



THE MAIN STREET SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

MACK & Co.
1906



AFTER MACK & CO. CLOSED, THE UPPER STORIES WERE REMOVED. THE FIRST FLOOR, CLAD IN GLOSSY GREEN ENAMELED STEEL PANELS, REOPENED IN 1940 AS NATIONAL CHAIN CUNNINGHAM'S DRUGS.

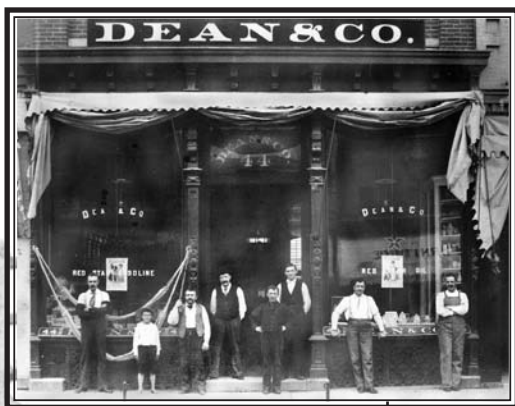
Founded in 1860, Mack & Company grew to be Ann Arbor's largest department store. In 1870 it advertised dress goods, household goods, flannels, shawls and cloakings, "selling everything cheap." By 1900 it had become Main Street's premier shopping destination, wooing customers with promises of first-class service. In the 1920s shoppers could visit Mack's post office, bank, beauty shop, and pharmacy, enjoy an occasional fashion show or sing along while a pianist played sheet music for sale. Christmas at

Mack's meant elaborate store window displays, a huge decorated tree on a revolving musical stand and the largest toy selection in town. Overwhelmed by the 1930s Depression, Mack closed with its final sale in 1939.

Main Street was the shopping center for the town and surrounding countryside. Businesses were locally owned, sometimes by families who lived above the shop. In early years goods were often custom made on the premises. An 1870s shopper could buy "live geese

feathers," fresh oysters, smoked haddock, coal, traveling trunks, caskets, and even a "wooden, cog-wheel clothes wringer." Upstairs you might have your straw hat bleached, artificial teeth set, or a new gown made "after the most approved Paris fashion."

In the nineteenth century farm families and town-folk might combine shopping on Main Street with a visit to Hangsterfer's Hall or Hill's Opera House, or in the twentieth century to the Whitney, Orpheum, and Wuerth movie theaters.



MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH IN 1893. AFTER 1890 SHOPPERS COULD ARRIVE DOWNTOWN BY STREETCAR AS WELL AS CARRIAGE. WOMEN WORRIED LESS ABOUT MUDDY SKIRTS ONCE MAIN STREET WAS PAVED WITH BRICK IN 1898. AT DEAN & CO. (PHOTO AND LOCATION ARROW AT LEFT) YOU COULD BUY HAVILAND CHINA, TOYS, CANDY, FRESH ROASTED COFFEE OR PEANUTS, AND EVEN GASOLINE FOR THE TOWN'S FIRST AUTOS. SEDGEWICK DEAN'S DAUGHTER ELIZABETH BEQUEATHED \$2,000,000 TO THE CITY IN 1964 TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL FUND FOR TREES.

