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Visit us on the web at <https://www.bartlett.il.gov/about-bartlett/village-of-bartlett-museums>

#### Online Collection

View just some of the photos and objects in the museums' collection. Frequently updated, more than 2500 items currently online, check back often!

[bartlettmuseums.pastperfectonline.com/archive](http://bartlettmuseums.pastperfectonline.com/archive)

#### Bartlett History Museum

Located in Bartlett Village Hall  
228 S. Main St., 630-837-0800  
Hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Noon  
Sunday, Closed



#### Bartlett Depot Museum

Located in the historic 1873 depot  
100 W. Railroad Avenue  
Hours vary, please visit the website below



@ Village of  
Bartlett Museums

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106/108 W.

110 W.

116 W.

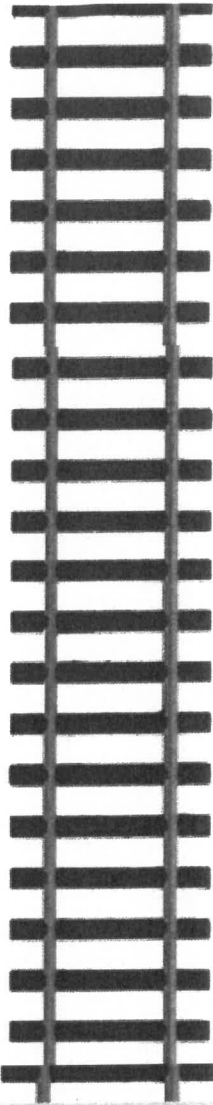
118 W.

120 W.

130 W.

200 W.

Bartlett Ave.



Metra Station

Town Center

Main St.

200 S. Main

111 W.

113 W.

Railroad Ave.

121 W.

Oak Ave.

Oak Ave.

Parking Lot

100 W.

Depot Museum

211 W.

Map not to  
Scale





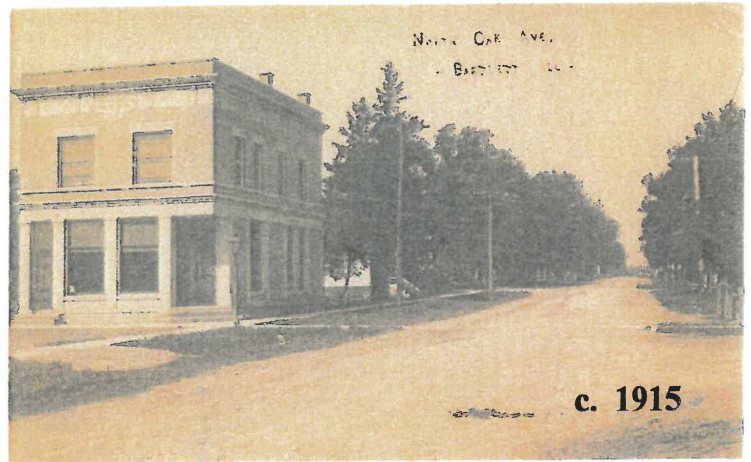
# 200 W. Bartlett Ave. Today, Associated Bank

Because of Bartlett's and the surrounding area's growth in population and business during the early 1900s, the need for a bank became apparent. With capital set at \$25,000, the State of Illinois issued a charter in 1910 and on Saturday, December 17, 1910, the Bartlett State Bank opened its doors for business. According to local newspapers, \$40,000 of deposits were taken in that first day.

"Famous architect" Louis Menke of Schaumburg designed and constructed the two-story building, complete with a basement, for a cost of \$6,700. The brick building measured 25' x 44' and had Bedford stone trimming.

In 1956, the building doubled its size and added a parking lot. By 1972, the bank required even more space, so it moved to a new facility at 335 S. Main Street. In June 1974, Williamsburg Realty moved in from down the street at 124 Bartlett Ave. and did an extensive renovation.

The structure returned to its banking roots when Home Federal Savings of Elgin opened its branch in 1980. In 1995, the drive through, a separate building to the west, was completed. By 2000, State Financial Savings was operating out of the facility. Since 2007, the building has been home to Associated Bank.



c. 1965



c. 1990



*Did you know?*

*The original vault (right) is still in use.  
The date marker is still visible at the top of  
the building's south side.*





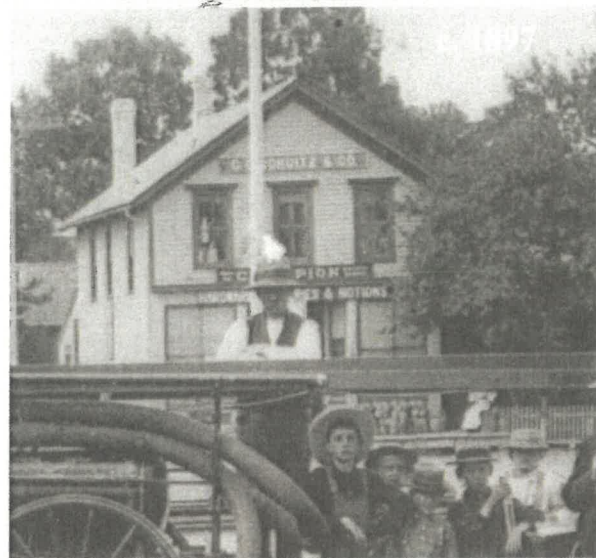
130/124 W. Bartlett Ave.  
Today, JC's Mexican Restaurant

In 1877, Hemenway Store was erected with the money raised by farmers in the vicinity for its construction. The *Elgin Advocate* of May 12, 1883 wrote, "Mr. E. Hemenway has been to the city recently and laid in a very fine selection of goods. He has thoroughly renovated his store and placed it in 'apple-pie' order. He has a large stock of summer hats from the lowest grades up to the best; also a fine display of dry goods and a large lot of wooden wares, etc."

Charles C. Schultz purchased the property in 1894 and opened a hardware, sundries and notions store (2nd image from top). In the early 1900s, the store was operated as a meat market, first by the firm of Baxmann & Jaap and later, after the partnership dissolved in 1905, just Baxmann.

The Sweet Spot (3rd & 4th image from top) was a confectionery and ice cream parlor operated by Henry and Melinda Thurnau beginning in the 1910s. The family, including their two daughters Vernetta and Marge, all lived above the store. Marge recalled their bedroom would shake as the trains flew by. The train even brought the ice cream from Elgin they used in the malts and other products sold. The ice cream came packed in ice.

By 1940, Moritz Ortmann operated the store bearing his name. He added bakery items, fruit cigars and tobaccos. *Continued on next page.*



After serving in World War II, Bartlett native Earl Humbracht (1st image from top) purchased the business on May 1, 1948 and changed the name to Humbracht's Confectionery. Longtime residents fondly recall this Bartlett institution that operated until Earl's retirement in the early 1980s. He also sold sundries, newspapers, comic books and lots of cups of coffee. During his tenure, the face of Bartlett was changing from a farming community to a bedroom community with commuters stopping in for that morning cup of joe for the train ride to Chicago.

The building afterwards was home to many breakfast type establishments such as Patti's Kountry Kornor, Crancey's Coffee Station, Fried Green Tomatoes and Whistle Stop Cafe, until it became Cafe Siboney, a Cuban restaurant. In 2006, J C's Mexican Restaurant opened serving authentic cuisine and beverages, indoors and outdoors, under the ownership of Luz Alvarez and her son Luis.

Other businesses have occupied the rear portion of the building facing Oak Ave. In the 1930s, it was "Bub" O'Brien's barber shop. In recent years it has been a hobby shop and vacuum repair shop.

The 124 address portion is best remembered as one of the locations of the Bartlett post office. The space was home to Schnadt's Home Improvement (2nd image from top). More recently it has been WND Designs, a law office and an accounting service. Today it is a private dining room for JCs.



c. 1955

Humbracht's was known throughout the Fox Valley for its malts. In 1980, the *Daily Courier-News* named Humbracht's malt # 1, beating out Howard Johnson's and other competitors. The malt sold for \$1.75 and featured Schoep's ice cream, regular milk and "love and care."



1965



# 120 W. Bartlett Ave. Today, One Twenty Live

This building was constructed in 1910 by Herman Schnadt who purchased this lot and the adjoining one from Charles C. Schultz. The May 19, 1911 *Palatine Enterprise* wrote, "H. W. Schnadt will build a large brick store building on what is known as the old C. C. Schultz corner, having already leased same for a term of years to a Bartlett citizen for a general hardware business."

That citizen was Herman Schultz who opened Schultz Hardware (second image from top, interior- 3rd image from top.) When Schultz's son William became a plumber and electrician around 1920, those services were added to their business. In 1926, Schultz built his own store to the east at 110 W. Bartlett Avenue, after which a drug store and appliance store were housed in this building.

Prior to the advent of Bartlett's building explosion of homes which began in the early 1960s, the village was surrounded by farmland. Area farmers needed to buy agricultural equipment and supplies. In 1941, Ed Krumpfuss opened Bartlett Implement Company, selling John Deere equipment (4th image from top). The business was also an agency for the U.S. Corn Huskers.

Over the last four decades, 120 W. has been home to many businesses, including the law offices of J. Dixon and Bartlett Glass and Mirror. During Poundcakes Bakery's occupancy (1st image bottom row), the store's original pressed tin ceiling was discovered during a renovation. It can still be seen today. The building was remodeled on the exterior and interior under the ownership of Marre Development and Autumn Builders (2nd image bottom row) who ran it as their showroom and business offices.

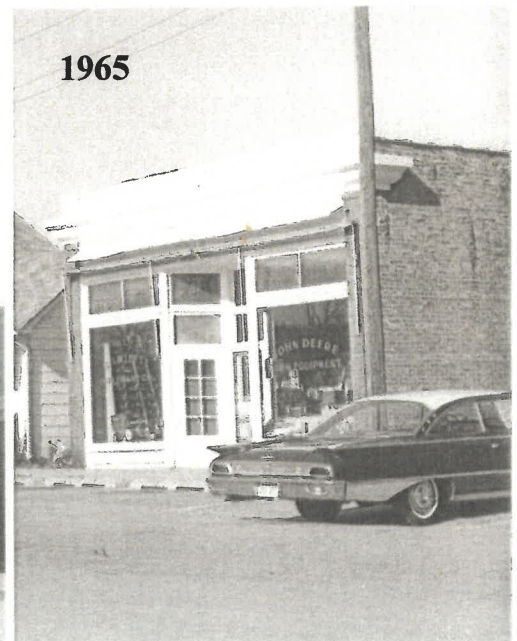
The COVID-19 global pandemic didn't stop One Twenty Live, a restaurant and bar, from opening in the summer of 2020. The preplanned outdoor dining area allowed patrons to dine alfresco, following the then pandemic rules on in-door dining. Named for its address, One Twenty Live serves up starters, sandwiches, wraps, salads, pizza, desserts and beverages, in addition to live music performances, comedy night and other events.



c. 1915

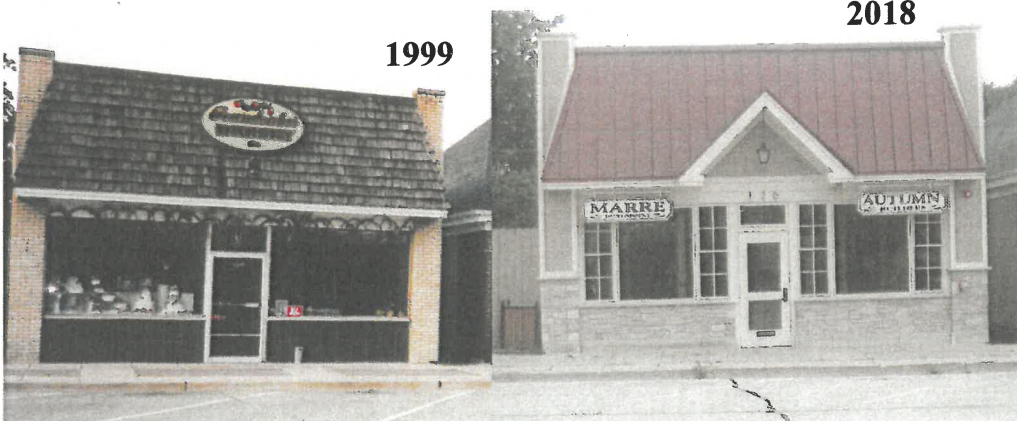


1965



1999

2018

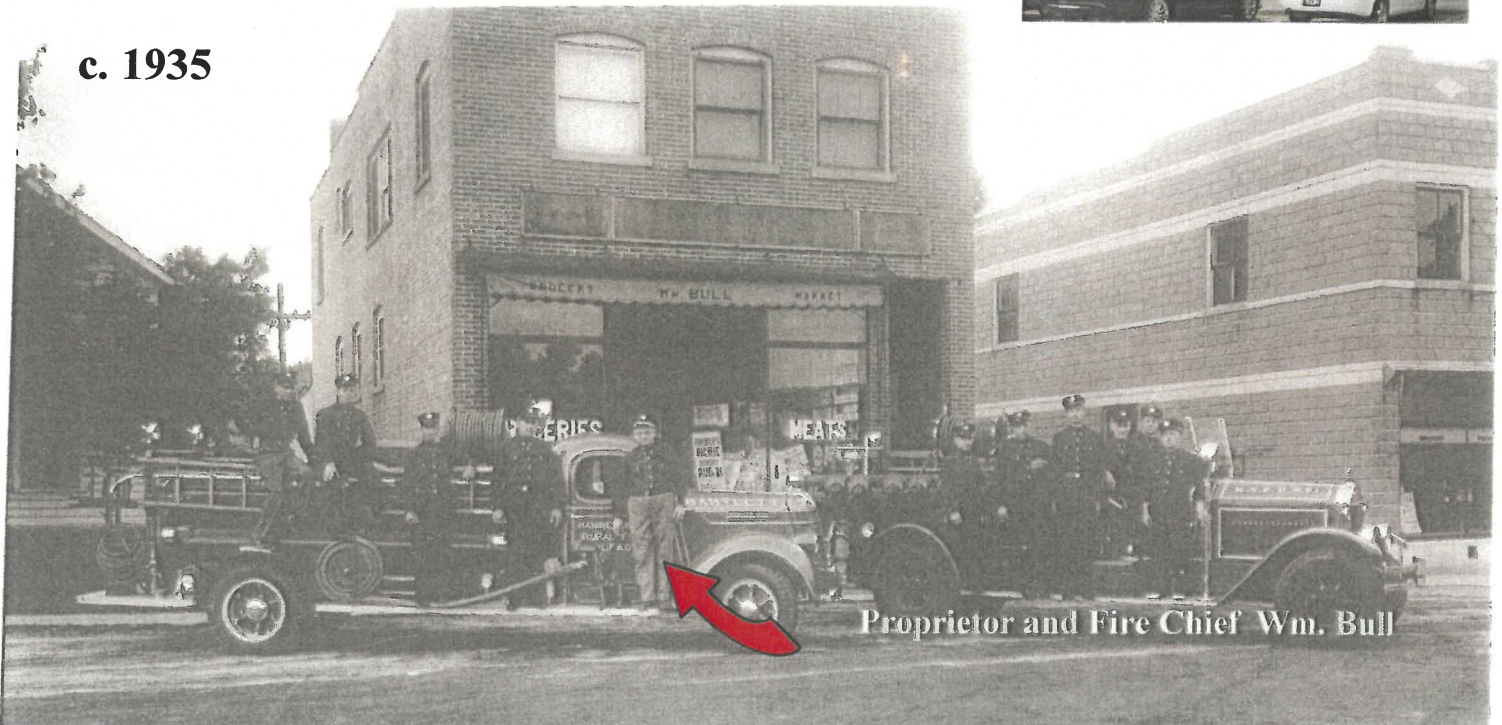
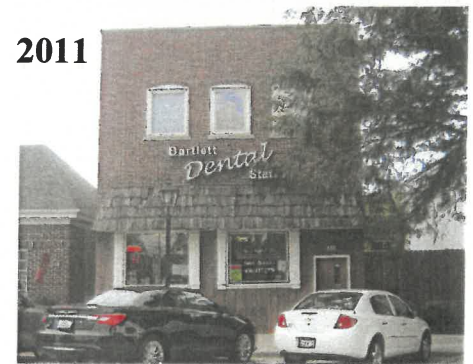
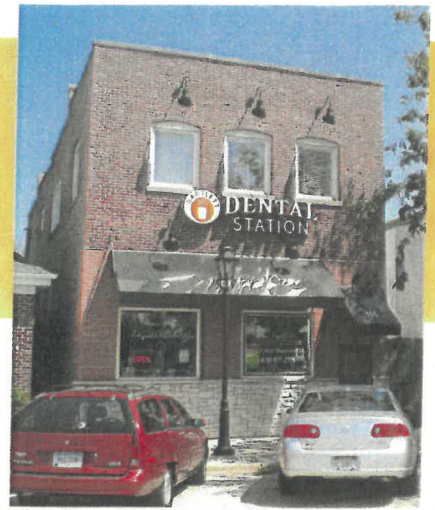




# 116 W. Bartlett Ave. Today, Bartlett Dental Station

William Bull operated a grocery and meat packing business in the village for 42 years. This was his establishment's second location. The first was on Main Street. In 1924, Bull purchased three lots on Bartlett Avenue. He quickly sold two of them but kept lot 16 and built his shop and residence above on it. The family included his wife, Lillian, and twins, Lester and Esther. Upon Bull's death in 1949, the business was taken over by another proprietor and operated as Ray's Grocery, later Vendl Grocery & Market. This also was the first site of the Bartlett Food Basket, which in 1964 moved to 304 W. Bartlett Ave. In the 1970s, the building became home to Hahn Realty, Alphabet Sign Shop, a bike shop and dentists Pecora and Ridenour.

In 1973, a shingled mansard awning and wood siding were added, altering the building's original facade and entrance. Known formerly as the Bartlett Professional Building, today dentist Mark Prosniewski owns the building where his practice is located on the second floor, along with another business on the first floor. The rear portion of the building, with an address of 117 W Oneida Avenue, also has housed different businesses. In 2012, the building's facade was updated with new brick work, awning, sign, and lighting.





# 110 W. Bartlett Ave. Today, TL's Four Seasons Restaurant and other Businesses

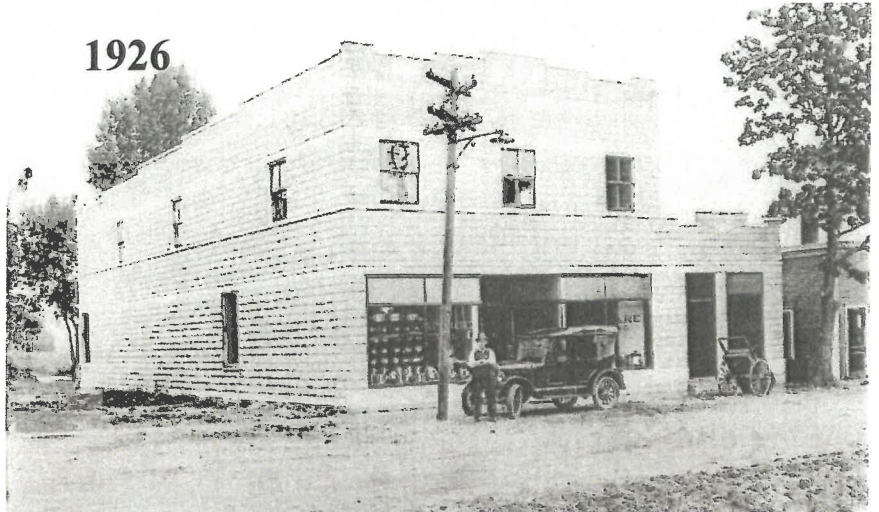
In 1926, proprietor Herman Schultz built his new two-story structure at 110 Bartlett Avenue. His business now included heating and plumbing services. The building was also home at one time to the village's post office, lending library and a men's furnishing/shoe store. Residents could pay their water bills here because village hall did not have hours of operation at that time. Schultz also was an agent for Elgin Community Jewelers and did watch repairs. A 1946 ad announced the store was an official dealer for Food Bank Freezers, which were on display and ready for immediate delivery.

Members of the Schultz family ran the operation until 1964, when grandson Bill (pictured right with wife Ruby) sold the the business and building. It was operated under the Schultz name until it closed in 1999. At that time, it was the last intact exterior and interior business dating from old Bartlett. The building was then extensively remodeled on the exterior. The interior was gutted with the removal of the tin ceiling, wood floors, rolling ladders and wall shelving to be converted into multiple businesses spaces. TL's Four Seasons restaurant occupies the first floor.

Note the date plaque at the top of the facade.



1926



1991



1999



## 106/108 W. Bartlett Ave. & Commuter parking lot Today, Multiple Businesses

Prior to the present day commuter parking lot, the property at the eastern end of Bartlett Avenue served for many years as a grainery and lumber yard.

In the summer of 1873, Bartlett & Shields opened a lumber yard for the construction of homes and businesses in our fledgling community. The operation changed hands and by 1894 was operated by Carr & Lobdell, along with their grainery that was adjacent to the tracks. In 1903, the property was bought by H. F. Wm. Pfingsten, who continued the lumber business. Bartlett Feed and Lumber took over operations in 1911.

In 1928, O. H. Wright & Company took over the property and sold feed, lumber, coal and other building supplies. The building at 106/108 W. was used as its offices. A scale was once embedded in the street in front of this structure so the company could weigh a patron's purchases for payment. In the early 1970s, the now abandoned mill was razed. By 1980, a dental office was located in the old offices, along with various businesses, including the first location of V & V Paesano Pizzeria. The addition to the building, on the north side, was added in 1994.



c. 1900



1977



Late 1960s, arrow shows old mill



## Main Street & Railroad Avenue Town Center

Before the Town Center opened in 2005, this parcel was home to many businesses. Beginning in 1876, this was briefly the site of the Home Manufacturing Company.

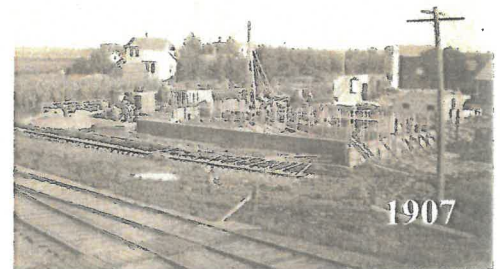


In 1877, a cheese factory and a cheese-box and butter-tub factory was in operation here under the proprietorship of Henry Waterman. In 1883, the Palace Creamery opened and was operated John Carr & Sons. In 1902, the Elgin Canning and Preserve Company was located on this site.

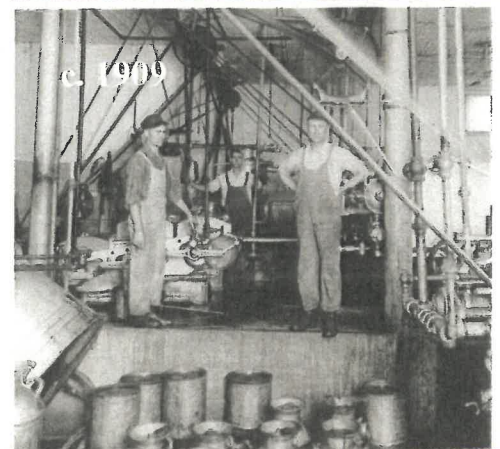


The Huntley Dairy began construction in 1907 on its new creamery and opened for business that November. A rail siding was added so the processed milk could be loaded and shipped to Chicago with ease. At the height of the dairy's operations, 60 to 80 farmers would line up their wagons as far back as Lake Street, waiting to deliver as much as 30,000 pounds of milk daily for pasteurization. After the dairy ceased operations, the building itself was eventually expanded and used for a number of other manufacturing businesses. In 1940, Albert Buerger operated a woodworking facility. Calvin Brown purchased the land and building in 1946. His Set Screw & Manufacturing Company, Inc. moved from Bensenville into the structure producing set screws. The company moved to Elgin, and the factory was razed in 2001 to make room for downtown development.

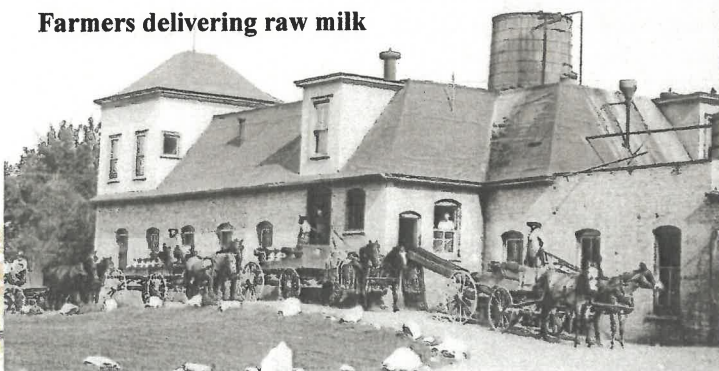
Foundation of the Huntly Dairy Co.



The Town Center is home to businesses on the street level, like Arts in Bartlett and 2Toots Train Whistle Grill, with condominiums above.

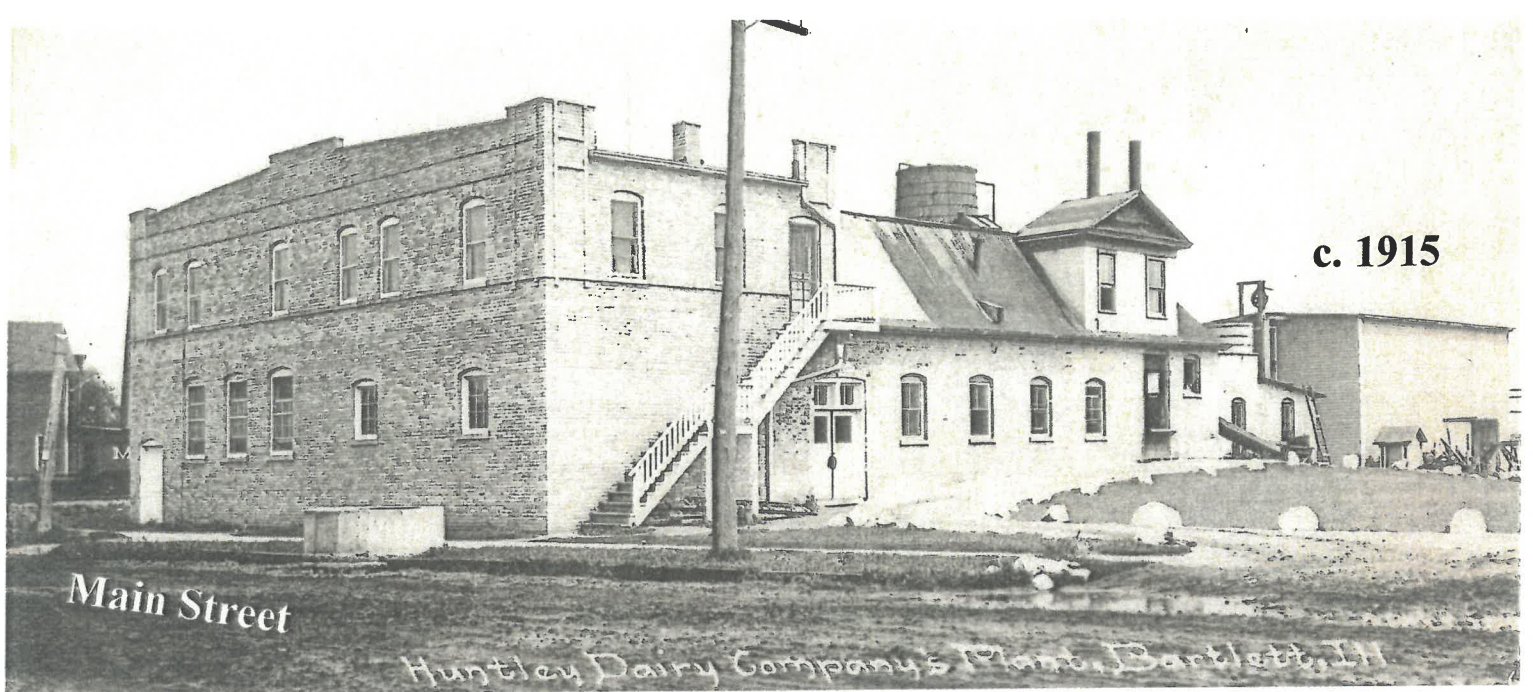


Farmers delivering raw milk



Inside capping room, c. 1909





c. 1915



1964

In 2021, the Rotary Club of Bartlett gifted the 16-foot-tall, four-sided post clock which is near the fountain with the statue of two boys entitled "Reaching."



2001



Until 2004, Railroad Avenue ended at Main Street, where the factory was once located. Motorists heading east on Railroad Avenue had to make a right turn onto Main Street. In 2005, Railroad Avenue was fully extended to Prospect Avenue.



2013

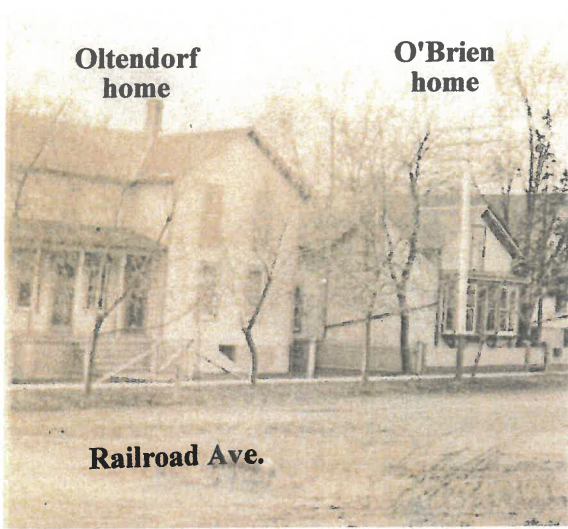




## 200 S. Main Street AT&T Building, park



Today, the AT & T building and a village park complete with the sculpture "Entwined" are located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. Before the facility was built in 1962 as an Illinois Bell dial office, two homes were located here and faced Railroad Avenue. They were originally owned by the Oltendorf and O'Brien families. Both homes were constructed by 1895 and razed for the Illinois Bell facility.



Note the 1962 cornerstone near the Main Street entrance. It contains newspapers, Illinois Bell's 1962 annual report, employee publications, a 1962 local phone directory and photos of the 1961 groundbreaking.

1965





# 111 W. Railroad Ave. Today, McClure Chiropractic

Because of the way Block 6, Lot 11 was divided and sold through time, it is difficult to determine the origins of this building, though it appears on the 1894 Sanborn Fire map as a shop. Throughout the years, it also served as a dwelling and shop. This building is most notably known as the first location of the Chicago Telephone Company's switching office. In the beginning of the twentieth century, Lena Kelley and her staff worked the switchboard to handle all the incoming and outgoing calls in Bartlett. Dr. Staib and Rev. Baumann were the first Bartlett residents to have telephones installed.

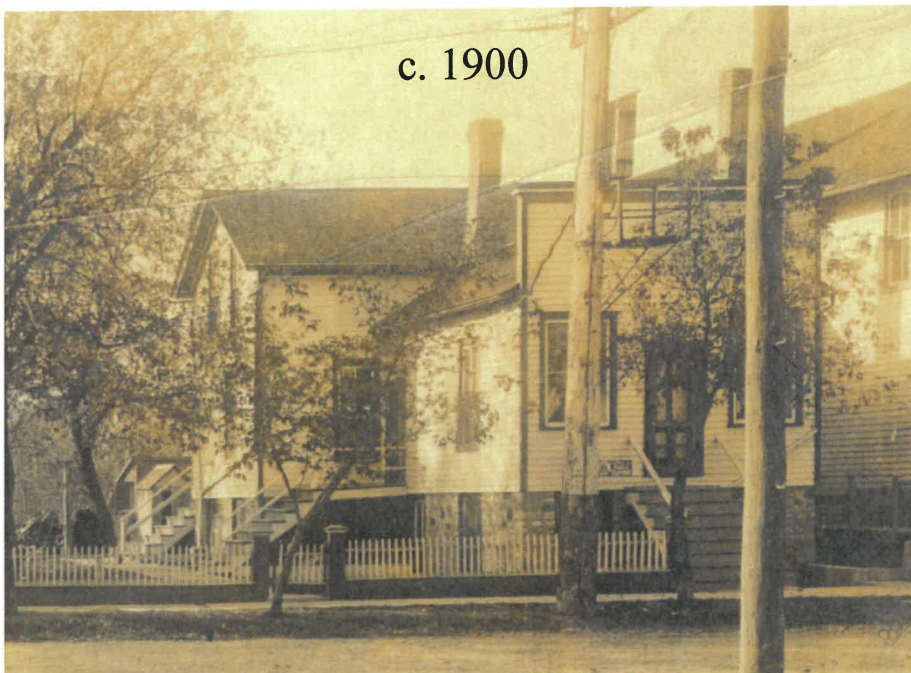
Note in the sidewalk the two manholes in front of the building, signifying access to the phone wires that were once brought into this building.

By the 1940s, Mungerson's Sanitary Barber Shop was in business here. The family lived above, and the shop was in the lower level. In 2001, McClure Chiropractic set up practice on the upper level after a remodeling of the interior and exterior that included an altering of the front portion roof line.

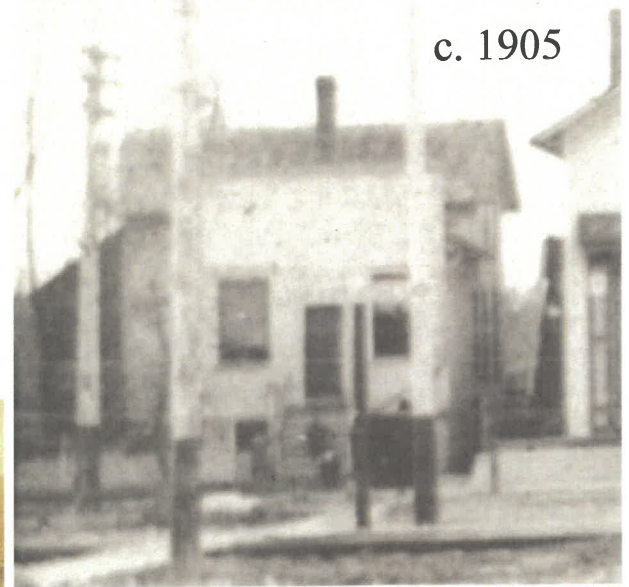


In more recent times, the upstairs portion has been home to Custom Tile Company (early 1980s -1987), Sunshine's Country Store (1987-early 1990s) and Kickback Clothing Company (early 1990s).

The downstairs portion has recently been the location of a counseling service, a manicure shop and since 2008, Valcon Systems, Inc.



c. 1900



c. 1905

The traditional striped barber pole was displayed outside Mungerson's lower level entrance.

Circa 1945





## 113 W. Railroad Ave. State Farm, Dutch Van Rossum

If old walls could talk, the ones at the former Bartlett Tavern would tell tales of Saturday night dances and weekday civic meetings, wedding receptions, homemade coleslaw and Friday night Fish Fries, and of course, the Harmenings, Schnadts, Jensens and Lomeos -- just four of the families who owned the tavern, worked it and called it home.

Built in the 1880s, the Bartlett Tavern was at one time the oldest continuing business in the village. In fact, the election for Bartlett's incorporation in 1891 was held in the dance hall above the tavern, when it was still owned by original proprietor Herman Niewisch.

He next sold the tavern to Henry Harmening Sr. in 1893. It was Henry's wife Caroline who cooked the tasty free lunch that was served daily at their establishment, according to the couple's granddaughter Ruth Harmening Giles. Rinderwurst (pot roast) was a special favorite of the saloon's patrons. Harmening sold the business to his auctioneer partner, Herman Schnadt, in 1906.

Like the Harmenings before them and the Jensens after, the Schnadts lived in the residence at the rear of the tavern for a time. They continued the tradition of handing out free sandwiches to patrons who bought a beer, recalled Dorothy Heinberg, the step-granddaughter of Herman Schnadt. Dorothy says the upstairs hall continued to be used for civic gatherings and dances, adding that it was at one of these dances that her father met her future stepmother Lydia Schnadt.

It was during this time, that a new tradition was born -- the Fish Fry. By the time Serena and Ed Jensen bought the tavern in 1942, the Fish Fry had become a Friday night mainstay. The fish was thawed in the family's bathtub in the rear living quarters. The jar of pickled pigs feet, that was a favorite of the predominantly male patrons, sat on the bar until the 1940s and 50s.

When their daughter Violet married Gene Haase in 1948, their wedding reception was held at the tavern. The bride and mother Serena put out sandwiches and side dishes on the tablecloth covered pool table.

Under the watch of Ed, and that of Serena and her son Wayne after his death in 1952, the menu was expanded and the old tavern became more family friendly.

*Continued on the next page.*





The restaurant also became the unofficial home of the Bartlett Volunteer Fire Department. Serena was responsible for sounding the fire alarm during the overnight hours. After a call, the firemen knew they could count on coffee and sandwiches at the tavern. A car crashing into the building in the 1960s altered its lower facade which was replaced with brick (2nd image from top).

From 1969 to 1971, the Dase family owned the tavern, selling it in 1971 to John and Johnal Lomeo. The Lomeos kept the Friday Fish Fry, making it their own. In 1994, a portion of the upstairs dance hall was turned into a private residence, silencing the sounds of gavels and dancing feet.

In 2003, the now Bartlett Tavern & Grill, once again had new owners, Kamm Consulting. Remodeling was done on the interior and exterior. Outdoor dining was also added in the warm months.

The biggest change to occur in the business' history was its 2009 name change to Papa Pacino's. No longer the Bartlett Tavern, it served Italian food. In late 2013, the name changed to The Tap.

In September 2015, after being closed for several months, the business reopened as Platform 18 Tavern and Grill. It was named that because Bartlett is the 18th stop on Metra's Milwaukee District West Line. The venue served American cuisine. The business permanently closed in March 2017.

After many months of restoration and renovation the historic structure was revitalized and reopened on April 30, 2019 as the Bartlett Tap, but closed that December.

The building sold in spring 2022 to State Farm Agent Dutch Van Rossum who remodeled the main floor into his offices. He made many improvements to the building including a new roof, windows, gutters, siding, mechanical systems, etc. The front portion of the former upstairs dance hall was converted into a second apartment, both which he rents.



Upstairs dance hall, c. 1945



c. 1965



Interior, c. 1965



Interior, c. 1975



Exterior, c. 1960



Dutch Van Rossum  
2023



# 121 W. Railroad Ave. MoRE Brewing Company

Built around 1874, the first structure on this site, (pictured to the right), was razed in 2018. It served as a general store under the early proprietorships of Hayne & Grover and the Dunbar Brothers. By 1900, August C. Schick was operating the store. In 1907, Schick sold his entire stock to his partner Louis Stumpf and wished him "success in his undertaking." Stumpf added a line of hardware to his selection. The building was also the site of the post office with Schick serving as postmaster from 1902 to 1908 and Stumpf from 1908 to 1918. By 1905, the second story served as a residence.

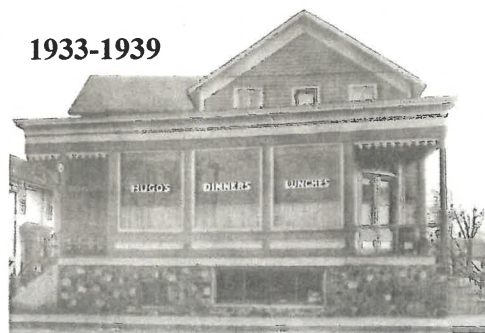
By the late 1920s, it is believed the site was converted into a restaurant/tavern by Elmer C. Schick. From 1933 to 1939, Hugo's, serving lunch and dinner, opened. It was named for proprietor Hugo Rudlinger (below, right behind bar).

Longtime residents, however, still refer to this business as The Eck, its name by 1941. Eck is German for corner, recognizing the village's ethnic past. Known for its Friday fish fry with coleslaw side, customers would line up outside waiting for this treat.

*Continued on next page.*



A. C. Schick and his delivery wagon festooned for a parade.







The next proprietor Hugo "Squeak" Weiher, continued serving lunches and dinners. Basil "Doc" Ping (top, left) and his wife Jane Ping operated the business from 1955 to 1968.



The Eck retained its name until the late 1980s, when it was changed to Dr. Danno's Restaurant and Bar, pictured left in 1988. By 1991, its name was Upper Deck, later Lucky Jacks Across the Tracks then Lucky Jacks Neighborhood Bar & Grill. The business closed in 2013 and the building remained vacant until it was razed in 2018.



In 1983, Banbury Fair, a craft and children's clothing resale shop opened upstairs above the tavern operated by Bruce Suffern (left) and his wife Jan. Two years later, the business expanded to the lower level (Craft Barn) also which was remodeled into a country atmosphere using reclaimed barn wood from a local farm.

The building's lower level has also been home to a variety of businesses prior, such as Hoth's meat market, O'Brien's General Store, Baxmann's General Store, Poor Richard's Print Shop, a video rental, Sunshine's Victorian Gifts, bike shop and more.



On March 16, 2022, the MoRE Brewing Company broke ground (below) on the site for its tap room and brewery. Under the proprietorship of Bartlett residents and brothers, Sunny Patel (below, left) and Perry Patel (below, right), Bartlett is their third Chicagoland location. MoRE's menu which includes food, spirits and of course its craft beer, opened on June 30, 2023.





SW Corner,  
Railroad & Oak Aves.  
Today, a parking lot

What is a parking lot today was once the site of a general store and more. Block 5, lot 1 was sold to Henry Watermann by Luther and Sophia Bartlett in June 1876. Later that year, the Watermann brothers built a large store on the site initially occupied by Elgin parties. Later it was occupied by Charles C. Schultz & Co. Fred C. Watermann Jr. announced he was the "new merchant" in town opening up a "general merchandise" store in the building on March 1, 1907. It also had a tin shop for repair work. The store carried 50 pound sacks of flour, chicken feed and other necessities. Fred Jr. ran it for many years.

A large room above the store served as a hall, where as many as 200 people would gather to listen and dance to local bands. Various businesses, such as a saloon, were located in the basement of the building. The post office was also located here in the 1930s through sometime in the 1940s. Fred Jr. was postmaster from 1935 until his death in 1940.

The main floor of the building became home to O'Brien's General Store sometime in the 1930s. Emma O'Brien was known for her generosity and kindness. She had a lending library in her store and welcomed children of all ages to come and hang out. She supplied books and games for their amusement. Her store gradually changed into a grocery store with items such a clothing and a soda fountain. In the 1940s, the building was bought by Worthington Dawkins Genck. When his toy business began, O'Brien's Store was relocated to the basement. In 1953, Genck converted the structure into apartments. O'Brien's store moved to the basement of 121 W. Railroad Avenue. The Genck apartments were condemned and the building was razed in 1979.



c. 1900



c. 1927



1959



1978



**211 W. Railroad Ave.**  
**Today, The Shoppes of Banbury Fair**  
**d^licious Coffee Bar**  
**Le P'tit Tapas Bar**



Carpenter Friedrich C. Watermann built a family home in the 1880s. The structure is a gable-front-and-wing style, which was typical of the expanding Midwest during this time frame. Friedrich's daughter Clara, shown here in the sepia image with husband Herman Bartelt and son Elmer, lived in the home briefly after her marriage. The Ralph Watermann family also resided in the home. He served as Bartlett's postmaster from 1949 to 1972.



The building remained a residence until 1978. It was then purchased, rezoned for commercial property, and became the offices of House of Homes Real Estate, Inc. until 1981. The barn was used during this time by the Bartlett Jaycees for its annual haunted house fundraiser.



In 1987, the property became the new home for Banbury Fair under owners Bruce and Jan Suffern and Sandy Braun (right, on left). The building was renovated at that time, with the first addition completed in 1989. In 2005, the upstairs was converted into an apartment and an addition and wrap around porch was added to the front. The barn was converted into a venue for the selling of antiques.



*Through the years, Banbury Fair has continued to evolve in the merchandise it sells, appealing to the taste and wants of its customers.*



In 2022, d^licious Coffee Bar opened inside and in 2023, Le P'tit Tapas Bar opened in the old barn under the proprietorship of the Rakesh Chopra family (above right, on right).





# 100 W. Railroad Ave. Today, Bartlett Depot Museum

*To learn more about the depot's 1873 origins, refer to the introduction page of this handout.*

Although the Chicago and Pacific Railroad gave birth to Bartlett, by 1880 it was the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul Railway (later called the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad), that kept the downtown depot buzzing with activity. The depot also provided telegraph services for the Village and served as Bartlett's first post office.

Joseph Charneskey (right), longtime Milwaukee Road employee, served as Bartlett's depot agent for more than 30 years. Joe had all the tools and technology he needed to accomplish his job in his office, located in the middle room of the depot. An Underwood manual typewriter, candlestick phone, order hoops (hanging on the wall behind him), semaphore signal levers (between the windows) a couple of calendars, ink and pens, cubbies for filing and a wood burning stove, Joe was set for selling tickets, the sending and receiving of telegrams, train orders, freight, mail and much more!

Beginning in the late 1940s, the Milwaukee Road's reliable commuter service transformed Bartlett into a burgeoning bedroom community, and its sleek streamliners provided high-speed transportation to the north and western United States. Although ownership of the rail line changed hands during the ensuing years and transportation itself was transformed by the trucking and airline industries, Bartlett's depot continued to play a central role for its residents.

By the advent of the 21st century, this depot was the second busiest commuter station along Metra's Milwaukee District West Line, averaging 1,200 suburban riders per day. Yet this historic building remained essentially unchanged from the time the very first home was built in the village until its 134 years of service as a full-function station ended in December 2007 when Bartlett's new Metra station opened. In 2010, the depot reopened as the Bartlett Depot Museum.

