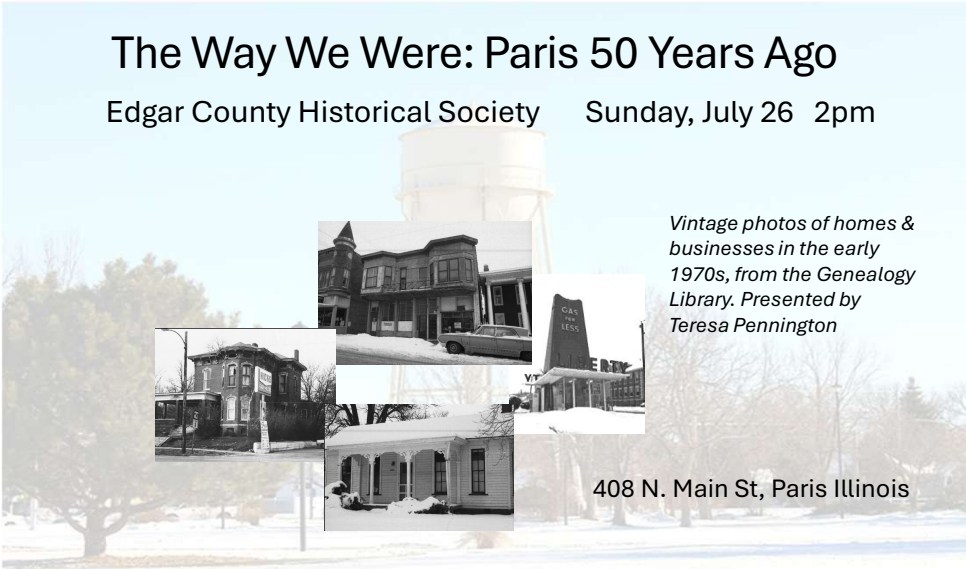


The Way We Were: Paris 50 Years Ago

Edgar County Historical Society Sunday, July 26 2pm



Vintage photos of homes & businesses in the early 1970s, from the Genealogy Library. Presented by Teresa Pennington

408 N. Main St, Paris Illinois

On slides, * indicates that pictured building or home no longer exists



TENNIAL 1973
ION-NEWS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1973 VOL. CXXV—NO. 108

Historical Museum Is Opened

The beginning of what is hoped will become a significant historical museum for Edgar County has been opened at 307 West Washington street by the Edgar County Historical Society today to coincide with the start of the Paris-Edgar County Sesqui-centennial observance.

The museum is located in a small house loaned to the society by the Dole family. Here county historical papers, books, pictures, and similar items of value may be collected, preserved and exhibited.

The Society is open in a position to accept articles that anyone may care to contribute which show the life and times of the county during the past 100 years. The museum will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

MARKETS
Stocks higher in moderate trading. Bonds slightly higher. American stocks higher in moderate trading. Cotton futures mixed. Chicago grain futures mostly lower. Cattle no market.

Edgar County Historical Society's New Home, Prior To Renovation.

'Sesqui' Is Here!



307 W. Washington *
Loaned to Historical Society by Dole family
in 1973



305 W. Washington *



301 W. Washington



304 W. Washington *



306 W. Washington



318 W. Washington *

320 W Washington



310 W. Washington

“Helfrich House” 323 W. Washington *
now Methodist parking lot





Second Baptist Church *

*Both now Carolyn Wenz School
playgrounds*



407 W. Washington *



435 W. Court

West Court St



Zieren Funeral Home



Inn Fashions 403 W. Court



317 W. Court



Alexander St



420 W. Washington *



418 W Washington



Otterbein Methodist Church on Washington St, houses on either side are gone

111 W. Washington

Here, Supt of Schools office, previously Dr. Fleener's office



222 S. Central *

was Drs. Spooner, optometrists. Now city hall parking





Historic Tea Room demolished

BY DANIEL BRISQIO
daniel@prairiepress.net

The once majestic Washington Tea Room came crashing down by the careful Bell and Bell Demolition crew Thursday, Sept. 7. The house stood at 134 E. Washington Street and was built by Washington Alexander in the 1850s. The exander in the 1850s. The home was visited many times by Abraham Lincoln, who delivered his final speech in Paris at Alexander's Hickory Grove next to the house in September 1858.

Many in the community will remember the house as the Washington Tea Room, a somewhat exclusive business. It was noted for Sunday brunch and special occasions.

Washington Alexander built his home on what is now 134 E. Washington Street. The once grand house, remembered by many as The Washington Tea Room, was razed this week by the city of Paris in a continuing effort to clean up the town.

Special to The Prairie Press

“Washington Tea Room”
134 E. Washington *
Demolished Sept. 2023

115 E. Washington
Once the Interurban Office, here Dr. Smilie’s office





William P. Dole home *

West Court St, just east of Methodist Church.
Both now Methodist Park.



Sheriff St





229 W. Wood
One of the oldest houses in town, once on the square, was moved to this location

211 - 215 W. Wood *

Bovell Hat Shop, Bovell Furnace Co,
GTE Office across alley



Northwest corner of Square: Kook & Link
Drugstore, Quinn’s Jewelry, Paris Realty



Avco Financial, Western Auto, Steffey's



217 – 219 N. Central *
Dr. Hoeffding office, Herm-
Ermish Cleaners & Ewing Shoe
Shine Parlor



221-223 N. Central *
Wyatt Adams Insurance Agency



225 N. Central *, with car lot on north side

Edgar County Jail
228 N. Central





230-232 N. Central *
Montgomery Ward Auto Service

Over the years: Norma's Bridal Train, Sinclair Gas Station, Cigar Shop, Goodyear Tire Service



419 Chestnut



420 Chestnut *

Bibo house *
323 N. Central



Corner of Central and Wood St. looking toward the jail



North side of Square * – Wood St. L to R: Television Doctors, Arrow Auto Store, Virginia's Beauty Salon, Pauline's, Sav-U. Marilyn's Beauty Salon, Wesner Sales & Service.



North side of Square 115 – 111 W. Wood St.*
Bennett Style Shop, Cooley Fabric Shop, Bradham's



Edgar County Bank, 101-107 W.
Wood*, corner of Main & Wood



219 – 223 N. Main *
2 vacant, The Ice Cream House



317 N. Main *



319 N. Main
Paris Hotel *



240 N. Main*

Goodwill, Tally-Ho Pub

Beacon News office*



West side of Square: Kirby's Korner & Dr. Berl's office.
The Tap Room & The Trojan Horse, Fruin Law Office



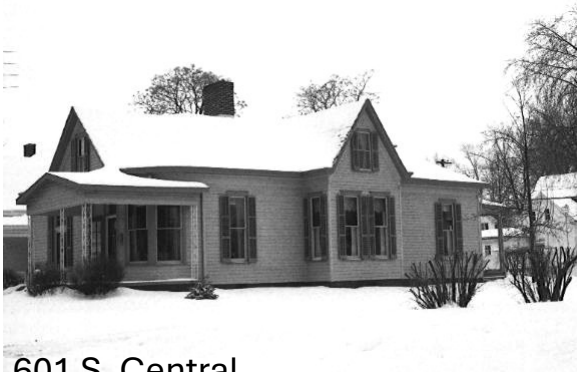
West side of Square. L to R: Bakery/Sweet Shop, Credithrift, Horney's, Benjamin's, Coast to Coast, Massey Anderson & Gibson Law Office.



Barber Shop, Parrish Insurance*



South Central



601 S. Central



909 S. Central



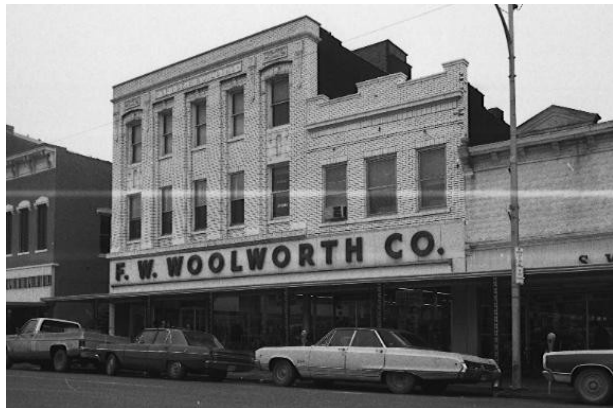
214 S. Central *
now city parking
lot



501 S. Central *



315 S. Central

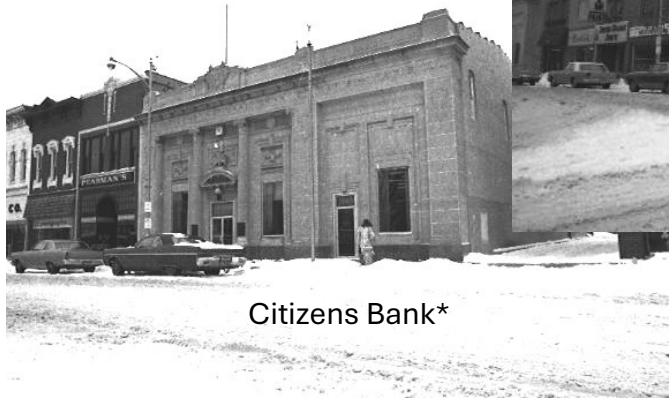


East side of Square: Hodge Hardware, Woolworth, Yontz Hardware*, Index*, Lantern Shop*



Firestone, McCoy's, Duncan's, Lehman's, Hodge Hardware

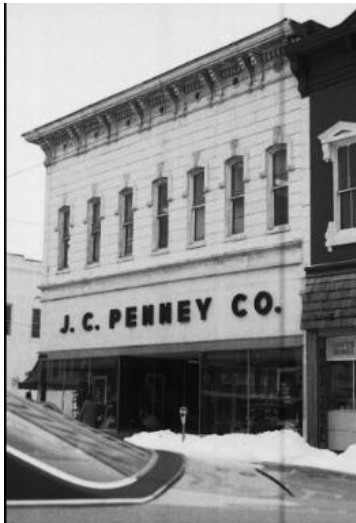
South side of Square



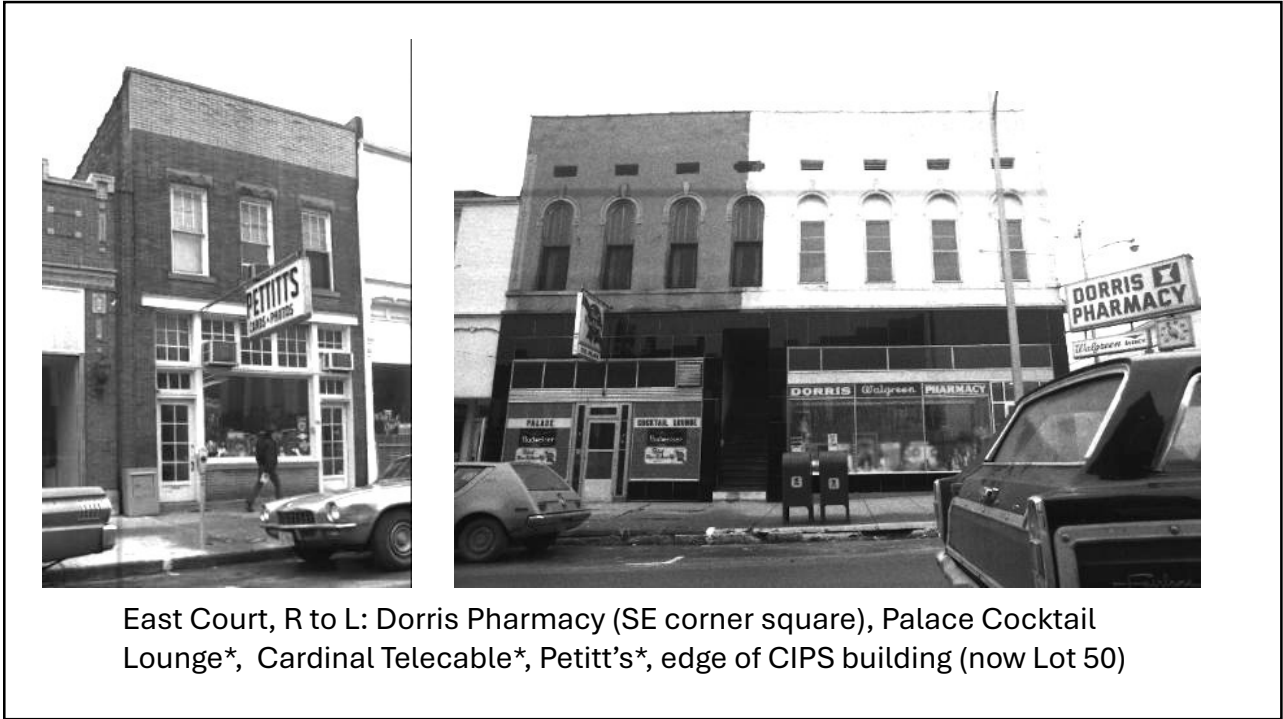
Citizens Bank*



L to R: Pearman Pharmacy, Merle's Dress Shop, Sherwin-Williams, Van Dyke's Grocery, Ransom Paint Store, American Finance, Dr. Kirsten



South side of Square: *all 3 buildings gone*



East Court, R to L: Dorris Pharmacy (SE corner square), Palace Cocktail Lounge*, Cardinal Telecable*, Petitt's*, edge of CIPS building (now Lot 50)



Moose Lodge 134 E. Court *

Rex Apartments
130 E Court *



E. Court St -- Joe's Blue Lounge, Chevrolet dealership (*most of these buildings gone*)



North side of E. Wood St,
half block from Main *



224 E Wood, corner of Wood and Buena Vista.* Was apartments in 1974.



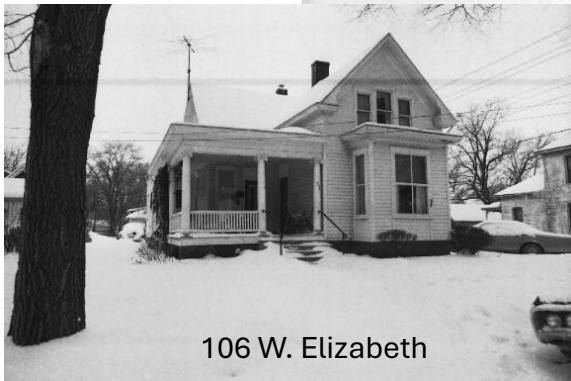
Liberty Gas * (now Circle K but a different building)



Batchelor Funeral Home, corner of Main and Elizabeth



110 W. Elizabeth*



106 W. Elizabeth



305 W. Elizabeth

West Court St.



Trefz Furs



Blanford Sheet Metal



Beauty School, Christian Supply

West Court, across from Presbyterian Church

West Court St.



Supreme Cleaners



Dillavou, Overaker,
Asher & Bonaldi Law
Offices*



Donk Elam's Pool Table
Repairing & Supplies,
Pla-Mor Billiards*



227 E. Court*, just west of Mayo.
Now the school parking lot.

401 E. Court, just east of Mayo School



415 E. Court



619 E. Court

Vance *



Schools



former
St. Mary's *

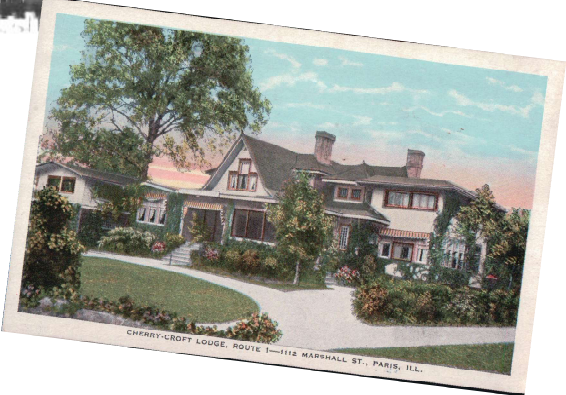


Redmon *



1112 N Marshall *

"Cherry Croft Lodge"



Corner of Main and Roberts*, now ECHS parking



113 Roberts



111 Roberts



407 Connelly *
Claybaugh's Rooming House in 1974



421 Connelly



117 Dole



203 E Dole



521 Vance



525 Vance *



705 Vance



North side of Clinton Rd,
east of Manier *

315 Manier



825 N. Main



U.O. Colson, complete with their annual Merry
Christmas letters in front

And now, to bring it back full circle . . .



414 N. Main

Built in 1875, purchased by the Arthur family in 1895. Now the Historical Society's Arthur House



Further Resources

To see how Paris looked in the early 1900s:

Paris Illinois (1904) reprint

Paris Illinois Illustrated and Descriptive (1908) reprint

Both for sale in ECHS gift shop, along with other books on Paris and Edgar County history.

Facebook groups that have photos of Paris & Edgar County:

[If You Grew Up In Edgar County, IL, then you remember.....](#)

[Vintage Car Clubs, Service Stations, Diners, Local Bands, and More!](#)