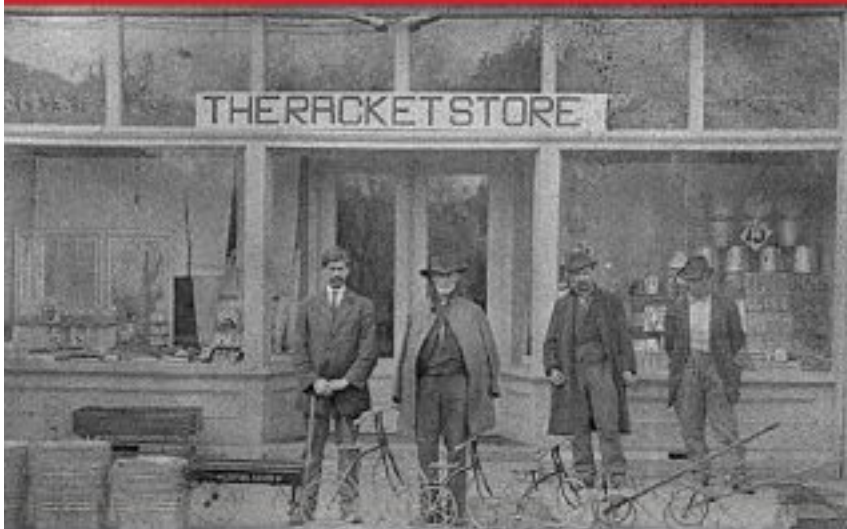


Historic Downtown Hartwell Ambassador



Current Business Name: Market 50
Current Business Owner: Chris Unruh
Address: 50 N Forest Avenue
Parcel No.: 157D170

History-At-A-Glance

Architectural Style:
Elements of Queen Anne Style

Build Date:
The tax assessor information says the building was built in 1920, but this appears incorrect. The building appears on the 1901 Sanborn map, which means it was likely built between 1897 (when CI Kidd and JD Matheson bought the property) and 1901, when the map was created.

Unusual features/uses:
Racket Shop ("racket" shops were curiosity shops, named after peddlers who drove gypsy wagons full of junk that made a racket when coming down the road), Grocery Store, Meat Shop, Drug Store, Bank, Boarding House, and Telephone Exchange.

1897

T.J. Linder sold the lot to Charles I. Kidd and J.D. Matheson. Charles I. Kidd dealt in stock, carriages, buggies, wagons, and harnesses. He was born in Maryville, TN and came to Hartwell in 1881. J.D. Matheson was a promoter of cotton mills and the town's first bank. He was also a Hart County Commissioner, and a building inspector for the 1902 courthouse. According to the September 19, 1902 Hartwell Sun, he sacrificed "personal gain for the public good."

1901

The building appears on maps as a two-story brick building with a tin roof. The building was divided into three shops downstairs and one upstairs business. The downstairs shops featured a grocery store and one vacant shop. The upstairs was a boarding house, accessed by a set of outside stairs between Market 50 and the building to its right, also facing N Forest Avenue. There is still a set of metal stairs on the side of the building where the original stairs were located.

1908

The building housed a grocery store, meat shop, and a racket shop. Racket shops were curiosity shops, named after peddlers who originally drove gypsy wagons during this era, full of rattling junk that made a "racket". The upstairs of the building was still a boarding house. Interestingly, in 1908, this same block contained Town Hall, two livery stables, a bank, a Masonic Lodge, and a Funeral Hall with coffins. There was also a community well on the lot.

1917

Downstairs, the building housed a racket shop, grocery store and restaurant combination shop, and a bank. The upstairs had been divided into two spaces. The boarding house was still there, with the stairs leading to the street, and the other side of the upstairs became a Telephone Exchange, accessed from a new interior set of stairs.



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