

# **OLD MAIN STREET – BUSINESS BLOCK WEST SEGMENT #2**

**1. WELCOME—Title Page Segment 2**

**2. HERE WE ARE. Join me in the middle of Main Street in front of the Methodist Church.**

CAMPBELL'S  
"OLD MAIN STREET" SEGMENT #2  
[THE BUSINESS BLOCK - WEST]

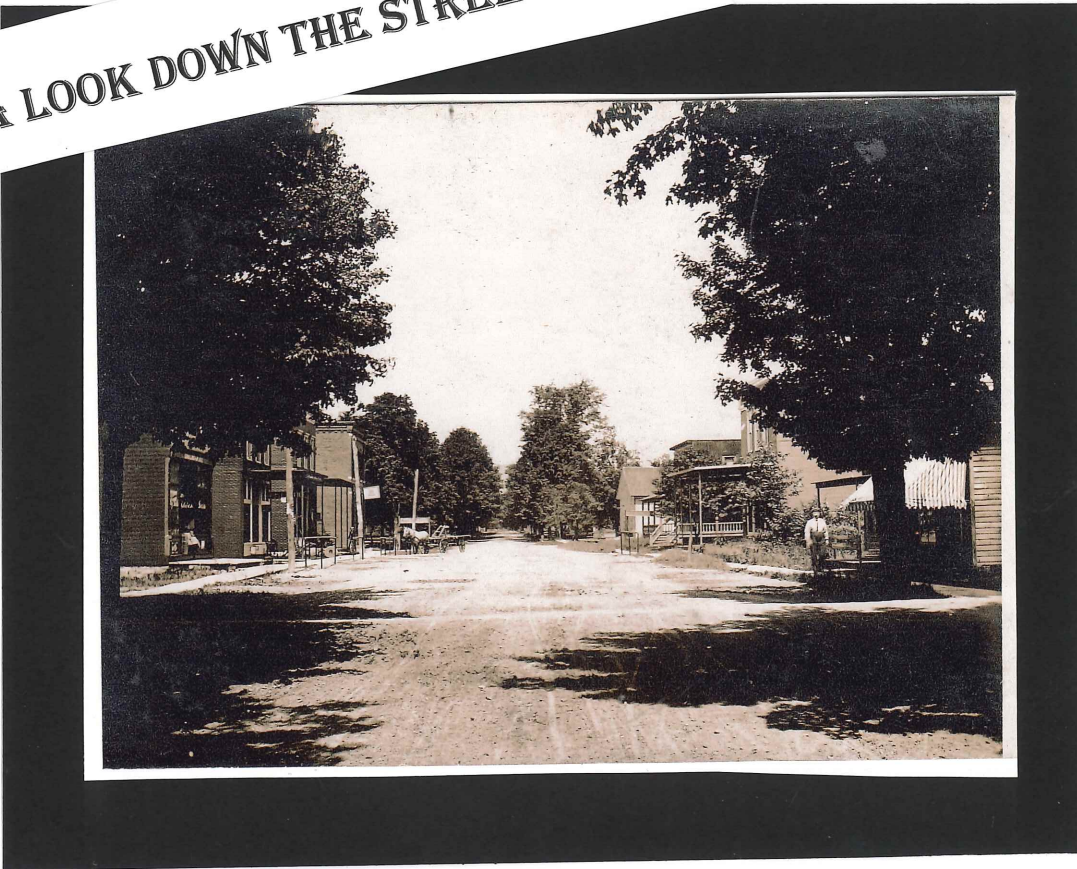
1.

MIDDLE OF MAIN STREET  
IN FRONT OF THE  
METHODIST CHURCH

2.

**3. LOOK DOWN STREET. First, let's take a look down Main Street. There is a pole down there by Bemis Street; and I see hitching posts; On the right there's the porch of the "Cottage Hotel" -[keep that thought]; And there is a Horse-drawn wagon in the distance. This is a photo from the early 1900's -just a guess!**

**A LOOK DOWN THE STREET . . .**



3.

**4. Now let's step over to the end of Church Street and look to our west...**

**5. Here's what we see---- a car lot – this is Skip's Auto Sales car lot.**

STEP OVER TO THE END OF  
CHURCH STREET AND  
LOOK WEST ...

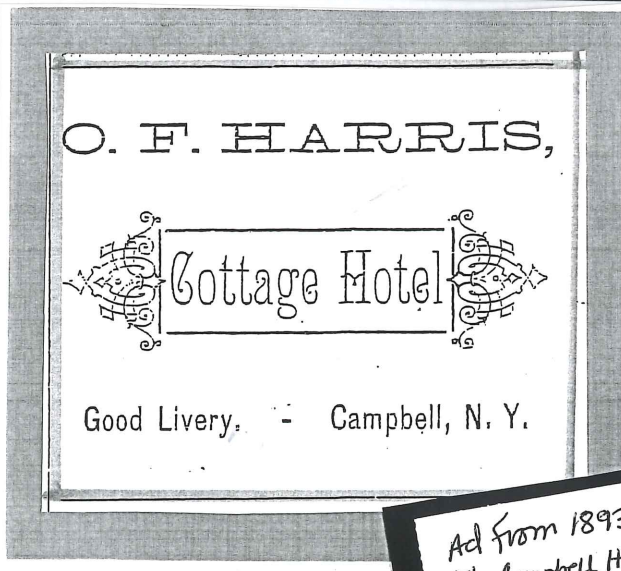
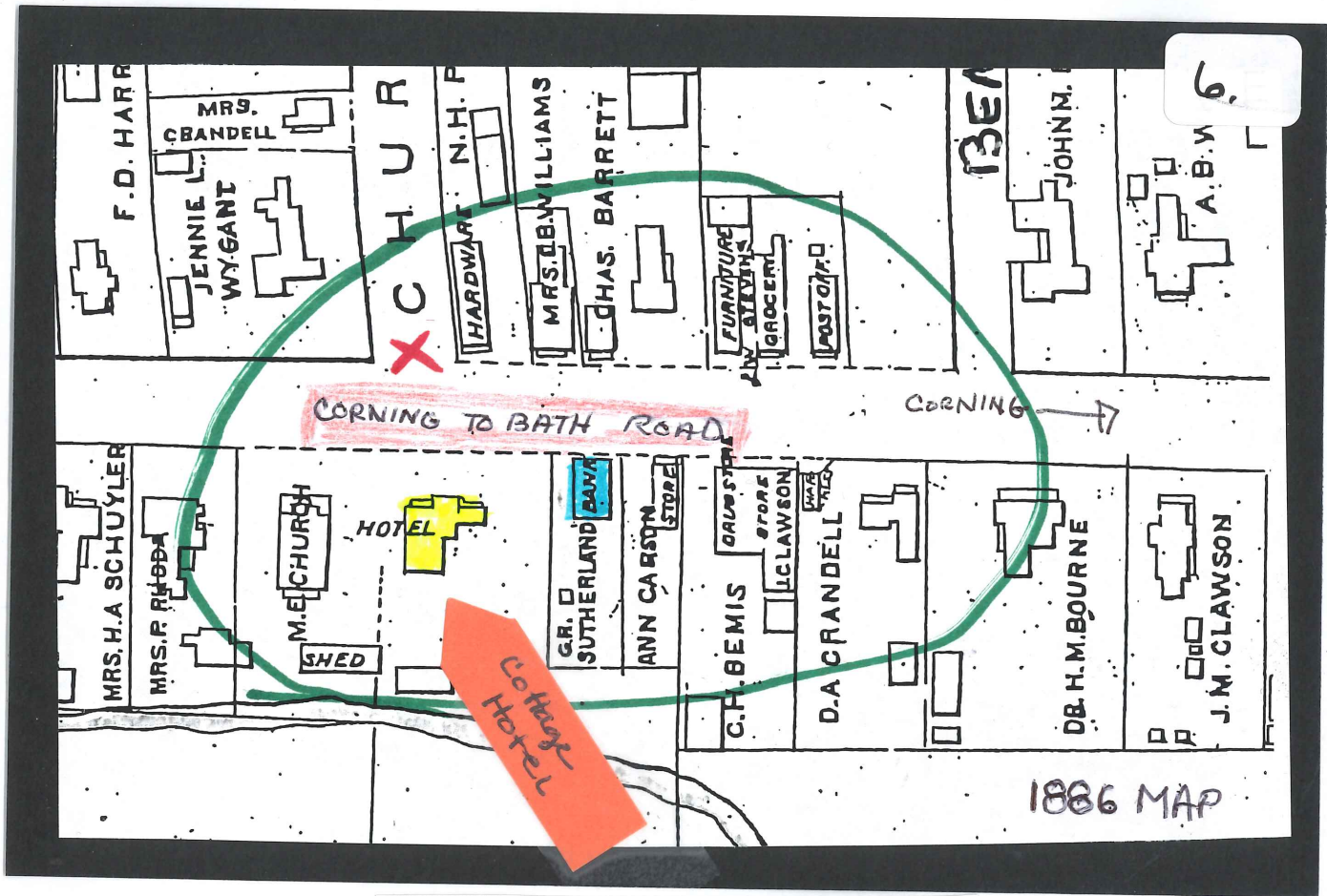
4.

5.



6. 1886 map – take a look—the red “x” is where we are standing ahead and what used to be there was the Cottage Hotel!!! AND ...

7. This is a “Cottage Hotel” ad from the 1893 “Campbell Herald” --more on that in a bit, and ...



7.

Ad from 1893  
 "The Campbell Herald"

**8. A photo of the Cottage Hotel from a post card] – might be a little hard to imagine!**



*The Cottage Hotel.*

8.

- 9. STOP -- We need to take a minute here so I can explain a few things. I'll have to explain some inside information and background about this area. I've been relying a great deal on the 1886 Map of Campbell and post cards of the day.**
- 10. MAP --SO let's go back to the 1886 map. This was a period of time when Campbell was a prospering "village", as they sometimes called it. It was never an official village but rather a hamlet.**



9.

FOR A LITTLE "INSIDE INFORMATION"

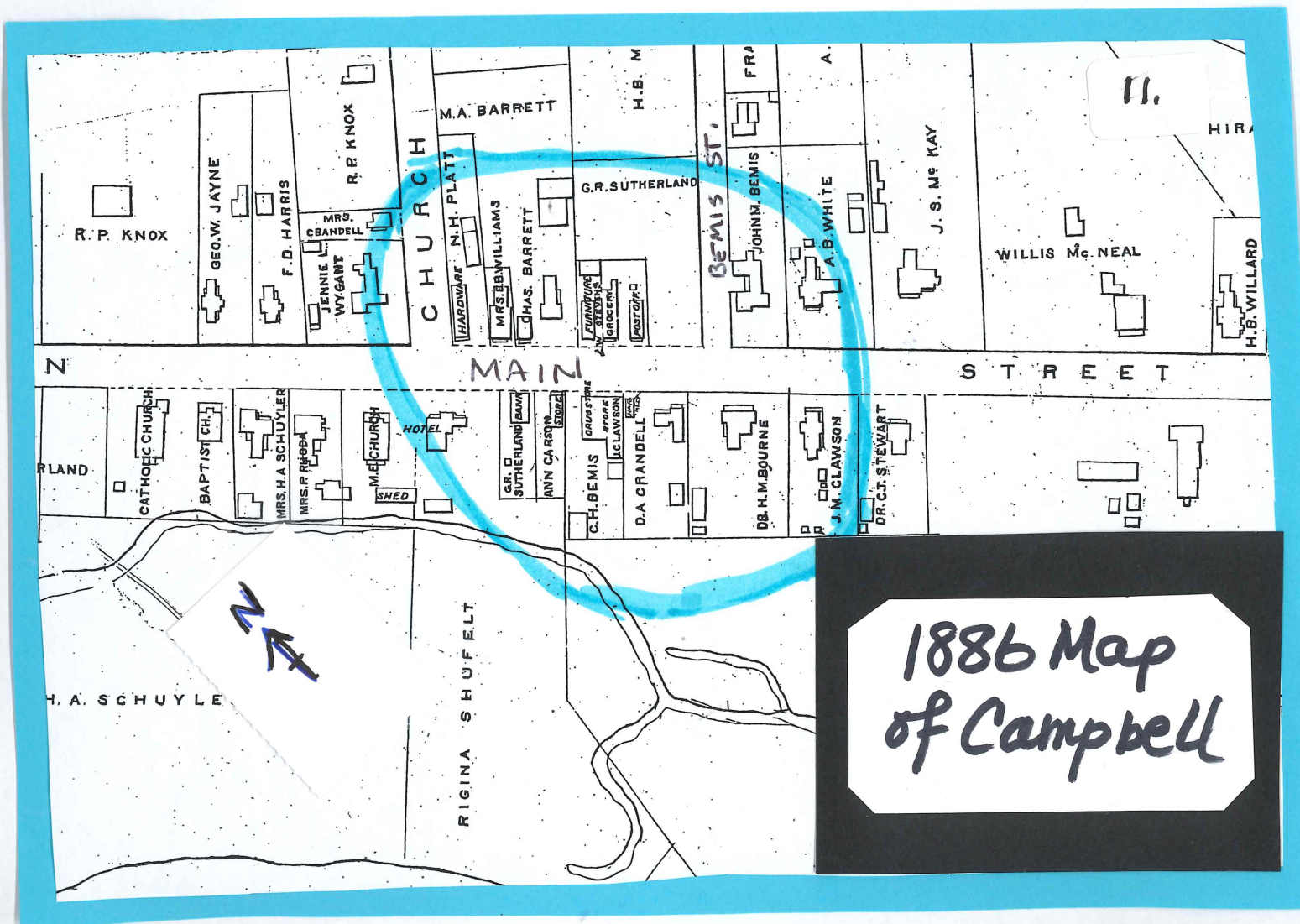
*Back to the . . .*

1886 MAP OF CAMPBELL

AT THIS PERIOD OF TIME -- THE LATE 1800'S --  
CAMPBELL WAS PROSPERING!

10.

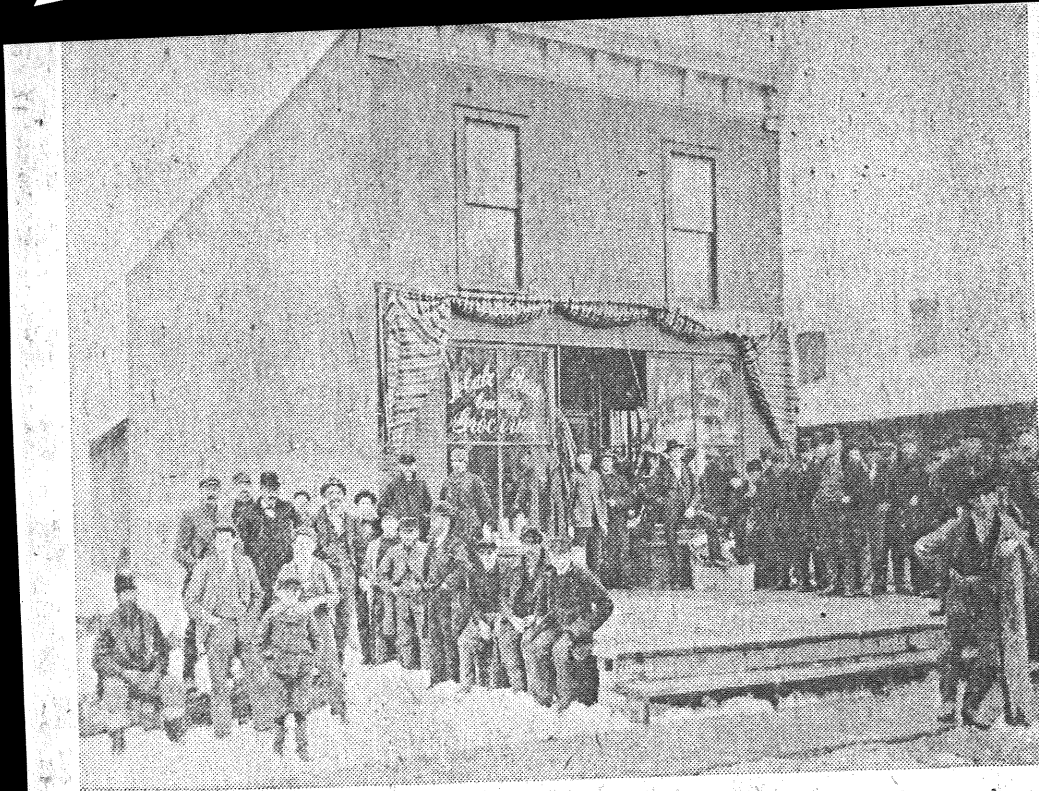
11. MAP –with blue circle—Back then, Main Street was the only road which took you from Corning to Bath. When one was travelling by horse and buggy, it was a major stopping place; when things were prospering in the later 1800's, it was also a shopping place. Within the blue circle is the area I'm calling the "business block". We were a town with several shops: [hotel & tourist homes]; 3 general stores; 3 boot & Shoe shops; One tannery; One saw and grist mill; One planing mill; A wagon and carriage shop; 3 blacksmith shops; A harness shop; A hardware store and tin shop; A post office; 2 millinery stores; One meat market; A jeweler shop; 3 physicians; and 2 clergymen ..... and there was a bank!



12. **PHOTOS in 1886.** Thinking about photos in 1886 – well, pretty much, there are none; it was before the “Golden age of Postcards” [the early 1900’s] which I’ve explained in segment #1.

13. **MCCABE’S NEWS PIC.** For example, not too long ago, this clip was printed in The Leader as if it was a picture taken about 1898; it says “it shows farmers in Town on an election day posing in front of the McCabe Grocery in Campbell; photo loaned by Benjamin Look.” It was not really a photo! Let me go on to explain.

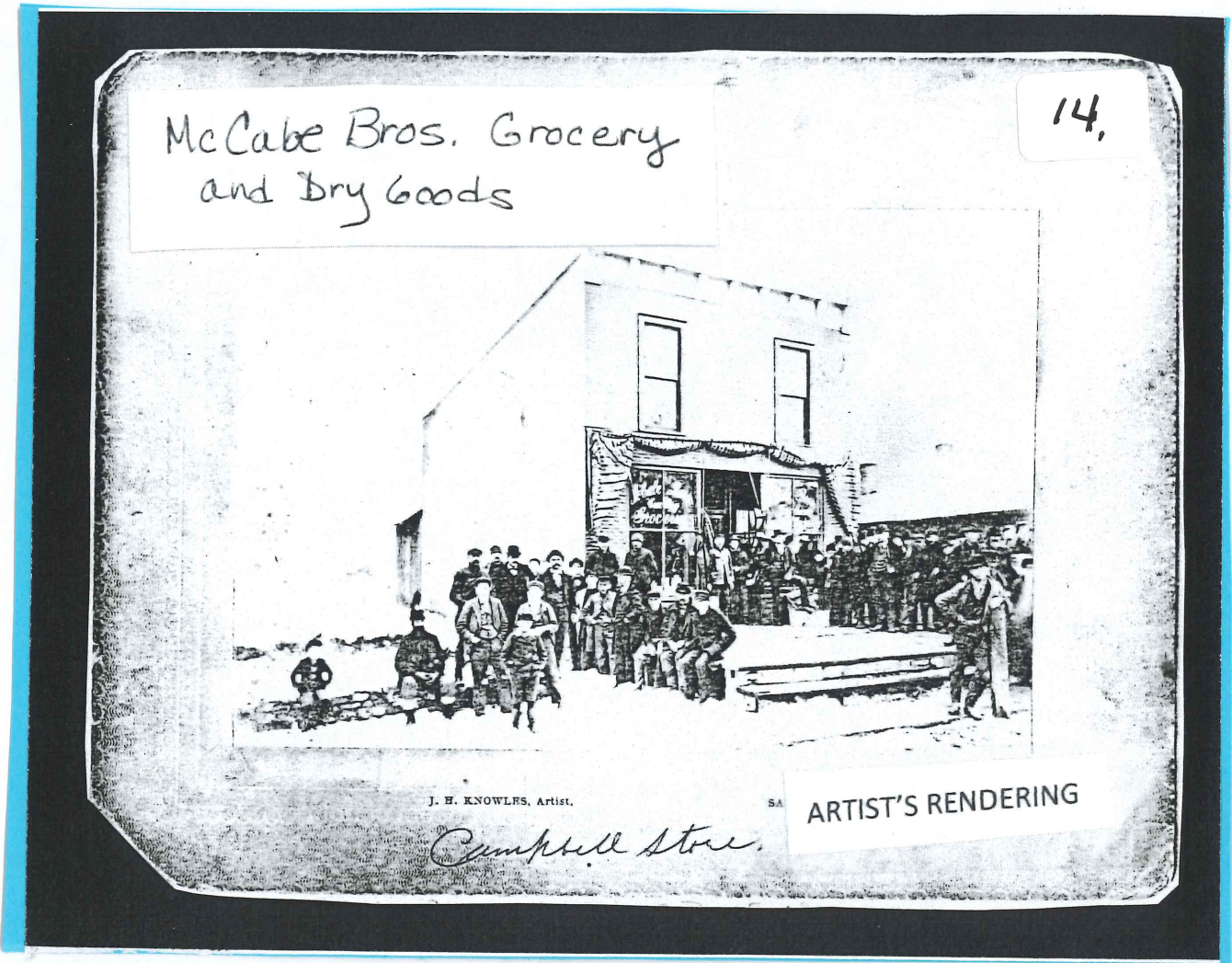
12,  
13,  
THINK ABOUT 1886 . . . “PHOTOS” –  
WE HAVE VERY FEW PRIOR TO 1900.



Picture taken about 1898 shows farmers in town on an election day, posing in front of the McCabe grocery at Campbell. (Photo loaned by Benjamin Look).



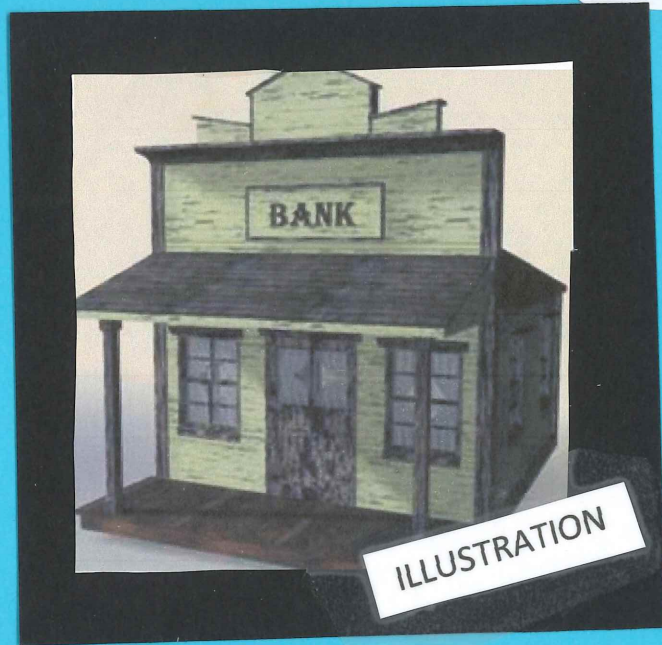
14. MCCABE'S GROCERY – this is the same so called photo; but it is not a photo; it is really an artist's rendering. Note the marking "JB Knowles – artist".



15. **BANK OF CAMPBELL-** I do want to tell you about the Bank of Campbell; we have no photos—so we don't know what it originally looked like when it was first built –in fact we don't have photos of anything much in the 1880's; or 1890's. The Bank opened for business in about 1880. I hope you don't mind my illustration here. It was owned by George Sutherland who lived in the big house by the Corner Store. He also had a banking business in New York City.

15.

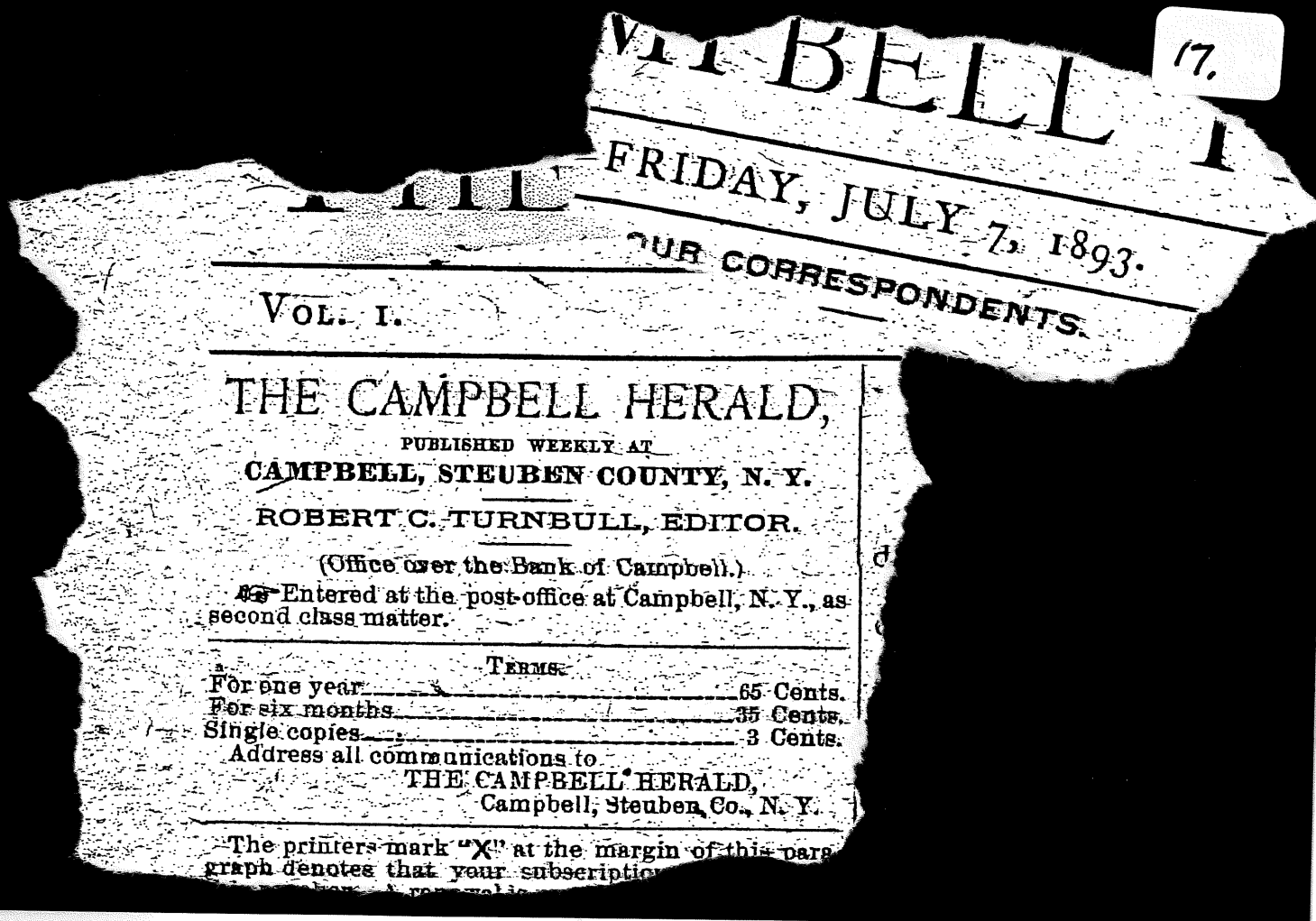
**THE BANK  
OF  
CAMPBELL**  
OWNED BY:  
GEORGE R. SUTHERLAND



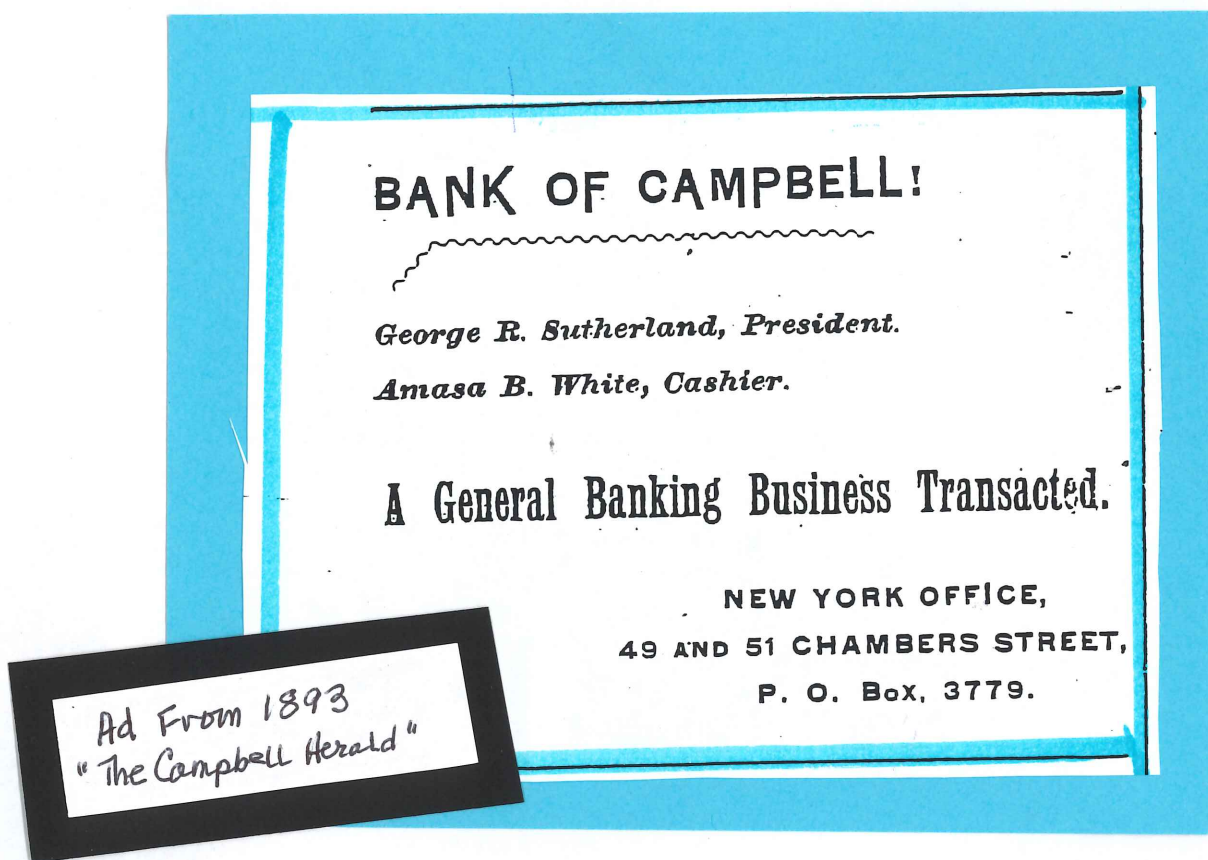
Opened for business in about 1880\*  
[date varies in different sources]

16. **NEWSPAPER OFFICE.** In 1893 Robert Turnbull started publishing a Town newspaper in the office upstairs over the Bank.
17. **NEWS HEADER.** The Town newspaper was called the "Campbell Herald" –and here's what their heading looked like. The publication didn't last for too long. I think maybe just that year of 1893. We do have copies on file of all the issues, if you are interested. It does give us a little insight of what was happening in that era.

OFFICE FOR THE NEWSPAPER –"THE CAMPBELL HERALD"  
 WAS UPSTAIRS OVER THE BANK OF CAMPBELL – 1893



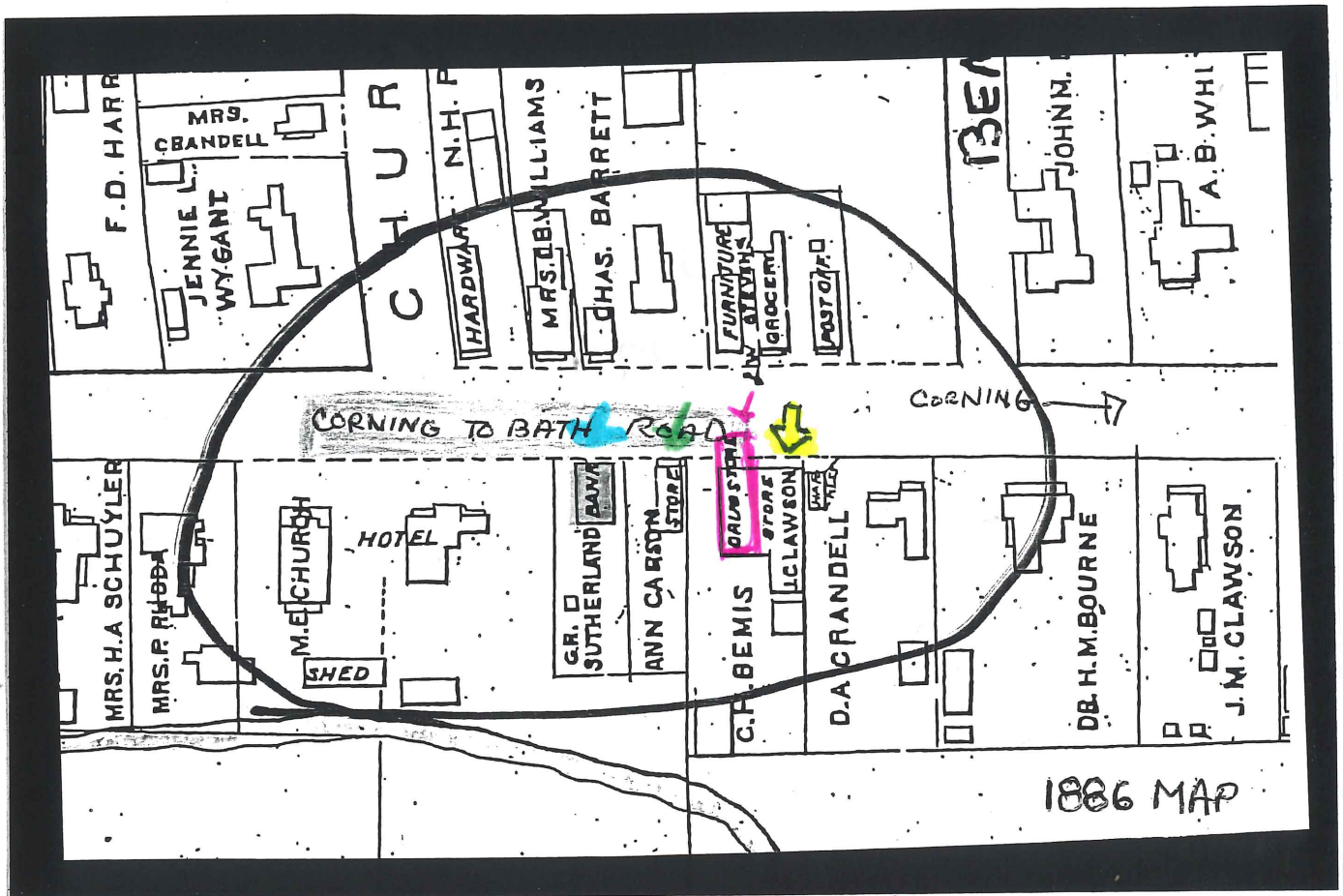
18. **BANK AD.** The Bank had an ad [shown here] in the newspaper; none of the ads throughout the paper had a photo. They were all very simple ads and a simple layout.



18.

19. MAP -- Next to the Bank was the Joint Hardware—  
marked here in green; then Willard's Drugs marked in  
red; and then Platt's General Store in Yellow.

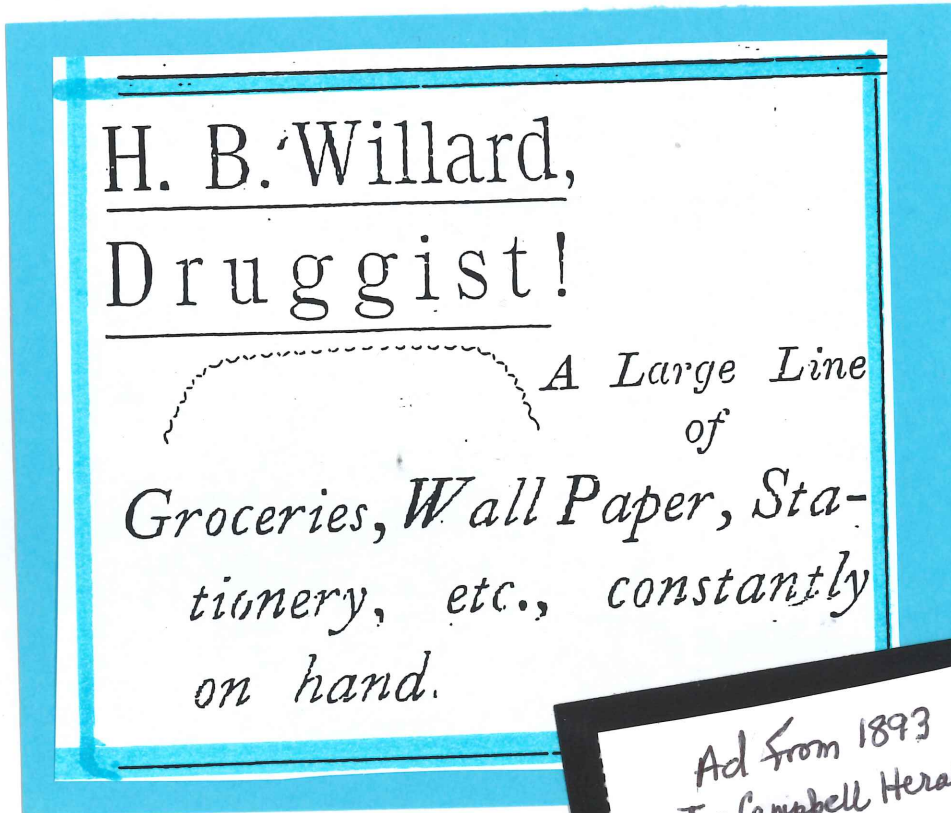
19.



WILLARD'S DRUG STORE

20. WILLARD AD--Willard's Drugs [ this is his ad from the newspaper] HB Willard [H BURR WILLARD\*] was the druggist -- He advertised groceries, wall paper, stationery etc.

[\* 1849- 1916 - from his headstone]



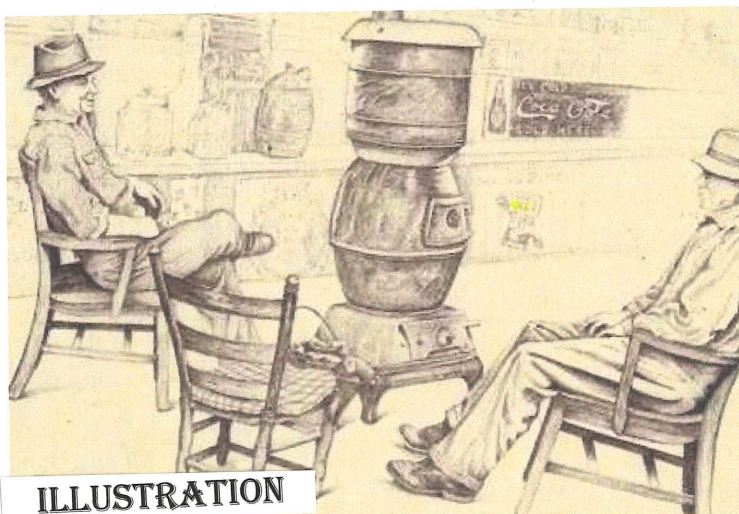
20.

**21. WILLARD'S NEW STORE--I have to tell you a story here... HB Willard had a new store [Willard's Drug Store] and upstairs he had a meeting room; a meeting was held there in October of 1895; it was a community meeting about prohibition.**

21.

### WILLARD'S NEW DRUG STORE

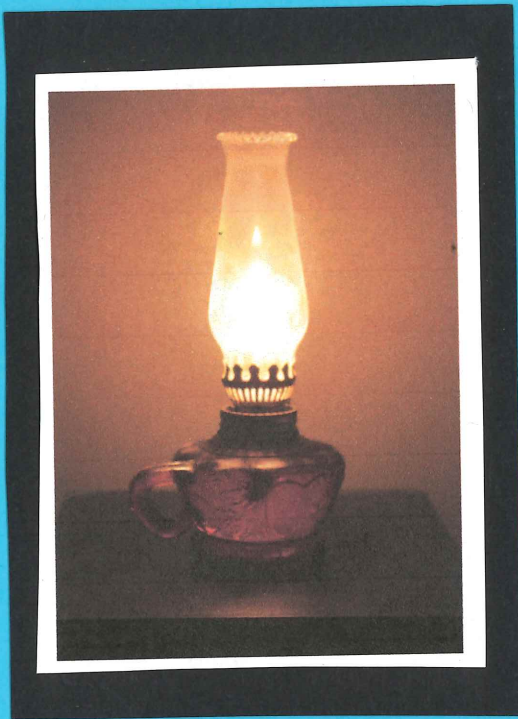
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM



ILLUSTRATION

PROHIBITION MEETING

22. **OIL LAMP**--After the last person left, Mr. Willard blew out the oil lamp and went home to bed. He lived a short distance down the street [The Willard House].
23. **DISASTER**—That night during the night, about 1 am, disaster strikes. A fire begins.



22.

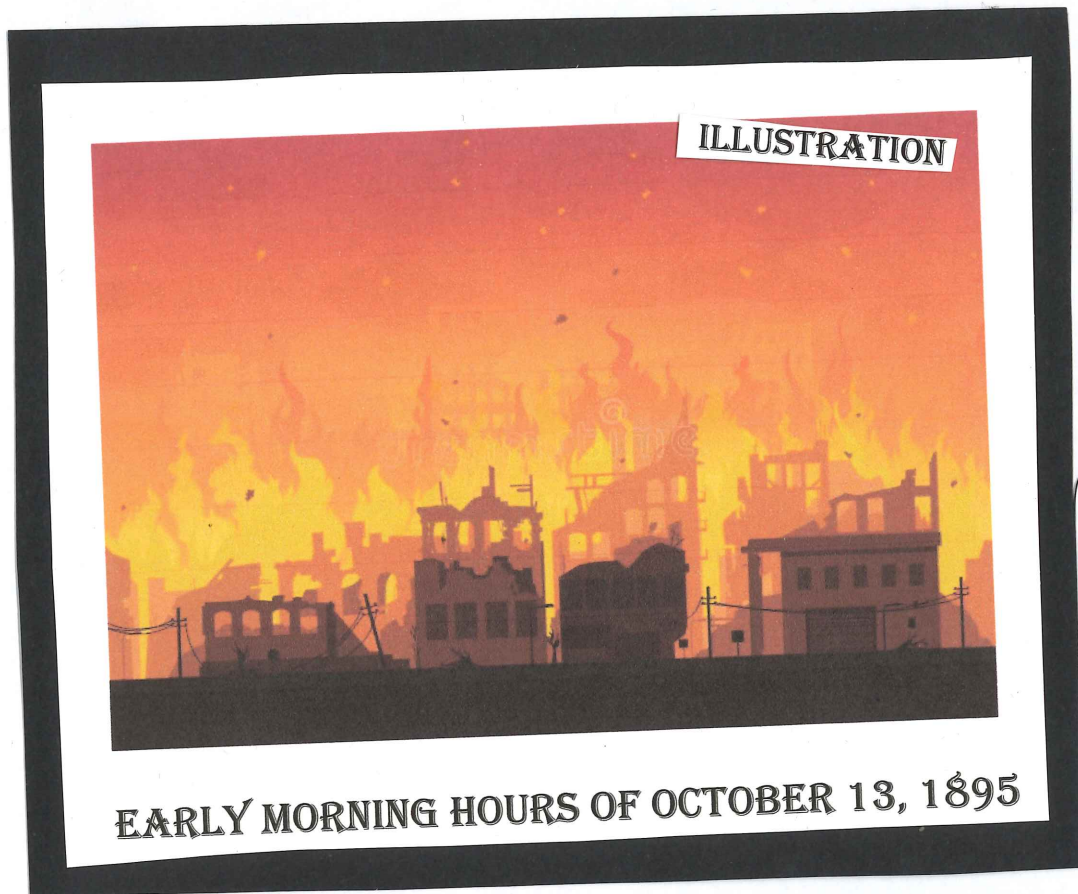
FRIDAY NITE,  
OCTOBER 12,  
1895

1895 --- DISASTER STRIKES!

23,



**24. SKY ABLAZE—In the business area, neighbors woke up to see the sky ablaze; and fire was jumping from building to building. This is an illustration because there is no photo.**

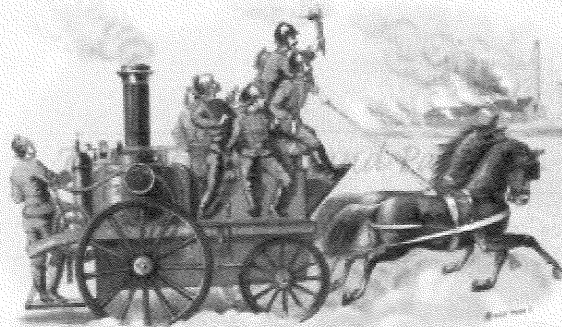


24,

**25. BATH HOOK & LADDER --Someone summoned the neighboring fire department – [the Bath Hook and Ladder Company] who came down with a horse drawn fire truck; remember it would be pitch dark out; the roads between Campbell and Bath would be a rutted dirt road of about 10 miles and it would have taken them at least 45 minutes to get here; so, by the time they got here there was no way that they could make a difference; the horses were lathered; they could only let the fire burn itself out.**

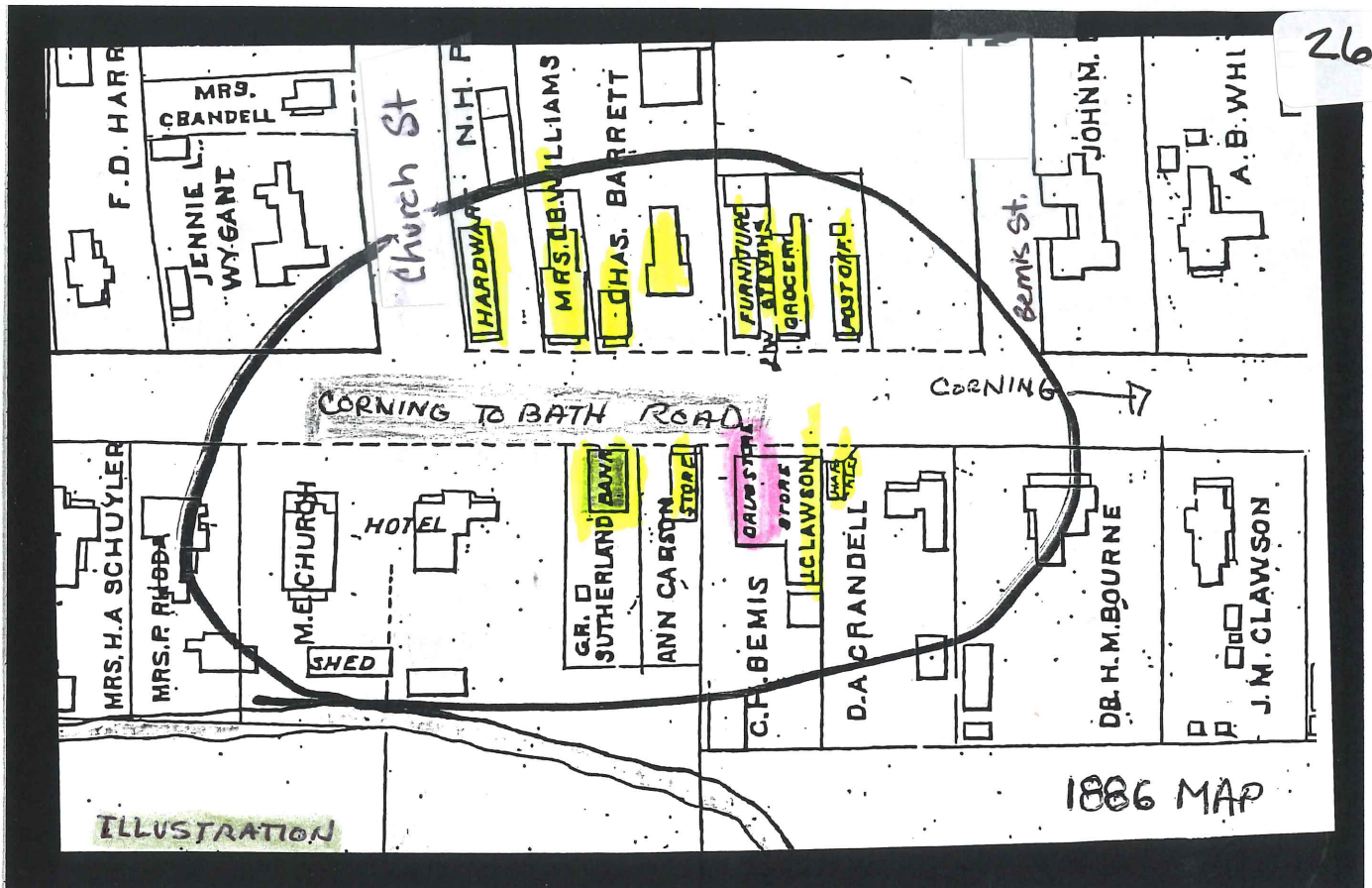
**BATH HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY**

25.



ILLUSTRATION

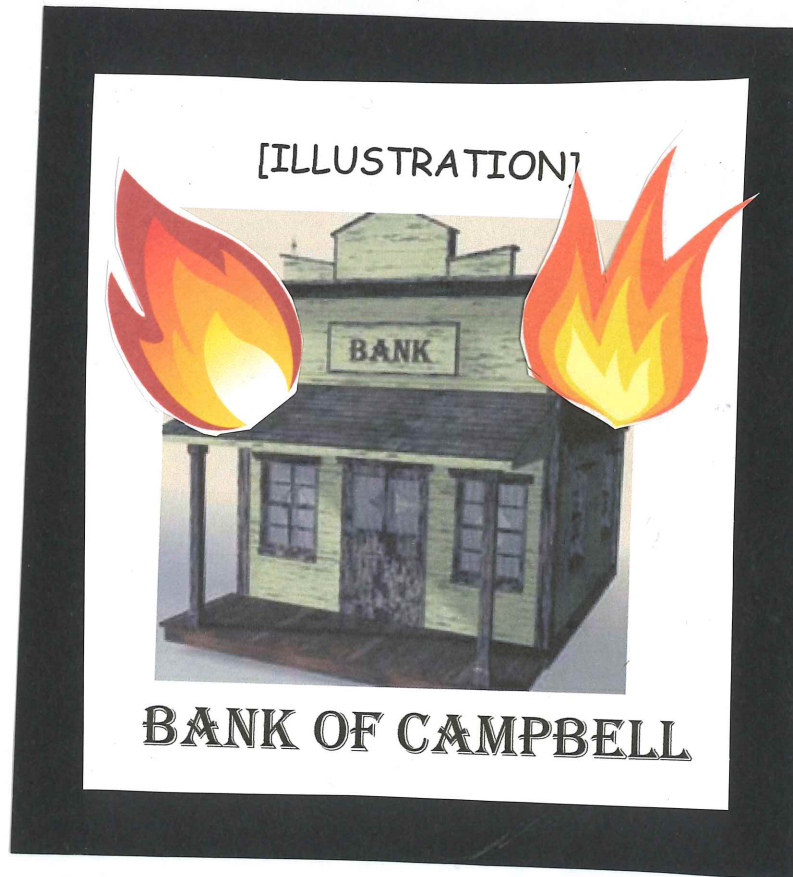
26. MAP OF 1886. On this map, we are showing the stores that had burned; it seems that the fire started at HB Willard's drug store with a defective chimney.



BUSINESSES DESTROYED IN FIRE OF 1895

**27. BANK—photo-shopped-- The Bank of Campbell had burned to the ground; however, the vault withstood the heat and the fire and saved the bank's books, securities and valuables.**

27.



**28. LOST OR DESTROYED IN 1895 FIRE: 2 general stores; several homes, meat market, post office, bank, drug & fancy store, combination furniture store and undertaking parlor—people called it “the night Campbell burned down”.**

28.

**“THE NIGHT CAMPBELL BURNED DOWN”**

**LOST OR DESTROYED IN 1895 FIRE:  
2 GENERAL STORES, SEVERAL HOMES,  
MEAT MARKET, POST OFFICE, BANK,  
DRUG AND FANCY GOODS STORE,  
COMBINATION FURNITURE STORE AND  
UNDERTAKING PARLOR**

**29. EAST SIDE OF STREET – We don't have a lot of information on the east side of the street at that time-- The map indicated that there was a hardware, Mrs. William's property, Charles Barrett property; the furniture store; Stevens' grocery and the post office. There are no photos of these properties. It's hard to say exactly.**

29.

ON THE EAST SIDE – MAP INDICATES:  
A hardware; Mrs. Williams' property;  
Charles Barrett; furniture store;  
Steven's grocery and post office.

**30. TOTAL LOST – The reported loss was \$50,000 , but converted to today’s purchasing power --- it would be equivalent to a \$1.8 million dollar loss!**

30.

TOTAL LOSS \$50,000 AND ABOUT ½  
WAS COVERED BY INSURANCE

\$50,000 IN 1895 – WOULD BE THE EQUIVALENT  
IN PURCHASING POWER TODAY OF ...

\$1,827,535.71 --OR-- \$1.8 MILLION

**31. THE VOW –The Town’s people were devastated and made a vow to rebuild with bricks; and to start a fire department in Campbell.**



31.

**32. WEST SIDE OF STREET – Shop owners on the west side of the street did rebuild –this is an early picture; note the horses -- you can see 5 buildings here.**

**Not all the buildings were built back with brick---pictured  
1<sup>st</sup> is the Bank of Campbell [this time built with bricks]**

**2<sup>nd</sup> is the Joint Hardware**

**3<sup>rd</sup> is the Willard Drug Store [remember HB Willard]**

**4<sup>th</sup> is the Platt's store –Bowlby & Platt**

**And the 5<sup>th</sup> building you see is the Wayside Inn or sometimes called Eygabroat's House**



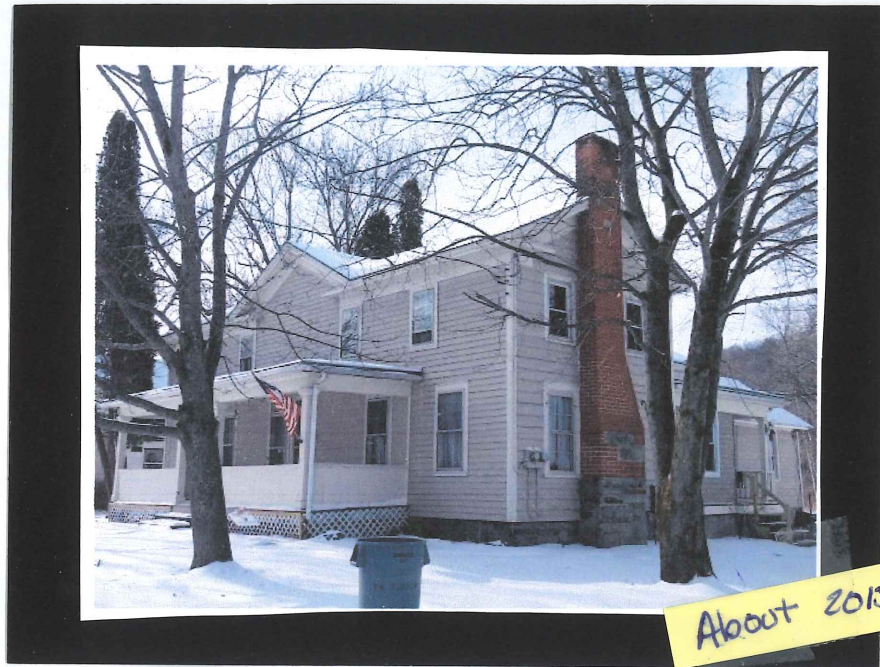
32.



**33. WEST SIDE. The next photo you see is a slightly different photo taken from the same spot, but you can see the dirt street and it looks quite muddy; notice the planks across the road for walking.**

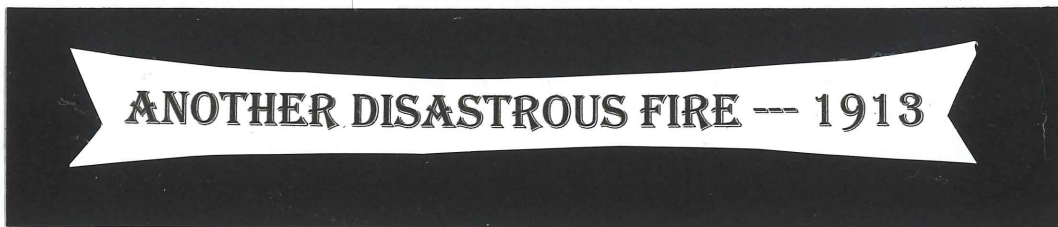


34.



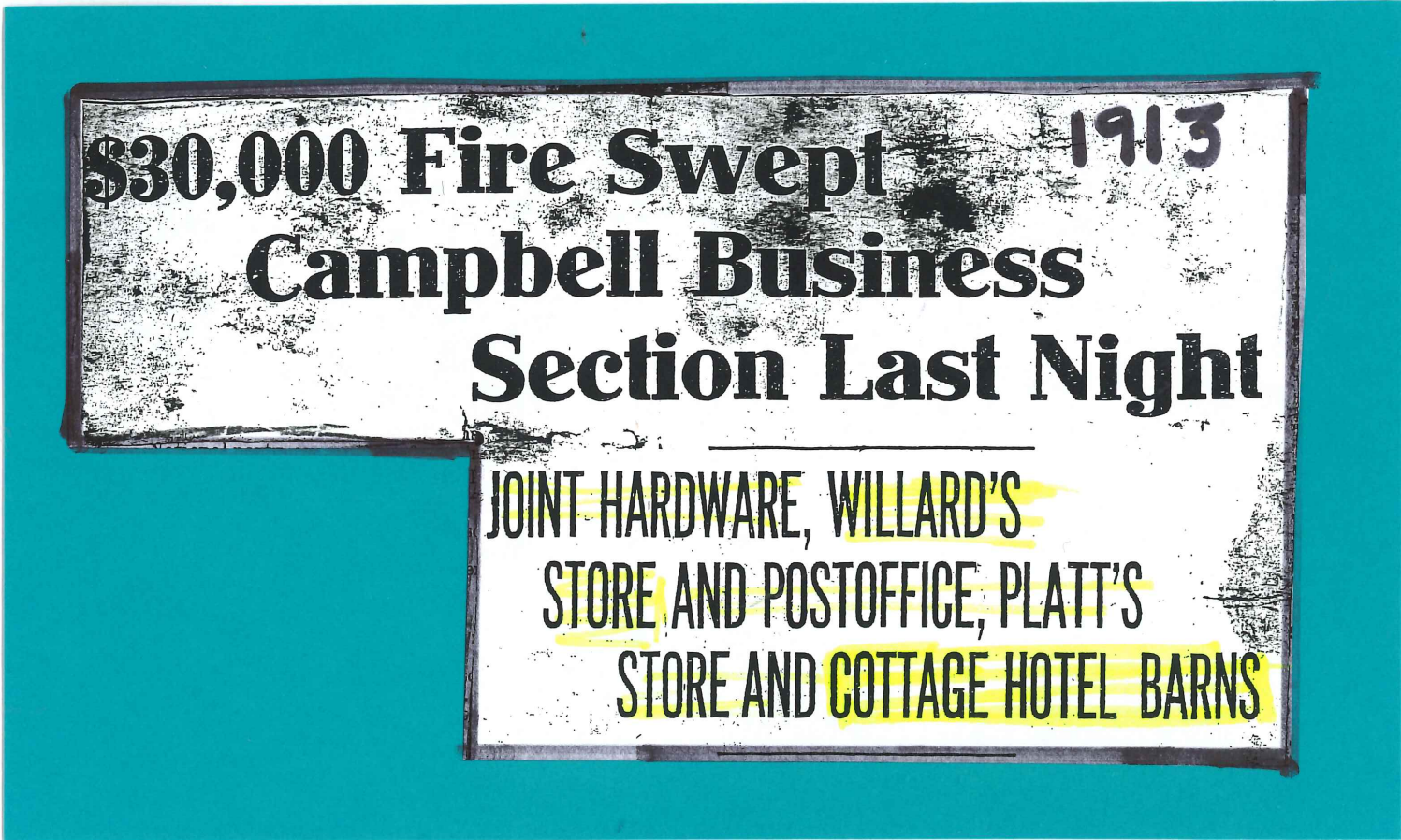
**34.      WAYSIDE INN—It's the house you can see at the end of the business section—Wayside Inn; It was sometimes called the Eygabroat House. Matt Knowles is today's owner.**

35. **ANOTHER FIRE** – before we leave this side of the street, I have to tell you about another disastrous fire in pretty much same location. **YES, disaster struck again!**
36. **NEWS HEADLINE** – Note the news headline from the 1913 newspaper-- **\$30,000 fire swept Campbell business section. It started at the rear of the Joint Hardware – cause unknown; it got Willard's Drug store again; this time the post office was in his building and the Bell Telephone exchange; it was noted they saved the government paraphernalia [Mr. Willard was the postmaster at the time].**



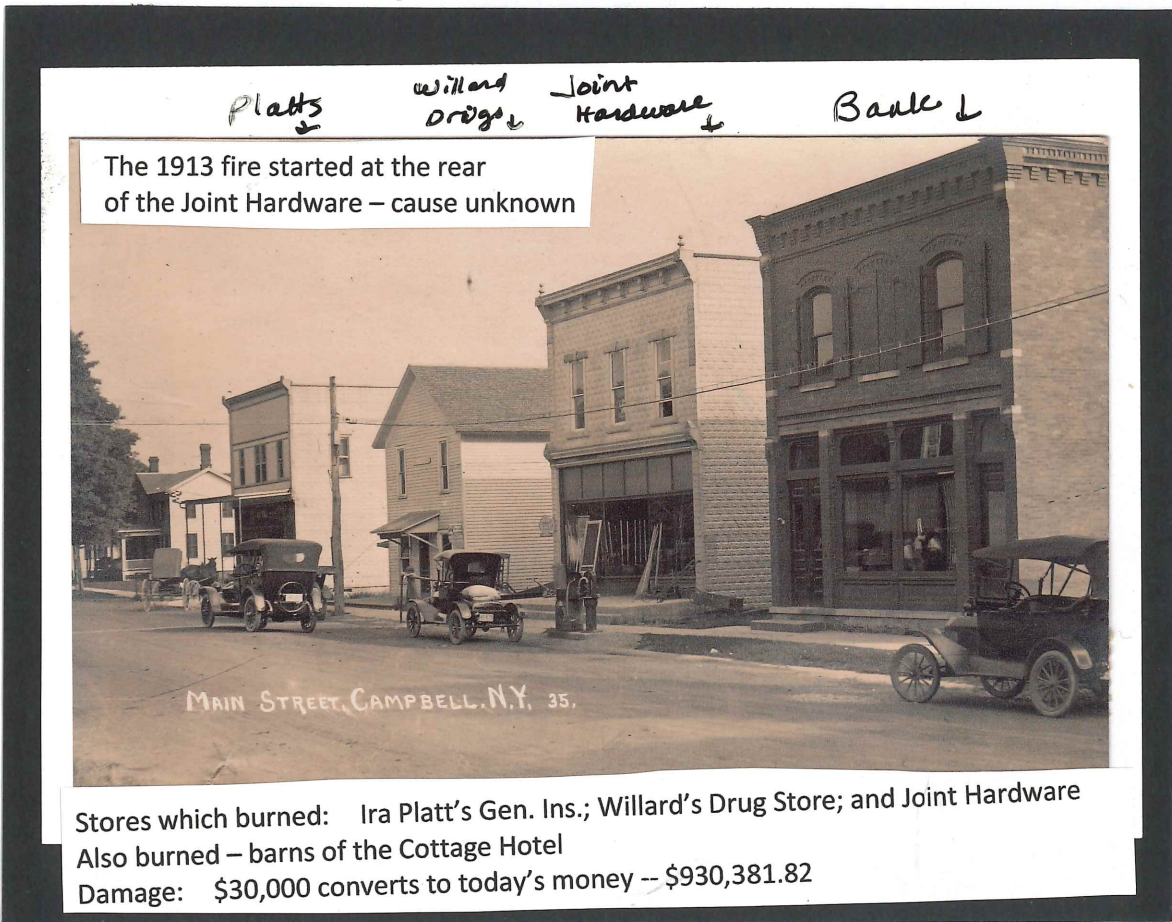
35.

36.



**37. STORES REBUILT.** The Bank of Campbell was saved in the 1913 fire; it was an operating bank until 1924; then next to it was Joint Hardware; then Willard's Drugs; then Platt's store -- Bowlby & Platt rebuilt; also burned were the barns of the Cottage Hotel --- that total fire loss—in today's purchasing power was almost a million dollars.

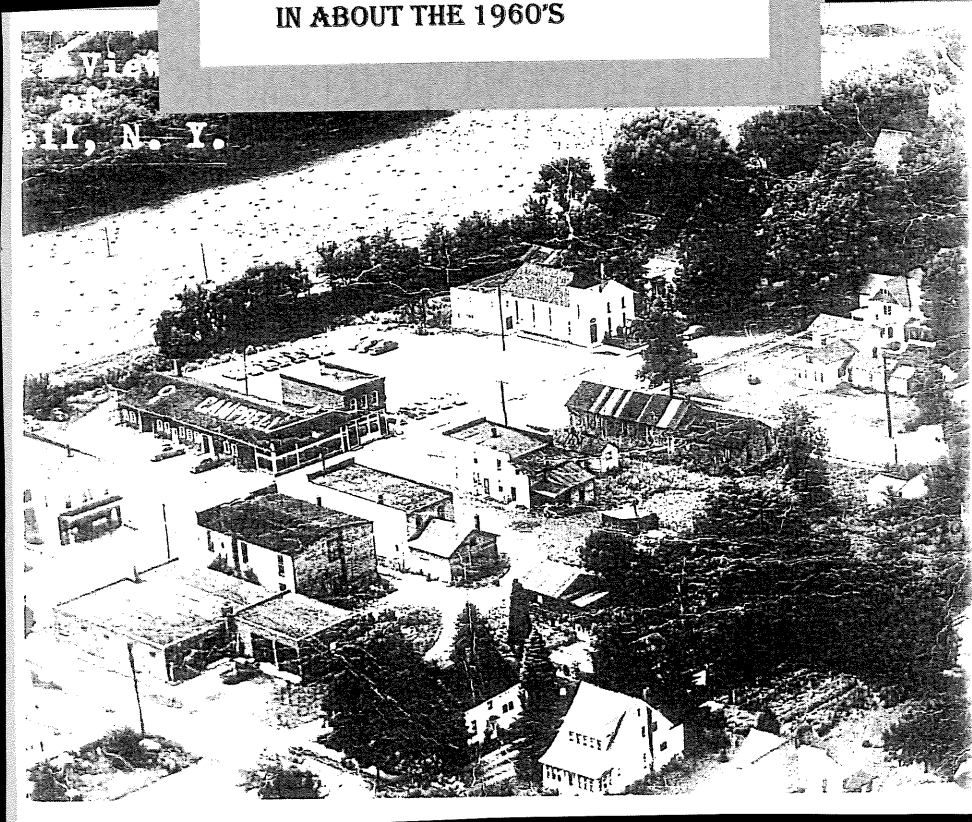
37.



**38. BIRD'S-EYE VIEW – Next we see a bird's-eye view of the old business block in the 1960's ---there is the Bank; the Methodist Church; note the old Cottage Hotel is gone by then.**

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF  
CAMPBELL'S BUSINESS BLOCK -  
IN ABOUT THE 1960'S

**38.**

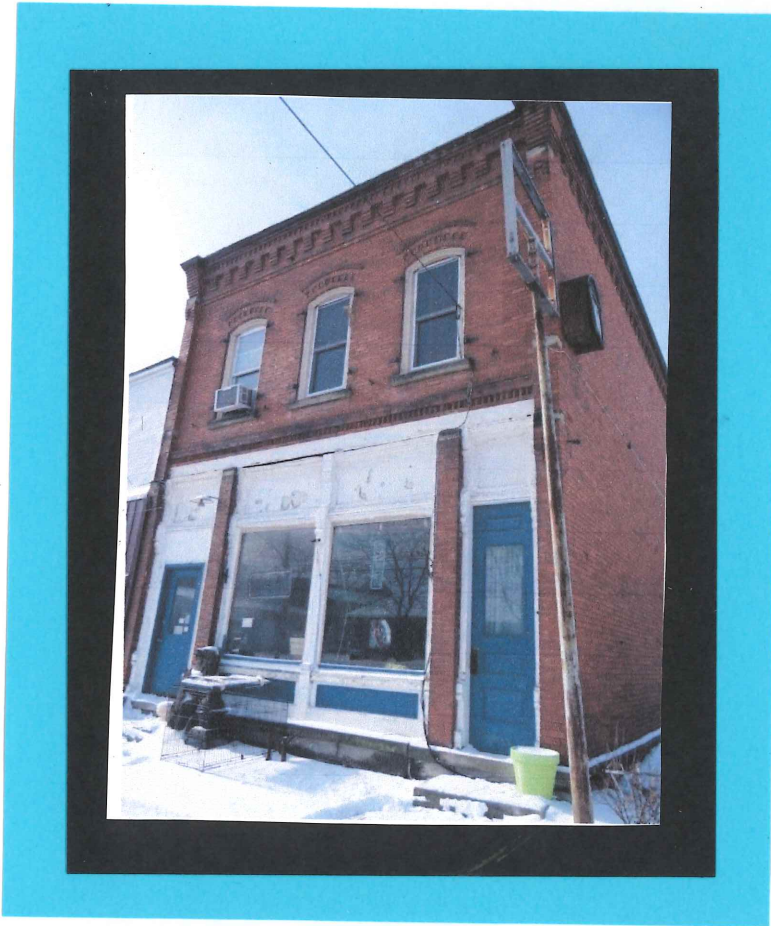


**39. BIRD'S-EYE CIRCLE. The Bank [closed in 1924] became a part of Hank [Henry] Joint's Hardware Business where he was also selling cars, tractors and horses. Then along came Gilbert Scudder who married Hank Joint's daughter in 1936 and he joined the business. When Hank Joint died in 1947, Gib Scudder took over the business and named it Scudder Motors. The spot where the old Joint Hardware was, became the Scudder Motors new car showroom. Gib Scudder ran the business until he died in 1991. Willard's Drug Store is now an empty lot. Platt's Store was the post office at that time.**



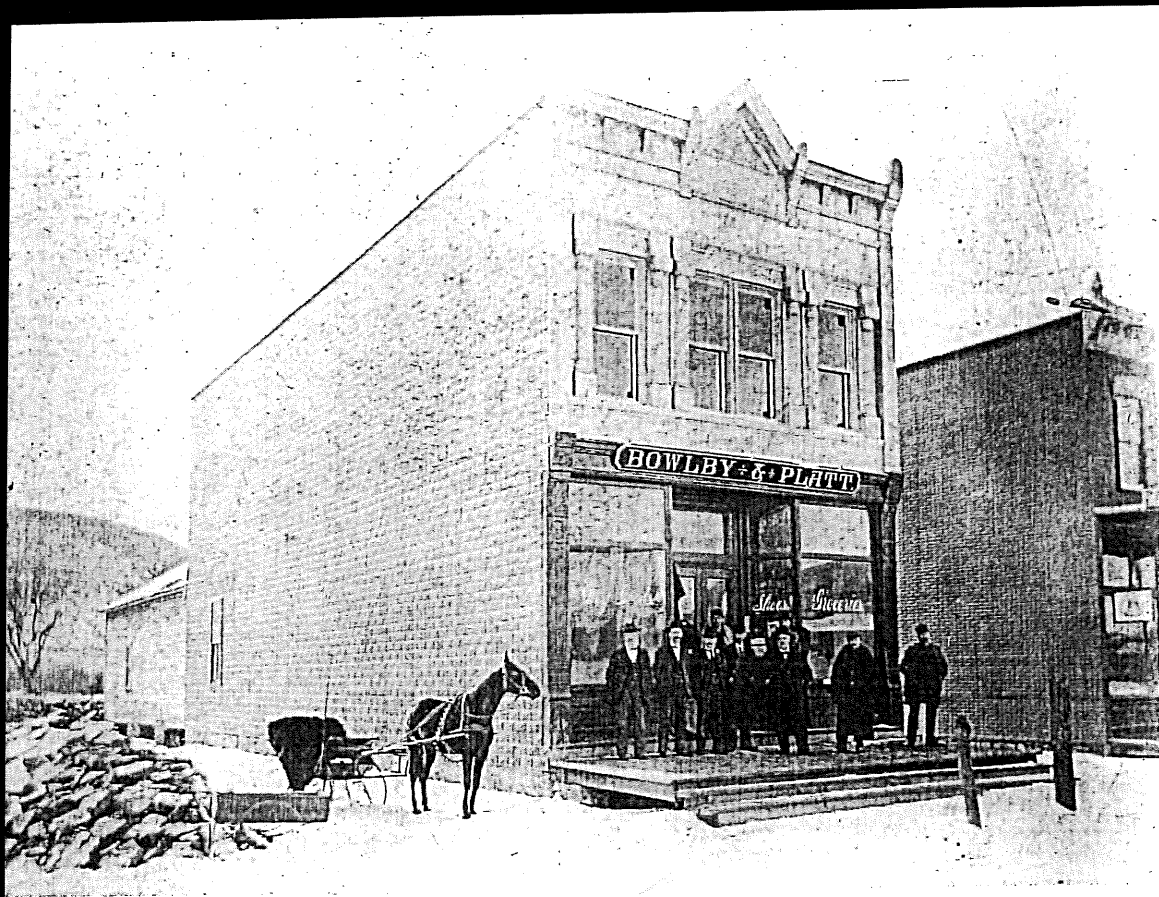
**40. FORMER BANK. This is a more recent photo of the former Bank of Campbell building and former Scudder Motors. The current owners: Alan [Skip] Lowe and his daughter, Chauncey Lowe. [2023]**

40.



**41. BOWLBY & PLATT. This is the old Bowlby and Platt building prior to 1913; I'm thinking this is an artist's rendering; notice the horse rail in front of the building.**

41.

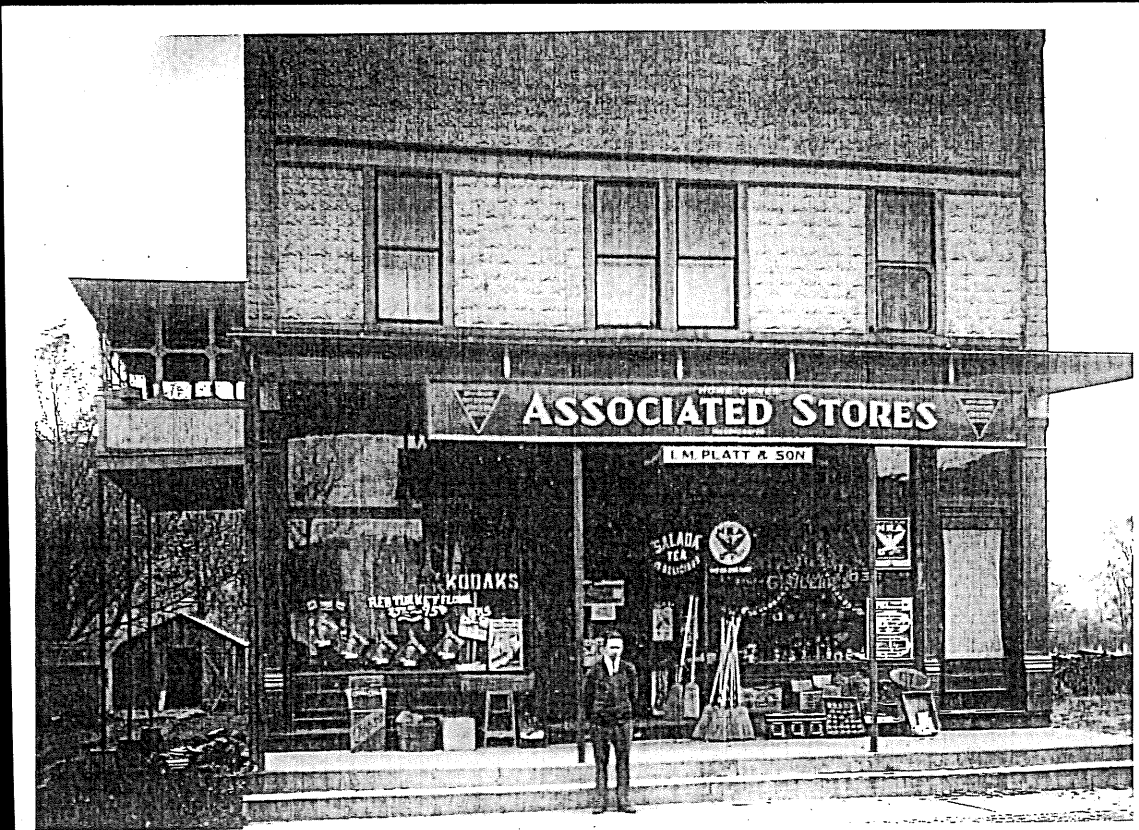


Bowlby & Platt. Prior to 1913.



**42. ASSOCIATED STORES.** The Bowlby and Platt Store did burn in 1913 fire and was rebuilt as you see it today. The man standing out front is G. Donald Platt, son of Ira M. Platt; the photo was taken in 1933. It became the old post office building.

42.



**43. PLATT BUILDING. This building is historically significant as an intact example of 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial architecture. The building is clad in sheets of metal that are pressed to look like stone or concrete – built in 1913 after the big fire. The old post office closed in the 1980's and moved to its present location down the street. This photo is more recent as it stands now has been converted to apartments. The current owner is Kevin Hooey.**



43.

**44. UP NEXT. We'll be moving on next to Segment #3 of Campbell's old main Street – It's called the "Business Block – East".**

44

NEXT UP – SEGMENT #3  
CAMPBELL'S  
"OLD MAIN STREET  
BUSINESS BLOCK – EAST"