

Michigan Street, N.W.

7-19 Michigan N.W. Michigan National Guard Armory. (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1916. Another photo in GRPL 125-C035899.)



7-19

10/19/62

1430

Capitol

Sewer line to be taken care of by freeway.

26 Michigan N.W. Grand Rapids Brewing Company. Brewing came to Grand Rapids in 1836 when Englishman John Pannell opened a small brewing house north of Lyon Street, about where the Old Kent Bank parking lot is now (1996) located. In 1849, Pannell sold out to his partner, German brewer Christopher Kusterer. He opened a brewery at the southwest corner of Michigan and Ionia, where a large, gushing spring produced 40 gallons of pure water a minute, enough for 21 million gallons of beer a year. A group of six local brewers, including Kusterer's son, consolidated to form the Grand Rapids Brewing Company. Kusterer's original building was replaced by a large, castle-like structure in 1895, designed by Chicago architect Louis Lehle. Additions were made in 1905, for the company was the largest producer of beer in western Michigan, offering a variety of fermented grain beverages including "Silver Foam" beer, "Hops and Malt" beer, porter, bock beer, and Pilsner. In 1918, Prohibition closed all of the city's breweries, a blow from which the Grand Rapids Brewing Company never recovered. Although the venerable brewery reopened when repeal came in 1933, an uphill battle against larger regional and national companies lay ahead. In 1940, the Grand Rapids Brewing Company sold out to the Peter Fox Brewing Company of Chicago, and Fox DeLuxe beer was brewed at the site until all operations were removed to Chicago. On December 13, 1951, the last keg of beer brewed by the Grand Rapids Brewing Company was loaded onto a delivery truck and sent on its way. The City of Grand Rapids purchased the old brewery in 1954 for \$160,000, and city manager George Welsh proposed using it as the new county jail because of its proximity to police headquarters. When that idea was defeated, planners proposed to convert the building into an alcohol rehabilitation clinic, a suggestion that was equally unpopular with city commissioners. Eventually, the building was relegated to use by a variety of city departments, including the police, who used one area as their motor pool or garage and another area as an indoor pistol range. Finally, the building was sold to the State of Michigan, which built a new state office building on the site. Cf. "GR Losing 'Medieval Castle'--Old Brewery," GRH Sunday, 09/07/1952, Part 2, p. 1, by Eugene Bilinsky. 3 photos of interior. Notes that Michigan and Ionia is the site suggested for a new county jail.

26	10/26/66	2300	Urban Renewal
35	03/25/63	1546	L.A. Davidson

101

102-04 04/28/65 1919 *Urban Renewal*

105-07-09 05/06/63 1575 Urban Renewal
Photo in GRPL 125, Capitol collection.

106 04/28/65 1920 *Urban Renewal*

108 04/28/65 1921 Urban Renewal

112 04/28/65 1922 *Urban Renewal*

113-17 04/24/63 1559 *Urban Renewal*

114 04/28/65 1923 *Urban Renewal*

116 04/28/65 1924 Urban Renewal

117-19-21 04/17/63 1556 *Urban Renewal*

118

120 04/28/65 1918 Urban Renewal

123 Michigan N.W. This building at the northeast corner of Michigan and Bond was built in 1892, and for many years was occupied by the G. Waltz meat market. (Old address:

29 E. Bridge St. Photo: *Deutsche Kirmes* [Grand Rapids, MI: Arbeiter-Unterstützungs-Verein, 1901], p. 32.)



128 07/01/65 1964 Urban Renewal

129-39 08/28/63 1635 *Urban Renewal*

132 07/01/65 1965 *Urban Renewal*

134 07/01/65 1966 *Urban Renewal*

136 08/25/65 2008 *Urban Renewal*

138 08/25/65 2004 *Urban Renewal*

140

141-51 08/28/63 1634 Urban Renewal

These addresses were all in the Hermitage / Earle / Sims Hotel.

142

145 Michigan N.W. Hermitage Hotel. This 6-story red brick hotel was later known as the Reid (a Milner hotel, c. 1945-48), the Earle (c. 1955), and the Sims (c. 1960).

Addresses in this building included 141-51 Michigan N.W. and 404-08 Monroe N.W.

(Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1913.)



201 Michigan N.W. Olds Manor. On January 1, 1923, the \$1.5 million Hotel Olds opened, boasting a glitzy lobby, 300 guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and dining and dancing in the famous Hunt Room. The hotel offered superb banquet and convention facilities for 600. In March, 1933, the hotel, by then called the Rowe, was sold to satisfy debts accumulated during the Depression. World War II found the hotel being used as a weather training school by the Army Air Corps. A year later, the New York-based Manger hotel chain assumed the operation and changed the name to the Manger-Rowe Hotel. On September 17, 1958,



Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy, while on the presidential campaign trail, checked into the Manger-Rowe after holding a joint press conference with 5th District congressional candidate Richard VanderVeen and Michigan Lieutenant Governor Philip Hart. In 1961, the hotel became the Randall House, operated by the Randall Fulfillment Project, which was connected with Fountain Street Church. The project, which was to be a home for the elderly, failed and the building was purchased by John Sims and opened as the Sims Inn. In 1963, the hotel was purchased by Michigan Baptist Homes and Development Co., and renovations began to turn it into a home for the elderly, to be called Olds Manor. In March, 1979, the property was purchased by New York-based United Vanguard Homes Inc. In March, 2001, a potential purchase by Rockford Construction Co. fell through. The closing of the Olds Manor was announced in late August, 2001, and by October the 145 residents had been moved to other facilities. Businessman Peter Secchia continued to look at the building with interest. (G.R. Press, Wednesday, August 22, 2001, A1 & A4.) (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1959.)

206

207

209

217

218

01/07/64

1704

Urban Renewal

221-39 Michigan N.W. Grand Trunk Western Railroad passenger station. Opened in 1907. Razed in December, 1960, for the new U.S. Post Office. (Photos: Morrow postcard



collection. Left, c. 1907. Right, c. 1920. The Valley City Milling Co. building to the east, between the station and the Clarendon (later Rowe) Hotel, burned in 1919 and then was completely destroyed by fire in 1923. The Berkey & Gay furniture plant in the background was destroyed by fire in 1943.)

221

12/09/60

122

City Wide Wrecking