

Kaup Pharmacy

102 North Wayne Street

David Beardslee came in 1830. He built the first tavern, a log structure, and named it the American House. There were no streets, only the military road. Henry Lipps had this spot as early as 1831. In 1832 Lipps' son was the first white boy born in the area. For several generations, the tavern became known as the Wayne Hotel. It was replaced by a two story frame structure which was moved to the back of the lot in 1880.

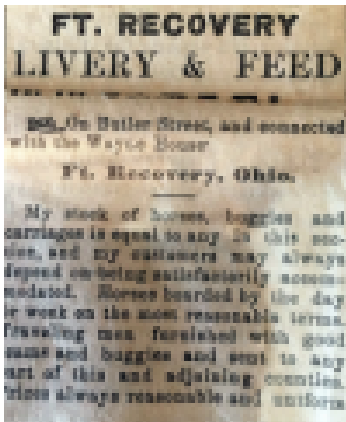


Viewing North Wayne Street from Butler Street. The Wayne Hotel is on the right, with the balcony.



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

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In 1881 a two-story brick building was built by Peter Schneider and Dr. Adams. John McDaniel was the first owner, and then Charles and Adam Schneider purchased it. According to the 1890 Mercer County Atlas, "The

Wayne House is a substantial two-story brick building, centrally located and has become recognized as first class hotel in every respect." The railroad came to town in 1878. There were 6 passenger trains a day so the hotel was busy. People came by carriage from the train station to the

hotel in the late 1800s. They hired a "livery rig" from the livery station next door. A number of livery stables were located in town, generally near a hotel or tavern. Before cars they were necessary in every town. Horses were kept for hire, and stabling provided. The livery stable was also a place where men could congregate in the shade, talk horses, or other topics of the day. Liveries boarded horses for travelers and townspeople. They also rented rigs to traveling salesmen and real estate agents. Young men courting would rent

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Fort Recovery Depot

a brightly painted buggy to take their girlfriend for a ride. Livery stables were no longer needed when cars replaced horses. In 1914 J. Aloyious Sanner bought the Wayne Hotel, and it stayed in the Sanner family until 1950 with various managers including Gotlieb Wagner, Jack Dennison, William Wolf, Floyd Lauber, Henry Pottkotter, and

Roman Steinbrunner. By 1929 passenger trains gave way to automobiles as a favorite mode of travel and numerous hotels were no longer needed in town.

Apartments replaced the hotel rooms, and by 1941, Ivo Thobe ran the Wayne House and the Wayne Café, purchasing it in 1950. He changed the restaurant's name to Thobe's. The hotel building burned down in 1958 (as well as Hein Barber Shop and Insurance, and the upstairs apartments).

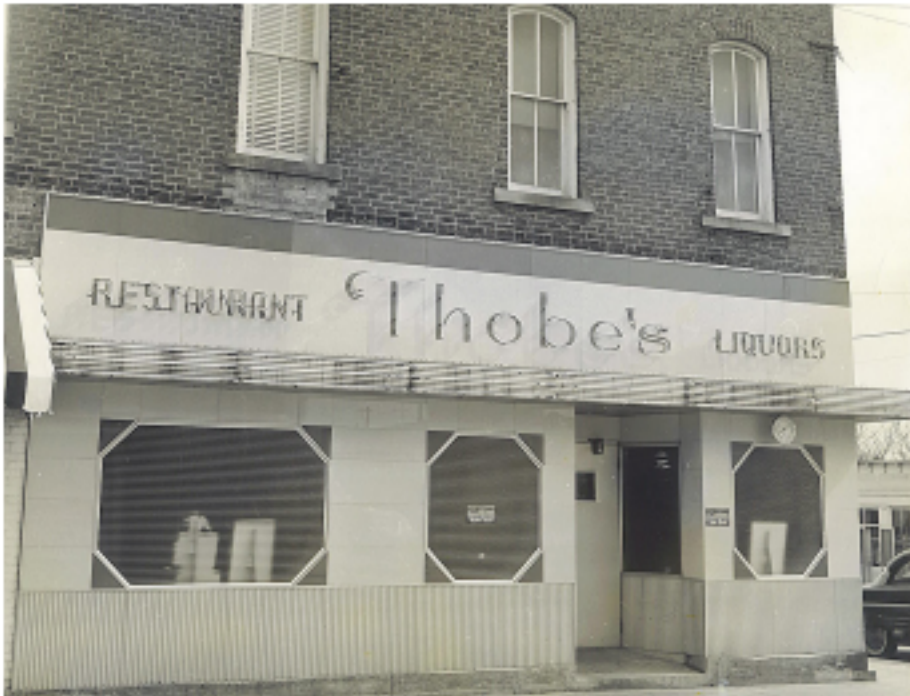
Ivo Thobe rebuilt a one story restaurant and reopened it as Thobe's. It included a billiards and card area and the Hein Barber Shop. Charlie Hein cut hair and sold insurance from his shop. Paul Lawson joined him and after Charlie retired as a barber, he moved his insurance agency to the corner of Wayne and Boundary Streets. The barber shop continued with Dick Fiely joining Lawson in 1968.

We hear Saturdays were big days for the barbershop and men would come to get their hair cut and find out they would need to wait a short while. With a door connected to Thobe's, men would frequent

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the bar or play cards, ignoring the call from the barber. When the wives would call to inquire on the whereabouts of their husbands, the men, who were still busy playing cards or drinking at Thobe's, would tell the barber to say the barbershop was very busy and they hadn't gotten to them yet.



Thobe's Restaurant before the 1958 fire

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Firemen on the scene



Thobe's after the fire

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Thobe's was a favorite spot for many when Ivo ran it until 1970. Girls in saddle shoes and guys in flat tops enjoyed many hours there while the juke box played rock n roll songs. After basketball games or local events, it was packed in the main restaurant and back room. Ivo spent many hours every day of the week to keep it the popular spot it was.

Dale and Kathy Thobe relate, "Ivo was a cook in the army, so he really wanted the food to be of good quality and was hands-on in the kitchen. Thobe's was noted for their pan-fried chicken. When at the restaurant, Ivo almost always wore a white shirt, white apron, and black bow tie. The waitresses wore white uniforms. Ivo was usually smiling, loved visiting with people and had a great sense of humor." After Ivo Thobe's departure, the restaurant changed hands and names numerous times: Harold Sherfey, Jack Eley, Paul and Jim Staugler, David Romer, Rosie Sacksteder (The Depot), Evin J (EJs), Dave and Patti Stahl & Mike and Sandy Stahl (Stahly's), Dan Reber (Homestead), and Steve Sinenci (Kanoë's).

The Homestead Restaurant



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Jerry and Lorri Kaup purchased the building, and in 2011 moved their main pharmacy here, as it is today.



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