

***5 west main***  
***Researched and written by Ruth Ann Montgomery***



DR. C. M. SMITH'S BLOCK.

The building at 5 West Main is the second commercial building to have been erected on the site. The first building was constructed in 1865 as a harness shop by Henry Millspaugh. This building destroyed in the great fire of September 29, 1896. A second structure was built by Dr. Charles M. Smith in 1896-97. The two structures played a prominent role in the business life of Evansville.

Henry Millspaugh was a harness maker and before moving to Evansville, Millspaugh had been a resident of Footville beginning in 1862. There he met and married Mahala F. Owen.

Millspaugh moved to Evansville and in April 1865, purchased a parcel of land in the small commercial district on the south side of the first block of West Main Street. The land was 19 feet wide, fronting on Main Street and had a depth of 99 feet.

The long narrow lot was the perfect size for a small store with a second story above that could be used for an office or for living quarters. When he purchased the land from Hiram Spencer, Millspaugh paid \$95.96, a good price for a piece of real estate in the commercial district of the growing village of Evansville.

Millspaugh built the two story wood-frame building and opened a harness shop. In addition to harnesses, his merchandise included horse blankets, carriage tops, whips, brushes, currycombs.

Millspaugh also specialized in trunks and valises. He advertised repair work and "harnesses of all styles, kept constantly on hand and nearly every other article to be found at a "horse millinary" establishment." The shop also carried "plastering hair", an ingredient used in making plaster.

In October 1872, Millspaugh rented the harness shop to Henry Monshau. Monshau also was a harness maker. For the next six years, Monshau continued his business in the Millspaugh building, while the owner pursued other interests.

Henry Monshau was a native of Germany who had immigrated to the United States in 1854 when he was just fifteen years old. He lived in Watertown for five years before moving to Evansville in 1859. For the next fifty-four years, Monshau served Evansville's horse owners as a harness maker, frequently moving his business as the places he rented were sold or rented to other businesses.

During the years that Monshau operated out his harness shop, Henry Millspaugh traveled and

worked as a real estate investor. Just after the Civil War, he had purchased land in Virginia and made occasional visits to the property. In the 1870s, Millspaugh traveled west to pursue real estate investments in Iowa and in the Dakota territories when those areas were opening for settlement.

In 1875, Millspaugh traveled with Dr. C. M. Smith to the Dakotas for a visit of several days. They traveled by train and visited the area near Sioux City, looking over homesteads that were for sale and visiting former Evansville residents who had moved to the west.

Millspaugh also made investments in Mechanicsville, Iowa, a small town 30 miles east of Cedar Rapids. He made several trips to Iowa in 1876 to help another Evansville businessman, Mr. Morehouse, open a hardware store in Mechanicsville. Morehouse and Millspaugh transported all of the merchandise by train cars. They loaded the goods at the Evansville depot.

The August 16, 1876 edition of the Evansville Review, recorded the start of the journey. "Messrs. Millspaugh and Morehouse left for Mechanicsville, Iowa last Wednesday. They loaded their hardware goods and tinner's fixings into a car and then themselves as super cargo, set off in high glee. Opening is represented to be first class for the hardware trade."

By the late 1870s, Henry Millspaugh was ready to once again pursue the harness business in Evansville. Monshau was forced to find another shop for his harness making and Millspaugh joined forces with George Taggart, another harness maker. In addition to the merchandise normally found in a harness shop, Millspaugh and Taggart also carried "genuine Indian tanned buffalo robes," according to the October 1, 1879 issue of the Review.

**MILLSPAUGH & TAGGART**  
manufacturers and dealers in  
Harnesses, Saddles, Whips, Brushes, Cur-  
rycombs, Neats-foot & Vacuum Oil.  
**Trunks a Specialty.**  
**ALSO,**  
**Key City Carriage Tops.**  
Plastering Hair  
as low as the lowest All work warranted  
MAIN ST., opposite Central House  
14th EVANSVILLE, WIS.

The 1880 census taker listed the Millspaugh and Taggart business in the industrial schedule for the village of Evansville. According to the report, there were five people employed in the harness and saddle shop and they worked a ten hour day. The skilled employees earned \$1.50 per day.

In 1883, H. C. Millspaugh and George C. Taggart announced that they were dissolving their partnership. They asked anyone who owed them money to "call and settled within 30 days." The dissolution notice was dated May 29, 1883. Taggart opened a stone hauling business during what was one of the peak building periods in Evansville's history.

Henry Millspaugh was beginning to feel the effects of a long hard working life, but he continued to operate the harness shop. Newspaper accounts told that Henry suffered from rheumatism and for many years he had also had consumption, today known as tuberculosis. Millspaugh died in November 1885. His obituary in the Review told of his "uprightness, probity and strict business integrity".

His son Josiah, took over the shop. He had been operating a shop in Brooklyn before moving to Evansville and managed it until 1888. The property was owned jointly Henry's wife, Mahala,

and his children, Josiah, and Harry.

Three years, after their father's death, the Millspaugh's settled the estate and sold the building to local physician, Dr. Charles M. Smith for \$1,200. Josiah Millspaugh moved his harness shop to a store building just east of the bank on East Main Street.



Dr. Charles M. Smith, pencil sketch

In his new location, Dr. Smith used the second story of the building as his offices. In April 1888, the Tribune reported : "the doctor has the upper rooms handsomely arranged and fitted up for his own private office."

After moving into the building, Smith found that the roof was leaking and not suitable to use. He hired James and Henry Hubbard to reshingle the building and there was a delay in opening his office while the roof was repaired.

Smith also had the first floor of the building remodeled. A "handsome new front of plate glass" was installed. Carpenter-builder, William Libby and his son, Irwin, completed the remodeling project. They laid new floors and made other repairs to the woodwork. Painting and plastering was also done in preparation for the new renter on the first floor of the building.

J. W. Quinn, a new resident from Oconomoc opened a jewelry store in the remodeled harness shop. Quinn was also a pearl hunter and in August 1889, he put on display a large pearl that he claimed to have taken from Lake Leota. In 1890, Quinn sold his jewelry stock to Ernest Ballard who rented the shop from Dr. Smith until 1895.

Shortly after he purchased the old Millspaugh building, Dr. Charles Smith's biography appeared in the Rock County Biography Album, printed in 1889. According to the biographical sketch, Dr. Smith was born in Cattarugus Co., New York in 1834. He was one of eight children born to Jacob and Delana Smith.

Charles' father, Jacob, was a farmer. As a young man, Charles had worked with his father and attended school whenever he could get away from the chores.

In 1854, at the age of twenty, Charles left the family farm and headed west to Wisconsin where he expected to make a better life for himself. His first home in Wisconsin was in Green County where he hired out as a farm hand.

After working a short time on farms, Charles was able to find a teaching position at Dayton, Wisconsin. He later taught three winter terms in Evansville.

In 1857, Dr. Smith began to study medicine with Dr. John M. Evans and attended Rush Medical

college in Chicago. After graduating in 1860, Dr. Smith practiced medicine in Elm Point, Illinois and then returned to Wisconsin to establish a practice in Footville.

He married Julia E. Sawin in May 1861. She was the daughter of John Sawin, a Baptist Minister in Union township.

In 1863, Charles Smith became Dr. Evan's assistant surgeon in the 13th Wisconsin Infantry and served in the Civil War. After being discharged he came to Evansville and became a partner of Dr. Evans' in a pharmacy and medical office.

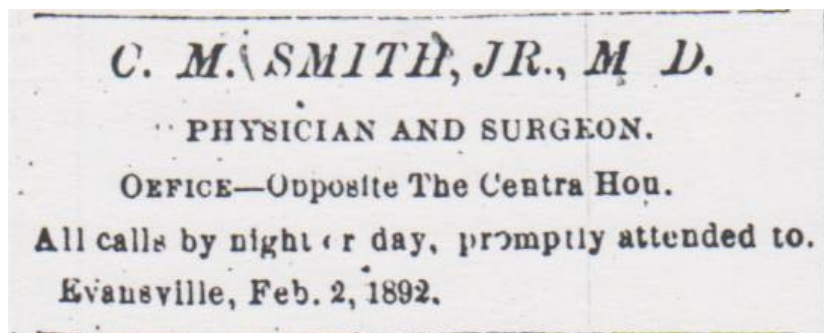
Smith also was an agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. In 1872, Smith and Evans dissolved their partnership and Dr. Smith opened his own practice.

Charles was active in the State Medical Society of Wisconsin and when the regional organization, The Southern Wisconsin Medical Association formed in 1883, he became the organization's first president.

In addition to his medical practice and insurance business, Dr. Smith had also found time to be active in the community. He had been master of the Evansville chapter of the Masonic Lodge from 1865 to 1871 and was also a member of the Knights of Pythias. In 1876, he served as President of the Evansville Village Board and also served as the County Supervisor.

His biography recorded that Dr. Smith "has always been very charitable to the afflicted poor and to them his services have been as freely given as to those who are in better circumstances and from whom he expected a good fee."

The Smith's had two children, Charles Jr. and Flora. Perhaps he planned for his son to join him in the business because when Dr. Smith purchased the building at 5 West Main, in 1888, his son, Charles Smith, Jr. was a registered pharmacist. Charles, Jr. was also studying medicine at Rush Medical College in Chicago.



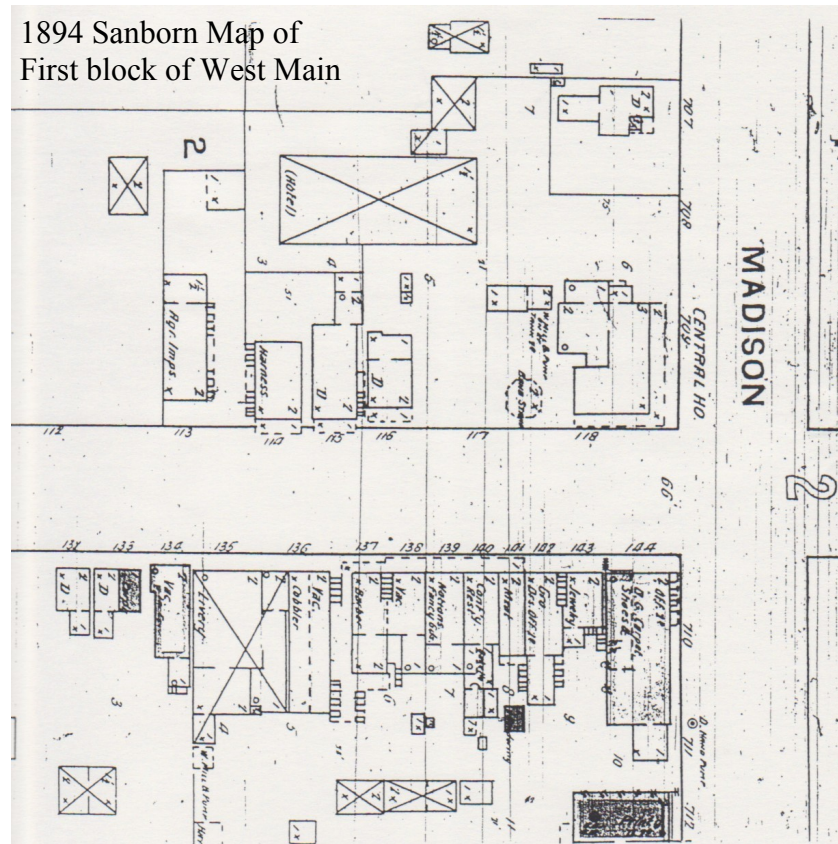
In the spring of 1890, Dr. Charles Smith, Sr. hired an assistant, another young doctor, Dr. George Spencer. His own son, Charles Jr., graduated from Rush College in the fall of 1890 and decided to practice medicine in Milton. However, in January 1892, Charles, Jr. returned to Evansville and rented rooms in the second story of the

building next door west of his father's shop.

By the spring of 1892, Dr. Smith had decided to let younger doctors take care of the "riding business". Smith would confine his business to those who could come into his office and he adver-



tised that he would no longer be making house calls to the country. At the same time, he announced that Dr. George Spencer would no longer be his assistant and planned to go into practice for himself.



Early maps show the locations of the jewelry store, and the offices of the two Doctor's Smith. The 1894 Sanborn Map of Evansville shows a sketch of buildings along the south side of West Main Street.

The maps were used by insurance companies to underwrite insurance policies on industrial residential and commercial buildings. The drawings indicated the rough dimensions of the structures, the type of occupants, and the type of building material used in construction. The Sanborn maps of Evansville in 1894, show a small two story building on the site with a jewelry store on the first floor.

Other important features of the 1894 map were fire protection devices. On the Sanborn map of 1894, a fire wall is shown between the general store on the corner, and the building owned by Dr. Smith. According to news reports, the corner store, owned by Cummings and Clark, also had a tin roof for fire protection and a city reservoir on the east side of the store.

In 1895, Ernest Ballard, who was renting the first story of the building from Dr. Smith, moved his jewelry store to the first story of the building at 14 East Main Street. This left the first floor of the building vacant. A year later, in the fall of 1896, Dr. Smith was still the only occupant of his building.

On September 29, 1896, the entire block of buildings on the south side of West Main Street, with the exception of the general store on the corner, was destroyed by fire. The Evansville Review called it "the worst and most disastrous conflagration" in Evansville's history.

The fire began in the hay loft of the livery stable, seven buildings west of the Smith building. Although the fire was discovered almost immediately by Chief of Police, Isaac Brink, the flames spread rapidly, destroying buildings east and west of the livery.

Volunteers began dragging furniture, merchandise, and any other contents of the buildings out into the streets. The local fire department and those called in from Janesville and Madison could not stop the fire.

It was decided that Dr. Smith's building and other small buildings on the block would have to be torn down to create a fire break. The fire was spreading so rapidly that those on the scene feared that it would destroy the Methodist Church and other buildings, south of the Main business district. The books and office equipment located in Dr. Smith's office were carried out and saved before the building was razed.

By tearing down the Smith building, the fire was stopped at the fire wall of the Cummings and Clark Store. Dr. Smith's loss was estimated at \$2,000, but he immediately decided that he would rebuild the structure.

The debris from the fire was cleared away and construction on the new building at 5 West Main Street began. The local newspaper, the Tribune, said little about the reconstruction, but noted that "The rebuilding of the burned district will give employment to a number of laborers during the winter."

Dr. Charles Smith, hired Isaac Brink to do the stone work of the foundation for his new building. From October to April, the rebuilding of the burned buildings brought new life to the business district in Evansville. Dr. Smith invested \$4,000 in his new building, twice the amount of his loss of the old one.

Three buildings were being built, side by side, this time with a fire wall between each one. In the April 3, 1897 issue of the Badger newspaper just six months after the destructive fire, the writer noted : The new buildings now owned by Dr. Smith, Frank Devendorf and Byron Campbell are certainly great ornaments to the city.

While the building was under construction Dr. Charles Smith, Sr. moved his offices into the rear of the Bank of Evansville building. His son, Dr. Charles Smith, Jr. joined him. They both listed their residence as the corner of Madison and Church Streets (the present location of the All 'n One store). When the new building was ready, the two Doctor Smith's made their offices together in the second story.

Charles M. Smith, Jr.'s biography was published in the 1901 Commemorative Biographical Record. Smith was born in 1866 in Evansville, shortly after his father returned from duty in the Civil War. He married Ida Monshau in 1895, the daughter of Henry Monshau, the harness maker.

The biographical sketch described the country doctor's work. "The country physician with a large practice and an extended "ride" has selected a most laborious vocation and subjects himself to a constant strain." His patients were treated in the home and were often miles apart.

According to Smith's biographer, it was generally felt, that the country doctor treated simpler disease and that his patients recovered more quickly than those who lived in large cities. Doctors

like Smith, who chose a country practice, usually found they had more "peace and quiet". The country physician also had the advantage of knowing his patients personally. "He is beginning well and a bright future is augured for him by his friends," the biographer predicted of the young Doctor Smith..

While the two Dr. Smith's attended to their practice in the upper story of the new building, the lower portion of Dr. Smith's new building was rented to Arthur Snashall and Wesley Walters. The first renters in the new building were the owners of the City Drug Store.

In less than a year, Snashall and Walters dissolved their partnership. Arthur Snashall continued on his own for a few months, then he decided to go into the furniture and undertaking business in Evansville. In December 1898, Snashall sold the City Drug Store business to Liew Van Wart.

The new owner had been in the drug store business for ten years when he ventured out on his own. In 1888, Liew Van Wart began working as a clerk in the Pioneer Drug Store owned by Dr. John M. Evans. Van Wart obtained a first grade pharmacists license in 1893 and continued to work for Evans until he opened his store at 5 West Main.

When Liew purchased the drug store from Arthur Snashall, the Review wished him success as he ventured into business on his own. The same article called Van Wart, "a young man of excellent qualities".

For many years, pharmacists were the only storekeepers in Evansville allowed to sell liquor and Liew Van Wart considered this an important aspect of his business. He lost no time in obtaining a license for his drug store.

At the December 6, 1898 City Council meeting, Van Wart applied for a permit to sell "strong spirituous and ardent liquors in quantities less than one gallon for medicinal, mechanical and scientific purposes only." There were strict limits about the use of the liquor in a business place. The license very specifically stated that the liquor was not to be drunk on the premises, in the front store-room or "the ground floor of the two story brick building owned by Dr. C. M. Smith". Convinced that Van Wart would follow the rules, the City Council gave him the permit.

A few years later, in 1906, the City Council added another stipulation to the license. They required pharmacists to have customers sign a form stating that the liquor would only be used for medicinal, manufacturing or scientific purposes. These forms were commonly used by pharmacists throughout the state of Wisconsin, especially in towns, like Evansville, with strong temperance organizations.

Van Wart's principal business was selling pharmaceuticals. He carried natural remedies as well as the more traditional tonics and pills. Van Wart advertised Rocky Mountain Tea, a spring tonic that "drives out the microbes of winter; it builds up the stomach, kidneys and liver. A wonderful spring tonic that makes sick people well."

In addition to his work as a pharmacist, Liew Van Wart was also a bicycle riding enthusiast. For a number of years he sold Andrae and Warner bicycles and encouraged others to ride their



"wheels". He organized bicycle rallies with friends and rode to neighboring communities, always recording the length of time it took to get to their destination by bicycle.

In the early 1900s, Liew Van Wart became associated with the Rexall Drug Store company. Radical reforms were taking place in the food and pharmaceutical industries. The federal government had passed the "Pure Food and Drug" laws in 1906 and they went into effect on January 1, 1907. The law required drug companies and pharmacists to reveal the ingredients in the patent medicines.

Shortly after the new law passed, twenty-five Evansville women formed a Pure Food Health Club. The women studied nutrition and health so they would become more knowledgeable about the food and drugs that they purchased for themselves and their families.



In keeping with the trends of the time, in 1907, Van Wart placed large ads in the Evansville Enterprise extolling the virtues of the Rexall medicines. He invited customers to investigate the ingredients in the medicines sold in his store. "There is nothing secret about Rexall Remedies, and there never was," the ad proclaimed.

Not only were there no secrets, but Van Wart and other Rexall drug store owners agreed to release the formulas for the drugs sold at the chain's stores. "We know and have always known everything in Rexall Remedies and have always been glad to show you the printed complete formulas."



Van Wart's success in the pharmacy allowed him to invest in another Evansville business, The Farmers and Merchant's Bank. As the name suggests, the original stockholders were farmers and business men. Liew Van Wart was chosen as a director of the new bank formed in February 1907.

The Van Wart drug store was featured in the 1910 Evansville Prospectus published by the Evansville Review. The article showed a picture of the inside of the drug store and declared the store to be "a perfect picture of a modern druggist's home, artistic in design and rich in its furnishings and stock."

Van Wart expanded his business by offering a variety of items in his store. Cameras were sold in the Van Wart drug store according to an ad in the December 1911 issue of the Evansville Review. Van Wart advertised the Brownie camera by Kodak. It was simple enough that even a child could take photographs. The ad read: "A Brownie for Christmas that will just suit the boy for he will make it his chum--a friend for every good time, indoors or out. And this friend will make for him a story of boyhood days which he will prize."

In the spring of 1912, Liew Van Wart had an opportunity to purchase the first floor of the building directly west of the Smith store. He remained in the Smith building for a few months while the new store was being extensively remodeled. In December 1912, he opened his pharmacy in the new building.

Just as Van Wart was making his bid to purchase his new store, Dr. Charles M. Smith, Sr. died. He had been in poor health for many years, suffering from rheumatism and other ailments. On April 1, 1912, he died at home and the entire community mourned his death.

Honorary pall bears were a few of Dr. Smith's old Civil War companions and members of the Grand Army of the Republic. Knights Templar from Masonic lodges Madison, Brooklyn and Janesville attended the funeral and acted as an escort to the doctor's casket. The funeral was held in St. John's Episcopal Church where the doctor had served as a trustee for many years.

When Dr. Smith's estate was settled, the building was given to his two children, Dr. Charles M. Smith, Jr. and his daughter, Flora Gordon, who lived in Lodi. The junior Dr. Smith continued his practice in the building.



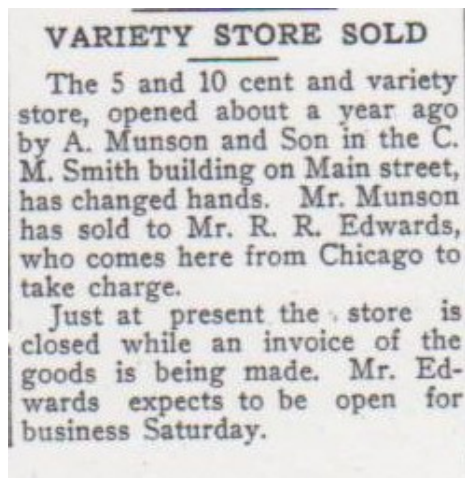
Dr. Charles M. Smith, Jr.

Young Dr. Smith, as his father had many years before, served on the Rock County Board of Supervisors as one of three elected representatives from

Evansville. He was assigned to the committee to determine the validity of applications for relief payments to the blind and insane that were submitted to the County Board.

In 1913, Dr. Smith also served on a committee to establish a tuberculosis sanitarium in Rock County. The Board of Supervisors had approved an expenditure of \$20,000 to build the facility in 1912, but had not determined a site. It was several years before the building was actually constructed.

After Liew Van Wart purchased the building next door west of Dr. Smith, the search began for a new renter in the Smith building. Mr. A. Munson and his son, rented the first floor and opened a "five and ten cent variety store" in March 1913.



Munson operated the store for nine months, then, in December 1913, sold the business to R. R. Edwards. Edwards moved to Evansville from Chicago and operated his business under the name The Wellworth Store.

The store was a new version of the old general store. Everything from clothing to hardware could be purchased. Edwards occasionally ran full page ads in the local newspaper advertising women's, men's, and children's clothing, table linens, alarm clocks, brooms, shoes, food, and dishes.

The Wellworth Store was competing with two very large department stores, the Grange and the Economy. Gimicks were needed to attract customers.

During the Christmas season of 1915, Edwards ran a contest for girls to win a doll. Some of the contestants were Crystal Lee, Lotus Thompson, Marie Patterson and Ethel Luchsinger. For the boys, the Wellworth Store offered an pedal operated toy automobile and contestants were Ace Allen, Richard Brigham, William Dixon, Ben Heffel and Graham Hyne. Votes for each contestant based on the number of items purchased at the store.

In January 1917, Edwards also became a representative for the Warfield piano company, manufactured in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A happy family life would be the result of a purchase of a piano, according to the Wellworth Store ads: "If yours is a pianoless home, bring the family in and select yours--have sweet music at your home tonight--make yourself and the whole family happy--don't wait".

Twenty years after the first fire, the building was again threatened. One evening in mid-October 1917, the City night watchman, a Mr. Blunt was making his evening patrol on foot. Blunt thought he noticed frost on the windows of the Wellworth store. On closer inspection, what he thought was frost was really smoke that had filled the building.

Blunt sounded the fire alarm and the volunteers responded. When the firemen were able to enter into the building, they discovered that the smoke was coming from the wires on a small printing

press. The wires were covered by rubber insulation and had overheated. The smouldering insulation had caused the smoke. The electric power to the printing press was disconnected and a major fire was averted.

Although there was no fire or water damage, the clothing and other items stocked by the Wellworth Store were covered with smoke. Edwards offered the entire stock of the store in a fire sale.

The Fire and Re-Adjustment Sale was held in November and Edwards advertised for 10 extra clerks to help with the customers he expected would buy the damaged goods. Edwards placed full page ads in the Review and offered more than \$16,000 worth of merchandise, including dry goods, clothing, shoes, hardware and groceries for sale.

After the fire, Edwards did very little advertising and the following year, he went out of business. The store remained vacant for several months.

Although he could not find a renter for the first floor of his building, occasionally the space was used by church groups and other organizations for events. Dr. Smith allowed the Congregational Church women to hold a rummage sale in the building in June 1919.

In the 1920s the first story of the building at 5 West Main was used as the Western Union Company office. Dr. Smith continued to advertise in the Evansville Review. "C. M. Smith, Physician and Surgeon. Office over Western Union. Diseases of Women and All Chronic Diseases."

Over the next decade the building would undergo many changes. The building was remodeled in August 1930. The first floor was divided into two offices. The Western Union office was in the east room of the building and the American Express Company was in the west room.

In 1933, the Western Union and American Express Company moved out and Theresa Erickson moved her beauty shop into the former Western Union Telegraph office. She had previously been in a shop above the Economy store on East Main Street.

The building was once again remodeled. The carpenters created an attractive waiting room and "a modern operating room at the rear". Theresa Erickson equipped her new quarters "with the latest apparatus for beauty culture work".

The ground floor location for Erickson's beautician parlor would be more convenient for her customers. She put in a new "wave machine for giving Gabrieleen, Eugene, Le Mur, and Duart waves" and offered "permanent waves" for \$5. She also offered shampooing, finger waving, marceling, manicuring, eye brow arching and brevity facials.

By 1936, two doctors and a dentist worked in the second story of the building. Dr. Smith maintained his offices there and a new doctor, Roger J. Gray rented space from Dr. Smith.

Dr. Gray had moved to Evansville from Brooklyn where he had practiced medicine for eight years. Dr. Gray was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and had received his medical





degree from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri in 1926. He had served his apprenticeship at Madison General hospital.

When he came to Evansville in January 1936, Dr. Gray rented office space in the Central Hotel but by May of that year, he listed his address as 5 1/2 West Main Street. The Smith building proved unsuitable and by 1938, he was renting office space above the corner grocery store at 3 1/2 West Main.

The dentist, Ore Glidden Libby, also listed his address as 5 1/2 West Main Street. Dr. Libby was a graduate of Marquette University School of Dentistry and had practiced in Evansville since 1924. Before moving into the Smith building, his office was at 11 1/2 West Main.

Dr. Libby maintained his dental office in the Smith building until he entered the service during World War II. He returned from the War to practice dentistry in Evansville once again, but this time had his office above the corner store next door to the Smith building.

Dr. Smith died in February 1939. The community felt a deep sense of loss on hearing about his death. At the time of his death, Dr. Smith was still practicing medicine and seeing patients on a regular basis, even though he was 72 years old.

Through the years, Smith had treated hundreds of patients. The Evansville Review eulogized Dr. Smith. "In the passing of Dr. C. M. Smith Evansville loses a man whose strong personality and outstanding devotion to the ethics of his chosen profession has endeared him to the majority of people not only to the people of the Evansville community but to the people of Rock County".

Dr. Smith had served on the Rock County Board of Supervisors for the more than 25 years and had been elected chairman of the board. He had also served as the City Health officer for 30 years. His responsibilities were to give school age children vaccinations and shots for diseases.

In November he went to the schools and gave shots for diphtheria. Then in the spring he returned and gave the same children the Schick test to see if the shots had worked and the children were immune to diphtheria. The Board of Education purchased the supplies so that the children could be immunized free of charge.

In addition to looking after the health of the school children, Smith was also responsible for overseeing the healthy conditions of the community's homes and yards. In the spring he put notices in the newspaper asking Evansville residents to clean their homes, yards and gardens to prevent investigations of germs and vermin.

All of his work had endeared Dr. Charles Smith to the people of Evansville and the surrounding area. In his obituary, the Evansville Review noted his devotion to his patients as "The Country Doctor". The Review also noted that Dr. Smith was one of the last of these medical providers. The day of the country riding doctor were passing and future generations would be served by "modern science and hospitals."

Smith had followed in his father's footsteps and carried on the traditions of his family and his profession. "He let nothing in the weather, circumstances or finances, stand between him and the call to duty, day or night."

The building was inherited by Flora D. Gordon, Dr. Smith's sister. Flora sold the building in July 1938 to Doris M. Caldow. In July 1940, Caldow sold the building to Jennie Smith, Dr. Smith's wife. Mrs. Smith mortgaged the building for \$4500.

The Badger Heating and Plumbing Company moved into the building in January 1944. Arnold C. Schucht and his wife, Ella operated the store. They had previously operated the shop at 18 West Main in 1939 and later at 11 North Madison Street. The announcement of their move to 5 West Main noted that Perry Burnett would be associated with the firm.

In July 1948 Schucht and his wife purchased the building from Jennie Smith. Before the year had ended, Schucht, Bob and Milo Schuchts had leased the East Side Inn from Ralph Brzenski and operated a tavern and restaurant.

Arnold and Ella Schucht sold the plumbing business to Ken Cain. The new business was operated under the name Cain's Plumbing and Heating.

Ray and Ragna Rosen purchased the building from the Jennie Smith for \$7,000. They opened Ray's Cafe. Rosen had operated two other restaurants in Evansville. In 1938, the couple had opened Ray's Eat Shop on the West Side of East Main Street. In 1946, this business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. James Huston. They had also operated the Pure Oil station on North Union Street, the Fairview Tourist Camp east of Evansville on Highway 14 and the Gamble Store on East Main Street.

In the 1950s, Ray's Cafe hosted the weekly Monday evening meetings of the Evansville Lions Club. The roster of members included 45 business and professional men when Lions Club president, Harold Tait, announced the schedule of meetings for the 1950-51 business year in September 1950.

Although the restaurant was run under the name Ray's Cafe while the Rosens' owned the building, the business had several managers, including the Rosens. In September 1951, the Rosens leased the business to Jim and Elizabeth Coyne. Ray's Cafe was later leased to Marian and Earl Carlson who operated it until September 1964.

In February 1966 Ray and Ragna (Peg) Rosen sold the restaurant to Clara Schneider. The following month, Schneider had the building remodeled and the name changed to the Uptown Cafe. Clara featured home cooked foods, rolls and pies baked daily, according to her ads.

Three years later, Clara also purchased the property directly east of her business, including the corner store, with a dentist offices on the second floor. The first floor of the newly purchased shop was remodeled. In 1971 The Village Square Butcher Shop opened.

Additional remodeling was completed in 1973, including creating openings between the corner

building and the restaurant at 5 West Main. A large dining room, a cheese shop, a bakery and the Village Square Restaurant were available. The cheese shop offered dairy products and a delicatessen.

In December 1975, Clara F. Schneider Hull sold the property, including the two-story corner store to Vladimir and Dagmar Jurco. The Jurcos immigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1969 when their country became part of the Soviet Union. They lived in Chicago and Michigan before purchasing the restaurant in Evansville.

The Village Square Restaurant was the Evansville site chosen for the Senior Citizen Nutrition Program. Funded in 1977 by the Federal Title VII meal program, the noon dinner was served five days a week to people 60 years of age or older. The federally funded program was intended to reduce malnutrition and isolation for the elderly. "The program is of enormous importance to the elderly of the nation", the U.S. Commissioner on Aging announced.

The Nutrition Program meal prices at the Village Square were set at 75 cents. Those who could not afford to pay for the meals were to be served also. At the first program held in May 1977, sixty-two people came to share a meal and conversation.

For the next twenty years the meal site was operated in the large room adjacent to the main dining room of the restaurant. County and City funding helped seniors with transportation to the site. Programs of interest to Senior citizens were presented following the meals.

In 1978, the Jurcos became U. S. citizens. Following the citizenship ceremony in Madison, the Jurcos arrived in Evansville and were toasted by their employees and received flowers from customers at the restaurant.

In the mid 1990s, Dagmar Jurco Lawrenz purchased the Red Barn Restaurant and leased the building at 5 West Main to a series of restaurant owners, including Evansville Police Chief, Charles DiPiazza and his wife, Jennifer. The name of the restaurant was changed to CJ's

In 1995, the restaurant was again leased to the Rushiti family. A new sign was placed on the building announcing the opening of Gramma's restaurant & Bakery.

The restaurant was under new management and the name of the restaurant was again changed in 1997. The restaurant has most recently been operated as Michael's Family Restaurant and features "Michael's Home Cooking".

In 2010, the first floor of the building is occupied by the Village Square Restaurant and the second floor is an apartment.