

Ionia Avenue, N.W.

The first plat map of Grand Rapids shows streets in Lucius Lyon's plat named for the three contiguous counties in this area of western Michigan. Kent Street (later Crescent) was the east-west thoroughfare north of Lyon Street. Between Canal (adjoining the canal at the Grand River) and Division (the dividing line between the townships) ran the north-south thoroughfares of Ottawa (on the west) and Ionia (on the east).

1-3-5-7-11 *Several stores in one 3-story brick building at the northwest corner of Ionia & Fulton.*

10-22 Ionia N.W. Built as a factory, this 11-story brick and steel structure included a full basement, and occupied most of the triangle of land formed by Ionia, Fulton, and Louis.



In 1912, this was the Rindge, Kalmbach, Logie & Co. factory. Owned for some years by the Morton House and used as a parking garage for the hotel, it was sold to the Skaff Realty Company, which continued its use for public parking. By 1974 it was vacant. The building had an irregular pentagonal footprint: from Fulton Street, 76' north along Ionia, then 66' following the Ionia Avenue bend, 99' on Louis, 62' on the east side, and 96' along Fulton Street back to Ionia. (Photos: GRPL 289; left, west elevation, November 25, 1970, No. 55097; right, east elevation, June 25, 1974, No. 20969.)

10-22

05/04/78

5469

Caesar's, Inc.

21-23 Ionia N.W. The Bishop Furniture building. Before its permanent structure was built at 233 Fulton E. in 1915, the Masonic Temple occupied several floors of this 7-story brick building. (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1908.)



21-23 07/19/62 ---- Capitol
Bishop Furniture loading dock.

30-32 McConnell Building. Photo: GRPL 125-E 1466.

30-40 Ionia N.W. Open 2-deck garage and drive-in bank. Capacity 200 cars. Built 1956.
Also addressed as 41 Louis N.W.

31-41 Ionia N.W. The Barnhart Building. The 4-story brick Barnhart Block on the northwest corner of Ionia and Louis was completed in early 1887. The O-Wash-Ta-Nong Boat Club, an athletic and social organization identified with the Odawa name for the Grand River, meaning "faraway waters," leased the building's upper floors for its downtown headquarters. Lively entertainments were held here during the winter, while the club was better known for its summer clubhouse on Reeds Lake. The club went bankrupt in 1892; and the building, which housed a variety of commercial tenants over the years, was razed in 1947 and replaced by a city parking ramp. (Old # 23-33.



Photo: *Grand Rapids Illustrated*, 1888, in James VanVulpen, *Grand Rapids Then and Now* [G.R.: The Grand Rapids Historical Commission, 1988], p. 22.)

34-42 06/02/52 ---- Capitol
Godfrey Bldg. Replaced by bank drive-in in 1956. Photo: GRPL
125/Capitol.

43-45-47 Part of Michigan National Bank Building.

74-78 Ionia N.W. Ashton Building. The temple of the Knights of Pythias was located here for a number of years. The building suffered a disastrous fire in the late afternoon

of July 25, 1916, which broke out in a utility room on the fourth floor. The janitor and others tried to extinguish the flames for about half an hour, which allowed the fire to gain considerable headway by the time the fire department was notified. Fire fighters confined the fire to the upper three floors, but there was considerable water damage on the lower floors. Damage was estimated to be \$275,000, an enormous loss at that time. (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1910.)



74-78 08/23/68 2817
Riverside

80-90 Ionia N.W. Klingman's Sample Furniture Co. This 4-story structure on the southeast corner of Ionia and Fountain was built as a furniture exhibition building. With an address of 82 Ionia N.W., it has since the mid-1990's housed various county court offices.



(Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1910. Fountain Street Baptist Church and Central Methodist Church can be seen at left, the Ashton Building at right.)

87-91 Ionia N.W. Paul Steketee & Sons. This building is also addressed as 28-42 Fountain N.W. (Old # 77-83. Old Fountain Street # 10-30. Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1909. The rear

of the old Morton House and the 5-story building at 75 Ionia N.W., in 1912 the home of the Grand Rapids Real Estate Bureau, can be seen at left.)



101-13 Shepard Building.

110 Ionia N.W. Now the home of the Kendall School of Design, this 7-story brick structure was built as the Manufacturers' Furniture Exposition Building, or Manufacturers Building. For some years in the 1940's and 1950's, it was the headquarters of the Lear-Siegler Corporation. It is also addressed as 111 Division N.



(Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1909. The 2-story Chamber of Commerce Building at 17 Fountain N.W., razed in 1996, is in the foreground.)

111 03/29/68 2666 Capitol

115-25 Aetna Life Building.

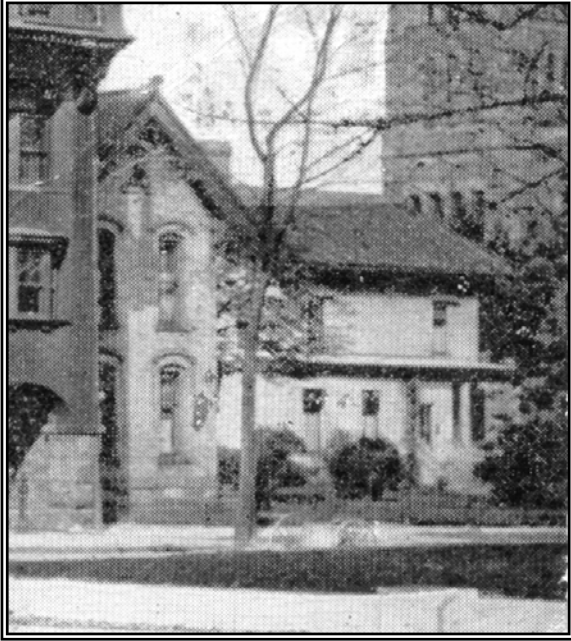
124 *Gas station, southeast corner of Ionia & Pearl N.W.*

135 Ionia N.W. Federal Square Building, also addressed as 29-33 Pearl N.W. Built as the Y.M.C.A. (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1907.)



143 Ionia N.W. During the 1940's and 1950's, the building housed Huylers' Federal Square Bar and Grill, a restaurant and tap room. It was also home to the first Press Club of Grand Rapids. The late Sam Fletcher and his band performed Dixieland and jazz for Friday night patrons. The Hartger and Willard mortgage investment firm first leased this 2-story building in 1959, then purchased it from Phillip W. Goodspeed in 1978. The firm merged with Old Kent Bank & Trust Co. in 1988. When the city parking ramp to the north was demolished in March, 1995, the pre-1950 painted wall advertisement on the side of the building again saw the light of day until further renovations covered it over the following June.

145 Ionia N.W. This 2-story brick house was occupied by Bert Johnson in 1912. (Old # 123. Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1907. At far left is the Y.M.C.A., later the Federal Square Building. To the right of the house is the house at 34 Lyon N.W., occupied in 1912 by James B. McInnes. Beyond that to the right is the old City Hall.)



217 *Elks' parking.*

222 06/28/88 7787

230-32 Ionia N.W. This 2-story brick building, built before 1912, was occupied in that year by Dwight's Auto Livery and Garage and by the MacLaren Company. It was leased



from about 1948 to 1959 by Michigan Bell Telephone Co. as a garage. There was a truck entrance on both Ionia and Division Avenues. It occupied a lot 50' x 170' and was in excellent repair, with a concrete first floor and a wood second floor. The steam heating plant fueled a gas furnace. There were no elevators. The roof was tar and gravel. Its assessed valuation in 1973 was \$34,500. (Old # 172-74. Photo: GRPL 287, September 25, 1973, No. 08592.)

230-32 09/18/75

4919

Capitol

231-35 Ionia N.W. Central City Garage and Sport Shop. This 2-story brick commercial building with a basement was occupied in 1912 by the Guarantee Vulcanizing Co. and

by the West Michigan Machine and Tool Co. The building was 48' wide by 74' deep on a 50' x 100' lot, and was served by an alley in the rear. James E. Wright operated the business in 1948. The building was in poor repair by 1954, and the 1950 assessed valuation was only \$15,000. The building had no furnished heat. It was featured in a story and photo in the *G.R. Press*, July 29, 1958. (Old # 167-69. Photo: GRPL 287, September 25, 1954, L 487.)



231-35 07/06/61 384 City of G.R.; Kamminga & Roodvoets
Central City Garage.

234-36 Ionia N.W. These two buildings were interconnected with 246 on the southeast corner of Ionia and Crescent. That building along with the northern building shown here

were converted in 1965 into the Catholic Information Center. The southernmost building was used as a parking garage, with a concrete floor and a ramp to the second floor, which was of wood. (Photo: GRPL 287, September 15, 1962, L 103.)



234-36 09/18/75 4920
Capitol

Two water cutoffs.

245 Gas station, s.w. corner of Ionia & Crescent N.W.

246 Ionia N.W. The northern two buildings of this 2-story brick commercial warehouse and garage complex were purchased by the Diocese of Grand Rapids in the mid-1960's



and converted into the Catholic Information Center, which had to move from its original (1948) location at 329 Monroe N.W. due to urban renewal. The new Chapel of Christ the King was dedicated here on March 21, 1965. In the late 1950's, the whole complex had been

occupied by the Apex Appliance and Heating Co. (Photo: GRPL 287, October 21, 1958, B 603.)

300 Ionia N.W. Kent County Receiving Hospital. This 3-story brick and frame structure was known as early as 1912 as the Detention Hospital, a "holding tank" for mental patients, derelicts, and others who needed to be removed temporarily from society. It was replaced by Kent Oaks Hospital at 1330 Bradford N.E. in 1963, when the County put it up for sale for \$60,000. It stood on a lot 69' x 100'.
 (Photo: GRPL 287, May 21, 1963, A 6162.)



300 12/07/65 2068
 Diamond Salvage

Plug in basement. To rebuild.

303 Ionia N.W. This 1-story brick structure was the same building as 29
 Crescent N.W., the City Hall annex in 1962. Photo: GRPL 125, Box 934,
 Folder 30.

310 10/18/76 5128 Pitsch

316-18-20-28-30-38-40 Ionia N.W. These addresses were all part of the Burkholder complex. The main garage at 326 was a cement block structure with a cement floor, built about 1954. The building had a 14' overhead door and a 15' ceiling, and was a clear span with no weight-bearing walls on the interior. In 1968 the owner was Mrs. Irene Burkholder of 2200 Fulton E. Photo: GRPL, Robinson / Capitol, C005224B.

321 07/16/63 1613 *Urban Renewal*

323-25 07/23/63 1614 *Urban Renewal*

330 06/01/57 ---- Capitol
 Rear entrance of 331 Division N.
 02/02/94 8382 Pitsch
 Commercial structure, 84 x 84.

407	10/23/62	1446	Boerema & Sons
411	11/28/62	1447	Boerema & Sons
417	09/27/62	1310	Capitol
435	06/18/62	1194	Pitsch

441-43 Ionia N.W. (Photo: GRPL 287, September 20, 1955, F 5298.)



441-43 05/22/62 1105 Fred C. Cooke

449 03/01/62 910 Bud's Wrecking

501	09/21/62	1395	Cooke
507-09	09/21/62	1394	Cooke
507½	08/23/62	1360	Fred C. Cooke
	<i>House at rear of 507-09.</i>		
511	07/24/62	1274	Fred Cooke
521-23	02/22/63	1531	Houting & Meeusen
527	08/23/62	1340	Houting & Meeusen
533	02/22/63	1532	Houting & Meeusen
537	07/24/62	1275	Fred Cooke
539	11/01/62	1467	Cooke & Son
541	08/23/62	1359	Fred C. Cooke
543	09/21/62	1393	Cooke
547	09/21/62	1392	Cooke

601	09/10/62	1370	Pitsch
611	09/18/62	1388	<i>Pitsch</i>
617	09/27/62	1420	<i>Pitsch</i>
621	09/10/62	1367	<i>Pitsch</i>
623	11/21/62	1475	<i>Pitsch</i>
637-49	11/20/2000	9046	Pitsch
701	12/17/70	3737	Capitol
705	03/21/67	2379	<i>Barney Noorman</i>
707	<i>Concrte block garage in rear of 705.</i>		
711	08/02/66	2223	<i>Capitol</i>
715	12/09/60	91	Leonard Hammond
719	03/21/67	2380	Barney Noorman
721			
723			
727			
729	<i>At rear north of 727.</i>		
739	02/14/68	2635	<i>Jack DeVries (sic) Excavating</i>
741	02/14/68	2636	Jack DeVries Excavating
741-rear	Attached apartment at rear of 741.		
743			
749	02/14/68	2637	<i>Jack DeVries Excavating</i>

821

823

825 12/05/77 5350 Pitsch

829

833 09/05/68 2822 Cooke

837 12/14/67 2584 *Jack Dykstra Excavating*

841 09/05/68 2823 Cooke

843 09/05/68 2824 Cooke

907 08/25/65 2006 *Houting & Meeusen*

909 08/25/65 2007 *Houting & Meeusen*

911 09/25/63 1654 Houting & Meeusen

915 09/23/85 7430 Riverside

917 02/08/66 2109 Capitol

921 12/28/78 5589 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

929 11/20/81 7095 Houting & Meeusen

933 03/06/84 7273 Riverside

937 02/27/84 7240 Riverside

941	02/27/84	7241	Riverside
943	02/23/84	7261	Riverside
944	06/04/63	1589	<i>Houting & Meeusen</i>
944-r	04/15/63 No sewer.	1567	Chuck Helmer
947	02/24/84	7266	Riverside
948	10/25/68	2870	Jack Dykstra
948-r	10/25/68	2871	Jack Dykstra
949	11/16/83	7242	Riverside
951	01/18/84	7243	Riverside
952	10/25/68	2872	Jack Dykstra
953	01/17/84	7245	Riverside
959	08/06/81	7031	Houting & Meeusen
960	10/25/68	2873	<i>Jack Dykstra</i>
960-r	10/25/68	2874	<i>Jack Dykstra</i>
962	12/31/68	2916	Jack Dykstra

1000	03/02/87	7593	Pitsch
1001	08/10/76	5125	Pitsch
1004	04/16/64	1768	<i>Fryling Construction Co.</i>
1007	08/10/76	5126	Pitsch
1008	11/06/62	1454	P & S Wrecking
1009	08/10/76	5127	Pitsch
1012			
1013	05/18/65	1938	Capitol
1017	06/30/70	3543	Pitsch

1019 Ionia N.W. Occupied by Henry T. Fenner in 1912. Torn down about 1935. (Old # 571. Photo: GRPL, Pitsch/Capitol collection, Series 61.)



1021	10/17/67	2538	Jack Dykstra
1021-27	06/30/70	3542	Pitsch 3 sewer cutoffs.
1024	04/29/82	7130	Riverside One cutoff. 28,000 square feet.
1025			
1027			
1037	06/21/65	1949	<i>E. DeVries & Sons</i>
1040	09/10/64	1829	<i>Alfred Hoekstra</i> No sewer. Rear south of 1042.
1042	04/05/65	1906	<i>Hoekstra Truck Equipment</i>
1046	08/22/61	489	<i>Staggs</i>
1047	05/24/67	2422	Jack Dykstra Excavating
1048	08/05/68	2800	Capitol
1049	05/24/67	2423	<i>Jack Dykstra Excavating</i>
1050	03/02/87	7594	Pitsch

1108

06/19/88

7779

1111 Ionia N.W. Occupied by Robert Allen in 1912. Torn down about 1935. (Old #627.
Photo: GRPL, Pitsch/Capitol collection, Series 5.)



1112

08/09/76

5061

Neighborhood Improvement--Wonderland

05/10/76

5098

Neighborhood Improvement (voided)

1115 Ionia N.W. Occupied by John L. Bailey in 1912. Torn down about 1935. (Old #631.
Photo: GRPL, Pitsch/Capitol collection, Series 5.)



1121

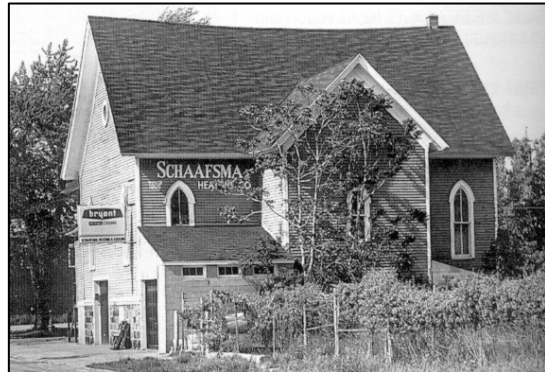
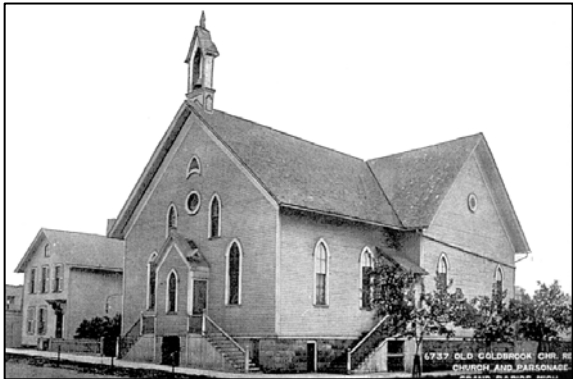
02/27/95

8479

Pitsch

DeVries Construction Ltd. boiler room and kiln building.

1140 Ionia N.W. Schaafsma Heating Co. occupies one of the oldest commercial buildings in Grand Rapids, on the southeast corner of Ionia and Barnett. This wooden



structure was built as the Fourth Reformed Church in 1875, and remained so until 1880, when the congregation left the Reformed Church over the Masonic controversy under the zealous direction of Rev. Lammert J. Hulst (cf. Bratt *et al.*, *Gathered at the River*, pp. 67-73) and became the Coldbrook Christian Reformed Church. They continued to worship here until 1910, when a new brick church was built on the northwest corner of Barnett and Taylor, one block to the east. (Photos: left, Calvin College Archives, in *Gathered at the River*, p. 68; right, GRPL, in *ibid.*, p. 234. It is possible that the photo at left is reversed, since Barnett Street runs along the north side of the church.)

1170	04/03/86	7485	Pitsch
1173			
1174	05/04/78	5521	Pitsch
1175			