



Some of the exhibit pictured here



A CRUDE VILLAGE INDEED

When Ottawa was founded in 1854, new residents and real estate prospectors quickly assembled wood-frame structures needed for homes, shops, offices, meeting spaces, and government business. Before the railroads reached Ottawa, many of these early buildings were constructed from locally milled native timber that grew along the river and nearby or lumber hauled by wagon from Lacombe or Kansas City. The June 18, 1865, *Lacombe Times* called Ottawa a "most flourishing town in Southern Kansas," but now Ottawa resident W.E. Pickens called the town's "a crude village indeed."

By the 1870s, real estate investors and business owners began to replace the downtown wood-frame structures with buildings made from brick and stone. First Victorian-era structures were often two or three stories tall and were decorated with intricate brickwork, ironwork, and stained glass. Existing wood-frame buildings were often sold and moved to new locations in the city.

A view of East Second Street, looking northeast from the intersection with Main Street in Ottawa, Kansas, circa early 1870s. The hotel on the left was constructed in 1858 as the Impetuous Hall for Minnesota, which was one of the Kansas Territory's early capital. The hotel was first moved to the corner of Second and Third streets and then moved to a public meeting place. George Hamilton purchased the building in 1871, and moved it to the Second Street location near the city where the Chamber of Commerce and Ottawa Free-School Association are located today (229 East Second Street). (Ottawa 17, 2715)

A BUSINESS HOUSE OF GRAND PROPORTIONS

More Ring and Samuel Smith partnered with photographer A.W. Barker to build what he later called "the business house of grand proportions, and one which will surely stand as the representation of Main Street."

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The architect, Ben Ellis, a former of Kansas City, Missouri, was hired to design the building and Samuel Smith was hired to build it. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out.

A GRAND DESIGN

The building's design included a basement that extended under the sidewalk for vaults and storage and the building's construction was completed in 1871. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out.

FLOODS AND FALLS

Heavy rains and poor drainage at the intersection of Second and Main streets, flooding the construction site an several occasions. A wooden frame structure was replaced on August 18, 1871. Heavy rains caused the site to be flooded and the building was laid out. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out.

PARTNERS IN CONSTRUCTION

Although the Ring and Smith partnership was a temporary one, the partnership was a key factor in the development of the city. The partnership was a key factor in the development of the city. The partnership was a key factor in the development of the city. The partnership was a key factor in the development of the city.

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A TOWN IN TRANSITION

Louis A. Barney lived in Vermont, New York, Ohio, and Michigan before moving to Ottawa in 1870. The 1873 city directory lists his occupation as "capitalist," but newspaper articles show he was also an avid horticulturalist known for raising excellent fruit trees and wheat.

Shortly after arriving, Barney built a large structure at 455 North Main that was known as the "Barney Block," "Barney's Corner," and the "Barney Building." This ramshackle two-story structure rented space to a variety of tenants, including clothing shops, doctors, lawyers, harness makers, cigar and tobacco shops, mortgage lenders, and a wallpaper store.

On April 18, 1880, a severe storm badly damaged the roof. Two months later, Barney sold the building to Henry Ring and Samuel Smith, who then Ring & Smith Clothing Store occupied one of the ground storefronts in the Barney Block. Ring and Smith made plans to replace the Barney's Building with a grand structure.

"When Barney's corner is moved to the ground to give place to Ring & Smith's new and neat brick addition, the old road mark in Ottawa's early history will have disappeared."

The Barney Block was a two-story structure that was built in 1870. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out. The building was constructed on a general contract. Before construction could begin, the site was cleared and the building was laid out.

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RING & SMITH CLOTHING DEPT. - 1870

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