

Keith's Corner/McGill News

November 22, 2019

Bank/Antique Store Building

The building that houses the McGill Thrift Store and the McGill Antiques has undergone a lot of changes over the years.

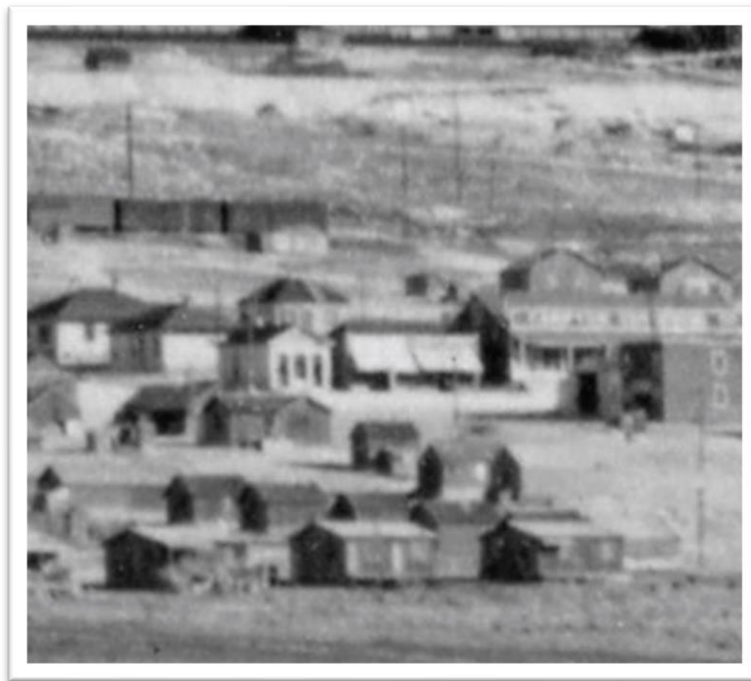


Figure 1--This is a huge enlargement of a photo taken in 1909. The bank/antique store are at center left. The bank has a gable roof and 2 doors and a window. The large Campton Mercantile store is at center right. The Antique store appears to have a full length awning.. I can't make out any names.



Figure 2--Bank with gable roof, Antique store with awning, Campton store, The store on the left is an unknown Drug store, (can't quite make it out, on the right is the NYE Bros. Note the cut off pole in a cement foundation, the fireplug and NO power pole. 1907-10?



Figure 3--This photo was sent to me from Alaska by the great grandson of one of the NYE Bros. The cloth awning is there. Looks like a boardwalk is there. 1908 circa.



Figure 4--Still NYE Bros. on the right but the McGill Candy Kitchen is on the left. Note the flagpole, fireplug, horse hitching posts ,awnings. Power poles in distance have only ONE yardarm. Also, note the bottom end of the bank's GABLE roof.

In Fig. 2 there are no flagpoles, no hitching posts . So which photo is the oldest?
It is really hard to date some of this. There are no dates on the photos.



Figure 5--This photo was probably taken from high up in the Clubhouse. The gas station on the corner is not there. The Stone Theater, later the Rec Hall is in the lower right corner. The boarding house is there and the Cypress Hall above the McGill Club. The bank roof is flat, not gable. There are two windows on the north side. There is a two door garage behind the bank, which is now where the vault is. I would assume this photo was taken in the early 20s.



Figure 6--The roof on the bank is now flat and the front of the bank has almost doubled in width. An extra door and window were added. The window on the north side is still there. The pole in the cement is there but seems to have been cut off. There is a power pole now and it has two yardarms like in Fig. 5. The flagpole is there. The store on the left is now the McGill Candy Kitchen and the one on the right is now Bernstein's Clothiers and the cloth awning is now a solid fixed one. In all these photos the Campton store is not turned as it is now (Bradleys).



Figure 7--This looks like the early 50s. The bank is white and there is one door and one window. The Chevron station is there. Notice the cars parked in front of the high curb. that curb was removed sometime in the late 50s or early 60s. The lone gas pump in front of Goodmans is still there. Note the street light post. The black car in front of the light post belonged to Lamar Frandsen's parents. It was later sold to Jack VanCamp of Ely. Note the black bottom trim on the bank.



Figure 8--This was taken after the high curb was removed as shown by the cars parking close to the stores. The bank is darker. Maybe it is the new brick work. The station is now a Beeline. The lone gas pump is gone. This was at Christmas, the year they dropped ping pong balls from an airplane.

McGill News

Some more changes happened to the bank last week.



The McGill Theater was recently purchased by Rudy Hernaden (he owns the IOOF Hall), from Nancy Johnson. He has contracted a roofer to begin putting a new membrane roof, so it will be protected from the weather. They propose to be done by next weekend. They missed 18 days of great weather, no wind, no clouds and temps of middle 60s. Now we are expecting snow today Wed, Nov. 20. Here is an interesting and scary event that happened to me yesterday Nov 19. I was at the WP library looking for some information on the old Ragtown area. I was looking on a shelf about eye level when for no apparent reason my right arm went up to the top shelf and pulled out a tiny red book, with no name on the binding or cover. It felt weird doing this. I laid the book on the table and flipped it open and it opened on this picture.



There is the name of the drug store. I think it is Ford's. I checked the book out so I could get the photo and mentioned how it happened to the lady and she said that there was a ghost that helped people find things. Don't know whether she was spoofing me or not.