



BUSINESS AND BANKING



THE 1828 AMERICAN BLOCK (SHOWN HERE) WAS REPLACED BY THE BANK BLOCK. FARMERS PROVIDED A STEADY SUPPLY OF HIDES PROCESSED BY ANN ARBOR'S TANNERIES FOR GOODS MANUFACTURED AND SOLD DOWNTOWN.

BANK BLOCK CA. 1867



FIRST NATIONAL'S FINAL HOME OPENED IN THE CITY'S THEN TALLEST STRUCTURE, THE 1929 TERRA COTTA BUILDING BEHIND YOU. THE BANK FAILED TO REOPEN AFTER THE 1933 BANK HOLIDAY. THE BUILDING WAS RESTORED IN 1985. PHOTO 1930



STATE SAVINGS BANK'S NEW BUILDING OPENED IN 1908 ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER. THE BANK AND THE BUILDING SURVIVED THE 1930s DEPRESSION, CORPORATE RESHUFFLINGS, NAME CHANGES, AND SEVERAL REMODELINGS.

Four years after Ann Arbor's First National Bank was established in 1863 under strong new federal banking laws, dry goods merchant Philip Bach and foundry owner Volney Chapin joined other local investors to build a brick business block to house their bank. Next door was the Phoenix Insurance Company, one of nineteen local companies thriving on business stimulated by the constant threat of fire. Demonstrating the new strength of the local business climate, fueled by the economic boom of the Civil War, the Ann

Arbor Business College and Telegraph Institute opened above Bach's dry goods shop on the corner.

The college advertised courses in "Bookkeeping, Railroading, Steamboating, Banking, Jobbing and Importing, Commercial Law, Business Penmanship, and Telegraphing." Fees for "ladies" were \$5 less than those for "young men." Judge Thomas Cooley, professor of law at the University, conducted the law department and brought to his lectures "the fresh and forcible illustration of actual experience."

Other banks soon followed First National on Main Street: Ann Arbor Savings in 1869, Farmers and Mechanics in 1883, State Savings in 1892, and German-American Savings in 1906.

In 1886, in order to reduce dependence on University prosperity, promote existing business interests and attract other ventures, the Business Men's Association – the forerunner of today's Chamber of Commerce – was formed.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OPENED IN 1863 ON THE STREET LEVEL OF JACOB HANGSTERFER'S BLOCK ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER. THE IMPOSING 1860 ITALIANATE BUILDING CONTAINED HANGSTERFER'S CONFECTIONERY SHOP. A LARGE THIRD FLOOR HALL QUICKLY BECAME THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CENTER OF TOWN WITH LECTURES, PLAYS, BALLS, A DANCING SCHOOL, AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS CATERED BY HANGSTERFER.

IN 1926 KRESGE, A CHAIN SELLING MASS-PRODUCED GOODS, REPLACED HANGSTERFER'S WITH A DOLLAR STORE IN A SPANISH-STYLE BUILDING. NEXT DOOR KRESGE'S 5 AND 10 CENT STORE, BUILT TEN YEARS EARLIER, SOLD LESS EXPENSIVE ITEMS.

