

## Waseca Downtown Historic District Virtual Walking Tour

Building Address: **124 State Street North**

Built 1882

Occupied by:

- Bank of Waseca (1882-1904?)
- Multiple uses (1904-1930s)
- M.A. Johnson's Variety Store (1930s-1940s)
- Western Auto (1950s-1960s)
- Drahosh Hardware?? (1959?)
- Marshall-Wells Store (1950s-1960s??)
- Four Seasons Athletics (1976-present)
  - Tom & Cindy Piche started Four Seasons Athletics in 1976
  - The store may have also housed "The Shoe Box" and "Sampson Shoe Store" during its early years?
  - The business was sold to Jeremiah & Jaala Miller in 2013. They retained the name of the business and operate at the present day.

This two-story commercial building was built in 1882 for the Bank of Waseca. On the primary (west) elevation, there is a raised, masonry plate that reads "1882 Bank" below the cornice. The building was constructed of masonry and still retains some Italianate detailing, including decorative window hoods. The building is covered in stucco and is topped with projecting cornice above a row of panels and a band of dentils. The second story retains its original window openings and hoods but has replacement windows that are one-over-one sash with arched transoms and anodized metal frames. The storefront consists of an entrance flush with flanking display windows. A row of transom windows span the width of the storefront and there is a fixed fabric awning. The north elevation retains its original arched window openings with hoods and a cast iron fire escape. The first story has two small windows at the rear and two basement windows.

## Photos of 124 State Street North

\*From the Waseca County Historical Society Archives



1897 – Bank of Waseca one block down on the left – notice the total brick façade, the arched windows, the Italianate style cornice, and the iron fire escape.



1912 - possibly a shoe store – a store name seems to be painted on the side of the building. Great photo showing the brick façade, iron fire escape, original arched windows, fabric awning, display windows, and recessed entry door.



Circa 1930s – M.A. Johnson’s Variety Store – first building on the left side of the photo – the entire façade is covered in brick with stucco columns flanking the entry. The Italianate style arched windows on the front and side facades are clearly visible. There is a transom window above the entry, which appears to be recessed in the middle and flanked by two display windows. There is a fabric awning above the entry. The name of the store is displayed above the transom windows as “Johnson’s 5-cent to \$1.00 Store”. Above the arched windows is an oval plate which reads “1882 Bank.”





1942 – Johnson's 5c to \$1.00 Store – a better photo of the storefront which also shows fabric awnings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows.



1952 – Marshall-Wells Store – look one block up on the left – a hanging sign marks the business as the “Marshall-Wells Stores” – the transom windows above the entry are visible and there is no awning on the front façade. The north façade shows the arched windows.



1983 – Four Seasons Athletics – Hanging sign located just to the left of the picture. Stucco has been added to the front façade at some point. Notice the raised stucco plate that reads “1882 Bank” is still present at the top of the building. The original arched window openings are visible, although they are either shuttered or have small replacement windows at this time. The transom windows have been covered.



1985 – Four Seasons Athletics on the left with the red awning – Some restoration work has begun on the main façade including the addition of a large fabric awning. Also, the hanging sign has been removed.





2006 – Four Seasons Athletics – This photo shows a renovated building that has restored the stucco on the front façade. A row of transom windows has been added above the entry door and display windows and now includes a fabric awning. The name of the store has been placed above the transom windows. The windows have also been restored to fill the entire arched opening. “1882 Bank” is still visible at the top of the building.