



**70-86-112 Front S.W.** As can be seen from the photos, this building was actually a complex of three large buildings, with additional smaller structures at the north and south ends. The 5-story brick and concrete factory on the north was clearly an addition to the much older 4- and 3-story frame buildings on the south. In its last years, it was occupied by the Stow & Davis Furniture Co. as a factory.



(Photos: Pitsch collection, summer, 1990.)

86                    12/05/90            8110                Courtade

127-43 Front S.W. Owen-Ames-Kimball, the noted local construction firm, occupied this property between Watson and Butterworth Streets as a shop and yard from 1916 until March of 2000. The property was sold to Grand Valley State University for its expansion. (Cf. *G.R. Press*, Tuesday, March 7, 2000, p. B5.)

127                    05/15/2000        8980                H & M Demolition

140                    08/05/86            7534                Riverside  
No sewer. No utilities.

212-14

237-47                04/14/69            3019                Capitol

259 Front S.W. The Michigan Hearse and Carriage Company is first found in the Grand Rapids city directory for the year 1905, likely indicating that it had been established during the previous year. The location given is the southwest corner of Front Avenue and Earle (now Emperor) Street, S.W., two blocks north of Wealthy Street. By 1908, the location of the firm changed to 1512 Union Avenue, S.E., where it remained until it is no longer found in the directories by the mid-1920's. The original factory, at 259 Front Avenue, S.W., became a hide tannery, and has served in that capacity to the present day. In a typical year, the president of the Michigan Hearse and Carriage Company was Alvah J. Brown, who lived at 501 Paris Avenue, S.E. Mr. Brown was also the president and manager of the Durfee Embalming Fluid Company at 121-23 Commerce Avenue, S.W. Vice president and treasurer of Michigan Hearse and Carriage was Patrick H. O'Brien, who along with his brother Thomas operated O'Brien Brothers mortuary at 129 Fulton Street, E. Secretary of Michigan Hearse and Carriage was Arthur C. Chapman, who resided at 1062 Jefferson Avenue, S.E. (N.B.: All street addresses given in this summary are according to the revised and current street numbering system introduced by city ordinance in 1912.)

269

312                    11/26/69            3281                Houting & Meeusen

322                    09/28/92            8297                Pitsch  
35,000 square feet. Site of proposed Corrections Center.