

Seventh Street, N.W.

Seventh Street became a one-way street westbound from Broadway to Stocking on Wednesday, August 27, 1960.

410 05/04/95 8494 Pitsch
2-story cement block commercial. Rear of 757 Turner N.W.

432 *Brick gas station. 1948: Howard M. Bloom.*

442 Brick factory. Wolverine Upholstery Co.

458 Unknown dwelling. 1948: Joseph Bielecki.

520 06/30/81 7036 Riverside

521-37 Seventh N.W. American Seating Co. warehouse and shipping department. This complex of three buildings includes the original



warehouse, manufacturing building, and the power plant. Although under private ownership, the buildings remain associated with the company which is one of the largest producers of seating products, a company that has led the way in state-of-the-art product development and design for over one century. In the 19th to the 20th century, the company established its research and testing laboratory, which was one of the largest of its time. At the time of its founding, American Seating produced school desks, pews, and opera or theater seats. Stadium bleachers, transportation seating, and hospital and office furniture

of products. American Seating developed many seating innovations commonly used today, including school desks known to generations of American children; a compact folding chair, first of wood and later of steel, that was manufactured in the millions and can be found throughout the world; and the molded plastic seat, which replaced the traditional stadium seat made of elm. The warehouse and the power house, completed in 1923, were designed by the engineering firm of Neiler, Rich and Company of Chicago. No additional information about this firm can be found. The 1927 building was designed by Smith, Hinchman & Grylls of Detroit. The soaring smoke stack of the power house and the elevator tower of the manufacturing building are key visual landmarks on the city's West Side skyline. (Rebecca Smith-Hoffman, notes from public hearing minutes, Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission, January 15, 2003.) In May, 2002, approval was given by city authorities to begin a 2-year conversion of this 350,000-square-foot industrial building into a mixed-use occupancy. Chris Beckering was the project manager for Pioneer Construction on the renovation. The building has massive poured-concrete columns which swell at the tops into broad supports for concrete floors with wood overlaid. The 4-story building was built in the shape of the letter "F." The main portion of the building, stretching along Seventh Street for about 200 yards, is half leased to American Seating for its corporate offices, while the other half will be available for offices and light industrial use. The top or western wing of the "F" is 400 feet long, and holds 67 2- to 4-bedroom apartments. A much smaller single-story wing completes the "F" by jutting north from the center of the main building, and serves as a retail office furniture showroom. (Photo: Jeff Dykhouse, *GRBJ*, May 13, 2002, p. B10.)

526 07/29/88 7794

530 04/08/66 2150 *Riverside*

555 Seventh N.W. Off-Broadway Apartments. The huge north-south wing of the old American Seating plant was renovated into 67 housing units in 2003-04. Off-Broadway offers the comfort of loft, downtown efficiency, and townhouse two-, three-, and four-bedroom apartments.

Seventh & Seward N.W. This red brick industrial structure was razed during the latter part of January, 2002. The demolition permit was granted for "401 American Seating Center."
12/17/2001 9135 Pitsch

601 06/23/92 8271 Pitsch
Old Hayes plant. Original number 551-625.

644 10/30/68 2880 *Capitol*
2-story brick flat.

648-52 *3 stores, iron-clad.*

650 10/30/68 2879 *Capitol*

763 *Unknown.*

811 12/05/77 5400 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

811½ *Duplex at rear of 811.*

863 Seventh N.W. Stocking School was built in 1923-24, and opened in September, 1924. Capacity: 574. 2009-10 enrollment: 402. The school was closed in 2010, and put up for sale with an appraisal of \$535,000. In October, 2011, the city requested the Grand Rapids Public Schools to delay its sale until further work could be done to examine the site's possibilities as a public park or for some other community use.

1617-r Unknown.