728 & 734 MAIN STREET ACKLEY, IOWA

A BRIEF HISTORY

1900

728 Main St
1902
Dentel's Store opens selling groceries, stoves, and hardware until 1962.

734 Main St
1920s
Frantz Photo Studio operated in the upstairs. You can see the solid glass second story he had installed on the downtown aerial.

734 Main St
1950s
The front of building was updated.

728 Main St
1950s
Tot & Teen opens selling clothing until the 1980s.

734 Main St
1962
Ed's Appliance opens until 1988.

728 Main St
2000s
Muller's Tea Shop opens and later Irena Necrascova opened Gaslight Cafe in the space.

734 Main St
1988
Muller's Appliance opens selling refrigerators, stoves, and gifts until 2011.

728 Main St
2013
Ackley Appliance Repair opens

734 Main St
2012
Shea Studio opens photography studio.

728 Main St
2016
Ackley Youth Center opens

728 Main St
2013
Neon Moon Boutique opens

734 & 728 Main St
2017
Buildings collapse

2020

Built To Last

During the 1890s, water mains and sewer drains were laid while electric lights and telephone service became available in Ackley. This and the continued rise of the railroad led to Ackley's business district to be booming in the early 1900s. There were many businesses up and down Main Street as well as along the railroad. The community celebrated the first Sauerkraut Days on September 17, 1903, which continues today.

September 15
Buildings began to collapse when section of the retaining wall between the two buildings collapsed.

November 15
Building tenants vacate building for the final time.

November 26
Wall collapsed and buildings declared a complete loss.

Waiting To Be Demolished

These buildings have stood the test of time. But after 120 years, they need to come down. Our hope is to raise the funds to safely demolish the buildings in 2020. Maybe it is time for a new modern facility or a downtown green space. Either way, we need support to make it happen. We are working towards preserving the beauty of downtown Ackley so that generations to come can enjoy the place many of us call home.

Photo Gallery

Courtesy of Ackley Heritage Center and Shea Studio

Dentel's Store
1902 - 1962

Downtown
1923

Downtown
1950s

Tot & Teen
1950s - 1980s

Muller's Appliance
1988 - 2011

Shea Studio
2012 - 2017

How You Can Help

We are looking for volunteers, financial support, and visionaries.

Contact Deb or Korin at (641) 847-2336
or stop into King's Hometown in downtown Ackley.

The Ackley Heritage Center helped us gather this information.
Visit them at 120 State St, Ackley, Iowa or call (641) 847-8070