

Monroe Avenue, N.W.

- 99 Monroe N.W. The Campau Square Plaza Building, constructed in 1985, has 13 levels and 178,000 leasable square feet out of a total square footage of 200,000. Major tenants in 1993 were Comerica, Inc.; BDO Seidman; and Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone. The owners, Westminster Campau LLC of Lake Forest, IL, installed a computerized energy management system in the building in 2007 which monitors and reviews energy use on a daily basis. In 2008 and 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the building its prestigious Energy Star certification, making it the only multi-tenant office structure in West Michigan to mark that achievement. (Story with photo, GRBJ 09/28/2009 15.)
- 180 Monroe N.W. The Campau Square Building, built in 1853. This 4-story building on the northeast corner of Monroe and Pearl originally had an Italianate design. It was renovated in the 1940's, given something of an Art Deco appearance, and subsequently called the Goodspeed Building. Former City Assessor's office employee Robert Barber believed that it was in this building that the old Assessor's files and photos for buildings demolished for the freeways and for urban renewal were stored, and then subsequently discarded, probably when the building was given a completely new and different facade in 1978. A 1979 report indicates that it is the oldest commercial building in the downtown area. In 2004, Terra Firma Development undertook another thorough renovation of the building. (Cf. GRBJ 03/15/2004 4, 10.)

187 Monroe N.W. Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Originally the site of Daniel Ball's Bank, built in 1859. The building was enlarged in 1868 and became Sweet's Hotel. In 1913, the new Pantlind Hotel was constructed; and in 1981, it became the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, incorporating the old Pantlind into a completely new structure, including the 32-story Pearl Street tower, with a total of 682 rooms. (Photos: Gordon Harrington, in the *Interpreter*, February 3, 1972, p. 11.)



187 01/02/80 5879 Riverside
 Pantlind Hotel. No water cutoff.

194 12/24/88 7854
 May's Clothing Store.

200-04 07/16/63 1611 *Urban Renewal*

201 Monroe N.W. Grand Rapids Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Building. Peter Secchia purchased the building from Comerica Bank on February 17, 1994. Secchia planned to use the 7-story building as headquarters for Universal Restaurants, Inc.

206 07/16/63 1610 Urban Renewal
Photo in GRPL 125-E 2045.

207-17 12/05/77 5425 Pitsch

208 07/16/63 1609 Urban Renewal

210 07/23/63 1608 Urban Renewal
Photo in GRPL125-E 2045.

212-18 Monroe N.W. One of several Grand Rapids theaters named after famous New York City movie houses, the Strand Theatre operated from 1915 to 1929. Subsequently



the building was used for retail purposes, including the Peoples Outlet Store, operated by Ben Fishman, in 1935. The entire Prange Block, 212-218, was razed in late October, 1963, for urban renewal. (Photos: left, GRPL 138, Box 3, Folder 27, published in the *Interpreter*, March 27, 1975, p. 13; right, GRPL 33, Box 15, c. November, 1960. Entrepreneur Ernest A. Prange bought 212-218 Monroe N.W. and remodeled the Strand Theatre building at 212 as well as the two storefronts to the north. The portion of this building which served as the theater is at the right in the 1960 photo. Also partial photo in GRPL 125-E 2045.)

212-14 10/14/63 1670 Urban Renewal

217 Monroe N.W. Last occupied by the Douma Art Supply Co., this building on the southwest corner of Monroe and Huron boasted a "tourelle," a dome-shaped tower on the building's corner. The building came down for the Grand Center in the 1970's, and the tourelle was rescued from the Pitsch wrecking yard by Michigan Bell Telephone officials, who purchased it for a phone kiosk or gazebo on the southeast corner of Monroe and Pearl when the Monroe Mail was constructed in 1980. In the summer of 1995, Ameritech decided to replace the gazebo with phones housed in sleek metal columns, and the tourelle was traveling again. Patrick Aymar, an Ameritech employee, got an option on it and moved it to his property at 585 Prospect S.E.

218 10/14/63 1671 Urban Renewal

220-32 07/23/63 1607 Urban Renewal
Old Wurzburg's Department Store.

223-29 02/17/78 5426 *Pitsch*
Parking lot at northwest corner of Monroe & Huron. Former site of Vandenberg Furniture store.

232 07/23/63 1606 Urban Renewal

233-41 03/29/63 1543 *Urban Renewal*

234 07/23/63 1605 Urban Renewal

236 and 238 Monroe N.W. In 1948, 236 was Edwards Shoes, Inc., with Joseph Hooker as president-treasurer and Leonard VanderJagt as vice president. 238 was Shinner's



Markets (meats), with Paul Noskey as manager. 238½ was the Central Hotel, owned by Mrs. Marie Alkema. Her husband, Martin, was a cement contractor. In 1955-60, 236 was the Sparkle Cleaners, owned by William H. Roozenburg. Martin Pothoven owned and operated the Sparkle Shoe Repair at the same address in 1955. Displaced by urban renewal, the business relocated to 645 Fulton W. In 1955-60, 238 was vacant; but at 238½, the Central Hotel was owned by Charles L. & Kittie

Edmondson. (Photo: GRPL 33, Box 15, c. November, 1960. Also in 125-E 2045.)

236 07/23/63 1616 Urban Renewal

238 08/06/64 1816 Urban Renewal

240 Monroe N.W. GRP photo 01/01/1960 28. "New Life Ahead for Old Theater." Center Theater to be converted into Civic Theater.

240-42 08/06/64 1815 Urban Renewal

243-45 10/07/64 1846 *Urban Renewal*

244-46 07/23/63 1604 *Urban Renewal*
Weiss Brothers Shoes.

245 Monroe N.W. Grand Center. This City-owned and -operated facility, which includes both convention and conference space as well as the DeVos Hall for the performing arts, was begun in 1976 and finished in 1980. Major remodeling began in 2001 as the plans for an adjoining new convention center to the north took shape. (Photo: Grand Rapids *Business Journal*, December 26, 2000, p. 3.)



247 01/10/63 1512 *Urban Renewal*

250 Monroe N.W. Calder Plaza Building. 10-story commercial building.

251-55 01/10/63 1513 *Urban Renewal*
Southwest corner of Monroe & Erie.

300 10/19/64 1849 Urban Renewal
Photos in GRPL 125-E 1432 and 125-C003979.

306 12/03/65 2065 Urban Renewal

307-27 10/10/62 1418 Houting & Meeusen

310 11/23/65 2060 Urban Renewal

311

314 Monroe N.W. Fire on Thursday, June 13, 1963, at 2:39 p.m. caused \$9,000.00
damage to the vacant 3-story brick Art Theater, owned by Sam Himmelstein.
Cause undetermined.

314 11/23/65 2061 Urban Renewal

316

318

319-27

322 Monroe N.W. Kent Theater. Closed in 1953. Photo in GRPL 125-E 2045.

326½ Photo in GRPL 125-E 2045.

328 03/27/67 2384 Urban Renewal
Photo in GRPL 125-E 2045.

329 09/24/64 1840 Urban Renewal
Catholic Information Center.

330 07/01/65 1960 Urban Renewal
Photo in GRPL 125-E 2045.

331-3301/07/64 1708 *Urban Renewal*
Fire on Monday, February 3, 1964, at 12:33 a.m. caused no loss to this vacant 2-
story brick building. Cause: juvenile incendiary. Partial photo in GRPL 125-E
2045.

332-3407/01/65 1959 Urban Renewal
Photo in GRPL 125-E 2045.

333 Monroe N.W. Grand Rapids Police Headquarters and Kent County Court House,
known collectively as the Hall of Justice. Opened September 15, 1966. Vacated
Monday, September 24, 2001, to be replaced by a new convention center.
(Photo: G.R.P.D., 1966.)



333 10/19/2001 9126 Pitsch
Police Headquarters (north portion).
10/19/2001 9127 Pitsch
Hall of Justice (south portion).

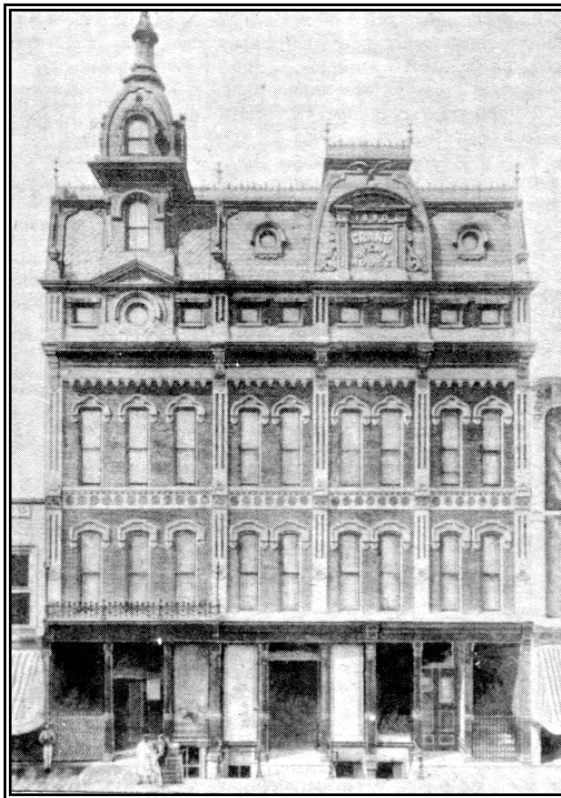
335-41 01/07/64 1707 Urban Renewal

336 07/01/65 1958 *Urban Renewal*

338 07/01/65 1957 Urban Renewal

340 07/01/65 1956 *Urban Renewal*

341 Monroe N.W. The Grand Opera House, built by T.H. Redmond, celebrated its opening on September 18, 1882, with performances by the Madison Square Theatrical Company. The name was changed to the Garrick Theatre in 1910. (Photos: Gordon Harrington collection, published in the *Interpreter*, March 20, 1975, p. 13.)



342 07/01/65 1955 *Urban Renewal*

343-47 Monroe N.W. Fire on Saturday, February 8, 1964, at 8:50 p.m. caused no loss to this vacant 5-story brick building. Cause: juvenile incendiary.

343-47 03/05/64 1738 *Urban Renewal*

344 07/01/65 1954 *Urban Renewal*

346 04/27/66 2171 *Urban Renewal*
City Rescue Mission. Photos in GRPL 125-C022524 and C006871.

348

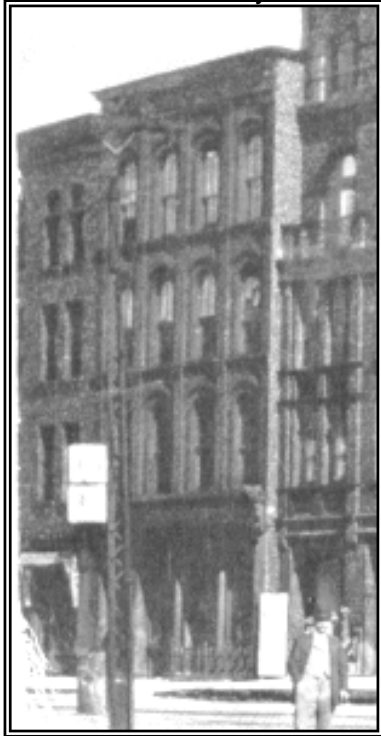
349 03/05/64 1737 *Urban Renewal*

350 07/01/65 1953 *Urban Renewal*

351 03/05/64 1736 *Urban Renewal*
Building on southwest corner of Monroe & Michigan.

404-08 Side entrance of hotel at 145 Michigan N.W.

410-14 Monroe N.W. Globe Hotel. This 4-story brick hotel was operated in 1948 by Elizabeth Miller and mail carrier Edward T. DeVries. The Midget Café, owned by Walter J. and Maxine Bratty of 606½ Bridge N.W., was at 414. In 1955, Edward T. DeVries was



sole proprietor of the hotel. He and his wife, Virginia, lived at 831 Fremont N.W. Mrs. Florence F. Lasley served as resident manager. Puccio Silvio of 1025 Ionia S.W. ran Silvio's Café at 414. Occupants of the hotel included Thomas C. Laster and his wife, Mary Ann. Thomas was the elevator operator at the Rowe Hotel, and later moved to 940 Front N.W.; later he was a member of St. Joseph's Church, and lived at 824 Caulfield S.W. In 1960, Mrs. Nora E. Lyon was resident manager of the hotel. Bernard M. Friar ran a real estate office at 412; and Frenchy's Café operated at 414, with proprietor Albert W. French, who lived with his wife, Rita A., at 10 Knapp N.E. (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1913.)

410-14	02/24/61	229	Capitol
416	10/20/63	1676	Urban

Renewal

3-story brick commercial.

418 10/20/63 1677 *Urban Renewal*
3-story brick commercial.

420 09/25/2001 9120 Pitsch
 G.R. Press garage.

423-25 Monroe N.W. Berkey & Gay Furniture Co. Plant No. 2. In front of the factory, along Monroe Avenue, stood a 5-story brick office and showroom building. On the eve



of Thanksgiving, Wednesday night, November 24, 1943, fire completely demolished this old plant, located on Monroe Avenue north of the Rowe Hotel. When the first fire apparatus arrived on the scene, the entire 6-story brick factory, unused for some years, was a seething mass of flames. More and more equipment was called until nearly every piece of fire equipment in the city was in use at the fire. While Engine 12 was laying lines along the east wall of the

building, an explosion blew out the wall, crushing the pumper and killing Equipment Operator Louis Coleman. Fire fighters poured water on the ruins for three days. (Old # 153. Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1910.)

432	12/07/65	2067	Capitol 1-story concrete block commercial.
451-53-front	09/21/62	1411	Kamminga & Roodvoets 4-story brick factory.
451-rear	09/21/62	1412	Kamminga & Roodvoets

500-04 Monroe N.W. The Ohio House, northeast corner of Monroe and Hastings. Built in 1869, torn down about 1935. Operated for many years by the Fritz Brogger family.

Old address: 182-86 Canal St. (Photos: top, *Deutsche Kirmes* [Grand Rapids, MI: Arbeiter-Unterstützungs-Verein, 1901], p. 8. Center, the hotel; bottom, the Ohio House barn, at the rear of the hotel on Hastings Street. GRPL 177 (Pitsch/Capitol collection), Series 50.)



Capitol

500

10/23/62

1448

501-05 02/14/63 1522 Kamminga & Roodvoets
2-story brick offices. Photos in GRPL 237 (MDOT), 18624-18630.

501-07 10/26/62 1459 Houting & Meeusen

507-09 4-story brick commercial.

510 10/29/62 1449 Capitol
1-story brick commercial.

511-19 04/20/79 5733 Pitsch
43,520 square feet.

525 11/19/96 8688 Courtade
Town House Motel.

526 12/08/60 114 Capitol

540-50 1- and 2-story cement block industrial.

544-50 03/24/87 7612 Pitsch
No cutoff. Photo: GRPL 43 (Morris), 424.

548 07/14/87 7652
Old foundry.

555 07/08/76 5108 Balforte

600	11/14/61	623	Ed. Ammerman
	No sewer.		
601	05/21/87	7630	
620	<i>4-story brick and cement block industrial.</i>		
647	04/23/75	4822	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
	No water cutoff.		
648	08/10/87	7663	
	08/10/87	7664	
	Garage.		

648 Monroe N.W. The Wolverine Brass Works was built about 1904. Although the last brass worker left at the end of 1986, the 4½-story, 202,000-square-foot brick structure remained structurally sound due to its poured concrete floors and ceilings. On April 28, 1997, four investors known as the Canal Street Group announced plans to convert the building into a brewery and offices.

720	09/01/87	7669	
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720 Monroe N.W. Western American Mailers. Crews made quick work of demolishing this building, vacant since 2004, on Tuesday, September 29, 2009. The building once housed Gezon Motor Sales, a pioneering Grand Rapids car dealership which sold Studebaker among other brands. Suburban Inns, a Rockford-based hotel developer, was planning a mixed-use project anchored by a full-service hotel on the property, but no date for the new construction had been set.

738	???		
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748	07/06/87	7644	
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749	09/20/85	7428	Riverside
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1015-25 02/22/93 8323 Pitsch
Old Nehi Bottling Co. 1-story commercial.

1051 *Gas station.*

1100 04/14/61 315 Staggs
09/10/84 7312 Pitsch
No cutoff.

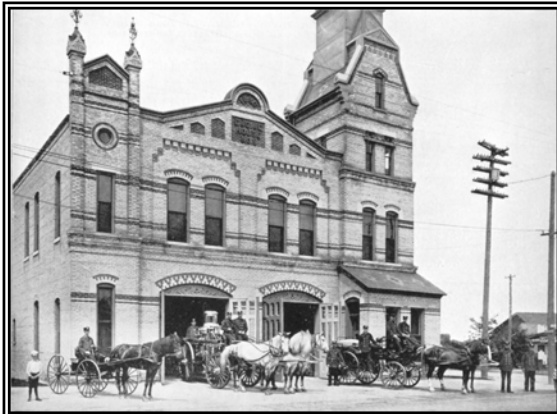
Coldbrook & Monroe N.W.
12/10/69 3299 Cooke
Brick chimney.

1110 01/02/2001 9048 DeVries

1132 08/28/97 8744 H & M Demolition

1176 01/02/2001 9052 Pitsch

1181 Monroe N.W. Engine House No. 5. This large brick fire station was built in 1880 to replace a smaller station on the northwest corner of Leonard and Taylor. (Photo: *History, Grand Rapids Fire Department, 1844-1899, p. 55.*)



1181-83 12/11/81 7111 West
Shore Services, Inc.

Old No. 5 Fire Station. Disassembled and reconstructed in Allendale.

1200	02/17/78	5474	Urban Renewal / Balfoort--Loader & Dump
1201-11	02/07/80 5 cutoffs.	5339	Pitsch
1201 Monroe N.W. Family Dollar discount merchandise store built and opened on Wednesday, August 17, 1994.			
1208-10	04/02/80	5912	Economic Development--Dan Courtade Bonnie's Play Room.
1214	12/05/62	1492	Valley City Terrazzo & Marble Co. 1-story frame dwelling.
1218	04/04/61	303	Archie Gravelin 1½-story frame dwelling.
1222	12/15/78	5686	Community Developrnent-- Loader & Dump
	01/29/79	5693	Development Division--Loader & Dump
1223	<i>Consumers Power substation.</i>		
1228	12/09/68	2901	Cooke Dwelling.
1232	12/09/68	2902	Cooke Dwelling.
1235	???		
1237	<i>Dwelling. Razed prior to 1953.</i>		
1238	06/02/77	5257	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1242	06/02/77	5267	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1245	<i>Dwelling. Razed prior to 1953.</i>		
1246	06/02/77	5277	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1249			
1253			

1305	04/10/64	1755	Maier & VenderVeen
1335	06/18/64	1796	Diamond Salvage
1359	02/04/64 No sewer.	1721	Maier & VanderVeen
1359-rear	02/04/64 No sewer.	1719	Maier & VanderVeen
1371	02/04/64	1720	Maier & VanderVeen
1374	04/10/64 No sewer.	1756	Maier & VanderVeen
1401	<i>City Street Department lot.</i>		

1430 Monroe N.W. Monroe Water Filtration Plant. The big beautiful building with the green tile roof on Monroe Avenue is special to lovers of Grand Rapids' history and historic architecture, and is at the very least a well-known landmark to those that are not



yet initiated to its charms. The building will soon see the end of its period of vacancy, as it will be rehabilitated for its second life as an internationally important water research center--The Global Enterprise for Water Technology at Clearwater Plaza.

The Monroe Water Filtration Plant is listed as a local Grand Rapids Landmark (1980) and on the State Register of Historic Places (1989), and it was recognized as a Michigan Historic Civil Engineering Landmark (1991). In 1999, the plant was honored by the Michigan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of Michigan's Top Ten Civil Engineering Achievements of the 20th Century. Research is underway to nominate the plant to the prestigious National Register of Historic Places. Unquestionably, the plant is nationally significant for its architecture, engineering, and as an historic industrial site.

At the time of construction in 1910-12 the plant was highly regarded for its design, which employed the latest in water treatment technology. It was designed by Fuller and Herring Engineers of New York City, a firm known nationally for its water filtration projects. George Warren Fuller was, and is, known as a nationally-prominent pioneer in water treatment technology.

Before the City constructed this plant, Grand Rapids residents relied on private water companies that sold water to citizens. In 1900, a scandal ended a project to build a pipeline from Lake Michigan to Grand Rapids, as city officials were suspected to be misusing the funds allocated for the pipeline. A decade later, when the pressure was building to find a solution to service the city with water, two prominent local businessmen--Charles H. Leonard, founder of the Kelvinator Refrigeration Company, and John Widdicomb, founder of the John Widdicomb Furniture Company--promoted a plan to build a modern water filtration facility in Grand Rapids that would utilize water from the Grand River. In 1910, a bond was passed which gave final approval for the construction of the plant.

The plant was a huge success when completed in 1912 and boasted a capacity of 20 million gallons of water per day. Due to the water purification technology employed by the plant, local cases of typhoid fever and other water borne diseases dropped dramatically. By the 1920s, the demand for water had increased so greatly that the plant's capacity needed to be expanded. A new addition in the same style as the original design was finished in 1924, which doubled the capacity of the plant. In 1938, when Works Progress Administration (WPA) money was used to run a pipeline to Lake Michigan, the plant stopped using the Grand River as a source.

The Monroe Avenue plant was the first in the nation to fluoridate a community's water supply as a means of preventing tooth decay. In 1961, the City of Grand Rapids built a massive filtration plant on the shore of Lake Michigan, and the Monroe Avenue plant was used as a backup plant once again relying on Grand River water. In 1992, the Monroe Avenue plant was shut down when a second line of 60 inches in diameter was added to process water through the Lake Michigan plant. This addition helps to supply Grand Rapids and surrounding suburban residents with 135 million gallons of water per day; however, it also rendered the Monroe Avenue plant obsolete.

The Monroe Water Filtration Plant is a combination of Mediterranean and Romanesque Revival styles of architecture. The two-story, red brick building has both

green tile and replacement asphalt shingle covered hipped roofs. Square towers highlight the corners of the main facade on Monroe Avenue and two massive brick, round water tanks flank the main building. A single, larger tower with hipped roof is centered on the rear facade and is prominently visible from Monroe Avenue. Architectural details include: brickwork in a Flemish Bond pattern, ribbon windows, and corbelled, brick brackets under roof eaves, arched doorways, and triple sets of arched windows. The interior contains much of the original water filtration equipment and room configuration. Changes over time include: the elimination of underground water tanks, the removal of some of the pipes and plumbing apparatus, the covering over of open interior and exterior water tanks.

The plant remains unused, but plans are underway to rehabilitate it to house the non-profit Global Enterprise for Water Technology (GEWT), whose mission is to carry on research of drinking water and create a water research educational facility. Approximately one-quarter of the plant will be used for drinking water research. The remainder of the structure will be made into classrooms, meeting facilities, and exhibit space. When completed, it will be the only facility of its kind in the world allowing researchers to test their ideas on water treatment from bench-scale water treatment (mini-water treatment) units up to the actual plant scale size experimentation. The research will benefit the health and quality of life of communities in the United States and all over the world. (Source and text: Jennifer Metz, Vice-President of Grand Rapids Historical Society, in *The Grand River Times*, Vol. 22, No. 4, March, 2001, pp. 6-7. Photo: *ibid.*, p. 7.)

1538	04/08/74	4568	Pitsch
1634-rear	06/04/92	8264	Ny-Ko Excavating Industrial plant. Does not front on Monroe. Building to the rear.
1640	12/21/72	4324	Dohrn
1642	12/21/72	4325	<i>Dohm</i>
1648	03/02/70	3395	South Kent Also numbered as 34 Travis N.W. Second house from corner.
1654	06/13/75	4360	Pitsch
1661	08/17/81	7059	Pitsch 9,300 square feet. No water cutoff.
1745	07/10/74	4603	Jack DeVries

1800	03/22/66	2145	Wm. Heeren
1801	09/11/64 To reuse sewer line.	1830	Potter & Fischer, Inc.
<i>1805</i>			
1808	11/14/61	613	Staggs
1816-rear	12/04/74	4733	Hodgens
1825	10/18/78 Addition only.	5650	Courtade
<i>1833-35</i>	<i>11/27/70</i>	<i>3714</i>	<i>Staggs</i>
1953	10/05/62 No sewer.	1438	Welcome Home for the Blind
2000	04/21/97	8718	Pitsch
<i>2044</i>			
<i>2340</i>			