

OLD EXCHANGE BANK
Corner of Liberty and Thirteenth



This is one of the finest examples of the Beaux Arts style in the Oil Heritage Region. The first Exchange Bank, pictured here, was erected in 1872. In 1917 and in 1924 major reconstruction resulted in the substantial and impressive structure on this corner now known as the Venango County Exchange Building.

OLD ORPHEUM THEATER
1277 Liberty Street



The Orpheum Theater, a 'magnificent picture house' provided county residents with the latest in entertainment including vaudeville, short plays, musicals, silent and talking films. Built in 1916 this Neo-Colonial style building featured the latest in entertainment technology. It featured an electric ticket seller; change making machine and sparkling marquee. The Orpheum Theater closed its doors in 1956.

Located in the little building to the right, the Riddle Brothers operated a family restaurant for 34 years. In 1946 the business was sold to George Nestos and Peter Sherman and became known as the Central Restaurant.

**COMMERCIAL
HOTEL BUILDING**
1273 Liberty Street



Commercial Hotel ca. 1902
Illustration by Erica Reib
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1902 Advertisement: The Commercial Hotel which S. Barrett has conducted successfully for 25 years holds its high place in the estimation of guests and the public generally. Forty-five desirable rooms accommodate lodgers, the menu is unsurpassed and the bar supplies the choicest brands in the market. The Commercial merits all the good things said of it everywhere by all who know its excellent quality. Earlier proprietors advertised as: The Grand Central, Goss Inn and the Grand Hotel. In the 1930s the first floor became the location of the Franklin Amusement Corporation with a billiards and bowling establishment. From the 1940s to 1970 the Commercial Bar and Grill was a favorite local spot.

THE BACHARACH BUILDING
1269 Liberty Street



German immigrants, Edward and Gertrude Bacharach opened a tobacco establishment on Liberty Street in the early 1860s. Thirty years later the family developed this site as a residence and retail store. In later years the Bacharach building housed the J.G. McCrory Co. 5 & 10 Cent Store. The Hixon family moved their book and stationery store to this location in 1967 and remained in business until just a few years ago.

LEONARDO'S RESTAURANT

1267 Liberty Street



This storefront is Franklin's finest Moderne style commercial façade; notice the paired bay windows capped by an ornamented cornice. Food hallmarks the long-time history of this building. George P. Kostolambros (Lambros) and Marcus G. Conomikes were early tenants specializing in confectionary. Later the L & C Restaurant became a favorite place for locals and travelers alike.



DEBENCE BUILDING

1261 Liberty Street



Charles W. Gearing erected this Neo-Colonial style building in 1906. Handsome stone stringcourses, corbel table with recessed panels on the cornice and the prominent keystones over the windows make this an attractive structure.

Around 1910, Robert T. Anderson and George W. Feldman opened a furniture store at this location. Harry J. Bryer's hardware served the area until the mid 1930s followed by the G.C. Murphy Five and Ten Cent Store. Step inside and experience DeBence Music World, filled with wonderful nostalgic items from the collection of Jacob and Elizabeth Tipton DeBence.

THOMAS MOORE HARNESS SHOP / FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1259 Liberty Street



Long before the arrival of the automobile, Thomas Moore and Son satisfied the needs of those on horseback. Mr. Moore's saddlery hardware business began in Franklin in 1841 and included an inventory of saddles, yokes, beef hides, sheep pelts, tallow and furs. This Italianate style building was erected about 1883 and at that time father and son advertised fine blankets, robes and good quality trunks and bags. The Franklin Chamber of Commerce is presently located in this building.