

B&O RAILROAD DEPOT

Circa 1895

22

Reported to be the last B & O Railroad Station in Cuyahoga County.

THE OLD JAIL HOUSE

Circa 1860

25

Measuring only 12 feet by 14 feet, this iron barred, wooden structure offered no comfort for the unfortunate prisoners it housed. Originally on the site of the Community Church parking lot, an inmate with a sharp pocketknife could have easily whittled himself free, but most prisoners were usually released after a day, making it not worth the effort to try and escape.

The mayor of Olmsted Falls was jailed by the town marshal, who was also the blacksmith. The marshal claimed the mayor had been carousing in a saloon. As soon as the mayor was free, he fired the marshal and appointed a new one. In his drunken celebration over his victory he was again damped in jail, this time by the new marshal! However not all prisoners made it out alive. In 1882, a stranger from Cleveland named Patrick Falen asked to be locked up. He said he had been on a drinking spree. He was given his request. That evening the mayor went to release the prisoner but found him hanging from a towel around his neck, his pipe still in his mouth.

In 1924, the Olde Jail House was moved to Mill Street, where it was used to store village fire-fighting equipment. Two new, strong cells were built in the old school house for the village lock-up. Then the first motorized fire truck was purchased. It was a Model-T Truck with a water tank and hand pump. It was housed in the Olde Jail House which became the first separate fire department station in Olmsted Falls.

THE BOARDWALK

30 31 32

THE RODESSA BUNGALOW

Sears Modern Homes • Circa 1920

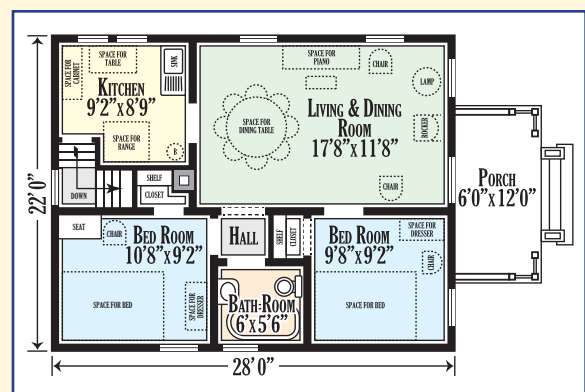
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There was a time; around 100 years ago, that if you decided to build a house you could easily order it from the Sears & Roebuck catalog. Although that may seem a little odd today, it was a Godsend for many of that era.

From 1908 through 1940 it's estimated that Sears sold over 100,000 houses through their Modern Homes mail order program. During that time over 400 different designs were available, from elaborate multi story dwellings to quaint three room cottages for summer vacationers. The entire home would arrive by railroad, from precut lumber to the nails and paint necessary to complete the build.

Families chose their homes based on their personal tastes, needs and budget. Sears supplied the materials and instructions for the owners to build their own home. To meet the differing financial needs of its customers, eventually three lines of homes were available: Honor Bilt, Standard Build and Simplex Sectional Thousands of these homes survive today as an enduring testament to the quality of Sears craftsmanship.

The Rodessa in Grand Pacific Junction was an Honor Bilt home, which was the best quality of the three lines of available houses. For a little over \$1100 (approximately \$13,700 in today's dollars), all materials were included to construct the 2 bedroom, single-bath house (with the exception of plaster and supplies for the foundation).



Floor Plan



Walk into **Grand Pacific Junction™** in historic Olmsted Falls and step back in time more than 100 years into one of the most authentic and original revitalized downtown historical districts in Ohio. The mystique and intrigue of its architectural makeup produce an ambiance of late 1880s flat storefront construction, Greek revival with post and beam construction along with late Victorian and Mid-1920s commercial storefronts.

Surrounding you are some of the same buildings David Sterns, who was the second settler in 1816, wrote about 63 years later in 1879. He described the town as having "four general stores, two drug stores, one tailor shop, one broom factory, one wagon wheel (felloe) shop, one lumber yard, three churches and the Union Schoolhouse." The population that year was 700.

The name of the town came from Aaron Olmsted, who bought the acreage described as Township Six of Range 15 of the land that The Connecticut Land Company had purchased from the Indians and named The Western Reserve in 1805. It had been called Olmsted from 1829 until 1851, when the land between Plum Creek and Rocky River became officially known as Olmsted Falls. At this time the railroads arrived and The Grand Pacific Hotel was moved to its present location in 1858.

The hotel, which became a hardware store in 1888, closed its doors in the mid-1970s. The group of buildings on the site fell into disuse, but remained intact. Interest in the buildings began in the mid-1970s when The Grand Pacific Hotel was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. However, it was not until 1989 that Clint Williams, a longtime Olmsted Falls resident and successful real estate entrepreneur, purchased the entire site with the intent of restoring the buildings and making it again a vital, commercial area.

We hope you enjoy your journey into the past of historic Olmsted Falls as you shop Grand Pacific Junction and some of the finest retail and specialty shops that represent so much of our local history. We hope you will step back to the past with us many times in the future.



THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL

Circa 1840

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The Grand Pacific Hotel was built between 1830 and 1840. It's believed to be the oldest commercial structure still standing in Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township. Originally built as a girls' seminary, it was moved across the river from Lewis Road to its present location in 1858, thirteen years before Bagley road existed.

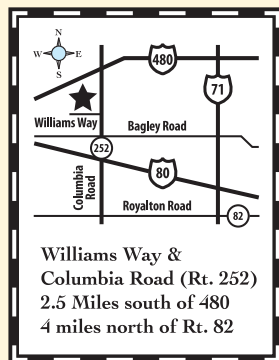
Thomas Brown, the first proprietor of an inn in the building, christened it with the grandiose name "The Grand Pacific Hotel." Brown disappeared mysteriously and his skeleton was found with a bullet through his skull. He had apparently been robbed and murdered while traveling with a large sum of the hotel's cash receipts that he was taking to a Cleveland bank.

In the years that followed, the hotel had many proprietors and names. In 1860 William S. Carpenter purchased the hotel and named it the Hotel DeCarpenter. Under his ownership the hotel boasted a triple-A rating in the unwritten stopover guide used by hobos, burns and freight hoppers. During that time, the Chamber of Commerce, trying to attract new settlers to the area, had granted one night's lodging at the hotel and one free meal to any transient who applied at the clerk's office. In the six months between October 1874 and April 1875, 420 transients checked into the hotel. The much-abused hospitable gesture was brought to a halt. By 1876, Carpenter had managed to net a small profit from his hotel and marked the end of his hotel career by throwing a masked ball in the third-floor ballroom.

Olmsted Falls' only hotel had operated for just 30 years when it took on a new life. J. Peltz and his brother-in-law, Phillip Simmerer, opened The Peltz and Simmerer Store on the first floor in 1888. Nineteen-year-old Phil Simmerer commuted to his job on a "bone-shaker" high-wheeled bicycle from his parents' home on River Road. In the old third floor ballroom, Peltz and Simmerer began a manufacturing company and the second floor became a respectable address for the town's doctors.

The history of Olmsted Falls can be read in the lines of merchandise that have gone by, reflecting changing tastes and needs as the years passed. Telephones were installed, horseless carriages clattered down the streets and headed for the newfangled gasoline pump installed in front of P. Simmerer's & Sons Hardware Store where motorists could buy tires and auto accessories.

Today, the original structure is used as a banquet facility as it awaits its next role in the history of Olmsted Falls. For Banquet information call 440-234-1414.



THE LIVERY STABLE

Circa 1898

26 27

Built in the late 1800s. The Livery Stable was used by the Peltz and Simmerer Hardware Store as a stable and implement shed. This site had a livery stable when The Grand Pacific Hotel was in operation to accommodate hotel guests.

THE SIMMERER HOMESTEAD

Circa 1897

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Phillip Simmerer was one of the founding partners in the Peltz and Simmerer Store. This hardware store remained in business for 78 years. The Simmerer home was erected in 1897 next to the Peltz home, where it stands today. The Simmerer family is considered to be one of the great influential forces in the development of Olmsted Falls and the surrounding area.

THE WAREHOUSE

Circa 1880

24



This building was originally a warehouse for the highly successful P. Simmerer's & Sons Hardware Store. It is a good example of the flat storefront architecture that was popular around the turn of the century.

THE PELTZ HOMESTEAD

Circa 1898

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The Peltz homestead was built between The Grand Pacific Hotel and The Depositor's Bank building by John Smith in 1898. A crucial moment came in the Fire of 1912, which destroyed surrounding buildings to the north. When the water supply from the pumper truck was depleted, the fire fighters and townspeople formed a makeshift bucket brigade, miraculously saving the homestead.

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Circa 1860

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This building, built around 1860, survived the Fire of 1912 that consumed its main house. Initially, the Carriage House was located next to the Peltz homestead, but was later moved and eventually converted into storage space for Kucklick's Village Square Shoppe.

THE DEPOSITOR'S BANK BUILDING

Circa 1924



Depositor's Bank was in business just five years before it became a casualty of the Wall Street Crash of 1929. Today, it still holds the original bank safe and vault. Since 1929, the building has had several tenants. The first was a heating/tinning business. In 1940, the Kucklick family moved their appliance and furniture store into the building. This highly successful store later featured Early American furniture and operated as the Village Square Shoppe until 1990.



Circa 1870

23

This 100-year-old building, which was constructed with post and beam, was used as a grain, flour and feed store. The original grain bins are still intact on the second floor. Hay was also stored above the drop-through trap doors to the first floor loading platforms for the convenience of horse and buggy customers.

THE H. A. FENDERBOSCH SALOON

Circa 1860

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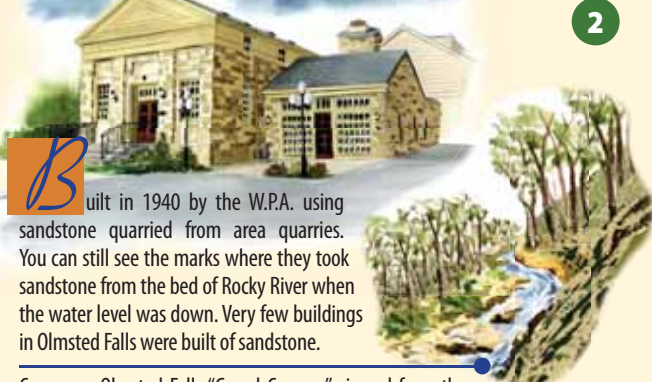


Over the years, this building has housed a wide range of businesses, including a general store and the H.A. Fenderbosch Saloon. (Herman Fenderbosch was also Fire Chief from 1915-1920.) Pops Floleich had a shoe repair shop there for many years. There have been many commercial uses since then.

THE OLDE VILLAGE FIRE HOUSE

Circa 1940

2



Built in 1940 by the W.P.A. using sandstone quarried from area quarries. You can still see the marks where they took sandstone from the bed of Rocky River when the water level was down. Very few buildings in Olmsted Falls were built of sandstone.

Come see Olmsted Falls "Grand Canyon," viewed from the observation deck behind the Olde Village Fire House.

WILLIS KNIGHT SERVICE

Circa 1900

19



Built in the early 1900s, this building was used as a repair garage for the Willis Knight automobile.

WEDDING GARDENS BRIDAL COTTAGE

Circa 1860

21



This is one of the best-preserved Greek Revival cottages in historic downtown Olmsted Falls. It originally belonged to William TeGrotenhuis. There are no records of a previous owner and/or his family. Gerrit TeGrotenhuis came from the Netherlands in 1881 with his family of five. He made wooden shoes in a shed behind the house, and also made baskets from the willow trees by Plum Creek. The house had no central heat or plumbing until 1943. It had just four rooms and a quarry stone, dirt floor basement. Ironically, the name TeGrotenhuis means "big house" in Dutch.

THE CHARLES A. HARDING MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Circa 1998

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This wooden covered walking bridge was constructed in 1998 by Amish craftsman to replace the old steel bridge across Plum Creek and was dedicated to the memory of Charles A. Harding. Also in the area there is a walking path to the local waterfalls.

THE GRAND PACIFIC WEDDING CHAPEL

Circa 1851

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Have your wedding, reception, shower, Christmas party or other social event in this majestically restored 1851 church that is listed on the National Registry of Historical Districts. Now taking reservations.

1800s RAILROAD DEPOT

Replica

10 11



Visit our antique 1922 Vulcan Steam Engine No. 100 and caboose.



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Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
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One of Many Historic Olmsted Falls Scenic
Photo Sites

