

Alex Micone Barber Shop 9 Central Avenue

This small structure was built in 1911. The original owner was Alex Micone who emigrated to Madison from Italy in 1893 at the age of 10. He began barbering in this shop in 1911 and remained active until his retirement in 1986. Currently, the building is occupied by hairstylist Vincent Chiarell.



ca. 1920



2020

Savoy/Liberty Theatre

21 Central Avenue

The Savoy Theatre was built in 1912 by Edward F. Frenz, and opened May of that year. It was renamed the Liberty Theatre in 1920 and closed November 15, 1924 after the larger Madison Cinema on Lincoln Place opened. Used for a short time by the Black Cat Indoor Golf Course, it later became a warehouse, and then a NAPA Auto Parts store. As can be seen in the 2020 photo, the large auditorium was removed and it now houses the Fly and Honey Hair Salon, situated in the former theater lobby.



ca. 1920



2020

45 Seconds From Waverly Place
GRAND OPENING
SAVOY THEATRE
 Central Avenue, near police station, Madison, New Jersey

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30.
 Summer Season of Later and Best Photo-Plays
 and Illustrated Songs

PLEASE NO PHOTO-PLAYS
 NO
 OPILAR
 LAYERS
 ERECTLY
 REJECTED

THE VERY BEST
 INSTRUCTIVE
 HISTORICAL
 DRAMATIC
 TRAGICOMEDY
 EARLY COMEDY
 Will be Shown

For promise - charges only - Devoted Patrons and Regulars
 Performances regular at 7 and 9:15 P. M.

PRICES
 Orchestra 15 Cents
 Balcony 10 Cents
 Children under 10 years of age accompanied by parents or guardians, 5 Cents

Savoy Theatre
 Madison, N. J.

FAREWELL
 TO THE
 GREAT
 "CHECKERS"
 BY
 THE
 GREAT
 "CHECKERS"
 BY
 THE
 GREAT
 "CHECKERS"

The Moose

WATCH
 FOR THE
OPENING
 OF THE
NEW BLACK CAT
INDOOR GOLF COURSE
 AT
OLD LIBERTY THEATRE
 MADISON
 MRS. MARITA CONSON, Prop.

Three Shows Daily
 MADISON, N. J.
GRAND OPENING
Liberty Theatre
 Under direction of G. Raymond F. H. Black
SATURDAY, JUNE 12th

Assessment
 At this theatre we show for your enjoyment, the best pictures and it will be our constant aim to provide the highest on the best pictures. It is our policy to maintain the same standard and class of pictures as we receive. We aim to provide for you a varied, artistic, and wholesome entertainment, adapted to appeal to people of all ages and all social surroundings, and with appropriate music.

Why Go Elsewhere When You Can See Better Shows Right Here in our Own Home Town?
 Our Spring will be the greatest entertainment week in the history of Madison. Our aim is to entertain in high standard.

SATURDAY, June 12—A Big Virile Drama.
 "The River's End"
 BY JAMES HEYER CROWD
 Comedies

PRICES
 Orchestra 15 Cents
 Balcony 10 Cents
 Children under 10 years of age accompanied by parents or guardians, 5 Cents

MONDAY
 Constance Talmadge
 "A Temperamental Wife"

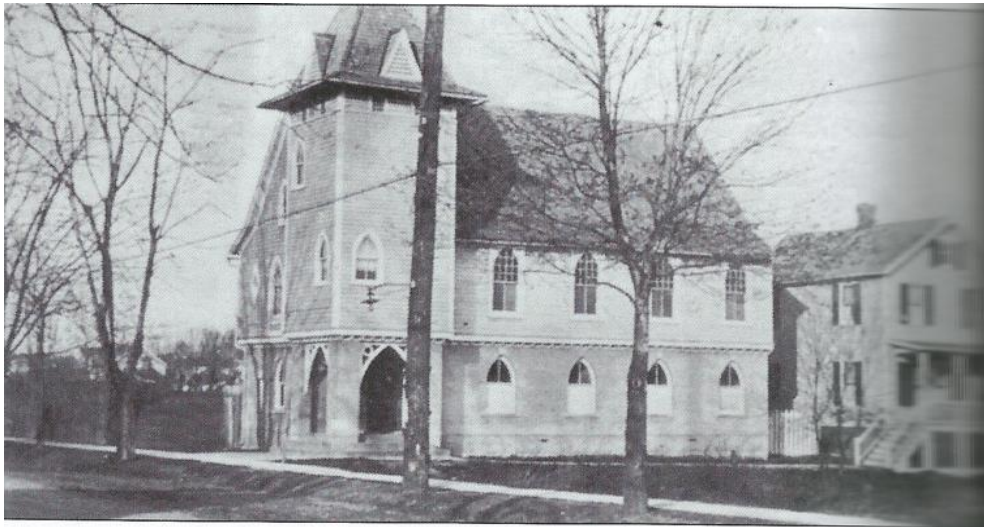
TUESDAY
 Bert Lyell
 "Lorenbecker Ltd"

WEDNESDAY
 May Allison
 "Fair and Warmer"

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
 Nazimova
 "The Boat"

Bethel A.M.E. Church 53 Central Avenue

The church was built in 1905 at the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Chapel Street, designed by architect H. King Conklin and Stull & Philhower as contractors. The land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Brittin in a deed dated August 13, 1885, but not recorded until 1902. In 1853 a group of local African American residents founded the Union Church at Cherry Hill (now Fairwoods). Union Church quickly became the intended focus of much of African American life and remained a thriving and vital institution as the African American population of Madison grew over the following years. Reorganized in 1885, it became Bethel A.M.E. Church. The cornerstone reportedly contains a brief history of the old church from August 29, 1885, the names of President Theodor Roosevelt, Governor Edward C. Stokes, Mayor James P. Albright, officers of the church district and local church, and a copy of the Madison Eagle newspaper.



ca. 1910

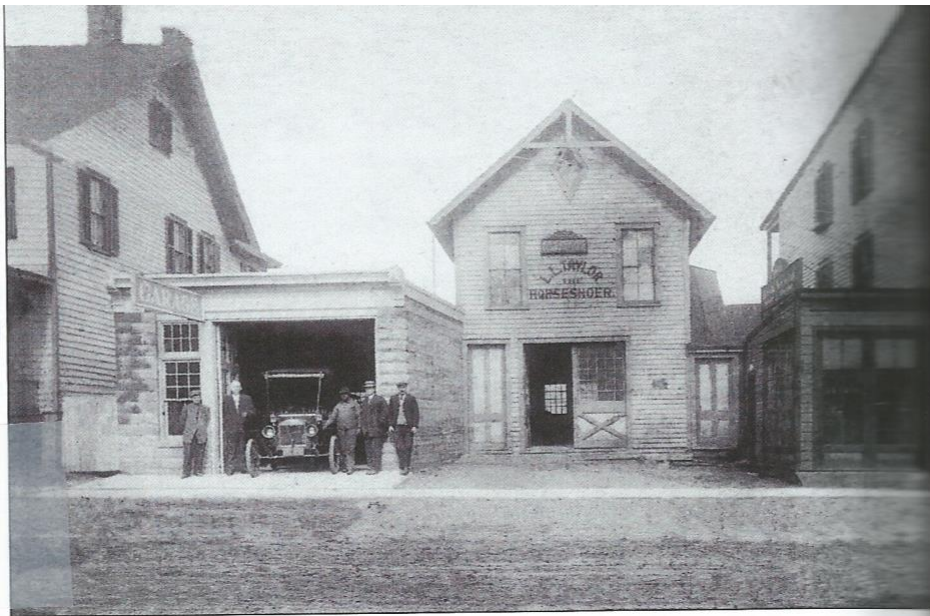


2020

Blacksmith Shop

10-12 Central Avenue

Although this structure has been greatly altered, it appears on an 1886 map as a blacksmith shop on the property of B. Warren Burnet. The central gabled section was a livery set back from the street, with the shoeing of the horses done outside between this section and the structure at 14 Central Avenue. A garage was added in 1902 (10 Central Avenue) as the first Ford dealership to come to Madison. A small clapboard structure was moved to the site in front of the shoeing area to serve as a tack shop for Lawson L. Taylor, the blacksmith. The garage was later extended across the livery stable to serve as a showroom. Now, the structure is used as an automotive design and repair garage for racecars.



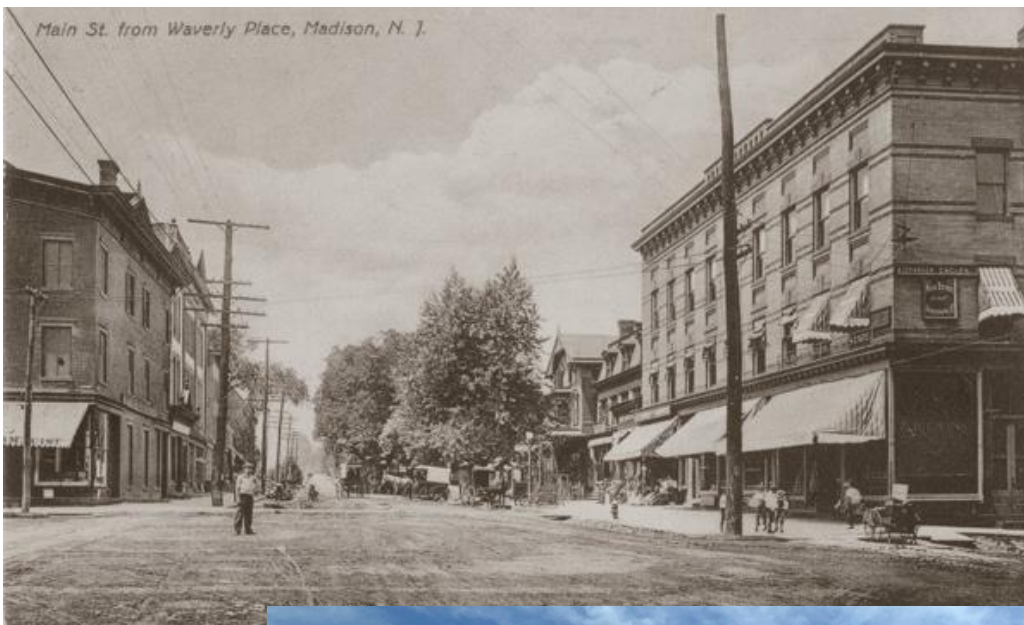
ca. 1902



2020

Burnet Building 60-64 Main Street

Designed by architect H. J. Farquhar and constructed by Morristown builder Robert Dalgelish in the Renaissance Revival style, the Burnet Building was built by Mabel Burnet Apgar in 1897. The Burnet family was among Madison's earliest settlers, having been local farmers, craftsmen, and businessmen here since 1740. Her brother James, who later purchased the structure, opened a hardware business in the far left storefront, while Gee's Drug Store, the Madison Democrat newspaper and Alexander Eagles Insurance firm occupied the remaining space. The shopfronts have been altered with pseudo-Colonial wood paneling and trim, ca. 1950s. In 2021, the tenants are: The Blue Purl, Tons of Toys, and Avenue Travel.



ca. 1909, Burnet on right corner.



2021

Central Avenue School 50 Central Ave.

Designed by noted architect H. King Conklin and built by contractors Corbet & Clark in 1909, the Central Avenue School pioneered the construction of a completely fireproof school building. A novel construction technique invented by Thomas Edison, using steel and reinforced Portland cement concrete “poured in place,” was its distinguishing feature. The American Concrete-Steel Construction Company of Newark did all the concrete work. The spade that was used to break ground for this school was the same one used 20 years earlier in breaking ground for Madison's electric light and water plant. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the Central Avenue School is quite flattered by the construction of an exact replica, also designed by H. King Conklin, in Nutley, NJ. A new addition to the Central Avenue School was approved by referendum in March 1951.



1909



2021

The Electric Motion Picture Theater, Cocino Garage

73 Main St.

Built in 1912, this building was Madison's first movie palace, aptly named the Electric Motion Picture Theater. The electric sockets for the theater are still in place. After the theater closed, it became Cocino Garage, with a capacity of 20 cars. Walter's Upholstery Shop came later and the building currently houses Cramer's Carpet One, adjacent to the Chase Bank drive-in parking lot.



ca. 1924



2020

Colonel William Brittin Homestead 34-36 Main St.

Colonel William Brittin's Homestead was built in 1804 and enlarged in 1878. The original foundation and structure is believed buried within the walls of the post-war commercial building. William was one of the three original Brittin brothers – Abraham, Isaac, and William – to move to Madison circa 1802. Wood salvaged from a simple meetinghouse built by the first Madison Presbyterian Church in what is now Hillside Cemetery, was used in constructing the original Brittin structure. While a resident of Madison, William was a Justice of the Peace, an assistant judge of the Morris County Court, a colonel of the 1st regiment of the Morris County Brigade during the War of 1812, and a member of the state legislature. The original clapboard structure with its later additions was from 1900 to 1910 the J.H. Meade 5&10 store and then the home of the Settlement House of the Thursday Morning Club up to 1924. The structure was greatly altered in a 1946 facelift project along Main Street and again in 1954.



ca. 1900-1910



2020

Burroughs, Kohr, and Dangler Funeral Home 106 Main St.

What is now the Burroughs, Kohr, and Dangler Funeral Home at 106 Main St, has had a long and singular history. It was originally established by Caleb C. Burroughs in 1820 on this very site. A skilled wood craftsman, Burroughs also designed caskets, especially when the furniture business became unstable. As Madison's best-known undertaker, his business soon prospered. Purchased in 1979 by the late William R. Dangler, Sr. and the late James E. Dangler, Burroughs, Kohr & Dangler, Inc. remarkably has remained at its current location for two centuries.



ca. 1900

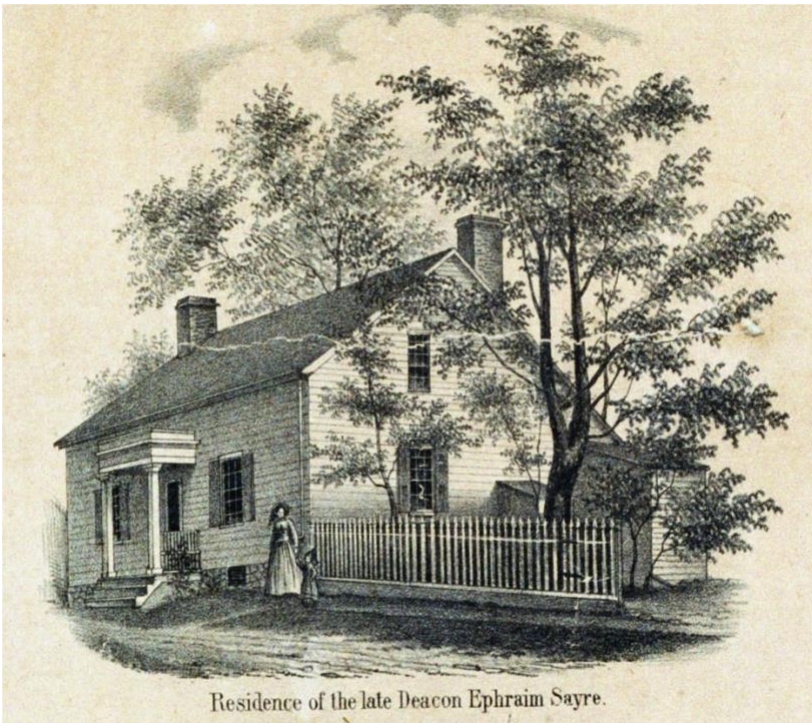


2020

The Daniel/Ephraim Sayre House

31 Ridgedale Ave.

The Sayre House was built by Daniel Sayre about 1745, and was the homestead of his son, Deacon Ephraim Sayre, during the Revolutionary War. It served as General Anthony Wayne's headquarters in 1777 while the Continental Army was in camp in Loantaka Valley. General George Washington was headquartered five miles away in Morristown. The house was always open with a generous hospitality to the needs of both officers and soldiers. Reverend James Caldwell was a frequent visitor. Now a private home, the Sayre House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.



Residence of the late Deacon Ephraim Sayre.

ca. pre-1800 drawing



2020

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Freight Depot

2 Central Avenue, Behind Burnet Building

Several buildings are noteworthy not because of their architecture per se but because they represent unusual original uses or are rare survivors of building types not often found locally. The most visually prominent of these is the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Freight Depot; it was completed 1½ years after the fire of 1877 which destroyed the previous depot. It also served commuters and was wired for electricity in 1903. When the railroad was elevated in 1916, the depot was moved to the rear of Burnet's Hardware Store, where it served until recently as a feed, garden supply, and storage building. It is one of a small handful of surviving frame railroad buildings in Morris County. Now it is occupied by the Reupholstery & Restoration Shop.



ca. pre-1916. Left photo is the depot's south-facing side. Right photo is the east-facing side.



2020

The Madison Electric Utility

40 Station Rd.

When Madison's 1st mayor, James Albright switched on the electric lights at 5 pm on Waverly Place in the commercial district on Christmas Day, 1891, he moved the borough from oil lamps to an "enlightened" modernity. All this thanks to Thomas Edison's invention only 12 years earlier and the Mayor and Council's far-sighted bond issue. The electric plant consisted of two coal-fired turbines on John Ave. The hope was that profit from the venture would make it self-sustaining and pay off its debt, which it did.

By 1892, Madison had 400 streetlights and only one residential customer, Councilman S. H. Reed. Borough lamplighter Charles Weir unfortunately became the first casualty, when his services were no longer needed. The Women's Christian Temperance Union railed against lighting the entrances to bars, for fear of making them "too attractive." Perhaps this was balanced by the fact that the Webb Memorial Chapel, the Methodist Church, and Drew University had lights by 1894. Today, Madison is one of only 9 municipalities in New Jersey that has its own public electric utility and a staff of 8 people.



ca. 1891



2020

Madison's Elks Lodge Building 192 Main St.

Located on the corner of Main and Rosedale, what is now the home of B.P.O. Elks Lodge #1465 was built in 1889-91 by Hugo M. Thomassen and was known as Thomassen House. For a short time prior to the Elks taking over the building, it was a hotel, The Rose City Inn, owned by Edward Cooney of Morristown. In 1923 it was leased to the Elks with an option to buy. The first meeting of the Elks chapter was held on March 11th 1924. The purchase option was exercised in March of 1928 and the building officially became the property of the Madison Elks.

In 1933 major renovations were made providing for a Lodge Room and Grille. Additional renovations of the Grille Room took place in 1951 and 1988. In October of 1925, a statue of an elk was dedicated and placed on the front lawn and remained there until 1971 when vandals forced its removal. The original property extended approximately two hundred feet on Main Street and also about the same distance on Rosedale Avenue. In 1931, when the rest of the area to the rear of the building covering the corner of Rosedale Avenue and Highland Avenue became available, the Elks purchased the property in order to protect their original investment.



ca. 1910



2020

Fagan's Hall, Flanagan Building, Madison Trust Company 20 Waverly Place

Built about 1884 by Charles Cook, and rented by John Fagan for many years, it once housed a large meeting space for events such as flower shows, offices, dances, political rallies, and stores. Fagan's Hall was subsequently acquired by S. J. Flanagan and had long been considered a fire-trap. No great surprise then, that the building burned to the ground on April 29, 1914 and threatened the entire business district, saved perhaps by the absence of wind. Firemen were hampered by thousands of intruding citizens, some of whom had to be sprayed with water to keep them at bay. The DeHart home next door, on the right in the photos, was saved and still stands.

On this site in 1931, Morris County's first bank, the Madison Trust Company built its new home; its bronze double doors and transom light are set between two unfluted Ionic columns – the name is carved in Roman lettering onto the top central panel. The original interior, double-height banking hall has been infilled to form two stories. Various small businesses currently call the site their home.



1914



1914



2020

Gee Building, First National Bank 66-68 Main Street

In 1881, Stephen Paulmier built this 3-story brick structure and opened what was to become the First National Bank. During the 1890s the Madison Eagle also occupied half of the building. In 1923, the bank moved across the street. The building was sold to Anderson B. Gee, whose father had opened the Madison Pharmacy in 1897 in the Burnet Building. The pharmacy later moved to this building. Believed to be only the 3rd owner of the Madison Pharmacy during its long history, Frank Iannarone purchased the building over 30 years ago. The First National Bank's original safes, now filled with cement, remain in the basement.



2020

The Madison Golf Club

155 Green Ave.

Rated the 25th best Stand-Alone 9-Hole Golf Course in the world in 2020 by Golf.Com, the historic Madison Golf Club, one of the first golf clubs in the United States, has a long and distinguished history. In 1896, a prescient group of 11 prominent Madisonians organized this private club, and industrialist, philanthropist, and non-golfer James Webb freely donated the use of his land; in 1903 Webb built the clubhouse pictured below. Expanded and altered over the years, the clubhouse stood until 2011 when it was replaced by the current modern building.

Although the course was built with only 6 golf holes, common at the time, the addition of more acreage led to 3 additional holes in 1899 and a complete renovation in 2002. At 32 acres and 2,200 yards from its longest tees, the narrow fairways, exacting small greens, and mildly rugged terrain, the course has attracted thousands of players over the years. Yet, the distinct familial atmosphere of this treasured icon continues to reflect proudly on Madison's small-town charm and character. The club's first tournament was on July 4th, 1896 – and has been held yearly ever since.



ca. 1910s-1920s



2020

Green Village Road Down to Main Street



ca. prior to 1914



2020

Hartley Dodge Memorial Building

50 Kings Rd.

On the south side of Kings Rd., between Maple and Green Avenues, stood a row of homes built prior to the turn of the 20th Century. With the advent of the elevated train tracks in 1914 and the repositioning of Kings Rd., major changes were in store for that plot of land. Indeed, Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge donated the land and the funds and directed the construction of the iconic Georgian Revival Hartley Dodge Memorial Building. The magnificent structure honored her son, Marcellus Hartley Dodge, Jr., tragically killed in a 1930 motor vehicle accident in France. At a cost of \$800,000 to construct at the time, and dedicated in 1935, it has since served as Madison's Borough Hall; until 2009, it also housed the police and fire departments. Constructed of granite, limestone, and marble, with six colossal fluted Doric columns, it is topped by an octagonal cupola. The large front doors are polished bronze and a sweeping staircase leads to the second floor. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. A \$10 million renovation began in 2008.



1913. Note railroad tracks bottom right corner.



ca. 2010

Hillside Cemetery Great Flood of 1902

153 Main Street

“A torrential downpour in August of 1902 caused the Spring Garden Brook to overflow, having enough momentum to break up the drainage ditches. The flash flood ran through Hillside Cemetery and washed out 59 graves. The bodies were found along the course of the brook the next morning, much to the horror of the waking neighbors. Before daybreak, Edward Dehart discovered bodies floating into his yard on Cross Street. To spare others the mortifying scene, he enlisted helpers who waded through the water to collect the corpses that had broken away from their coffins. The bodies were gathered and placed back in the coffins, but only 30 of the corpses were identifiable.” *WeirdNJ.com*



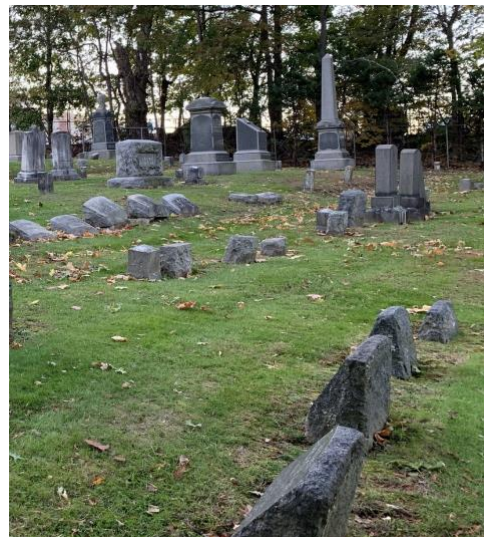
1902



2020 These headstones were moved closer to the road after the flood and are not in their original positions.



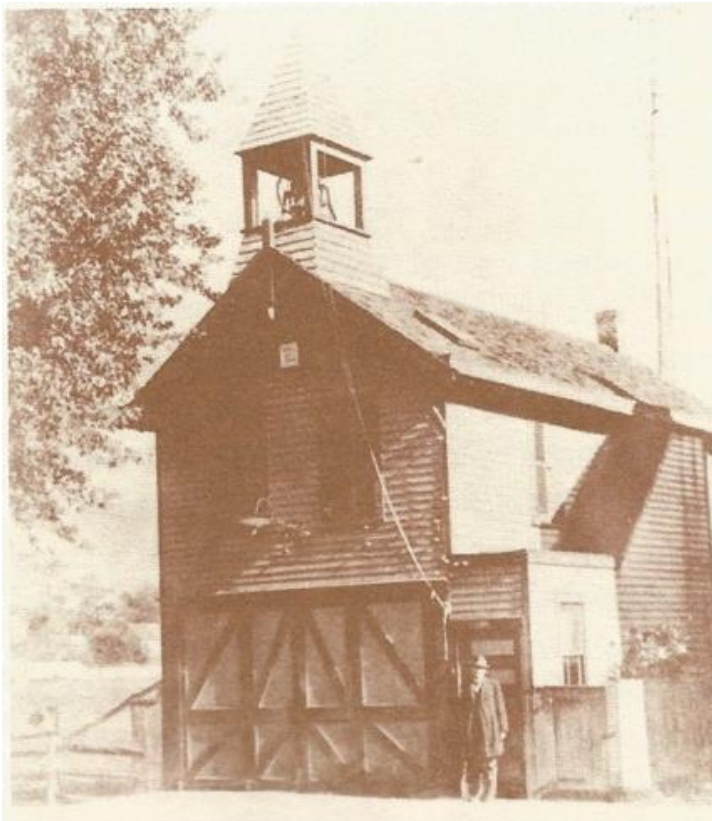
1902



2020

Madison Hook & Ladder Co. 19 Central Avenue

Prompted by the great fire of 1877 and the lack of fire equipment, William J. Brittin donated a lot at the corner of Central Avenue and Elmer Street for a truck and firehouse. It was built there in 1882 for use as a small Hook & Ladder Company. Essential equipment included buckets, since the town had no water mains. Over the years, it was extensively modified, the front-gabled house retaining only some trusswork as an original architectural detail. The building was used until 1903 when a new brick firehouse was constructed diagonally across the street. The Police Department then established its headquarters in the old Hook & Ladder Co. until 1935. In 2020 it houses the Celtic Golf shop.



1882



1903-1935 Police Headquarters



2020

The James Building 2 Green Village Road (Southeast Corner of Green Village Rd. and Main Street)

The James Building is located on the southeast corner of Green Village Road and Main Street. Designed by Brigham and Alden in 1899, it is an Eclectic Revival motif with a strong Flemish influence. Madison resident D. Willis James, a senior partner with the Phelps-Dodge Copper Company, gave the building as a gift to Madison. Unique for its time, the curved 11-bay commercial block property was to provide maintenance income for the public library, then located directly across the street. Built of yellow brick, it features a round window with surrounding stone wreath. Alternating yellow and black coping adorn the roofline together with alternating finials and winged griffins. At one time a major gathering place for the community was the Assembly Hall on the top floor. Borough offices were located there until the Hartley Dodge Memorial was completed in 1935. The James Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.



ca. 1900?

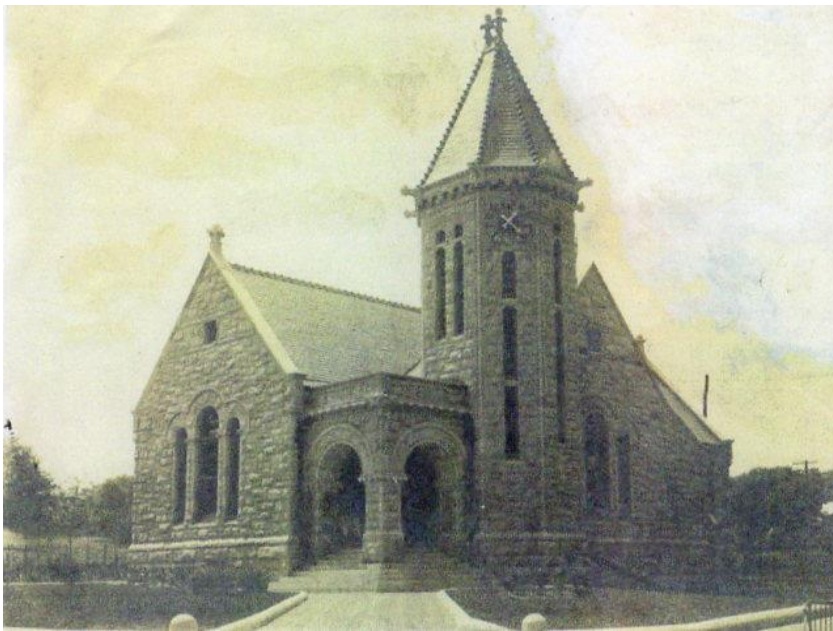


2020

The James Library

9 Madison Avenue

Located on the corner of Green Village Road and Main Street, the James Library was designed by Brigham & Alden and built by local contractor John V. Corbett. It has a rock-faced granite ashlar with rock-faced and smooth-cut limestone details. Gargoyles adorn the original entrance and tower. From 1900 to 1906 public lecture series were held here, with one series given in Italian. A substantial collection of Italian language books was also housed here, recognizing Madison's largest immigrant community at that time. Such bilingual service was quite progressive for a suburban library, more reminiscent of the best large urban libraries and settlement house programs. A horse drawn bookmobile carried library books to outlying districts from 1900 to 1912. This important service was not revived until 1922 with the formation of the Morris County Library. Still owned by the Borough of Madison, the building is now leased to the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.



James Library not long after construction in 1899.



2020

The Luke Miller House

105 Ridgedale Ave.

The Luke Miller House (also referred to as Miller's Station) is considered the oldest existing home in Madison. It was built between 1730 and 1750 by Luke Miller's grandfather, Andrew Miller "... who with his son Josiah came from Southampton, Long Island and settled here. They were accompanied by James and David Burnet who were the earliest white settlers of Bottle Hill, now Madison."

Miller joined the militia at the age of seventeen and, according to original documents, "In the month of June, 1776 he turned out and went into service as a volunteer when the British troops landed at Staten Island. He joined a company then commanded by Lieutenant Hand." Luke fought in several important battles including the battles of Springfield and Short Hills; he achieved the rank of Major in 1778, at the age of nineteen. When he returned to his home and farm, Luke continued with the family's blacksmith trade as his father Josiah Miller had before him. Luke's son, John B. Miller, followed him in the trade, and John's son, David L. Miller, adopted the blacksmith trade as well. According to the book *Bottle Hill and Madison*, by William Parkhurst Tuttle, "Major Luke Miller was born at the house, known as Miller's Station, in 1759 and resided there until his death at age 91, in 1851." Luke married three times and fathered 11 children.



ca. mid-18th century



2018

Madison Diner 95 Main Street

No eating place in Madison or nearby was more frequented by young people and working people of the 1930s and 1940s than Goumas's Diner on Main Street. Stefanos Goumas opened it in 1931. The menu featured everything from real goulash to huge jelly doughnuts. The much larger Nautilus Diner, now occupies the site.



ca. 1940



2020

Madison House/Bottle Hill Tavern/First National Bank Building 2 Waverly Place (SE Corner of Waverly Place and Main St.)

In 1819, with increased traffic between Madison and Morristown, Col. Stephen Hunting took the opportunity to open Hunting's Hotel, later named the Madison House on the SE corner of Waverly Place and Main St. The building stood for more than 100 years. No less a hero than the Marquis de Lafayette visited in 1825. By 1922, the First National Bank wanted to move out of the Gee Building and hired architects Mowbray and Uffinger to design a new building on the old hotel site. In response to public agitation to save this vintage landmark, the bank management agreed to donate the revered old building to a community group willing to pay for its removal. The Madison Historical Society was formed to save the building. Fund-raising was successful and the historic hotel was moved east on Main Street to a location opposite Alexander Avenue. On re-opening in its new location, it was renamed the Bottle Hill Tavern and until 1946 housed the Society. It was finally razed in 1991 and a replica built, now the Bank of America. Today, Chase Bank occupies the First National Bank's building.



2020

Main Street Looking West



ca. Early 20th Century



2020

Main Street with Madison House on the Left



1918



2020

Main Street With Brittin Building 55 Main Street

William Brittin, who was instrumental in funding Madison's fire department and provided the property for the first fire truck house, was a descendent of Col. William Brittin. He built the Brittin Building in 1898. This neoclassical building once housed Hedges and Co. Dry Goods, the Woolworth five-and-ten cent store, an ice cream store, and CVS Pharmacy. Current businesses include Healthy Pasta, Club Pilates, and Carvel Ice Cream.



1907 Looking East



2020

Mead Hall, Drew University

36 Madison Ave.

William Gibbons inherited a fortune from his father and asked Abraham Britten, a local man, to assemble a large property, where he could live and pursue his passion for raising thoroughbreds. The 96 acres became known as the "Forest." He built this Greek revival style house in 1836 and it is considered by many to be the finest example of that architectural style in the Northeast. By 1867, the vacant home and estate, were now owned by Gibbons' son; he supported the Confederacy in the Civil War and returned from Savannah a broken man; the property and home were sold to Methodist Daniel Drew. The \$140,000 purchase was used to establish the Drew Theological Seminary. The Gibbons mansion was renamed Mead Hall in honor of Drew's wife, Roxanna Mead. In 1930 the school became Drew University. A terrible fire in 1989 severely damaged the building, but it was fully restored by the end of 1992. It proudly serves as the university's administrative offices and reception hall and is on the US National Register of Historic Places.



ca. pre-1900



2017

Neil Building Alley, Adjacent to Perlaw/Caccavale Building

15-17 Waverly Place

Former businesses included the Sam Lee Laundry and a real estate office. More recently home to a tailor shop and beauty salon.



ca. 1916



2020

Old Madison Fire Truck House 22 Central Avenue

Built in 1903 by architect C. H. Lum and contractor John V. Corbett, the fire truck house was home to Madison's growing fire department until July 1935. It once had a fire bell tower holding a 1,500-pound bell rung by a water-powered motor, donated by the publishers of the Madison Eagle newspaper. To sound an alarm, firemen simply turned on the faucet in the firehouse. In 1966, the old structure was repurposed and became home to the Madison Board of Health. However, to accommodate the pressing need for affordable senior housing, the building was razed and in 2010 the Barbara W. Valk Firehouse Apartments were built, proudly resembling what came before.



ca. 1903



2020

Old Methodist Church

7 Waverly Place

Worshipping first in private homes from 1803 until 1840 and then in Henry Keep's umbrella and straw-hat factory near Prospect Street and Kings Road, the Methodist Congregation built a church on Waverly Place. The cornerstone was laid in 1844 and dedicated the following year. The widening of Waverly Place in the early 1860s necessitated that the building be moved farther back on the lot. Sold in 1870 to Ichabod Searing for \$8636.49, the building was raised and stores added to the bottom level, including Cook's plumbing store; as a result, the 1844 appearance vanished. Note the curved and shaped "Dutch" pediment on top. The church's balcony was modified to create a 3rd floor. It housed at various times the Masonic Lodge until 1928 and an American Legion Post. The building managed to survive the great fire of 1877 when clever firefighters removed its tin roof and draped it over the south side of the building to protect it from the flames from the adjacent building. The Methodist congregation, now the United Methodist Church of Madison, built a beautiful new church in 1871 on Madison Ave. The current occupants of the Old Methodist Church building include Cambridge Street Paper and Crowley Cupcakes. The large letter "D" at the top of the building was installed about a decade ago and is the initial of the current owner's last name, Dalena.



ca. 1950s



2020

The Old Tuttle Oak Tree

60 Prospect Street (Near Corner with Washington Dr.)

In the summer of 1858, Rev. Samuel L. Tuttle was opening Prospect Street through his property to join that of Henry Keep, who continued the opening to the railroad at King's Road. One morning as he came upon the ground, the workmen were preparing to cut down a large oak tree that stood nearly in the center of the way. He stopped them, saying that it was too splendid a tree to destroy. "But, Mr. Tuttle, you see it is right in the way," said the foreman. "Never mind if it is, ---don't touch it," was the reply; and the tree stood until 1996. A cherished Madison landmark to many, for some it was an unnecessary hazard. Growth rings indicate that the tree stood on the Tuttle farm from the mid-1700s. For some Madison teenagers, driving around the obstacle in the middle of Prospect St. became a rite of passage for new drivers. On November 29, 1996, the Tuttle Oak, already deteriorating, was fatally damaged when a truck hit it. A slice of a 150 year-old branch from the famous tree is permanently displayed in the Madison Library.



ca. pre-1916 looking south.



2021



2021

The First Presbyterian Church and Masonic Temple

170 Main St.

The building at 170 Main St., also known as the Old Main St. Church, had a long and storied history even before it was converted to a Masonic Temple in 1930. Built by the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township (now Madison) in 1825, the oldest congregation in Madison, it is an example of the Wren-Gibbs form of church architecture. It is also the oldest brick building in Madison and sits on a hill on what was the busy turnpike between Newark and Morristown, and across from the historic Revolutionary War era Hillside/Bottle Hill Cemetery.

A beloved Madison landmark, the Presbyterian congregation refused to demolish it or sell it for commercial purposes, when it decided to build a new church on Green Ave., and happily sold it to the Masons. The congregation also insisted that the outside of the building not be altered except as absolutely necessary – a promise kept for 90 years. Although the interior has been extensively renovated and changed, there remain benches and furniture from the old church and the early Masonic Lodge on Waverly Place. Note the Masonic symbol below the tower. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.



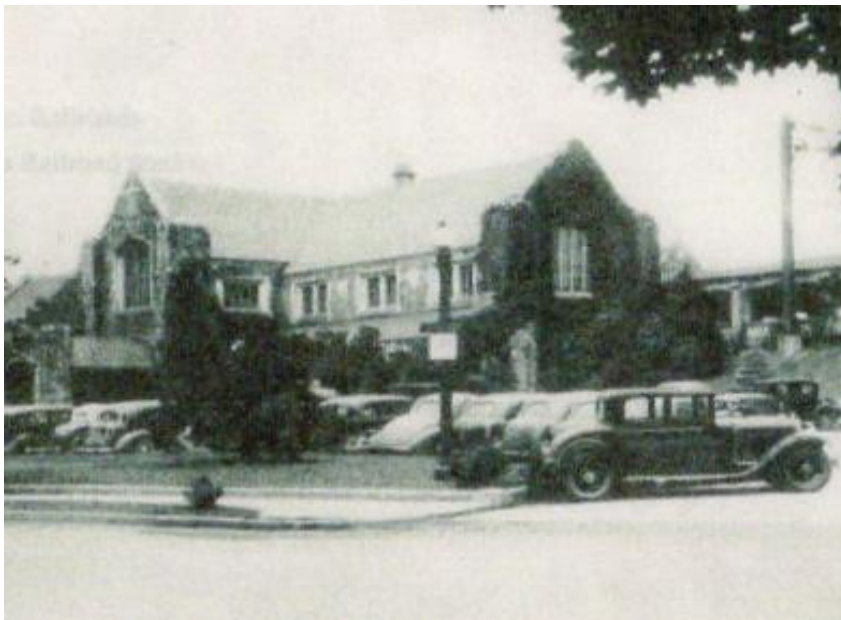
ca. 1930



2020

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Station North Side of Kings Road Between Waverly Place and Prospect Street

The railroad station was designed in 1916 by architect F. J. Niles and is Gothic Revival or “Collegiate Gothic.” Its construction and the elevation of the track required land acquisition and relocation of Madison streets. This was largely paid for by Ellen Stebbins James, widow of philanthropist Daniel Willis James, and 35-year improvement bonds totaling \$135,000, plus a \$24,000 sinking fund underwritten by the Borough of Madison. The exterior is brick with veneer of coursed rock-faced random ashlar with tooled beaded mortar joints. The interior features teak seating, brick walls, and marble chip flooring. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Madison is a stop on the NJ Transit System’s Morris-Essex Line.



ca. 1930

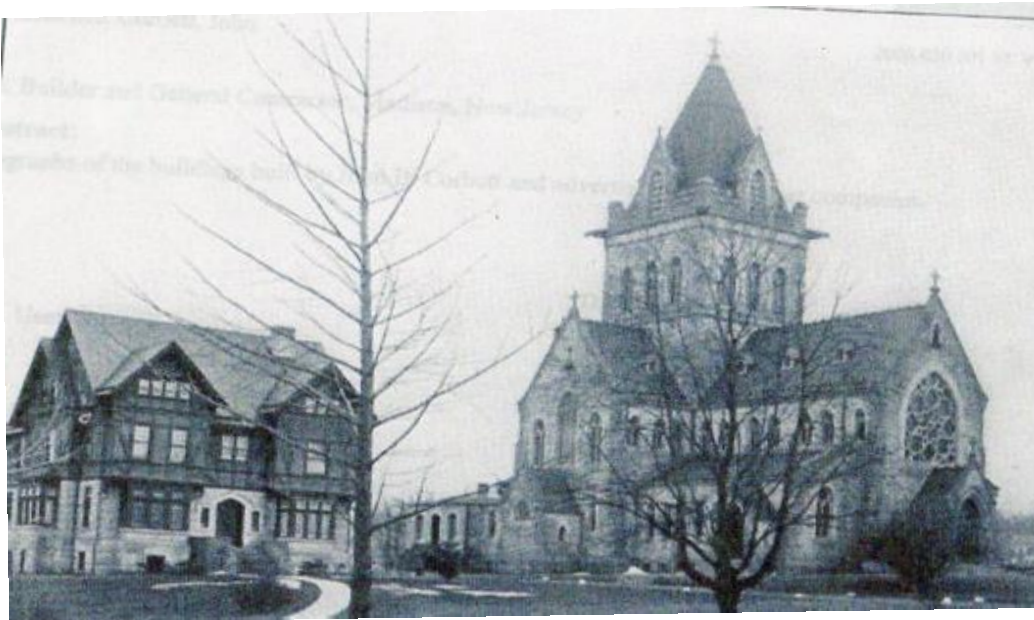


2020

St. Vincent Martyr Roman Catholic Church

Northeast Corner of Wilmer and Green Village Road

The Gothic Revival styled St. Vincent Martyr Roman Catholic Church was designed by Jeremiah O'Rourke & Sons in 1906. One of the oldest Catholic parishes in New Jersey, this church traces its beginning in 1809 when the first Mass was said in the Madison home of Lavielle Dubereau on the Convent Road (now Park Avenue). Built of Hopatcong granite for the foundation, and rock-faced Indiana limestone for its exterior by noted local builder John V. Corbett, the design of the church was inspired by Christ Church, Oxford England. The rectory located to the north of the Church is Tudor Revival in style with a limestone first story and half-timbered second story and attic.



ca. 1910



2020

SW Corner of Waverly Place View From the Train Station 19-25 Waverly Place

The Perlaw Building, shown here in the 1920s, has an empty adjacent lot on which once stood the train station prior to raising of the railroad tracks. Also visible is the Neil Building Alley (see that project). In 1927, George Perlaw built a one-story structure on that empty lot to house 4 stores. The A & P Supermarket occupied the site until 1942, when the ACME Supermarket moved in. They remained until 1950. Current occupants include Madison Bagel Café, Escape Games, Stonington Cabinetry, and Day Spa Salon.



ca. 1920s

1932 Parade in front of A & P Market

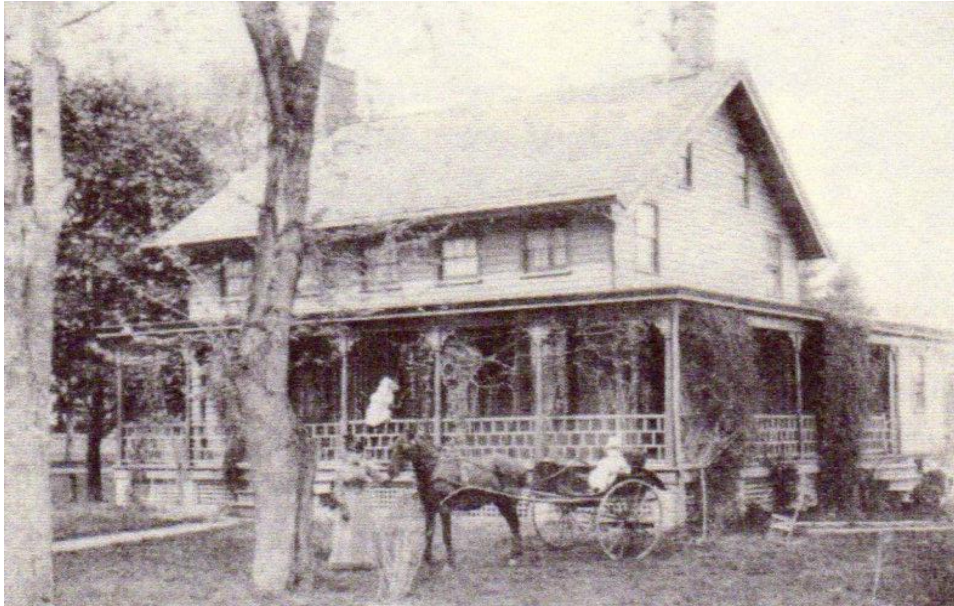


2020

Toll House on the Morris and Essex Turnpike

200 Main Street

From 1804 until 1868, what eventually became Main Street, the Morris and Essex Turnpike was a toll road running through Chatham and the Borough of Madison. The Madison's toll house stood at the corner of Rosedale and Main and now is the site of a bank.



ca. 1868



2020

Van Wagner/Falco Building and Miller Building

1 and 3 Waverly Place

On the southwest corner of Waverly Place and Main St., stands the Van Wagner/Falco building, built in 1873 by the Van Wagner family for their apothecary business. It is the only building in the historic district that is finished on all four sides. This Italianate structure has had only two owners in its 147-year history. After the Van Wagners left in 1969, the building was purchased by Joseph Falco Sr., and his family still operates Rose City Jewelers and Gemologists on that site. A fire in 1879 led to the addition of an attic and 3rd floor, and there has been significant and historically correct updating of the building over the years.

The Miller building next door, built ca. 1886 in the Neoclassical style, was one of the few buildings to escape the great fire of 1877. At the time, it housed an ice cream and oyster saloon, a common 19th century combination. Today it contains the Modern Men's Barber Shop.



ca. pre-1900



2020

Waverly Place Looking Southwest

With the construction of the Morris and Essex Railroad in 1837, Madison developed stronger links to the metropolitan regions of New Jersey and New York City. The depot was relocated to the northwest corner of Waverly Place and Kings Road in 1855, helping to shift the community's "center" farther south. After the great fire of 1877, Judge Francis Lathrop, the first of the town's great benefactors, was convinced of the need for a downtown focal point to give better access to the railroad station. He had begun to acquire properties on the west side of Waverly Place with the idea of eventually widening it. The destruction by fire of most of the buildings on the west side of the street furnished the ideal impetus for the realization of Lathrop's plan. Most of the buildings shown below were built in the 1880s. After the fire, the broad new avenue was paved with stone to serve as a suitable entrance to the new passenger and freight buildings. The elevated train tracks in the left of the photos, were constructed in 1915. Over the years, Waverly Place has become a setting for parades, meetings, commerce, and holiday scenes in movies. Note the bust of James Madison in the lower right corner, installed in 2003.



ca. 1916



2020

Webb Memorial Chapel Northwest Corner of Wilmer St. and Green Ave.

The Webb Chapel of the Presbyterian Church was designed by Josiah Cleveland Cady in 1887. The Presbyterian Sunday School had outgrown its quarters in the Session House then located at the intersection of Main Street and Park Avenue. The death of James Augustus Webb, Jr. in 1887 prompted James A Webb, Sr., to build this structure for a new Sunday School. It has a weighty, large, yet simple form. The exterior is rock-faced Newark brownstone. All finials are copper and the hardware is bronze. There are stained glass windows over the altar and crystal windows in the vestibule. The Sunday School was converted in use as a chapel in 1928 and served as the church until 1951 when the new church opened.



ca. 1900



2020

The YMCA Building 12 Main Street

The old YMCA Building was designed by King Conklin and built by John V. Corbett in 1907. Prior to its move to this location in 1908, the YMCA met in the homes of James A. Webb on Kings Road until 1873. It later moved to Oriental Hall on Waverly Place until it burned down in 1877. It then moved to the Brittin Building until the opening of this location in 1908. The building is topped by a paneled brick and cement parapet broken by raised arched and shredded sections imitating Palladian motifs. The largest bears the legend "YMCA - 1907 - Madison." Below the parapet runs a broad pressed-copper modillioned and dentate cornice with paneled frieze. It housed bowling alleys, a gym, swimming pool, and a poolroom. Currently, it is home to various professionals and groups.



1910



2020