

Downtown

Annandale Advocate

Built: 1890s



Soon after the Soo Line Railroad reached Annandale in 1887, a party named Willits of Clearwater moved his publishing plant to Annandale and issued the Annandale Post. It was not until the early 1920s that this building became the Annandale Advocate. When the Annandale Post started in the late 1880s, this building served as the Annandale State Bank. About this time, another paper was being started, titled the Annandale Advocate. After a few months of publication, the two papers merged and were known briefly as the Annandale Advocate - Post. The - Post was later dropped, and the paper is known to this day as the Annandale Advocate.



In the early days of printing paper, the Advocate “type” was set by hand, and the paper was often a fourfold sheet of paper. After a shareholders meeting in March of 1910, several operating improvements were approved including a press. These improvements allowed for the paper to continue more efficiently than previously. Long from the early days of only finding the paper by print and black and white photographs, the paper now features bright, full color images, several page articles and can be located online for subscribers.

The Annandale Advocate has been owned by a small handful of individuals over its time. The Advocate was under continuous ownership by the Tygeson-Loberg families from 1916-1983. Ownership was then followed by Steve Prinsen and his wife Sharon Schumacher, who

owned and operated the Advocate for almost 30 years concluding in 2018. The Advocate is now owned by Michele and Ed Pawlenty and is still operated from this location.

Buri Hardware **Built: 1887**



You are standing in front of the oldest building in Annandale, built by John Buri. Buri Hardware opened in 1887 supplying settlers with nails, saws, axes, and other hardware with which to clear land and put up their buildings. Stories have been shared of the tree stumps under the floor of the building still there from the building's original construction.

John Buri's business was fundamental to the community, but the man as a person was likely even more important. Buri was elected as Annandale's first mayor, serving from 1888 to 1891. A top priority as mayor was building, clearing and grading the streets and building boardwalks along the buildings. He was

heavily involved in Annandale. He served as a trustee for Annandale Methodist Episcopal Church, was on the Annandale School Board and was one of the founders of the State Bank of Annandale, later serving as vice president. A group of businessmen, including Mr. Buri, purchased the Annandale

Publishing Company which later became the Annandale Advocate. After operating for almost 50 years, Buri Hardware closed. Buri Hardware and John Buri's influence on Annandale was deep and everlasting.

The building's next occupant was Dayton's Furniture that opened in the 1950s and operated for over forty years in this location. Dayton & Julia Barkley are also names that left everlasting roots in this community. As business grew, so did the need for storage and display of products, so several more buildings along main street were rented for storage. Like Buri, Dayton Barkley served as mayor of Annandale. He was a charter member of the Annandale Lions and served as its president. Julia Barkley was highly respected for her



interior design work along with her artistic paintings. Her paintings can still be found throughout Annandale and Wright County today. After Dayton's Furniture closed, Grandpa Earl's opened in 1998. Visitors can find various antiques and artwork within the store.



STATE FARM

Built: 1960s



As one of the newer buildings on main street, this building's history is still being crafted. However, it has proudly served tenants with a long tenure. Until the 1960s, this lot was vacant and grass could be found growing in this location. Individuals have shared stories of remembering this open space and sitting with their family dog or playing catch here. In the early 1960s the lot was developed by Virgil Johnson who constructed the building as a barber shop. After moving from across the street to this location, Johnson ran his barber shop for a couple of years prior to his death.



In 1978 State Farm Insurance began operating and serving clients in this location, with Larry Miller leading the office. Miller's office maintained the small town charm while offering services from State Farm Insurance. In the mid 1980s, a fire next door threatened the building. There was minor damage from the smoke and water, but major structural damage was avoided, thankfully. As the business grew, Miller added on to the rear of the building providing more room for their staff. Serving for over 25 years, Miller retired and sold the business to another agent.

David Burd moved State Farm Insurance about a block down on main street, and Grey Duck Screen Printing began serving customers in 2018. With a focus on custom clothing and designs, customers are able to wear clothing that was printed or designed locally by Kindra Liebhard and her family.

DUNTON HARDWARE

Built: 1890s



This building occupied by Kaz Hardware used to be two separate buildings. In the space to the north (to the left as you read this sign) Hart's Cafe operated in the 1940s and changed to a liquor establishment in the 1950s. A few name changes later, the final occupant until 1978 was Russell's Bar. In the space to the south (to the right as you read this sign) a hardware store has served Annandale residents since the 1890s, originally as Dunton Hardware. There are claims that Dunton Hardware was the first business on main street.



In 1958 Ed Kaz visited Annandale with his wife, Donna, an Annandale native. Donna's uncle, Lucien Maurice, had worked at the Dunton Hardware store for 20 years and convinced Ed to buy the business with him. The business took a large step into its current shoes in 1978 when Ed bought the bar next door. Both buildings were torn down and the basements were filled in. Only local contractors were asked to bid on the construction of the new project to ensure the local hardware store was truly built locally. Kaz Hardware began operating in its current footprint in 1979. The store was computerized in 2009, but Ed still

enjoyed using a pencil for his work. Ed retired after operating the store for over 50 years, and now Ed's son, Joe Kaz, continues to run the family business.

Many items can be found in a local hardware store, including some you wouldn't think they would carry. As this space has moved into the third century serving Annandale's hardware needs, a local joke is "if Kaz Hardware doesn't have it, you don't need it."

SCHOOLHOUSE

Built: Pre-1900s



This building is rich in stories and is an important part of Annandale's history. Before the turn of the century it stood as a schoolhouse in Southside Township. During the winter of 1911, it was dragged across the ice on Pleasant Lake to its current location where it continued for a decade as a schoolhouse. When a new school was built on Cherry Avenue in the early 1920s, the building began its next chapter. The village offices moved in along with the local library that had started in 1899 with just 317 books.



Jail cells were located in the basement and individuals were held here rather than at the county jail like today. Local residents have shared stories of using the bathrooms in the basement just to sneak a look at the jail cells down there. As the years went on the library ended up taking over the entire building. In the 1960s, the library joined Great River Regional Library system to better serve Annandale's residents. This iconic building continued to serve as Annandale's library for 80 years until 2003 when it moved into its new home next door. Once again the building was then available for a new use, yet many in the

community still think of the building as "the old library."

Snooty Fox Gallery provided the community with art and gifts from 2004 to 2012. Café Jules then opened in 2014, serving delicious meals for lunch and dinners. With a focus on quality and elegance, this restaurant was soon a dining staple. After Café Jules closed, Nikki Seaberg and Megan Champlin moved their coffee shop, In Hot Water, into this building from just across the street in 2021. Customers can experience the building's significant part of Annandale's history while appreciating featured work on the walls by local artists.

THE LOCKER PLANT

Built: 1946



This building was constructed by the Annandale Co-op Creamery in 1946 as the Annandale Locker Plant for animal slaughter and cold storage. A locker plant is an establishment for storing food under refrigeration, containing lockers for renting to individual users. Locker plants are a thing of the past as most families now have their own freezers at home. But in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, that wasn't the case. Most people had wooden ice boxes that circulated cool air from a chunk of melting ice on its upper shelf. It kept food cool, but not



frozen. For a few dollars, residents could rent a locker at the locker plant, buy meat in halves or quarters, have the butcher package it in consumable amounts, and freeze and store it for later use. The creamery administration oversaw the management of the locker plant. In addition, the garages on the alley side of the building were used to house the milk trucks for the creamery. Petty Brothers Meats began in 1980 when twin brothers Jim and Mic purchased the locker plant and continued the business of slaughtering and locker service. They then moved into retail services with the addition of

sausages and smoked foods. Mic retired in 2005 and Jim's son Bob became Jim's new partner. When Jim died in 2011 Bob's twin brother, Tom, joined Bob to become the second generation in Petty Brothers Meats. In 2016, the business moved to a new location on State Highway 55.

Jim and Tiera Marsh purchased the building in 2019 and after renovation, business partners Tiera Marsh and David Anderson opened Vintage Patina, LLC. While inside the store, you will still find unique features remaining from the original design and usage such as glass block windows, massive cooler and freezer doors, and an old meat scale.