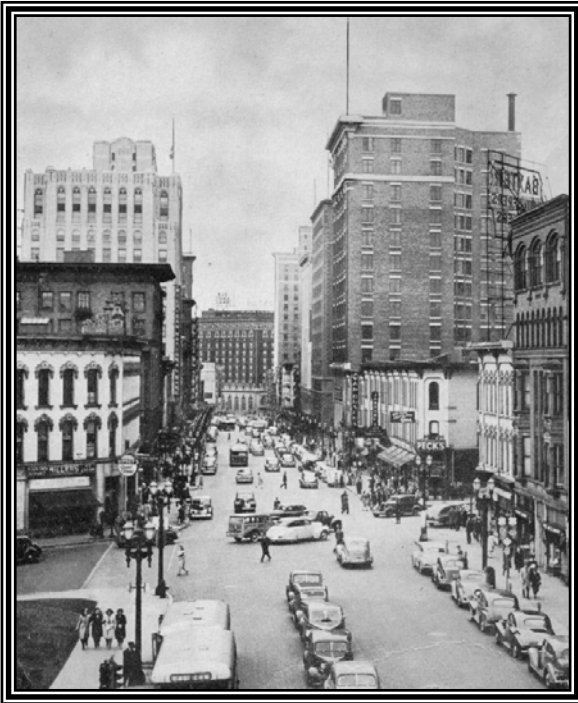


**Monroe Center, N.W.**



(Photo: W. Patton, for Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, c. 1948. Original postcard in Archives of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Folder 9-1-U, "G.R., St. Andrew." View is looking northwest from intersection of Monroe Avenue, N.E., and Fulton Street, E. Old Porter Block is still at left at Monroe and Division, not yet having been replaced by the 1949-50 Herpolsheimer's Department Store.)

1 Monroe Center, N.W. The Porter Block was built on the southwest corner of Monroe & Division in 1877.

1 Monroe Center, N.W. Herpolsheimer's Department Store. Built 1949. 3 stories w/basement. 50' high.

*25-35 Monroe N.W. Porter Block, situated between Division and Commerce.*

34 Monroe Center, N.W. The Peck's Drug Store building was built in 1874-75 in an Italianate style for Amos Rathbone, a local entrepreneur. Rathbone acquired the Peck Brothers Druggists as the wedge-shaped building's first tenants. In 1967, the Revco chain purchased Peck's and operated the store until 1988. In 1997, the first floor, with 14,000 square feet, was only partially occupied by the Texas Cafe.

39 Monroe Center, N.W. Luman Building.

41                    07/11/84            7288            Visser Brothers  
                          Gantos. 28,000 square feet.

**72 Monroe Center, N.W.** Hotels have stood on this site since 1835, when the Hinsdill House was built. It was followed by the National House in 1840, and a new 3- and 4-

story National House was built in 1855. It was destroyed by fire on September 20, 1872. The 5-story brick Morton House was completed the following year, and its 13-story successor, designed by architects Holabird & Roche, of Chicago, replaced it in 1923. The Morton House Apartments is now addressed as 55 Ionia Avenue, N.W.



**77 Monroe Center, N.W.** Michigan National Bank. Built in 1925, this 13-story building is 160' high. The architects were Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, of Detroit, who also designed the Michigan Bell Telephone Company on Division Avenue, N.



**86 Monroe Center, N.W.** Steketee's 8-story department store was built in 1916.

- 101            07/12/73        4358            Capitol  
 Wurzburg's Department Store. Built as Herpolsheimer's.
- 104-24 Monroe Center, N.W. The Late Victorian buildings in the Ledyard block of Ottawa Avenue and Monroe Center were begun in 1859. Except for the 3-story 122-24, they are all 4-story brick commercial structures.
- 109 Monroe Center, N.W. Part of Wurzburg's. Fireproof construction. Built 1911. 10 stories. 146' high.
- 111            12/22/2003    9285            Pitsch  
 Demolished for new Art Museum. Last occupant was a Subway restaurant.
- 115            12/22/2003    9285            Pitsch  
 Demolished for new Art Museum.
- 121            12/22/2003    9285            Pitsch  
 Hong Kong Inn restaurant. Demolished for new Art Museum.
- 124 Monroe Center, N.W. The Rhythm Kitchen Café occupied this building from March, 1995, until it closed Friday night, August 25, 2000.
- 125            12/22/2003    9285            Pitsch  
 Building on southeast corner of Monroe Center and old Market Avenue, N.W. Demolished for Art Museum. Last occupant was a banking facility.
- 126-30 Monroe Center, N.W. The 4-story Sears & Roebuck Co. department store was a steel frame building which faced Monroe Avenue and angled back to a rear entrance on Pearl Street. The site is now a parking lot.
- 126-30 06/19/68    2764            Capitol  
*Old Sears building. Water service from 110-16 Pearl N.W.*

135 Monroe Center, N.W. The 6-story J.H. Wonderly Building was occupied in April, 1890. It featured a 6-story tower of corner bay windows above the first floor. It was torn down and replaced by the S.S. Kresge dime store in 1939-40. (This information is incorrect, and has the Wonderly Building, which stood on the site of the McKay Tower, confused with the Widdicomb Building on the later site of the Kresge store.)

135            05/18/78        5534            City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch

135            03/29/2000    8971            Pitsch  
(135 Monroe Center, N.W. Monroe Amphitheater.)

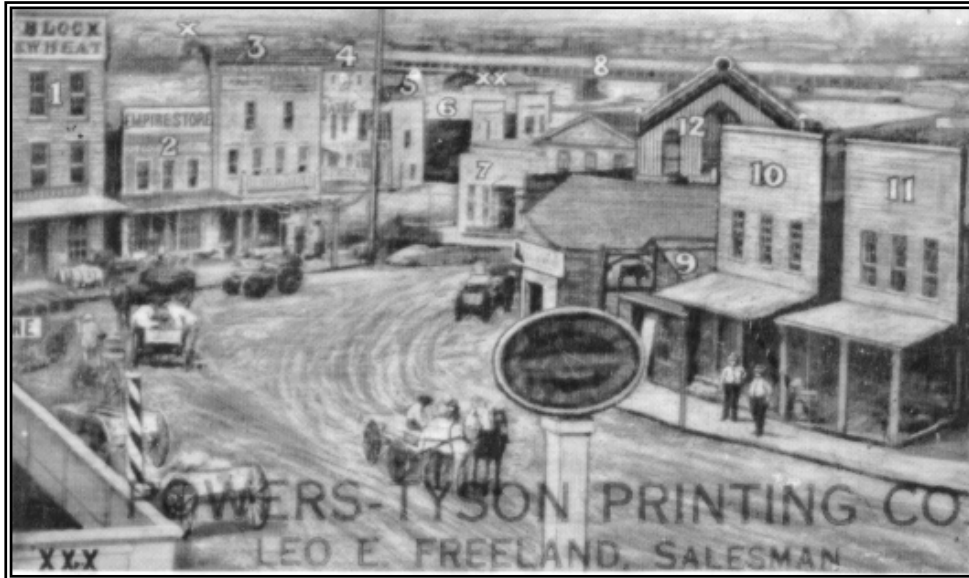
139            05/18/78        5533            City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch

140 Monroe Center, N.W. This 3- and 4-story commercial building adjoins the McKay Tower on the east. It has a total of 33,000 square feet.

141            05/18/78        5532            City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch

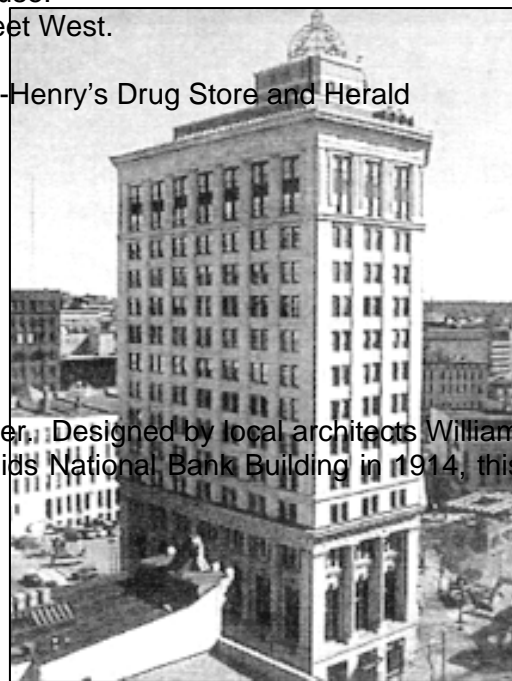
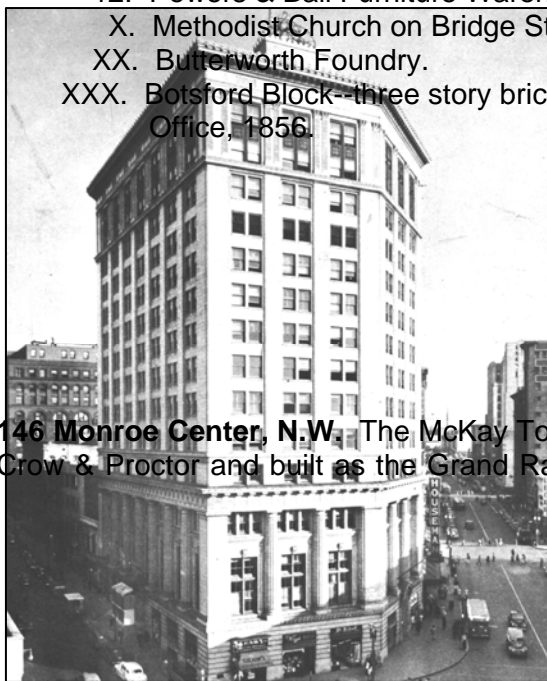
145            05/18/78        5531            City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch

**Campau Square, 1853.** This view of Campau Square in 1853 was copied from a daguerreotype print. It was taken from the third floor of the old Rathbun House, where the Widdicomb Building and later the S.S. Kresge dime store stood. That site is now (2002) occupied by the northeast corner of Rosa Parks Circle. The picture was duplicated onto the 1923 business card of Leo E. Freeland, a salesman for the Powers-Tyson Printing Co.



1. Roberts Block. Indian trader and general store.
2. The Checkered Front. Grocery of Crawford Bros. (Empire.)
3. Building burned 1873. Judge Bement's Court Room on Second Floor.
4. Daniel Ball's Bank--later Western Union Office.
5. Bentham Lunch Room.
6. Belknap Ship Forge.
7. Terbone & Sexton Book Store, now Lovett Block.
8. Bridge St. Bridge.
9. Meat Market Stone.
10. Herman Leonard Grocery Store.
11. Julius Houseman Clothing Store.
12. Powers & Ball Furniture Warehouse.

- X. Methodist Church on Bridge Street West.
- XX. Butterworth Foundry.
- XXX. Botsford Block--three story brick--Henry's Drug Store and Herald Office, 1856.



**146 Monroe Center, N.W.** The McKay Tower. Designed by local architects Williamson, Crow & Proctor and built as the Grand Rapids National Bank Building in 1914, this 16-

story structure originally had only two stories. It was completed with 12 more stories around 1925, and two more mechanical floors were added in the 1940's. At 226', the building reigned for nearly half a century as Grand Rapids' tallest, a title it surrendered to the new 29-story Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in 1981. The building has 146,000 square feet of office space. Urban legend had it that the beacon atop the McKay Tower could be seen at night from planes flying over Milwaukee. Frank D. McKay (1883-1965), well-known businessman, Republican activist, and Michigan state treasurer 1925-31, bought and renamed the building in 1942. When he died, he willed the McKay Tower to the University of Michigan, which sold it to Greystone Associates of Skokie, IL, in 2000. Mark Roller of Spring Lake purchased it for an undisclosed price in April, 2006. (Photos: left, 1940's; right, G.R. *Business Journal*, February, 2001.)

|     |          |      |                                      |
|-----|----------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 149 | 05/18/78 | 5530 | City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch |
| 157 | 05/18/78 | 5529 | City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch |
| 163 | 05/18/78 | 5528 | City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch |
| 167 | 05/18/78 | 5527 | City Engineer (Bill Battjes)--Pitsch |
| 169 | 05/23/79 | 5747 | Riverside                            |