



Arterial Scrapbook No. 25

Rating with "McClumpha's Corner" among Amsterdam landmarks is this building at the easterly Main and Bridge St. corner that has been an active business site since the middle of the last century. Longest occupant was the S. B. Thing Company, Amsterdam's oldest national organization, on the corner in the

early 1900's. The store on the left was a pharmacy from Civil War days until the beginning of World War I. Arterial construction will bring an end to the "crossroads of the town" as established when the the first Mohawk River bridge was built in 1821. (Donlon)

Building at Easterly Corner of Main-Bridge Has Seen Many Changes Since Construction

in Mid-19th Century

By H. P. DONLON

Like "McClumpha's Corner" (1840's) on the northeast segment of the principal intersection of Amsterdam's Main St., the building at the southeast corner has been standing since the middle of the 19th century. Remodelings have been made, but an 1874 photo affords identification basis. An American Flag and ceiling decoration on the third floor recalls of the time when a hall was used by fraternal organizations and for 19th century social events.

This plot was sold to Benedict Arnold (no relation of the notorious Benedict) by his brother-in-law, Daniel Creighton, in 1810, and a store was operated by William Reid during that time when Amsterdam was a community of less than 4,500, and still the heart of an agricultural area. Among occupants during post Civil War days was Ernest Kurlbaum who conducted the citizens' Hotel, located by the directory as at the corner. The present building had evidently come into existence by 1869.

Long a Drug Store

During the late 1880's, the location known to Amsterdammers of today as "Segel's Jewelry" was the home of Frank Barclay's dry goods store. To the east, at No. 3 East Main was the Powell & Gilbert drug store. The site had been identified with drugs since a pharmacy had been established by Harmon Wendell in 1854. Later, operation was by Wendell & Becker, the second name another one widely known in the local drug business.

At the turn of the century, No. 1 East Main had been given over to dry goods in operation of Lum, Kling & Co., and the sign above the drug store at No. 3 read Powell & Wolfe.

By the very early 1900's, the East Main and Bridge St. corner had acquired an atmosphere of more permanent interest through removal to this site of the S. B. Thing Co. that has been doing business on East Main St. since 1888. Soon after the turn of the century, the drug store location at 3 East Main was taken by DeBaun Van Aken who extended pharmaceutical traditions of the spot to the beginning of World War I.

"Dutch Grill" Popular

The former Van Aken location was given over to musical instruments when Fay Shaul be-

gan retail operations in 1920. The same type of business was continued by Harold B. Schotte. Following the musical doldrums late 20s and the mid-30's, the easterly store in the building at the corner was converted to Peck's Dutch Grill for a decade of liberal patronage.

Segel's Jewelry became established at the corner about 1945 and the location stability was maintained. In the easterly side of the building, frequent business changes were noted through the years and final occupancy shows the Community Chest on the ground floor, and studios of Radio Station WAFS above. Memories of signs include Fegel Bros. Printers; A. T. Van Heusen, Insurance; Charles West, watchmaker; and the Curran Draperies. There were many others.