

Brockman Appliances

101-103 North Wayne Street



Notice there are no outside stairs on the Brockman Appliance Building.

This building was built in 1883 by Peter Schneider and James (Doc) Adams. In fact Doc Adams owned much of this block at one time. Notice in the above picture the two story newspaper office and the building, now Brockman Appliances, without the outside stairs. By 1898 R. M. Morvilius purchased the building and it became known as the Morvilius Opera House. With two business fronts on the first floor facing Wayne Street, the Opera House was on the second floor, and Morvilius added an outside staircase to enter. Wood paneling lined the lower four feet of the spacious room with the wall area above papered. A balcony in the back held around 50 people. The main floor had two blocks of chairs seating around 250 people, separated by a main aisle. The stage rose 3 feet above the floor. Tracks were in the ceiling to allow for ten sets of scenery which could be easily changed. Dressing rooms were on each side of the stage. A purple curtain could be raised manually by a crank off to one side of the stage. Local businesses purchased advertising space on this curtain.

Information obtained from: *Fort Recovery Businesses Then & Now: 225 years of Adventure!* By Helen LeFevre (2016)

"History In the Making" by Cora Pearson, Girl Scout Gold Award 2026

How special it was to have this facility in Fort Recovery.



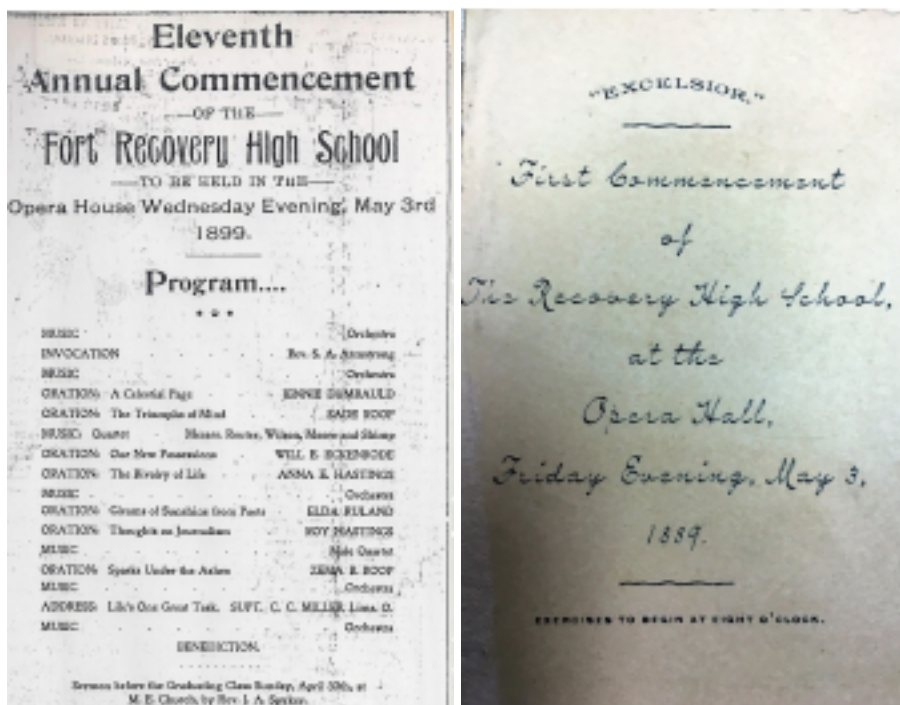
The opera house was the entertainment center of the community. It was the only place in which to hold high school commencements, plays, glee club concerts or any school activity. Every winter there was a "lecture course" series, cost \$1 for five sessions, one entertainment per month. "Farmers Institutes" were week-long meetings with morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. All traveling shows, medicine shows and home town plays were held here. The medicine shows consisted of a troupe of actors who put on plays and amusing skits. Then there was the medicine man himself presenting his panaceas.



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All Fort Recovery High School commencements were held here until 1932 when the new addition was added to the school (demolished in 2014).



Tamburitza Band

Outside entertainment and traveling shows continued to be held at the opera house until 1936. An article in the Fort Recovery Journal says, "Fort Recovery was an active theatre town, and stock companies playing in cities came here when they had open dates. Among those famous old stock companies were McVicker's Theatre Company, Elsie Shannon Players, Hazel Kirk and Co., Green's Dramatic Co., and Kinsey Komedy Co."

The musical instrument tamburitza, made with six strings, was made in Fort Recovery at the former stirrup factory site. Les Paul, of the famed musical couple Les Paul and Mary Ford, came to Fort Recovery and purchased two tamburitzas. He reported they were the best made anywhere.

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Tamburitza band members were: Adolph Franic, Frank Hoke, Guy Chamberlain, Milo Mott, John VanTrees, John Twaits, Lloyd Riegel, Lavern Kreider, Donovan Riegel, and Bill Kolp.

Using the instruments made locally, a local band was formed and performed many concerts for the public on Sunday evenings. This band traveled to Cincinnati regularly to perform on WLW radio in Cincinnati. The ad shows a performance at the opera house.

The two store fronts show dry goods and groceries here in the 1890s and early 1900s. These included Len Franks Package Store, Brady Fashions, N & B Fashions, John Fisher Grocery, and G. P. Durbin & Son Grocery. By 1914 Huddle Drug Store and Henry Rabe Grocery Store

occupied the two store fronts. Businesses made fans with ads on them as a gift to customers.



The Western Auto Store and Kroger's Groceries came in 1934- 1946. Following was H & N 5 & 10 to \$1.00 Store and Coldwater Fuel Company, owned by L.H. Gilligan. In 1950 Bill & Thelma Montgomery ran Montgomery Grocery until McCords 5 & 10 located here. Moore Paint Store became a True Value Store in 1968. R & B Fashions, owned by Peg Roessner and Helen Bothast, stayed in business from 1966-1972.

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2-22-1913

Reserve Seats Now

before it is too late for the

"LOTTERY MAN"

Tickets on sale at every store in town
Reserve your seats at Morvilius' Store

Do It Now

Remember this big attraction two nights only, June 4th and 8th. There are some very good seats left, so if you do not get a seat it is your fault.

The Big Show

That is Bound to Please You

See

Jack Wright and his excellent Cast.
The old maid who gets him.
The old maids who do not.
Love in an elevator.
Johnie Lamm, the German comedian.
The Jews, Issie and Issie.

Here

Jack Wright sing
Johnie Lamm monologue and songs.
"The Green Grass Grew All Around."



COMPLIMENTS OF
H. W. RABE

THE LEADING
GROCER

FT. RECOVERY, OHIO



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R&B Fashions is on the corner in this 1966 street scene.



Brockman Appliances

King's True Value utilized both sides of the building beginning in 1972, but in 1976 a fire swept through the store.

Cy Brockman bought the building in 1979 and the Brockman's opened an appliance store selling and servicing refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, etc. Mike Brockman runs Brockman Appliances here today.

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South Wayne Street

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