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MOULTRIE COUNTY HISTORICAL  
AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

CENTURY I, NOTES ON SULLIVAN,  
ILLINOIS, 1845-1872-1972



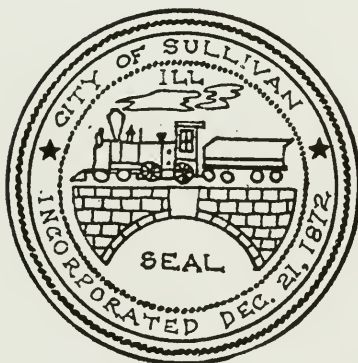




# CENTURY I

*NOTES ON SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS*

*1845 - 1872 - 1972*



**MOULTRIE COUNTY HISTORICAL  
AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**



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# Century I, Notes on Sullivan, Illinois

## *A Guidebook to Historic Sites*

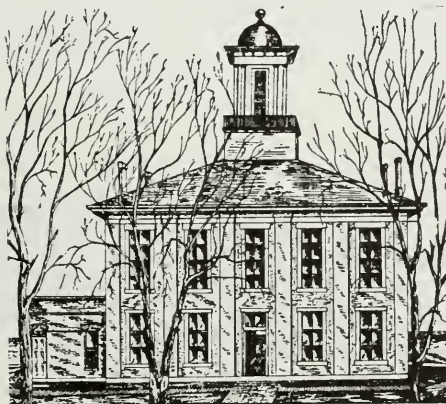
The Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society invites the reader to take a tour with us through the early years of Sullivan. By using the numbers in the book and on the enclosed map, some of our local historic sites can be reviewed, either in an armchair or on a drive around the town. A dagger indicates the site is still intact.

This is not a complete history of Sullivan, but simply a general review in guidebook form of the highlights of its first half century. Unfortunately, we are not able to include all of the significant sites or mention all of its leading citizens in a pamphlet of this size.

The information here is from the three published histories of Moultrie County, courthouse deed records, unpublished memoirs, historical society program notes, city council minutes, personal interviews and newspaper articles. Special acknowledgement is given to the David Davis family of Bloomington for their permission to use material from the David Davis Papers, and to the fifty or more people who contributed in some way to this booklet.

We hope that this will stimulate its readers to write down or preserve historical information for use in a larger and more complete history book of Sullivan and all of Moultrie County.

The Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society  
June, 1973.



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The Western White House  
San Clemente

April 4, 1973

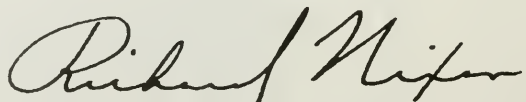
TO THE PEOPLE OF SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS

In 1960, I had the pleasure of addressing the people of Sullivan, and now I again have the opportunity to greet you on the grand occasion of Sullivan's one hundredth anniversary of its incorporation as a city.

The incorporation of this city brought with it a spirit of enthusiasm, determination, and cooperation -- qualities which not only have helped build a community with a rich heritage, but also have contributed to the growth and prosperity of the United States as a great Nation.

America still needs these qualities as it faces the challenges of this era, and I feel confident that the people of Sullivan will strive toward their new goals with renewed vigor and dedication.

My greetings and best wishes to Sullivan!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Nixon". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

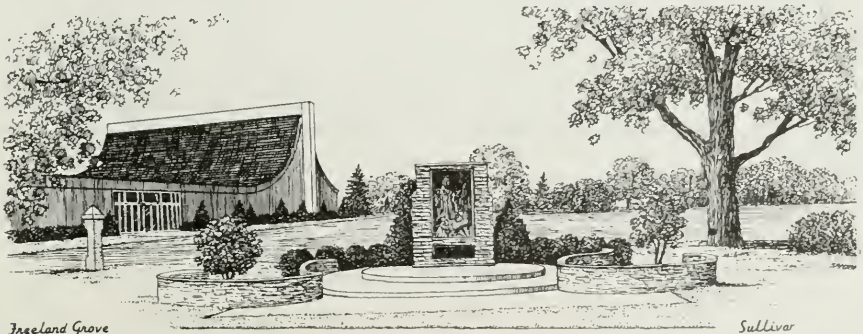


**A FUTURE PRESIDENT:** - During the presidential campaign of 1960, both Richard M. Nixon and John F. Kennedy were invited to appear in Sullivan. To everyone's surprise, Nixon accepted. A buffalo barbeque was held, the second that summer, and thousands came to hear the candidate speak in Wyman Park. In November, Nixon lost the election, but eight years later became President. Unlike Nixon, the buffalo barbeque did not make a comeback, for this was the last one at Sullivan.



## FUTURE PRESIDENTS SPOKE IN SULLIVAN

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPOKE IN FREELAND GROVE** during his campaign for the U. S. Senate in 1858. The site of his speech was approximately the entrance of the Civic Center. A monument was erected at the south edge of Wyman Park, replacing the old marker, during the Illinois Sesquicentennial in 1968. The trees under which Lincoln spoke were removed when the Civic Center was erected in 1965.



# I. Sullivan's Beginnings

## A BEAUTIFUL PLACE—

Asa "Dollarhide" Rice and Jacob McCune were having another successful hunt. They were covering unfamiliar territory north of the Kaskaskia River, and had just traveled onto the prairie again.

Before them a green ocean of prairie grass stretched almost as far as the eye could see. A line of trees bounding it on the east, south and west, took on the hazy blue of a distant shoreline. Here and there the sea of grass was splashed with the rainbow colors of prairie flowers--yellows, violets, blues. The wind blew waves in the tall grasses and the sunlight was reflected as on frothy whitecaps. They had just passed through a line of timber which meandered northward, and then ended in a point where the stream and prairie met. To the north, the green of the prairie flowed into the blue of a lake two miles long.

Asa said, "Of all the country I've seen, this is my choice." His companion responded, "This shall be called Asa's Point."

Many years later, in 1845, a town and county seat was founded in this idyllic setting. First called Asa's Point, it soon was given the more sophisticated name of Sullivan, after Sullivan's Island in Charleston Harbor, S. C., where Gen. William Moultrie so ably defended his fort during the Revolutionary War. Another version (John Freeland's) states that the city was named for Gen. John Sullivan, a northern officer, since Moultrie was a southerner.

The setting for the new county seat may have been beautiful, but, for health reasons, it was not a very good choice for a town site. The Eagle Pond to the north and the poorly drained prairies were breeding grounds for malaria carrying mosquitoes.

The little village of East Nelson, now known as Old Nelson, was a more logical site for a county seat. It was located on the south side of the Kaskaskia River near the Old Bend, and was further removed from the miasmatic conditions of Asa's Point on the prairie. It had been in existence for ten years, having several stores and a mill; and most importantly, the trail toward Charleston passed through it, crossing the river ford near there. It was unfortunate for East Nelson that the east side of the county did not have enough votes to make it the county seat.

There was nothing at Asa's Point when it was chosen. It was simply a point of timber and a little stream named by two hunters many years before. Even though the town soon lost Asa's Rice's name, it is still retained in Asa Creek which flows through the town.

## AT THE DROP OF A PEN—

On a cold day in the winter of 1844, the commissioners gathered in the home of Dr. William Kellar to decide which 40 acres to choose for a site for Sullivan. Philo Hale, a benevolent land speculator and a large landowner in Macon County had offered to sell half of his 80 acres near Asa Creek. An open ditch ran through a low spot between the two 40 acre plots, but the land rose gently to the north and south. A courthouse built on either rise would be prominent.

The county commissioners were at an impasse, so Parnell Hamilton suggested that they "Put up a stake and be governed by its fall." At that moment, the pen with which the chairman, R. B. Ewing, was writing fell from his fingers and pointed north. Taking this as an omen, they chose the north forty, and the original town was bounded by Jackson, Hamilton, Water, and Douglas (later Worth) Streets. It was purchased by Dr. Kellar and others for \$100 and then donated to the county on February 28, 1845.

Charles Martin Cochran recalled the following legend about Parnell Hamilton, the county surveyor:

*It was said that Hamilton, in laying out the city, trained his instruments at the courthouse site on a flagpole just west of the present C.&E.I. railroad tracks. So he could see the pole clearly he tied a whisky jug at the top, and people always joked about the town being laid out with a whisky jug.*

The organization of the town was the death knell for East Nelson and Glasgow. Glasgow was a town platted in 1840 by William Cantrill, a Macon County businessman, at the first crossroads south of Sullivan on the west side of Route 32.

One sour note was heard at the beginning of Sullivan. Ebenezer Noyes, promoter and large land-owner in Whitley Township, saw his dream town of Essex doomed with the growth of Sullivan. He said, "It's a shame to spoil a good 40 acres with a town like Sullivan."

## II. A Frontier Village—1845-1872

### SULLIVAN'S FIRSTS—

**Perryman House** (1) SW corner, Harrison and VanBuren

John Perryman, a merchant from East Nelson, must have been anxious to get Sullivan underway, because in May, 1845, only two months after its site was determined, he moved into his small frame

house, becoming the first resident of Sullivan. His responsibilities were heavy as both county treasure and school commissioner. He was also appointed the town's postmaster and delivered mail which arrived from Shelbyville by horseback every two weeks. In 1848, he was elected circuit clerk and later operated a dry goods store on the south side of the square.

#### **Freeland Log Cabin** (2) NW or NE corner, Adams and Washington

John A. Freeland, the county clerk, was the second resident of Sullivan, coming here from Marrowbone Township in July of 1845. His was the first log cabin in town, having moved it from Glasgow. He was glad to see the court have a permanent place instead of the temporary locations of Campfield Point and East Nelson.

Richard J. Oglesby, future governor and U. S. Senator from Illinois, first practiced law in the old Freeland cabin and was the first lawyer in town. He left in the spring of 1846 to fight in the Mexican War. Decatur claims Oglesby as a native son, but Sullivan played a part also in the life of this great Illinoisian.

There were seven houses or cabins built in Sullivan by the end of the first year. Joseph Thomason's was on the corner of Van Buren and Monroe Streets. He was county sheriff in 1846, and his brother Arnold Thomason, who lived with him for a time, spent 30 years in various offices in the county. The other homes were built by Owen Seaney, a blacksmith; Andrew Scott, county commissioner and the builder of the first county courthouse; Rowland Hampton, a county commissioner; and Thomas Randoll, a carpenter. Note that most of these first residents were either engaged in the actual building of the town, or were county officers.

#### **Earp Saloon** (3) NW corner, Harrison and Washington

Joel Earp's (pronounced "Arp") enterprise was not only the first business, but the first of many saloons. Sullivan was a rough frontier town, and saloons and the affects of their liquor added a lot of local color to our history. Earp sold this business in 1848 and it was later operated by Keedy and Brown.

#### **Oglesby Store** (4) SE corner, Jefferson and Washington

William Cantrill sold his small frame store building at Glasgow to Warner W. Oglesby and he moved it into Sullivan to this site in 1845, making his dry goods store the second business here. Oglesby moved to Decatur the next year, apparently not impressed with the business opportunities in Sullivan.

#### **First Blacksmith Shop** (5) corner, Washington and Water

Blacksmith shops, like filling stations today, were one business

every town had to have. Isaac Funderburk started one in this location the first year. Owen Seaney also had a blacksmith shop in 1845, on the southeast corner of Harrison and Van Buren.

### **First School House** (6) lot 2, block 11 on East Harrison

In the summer of 1846, the first school was taught here in a little frame building. The school master was a young attorney from Christian County, John W. Wheat. This little school was used until the Sullivan Academy was opened. It was also where court was held before the courthouse was completed in 1848. Later it was moved across the street and used as a stable.

In the 1850's a two story brick was built on East Water (7) by members of the Christian Church, and was used until the North Side School opened. This lot has sat idle since then, as the original owners stipulated that it be used only for school purposes.

### **Taylor Hotel** (8) NE corner, Main and Harrison

In 1847, Beverly Taylor, a miller from Marrowbone Township, erected a two story frame hotel or tavern, the first here. The old county history says that the hotel had several nicely furnished rooms; but, the circuit riders apparently avoided it if at all possible on their biannual visits to Sullivan. Judge David Davis, then traveling the Eighth Judicial Circuit, said of it, "The tavern was so tough that I should have been in a bad humor to have staid there." By 1857, Joseph Thomason was operating the hotel, then called the Eagle House (probably after the eagles who nested north of town in the walnut grove along Eagle Pond).

### **First Churches**

Sullivan may have been a rough town in its early days, but it was a religious town.

The Methodist circuit was serving this area as early as 1826, including Sullivan in 1846. In 1848, they built the first church in town on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Madison (9). They moved to their present site in 1862.

The Christian organization predated the formation of Sullivan, organizing in the home of Levi Patterson in 1840. Later, it used the Methodist building until 1853 when they built their own church on the southwest corner of Worth and Harrison (10). The Christians worshiped on this corner for 120 years. Bushrod Henry, their first preacher, was a founder of Eureka College.

The Presbyterians were organized in 1848 and its first building erected in 1853 on the southwest corner of Main and Jackson (11). Although the present church is across the street from their first building site, they have always worshiped on the same intersection.

## LINCOLN'S FOOTSTEPS—

### First Courthouse (12) 1848-1864

Two years after Sullivan was founded, the first official courthouse of the county was begun. The county commissioners chose one of their members, Andrew Scott, to be the contractor. It was a two story brick, 38 feet square. A rail fence surrounded the yard to keep out the hogs and cows which roamed freely through the village. It was ready for use in 1848.

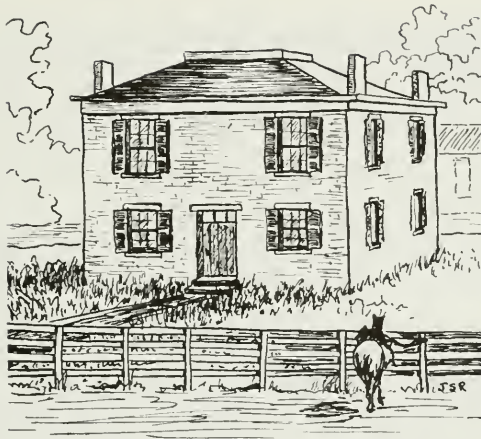
To the pioneer, one of his most exciting diversions was to go to town when court was in session, for the village came alive on these days. If a town visitor could not get into the crowded court room, he could always gossip with friends around the square, "wet his whistle" on sod-corn row or do some trading with the merchants. A picture of the activity of a typical day can be seen from this item in an October, 1858 issue of the Sullivan Express:

*Circuit Court in session—docket not so full as common—pretty fair representation of the legal profession from several of our neighboring towns—quite a number of political speeches made—sod-corn whiskey in demand—town constable very busy—northeast corner of courthouse, lower floor, somewhat crowded—town constable charged with being drunk, arrested, tried and honorable acquitted—peddlers make a great deal of fuss to sell their "Yankee notions"—all our merchants who advertise in the Express very busy—those who do not advertise, not trading much—would tell more but owing to ill health were not able to take items.*

The crowded area referred to above was the first jail located in the northeast corner of the basement of the courthouse. The jail was very inadequate, and most prisoners were taken to neighboring counties for incarceration. Of the four known overnight occupants, two escaped, and one of the ones who did not was a donkey, placed there by pranksters.

The judge in the following article (compiled by Glen Cooper in 1946) was probably Judge David Davis of Bloomington, the judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit which served Moultrie:

*Around 1851, the presiding judge in the Moultrie circuit court was a man who couldn't ponder legal questions deeply unless he could do something with his hands. So, he usually got out his knife and whittled while a trial proceeded. The courthouse had a basement jail, which, because of its filthy conditions, was referred to as "the Stable".*



**THE FIRST COURTHOUSE** may have looked like this sketch. An 1864 picture of its burned out shell shows the position of the windows and four chimneys. The roof style is in question, but it apparently had no cupola. On the second floor was the courtroom.

*The whittling judge insisted upon dignity in his court and demanded that spectators remain in their seats. During a trial one day, a band of Indians passed through Sullivan. They attracted much attention and one of the court room spectators made frequent trips to the window to watch them. The judge's irritation increased each time the man walked to the window. Finally, the judge ordered the sheriff to "put that hoss in the stable," and the violator of the court's dignity was locked in jail.*

Through the doors of this courthouse, Abraham Lincoln passed many times while he traveled on our circuit from 1849 to 1852. The judge and entourage of circuit riding lawyers came to Sullivan twice a year and stayed about two days. The circuit lawyers were usually highly experienced, and often the local lawyers turned their cases over to them.

Few records have been kept of Lincoln's appearances here. In one incident, however, some of Lincoln's humor is preserved. The prosecuting attorney at the time was David Campbell. Campbell had just been in a fight during which the seat of his pants was torn off. Some of the other lawyers present suggested that they buy Campbell a new pair of pants. When they approached Lincoln, he said, "I can not conscientiously contribute anything to the end in view."

This courthouse was destroyed by fire in November of 1864, and many early records were lost.

### James Elder's Home (13) SW corner, Main and Harrison

When James Elder came to Sullivan in 1845, he was already a well established merchant in the county, having kept store at East Nelson for ten years. Elder saw the opportunities in Sullivan, built his first residence on this site and his store building across the street north. He and his wife kept transient guests in their two story home, and Mrs. Elder was stiff competition for the hotel located diagonally across the intersection. The circuit riders, including Lincoln and Judge Davis, preferred to board with Mrs. Elder rather than stay at the crude local inn.

Lincoln stayed in Elder's second home on East Jackson (14)† the night preceeding his appearance in Sullivan in 1858, described on the next page. Douglas had spent the night with Robert Ginn about five miles east of town and was led into town by a procession. The Sullivan Express said, "In passing the residence of Judge Elder, half a mile east of town, A. Lincoln was espied standing upon the porch, when another tremendous cheering for Douglas took place." It is said that the back two or three rooms of the present house are part of the original Elder home.

### Lincoln-Douglas "Riot" (15)† East of Courthouse

Probably one of the most infamous events to occur in Sullivan's history was the day of the "riot" between the supporters of Lincoln and Douglas when they appeared here in 1858. This fracas may have been the only one of its kind during that long summer of campaigning for the U. S. Senate. They had engaged in a series of now famous debates all over the state, but had many separate speaking engagements, as their Sullivan appearance on September 20th was to be. Their fourth debate took them to Charleston two days before.

Apparently, their dual appearance in Sullivan was a coincidence of scheduling, although Douglas accused Lincoln of following him around the state to capitalize on the crowds he had gathered. He indeed gathered crowds, for early in the day they began streaming into the little village from all the neighboring counties.

After a morning spent in parading into and around the town, and then celebrating at the Eagle House, Douglas began his two hour speech at 1 o'clock. The Express described the ensuing events:

*A short time after two o'clock, as the Judge was making a point on Mr. Lincoln, which struck terror to their hears, the abolition part of the audience hurried off, and with full band playing and all the discordant vocal noise that they could muster, assembled at the "Eagle House", northwest corner of public square, where they kept up the din a short time.*



Lincoln's supporters were smaller in number, but their enthusiasm more than made up the difference. The main feature of their procession was a huge wagon twenty-four feet by sixty-four feet long with wheels that were cut from a hickory log three and one half feet in diameter, and it was pulled by thirty-six yoke of oxen. Upon this rode one hundred people, including the band and those running the animated exhibits on the wagon.

The Lincoln procession, led by this huge wagon, proceeded counterclockwise around the square. At this point, Douglas took note of the disturbance, and asked the audience to ignore them and "let the howlers pass, for I can speak louder than their noise."

Instead of bypassing the crowd on the east side of the square, the Lincoln procession turned and drove right through the middle of the Douglas gathering. "In a few minutes the confusion was general, coats were drawn, clubs flourished in the air and everything seemed favorable to a general melee," said the Sullivan Express.

One of the exhibits on the Lincoln wagon depicted the evils of slavery with an overseer whipping two slaves working in a cotton field, all set in motion by a small windmill. F. M. Green, the creator of this controversial cotton field, was one casualty:

*As the wagon was about to pass the viewing stand. . . a mob, infuriated by my exhibit, sent a shower of missiles at my cotton field, and one of the bricks made that dent in my forehead.*

Lincoln and his supporters then went out to Freeland Grove where he delivered his speech. The town was still in turmoil that evening and there were threats of more violence, which, fortunately, did not materialize.

There are so many different versions of what did happen that day that it is difficult to ascertain the truth. Accounts written by Democrats usually play down the violence and place the blame on the Republicans who interrupted their meeting, while the Republicans accuse the Democrats of assaulting their peaceful procession. Whatever is true, passions were still running high fifty years later. The eyes of James T. Taylor, a Douglas man, lit up while reminiscing about the riot and he exclaimed, "Now they had no right to do that!"

**Freeland Grove (16)** Bounded by Wyman Park, Main, Strain, Worth.

On the north edge of the old village of Sullivan was located a beautiful grove of trees known as Freeland Grove, the unofficial park for many years. Fourth of July picnics, tent meetings and political rallies were held in the cool shade of its trees. Owned by John Freeland, who built his later home on the west side of this grove, it was the site of Lincoln's speech on September 20, 1858.

## STRUGGLING TO IMPROVE—

### Sod-corn Row (17) North side of square

During this early period of history, a tavern and a saloon were on either end of the north side of the square and other establishments of a like nature later located there. John R. Eden discussed the atmosphere of the town of 1853:

*At that time the village had no policemen and some of the rougher elements that usually gets out as soon as civilization becomes established until remained in the county. This part of the population when in town, made the saloon their headquarters. They at times indulged in fist fights and other disorderly conduct, as a result of which the north side of the square was called than and for a long time subsequent, "sod-corn row".*

In 1857, an indignant letter was written to the editor of the Sullivan Express:

*From the seeming taste, and business like appearance of your citizens, I was somewhat astonished to see men and women have to go paddling along through the mud around the square, from the fact that there are no sidewalks.*

*I notice in some places wood piled up where there should be sidewalks; particularly on the south side of the square. On the north side, or what is called "sod-corn row", there is not a vestige of a walk-way. I suppose on that side of town there is no particular need of walks for they that visit the bacchanalian halls there, would go, mud or no mud. But, from the mere fact, of there being no side walks there, I think should act as a stimulus, and cause those living on other streets of the town, to build sidewalks in order to show a difference between grog and no grog. — A Chicago Plug*

In spite of the atmosphere on the north side of the square, the town was mainly inhabited by responsible, peaceful citizens. As Eden said, "This much is true, that without ordinances, or municipal officers, and with but a few peace officers of any kind, the people of Sullivan were as orderly and law abiding in 1853 as they have been at any time since."

By the 1870's the atmosphere on this side was improved, due to the efforts of city marshall, James T. Taylor, the first strong temperance man to run the police force.

## **Sullivan Academy, Moultrie County Academy or "Bastion Seminary"** (18) North of 418 South Washington

At an early day there was a desire for Sullivan to improve. One of the men who contributed most toward this in the 1850's was John A. Freeland's brother, James S., a teacher and Presbyterian preacher. By 1850 he had started a private school of secondary education, teaching his first classes in the new courthouse. He constructed the Sullivan Academy, a two story brick, in 1851. Freeland died in 1856, but contrary to information in earlier histories, an 1857 Sullivan Express item indicates the school continued under the leadership of a board of trustees:

*The fourth annual session of this institution will commence on Monday the 5th of October, 1857. The prospects of the school were never brighter than at present. Good teachers have been procured and every arrangement made to render the pupils comfortable and advance them in the various departments of literature. Scholars from a distance will be furnished with board and boarding, convenient to the academy.*

*B. W. Henry, Pres. B. T.; Dennis Cokely, Principal*

Prof. Washington Smith purchased the academy in 1858 from the Freeland estate and sold it in the same year to N. S. Bastion, a Christian Church minister and his wife, Eunice. It is known that the Bastion's operated the school as the Moultrie County Academy or the "Bastion Seminary" through the late 1860's and early 1870's. Bastion stressed the usual study of the classics. It ceased to be a private school a couple of years before the first high school was built and public school classes were held in this building.

## **Second Courthouse (12) 1865-1904**

After the first building burned in 1864, a larger courthouse (50 square feet) was built on the same site. All the materials had to be hauled from the railroad town of Mattoon except the brick, which was made at Dunn by Sam Brooks. The money for the new structure was obtained by Judge Eden, who arranged for the sale of the county's swamplands given to it earlier by the state. Thus, within a few years, most of the unsettled prairie of the county was sold and farmed for the first time. The health of the county was improved and the farming income increased as the prairies were drained. It can be said, then, that each brick of this second courthouse represented one more step in the general improvement of the county. The yard surrounding the courthouse was filled with trees, and an outhouse adorned the east lawn. (See page one)



**THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BUILDING AND THE OLD WATER TOWER** stood on the same block. Like most churches built in the 1850's, there was a door for each sex. The bell was moved from this building to the second church on this site, and was used until 1973.

**Old Well (19)** South side Eden Street, at end of Market

Besides private wells and several located on the square, there was a good well located one-fourth of a mile from the southeast corner of the old town. The ladies of the town made a beaten path through the prairie grasses to it. A well for fire protection was dug in 1871 on the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn, but it was inadequate. In 1887, a sixty foot high wooden storage tank (20) was erected which was to protect the business district.

## **BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES OF THE FRONTIER VILLAGE—**

Sullivan's merchants had a hard time in the first years. Competition from railroad towns in neighboring counties was strong; nevertheless, a few were successful, and some are alive today.

**Corbin Furniture Store (21)†** South side of square

A furniture business started by W. P. Corbin in 1851 is the oldest continuous business in Sullivan, and was owned by the Corbin family for 110 years. Corbin at first made his own furniture, assembling the pieces from native wood in a small factory on Washington Street. The business was in the same location on the south side of the square from 1872 until 1965 when it was moved to the west edge of town by its new owners.

## The Sullivan Progress

The Sullivan Progress is the second oldest business, but the oldest one under the same name. Established in 1856 as The Sullivan Express, its name was changed to The Sullivan Progress in 1869. It has been a Democratic paper most of its life. Early copies of The Sullivan Express are an invaluable source of historical information. The Progress has been in many different locations.

## Eden House (13)† SW corner, Main and Harrison

The Eden House, one of the more famous hotels in Sullivan, was established in 1864 by Judge Joseph E. Eden, brother of John R. Eden. Joseph Eden, who was a merchant, came to Sullivan in 1853. The Eden House may have been in the same structure built by James Elder here in the 1840's. In 1880, the Eden House burned, but was replaced with a three story brick at a cost of \$25,000. It had forty sleeping rooms, a dining room and parlors, and was considered a very fine hotel for a town of Sullivan's size. The Eden House, later called the Savoy Hotel and in the 1920's the National Inn, ceased operation in the 1950's.

## Morrell Grist Mill (22) N. Worth opposite Strain intersection

The main industry in Sullivan most of its first 25 years was the Morrell Grist Mill. It was purchased by S. H. Morrell in 1859 from Garland and Patterson who built the frame structure in 1852. The late Homer Tabor wrote of the Morrell Mill:

*. . . probably from about 1890 to 1900 this historic industry was riding the crest of its useful existence. Those among us today. . . without too much of a stretch of our imaginations, may envision a long line of horse drawn wagons and buggies with the drivers waiting on what was. . . either a dusty or muddy north Worth Street to have their cereals ground at the mill into corn meal, both of which he would take home to the members of his family to use in their routine cooking.*

*Mr. Appollos Hagerman of Sullivan informed the writer that he definitely remembers this old mill with its steam engine that had an enormous fly wheel which appealed to him very much as a small boy. . .*

*Evidently the Morrell Grist Mill burned either shortly before or else shortly after the turn of the century. Joseph H. Baker, grandfather of the writer, purchased the Morrell Mill site to add to his adjacent farm land. . .*

## Business Directory of Sullivan in 1865 Plat

*Editors* - A.N. Smyser, W. M. Stanley; *Sheriff* - S. P. Earp  
*Physicians* - T. Y. Lewis, E. W. Mills, G. Kilner, D. M. Barkley, A.T. Marshall, B. B. Everett; *Druggist* - W. Kilner, H. F. Vadakin  
*Attorneys at Law* - J. R. Eden, J. Meeker, A. B. Lee, J. B. Titus, W. M. Stanley, W. G. Patterson  
*Real Estate Brokers* - A.N. Smyser, A.B. Lee, W.M. Stanley  
*Merchants* - J. Eden, C. Roane, J.B. & E.L. Sheperd, Wm. Patterson  
*Grocery Merchants* - T.F. Schmutge, H.W. Carriker, John R. McClure  
*Furniture Merchants* - W.P. Corbin, J.B. Shepherd  
*Prop. Steam Flouring Mill* - Donty Patterson, J.H. Snyder & Co.  
*Stock Traders* - B.F. Davis, R.W. Lindsay, Dock Patterson & Bros.  
*Carriage, Wagon & Plow Mfg.* - F. P. Hoke, R. Lynn, D.L. Pifer  
*Blacksmiths* - F.P. Hoke, Owen Seaney; *Boot & Shoe Maker* - J. Goets  
*Carpenters & Cabinet Makers* - P.F. Goben, F. W. Bushman  
*Chair Mfg.* - F.W. Bushman; *Plasterer* - Henry Hunt  
*Harness & Saddle Mfg.* - Wm. Thunemann; *Auctioneer* - M. Douglas  
*Prop. Daily Mail Line From Sullivan to Mattoon* - G. W. Gowan & Co.

## Business Directory of Sullivan in 1875 Plat

*Sheriff* - Joseph Thomason; *Constable* - Dock Patterson; *City Marshall* - J. W. Kirkbride; *Justice of Peace* - Andrew Martin  
*Physicians* - E. W. Mills, C.J. Freeland, G. Kilner, J. F. Sanders  
*Attorneys at Law* - T. B. Stringfield, Alvin P. Greene, A. B. Lee  
*Real Estate* - A.N. Smyser, Wm. Elder; *Patentee* - T. H. Beveridge  
*Publisher's (Progress)* - W. H. Smyser, W. J. Mize  
*Postmaster* - A. Mile; *Banker* - X. B. Trower; *Barber* - Joseph Sona  
*Livery Stable* - P. B. Gilham; *Harness Maker* - W. Thunemann  
*Wagon & Plow Mfg.* - F. P. Hoke, H. W. Bury; *Blacksmith* - Wm. Seaney  
*Boots & Shoes* - Mathias Layman; *Auctioneer* - Mahlon Douglass  
*City Flour Mills* - Milton Tichenor; *Miller* - John Williams  
*Woolen Mfg.* - G. S. Jennings; *Soap & Candles* - J. B. Stiers  
*Stair Builder* - John S. Williams; *Mason, Plaster* - O. B. Nichols  
*Dry Goods* - F. E. Ashworth; *Photographer* - A. A. Frederick  
*Grain Dealers* - J. H. Baker, W. Kirkwood, J. L. Minor, D.M. and C.P. Ritter; *Lumber Dealers* - A. J. Dix, Conn & Bros., E. Anderson  
*Merchants* - A. Ping, C. Roane, V. Thompson, J. B. Shepherd  
*Grocers* - Chas. T. Harris, D. F. Stearns, B. W. Brockway  
*Baker* - G. Brosam; *Restaurant* - J. Hefferman, L. Butler  
*Saloon & Billards* - J.L. Keedy; *Tobacco & Cigars* - Henry Boka  
*Agt. Singer Sewing Machine Co.* - A. Chipps, J. Fin  
*Hotel Prop.* - J.E. Eden, Ann Dooley; *Titus House* - E. Titus  
*Jewelers* - T. F. Woody, F. M. Andrus, W. B. Townsend

### III. A Railroad Town at Last—1872

#### “CHISSELED OUT OF ITS RICHES”—

By the 1870's Sullivan was stagnating. The 1850's had brought both the Illinois Central and the Terre Haute and Alton Railroads to Coles County, and our citizens watched with envy as Mattoon sprang up at their intersection, soon surpassing Sullivan in size and in business activity. According to I. J. Martin, our civic leaders “were quite sure that the Chicago branch of the Central would not bypass an important town like Sullivan...” Their disappointment was great and an 1858 Express item claimed the area was being “chisseled” out of its riches. John Freeland said in an 1876 Progress:

*One could hear the wagons going to Mattoon and other points before day and returning after night, while in Sullivan no one came to trade only some poor fellow that had nothing to sell and wanted credit until next Christmas. Our county was literally starved to death and our money and trade taken to build railraod towns all around us. Our men of enterprise were leaving us. Older and more prosperous counties around us formed combinations and legislated against us.*

Bond issues were passed to entice railroads to the area, but by 1858 the taxpayers had nothing to show for their generosity but a little grading and surveying from two railroad schemes that had failed. The Civil War intervened, but finally, in 1872, Sullivan had acquired the coveted title of “railroad town”.

Much excitement was generated when the first train rolled into town, consisting of a boxcar pushed by an engine. This first railroad was the Decatur, Sullivan and Mattoon line, and after many name changes is now the Illinois Central. The 1870's brought one more line, the Chicago and Paducah, known later as the Wabash, and a third railroad went through the northern part of the county.

Suddenly, the taxpayers were faced with three railroads waiting to collect on the \$400,000 in bonds passed the decade before. Freeland defended the harassed county this way:

*In justice to our people let it be remembered that when we commenced voting subsidies we were in hopes of getting some one road and did not think of getting them all. We felt we had voted too much, and as we now had the roads, and would have to*

*pay, a feeling of discontent came on a portion of our enthusiastic citizens, which was encouraged by some would be office holders and fee catchers. So far the fee catchers have come out the best as the treasury can testify.*

The last railroad to be built through Sullivan was the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, built in 1891.

The twenty year delay in getting a railroad to Sullivan is the main reason it is smaller than cities of the same age in neighboring counties. Nevertheless, it can be said the quality of life here is far superior to theirs.

## INCORPORATING A CITY—

1872 was a banner year for Sullivan. To celebrate its revitalization and to express confidence in Sullivan's future prosperity, the founding fathers incorporated as a city in December of 1872. It had first been incorporated as a village in 1850 and as a town in the 1860's. The city officials were so enamored of Sullivan's new status as a railroad town that they included a railroad engine in their first city seal. (See front cover)

## THE PRESENT COURTHOUSE AS IT APPEARED IN 1917





## AROUND THE SQUARE—

### The Present Courthouse

The second courthouse was too small by the turn of the century and was torn down for the present courthouse which was completed in 1906. The cannon on the courthouse lawn is reputed to be from old Fort Moultrie in Charleston, S. C. On the southeast corner is a monument of a Union soldier which used to hold an iron musket. It was erected by Fred Sona, an immigrant monument maker, to face his shop on the east side. The monument on the northeast corner commemorates Lincoln's circuit riding days here. The W.C.T.U. fountain on the northwest corner originally had a figure of a boy pouring water from a boot.

### Titus Opera House (8) NE corner, Main and Harrison

By the 1870's sod-corn row was gone, and the north side of the square became the center of Sullivan's entertainment and social life. Built by J. B. Titus in 1871, the opera house was considered one of the finest in the area. Located on the second and third stories of the building, the large auditorium, balcony and box seats could accommodate 800.

The establishment offered a wide variety of entertainment, including traveling theatrical companies, lectures and talented local musicians. Since it was the largest hall in town, school commencements, balls and other big gatherings were held there.

The Opera House burned in 1910, but its cultural influence was long lasting in Sullivan. Titus's daughter, Winifred Titus Sentel, (who later taught voice and piano to two generations of young people) wrote of its influence on her life:

*Good attractions were booked and one especially that I so well remember was the concert given by the great Brazilian pianist, Teresa Carreno. Her playing thrilled me and inspired me so, that I longed to be able to play the piano. The opera house was my playground, and after a stock company had filled the weekly engagement, my playmates came, and we would, to the best of our abilities, in this world of make-believe, give the plays over again.*

### Oldest Building on Square (†) NW corner, Harrison and Washington

On the site of the first business in Sullivan, stands today what it said to be the oldest building on the square. It is a two story brick built by Dr. T. Y. Lewis sometime between 1866 and 1872. On the unaltered east side the original window cornices can be seen.



### North Side of Square

It was a hot summer day in 1881, too hot for much trade. What better time for A. S. Creech to get a picture? The windows of John R. Eden's law office on the second floor corner of Titus's Opera House were pushed all the way up except for that one that always had to be propped. Down below, the merchandise of the general store on the corner was stored under the awning, almost hiding the two proprietors and their window display of hats. G. O. Andrews, the "merchants tailor", hurried from his store in the middle of the block to put his new sewing machine closer to the camera, and situated himself in front of the opera house stairs. L. M. Spitler and his son prided themselves on neatly stacked merchandise—the cans in their window, and the pots, kegs, brooms and sacks outside. Those four gas lights in front (to illuminate the street for the opera house patrons) were another source of pride, for they were the only ones in town, but someone really should straighten them!

The awning over the Vadakin "Drugs" building next door was lower and made a cool spot for loafing in the uncluttered area in front of the Andrews shop. Mose Ansbacher, the Jewish merchant, had a rack of bargain clothes on the sidewalk. The Journal management (in the two story brick), Harry J. Pike (the jeweler in one of the little wooden buildings), and the proprietors of the City Book Store (in Dr. Lewis's building at the end) did not bother to come out for the picture.

## East Side of Square

A pedestrian on the east side of the square in about 1880 encountered a mixture of sights and smells. The meat market (not pictured), besides selling meat, bought hides and pelts. The market's smell of fresh blood and saw dust mingled with the heavy aroma of oiled leather, the distinctive smell of a harness shop next door. At the sign of the boot (see left of picture), Mat Layman was working at his cobbler's bench. From the open door of Brosam Bros. Bakery came mouth watering aromas of fresh baked goodies. Several customers were in John R. McClure's grocery, indicating that his 23 year old business was in much better condition than his two story wooden building. Several slabs of marble were lying in the street in front of Fred Sona's Marble Shop, waiting to become grave markers through the skillful blows of his chisel. Above the hardware at the end of the block was the law office of I. J. Mouser, with whom young Albert J. Beveridge, a future U. S. Senator, spent many long hours learning about law and politics.

Across the street south a few men had stopped to visit in front of Mayer's Dry Goods Emporium while on their way to pick up their mail at the post office next door. Beyond Citcuit Clerk Joseph Waggoner's white frame house could be seen the unused Bastion Seminary (far right of picture).





### THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE SQUARE IN 1917

**Oldest Group of Buildings on the Square (23)†** corner, Jefferson and Washington.

William Elder, an enterprising businessman, either built or acquired soon after construction the three buildings on this intersection. He first built about 1873 the two story brick on the northeast corner. The row of two story buildings on the southwest corner were next built around 1874 by Elder and A. N. Smyser. About 1876, Charles Crow, a blacksmith, built the large two story brick on the southeast corner and sold it to Elder in 1877. Its ornate cornice has been removed, but, fortunately, the other two buildings have had very little done to change their original appearance. The three story Corbin store, which joins the Elder and Smyser row on the west, dates to 1872. (See picture above)

**Albert Wyman Shoe Store (24)†** NW corner, Jefferson and Main

The money used to create Wyman Park was earned in this building. It was built in 1885 by Albert Wyman, a German born shoe maker, who at his death willed the funds for the park. It was also the site of the earlier dry goods store of Charles L. Roane, member of the state legislature in the 1880's.

**First National Bank (13)†** SW corner, Harrison and Main

This bank has been fortunate in having a long history of responsible management. Established in 1891 as a state bank, it was changed to a national bank in 1905. X. B. Trower's Moultrie County Bank of the 1870's and The Merchant and Farmer's Bank of W. A. Steele had dismal periods, but space does not permit their history to be told.



THE WEST SIDE OF THE SQUARE IN 1917

“Horse Avenue” (25) North Main, between Harrison and Jackson

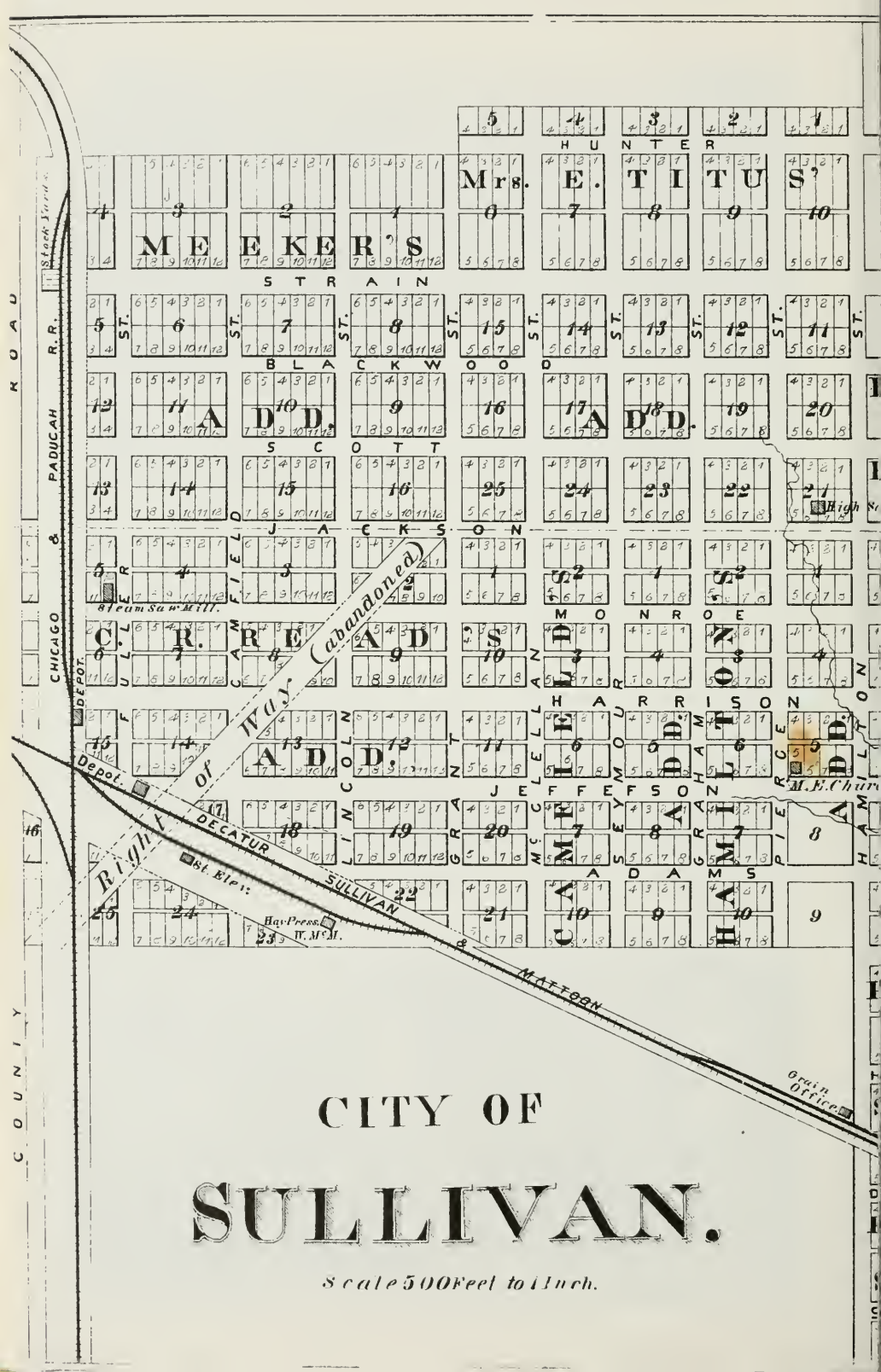
There were so many livery stables and blacksmiths north of the square on Main Street that it was known as “Horse Avenue”. Traveling salesmen arriving by train would rent rigs, farmers left their horses at the blacksmiths while in town trading, high school pupils from the country boarded their horses, doctors hired drivers or rented rigs for their calls in the country, and even the veterinary had his office there to be handy to his customers.

#### First Paved Streets

Sullivan’s citizens slopped around the square in the mud or ate its dust until 1894, when the streets there were paved with brick. The next year West Harrison Street was paved from the square to the railroad depots. It soon became the most fashionable street as is evident by the many old homes still there. This paved street made it more comfortable for traveling salesmen as they rode to the Eden House Hotel in the Eden Hack.

**THE ROLEY DELIVERY WAGON** on west side next to Chapman’s Hardware





# CITY OF SULLIVAN.

Scale 500 Feet to 1 Inch.

C O U N T Y  
 CHICAGO & PADUCAH R.R.  
 DEPT.  
 DEPT.



Grain Office





**THE BROOM CORN PALACE** built for the 1893 Street Fair was an attempt to promote the broom corn raising east of town. It was the main attraction of the fair, and was located at the intersection of Harrison and Main. This view is looking east, and the trees on the right are in the courthouse yard. Street Fairs were like carnivals, the booths and rides being erected all around the square.

**THE PIFER BRICK YARD** located about five miles east of town made bricks for many of the buildings erected in town in the last part of the nineteenth century. It was operated by Samuel Pifer, and later by his son, David. The pit in the center is for mixing clay, taken from a deposit along the creek at the rear. The molded brick was placed in the sun to dry, and then burned in the kiln at night.





## DOWN BY THE RAILROAD---

### West End Business Area

By the turn of the century there were three railroad depots serving 22 trains arriving daily in the two block area on the west end of town. The railroad was the main transportation to local towns such as Dunn, Cushman, Farlow and Bruce, and to more distant points. There was always one policeman stationed in this area to police the depots, the saloon (26)† and the Depot Hotel (27), which had an unsavory reputation. The Sullivan Bottling Works (28) where Mike Finley made ice cream and pop, and the building where P. B. Harshman bought cream and made concrete roofing tile (29), were also on the east side of the railroads.

West of the railroad was the Sullivan Grain Company's elevator built in 1873 by D. F. Bristow (30)†. John H. Baker's Illinois Bridge and Iron Works (31) built the iron river bridges that are still in use all over central Illinois. Besides these enterprises, coal companies sent their coal wagons from here on city routes.

**THE ILLINOIS BRIDGE AND IRON WORKS**, operated by J. H. Baker, fabricated the iron bridges which span the rivers of our area.





**THE THREE RAILROAD DEPOTS** provided Sullivan with excellent service. The Illinois Central depot is on top. In the bottom picture, the Wabash depot is on the right with the Central and Eastern Illinois depot to its left. Note the West End Elevator on the left.

### **Old Fair Grounds (32)† North Market**

"Right this way for the fair grounds!" was the cry of the hack drivers on the Eden House corner drumming up business for the long ride out to the fair grounds. Going to the fair was an event not to be missed, because it was, among other things, an opportunity to renew friendships with people not seen since the last fair. The first county fair was held in 1857 southeast of town, but with the coming of the railroads in 1872, a new fair grounds was built northwest of town to be closer to the depots.

There were two buildings with agricultural and domestic displays, livestock judging in an amphitheatre, and a half mile track for horse races. At the turn of the century, races between Dr. A. D. Miller's "Peachie" and Lawrence Purvis's "Rex Americanus" caused great excitement among horse racing fans. Henry Hess even named one of the cigars he made in his cigar factory (33) after his favorite, "Peachie". There were two later race racks east of town.

### **SOUTHEAST, OUT BY "DOG TOWN" —(Named for the hound dog population)**

#### **East Side Mills**

The industrial center of town was located along the bank of an open stream which once ran through here. The first industry was a mill built in 1866 by Donty Patterson, J. H. Snyder and McClelland (34). Its three stories contained two burrs for grinding wheat into flour and one burr for corn meal. By the 1870's it was known as the City Flouring Mills and later as the City Roller Mills.

A woolen mill (35), another three story brick, was built in 1867 across the creek north of the flour mill by Jonathan Patterson and Benjamin S. Jennings. By 1881 it was capable of spinning and weaving 100 pounds of woolen cloth a day. Farmers could have their wool spun into an oxford grey cloth for jeans, linsey material for dresses or even blankets. A soap factory was also operated here in the 1870's

#### **Greenhill Cemetery (36)† End of East Water**

Once a year on Memorial Day (May 30), the whole town honored the war veterans with an all day celebration including a parade to the cemetery, speeches and decoration of graves with flowers. The long processions consisted of many survivors of the Mexican, Civil and Spanish American Wars. Carleton Harris remembered from boyhood one Confederate veteran, Charlie Collins, always walking in the parade, even with his stiff leg that had been wounded while riding with Morgan's Raiders. He delighted in pointing his cane up at the "GAR" men riding in carriages and saying, "I could whip 'em yet!"

The first burial was James Elder's daughter, Rebecca Berry, in 1847, while it was still his private burial ground. William Patterson and



**THE CITY ROLLER MILLS** on the east side of town had walls two feet thick. This mill and other factories filled a block, and an I. C. track was extended to them from the East End Elevator.

William Kellar also contributed ground to the cemetery. A few of the old evergreens here may have been planted in 1857 by B. B. Peddicord, a cemetery trustee.

**'Bunker Hill'** (36), in Greenhill Cemetery.

Carleton Harris reminisced about this popular hill now razed:

*In the winter time when we were kids, we would go out east of town and using barrel staves for skis, we would take off down those hills. We'd have to loop around the buck brush. We always coasted at Cemetery Hill. Then we had Bunker Hill out there, too. What most people don't know about Bunker Hill is that at one time, when they started putting in what was originally the Sullivan-Mattoon Railroad and now the I.C., they surveyed this railroad to run through the middle of Sullivan, so they graded up some dirt in preparation of running the railroad through the center of town along Harrison.*

## Albert J. Beveridge's Boyhood Home (37) South Polk

A future senator from Indiana, Albert J. Beveridge, was reared in Sullivan and graduated from the high school in the class of 1881. When he was six his family came from Ohio to the Sullivan area to farm. When a drouth wiped out his father, the family moved into the city to a house on this site. His father did a number of different things to make a living in the hard times of the '70's. A Sullivan newspaper ad of 1874 spoke of his hay press invention:

**ATTENTION FARMERS! THE LATEST THING OUT! And the best and cheapest in the way of bailers--THE FARMERS FRIEND. The patentee will have a small machine on exhibition during court, and will be prepared to sell farm rights, township rights, county and state rights. Now avail yourselves of the easiest and best way to get the most money for your hay**  
—T. H. Beveridge, Miley and Co.  
—T. H. Beveridge, Patentee.

We lost Albert Beveridge to Indiana when he went to DePauw University, and then started his law practice in Indianapolis. From 1899-1911, he became one of the most influential members of the U.S. Senate. Along with men like Roosevelt, Lodge, Mahan and Blaine, he was one of the leading exponents of our country's expansion of power into the Pacific at the turn of the century, the policy which can be traced to our involvement in Viet Nam 60 years later. Later he worked with LaFollette and others for reforms that led to the Pure Food and Drug and Meat Inspection Acts of 1906. In later years he wrote outstanding biographies of John Marshall and Abraham Lincoln.

## Poland's Pond South of sewage plant

One of the best recreations of the winter was ice skating, and there were plenty of places available before Wyman Park Lake was built. Poland's Pond, made to cut ice for their meat market, was one popular place. Other popular skating ponds were the depot pond, thought to be a buffalo wallow, Patterson's Pond and Harshman's Pond. Even earlier was the one at Morrell's Mill. Homer Tabor wrote of it:

*My mother told me many times of the very enjoyable and merry ice skating parties which she attended in her youth on the Morrell Mill Pond, where during the clear cold winter nights hundreds of young people would gather to enjoy the exhilarating ice skating sport which was made more rollicking and zestful by the snappy music that flowed from the many harmonicas that the skaters played.*

**Pifer's Ice Business** (38) South Main, north of railroad.

Before the days of electricity, the ice business was important in the summertime. Charlie Pifer cut ice in the winter on Guy Pifer's Lake at Pifer's Park south of town and stored it in a big ice house there between layers of sawdust. He also had a small storage house on this site near his house. Ice wagons visited homes every day with a new supply for their boxes. Chandler Poland, who used to run an ice route for the Poland's remembered:

*Even though ice didn't cost much, some old ladies would wrap the ice in paper to keep it from melting. They didn't get the good out of it, because it had to melt to get the cold.*

### **CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS—**

**North and South Side Schools** (39) (40)†NW corner, Jackson and Hamilton, SE corner Adams and Graham.

The North Side School was an elaborate structure built in 1874 to house both the grade and high school classes. The bell in the tall tower at the front proved too great a temptation to students at Halloween one year. They extended a wire from the base of the bell, across the tree

### **NORTH SIDE SCHOOL**





**SOUTH SIDE [LOWE] SCHOOL**

tops to a position about a block away, and rang the bell intermittently through the night. The police could not find how the bell was being rung for no one was in the building.

After 1897 it was used as a grade school only and the new South Side School was the high school. The south school was later named after O. B. Lowe, an early principal and county superintendent. The present Powers School was built in 1927 and named after the Powers sisters who each taught about 50 years in the school system. The Sullivan Township High School was built in 1917 and converted into a junior high school in 1959, when the new high school was built.

**City Light Plant** (41)† SE corner, Grant and Adams.

The erection of electric street lights which may seem to be a simple public improvement, proved to be the most controversial issue of the new century. At times the atmosphere was so heated, that it could have generated electricity without the aid of a steam engine.

It all started in 1892, when J. H. Baker built a privately owned power plant and contracted with the city to supply power for 32 electric street lights on cloudy and moonless nights. When the contract was about to expire at the end of ten years, a new contract, allowing him higher rates for his services, was drawn up during secret city board meetings, and the town was enraged! After several court battles, and the election of the opposition party in 1901, the municipal light plant was installed at the Waterworks in 1903.

This was not the end of the controversy, as Baker continued to operate his plant, too. In 1912, he sold it to the CIPS, who attempted to extend electric service in the town in direct competition with the municipal plant. CIPS did not have a franchise from the city, so their linemen would come over at midnight to install their new poles and lines. Time and again, they were brought down from their poles, arrested and thrown in jail. In the ensuing court battles, Sullivan surprised everyone with the appearance of the famous Clarence Darrow as their attorney. He not only demoralized the opposition, but won the case.

### TIME LINE OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

- 1858 Wooden side walks and crossings were built around the square.
- 1872 All new buildings on the square were to be of brick or stone.
- 1883 Sullivan went "dry" for two years.
- 1885 The City Police Department was established. Gasoline street lights were built with money from saloon licenses.
- 1887 A sixty foot high water tank was built for fire protection.
- 1889 A bandstand was erected on the courthouse yard.
- 1892 Street signs were put on buildings nearest each intersection.
- 1894 The streets around the square were paved with brick.
- 1895 The first telephone system was installed in the city.
- 1898 The city library was established.
- 1903 The municipal electric plant was opened.
- 1906 Prohibition was again established, lasting until 1933.
- 1914 Land was purchased for the Wyman Park site.
- 1925 City wells were dug two and a half miles south of town.
- 1936 A city sewer system was installed.



## EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY INDUSTRIES---

### The Dairy Industry

The mooing of cows used to be one of the familiar sounds in town, for many families kept them in barns behind their houses. A few of these small barns remain on the east edge of town. For those who did not own a cow, Rev. S. R. Harshman ran a delivery wagon supplying townspeople with fresh milk from his dairy herd on the south side of town (42). His customers filled their pans from a spigot on the five gallon cans, paying 5 cents a quart.

Around 1905-1910, good Jersey herds were developed by farmers in the area and they either sold their cream to local cream stations twice a week, or shipped it to Chicago or Danville to be made into butter. This product had a nut-like flavor, far inferior to home made sweet cream butter, for the cream had soured by the time it reached its destination. One of the local cream buyers was the Wadley Company, later operated by Chal Newbould.

With the establishment of the Isaacs brothers' Sullivan Dairy (43) in 1927, and the Armour Creamery (44) in 1932, the method of handling local dairy products improved. The Dairy made ice cream, butter and cottage cheese, selling it from house to house and delivering it to about twenty schools in the area. Armour Creamery sold its cheese throughout the country, and ran twenty-seven trucks in a six county area to pick up its milk.

### Brown Shoe Company

During the 1920's, the Sullivan Community Club, the forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, worked to entice industry to town. Brown Shoe Company of St. Louis agreed to set up a plant at Sullivan if the community would provide \$125,000 for a building to house the factory (45)†. Through a great amount of sacrifice and work the money was raised and the factory opened in 1930. Today it employs 375.

### Community Industries (42)†

An important industry for the prosperity of Sullivan was established in the 1930's by the Church of Jesus Christ under the leadership of Leah Harshman, the daughter of Rev. S. R. Harshman, the founder of the church. In the words of Miss Harshman:

*It was always a principle of the church to help its members and to keep them from becoming public charges. . .The serious depression of the early 1930's, however, brought employment in Sullivan to a standstill. . .There was little work. . .aside from that provided by relief projects and these, the church people believed, did not contribute to lasting prosperity.*



**THE SECOND PLANNING MILL** was built by Appollos Hagerman and Rufus Harshman after an 1896 fire destroyed the old mill operated by L. T. Hagerman and W. A. Duncan. The planning mill developed into a large contracting business that worked throughout the area.

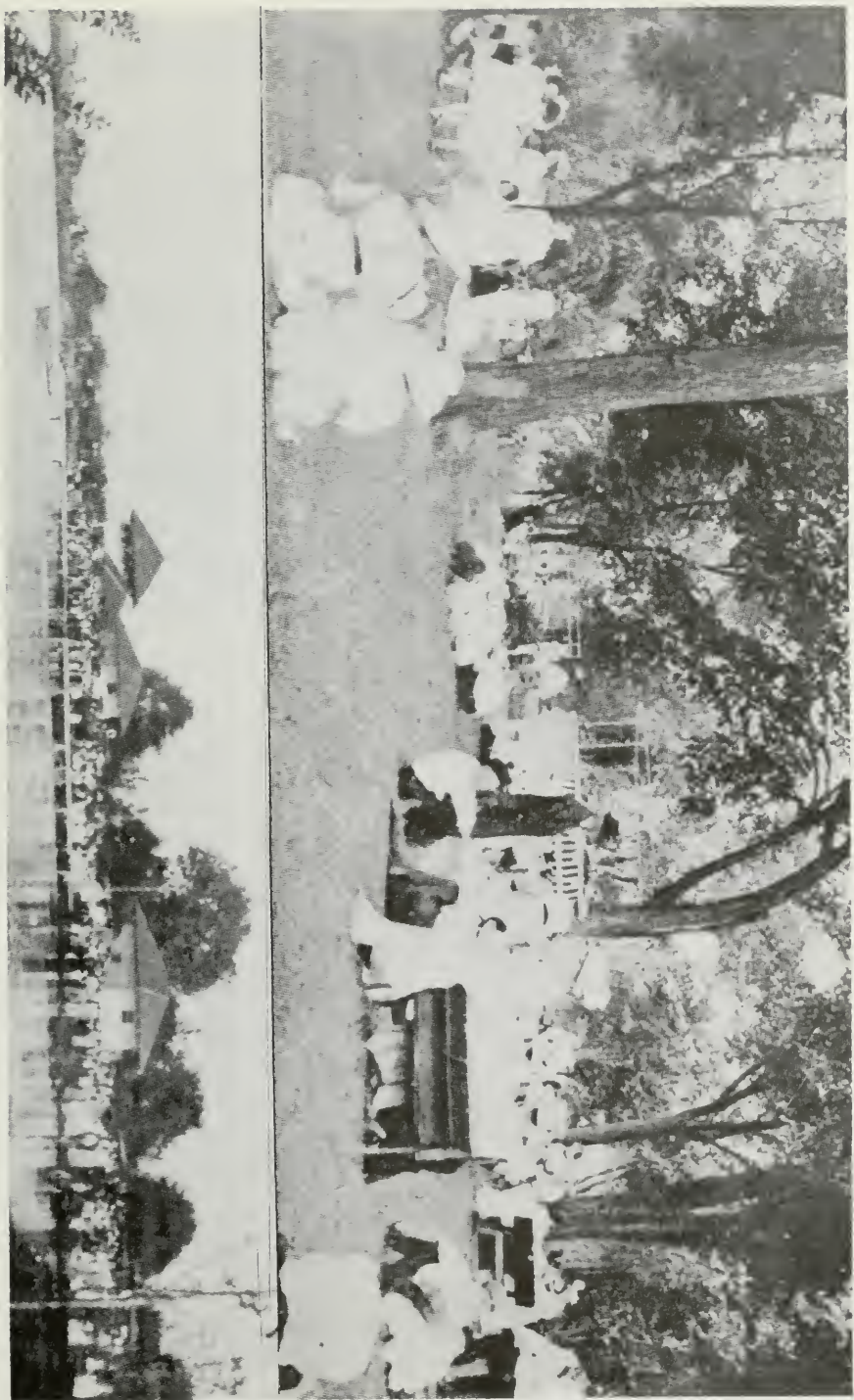
The women of the church developed a number of good recipes for candy bars and began marketing candy. Others began a dress making enterprise. By 1939, there were 50 people employed in these activities in buildings all over town. At this time, a concrete building was completed by church members, the materials being supplied by Harshmanite construction firms in town. Today, Community Industries has evolved into three separate enterprises making dresses, candy, and lawn and garden equipment, and employing 475 people.

### **WYMAN PARK—**

Albert Wyman loved to walk. Every morning of the year, good weather or bad, he went a mile or two before he opened his shoe shop. While traveling the dusty or muddy country roads, the idea of creating a park must have formed in his mind.

He fought in the Civil War after immigrating from Germany. By 1870, he was in Sullivan, and in a few years had a successful shoe business. He lived alone in a room above his store on the square. Having never married, he had no heirs. At his death, \$40,000 was left to the city for a park, with the stipulation that all things held on its premises would be free.

In 1914, the city decided to purchase the pasture of J. B. Titus (46)†. Freeland Grove was bought separately, and on the east side a large pavilion (47)† was built for commercial activities. The mayor, Finley Pifer, arranged for the park to be beautifully landscaped featuring elm trees along the roads, a lake on the north, and a bandstand in the Freeland Grove area.



## A FEW OLD AND INTERESTING HOMES AROUND TOWN—

### **Stewart-Lucas-Nicolay House (48)†** SW corner, Water and Polk

This may be the oldest existing house in town, for the back two rooms were apparently built around 1855 by Lafayette Stewart, a merchant. The fireplace between the rooms warmed Lincoln, for he is said to have stayed here while traveling on the Charleston Road that passed in front of the house. The Kilner and Lucas families lived here for fifty years prior to 1937, when the Nicolays bought it. The architectural style of the whole house is Greek Revival, dating it to the 1850's. It is built with walnut and hickory probably cut from timber near Sullivan. The front porch, added later, hides the lovely entrance.

### **Elder-Steele-Shirey House (49)†** east side of Calhoun at end of Harrison

Either Dr. T. Y. Lewis or William Elder, his brother-in-law, built this home in the 1860's. It was sold by Elder to W. A. Steele in 1885. Steele also purchased the Merchant's and Farmer's Bank the Elders had started. The addition to the north was built at a later date by Steele. The Shirey family has owned it for forty years.

### **Patterson-Shuman-Brandenburger House (50)†** SE corner, Adams and Polk

This was one of the most imposing houses in town when it was erected in the 1860's. William G. Patterson, a native of Canada, built it soon after coming to Sullivan to practice law. O. B. Lowe, Patterson's son-in-law, lived here prior to 1903, when Charles Shuman, a proprietor of the First National Bank, bought it. The Brandenburgers acquired it in the 1950's. It is built in the Italian style, having the typical rounded windows. It once had a turret on the roof, and a porch extended across the west side.

### **Eden-Martin-Beals House (51) †** NW corner, Jefferson and McClellan

This home was built around 1874 by John R. Eden, a prominent lawyer in Sullivan and a politician. He was a member of the U. S. House of Representatives for five terms, serving during the troubled Civil War and Reconstruction. While in Congress, he was a member of the committee to investigate the disputed presidential election of 1876 between Hayes and Tilden. Eden was an unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor in 1868.

The houses described above are only representatives of the many fine old homes in Sullivan. A few are pictured on the opposite page along with other notable homes.

**STEWART-LUCAS  
NICOLAY HOUSE**  
[1850's]



**PATERSON-SHUMAN  
BRANDENBURGER  
HOUSE [1860's]**



**ELDER-STEELE-SHIREY  
HOUSE [1860's]**



**J. H. BAKER-TABOR  
DOLAN HOUSE**  
[1905]

**TITUS-SENTEL  
HOUSE**  
[1896]





## METHODIST, CHRISTIAN AND CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IN 1917

SULLIVAN CHURCHES	ORGANIZED	FIRST BUILDING	PRESENT BUILDING
First Christian	1840	1853-SW corner Worth & Madison	1973-1 mile east of town
First United Methodist	1846	1848-NE corner Jefferson & Madison	1893-NE corner Jefferson & Pierce
First Presbyterian	1848	1853-SW corner Jackson & Main	1889-NW corner Jackson & Main
Church of Jesus Christ	1871	1910-SE corner Hamilton & George	same building
First Baptist	1883	1890-NW corner Adams & Hamilton	same building
St. Columille Catholic	1905	1905-NE corner Jefferson & Camfield	1969-NE corner Jackson & Grant
Church of Christ	1914	1930-NE corner Monroe & VanBuren	1953-NW corner Jackson & Grant
First Church of God	1923	1931-SW corner Water & Washington	1968-1213 East Jackson
Pentacostal	1931	1947-SE corner Water & Main	same building
Southern Missionary Baptist	1950	1960-NE corner Monroe & VanBuren	1963-104 North Lebanon
Grant Street Church of Christ	1964	1964-Grant & Prairie	same building
Faith Lutheran (Mo. Synod)	1971	1971-NW corner Water & Van Buren	same building



**CIVIL WAR VETERANS** assembled at Jonathan Creek for a memorial service. The first three men on the front row are Jess Bell, Ike McBroom, and Tom Fultz. Judge W. G. Cochran may be the fifth man. The three men on the right of the second row are Mack Birch, Nelson E. Powell, and John England. The first man in the top row is Asa Johnson. Unfortunately, the others are unidentified.

**WELCOME HOME WORLD WAR I VETERANS!** This arch was at the intersection of Harrison and Main in 1919. The First National Bank is on the left and the Merchant and Farmer's State Bank is on the right.





**“GOOD-BYE, BOYS!”** The whole town came out to see Company C leave for the Mexican Border in 1917.

#### FROM THE PAPERS—

1875--“Chal Stanley is studying law. Oh, what a host of lawyers Sullivan will turn loose in a year or two.”

1886--“Notice: I would be much obliged to the boys who have been visiting my apples after night if they would close the hole, as they are liable to freeze this cold weather...H. Hunt.”

1880--“Mssrs. Spitler & Son have overhauled the opera house grocery store, and have cleaned it from top to bottom, a consumation devoutly wished for by its patrons.”

1869--“Football! Yes, that’s a very pleasant game for those who delight in it, but we are not of that number. By some of our friends, we were induced, a few mornings since, to take part in the interesting play (as they called it). We played, kicked and knocked ‘for all that was in sight’; hopped around as nimbly as a snowbird; enjoyed it muchly at the time, but as to the result, oh my! A stiff leg, in fact two of ‘em! Two lame arms! A disabled body, generally! and a busted boot! We have not entirely recovered yet. Such was our experience. Do you centure (sic) us for not admiring the game? Not any more, thank you, we are satisfied!”



## SULLIVAN BUSINESS SPONSORS

<b>AIMEE'S BOTTLE HOUSE</b> COLDEST BEER IN TOWN	<b>DAIRY QUEEN BRAIZER</b>
<b>ALLEN'S SERVICE CENTER</b>	<b>DREW'S SHOES</b>
<b>ANDERSON GIFT SHOP</b> 1948 Gifts-Cards 1973	<b>DUNSCOMB</b> Fine Furniture since 1918
<b>ARTHUR C. ERDMANN</b> for the Country Companies	<b>ELZY'S</b> Flowers and Gifts
<b>ATCHISON OIL CO. INC.</b> Sullivan & Decatur	<b>FAMILY SHOE CENTER</b>
<b>BARNES</b> Floor and Wall Covering	<b>FASHION SHOP, INC.</b>
<b>BECK'S AUTO REPAIR</b> 408 N. Seymour St.	<b>FELICITY FASHIONS, INC.</b>
<b>BOB and LIDA'S</b> <b>CLEANING CENTER</b>	<b>FIRST NATIONAL BANK</b>
<b>BOOHER FEED CO.</b>	<b>HAMILTON'S MENS WEAR</b> Men and Boy's Clothing
<b>BOOKER SERVICE</b> 304 S. VanBuren	<b>HARSHMAN, P. H. &amp; E CO.</b> since 1901
<b>BROWN SHOE COMPANY</b> since 1930	<b>HEZZY'S DRIVE INN</b> <b>AND BOWL</b>
<b>BUXTON and MERCER</b> Small Engine Repair	<b>HORN INSURANCE AGENCY</b>
<b>CHAPPEL BODY SHOP</b> Route 32, South	<b>HUGHES &amp; WOOLEN</b> <b>STATIONS</b> Kerr McGee
<b>CHAPPEL GARAGE</b> 408 N. Fuller	<b>JEFFERS MOTOR SERVICE</b> Wheel Alignment
<b>COLLINS SHELL SERVICE</b>	<b>JEFFERSON ICE. CO.</b>
<b>CORLEY</b> <b>INTERNATIONAL, INC.</b>	<b>JIBBY'S TAVERN</b> The Spot For Fun
<b>COUNTRY COMPANIES</b> Farm Insurance for 45 years	<b>JOHN'S PHARMACY</b>

<b>KAISER AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS</b>	Merle Norman Cosmetics For a More Beautiful You
<b>KASKIA TRUE VALUE HARDWARE</b>	<b>METALLIZING CO. OF AMERICA, INC.</b>
<b>KEN'S FOOD STORES</b>	<b>MILROY MOTEL</b>
<b>KITE WOODWORKING CO.</b> Electric Garage Doors	<b>MR. DRUMSTICK</b> Family Restaurant
<b>KNOTTY PINE TAVERN</b> Package Goods	<b>MONTGOMERY WARD</b> Catalog Agency
<b>LAKE AND LAWN SUPPLIES GREENHOUSES</b>	<b>MOSCHENROSE JEWELERS</b>
<b>LANCASTER DRUG STORE</b>	<b>MOULTRIE CO. H. I. A</b> Bluecross - Blueshield
<b>LANDERS SEED CO., INC.</b> Seeds since 1936	<b>Moultrie Shelby F.S Inc.</b>
<b>LEE NORTON REALTOR</b>	<b>NEAL BODY SHOP</b> 111 N. Hamilton
<b>LEE'S SPORT SHOP</b> 24 hr. Bait & Tackle Service	<b>NOLEN'S UPHOLSTERY</b> 408 N. Fuller
<b>LEHMAN AND JIVIDEN IGA FOODLINER</b>	<b>O. K. JOBBERS</b> Auto and Implement Supplies
<b>LITTLE THEATRE ON THE SQUARE</b>	<b>P. N. HIRSCH AND CO.</b>
<b>LIVERGOOD GRAIN CO.</b> Findlay-Chipps-Coles	<b>Pat Stone's Beauty Salon</b> Open 6 Days Weekly
<b>LIVERGOOD REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>PAUL ROMANO PIZZA</b>
<b>LUCY ELLEN CANDIES</b> F and F Laboratories	<b>POLAND'S BARBER SHOP</b> Prop. Larry Clagg
<b>MARY'S BEAUTY SHOP</b> Licensed Cosmetologist	<b>PRAIRIE STUDIOS</b> Art School
<b>MAXEDON</b> Signs and Campers	<b>REED'S SULLIVAN</b>
<b>MCLAUGHLIN AND HARGIS</b> Insurance and Real Estate	<b>RHODES LUMBER CO.</b>

<b>ROLEY REAL ESTATE</b> since 1953	Toad sez see <b>KENNY INSURANCE</b>
<b>RUSSELL M. HARSHMAN</b> Concrete since 1920	<b>THE DEPOT</b> Antiques and Gifts
<b>SALT ON MY TAIL YARNS</b>	<b>THE DRESS HOUSE</b> Dresses-Coats-Sportswear
<b>SEAR'S CATALOG</b> <b>MERCHANT</b>	<b>THE INDEX</b> 40 years same location
<b>SHASTEEN MOTORS, INC.</b> Ford Sales and Services	<b>THE NICKELODEON</b> Ice Cream-Records-Tapes
<b>SHORTY'S CAFE</b> 4 AM-4:30 PM W.D.	<b>THE RED FOX</b> Tues-Sat 11-1 AM Sun 11-7 PM
<b>STATE BANK OF SULLIVAN</b>	<b>THE SHIRLEY SHOP</b> Licensed Cosmetologist
<b>STUBBLEFIELD, INC.</b> Automotive and Marine	<b>THE SPOT RESTAURANT</b>
<b>STYLE LAND</b>	<b>THE SULLIVAN BOWL</b>
<b>SULLIVAN AUTO SUPPLY</b> American Parts Jobber	<b>THE SULLIVAN PROGRESS</b> since 1856 - 116 yrs of service
<b>SULLIVAN BAKERY</b> 25th Anniversary Year	<b>TOM WEST, INC.</b> Chev-Olds-Cadillac
<b>SULLIVAN GRAIN CO.</b> since 1928	<b>WALKER PIPE CO.</b> since 1930
<b>SULLIVAN MARATHON</b> 203 W. Jackson	Jim and <b>WARD</b> Furniture Ella May                      Carpeting
Sullivan Mutual Fire Ins. Co. In Business since 1906	<b>WATERS RADIATOR</b> 1 blk. north of Hezzy's
Sullivan Savings and Loan 85 Years of service	<b>WAYNE H. SMITH AGENCY</b> Real Estate & Insurance
<b>SULLIVAN STAR MARKET</b>	<b>WESTERN AUTO STORE</b> The Family Store
<b>SULLIVAN SUNOCO</b> 111 N. Jackson	William E. Graven <b>STATE FARM INS. AGENCY</b>
<b>SULLIVAN WOOD PRODUCTS</b> Home of Fine Cabinets	<b>WOOD INSURANCE AGENCY</b> since 1929

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TV Sales and Service

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MCLAUGHLIN AND STONE

BEST CLINIC  
ASSOCIATION

MCMULLIN FUNERAL HOME  
since 1929

C. J. ELLIOTT, D.D.S.

RALPH L. FULLER, O.D.

DONALD M.  
BUTLER, D.D.S.

ROBERT F. WHITE

GENERAL TELEPHONE  
OF ILLINOIS

SULLIVAN VETERINARY  
CLINIC

GEORGE A. RONEY, O.D.  
Optometrist since 1919

VERNON E. ELDER

H. E. KENDALL, M.D.

WILLIAM C. INGRAM

MATHIAS CHIROPRACTIC  
CENTER

WILLIAM E. ALWERDT,  
D.D.S.

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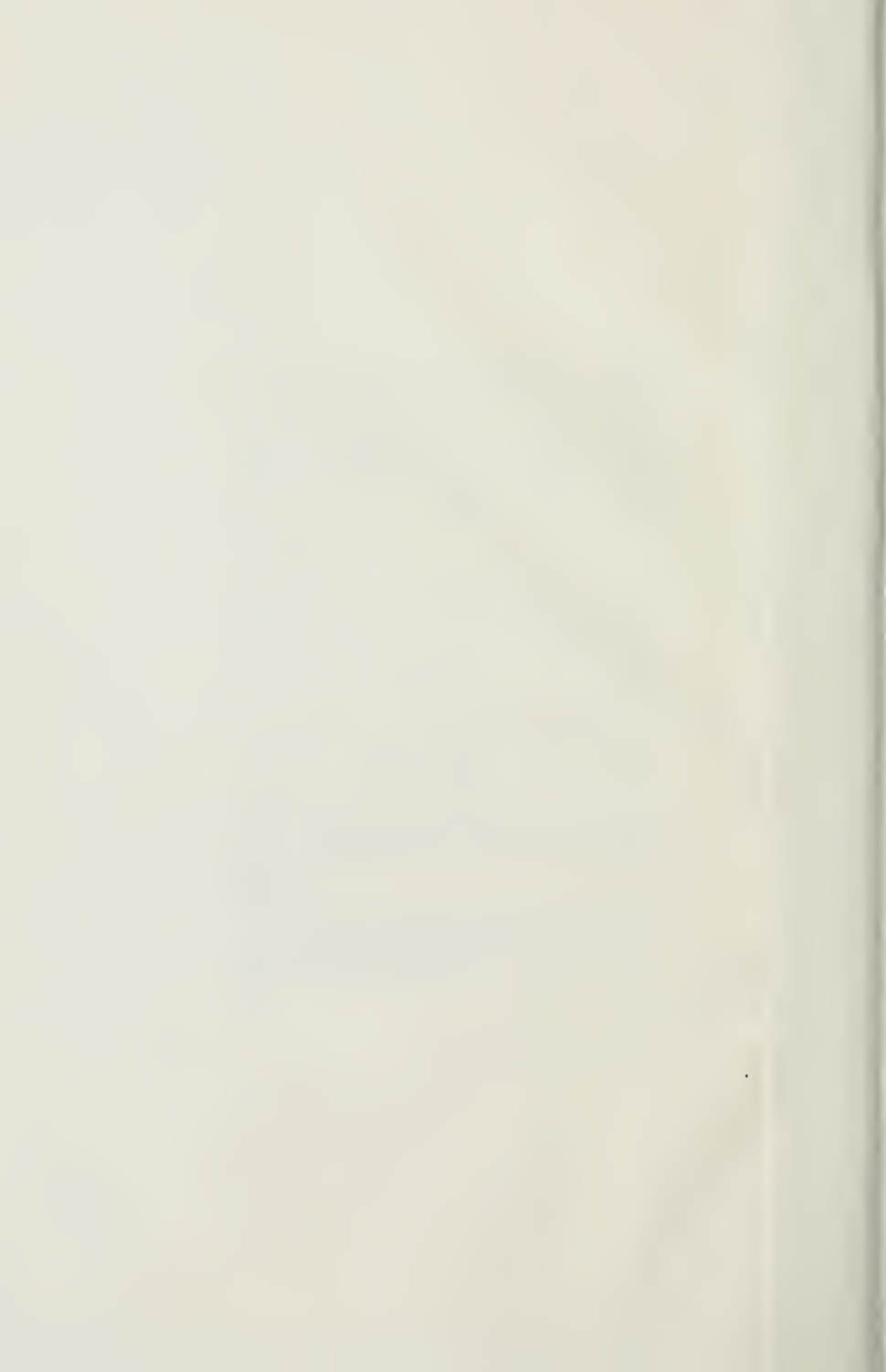
The formation of the Moultrie County Historical Society in 1967 brought together people from the area who were interested in local history. No other organization in the county could claim such a varied membership, having people of all ages and all occupations.

In 1973, recognizing the booming popularity of genealogy, the group reorganized, becoming the Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society. The objective of the new society is to stimulate an interest in local history and genealogy, and to preserve information for future generations. The society will publish a quarterly in the near future, and wants to find a permanent place for meetings and a small historical and genealogical library.

The society encourages interested persons to attend its informative monthly meetings, and to aid it in its goals.









# Historic Sites In the City of Sullivan 1845-1973

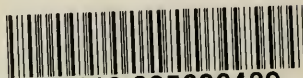
By Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society



- Key for Map
- 1 - Perriman House Site
  - 2 - Freedman Log Cabin Site
  - 3 - Sara Tipton Site (Dress Building on Square)
  - 4 - Ogilby Store Site
  - 5 - First Blacksmith Shop Site
  - 6 - First School House Site
  - 7 - Second School House Site
  - 8 - Taylor Store Site, First Opera House Site
  - 9 - Site of First Church (Methodist)
  - 10 - Moultrie County Courthouse (1847, 1945, and 1948)
  - 11 - Presbyterian's First Church Site
  - 12 - James Elder's First House (Elder House Building)
  - 13 - James Elder's Second House
  - 14 - Lincoln Douglas Riot Site
  - 15 - Freedland Grave
  - 17 - Sag car Row
  - 18 - Sullivan Academy or Boston Seminary Site
  - 19 - Old Well Site
  - 20 - Old Water Tower Site
  - 21 - Carbon Fuelstore Store Building
  - 22 - Murrell Gravel Mill Site
  - 23 - Oldest Group of Buildings on Square
  - 24 - Albert Wymann Store Building
  - 25 - Horse Avenue
  - 26 - Sullivan Building on West End
  - 27 - Depot Hotel Site
  - 28 - Sullivan Bottling Works Site
  - 29 - Harshman Cream Station and Concrete Works Site
  - 30 - West End Elevator
  - 31 - Illinois Bridge and Iron Works Site
  - 32 - Old Fair Grounds
  - 33 - Press Paper Factory Site
  - 34 - City Flouring Mills Site
  - 35 - Womans Mill Site
  - 36 - Greenhill Cemetery - Banker Hill
  - 37 - Gen. Albert Beveridge Home Site
  - 38 - Piler's Ice Building Site
  - 39 - North Side School Site
  - 40 - South Side School Site
  - 41 - City Lager Plant
  - 42 - S. B. Harshman Dairy Site (Community Industrial)
  - 43 - Isaac Sullivan Dairy Site
  - 44 - Armour Creamery Site
  - 45 - Brown Shop (Cannery First Building)
  - 46 - Wymann Park
  - 47 - American Legion Pavilion
  - 48 - Stewart Lucas Nicholas House
  - 49 - Elmer Shuman Brandy House
  - 50 - Puller Shuman Brandy House
  - 51 - Eden Martin Brandy House
  - 52 - Central and Eastern Illinois Depot Site
  - 53 - Wabash Depot Site
  - 54 - Illinois Central Depot



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