

Ionia Avenue, S.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).



(Photo: Looking south on Ionia from Fulton, summer, 2001; Michael Buck, *West Michigan Commercial Development & Real Estate Quarterly*, August, 2001, p. 9.)

1 Ionia S.W. The Hawkins & Perry Building. The wholesale grocery firm of Hawkins & Perry, specializing in teas and syrups, built this 4-story brick building on the southwest corner of Ionia and Fulton. The fifth floor was added after 1888. In August, 2001, the building had 4,100 square feet available for lease on the 3rd floor and 1,000 on both the 4th and 5th floors. (Photo: *West Michigan Commercial Development & Real Estate Quarterly*, August, 2001, p. 13.)



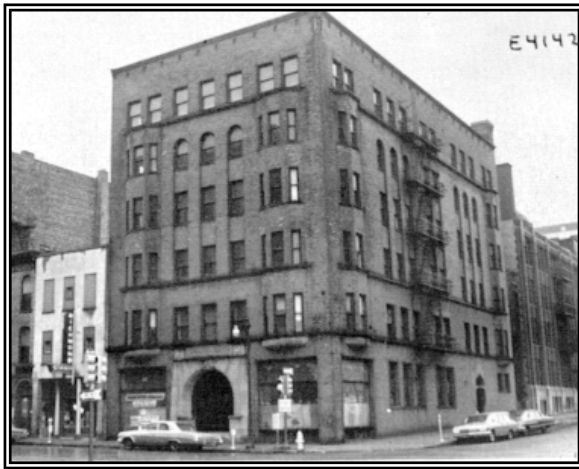
16 Ionia S.W. Built in 1898.

25 Ionia S.W. The Lemon Wheeler Building. Home of the Sierra Room Restaurant. The top two floors were added after 1888.

After the closing of the Sierra Room, the Hopcat bar had its grand opening here on Saturday, January 12, 2008. (Photo: Grand Rapids *Front Row* magazine, October-November, 2000, p. 10; sign above 3rd floor reads "SURPLUS OFFICE FURNITURE.")



28-30 Ionia S.W. The William Alden Smith Building. This imposing 6-story brick structure was built in 1894, and had been placed on the local historic register when it



was struck by a \$125,000 fire at 8 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 1980. While the building itself was still structurally sound, the roof and interior were completely destroyed. The building had stood vacant for several years, and the top two floors were already weather damaged. It had been connected to the Consumers Power steam line for heating. The floors were of wood, and with the six floors and basement there was commercial space of 30,000 square feet. There was a service elevator in the front of the building, and a freight elevator at the rear. It stood on a 50' x 100' lot, and

had a small loading dock on the alley in the rear with a freight door on the south or Weston Street side. (Photo: GRPL 287, April 14, 1965, E 4142.)

28

02/27/84
3 cutoffs.

7271

Pitsch

31 Ionia S.W. The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Building, later the Pennsylvania Railroad Building. This fine brick structure was built on the southwest corner of Ionia



and Island (now Weston) in 1871, several years before the first "Union" Depot was located just south of here. The fourth floor was expanded and a fifth floor added after 1910, giving the building a much more squared-off look in its later years. (Photo: *Grand Rapids Illustrated*, 1888, in James VanVulpen, *Grand Rapids Then and Now* [G.R.: The Grand Rapids Historical Commission, 1988], p. 18.)

52-54-56

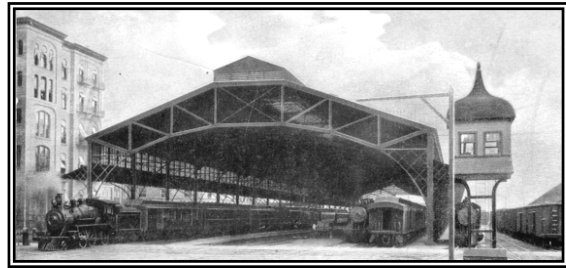
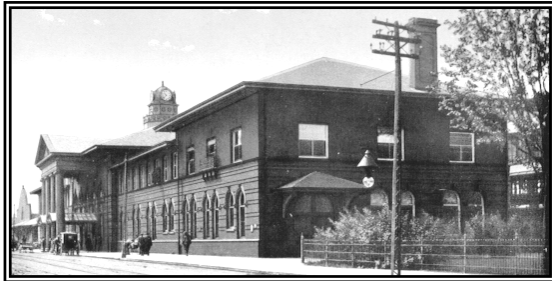
09/08/78

5627

Foam Engineering

56-60 Ionia S.W. Waldron Building. Stanley L. Barnett was the owner and manager of the Barnett Hotel at 58 Ionia S.W. and of Barnett's Tavern at 60 Ionia S.W. When he died in 1948, his wife, Thelma Andrea Barnett (11/10/1918-09/17/1999), became the owner and operator. These establishments were in close proximity to Union Depot, and served African Americans who were not welcome at other downtown hotels and pubs.

61-63 Ionia S.W. Union Depot. A fine article on the depot, and especially on its train shed, by Carl Bajema is in the April, 2001 (Vol. 22, No. 5), issue of the *Grand River Times*, pp. 6-7. The crown of the clock tower is now (2005) in the eastern portion of the double lot of the home of Dr. & Mrs. Donald and Sue Heggen at 1900 Wealthy S.E., East Grand Rapids.



(Photos: Morrow postcard collection. Top left: c. 1913. Top right: c. 1910. Middle left: c. 1913. Middle right: the train shed at the rear of the station, seen here looking south from Weston Street c. 1908. The watchtower at the right was moved to the Columbian Distribution Services / Columbian Storage yard at 900 Hall S.W. when the depot was razed. The train shed was dismantled and reassembled as two separate buildings at the Conway Corporation yard, later VanKeulen & Winchester Lumber Co., at 54th & Fisher S.W. in Wyoming. Bottom: American Red Cross Railway Canteen, c. 1918, built just outside and on the northwest corner of the main station, especially to serve military personnel during World War I. The train shed can be seen at left and the old Pere Marquette Railway building behind the Canteen.)

70 Ionia S.W. This 4-story commercial building on the northeast corner of Ionia and Oakes was completed in the fall of 2004.

74 Ionia S.W. The Milner Hotel, later known as the Oakway Hotel.



Bierlein Co.

74

09/15/2003 9263

115 09/13/82 7161 Pitsch

120 Ionia S.W. For many years, the H.H. Cutler Co., manufacturers of infant wear, occupied this 3- and 5-story commercial building.



131 05/14/75 4847 Capitol

136 1937
2-story frame commercial.

140 1937
2-story frame commercial.

200 10/25/67 2549 E. DeVries & Sons, Inc.
 No sewer.

214 *Dwelling.*

250 Ionia S.W. The old Forslund Furniture Manufactory, not used for making fine furniture for about a decade, suffered a devastating fire in 1996. Entrepreneurs thought to convert the remains of the structure into a gym and youth center, and completely replaced the old wooden superstructure with steel. The building sat half-finished until January, 2000, when portions of the cornice and upper south wall began collapsing into Bartlett Street.

250 03/04/86 7474 Riverside
 08/19/96 8661 Pitsch
 02/14/00 8969 Courtade

265 07/15/71 3926 *Penn Central R.R.*
 1-story frame sheet metal works.

334-50 05/10/2001 9083 Pitsch
DeGood Transfer building. Originally a brewery.

350-60 Valley City Plating. 2-story brick building.

364 1935
1-story iron-clad building.

401-21 09/02/82 7149 Riverside

434 10/19/81 7087 Pitsch

435-r 05/03/76 5066 Riverside
Rear warehouse.

440 1933
2-story frame shop.

444 1937
2-story frame dwelling.

515	1928		
	<i>Frame dwelling.</i>		
517	1928		
	<i>Frame dwelling.</i>		
521	1928		
	<i>Frame dwelling.</i>		
527	09/12/67	2496	Cooke
	04/27/70	3467	Cooke
	<i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>		
529	<i>1½-story frame dwelling at rear of 527.</i>		
533	<i>2-story frame dwelling on northwest corner of Ionia & Buckley.</i>		
540	12/04/81	7106	Campau Project
541	10/28/64	1857	Capitol
552	08/16/71	3956	Pitsch
558	10/14/80	6011	Economic Development
559	07/27/65	1996	Capitol
565	09/21/65	2030	Capitol
	<i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>		
565½ Ionia S.W. Fire caused by careless smoking at 8:33 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 1965, caused \$4,661 damage to this 2-story frame 2-family dwelling. Gore Oliver, owner. Curtis Harris, occupant down; Dot Travis, occupant up. After the house had been vacated, it was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday, May 16, 1965, at 1:28 a.m., with exposure damage at 565 Ionia S.W. and 111 Pleasant S.W. The owner at that time was listed as Leslie Tassel.			
565½	07/27/65	1995	Capitol
569	12/26/67	2593	Don Freiburger
	<i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>		
573	05/14/75	4766	Pitsch
	<i>2-story frame dwelling on northwest corner of Ionia & Pleasant.</i>		

601	08/28/79	5768	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
604	06/30/82	7146	Pete Gilbert
	Same as 58 Pleasant S.W.		
605	12/11/79	5869	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
607	08/28/79	5769	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
614	10/14/80	6012	Economic Development
615	08/28/79	5770	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
618-20	12/02/76	5170	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
	10/21/76	5175	Cancelled.
621	10/29/79	5848	Pitsch
630	10/14/80	6013	Economic Development
631	09/13/79	5813	Neighborhood Improvement
635	08/07/79	5795	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

636-38 Ionia S.W. Ionia Avenue Church of Christ. Brother Elmer Hogan organized the Church of Christ at this location in 1949, and served as its pastor until 1954. The congregation worshipped in this humble structure until 1969, when it moved to the



former Plymouth Congregational Church at 909 Franklin S.E. and became the Franklin Street Church of Christ. Another move was completed in 1984, when the congregation became known as the Eastern Avenue Church of Christ in the former Immanuel Reformed Church at 658 Eastern S.E. (Photo: GRPL, in *Gathered at the River*, p. 227. House at right is 55 Grant S.W.)

636-38	10/14/80	6014	Economic Development
639	08/07/79	5796	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
640	Side entrance of 55 Grant S.W.		
645	08/07/79	5798	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

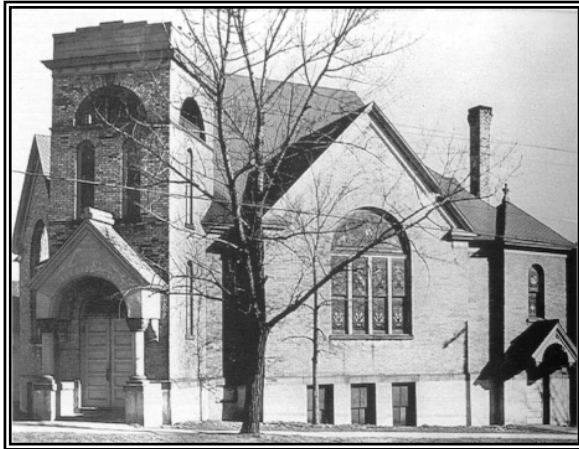
703	08/16/71	3957	Pitsch
707	09/27/79	5828	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
708	06/23/80	5952	Economic Development
710	10/14/80 03/13/81	6015 7000	Economic Development Campau Project
711	10/29/79	5845	Pitsch
714	06/23/80	5957	Economic Development
715	11/21/79	5864	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
717	08/10/66 06/17/71	2237 3892	Bethel Seventh Day Adventist Church James Steward
719	07/22/71	3935	<i>Big Chief</i> <i>Could not find sewer line. 1- and 2-story frame dwelling, northwest corner of Ionia & Graham.</i>
724	12/12/80 03/13/81	6050 7001	Campau Commons Campau Project

735	08/04/78	5582	Great Lakes
739	05/11/70 06/19/70	3484 3493	Urban Renewal Clisby Hodgens
742	01/09/81	6068	Campau Project
745	09/23/74	4645	Hodgens
748	07/20/76	5032	Neighborhood Improvement-- Loader & Dump
749	08/04/78	5583	Great Lakes
751	1926 2-story frame dwelling.		
752	03/13/81	7005	Campau Project
753	03/22/74 House at rear.	4558	Loader & Dump
756	07/24/81	7051	Campau Project
757	08/04/78	5584	Great Lakes

The first units of the Campau Commons housing project were opened on July 11, 1968. For a description of the project and the way it altered this neighborhood, see Commons Avenue, S.W.

800	01/23/70	3344	<i>Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i> <i>1½-story frame dwelling.</i>
804	01/23/70	3345	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
810	04/07/70	3435	<i>Urban Renewal</i> <i>1½-story frame dwelling, converted to recreation center.</i>
812-14	06/18/70	3523	<i>Urban Renewal</i> <i>1½-story frame dwelling.</i>
815-17	10/15/70	3640	Urban Renewal 2-story duplex.
818	01/23/70	3346	<i>Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i> <i>1 ½-story frame dwelling, just north of church.</i>
819-21	01/23/70	3349	<i>Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame duplex.</i>
822-24	04/08/70	3448	Urban Renewal
825-27	08/25/70	3595	<i>Urban Renewal</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>

826 Ionia S.W. This church on the northeast corner of Ionia and Antoine was built in 1890 as Calvary Baptist Church, which worshiped here until 1926 when the congregation moved to 700 Burton S.E.



From 1928 to 1966, it was home to Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, pastored from 1937 to 1961 by Rev. Emmett H. Hill and since 1963 by Rev. Dr. Maurice Jones. In 1966 the congregation moved to its new quarters at 510 Franklin S.E. (Photo: GRPL, in *Gathered at the River*, p. 256.)

827

05/06/70

3474

Cooke

1-story concrete block store.

832-342-story frame flat, razed c. 1955 for Campau Park School.

833-35 04/07/70 3437 Urban Renewal

839 02/04/70 3247 Urban Renewal--Pitsch
03/04/70 3401 Urban Renewal
1- and 2-story frame dwelling.

840 2-story frame dwelling, razed c. 1955 for Campau Park School.

843-45 Ionia S.W. Fire at 2:40 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 1966, destroyed this 2-story frame dwelling. Owner, Mrs. Williams. Occupant, Curley & Essie McClendon. Four children died in the fire, which was caused by children with matches.

843-45 03/04/70 3400 Urban Renewal

846 Dwelling, razed c. 1955 for Campau Park School.

847-49 09/19/69 3150 Urban Renewal--Pitsch
847 was a 2-story frame dwelling. 849 was a 1½-story frame dwelling in the rear of 847.

850 Dwelling, razed c. 1955 for Campau Park School.

851 06/18/70 3528 Urban Renewal

856 Dwelling, razed c. 1955 for Campau Park School.

857 06/18/70 3527 Urban Renewal
Large 2-story frame dwelling, northwest corner of Ionia & Ryerson.

901	02/04/70	3248	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
905	09/06/72	4272	Urban Renewal--Pitsch Attached to rear of 907. Partial photo in G.R. Real Estate Board photo of 901.
907 Ionia S.W. Fire of possible incendiary origin on Sunday, March 17, 1968, at 4:46 a.m. caused \$500.00 damage to this vacant 2-story frame dwelling. Owner: Ivory L. Clinton.			
911	08/25/70	3596	<i>Urban Renewal</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>
915	10/09/69	3191	<i>Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>
919	03/04/70	3405	<i>Urban Renewal</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>
923-25	04/07/70	3438	Urban Renewal

933	01/23/70	3356	<i>Urban Renewal--Loren Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling, southwest corner of Ionia & Delaware.</i>
936	04/10/67	2393	<i>Cooke</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling, southeast corner of Ionia & Delaware.</i>
937-39	03/04/70	3411	<i>Urban Renewal</i>
940	10/09/69	3193	<i>Urban Renewal--Loren Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame flat.</i>
943	01/23/70	3359	<i>Urban Renewal--Loren Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>
944	01/23/70	3362	<i>Urban Renewal--Loren Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>
948	01/23/70	3363	<i>Urban Renewal--Loren Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling.</i>
949	03/04/70	3410	<i>Urban Renewal</i> <i>2-story frame flat.</i>
952	09/19/69	3151	<i>Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i>
955-57	01/23/70	3358	<i>Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame dwelling, northwest corner of Ionia & Albany.</i>
958	01/23/70	3364	<i>Urban Renewal--Pitsch</i> <i>2- and 1½-story frame double dwelling.</i>

1000-02-04 *Four 2-story frame dwellings all connected, southeast corner of Ionia & Albany.*

1009 03/18/65 1898 Capitol

1011 11/17/69 3254 Urban Renewal--Jack Dykstra

1014 01/18/67 2356 *Cooke*
2-story frame dwelling on alley, at the north rear of 1016-18.

1016-18 Ionia S.W. This large 2-story frame flat was clearly built as a single-family dwelling, but was already divided into apartments by 1912, with Mrs. H.E. Ayer living at



1016 and Clark E. Slocum at 1018. Mrs. Jennie Hendershott owned the house in 1948, and occupied one of its four apartments. The house burned during the civil disturbances of 1967-68. (Old # 578. Photo: *The Interpreter*, undated c. 1968, in Morrow scrapbook No. 2. Partial photo in GRPL 289 photo of 1024 Ionia S.W.)

1016-18 10/10/68 2857

C.I. & I.S.

11/04/68 2881 Jack Dykstra

1019-r 09/19/79 5818 Pitsch

1021 12/01/95 8602 Pitsch

1024 04/08/70 3444 Cooke

1025 01/05/89 7864

1035	01/02/92	8211	Pitsch Also 106 Shelby S.W. on north side.
1039-41	04/24/80	5728	Neighborhood Improvement-- Southkent, Pitsch
1043-45	04/08/70	3447	<i>Pitsch</i> <i>2-story frame double flat.</i>
1054	12/19/74	4752	Urban Renewal Voided.

1101	01/24/91	8124	Riverside
1106	04/23/91	8139	Riverside
	04/14/94	8400	Pitsch
1107	01/23/70	3368	Pitsch
	02/04/70	3376	Pitsch
1114	04/14/75	4794	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
1139	08/05/75	4836	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
1140-r	06/17/89	7913	
1141	02/18/76	4993	Neighborhood Improvement-- Loader & Dump
1148	04/03/87	7603	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

1211	12/01/83	7252	Pitsch
1215	12/01/83	7251	Pitsch
1217	07/26/84	7296	Pitsch
1229	01/08/87	7556	Neighborhood Improvement-- Preston Hopson
1247	11/30/62	1481	Industrial Salvage To reuse sewer and water mains.
1265	05/26/70	3503	Cooke
1267	10/07/68	2852	Cooke
1308	11/18/94	8468	Pitsch
1331	05/27/69	3047	Cooke
1415	08/28/62	1346	<i>Capitol</i> <i>The 1953 Sanborn map showed this address as "fire ruins."</i>
2011	10/25/99	8932	Pitsch