

Blacksmiths

The first blacksmith shop in Wayne was built in 1833 by Ezra Derby. It was a rough log building 12x16 ft. and had open doors and windows with no glass. It was supposedly built where the museum now stands, and was used by the first blacksmith, Henry S. Kilborn, until the 1880s. The first school classes in Wayne were taught in this blacksmith shop.



The second blacksmith in Wayne was Frederick Marker, who operated a shop from 1842 through the 1880s. His shop was on the corner of Michigan avenue and Biddle. Marker became a member of the first village council, and the village dog pound was located behind his shop.



This shop was owned by Jacob Marker (no relation to Frederick), and operated on the corner of Michigan and Newberry from the 1850s-1890s.



For a brief period in the 1870s Alvah Pate operated a blacksmith and carriage shop on Park street. (You can see the old congregational church in the background of the photo). James Houston also operated a shop in Wayne from the 1860s-1892.



When Frederick Marker retired, his apprentice John Egeler took over his shop in 1883. Egeler also bought the other Marker shop and Pates shop and moved all the tools, buildings and equipment to his property. John Egeler worked for over 50 years and trained many new blacksmiths before he retired in 1911.



This shop was owned by Alex McClean and was located on Wayne road. By the 1890s there was a general decline in the need for blacksmiths. Prouty and Glass employed 5-6, but the town only had two blacksmiths by 1900.



McClean left Wayne in the early 1900s, and his apprentice Lee Smith opened his own shop on Biddle street. This new cement building was the 2nd building in Wayne to be wired for electric lights.



When John Egeler retired in 1911 his apprentice Bert Green bought the old building and all of his tools. Green moved the original wood building built by Fred Marker down Michigan avenue and used it for several years. The 80-year old structure was torn down in 1926 and replaced with a modern cement block shop. In the new building, Green largely did horseshoes as well as auto repair and welding. In 1963 his property was demolished for Urban renewal, ending a business that had been running continuously since the 1840s.

