

Fort Recovery Public Library • 113 North Wayne Street

A string of old wood buildings were here until 1903 when Henry Fetter tore them down to build a two-story brick building with a double room for Frank J. Sonderman & Co. The building was known as the Fetter building. The Fettes owned it until 1957 when the heirs donated it to Capital University.



This photo was shot before 1922 when the Second National Bank was not yet built. Sonderman's is on the left.

Sonderman's began with Frank Sonderman, his brother Bill, sister Louise Sonderman Siefert and her husband Steve. Frank had previously worked at the George Krenning Store. Sonderman's was in the dry goods, clothing, hat and shoe business from 1893-1965. They began where Old Fort Coins is today.

After the new building was built in 1903 the women's items and men's items were separated into the two sides—women's on the north and men's on the south. In 1943 Louise Sonderman Siefert passed

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

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away and her son August took over her part. In 1943 they carried clothing, curtains, drapes, and floor covering. Sonderman's was the site of the headquarters for the 175th Anniversary celebration in 1966 and was a Fort Recovery institution for over seventy years.



Many events for the Jubilee were held in the lot next to Sonderman's where Second National bank is today.



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Sonderman's in the 1960's



Sonderman's can be seen in the background of this sixties photo.

After Sonderman's closed their doors, George Jetter purchased the building and eventually donated it for the Fort Recovery Public Library which opened here in 1968.

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In 1984 the library utilized the second floor as well. The library is located first where Forget Me Not Florist is today (1928-1938), then what is now the Fort Recovery State Museum (1938-1968), and today here on North Wayne Street (1968- 2016).