

#13 LEBLANC'S

6611 Main Street

The Creak of the floor as you walk around LeBlanc Store today is enough to tell you the building is old. And old it is. The original store was moved to its present location around 1892. It was salvaged from a store owned by John McKinley that was partially destroyed by fire. The store that burned was located where the LaBelle drive-in was, currently the site of the village parking lot between Shakers and Independent Bank. The part McKinley moved is the oldest part of the store and is located on the right as you face the building from the street. The left side came from a store that was owned and operated by James Adams located at the corner of Michigan and M25. That left part was added around 1920 and together with the already-in-place right side, the LeBlanc Store appeared as we see it today.

This property has operated as a store for over 130 years. McKinley took C. A. Stockmeyer as a partner in 1895. Several years later Stockmeyer bought McKinley out. From about 1895 to 1916, it was known as Stockmeyer Mercantile Emporium. The Stockmeyer Emporium sold food, clothing, hardware, farm implements, buggies, and anything else needed to maintain a home. Mr. Stockmeyer, the proprietor, even coined some script (private money) that was recognized by other merchants in town. Stamped out of tin, Stockmeyer coins (known as Gus's money) was one of at least two brands of privately coined "money" used in Caseville. In 1916, Stockmeyer sold the store due to ill health. It was sold to Charles and Mary Smith from Jackson, Michigan. The left side of the building was added, and the Smith's ran the store for a short while until ill health again caused a change of hands. Fred and Alice LeBlanc saw the ad for the store and records show they purchased the store in 1930. The store displayed a sign that read "This is a cash-and-carry market" however, most customers kept a running tab of money they owed the establishment.

Things you might have found in LeBlanc's Store:

Butter – Stamped with the mark of the creamery where it was made, Cheese, vinegar, sugar, salt, pickled bologna, smoked fish, hardware from carpet tacks to hoes, kerosene lamps, medicine, combs, material by the yard, blankets, petticoats, and bonnets.

Today, the LeBlanc store is a popular place to shop for Caseville tee shirts, sweatshirts and souvenirs. Scott and Charlotte Kasper now own and operate the store.

