

Bridge Street, N.W.

270 07/23/75 4874 Houting & Meeusen

279-85 04/15/90 8033

280 Photo: 125-C035506.

286 05/08/74 4595 Courtade
 Shamrock Bar.

292

300 02/01/82 7121 Pitsch
2 cutoffs. 32,000 square feet.

301-03 12/30/65 2086 Velting

301 02/12/90 8010

305-11

309 02/08/66 2108 Houting & Meeusen

312 12/17/81 7072 Courtade
5,562 square feet. No cutoff.

316 Bridge N.W. The Heath Block. This 3-story brick commercial building was used for storage by the adjoining Haven of Rest Rescue Mission (312) in 1960.

317 Bridge N.W. This 1880's brick 2-story commercial with living quarters upstairs was occupied by Capitol Lunch under the ownership of James Hampares from 1927 until 1962. In the late 1960's, under the direction of Father Richard J. VanLente of the



Catholic Human Development Office, the restaurant became a soup kitchen for the many transients who had frequented the Bridge Street area for years. When the building was finally demolished, the soup kitchen moved temporarily to an outdoor location along Scribner Avenue south of Bridge, under the US-131 freeway. It finally relocated to Division Avenue in the late 1970's, where the soup kitchen portion of God's Kitchen is still known as Capitol Lunch. This original building was

only 12½' wide by 110' long. The upstairs apartment had a living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, and bath. (Old # 31½. Photo: GRPL 287, January 3, 1962, K 187. The bank building which adjoined on the west has been removed for the relocation of Scribner Avenue as a part of the freeway construction project, and what remained of the lot was available for parking for Capitol Lunch. The building shown at right is 315, which in 1948 housed a restaurant owned by Frank Vlahos.)

317 02/25/76 5038 Courtade

318 Bridge N.W. The Washington Dry Cleaners was located here for many years on the southeast corner of Bridge and Scribner, operated by Harry V. Farougi of 842 Fairfield N.W. When it closed in 1978, it was one of the few establishments in the city



1978, 99106. 312-316-318 Bridge N.W.)

which still cleaned and blocked hats. The building was 25' x 100', with 2,254 square feet on each of its three floors. The basement had 7' ceilings with 10" x 3" beams. The main commercial floor had a 15' ceiling. The second and third floors had 11' ceilings, and contained a total of 18 sleeping rooms, each about 11' x 12'. This was Lot 8 of Block 2 of the Converse Plat. In 1912, the corner building at 318 was occupied by the Niagara Athletic Club. (Old # 32-34. Photo: GRPL 287, May 25,

318 12/17/81 7071 Courtade
6,000 square feet. No cutoff.

319-21 Bridge N.W. This 3-story brick commercial building on the northeast corner of Bridge and Scribner for many years was home to an Old Kent Bank branch (321), and to



Wells Exterminating Service and Supply Co. (319). Furnished rooms on the upper two floors were addressed 319½. A concrete stairway on the Scribner Avenue side led to a basement barber shop. (Old # 33-35. Photo: GRPL 33 [Anderson], Box 14. The pedestal for a recently-removed Gamewell fire alarm box places the date of the photo at c. 1959.)

Capitol

319-21 09/05/61 491

326-30 Bridge N.W. The Blymeir Block. The William Mathews & Son Pharmacy (326) and two other businesses (328 and 330) occupied the first floor of this 3- story brick commercial building on the southwest corner of Bridge and Scribner. The furnished rooms on the two upper floors were addressed 328½. (Old # 38-46. Photo: GRPL 33 [Anderson], Box 14. The Melrose Apartments at 347-55 Scribner N.W. can be seen behind the Blymeir Block. C. 1959.)



326-30 03/28/61 274 Houting & Meeusen

327 Bridge N.W. The 3-story brick commercial building on the northwest corner of Bridge and Scribner was home to the Laundereze automatic laundry in its last years. (Old # 37. Photo: GRPL 33 [Anderson], Box 14. The Old Kent Bank branch at 321 is at right. C. 1959.)



327 12/29/60 142 Dore

329-33 Bridge N.W. The Union Block. This stately 3-story brick commercial building is the second from the right in this impressive row of Victorian structures on the north side



of Bridge between Scribner and Turner. Ammerman Industrial Supply Co. (329) occupied the main floor. The upper floors were addressed 333½. The entire block was removed for the construction of the US-131 expressway. The buildings came down piecemeal, starting with 327, until by July, 1961, the block was clear. Other buildings in this photo, moving west or left from the Union Block, are 335, then the Hammerschmidt Building (337), the Columbia Hotel (339-41), the Luton Block (343-45), and the Berles Block (347-51). (Old # of the Union Block 39-41. Photo: GRPL 33 [Anderson], Box 14. C. 1959.)

329-31 06/08/61 367 Houting & Meeusen

332-36

333 06/23/92 8270 Riverside

333 Bridge N.W. Bridgewater Place was opened in 1993, developed by Robert Grooters. Its 374,970 leasable square feet were initially occupied by Varnum Riddering Schmidt & Howlett, a law firm; Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.; and Law Weathers Richardson.

334-36 03/28/61 275 Houting & Meeusen

335 Bridge N.W. Occupied in the late 1950's by the Koung Lee Laundry, which moved to 308 Bridge N.W. when this 3-story brick commercial building was vacated for the construction of US-131. (Old # 45. Photo: early 1961, GRPL 33 [Anderson], Box 14.)



335 07/17/61 410
Houting & Meusen

337 Bridge N.W. The Hammerschmidt Building. This beautifully-designed 3-story brick commercial structure was built by the same Carl Hammerschmidt who later operated a

small furniture manufacturing plant at 657 Front N.W., in the building formerly occupied by the Hebrew School. The family name is spelled in stone in the arch over the door leading to the upper floors.

(Old # 47. Photo: c. 1960, GRPL 33 [Anderson], Box 14.)



Houting & Meeusen

337

04/12/61

308

338 12/29/60 143 Dore
Photo: Drueke 08/01/1960.

339

340-42 04/17/61 316 Houting & Meeusen
Photo: Drueke 08/01/1960.

341 07/17/61 411 *Houting & Meeusen*

343-45 07/17/61 412 *Houting & Meeusen*

344 Photo: Drueke 08/01/1960.

346 Photo: Drueke 08/01/1960.

347-51 Bridge N.W. The Berles Block. This 3-story brick building on the northeast corner of Bridge & Turner was built by Franz Berles (+August 2, 1884, age 56), who operated a grocery at this location. The two first-floor occupants about 1960 were Lee's Surplus Sales (347) and Chris' Hamburg Shop (351). (Old # 57-59. Photo: c. 1960. GRPL 33 [Anderson], Box 14. The steeple of Second Street Methodist Church, 2 blocks north, can be seen at left.)



347 04/12/61 309 Houting & Meeusen

351 06/08/61 368 Houting & Meeusen

400-02 Bridge N.W. The Weirich Building. Built in 1884 by the prominent Weirich family, who owned a brewery and several bars on the West Side. A saloon, a shoe store, a bank, and a grocery store have all done business in the retail space on the first floor. The upper floors served as a rooming house until the Volunteers of America opened a used clothing store and mission in 1956. The mission closed 10 years later. Sullivan Tile used the building from 1971 until 1990, and it was vacant until Swift Printing renovated it in 2000. (*The Paper*, July 6-12, 2000, p. 5.)

404 Bridge N.W. The Oroiquis Building. Built in 1893, this structure has housed meat markets, grocery stores, a bakery, and a shoe store. The upper floors have been used as a rooming house and as a hotel. Swift Printing Company, owned by Walter Gutowski, Sr., and his son, Walter Gutowski, Jr., has occupied the retail space on the ground floor of the building since 1954. (*The Paper*, July 6-12, 2000, p. 5.)

413 *Hollywood Apartments.*

414

415 Bridge N.W. S & S Television & Appliances was operated by brothers Sam and Stan (Stanford H. and Samuel C. Wolf) for many years. The proprietors were well-known locally for their flamboyant television ads. The front portion of the building was a more recent addition, while the rear half was a 3-story tenement with 6 apartments. After the rear half was razed in 1973, the front half became the Pussycat adult theater, later the Cina-Mini Two. (Old # 73. Photo: GRPL 287, October 9, 1957, L 340.)



415 01/18/73 4343 Pitsch
Rear half of building. No utility cutoffs.

418 Bridge N.W. The Worfel Block. This impressive 3-story brick commercial building stood on the southeast corner of Bridge and Summer.



In the late 1930's and into the mid-1940's, the Warsaw Restaurant was located here. In 1960, the east half of the main floor was Uncle Adolph's Bar. In the mid-1970's, it was the popular Mousetrap Cocktail Lounge. The upper two floors were known for many years as the Lynnwood Hotel. A disastrous fire at 1 a.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 1985, claimed the lives of six residents and turned the remainder out into the bitter cold. (Old # 78-80. Photo: GRPL 287, November 22, 1977, 89220.)

418-20 03/05/85 7351 Riverside
 Worfel Block. Lynwood Apartments at 418½. One water cutoff.

423 04/26/71 3729 Weber

425 09/15/94 8443 Courtade

428

433 07/29/71 3945 DeVries & Sons

451

457 06/12/67 2436 Capitol--Carl Miller
 Partial photo: 125-C038425.

500-04 Bridge N.W. Western Hotel. This 3-story frame building housed 28 papartments and sleeping rooms. It was known as the Western Hotel as early as 1903,

and was operated for many years by Frank Damskey. In the late 1940's, it was also known as the Bridge Street Hotel. The property was purchased by the City and earmarked for the new No. 3 Fire Station, which was opened in September, 1966. (Old # 110-12. Photo: GRPL 287, January 7, 1959, C 356.)



City of G.R.; Capitol

500

05/09/61

329

501 05/13/66 2176 Capitol

512 10/24/61 555 *Houting & Meeusen*

515 Bridge N.W. This service station stood at the northwest corner of Bridge & Alabama. In 1949, it was Bill Liden's station, representing the O'Dell Oil Co. (Photo: 1949, courtesy of William Liden, 1923 Pheasant N.W., Walker; copy in GRPL.)



515 01/08/81 6062 Riverside

525

527 08/11/88 7801
Old El Sombrero Restaurant.

528 Bridge N.W. Fire on Friday, May 10, 1968, at 10:27 p.m. One-story frame warehouse, fully involved. Apparently started by vagrants using building for shelter. Owner, N.Y. Central R.R. Occupant, Universal Transfer Co. \$7,724 loss.

622-24	11/08/62	1474	Capitol
625	09/11/81 No cutoff.	7027	Courtade
655	06/02/97	8729	Pitsch
659 Bridge N.W. The Hoertz Building.			
663 Bridge N.W. Built in 1922.			
700			
702			
704			
712 Bridge N.W. American Bread Co. has been located here since 1905. Dahyalalm "Dee" Patel and his wife, Jan, bought the bakery from Julius Marks in 1978 and have operated it ever since. ("Slice of Life," GRP 01/16/1995 B1-2.)			
718			
733 Bridge N.W. St. James Church Rectory.			
733	09/26/63 To reuse sewer line.	1653	Capitol
753			
756	01/28/85	7349	Pitsch
761			
803	06/19/80	5934	Courtade
816-r	08/24/78	5622	Pitsch
831½	06/29/76	5111	Pitsch
840	07/30/86 No gas.	7511	Riverside
904	05/18/72	4160	Cannon
908			
913-r	07/12/65 No sewer. Garage in rear.	1983	Richard R. Dobrygoski, Sr.
915	04/18/83	7203	West Side Trading Post

No cutoff.

917-19	11/19/62	1473	Ed. DeVries & Sons
			<i>To reuse sewer and water mains.</i>
920	11/18/70	3700	Capitol
921	08/02/95	8541	Riverside
926	07/23/63	1619	Archie Martines
	<i>Voided.</i>		
	10/09/63	1662	Pitsch
928			
931	03/27/62	987	DeVries
	<i>Sewer line to be used.</i>		
932			
934-36	09/18/75	4940	Pitsch
941	11/01/89	7986	
	<i>Kentucky Fried Chicken.</i>		
944	01/16/63	1516	Pitsch
	<i>To reuse sewer and water mains.</i>		
950	09/03/63	1640	Pitsch
956	08/10/87	7665	
1019	02/16/67	2363	E. DeVries & Sons
	<i>To reuse sewer & water lines.</i>		
1202			
1208			
1210			
1217-21	08/07/62	1278	OK Wrecking
1301	06/11/62	1123	OK Wrecking
1315	10/17/62	1436	Houting & Meeusen
1317	09/12/66	2253	Pitsch
1320	03/28/62	997	Kamminga & Roodvoets

1326 04/13/62 1050 Pitsch

1353 Bridge N.W. Two tunnels, built in 1917 and each about 100 feet long, lead from Bridge Street to Stone Hills, a well-hidden compound of four homes with an awe-inspiring view of the Grand River valley. This house is a 16-room brick residence built by industrialist Frank A. Stone in 1918. The site was the old family farm, which his father, Henry G. Stone, had purchased from the government in 1843. When Henry died, it passed out of the family, but Frank bought it back and built this house on the site of the original farmhouse. Once a 40-acre tract without a square foot of level ground on it, it was developed into terraced hills with elaborate gardens. The estate in 1995 encompasses about 10 acres. The gardens are mostly gone. There remains the natural beauty of the grounds, about 2,000 feet of herringbone brick roadways, courtyards, terraces, curved concrete walls, and graceful stone steps. The other three houses were built at the same time, in roughly the same style. This craftsman-style house has straight, no-nonsense lines and modest ornamentation. A limestone belt encircles the first, or ground level, while brickwork marches around the perimeters of the second and third. There is a basement walk-out at the rear, where the garage is located. Inside, to the right of the center entry with its turned staircase, is a living room 28 feet long by 14 feet wide. Beyond that is the sunroom with only slightly less space and a spectacular view. On the left side of the entry, in the vestibule, is the powder room. There is a study done in Honduran mahogany, a spacious dining room, expansive hallways, and at the rear, a kitchen and eating area. The second-floor master bedroom is the same size as the living room directly below it, with the sunroom's roof serving as a private terrace. To the left of the center stairwell on the second floor is a large, airy guest room. Another bedroom is located at the rear of the house. The third floor has a large room originally intended for billiards; it is now an upstairs family room. Nestled under the eaves to the west is a dormer bedroom with a built-in cupboard bed and an ivory and rose-colored bath. Each bedroom has its own bath. The concrete floors are about eleven inches thick, so no noise travels from floor to floor, nor from the nearby I-196 freeway. An elevator serves all floors, and each floor also has a closet outfitted with a fire hose. All rooms have central vacuuming. The basement contains a wine cellar and "rumpus room." The owner in 1995 is Dale Metternich, who owns and operates his own design firm. ("Romancing the Stone," GRP 02/12/1995 11-2.) The tunnels were refurbished by Keyes Cement, Inc., in March, 1999. Old cement was chipped off rusted reinforcement bars, and then the bars were sandblasted and coated to prevent rust. (GRP, Friday, 03/12/1999 C3.)

1423 01/17/91 8122 Pitsch
 St. Gertrude's Convent.

1425 Bridge N.W. The residence of William Harrison (Baxter, p. 454) was originally built in 1854, and rebuilt in 1890. His widow, Frances A. Harrison, still occupied the home in 1912. It was later purchased by the Sisters of Mercy and became Mount Mercy Academy. The original homestead on Mount Mercy, the Harrison mansion, was destroyed by fire at 12:06 a.m. on November 15, 1927. (Photo, Baxter, p. 785.)

1515 06/25/2003 9235 Pitsch

1656

1801-r 05/15/64 1783 *Capitol*

1801-B-r 05/15/64 1782 *Capitol*

1803 05/15/64 1784 *Capitol*

1908 Bridge N.W. This 1-story solid masonry dwelling was completed in January, 1950, and first occupied by W.T. Rydzewski.

1916