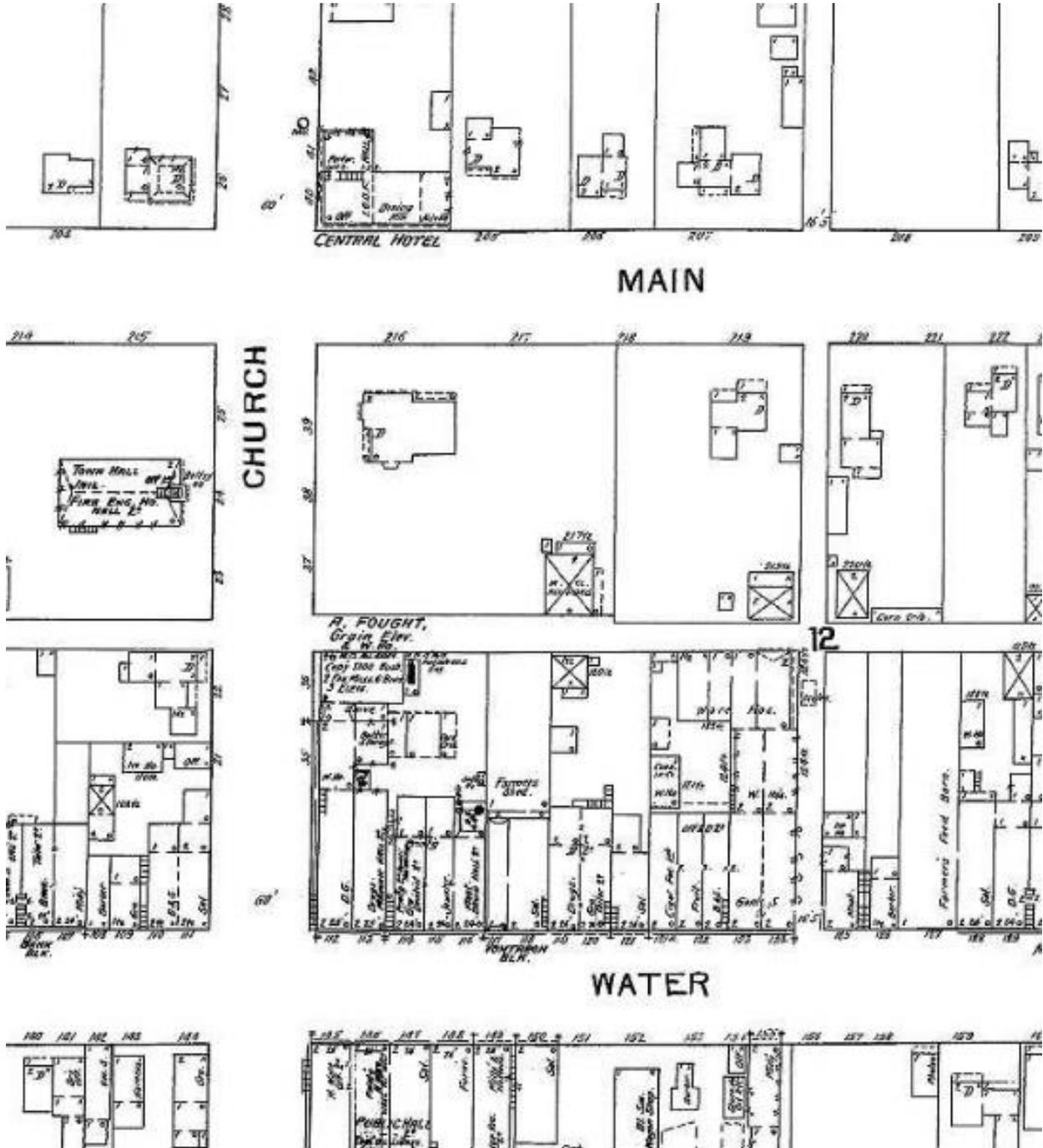


112 NORTH CHURCH STREET



1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps were created in almost every town and city in the United States to help the local insurance agents by showing the various commercial buildings, in the downtown areas. The maps were drawn to scale to include street location, type of construction, structure size, and commercial use.

The earliest known Sanborn Fire Insurance map for Oak Harbor is 1883. It shows the structure, at what is now known as 112 North Church Street, as the Amos Fought Grain Elevator & Warehouse – 2 ½ story – Partial false front on top level – Iron clad on all sides – 2000 bushel capacity – 2 fan mills – 6 bins – 3 elevators.

While the Ottawa County Auditor's website gives 1900 as the build date for this building, the very same building is shown on the 1883 map. Actual build date of the building is unknown but it is definitely prior to 1883. If Amos Fought was the builder of the building, it cannot date prior to 1866, which is when he came to Oak Harbor and opened a general store in a frame building on the northwest corner of Water Street & Church Street.

Fought moved his general store to the northeast corner of Water & Church Streets in 1875, erecting the brick building that is now currently 178 West Water Street. In 1878 Amos Fought would build a large brick home on the current Post Office site. By the 1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, there is a possibility that he owned all the buildings along the entire east side of Church Street from Water Street to Main Street. This may explain why, in 1895, he installed a 6 feet wide cut sandstone walk along the east side of Church Street, in front of the 112 North Church Street location, from Water Street to Main Street. Research at the Ottawa County Recorder's Office is needed to determine ownership of the properties through the years.

Amos Fought was also a contractor in the Village and among other projects, he installed the brick street paving on Church Street from Water Street to South Railroad Street. This was in mid-1898 and could be the date of the present brick sidewalk in front of the building at 112 North Church Street. This especially so if that brick is paving brick from Canton, Ohio. Early Church Street photos show the area in front of the building as paved but it is difficult to see if it the flagstone from 1895 or brick from 1898. There are also possibilities that the brick pavement dates to earlier than 1898 or may even be of a more recent date.

Early use of the building is somewhat sketchy as the main source of information, the local Oak Harbor newspapers, do not exist. Some were never saved and in the case of the Ottawa County Exponent, while published since 1871, a fire in 1883 and a flood in 1969 destroyed any papers prior to 1898.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of 1883 & 1898 show the building as the Amos Fought Grain Elevator & Warehouse. The 1904 map labels it general storage. By the 1910 map, it is labeled as a marble works. These could be uses of both Amos Fought, up to his death in 1902, and son, Jno. Fought, who took over his father's store, running it as a grocery store until around 1911. By 1920 the building is labeled as a cream station. (No info on marble works or cream station.)



Church Street – Post Card - Dated June 4, 1906

Tin installed on front façade. Windows added to create upper floor living quarters & store front

From 1920 forward, the uses of the building are somewhat more known. Circa dates given are when references to the ground floor businesses were found and are not complete dates of store occupancy. The upper levels are assumed to be apartments from at least 1906 to the present.

1922 – 1932 – A.L. Hay Grocery Store

Circa 1938 – Black's Grocery Store

Circa 1942 - (Max) Sharpe's Market – Grocery & Meats

1945 – 1957 – (Mel) Fuller's Market (Grocery)

1958 – 1959 – (Russell) Rutridge Grocery

Circa 1962 – (Paul) Corthell Electric (Sales & Service)

1962 – 1965 - (Paul) Corthell & (Bob) Luchsinger Electric (Sales & Service)

1965 - 1966 - (Paul) Corthell Electric (Sales & Service)

1966 – 1983 - Newly New Shoppe (Betty Yoder) (Second hand shop)

1983 – 1994 - Newly New Shoppe (Bette Bryant Whaley) (Second hand shop)

1995 – 2001 - Dr. Jack E. Cutilla, Chiropractor

2001 – 2009/2010 - Midwest Center for Stress & Anxiety (Lucinda Bassett) (Mail order sales)

2010 – 2012 - Empty

2012 – Present - By Laurie (Custom Handcrafted Jewelry)

A fire struck the building in 1932. The top story apartment and part of the second story apartment were burned. The fire was so intense that occupants of the building to the north, across the alley at 118 Church Street, were asked to leave. Fire engines from Oak Harbor, Fremont, and Port Clinton responded to the fire.

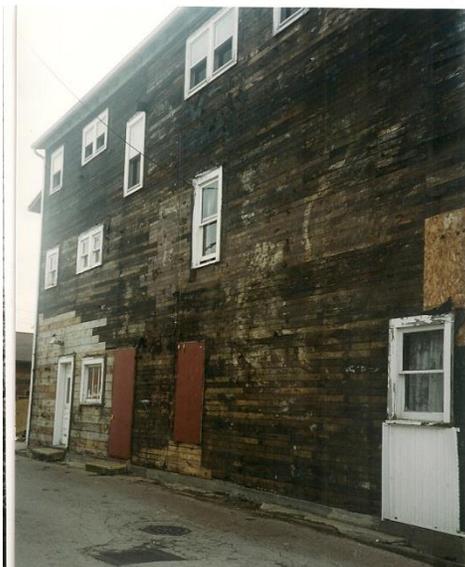
Evidence of the fire on the north side of the building was revealed in 2000 when the old metal & fake brick siding of the building was removed to show the wood underneath. The exterior on the north side of the building, where the fire was most intense, was reframed with 4 inch siding after the fire. The exterior on the south side of the building, apparently not damaged in the fire, showed the original 12 inch random siding. All were covered over by the new siding.



1977 - Tin Front, Fake Brick Sides



2000 – Original Wood Siding



2000 – North Side (Alley) 4” Siding



2000 – South Side (Private Drive) 12” Siding



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