

Lyon Street, N.W.

34 Lyon N.W. This 2-story house was occupied by James B. McInnes in 1912. (Old # 96. Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1907. At far left is the Y.M.C.A., later



the Federal Square Building. Next to that is the house at 145 Ottawa N.W., occupied in 1912 by Bert Johnson. This photo provides only a side view of the house at 34 Lyon N.W. Beyond it and to the right is the old City Hall.)

35 Lyon N.W. The old Grand Rapids City Hall was the work of Elijah E. Myers (1832-1909), a leading architect of government buildings who had



also designed the state capitols of Michigan, Texas, and Colorado, and left a permanent mark on the American landscape.

The magnificent structure was dedicated on Wednesday, September 26, 1888, and stood on the north side of Lyon Street between Ionia and Ottawa. W.D. Richardson was the general contractor. Cf. "It's the Upkeep," *GRP* 05/10/1961 17. While it cost only \$290,338.61 to build in 1885-88, annual

maintenance costs in 1961 were more than a third of that figure. A steam pipe which ran on the outside of a wall had recently burst. There was a growing quarter-inch crack in the third floor offices of civil service, possibly caused by vibrations from the clock tower bell, which rang 78 times a day. The clock tower was 164 feet high. The building was demolished in 1969. (Photo: rear view from northwest, courtesy of Budd Remer, from G.R. Police Dept. files, c. 1969.)

35

10/06/69

3175

Urban Renewal (Capitol)

42-48 Lyon N.W. Houseman Building. Also addressed at 148-170 Ottawa N.W. and 39-51 Pearl N.W. (Photo: Gordon Harrington, the *Interpreter*, February 3, 1972, p. 11; Lyon Street elevation is at left, Ottawa along center of photo.)



| | | | |
|--------|---|------|---|
| 101-09 | 11/15/63 | 1689 | Urban Renewal Norris Building. |
| 111 | Lyon N.W. The Fifth/Third / Old Kent Bank Building, built in 1966, contains 200,300 leasable square feet of space. Its major tenants in 1993 are the Old Kent Financial Corporation and the legal firm of Warner Norcross & Judd. | | |
| 113 | Lyon N.W. Keith's Theater. Opened in 1914 as the Empress, it was later renamed the RKO Keith's. It had a seating capacity of 1,750. Closed September 5, 1962. | | |
| 113-21 | 11/21/62 | 1469 | Houting & Meeusen |
| 127-39 | 11/15/63 | 1690 | <i>Urban Renewal Hotel Empress.</i> |
| 128 | Photo in GRPL, Robinson / Capitol collection. | | |
| 130-32 | Photo in GRPL, Robinson / Capitol collection. | | |
| 134-36 | 07/25/77 | 4797 | <i>Capitol</i> |
| 137 | 10/20/63 | 1678 | <i>Urban Renewal Clifton Hotel.</i> |

215

Pantlind Exhibition Building. City Vets' Housing. Photo in GRPL, Robinson commercial collection, Arch Wrecking, March 25, 1953.

227 Lyon N.W. Civic Auditorium. City Manager George Welsh was the visionary and Frederick S. Robinson (Robinson & Campau) the architect



for this massive W.P.A. project (the Federal Depression-era public works service). Built with scrip labor by local unemployed workers in 1932, the Art Deco auditorium was the scene of most major public events in Grand Rapids well into the 1980's. Citizen Sadie Branchaud was largely responsible for saving the "Welsh

Auditorium," as it was by then called, from city developers eager to replace it. The main or south entrance and the lobby were incorporated into the DeVos Place complex in 2003.