

#10 THE CRAWFORD HOUSE

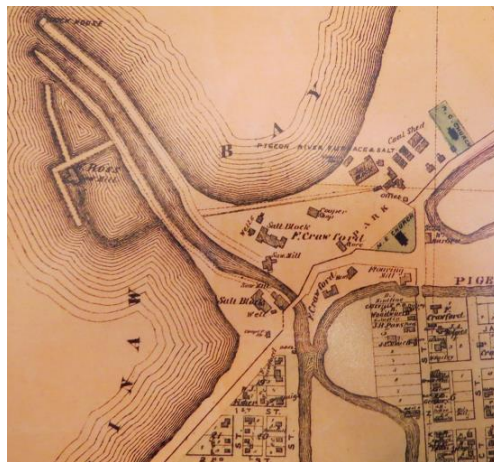
6244 Main Street

Originally built on the bluff of the Pigeon River behind the Caseville Methodist Church, this home is now used for Back 2 Back Chiropractic. It was built for Francis Crawford by Anthony Golden in the mid-1850s. In its original location, it allowed Mr Crawford from his belvedere to oversee many of his holdings using his huge brass telescope. He could see



- his five salt works, which produced some of the finest salt in the world
- his steel mill, capable of producing 30 tons of pig iron daily at its peak
- a sawmill, making 3,000,000 board feet annually that cut both pine and some hard woods
- boat works, making one of the largest Scow schooners ever to sail the Great Lakes, the Charlie Crawford. These boats would haul salt and lumber to Chicago and return with the raw materials for iron.

He could also see many of his other business that supported a growing local population, such as a drug store, grist mill with two grades of flour, general supply store and hardware store to name a few.



In many of the early pictures of Caseville we see his house in the background. This may be in part because he is credited with having one of the first cameras in Caseville and a love to show off his house.

Some information about the home itself: the cupola was flanked by a spacious widow's walk. There were 10 bedrooms with 11 foot ceilings and 9 foot windows. The framework on the doors and windows are of inlaid hand turned wood nine to ten inches wide and six inches deep. The front doors are of heavy walnut with imported frosted glass from France. The main floor had a formal parlor, entry way, kitchen, dining area and a living room.

Francis lived here until his death in 1886. As you reach the other end of your Caseville tour, be sure that as you visit the cemetery to see his grave the tallest headstone found in the middle back of the cemetery.



Sometime later a Mr. Paul DeFord bought the home and made it into a hotel. Mr. DeFord had prior experience operating other hotels and businesses and made a good success of the hotel.

In the 1940's Mr. Seymour Hamrick bought the building and continued it as a hotel for a while. It ceased to be a hotel in the 50's when the passenger trains no longer stopped here. Mr. Hamrick had a number of boats and motors for rent as well as a well-stocked bait and fishing supplies.



Caseville had become a destination for catching some of the best perch on the lakes. It later served as a spot for locals to use as a bathroom stop and showers when fishing.



In 1988 it was sold and became a funeral home with the stipulation that it must be moved. In 1996 it was moved to the north end of town and became the Champagne Funeral Home. James Childs operated it until 2018 when he built a state-of-the-art funeral home in Pigeon covering Caseville, Pigeon and Elkton and other small towns.



It most recently has become **Back 2 Back Chiropractic**.

