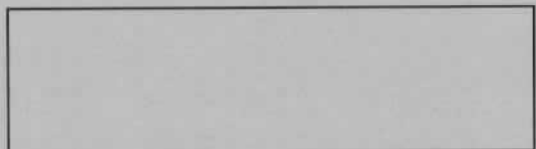


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Brighton's Main Four Corners

After the destruction of the Eastern House on the northeast corner of Main and Grand River in 1926, a variety of enterprises attempted to establish themselves. Among the earliest were a brick store, a restaurant and gas station hoping to continue serving the local and traveling public. These failed during the Depression of the 1930s and were torn down.

The resulting clearing seemed an ideal location for a car sales business. Walker Chevrolet appeared in 1935. This was followed by Leech Motor Sales around 1940. Bev Smith Motors (1944-1947) later became John Weise Ford, the last car dealership before the site was cleared. A strip mall with A&P grocery was constructed in 1960.

Uber's Drugs located there from their West Main location in 1963, staying 33 years until 1996. A Farmer Jack store succeeded the A&P in 1971, to be followed in 1977 by Sefa's Grocery. Sefa's had moved from 9810 E. Grand River. They had been in that location since 1962. Their business was open for 20 years before closing in 1997.

The site then became the Brighton Shopping Plaza in June 1997. After Sefa's closed, Arbor Drugs opened in 1997. Others in the Plaza included a laundry, photo shop, computer shop, etc. Most recently, tenants include CVS Pharmacy, O'Reilly Murray's Auto Parts and Sushi Zen.

The 1967 Brighton Centennial issue of the Brighton Argus records Malcom Fitch as the first tinner in town with a tin shop in a two-story building on the corner. By 1893 it was described as the Conley Tin Shop. When brothers Will & Fred Stuhrberg owned the Eastern House, this site across E. Main was used as a

storage house for carriages. They likely also stored other horse-drawn conveyances and equipment there. Our archives hold a photo of George Smith and his team in front of the building in 1906. Another photo shows the north side of the building. An exterior staircase indicates apartments were rented there. An 1898 ad publicizes that C.E. Cushing, with Oscar W Babcock and Henry Sowle, made and sold harnesses here.

Research has not so far revealed when the frame building was displaced. A 1921 reference, including a photo, tells us E.L. Boilare sold meats at the store in a one-story building. At some time, the Stuhrbergs also had meat available there. A February 1931 clipping states "K.J. Lehman took over the Stuhrberg meat market on the 4th". In April 1931, it states "Lawrence Navarre became a partner of K.J. Lehman in the meat business."

During the 1930s, a Pastry Shop and Watson & O'Leary Dairy sold dairy, eggs, etc. In the early 1940s, Mabel Herbst opened a Malt Shop. Lunches and hamburgers were a specialty that many high schoolers trooped from the school on Church Street to enjoy. Mabel's daughters often helped their mother; maybe that had something to do with the many male customers.

By 1950, the sign outside read Walker's Grill & Malt Shop. By 1955, it was Haller's Grill, followed by the Brass Lantern in 1969. In 1973, the Brass Lantern acquired a liquor license, transferred from 132 E. Grand River. By 1994, it became the Cap & Cork liquor store. In 2007, this site was cleared and a new building now houses Rottermond Jewelry.

*Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Brighton Argus clippings
Additions/corrections requested. (810) 229-6402.*