

Carroll County, Then and Now

Things are not as they once were in Carroll County or anywhere for that matter, and this is a brief attempt to show some of the ways things once were, and how they are now. Everyday, new buildings are going up, the landscape changes; some of this happens so casually that we just take it for granted. We welcome your comments about the sites that you are about to see in this presentation, for many of you will know far more about them than we do.

First we will start in Flora. Does anyone recognize to what building this cornerstone is being laid?

....This is what the Flora Presbyterian Church looks like today.

Here is a corner building near the center of town; the business is the same, but the building is different because of an 1895 fire. Does anyone know what stands at this site today?

This is the corner of Center and Main and is the Bright National Bank.

Looking at the same block from a different angle, the white house on the end is the site of the bank today; all of these stores burned in a large fire..... and here is what it looks like today.

The railroad helped to make Flora; here was the first station..... which was replaced by this station..... which was damaged by a train wreck in 1910. The station was repaired and stood at this site along the railroad track until recent years. But what is today, where these stations used to be??? That's right, the Flora parking lot across from the Fire Station. And the station has become the Monroe's Dry cleaning and laundramat, moved to the South edge of town

Flora's hotel was called the Commercial. It was torn down to make room for what building today..... Stephan's IGA.

Here is one of the older homes of Flora; It still stands but has been made into ~~VA~~ business. Does anyone recognize it?..... This is the building today, the Reinke Funeral Home.

This was the Flora blacksmith shop. In 1916, it was torn down to make way for what building?Here it is, the Carnegie Library paid for by Andrew Carnegie's money.

One of the most dramatic pictures that shows changes of the building growth of turn of the century; Flora is this picture taken near the east edge of town, about one-half block west of Esserman Tire company. The picture was taken about 1900..... and here is the same location today. Notice the green house on the left, and as we turn the picture back, notice the Old Order Church on the right.

Here is the second school built in Flora in 1889, but this was the first school on this location. In 1933, there was a fire that totally destroyed the school, and this is what was built, partly from brick cleaned by WPA workers.

If you were on top of the Bright National Bank and looked south up Center street, this is what the town looked like around 1900. Here then, is a street-level view today.

This photograph was taken from a large post card dated about 1910 and here are two follow up pictures showing it as it is today..... As a part of that old photograph, here is a close-up of the Masonic Lodge area, note the old car, and here is that same shot today.

Ann Chevrolet once was in this this building. Note the gas pumps out in front. Recently this was turned into Jo-Ann's Restaurant after several years as storage for pioneer seed corn.

Here is the old Flora Battery Shop..... Today this is the NAPA store.

Now let's move on to Bringham. Back in 1913, this was the Hinkle Garage..... Today, Smith Construction office site on that site.

Apparently several farmers were displaying their farm machinery down the main street of Bringham. Here is the same scene today. Notice the change in the number of active stores: Lots of the little town's stores died out as the use of the automobile became common.

Prior to the time Claude Sheets bought the Adam's Mill this is what it looked like. Here is the Adam's Mill today.

One thing that hasn't changed much is the care that Adam's Mill bridge got. This picture was about 1925. Here is the Adam's Mill covered bridge today.

As you approach the south edge of Burlington, notice the payment of the old Michigan Road. Compare that to the same view today.

The bridge over the Wildcat Creek in Burlington had its problems and finally gave out in 1920. Here is the same site today.

Star Roller Mill was one of the largest grinding mills in this area, along with the beautiful complex of gardens and ponds kept by the Haun family. Here are three pictures of first the mill..... pond..... and Spanish style house as they are today.

A part of the beautiful gardens was the old stone mill building with its large water wheel..... here is the building today.

On the main street, of Burlington, which is State Road 29 today, in 1860 there was a blacksmith shop..... When torn down, the stones were used for a foundation for this building, the Farm Boy Market.

standing in the ~~middle~~ Middle of the Michigan Road on the South edge of town at about 1910, note the electric lines. Here is that same location today.

Burlington's school has always been on the same site. Here are the first and second schools; and this is what it looks like today. It hasn't changed much since it was built in 1913.

Along State Road 29 is the old Carrollton School built in 1901. This picture was taken about 1907. The next photo shows the same building used as a house in the 1940's, and the 3rd picture shows the building as it was starting to be torn down. Today, this site is completely cleared, but the old gas station remains. All that remains is the old brick necessary out back.

Here is a view of the Sycamore Row from the north end taken in the early 1900's..... The bridge has since been replaced, and the trees are bigger, and a few are gone, but other than that, its pretty much the same.

In Camden, this is the block of buildings at the junction of State Roads 218 and 75 on the South east corner. They all burned in 1910, and here..... is what that area looks like today.

One of the two remaining mills of the county, the old Daughtery Mill looked like this about 1910..... Here it stands as a barn today on Rock Creek.

Moving on to Delphi, this is the old Interurban Station along the banks of Deer Creek..... This is the station today. At least it wasn't destroyed as a usable building.

Over the years, Carroll County has had 3 court houses. As far as we know, there is no existing picture of the original court house, Here is what the 2nd court house looked like in 1856,..... and about 1890,..... and today.

Does anybody know where the location of the old Baum blacksmith shop is today..... Here is the present site occupier.

This place has served as a restrictive home for criminals of the County for a long time. Notice the large block portion of the jail out back,..... and here is what it looks like today.

At a major corner in Delphi today, compare the original appearance of this structure,..... and today what the Odd Fellows Hall is like. The top was lost to a damaging fire some years ago.

North of Delphi is a former business of the town, the old lime kiln where limestone was made. Here is that site today. Not much left is there.

Does any one recognize this grand old hotel that once stood in downtown Delphi????..... Where here is the site of it today. And we end on this note with this sign in the bank's lot. The sign shows a very high interest rate on money. And that has us all interested in making money. Maybe we need to stimulate a little higher interest in the history of our county and its places of historic value. If we don't have a high interest in our historic resources, then, how can we expect people who are not here to put any interest in what we feel needs to be done for the community, in preserving our past.