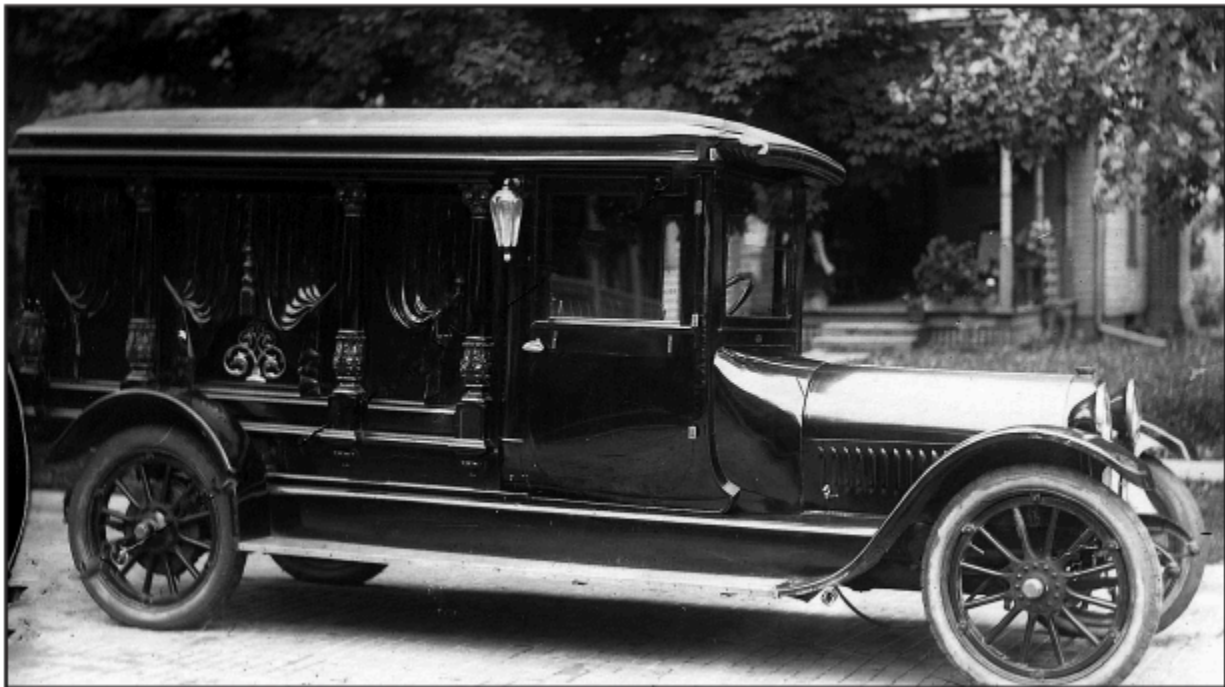


Brockman Furniture • 107 South Wayne Street



W. H. May was in business six years before he had the building built in 1896. When he began it was May's Undertaking and Furniture. The burial vaults were previously on display on the curb. Furniture was transported from the train depot, located by the railroad tracks on North Wayne Street. The new building featured furniture on the first floor, caskets on the second floor, and his workshop and supplies in the basement. He started with a horse-drawn hearse with the horse stable located east of the building. Caskets were made in the shop. It had a hand drawn elevator

connecting all three floors. The elevator is still in operation today. Donald Riffle became a partner with May in 1937, the business known as May and Riffle. In 1947 May sold both the furniture and funeral businesses to Riffle.



In 1950 Cy Brockman bought into the business, and the name changed to Riffle-Brockman. Around this time the practice of viewing the deceased in the home changed to viewing in a funeral home, so Riffle-Brockman Funeral home opened in 1954. This was at 308 South Wayne Street. After Riffle retired in 1963, it became Brockman Funeral Home. The furniture store was now Brockman Furniture, and they used the beautiful 1896 building for furniture only. Later Cy Brockman expanded the display room, adding a large section

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to the back of the store. Today Brockman Furniture is owned by Joe Brockman. The funeral home is now Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home with owner Ron Boeckman.



Brockman Furniture Store



Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home

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The grassy area south of the furniture store that had at one time been a stable is empty. Further south was a flour mill and feed mill for many years. In the early to mid 1800s a flour mill called Centennial Mill opened. Then in 1891 St. Clair Roller Mills was built and operated by Charles Craft. It featured a corn sheller,

In the early 1900s John and Dick Remaklus ran the mill.

In the photo, the entry for Gillig and Heffner's Roller Mill is seen. Jubilee parades brought so many people to town and the businesses used this opportunity to show the name and nature of their business. The St. Clair Roller Mills is in the background.



Then Harry Imel owned the Roller Mills and in 1936 Dick Staugler started working for him. By 1940 Staugler and Ralph Heil purchased it, and in 1949 a Farm Supply Store was added. Dick Staugler along with the Quaker Oats Co. bought the business in 1952, but in 1960 fire destroyed the mill. It relocated along the railroad tracks on SR 49 North. Quaker Oats sold out Fort Recovery Mills to Allied Mills, and in 1976 Cooper Hatchery, Dick Staugler, Ralph Staugler, and Les Staugler purchased it, calling it St. Clair Mills once again. Since 1984, the Cooper Family has owned the facility, with the name Cooper Feeds and then Cooper Farms. The small operation, once known as Fort Recovery Roller Mills, has now become a major player in turkey, egg, and swine production and in supplying feed. It is Cooper Farms today with main offices located on State Route 49

North. After the fire in 1960 destroyed St. Clair Mills, the lot was used for restaurants. In 1973 Neil Spencer opened Spencer's Restaurant. In 1980 it was called B&E's with owners Baker and Eichler, and later in the 80s Linda & Co. began with owner, Linda Wehrkamp

Just south of here was the power plant. Electricity came to town at the turn of the century. At first service was only available for a few hours in the evening. In 1915 a notice was given that the municipal plant would be in operation to furnish electric service on Tuesday and Friday forenoons each week. A water system was also installed. East of this was the first calaboose (jail), a square frame building with an iron bar opening high above the floor. Notice in the photo the arc lighting over the street. Roads were not yet paved in this photo of Wayne Street south of the present stop light.

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