

SMITH BUILDING
804 WATER STREET
(ORIGINALLY 302-309 WATER STREET AND 107 ADAMS)
BLOCK 41, LOT 1

Date of Construction: 1978

1862-1900s: The lot was owned by the Tibbals family. Caroline Tibbals Estate was the owner around 1906. The earliest known business on this lot was the News Depot in 1869.

1884: There were two dwellings on Adams Street where there is now a parking lot. In time, the dwellings became a cobbler shop, a paint store and storage before being torn down sometime between 1915 and 1917.

The Water Street frontage had three wooden buildings, all dating to 1884 and before. The largest of these buildings was a two-story building on the corner of Adams and Water Streets. In 1880, this building was O.H. Holcomb's Restaurant and Variety Store which sold nuts, candies, tobacco, fruit and confectioneries. By 1884, the building was a general merchandise store and from 1888-1897, the Silver Safe Saloon and Billiards Parlor with lodgings above.

1898: G. Phillep & Co. shared the corner building with a saloon. From 1907-1909, Walter H. Merrick was the proprietor of the saloon and in 1915 it was run by Marin Samuelson.

Two smaller buildings also existed on Water Street. Next to the saloon, a smaller wooden building had a fruit store on the ground floor and lodging above (1888-1891). In 1897, the Key City Dye Works was located here. From 1898-1904, the Key City Cigar Factory and General Store was located here.

Other businesses in this building were Augustus Phillep Cigars (1905-11), a barber shop and a cobbler.

1911-1928: John Siebenbaum purchased the entire lot and all the buildings were eventually demolished. The property remained a vacant lot for nearly fifty years.

1977-78: Homer Smith Junior and his wife Eleanor purchased the property and erected their insurance company building. Homer Smith Insurance is now operated by Homer Smith III.