



## HOSPITALITY ON COURTHOUSE SQUARE

### ALLENEL HOTEL AND HURON STREETScape CA. 1930



COOK'S HOTEL, CA. 1851



Streets surrounding Courthouse Square were the site of most of Ann Arbor's largest hotels from the 1830s until 1990. Cook's Hotel was the first of five that have occupied the site before you. It was followed in 1871 by the larger "Cook House," a temperance hotel for 37 years. Renamed the "Allenel" in 1911 to honor town founder John Allen, it was demolished in 1964 to make way for the Sheraton, later the Ann Arbor Inn. The Allenel, a popular watering spot for local businessmen, politicians, and attorneys, was

frequently used for banquets by local groups. It was a favorite lodging for visitors. Distinguished guests stayed in suites on the ornate top floor. The Philadelphia Orchestra stopped there during the annual May Festival.

By 1930 many downtown hospitality businesses were owned by members of Ann Arbor's Greek community. Along Huron Street they included two lunch counters, an ice cream parlor, the Candyland sweet shop, the Allenel (owned by Angelo Poulos, who had built the

Michigan Theater in 1927), and the Huron Hotel and Cafe at Fourth Avenue. At a 1933 meeting in the Allenel (attended by Archbishop Athenagoras, later Patriarch of Constantinople), local Greek leaders united to plan future construction of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church on North Main.

The coming of the automobile dramatically changed the streetscape and eventually moved most hotels to highways on the outskirts of town.

MERCHANTS CREDIT ASSOCIATION BANQUET IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE ALLENEL HOTEL, 1913.

