



11
Otto F. Meyer Building
1865-70

The facade of this handsome red brick building has been virtually unaltered above the ground floor since the 1880s. Various owners and tenants have included druggists, grocers, and tobacco and wine and liquor dealers. Originally, Meyer's merchandise store was located at the ground level, and the two upper stories housed a pharmacy. The Star Billiard Parlor occupied the building from 1911 to 1973.

Round-arched window heads with soft limestone keystones and limestone string-courses are distinctive features of the Italianate style facade.



13 (right)
1853

A brick building was constructed on this site in 1853 by Alan Bates, an attorney. About 1900, the building was completely remodeled. It now has a pressed metal bay at the second story dating from the remodeling, and two cast iron columns from the original design. At the time of its remodeling it was operated as a billiard hall by Levant L. Leffingwell.

O. F. MEYER & Co.,
DEALERS IN
Choice Family Groceries,
FRUITS,
Wines and Liquors,
CANNED GOODS, CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE,
No. 45 N. Main St., Janesville, Wis.

NORTH MAIN STREET



15
Alan Bates Building
1865

Alan Bates erected this building about a decade after adjoining 13. It retains many of its original Italianate details, including round-arched windows at the second story, and cast iron columns and pilasters manufactured at the Rock River Iron Works. Bates rented the first floor to the proprietor of a dry goods store and maintained his law office on the second floor.

Alan Cole Bates (1822–1891) was a native of Sacket's Harbor, New York. He arrived in Janesville at the age of 21 and practiced law here for seventy years. He served as Second Ward alderman (1853–1874), as a State Legislator, and as Justice of the Peace. He built thirteen business blocks and owned a fine residence in Janesville.



21 1/2
1855

This narrow Greek Revival building with its pair of tall windows is among the oldest to survive in downtown Janesville. The window treatment at the second story is notable for the characteristic use of simple stone sills and lintels. Locally-manufactured cast iron columns are exposed at the entry. A. Horn, a jeweler, was the builder.

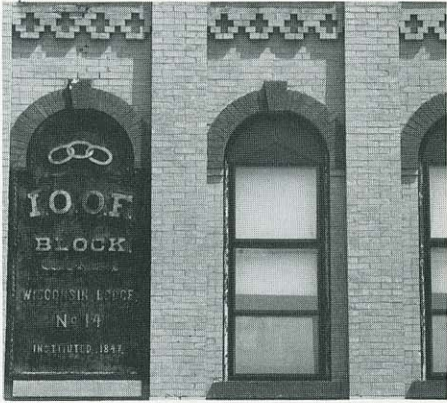
The northwest corner of N. Main and E. Milwaukee Streets; the Jackman Block is at left, and the Otto F. Meyer Building is third from left. Photograph 1888.



NORTH MAIN STREET



18-24
1866-68



A fire in December of 1865 destroyed a number of buildings on North Main Street as well as those several blocks to the east. The block was rebuilt between 1866 and 1868 and the rebuilding resulted in these excellent examples of post-Civil War commercial architecture. Although erected for three owners, the cream brick facades are treated in a unified manner with round arched windows, and identical deep, bracketed cornices. At the ground level, cast iron pilasters with foliate capitals serve both decorative and structural purposes. The cast iron pilasters are stamped RRIW, for the Rock River Iron Works. 22 North Main is of particular note, for its brick voussoirs topped by keystones at the upper story windows and ornamental brickwork under the third story windows.



18 North Main was first used as a saloon, and then a grocery. 20 North Main has housed a hardware store, a plumbing business, a shooting gallery and later, a saloon.

22-24 North Main has been occupied by the Wisconsin Lodge #14 of the I.O.O.F. for many years.

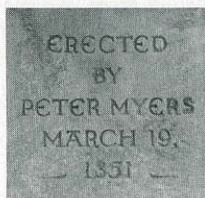
NORTH MAIN STREET



119–123

Peter Myers Pork Packing Plant
ca. 1851

These buildings contained the pork packing business established and operated by Peter Myers. Myers (1819–1888) was born in France and learned the trade of a butcher in the United States as a young man. In 1845 he arrived in Janesville. His first business was a meat market, but he soon turned to pork packing. He acquired considerable wealth at this enterprise, and built a number of other commercial buildings including the Myers Hotel, the Myers Opera House, the Myers Armory Block, the Galbraith Stables, and the Young America Block. Myers was also an investor in a number of early firms in the city, including the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Rock County National Bank, two railroads, and the Janesville Cotton Mills.



The facade of 119–121 is treated very simply, while 123 has more elaborate brickwork at the window arches and cornice. The first story retains its cast-iron columns.

By 1870, the first floor of the block was subdivided. The pork packing plant continued in operation, but a gas steam fitter's shop occupied 119.

Follow the riverwalk to the Milwaukee Street bridge to resume the tour at the foot of West Milwaukee Street. You will pass River's Edge Park, with its sculpture by Joseph Kinnebrew (1981).