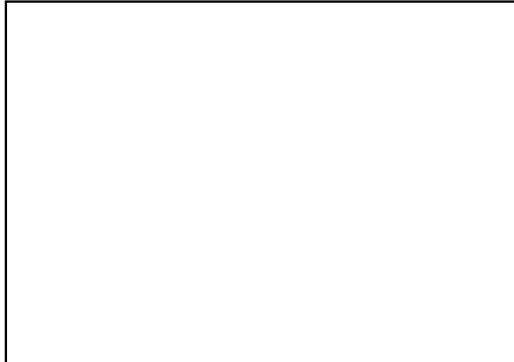


MASON MONTAGE

City of Mason celebrates bicentennial, growth over 200 years

Madison Krell | Staff Writer
Sonia Rayka | Staff Writer



Celebration Church

Off of Main Street lies Forest Avenue, where the white painted church known as the Celebration Baptist Church is. The church has gained an additional room, but from the outside it remains similar, from its bell tower to its three long windows on the side of the building, as its former self from the 1800s.

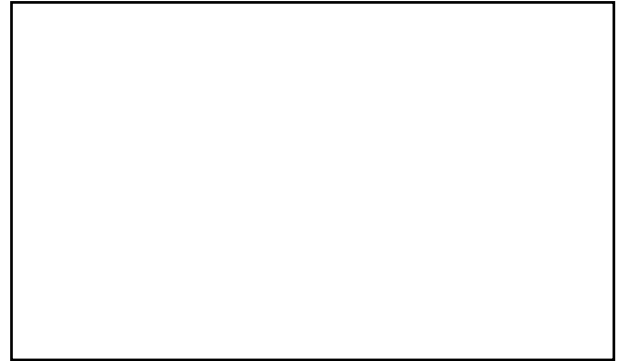


Fifth Third Bank

Business on the first floor, party on the second.

225 West Main Street, known at the moment as the home to Fifth Third Bank, has had multiple businesses fly in and out of its doors for over 150 years, but it was most notorious for Opera House that laid in the second floor of the building in the late 1800s. According to Sherri Federle from Mason's Historical Society, Sprinkles Opera House was very versatile and used for multiple occasions.

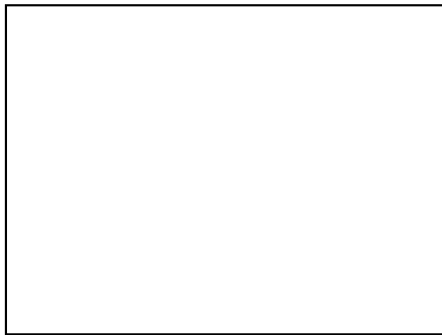
"The first floor was supposed to be a bank and another business like a restaurant or a mens clothing store and then the second floor was the Sprinkles opera house," Federle said. "They would hold plays up there, they would do graduations, everything. They would even move the chairs where you would sit as an audience and would play basketball."



Downtown Mason

For a hundred years, the corner where Subway is was instead a livery stable for horses to take a rest for the night while the owner spent the night at the hotel across the street. According to Gay McCuley, a member of the Mason Historical Society, the livery stable was an easy option for the busy travelers who passed through Route 42 to take a break.

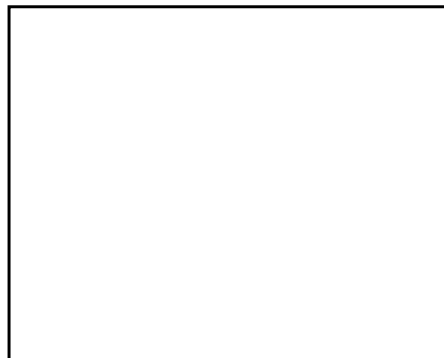
"People would spend the night on the way north so the livery stable was for people who stayed at the hotel which was right across the street next to where Servatii's is now," McCuley said. "The lot has been reduced in size because they widened the street so you couldn't get a third of that building there now because of how wide it is now, but they tore it down in the early 70s."



Batsche and Batsche

On the corner at 300 West Main Street lies Batsche and Batsche law firm, yet over 150 years ago, it was the home of the Dodds family. According to David Batsche, attorney at Batsche and Batsche law firm, the house has a significant history in his family, but spans back even further to the late 1800s with the original family who lived there.

"The building was built in 1878 by the Dodds family," Batsche said. "This was their personal residence and they ran a store right across the street where Fifth Third Bank is now. (When) my grandfather bought the building, my dad moved his law practice in here in 1968 and then my father brought the building from my grandfather and I bought it from my father. It's neat to have a building that's almost 140 years old and still stand-



ing and servicing the public the same as a newer building down the street. I love it--I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."