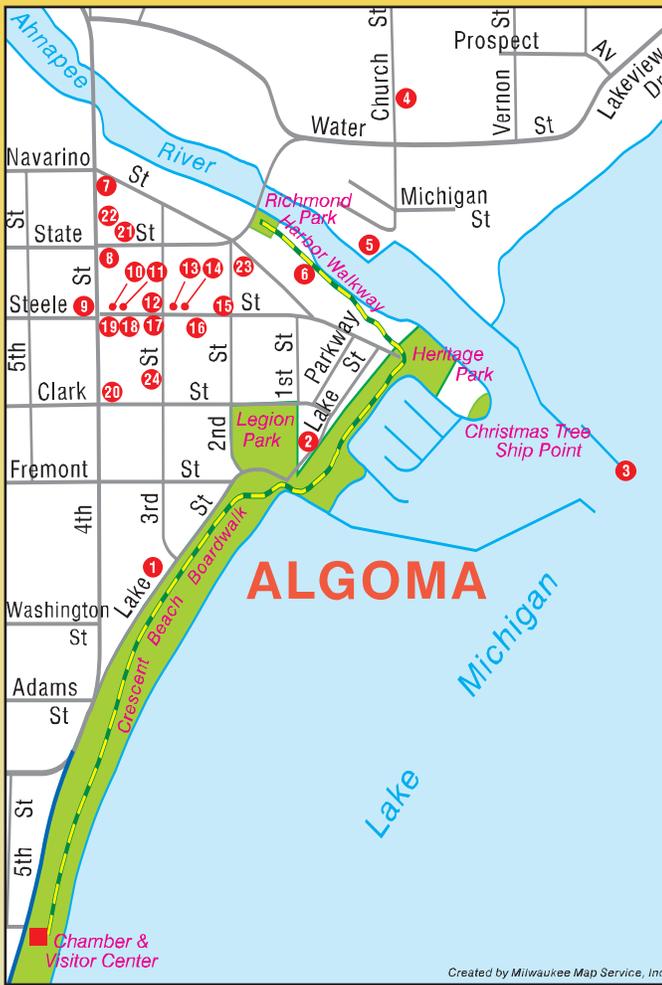


Historic Algoma Walking Tour

Volume II

A Brief Guide to Downtown Algoma's Historic Sites



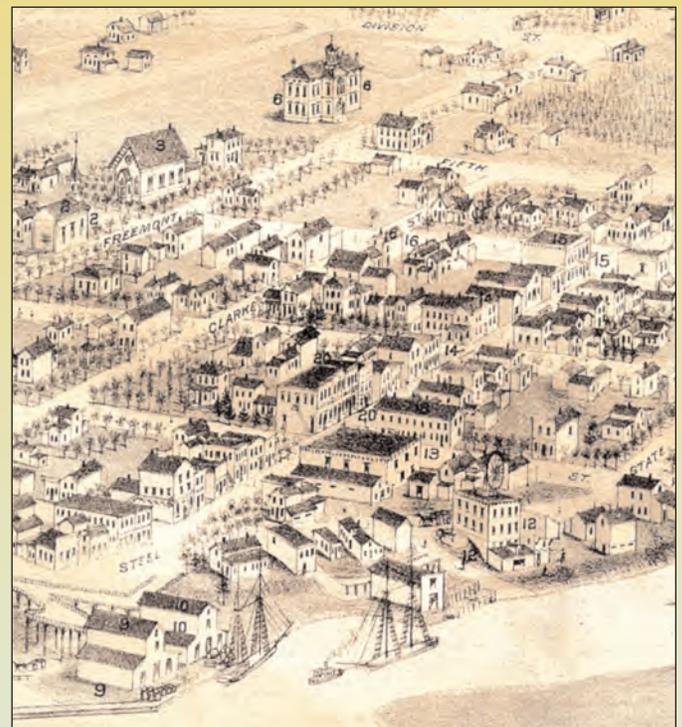
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*Developed by Community Improvement of Algoma
Main Street Program*

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Today's Main Street District encompasses all of the original town site of Wolf River, platted by land speculators David Youngs and George Steele in 1855. With the construction of a pier and establishment of a post office in 1856, the community became connected with the outside world. Early merchants built stores, hotels, and livery stables to serve the growing farm community. Warehouses were built dockside along the river to house goods shipped into the town and to store lumber and farm produce awaiting shipment to Lake Michigan ports. Immediately following the Civil War, the formerly Yankee village witnesses the arrival of large numbers of German, Bohemian, and Belgian settlers. Until the arrival of the railroad in 1891, the town grew slowly. However, the railroad brought an unprecedented boom in business, industrial, and residential development. Manufactured products, farm produce, and fresh fish could be shipped quickly and cheaply.



St. Agnes Church c. 1900

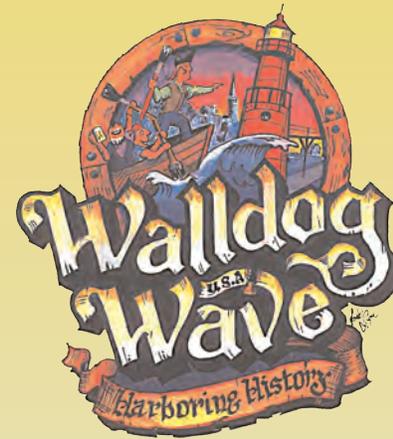
1. St. Agnes Episcopal Church

St. Agnes was organized in 1877 as Grace Episcopal Church. The original structure was constructed in 1878 using plans prepared by Richard Upjohn, renowned architect of New York City's Trinity Church,

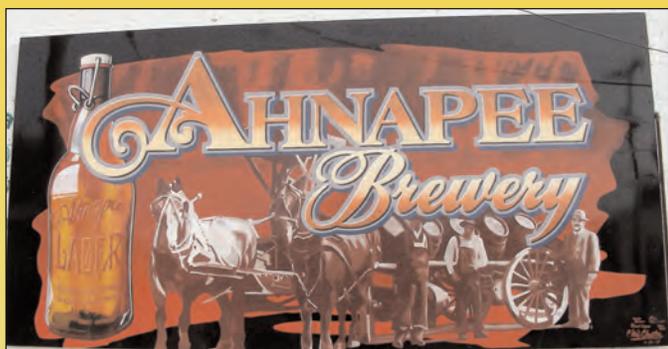


(K) Reinhart Brothers Shoe Store

Project Leading Artist: David Petri
Sponsored by The Reinhart Family



Wall Street. That first church was destroyed by fire in March of 1884. The present building, an exact copy of the first, was built in 1891. The interior, carefully restored, is noteworthy for its abundance of beautiful oak woodwork, outstanding statuary carved by artisans from Oberammergau, Germany, and colorful Victorian stained glass windows.

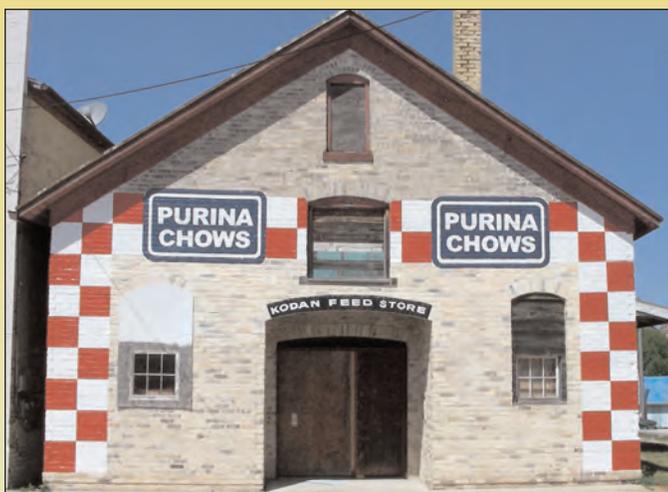


(I) Ahnapee Brewery

Project Leading Artist: Nancy Bennett-Centerville, IA
Sponsored by Jag Outdoor Advertising



Van Camp Packing Company c. 1906



(J) Kodan Feed Mill (Ghost Sign)

Project Leading Artist: Adam & Sarah May-Lincoln IL

Sponsored by Tom Dallman & Cheri Long



2. The Algoma Dug-Out

The Algoma Packing Company was organized on this site in 1899. Originally the factory, warehouse, and offices covered over 20,000 square feet. In the early 1900's the complex was owned by the Van Camp Packing Co. of Indiana. By the end of World War I, the company had gone out of business. Gradually the site was redeveloped for use by the American Legion and the City of Algoma. Known in the community as the "Dug-Out," the complex continues to serve as a recreational center and is home to the Algoma Golden-Agers and Algoma Youth Club.

3. Algoma Lighthouse

The earliest Algoma lighthouse was built in 1892. The upper portion of today's cylindrical tower was constructed in 1908 when the original lighthouse was remodeled. The lighthouse in its present form dates to 1932. A popular subject for photographers, the lighthouse has come to be the symbol of the community.



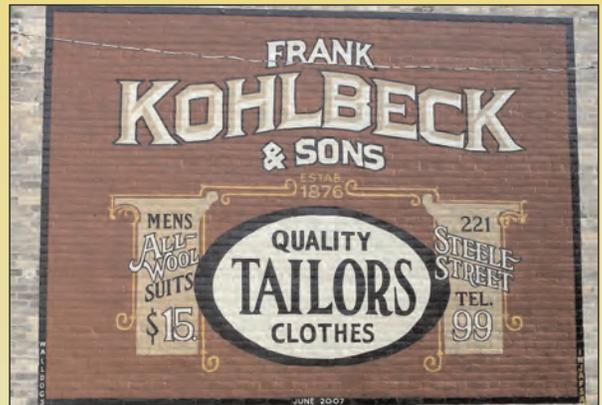
Algoma Pierhead Light early 1900s



*(F) Algoma Net Company
Project Leading Artist: Michael Clark-Aledo, IL
Sponsored by Baylake Bank*



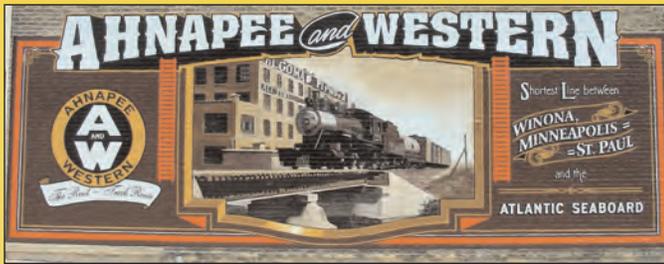
St. Mary's Catholic Church c. 1907



*(G) Kohlbeck & Sons Fine Tailors
Project Leading Artist: Cameron Bortz-Pawcatuck, CT
Sponsored by The Norb Kohlbeck Family*



*(H) Commercial Fishing & Shipping
Project Leading Artist: Dale Knaak-Sheboygan, WI
Sponsored by Friends of Algoma*

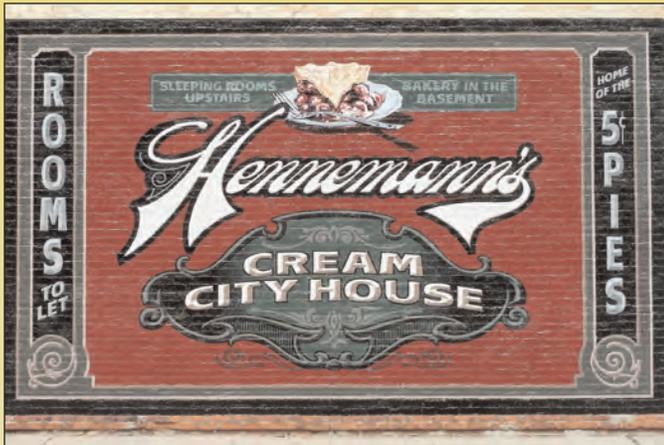


(C) Ahnapee & Western Railroad

Project Leading Artist: Bill & Jane Diaz, Pontiac, IL
Sponsored by Algoma Hardwoods, Inc.

4. St. Mary's Catholic Church

St. Mary's Parish was organized by German and Bohemian immigrants in 1860. The present building, constructed according to plans prepared by Green Bay architect, G. W. Reynolds, was completed in 1906. It is the third church to stand on this site. The building, with its handsome steeple, prominently sited on a hill, can be seen for miles around and is listed on Lake Michigan navigational maps. The eight carved stone lions at the base of the steeple were the work of French stone cutter Simeon Navarre. Three magnificent wood altars, designed and carved by Father Adalbert Cipinin the 1880's for a previous building, continue to grace the interior of the church.



(D) Hennemann's Cream City House

Project Leading Artist: Dave & Susie Butler-Syracuse, IN
Sponsored by Isaksen Architects, LLC



Art Dettmann Shanty c. 1940

5. Art Dettmann Shanty

Constructed in 1935, the Art Dettmann fish shanty is an original example of the type of structures built by commercial fishermen in the 1920's and 30's. This building is now listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.



(E) Commemorative Fence

Project Leading Artist: Mike Meyer-Mazepa, MN
Sponsored by WS Packaging Group

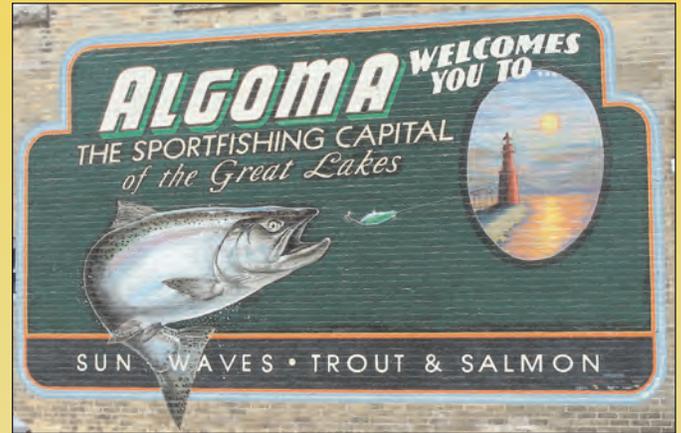
6. Ahnapee Brewery

This building was constructed in 1868 to serve as the Ahnapee Brewery. After the brewery closed in the 1890's, the structure at various times served as a warehouse, fly net factory, gas-powered washing mashing factory, and feed storage facility. Dr. Charles Stiehl restored the building in 1967 for use as a

winery. Von Stiehl Winery has been owned by the Schmiling family since 1981.

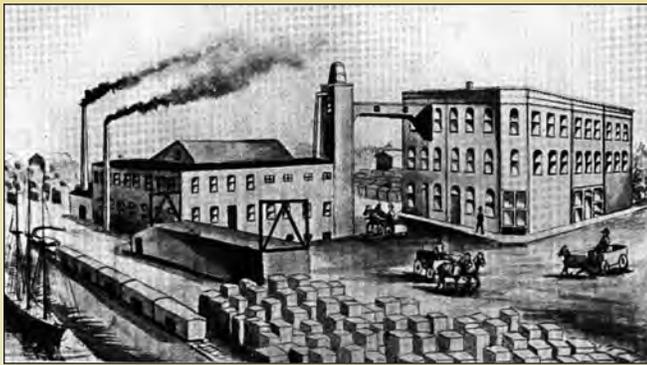


Ahnapee Brewery in 1876



(A) Algomia Sport Fishing

*Project Leading Artist: Andy Goretski-Tomahawk, WI
Sponsored by Algoma Area Chamber of Commerce*



Ahnapee Manufacturing in 1899.

7. Ahnapee Manufacturing

Now known as the Netto Palazzo, this three-story structure was built in 1891 as a furniture factory. From 1921 to 1980, the Algoma Net Company occupied the building. Originally this firm produced fly nets for horses. In 1993, Community Improvement of Algoma procured the long-vacant building in order to turn it over to a developer for restoration and adaptation into shop space.



(B) Orange Crush (Ghost Sign)

*Project Leading Artist: Bernie Gietl-Carlinville, IL
Sponsored by Algoma Optimist Club*

In 2007, the Algoma Main Street Program continued its historic preservation efforts in the downtown by organizing the incorporation of ten historic murals, which included two ghost sign restorations, one panel install and seven direct applications to brick building facades.

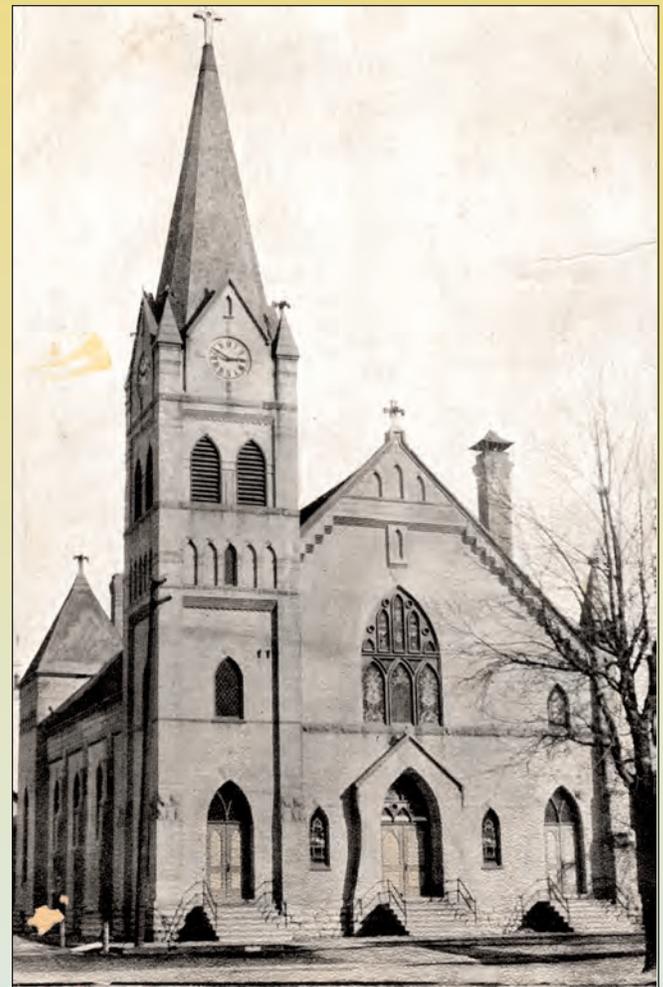
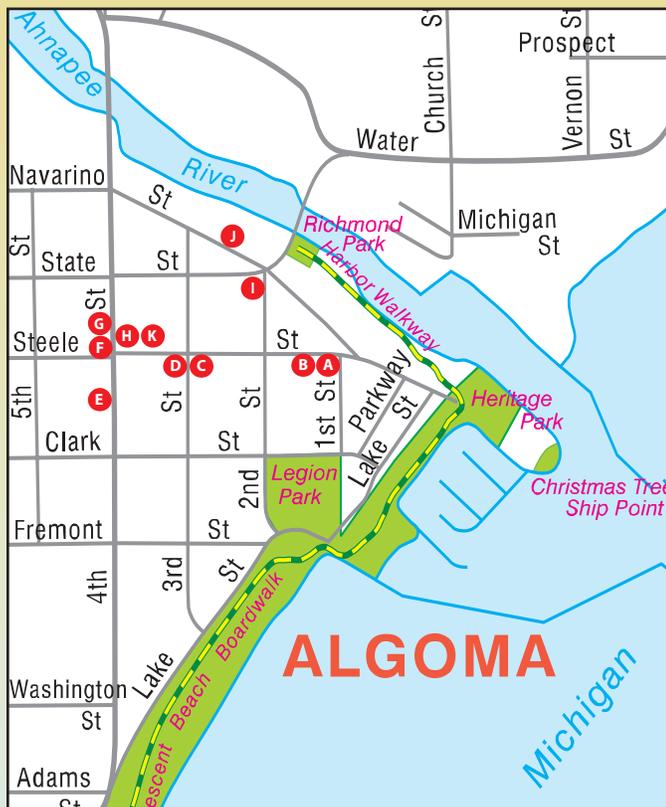
The artwork design and creation of the murals was accomplished through the efforts of a group of international artists known as the Walldogs, under the direction of local Walldog artist Dave Petri. These “keepers of the craft” contribute their time and talents to preserving the one-time prevalent means of advertising signage applied directly to buildings.

Algoma is proud to showcase the results of this effort, while further supporting the historical awareness depicted in the murals and the artisans of old through the purveyors of this unique craft. Watch for additional murals as the project continues to develop.

8. St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Organized in 1863 as the First Evangelical German St. Paul's Church, the congregation has owned this site at Fourth and State Streets since 1869. The present church, designed by Boston architect C.C. Buck, was built in 1896. The Cream City brick, of which it is constructed, was hand-molded and fired at the brickyard of the parishoner, Ferdinand Storm. The tower clock was installed in 1902. The interior of the church retains the original altar, pulpit, and distinctive bentwood pews, all made locally by the Ahnapee Seating and Veneer Company. Also noteworthy are the Victorian stained glass windows.

WALLDOG WAVE PROJECT AREA



St. Paul's Church c. 1906

9. Lidral and Andre Hardware

This handsome late-Victorian store building was built in 1902 by business partners Frank Lidral and Isadore Andre. It served as a hardware store until 1920. Over the years it has been a plumbing shop, Western Auto store, a bank, floor covering shop, home décor store, auto parts shop and computer store.



Lidral and Andre Hardware in 1903

10. Wilbur Building

Built in 1881, this building served as a drug store until the 1950s; the second floor was a photo studio from 1891 to 1936. From the 50's to the 70's, Lindy's, an ice cream parlor, magazine and newspaper shop, operated here.



Wilbur Building: Fluck's Drugstore 1917



Gerhart Building, 1891-1905

23. Gerhart Building

This pair of commercial buildings dates back to 1891 and 1905 by John Cepek. The building on the corner first served as a tavern and later as an implement shop, hardware store, photo shop, and antique shop. The 1905 section was built to be a hardware store. This two-building complex was known for many years as Gerhart's Hardware.



M.W. Perry House, 1909

24. M.W. Perry House

Local industrialist Melvin Perry built this impressive house as his residence in 1909. Designed by Appleton-based architect W.W. De Long, the interior decor incorporated materials produced by Perry's firm, Algoma Seating and Veneer, to showcase the company's product line to potential clients. Sadly neglected for many years, the house has recently been carefully restored and is now a bed and breakfast.



Braun Implement, c. 1870

21. Braun Implement

Merchant Sam Perry first built a frame livery stable on this site in 1870. Sometime in the late 1880s, the structure was greatly enlarged and finished with a brick exterior. The Braun family, long-time owners of the property, operated a Case implement dealership here for many years.



Clark Residence, 1885

22. William Clark Residence

This brick Victorian Italianate-style house, distinctive for its bracketed eaves, round topped windows and ornate bay window, was built by Paul Gablowsky in 1885. The present owner bought the house in the 1990s and has worked over the years to bring the house back to its former elegance.

11. Reinhart Building

Mathias Reinhart and Mathias Melchior built this structure in 1879. The Reinhart family operated a shoe store here until 1983. Another owner continued the business until 1991.



Reinhart Shoe Store c. 1910

12. Perry Building

Irish-born Samuel Perry built this structure to house his general mercantile business in 1886. At the time, it was the largest such business in Kewaunee County. The family operated the business until 1910, when the building was sold to become an early Ford dealership. From 1936 to 1942, it was the home of Algoma Motors, a GM and Pontiac dealership. Still later, it became a Ford and Mercury dealership. In 1990, it was renovated to serve as office space and renamed Richmond Center.



Perry Mercantile Company c. 1890



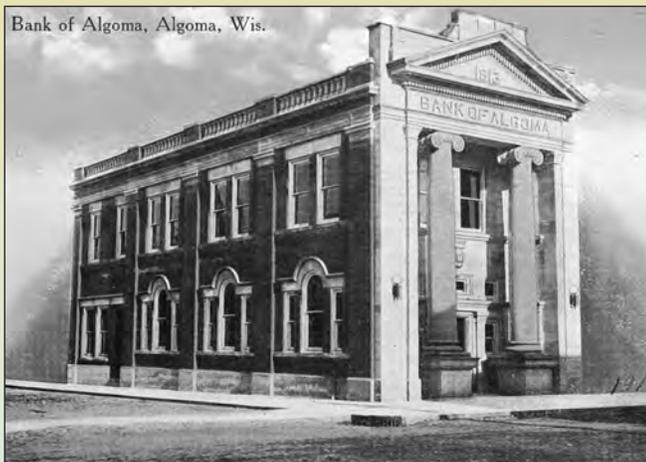
The Wisconsin House c. 1890

13. Bank of Algoma

Completed in 1914, this neo-classical building was the home of the Bank of Algoma. This institution merged with the Citizen's Bank in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression. The Algoma City Hall occupied the building from the mid-1930's until 1974. The upper floor was home to the Algoma Public Library at various times between 1921 and 1974. The interior retains much of its original marble detailing.

20. Kirchmann Hotel

William Bastar built the first portion of this structure in 1870. In 1880, a 1,944 square foot addition was built with additional hotel rooms and a second floor dance hall. Fred Kirchmann bought the hotel in 1903, and the building remained in the family until 1969, serving as a hotel and boarding house.



Bank of Algoma 1914



Kirchmann Hotel c. 1900



Busch and Cohn Building c. 1906

18. *Busch and Cohn Building*

Designed by Green Bay architect G.W. Reynolds, this handsome commercial block was built in 1905 for Julius Buschand Michel Cohn. Especially impressive is the neo-renaissance gable at the center of the façade. This building has housed a furniture store, saloon, funeral parlor, music store, men's clothing shop, clinic, doctors' offices, and a church office over the years. Professional suites originally occupied the second floor, eventually giving way to apartments.

19. *Wisconsin House*

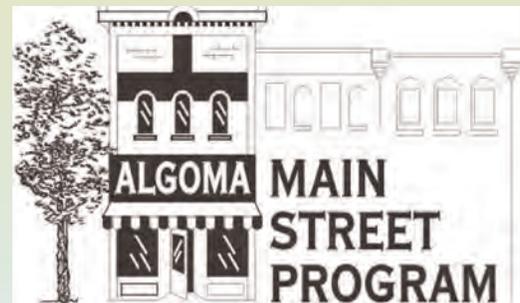
From the time of its construction in 1875 until 1905, this building served as a hotel. It was first known as the Wisconsin House, later as Hotel Algoma and Hotel Martin. For many years the main storefront housed a drugstore. A grocery and dry goods store once occupied the 4th Street storefront.



The Kohlbeck Clothing Store c. 1910

14. *Kohlbeck Building*

The Kohlbeck Building was constructed in 1884 to house the tailor shop established in 1876 by Frank Kohlbeck. In 1907, the business expanded into the former bank building immediately to the east. The business remained in the Kohlbeck family for five generations, closing in 2001. The building at the right of the photo was built in 1878 by Michael Melchior and served as the community's first bank. From the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, this building housed the Ahnapee Record and the Algoma Record-Herald newspapers.

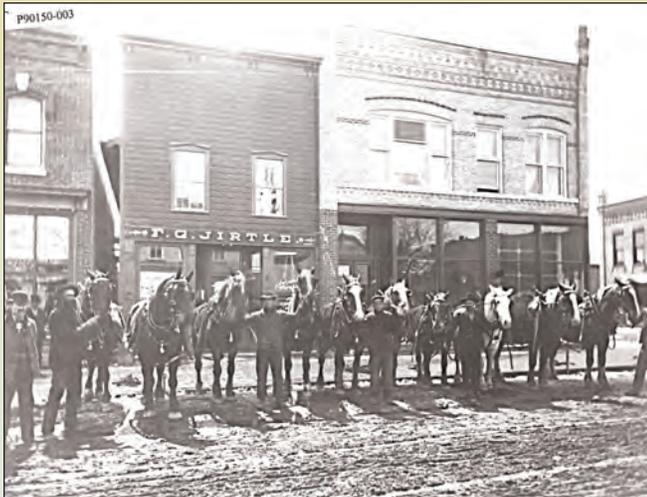


15. Hotel Stebbins

The Hotel Stebbins was originally built by Captain Charles Fellows in 1858 and named the Ahnapee House. In 1905, the three-story brick portion of the building was constructed, and the original wooden structure was moved to the northern edge of the lot where it still serves as the hotel's kitchen and dining room. At that time the name was changed to Hotel Stebbins in honor of DeWayne Stebbins, early pioneer and state senator.



Hotel Stebbins c. 1906



The Baumann (l.) and Melchior (r.) Buildings c. 1900

16. Henry Baumann and Michael Melchior Buildings

Henry Baumann built the first modest frame false-front structure at 222 Steele Street in 1878. Over the years it has served as a butcher shop, harness shop, and furniture store. Since 1956, it has been the home of Harmann Studios. The brick structure on the corner was built in 1894 by Michael Melchior to house his shoe store. The other storefront was originally a dry goods store.



Mathias Melchior Building c. 1900

17. Mathias Melchior Building

This attractive Queen Anne style building was constructed by Mathias Melchior in 1894. Over the years, many businesses found their homes here including a dry goods store, the post office, law and dentist offices, and jewelry store. Since 1967, the corner shop has housed a florist business.