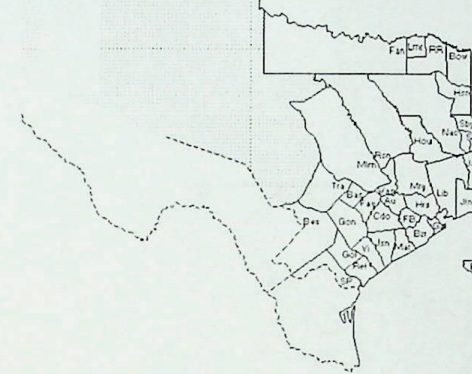
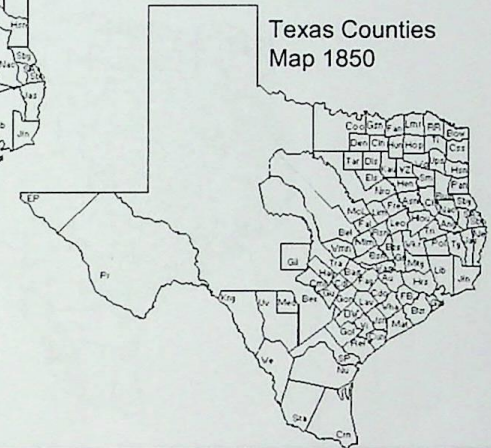


Before Llano County was established in February of 1856, this area was first part of Bexar County and later part of Gillespie County (where Fredericksburg is located).

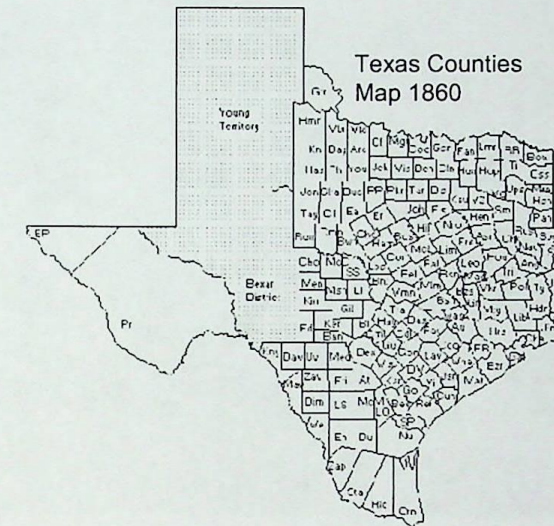
Texas Counties
Map 1840

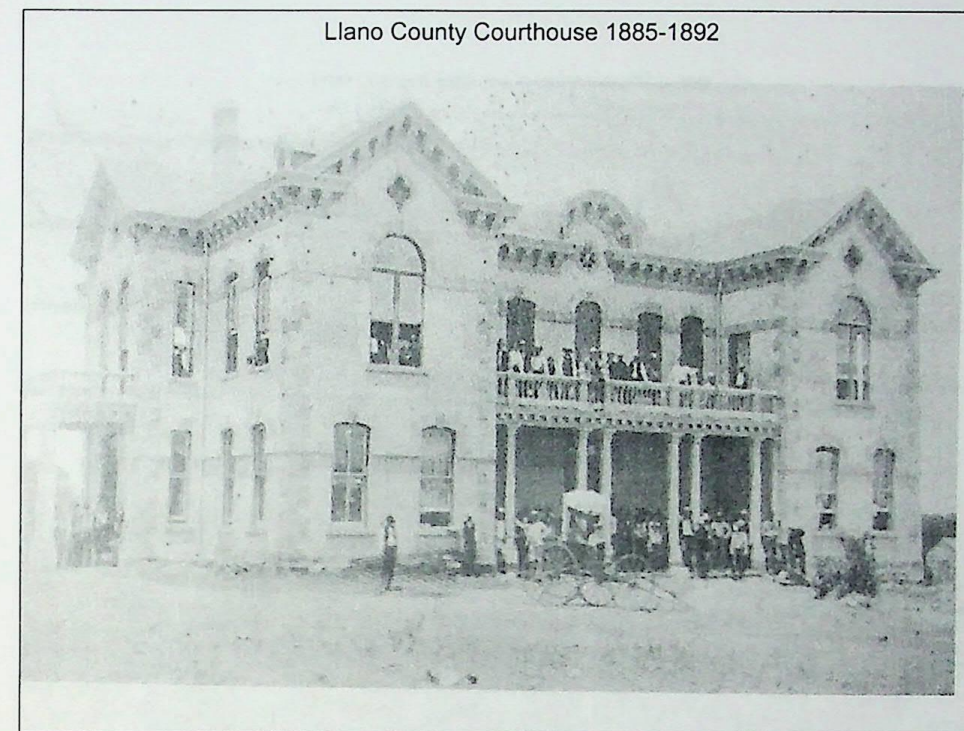
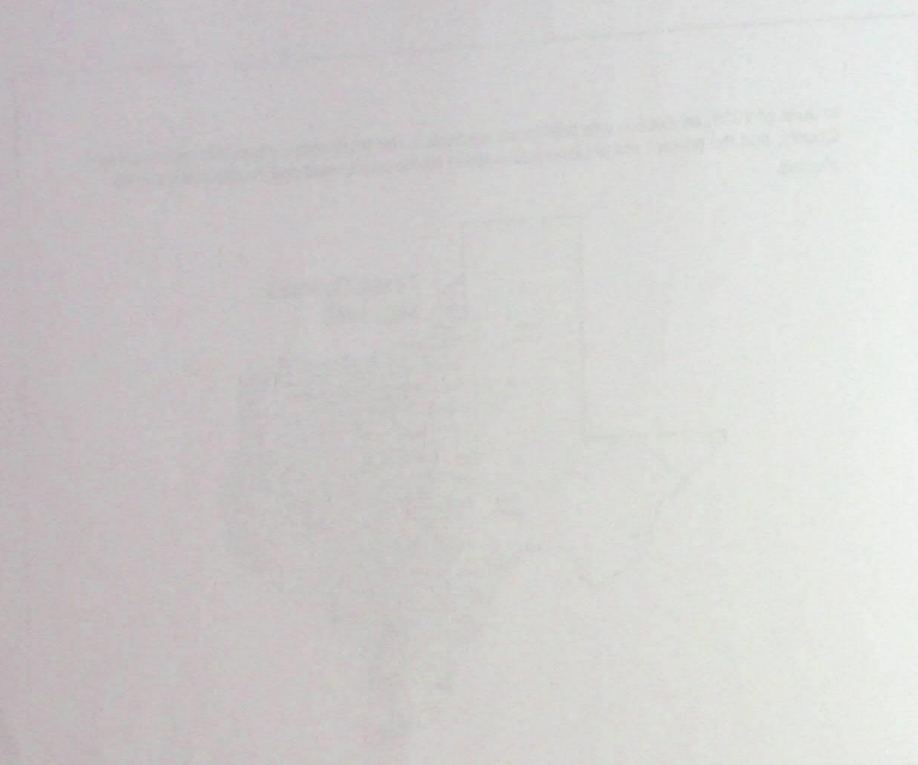


Texas Counties
Map 1850



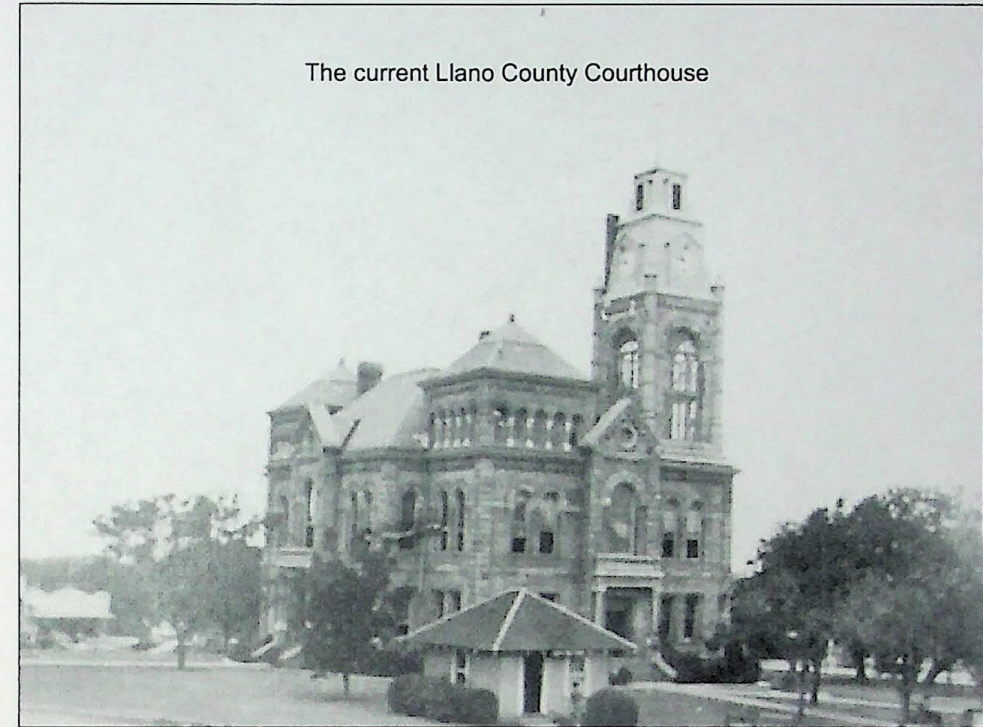
In June of 1856, an election was held for all residents in the small communities that make up Llano County, and the present site of Llano was voted to be the county seat and county officers were elected.





This courthouse was completely destroyed by fire in January of 1892 – only the brick walls and the fireproof vault remained.

The current Llano County Courthouse



The new courthouse was completed in August of 1893 and is the current courthouse of Llano County. The small building was called Tillie's Outhouse. It was public restroom . Note the size of the trees in this photo – they have grown a great deal during the 100+ years. The first jail was located on the southeast corner at one time with the jailer on the first floor and the prisoners in the basement. Before this time, prisoners had been housed in the basements of buildings around the square.



When Llano became a town in 1856, it looked nothing like it does today. The businesses along the main streets today occupy many of the same buildings that have been here for a hundred years or more! But many others were board-frame buildings that have long since been removed and replaced with sturdier structures.

There were no paved streets, and horses and wagons were on the streets in place of all of the cars of today. There was no electricity and no running water. Back in the early days, water was hauled around town in large barrels on the back of wagons. Ice was brought into town on the train. Most of the everyday conveniences that you take for granted were unheard of in the early days of Llano – and for many years to come.

About the time Llano was voted to be the county seat, land was donated to build a County Courthouse but it was many years before a real courthouse was built on the town square. After years of small, frame buildings in locations around the town square, the first courthouse was built in 1885 . . .



Which Llano became a town in 1880. A hotel and many other
 today. The business along the main street is a very busy
 of the same building that have been built in a modern style
 since. But many of the old buildings are still standing and have
 since been restored and repaired with modern materials.

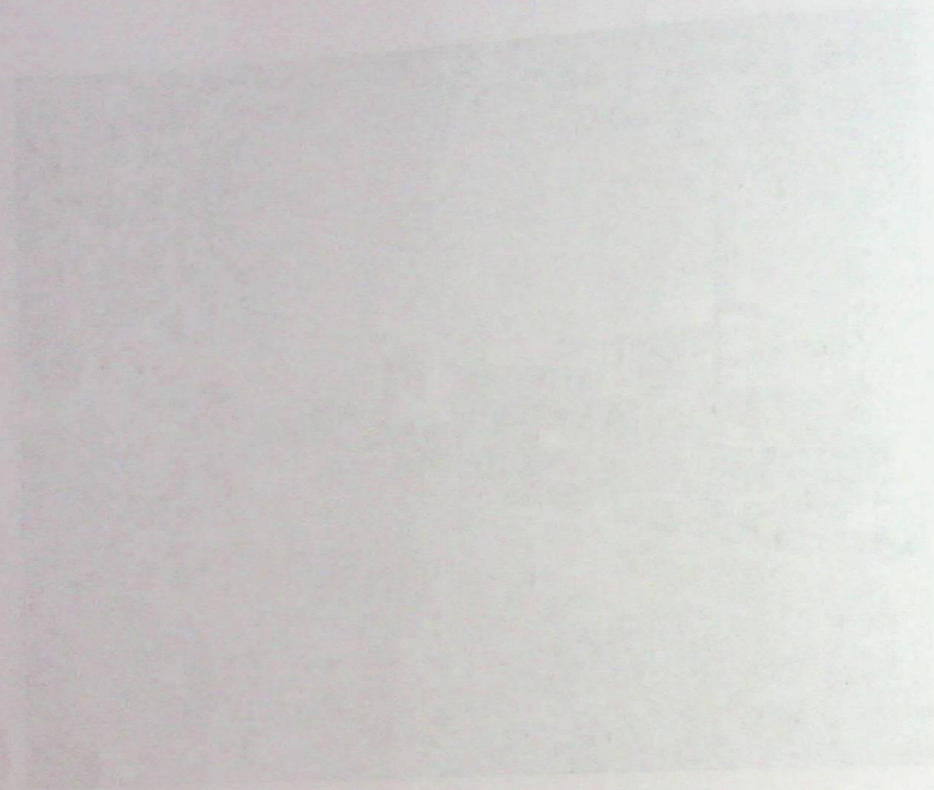
There were no paved streets, and horses and wagons were on the
 streets in place of all of the cars of today. There was no
 and no running water. Back in the early days, water was
 and was used in large barrels on the back of wagons. The
 brought into town on the rail. Most of the early buildings
 that you see for granted were not built in the early days of Llano
 - and the early years in Llano.

About a time Llano was voted as the county seat, and was
 located in what is now Llano County. It was a very busy town
 a lot of business was done on the main street. After years of
 and, there are things in Llano that are still the same as the
 conditions were built in 1880.

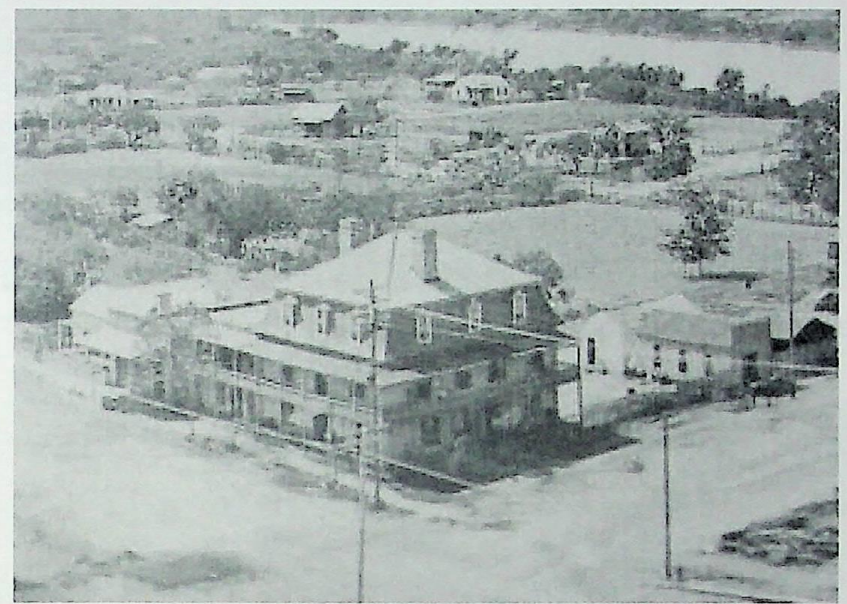


Looking east up Main St. toward the square.
 The Southern Hotel was built in 1880.

Southern Hotel was kept busy during the late 1800s and early
 1900s. It was a stage stop, bringing travelers from all over. And
 since Llano was the end of the line for the railroad, many people
 came in by rail and stayed over waiting for the stage. The hotel
 served meals to the guests as well.

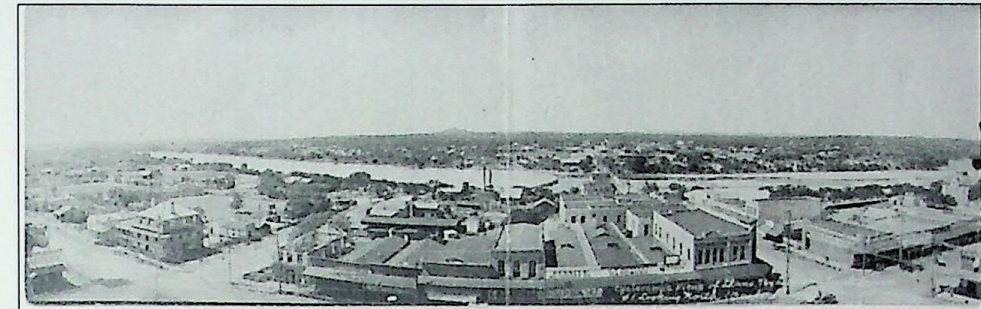


The Southern Hotel was built during the late 19th century. It was a three-story building with a central tower. The hotel was one of the largest and most luxurious in the city. It was built by the Southern Hotel Company, which was a subsidiary of the Southern Railway Company. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1905. The site of the hotel is now occupied by the Southern Hotel parking lot.

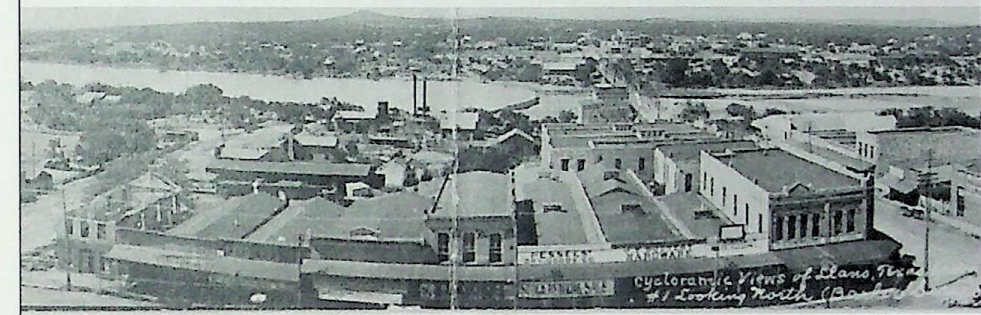


Close-up of the Southern Hotel (from the cycloramic view)

In 1905, a fire destroyed the building on the lot. The lot was sold to the Southern Railway Company. The Southern Railway Company built a parking lot on the lot. The parking lot is now the Southern Hotel parking lot.

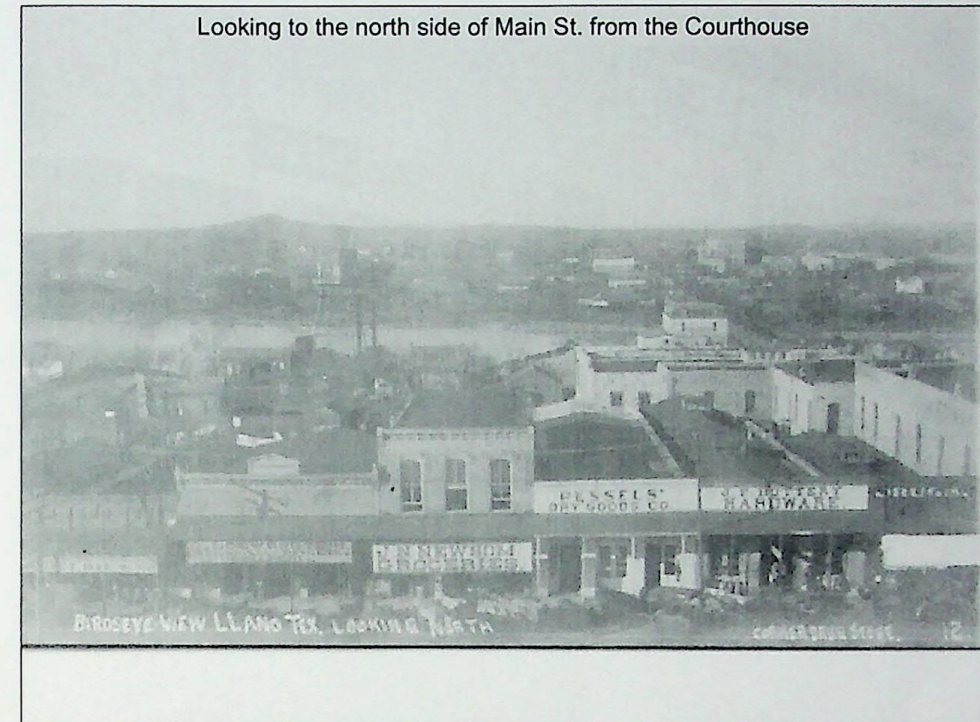


Cycloramic view of Llano looking north from the Courthouse
taken about 1911 by Miles Barler

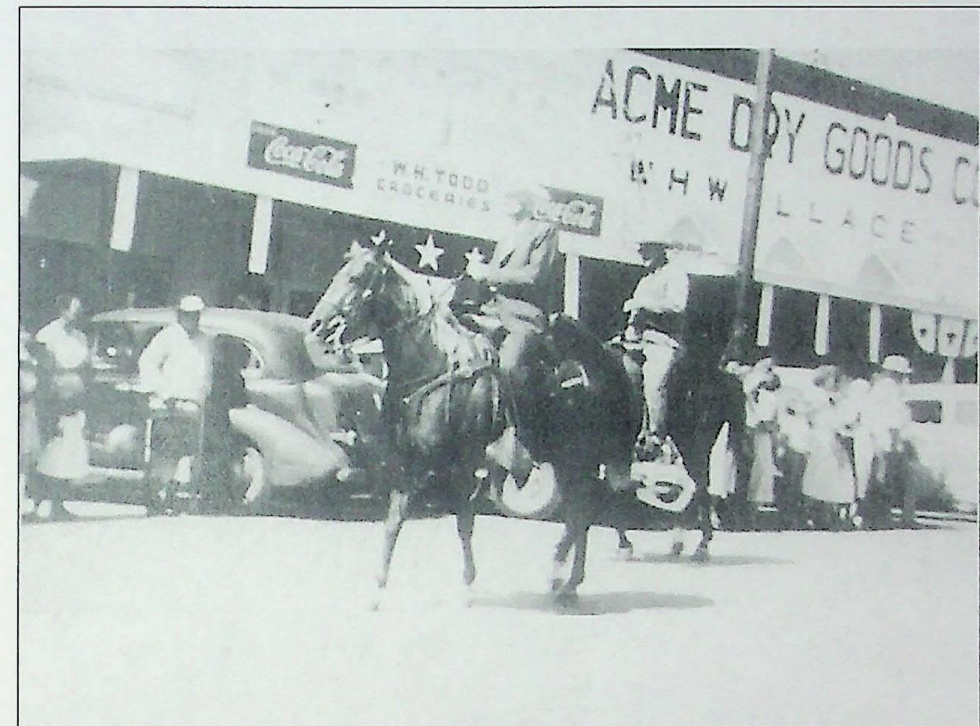


In 1908, a fire completely destroyed the building on the far left, leaving just the stone walls. Not all of the large building on the north side of the river – more about that later!

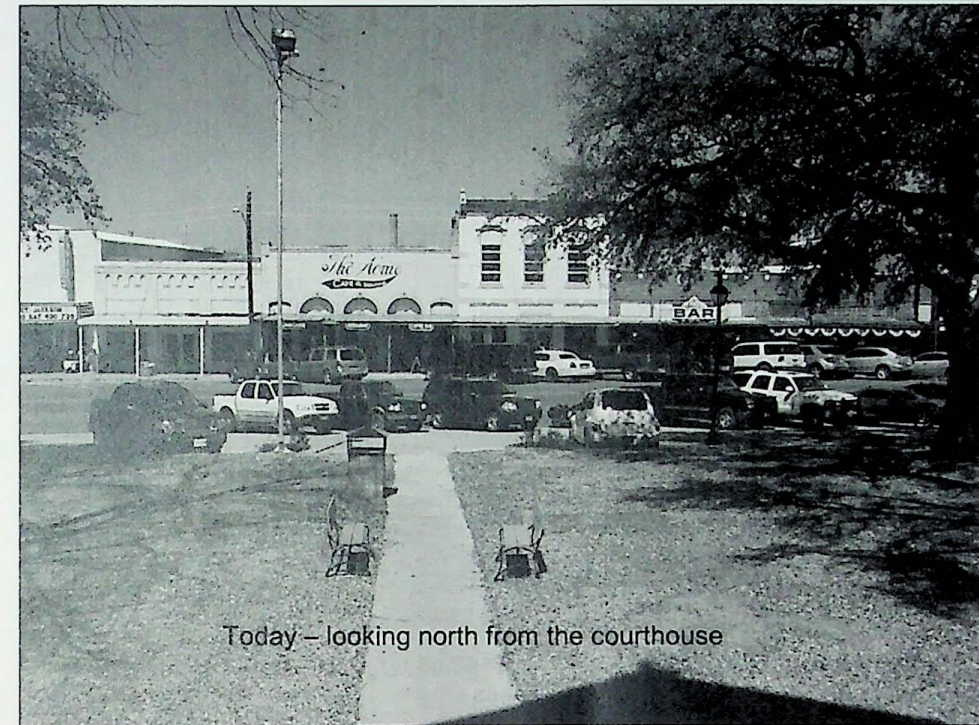
Looking to the north side of Main St. from the Courthouse



This photo is from around 1910. Note the Buttery Hardware building – the Buttery family has operated a hardware store since 1877. At one time it occupied the building next door to it also. The buildings have the same old wooden floors and rock walls and a big basement that opens out onto the alley behind the buildings. Buttery Hardware moved to the new location in the 1980s, using the Southern Hotel for the operations offices. The building with the Lowenstein sign became the Acme Dry Goods in 1923 and was operated by the Wallace family.



Note the blue building - it was built in 1892 and housed many merchants until it became 1923 when the Acme Corporation moved to this location and was operated by the Wallace family until the 1930s. The Acme is now a cafe rather than a dry goods store, but it has kept the original layout and the 1923 sign. The building was built back to 1923 and has been operated under that name since the



Note the blue building – it was built in 1892 and housed many merchants until it became 1923 when the Acme Corporation moved to this location and was operated by the Wallace family until the 1990s. The Acme is now a café rather than a dry goods store, but it has kept the Acme name since 1923. The LanTex Theater building dates back to 1927 and has been operated under that name since. All of the other buildings have remained the same since the



A view of the north side of West Main Street on a parade day in 1907. Take a look at the Coca Cola sign – the logo is still the same!

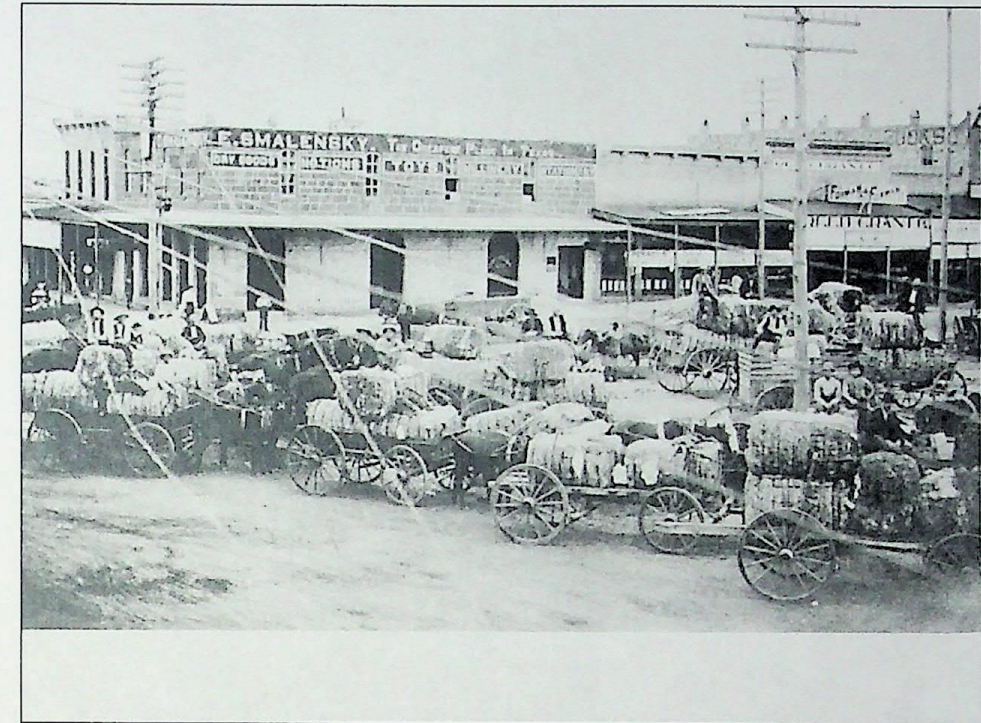
The two-story building on the corner was built in 1888. The lower story was filled by merchants, and at one time a bank, and the upper story was the Haynie Hotel and later business offices for doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc. An interesting tidbit – the second floor of the corner building (above what is now Stonewalls Pizza) was the Llano County Hospital in the 1940s..



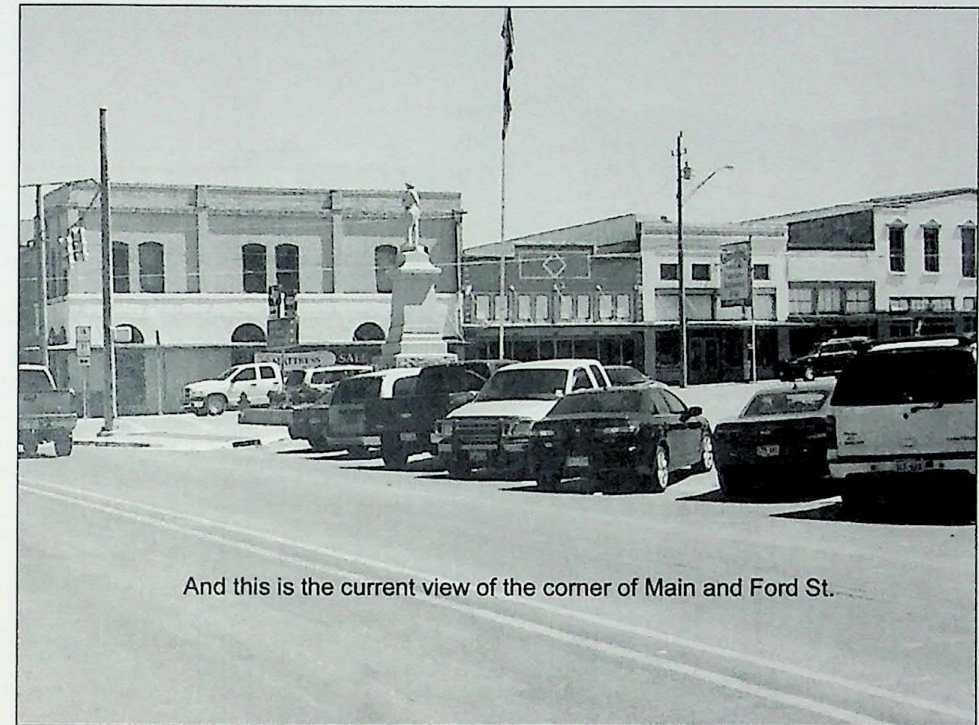
Street scene, Washington, D.C., June 11, 1902



Jim's Jewelry has operated in this location (shown above) since the mid-1960s.



This photo is the corner of Main and Ford Street on the east side of the Courthouse. At one time cotton was a big industry in Llano. The second floor of the corner building was renovated at one point Notice in this photo it is a dry goods store – there were many in Llano through the years and this is where everyone went to purchase all of the things they needed – there were certainly no WalMarts then! This building is the oldest brick structure in Llano – built in 1879 -- it is actually made of a sandstone-type brick.



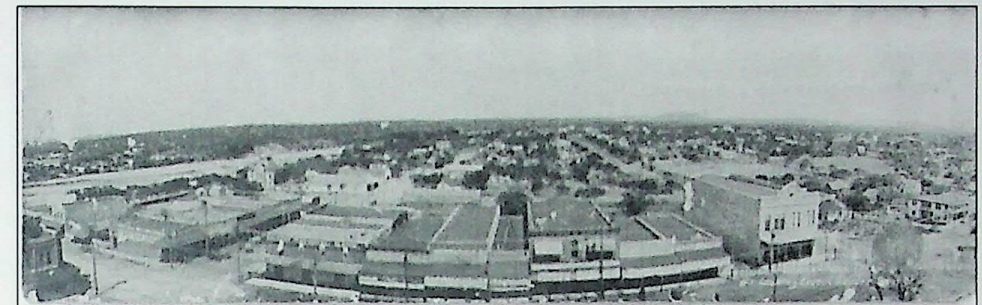
And this is the current view of the corner of Main and Ford St.

Notice the second story of the building on the corner has been changed.



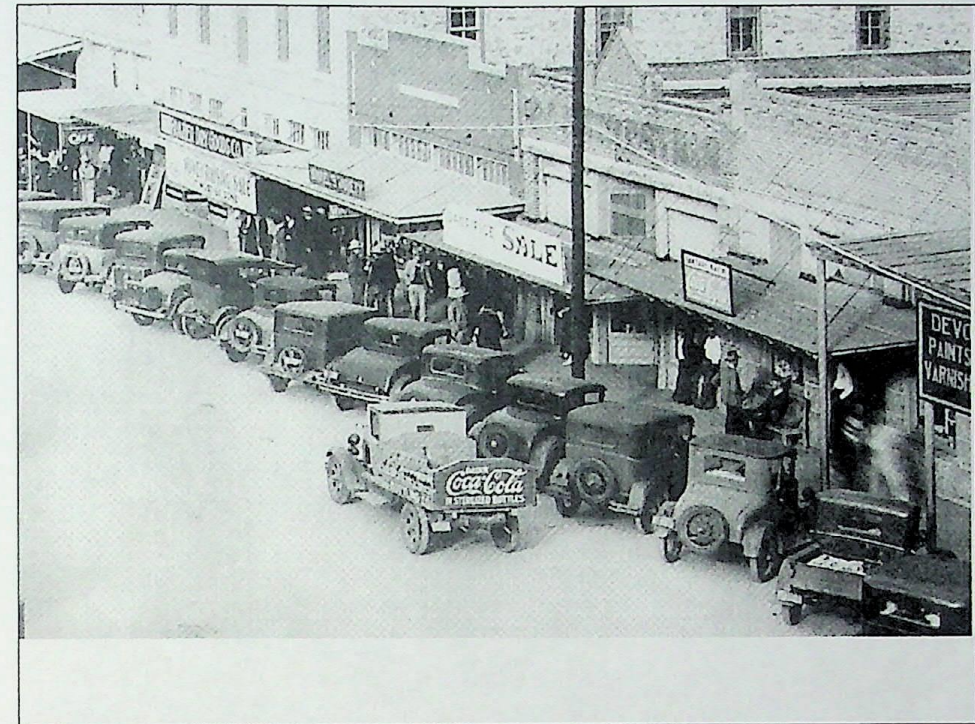
This is a view of Ford Street on the east side of the square about 1900

This is a view of Ford Street on the east side of the square. It was known as "Quality Row" in the 1880s due to the many businesses located along this block. The building with the balcony was a boarding house for many years. The building is now part of Charlie's Store. The building to the far right side is the Llano House. It is on the corner where the Masonic Lodge is now located. When the Masonic Lodge bought the land, the Llano House was moved across the street to what is now the Moore Park.

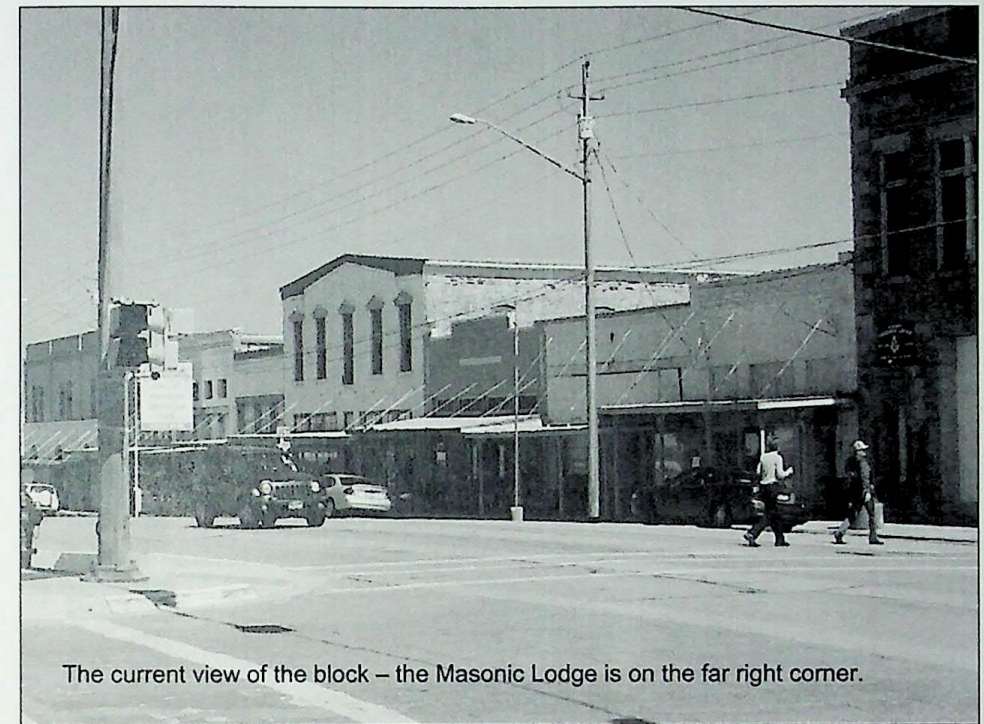


Cycloramic view of Llano looking east from the Courthouse
taken about 1911 by Miles Barler





A more recent view down the block – people have commented that this was probably in the 1930s judging by the autos.



The current view of the block – the Masonic Lodge is on the far right corner.

This photo is taken from the corner of Ford and Main looking north toward the bridge. Note the Corner Drug Store sign. The Corner Drug Store has been in operation in this location with the same name since 1988.



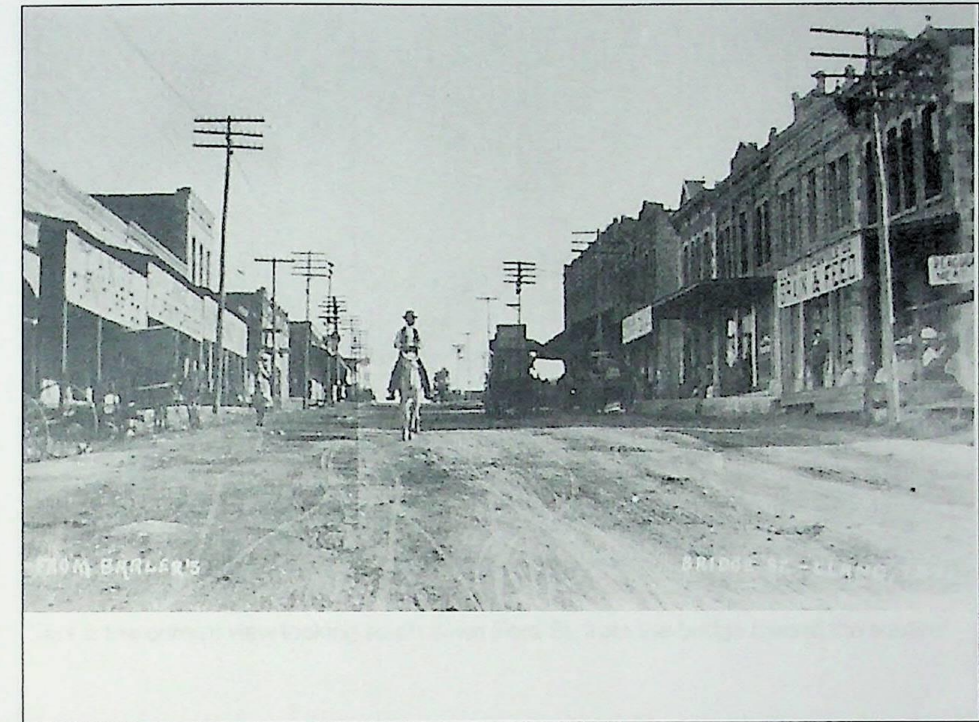
This photo is taken from the corner of Ford and Main looking north toward the bridge. Note the Corner Drug Store sign The Corner Drug Store has been in operation in this location with the same name since 1898



A close-up view of the buildings along Ford St. between Main St. and the bridge. This photo was taken in 1907. The building to the far right is the Llano Milling Company built in 1902. Wagons of wheat and corn were pulled in and weighed – and then the empty wagon was weighed – to determine the value of the load. The company went out of business in the 20s and was demolished in the 30s.



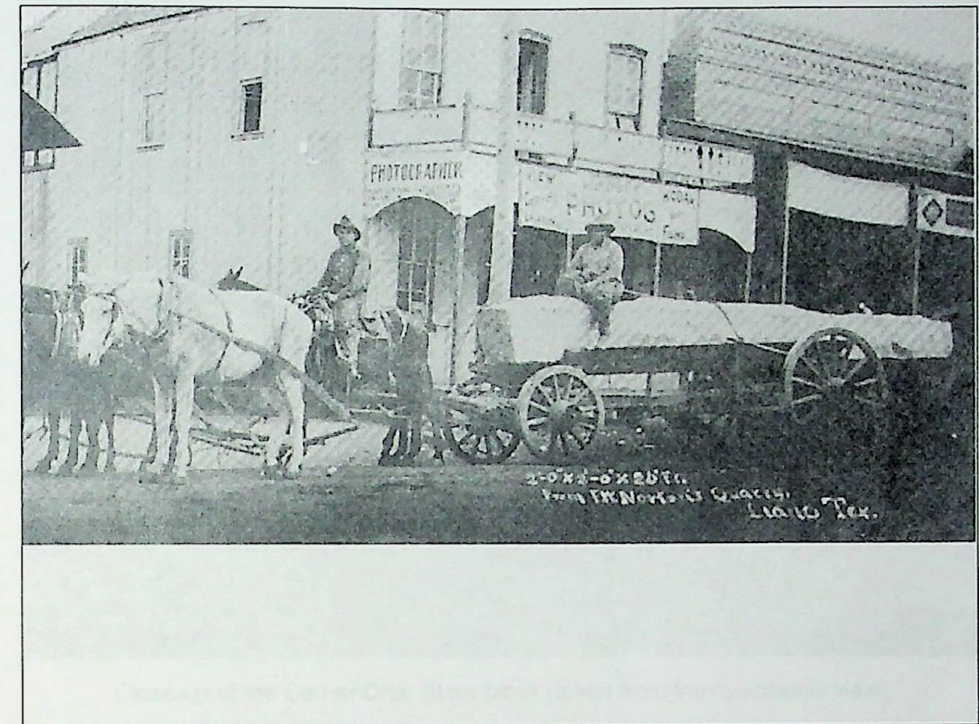
The current view from the corner of Ford and Main looking toward the river – note the lack of business signs down the block. The buildings once housed many different business. The building to the right houses a few businesses and a radio station is in the northern part of the upstairs but the front is vacant. The four two-story buildings north of the alley are now gutted and used for storage by Buttery Hardware.



This view is looking south from the bridge. During this time the street was named Bridge Street. Again, note all of the businesses in the buildings.



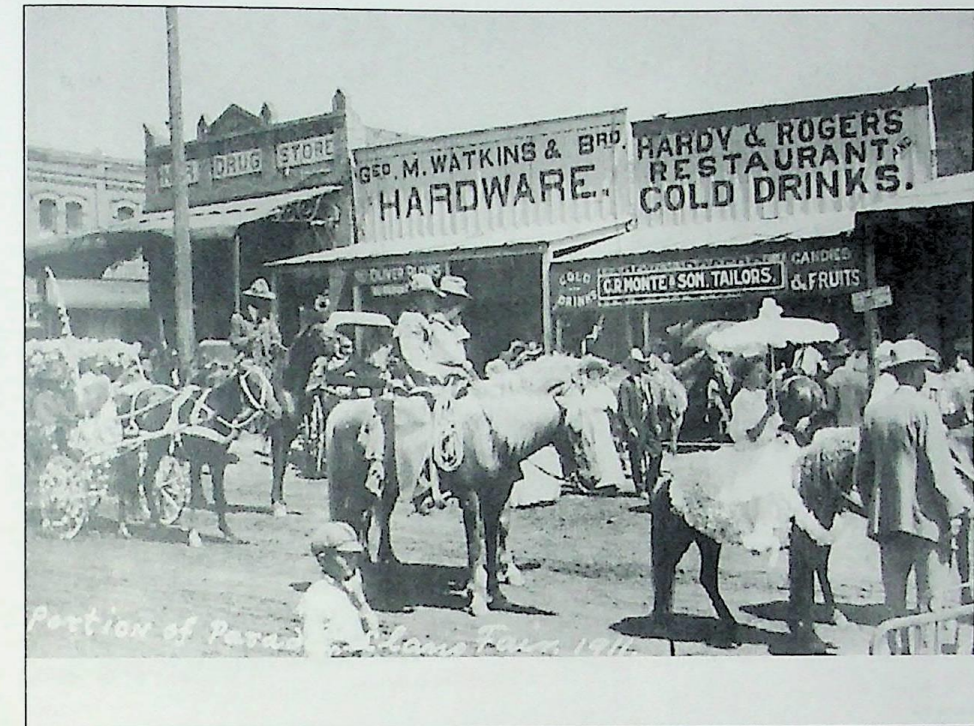
This is the current view looking south down Ford St. from the bridge toward the square.



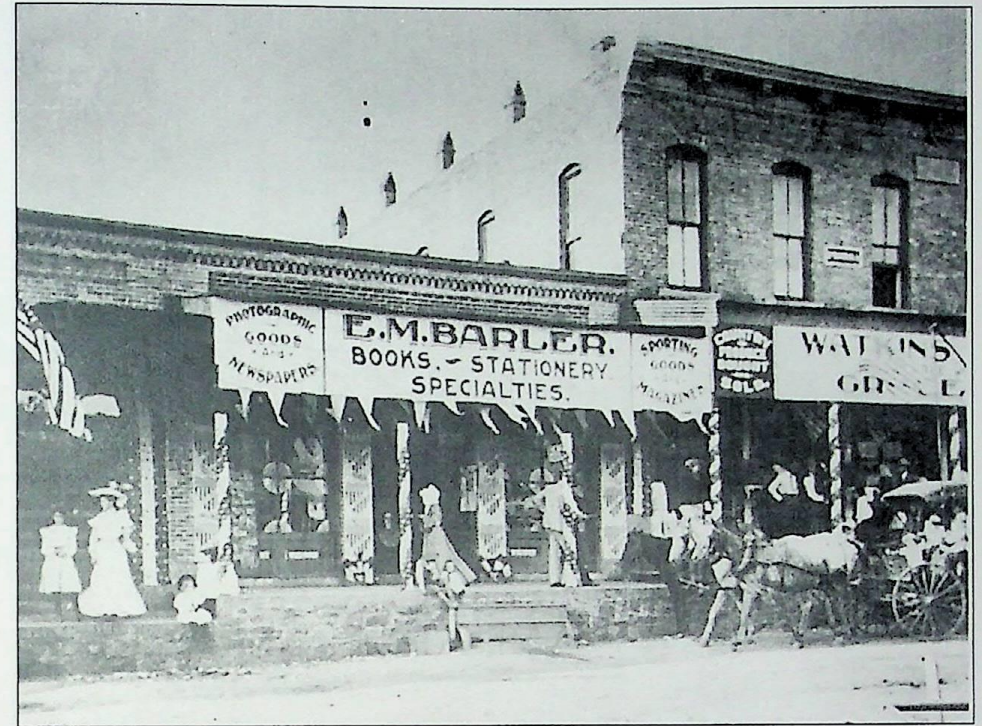
This photo is of the corner of Haynie and Ford St. The wood frame building is long gone, but the building to the right is now the north end of the library.



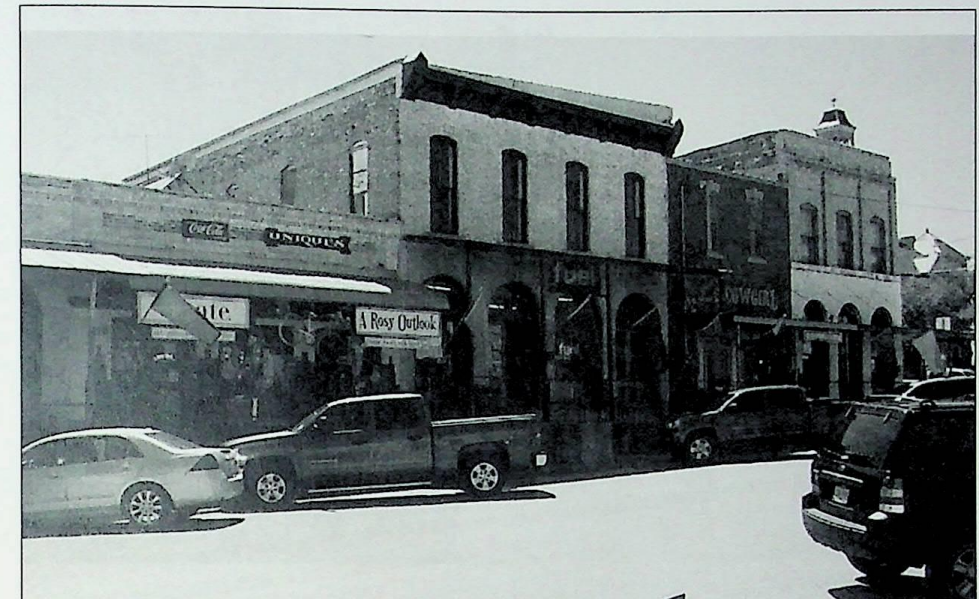
Close-up of the Corner Drug Store block (taken from the cycloramic view)



This is the 1st part of the block down East Main St. At this time, the Corner Drug Store had already been in business for 13 years

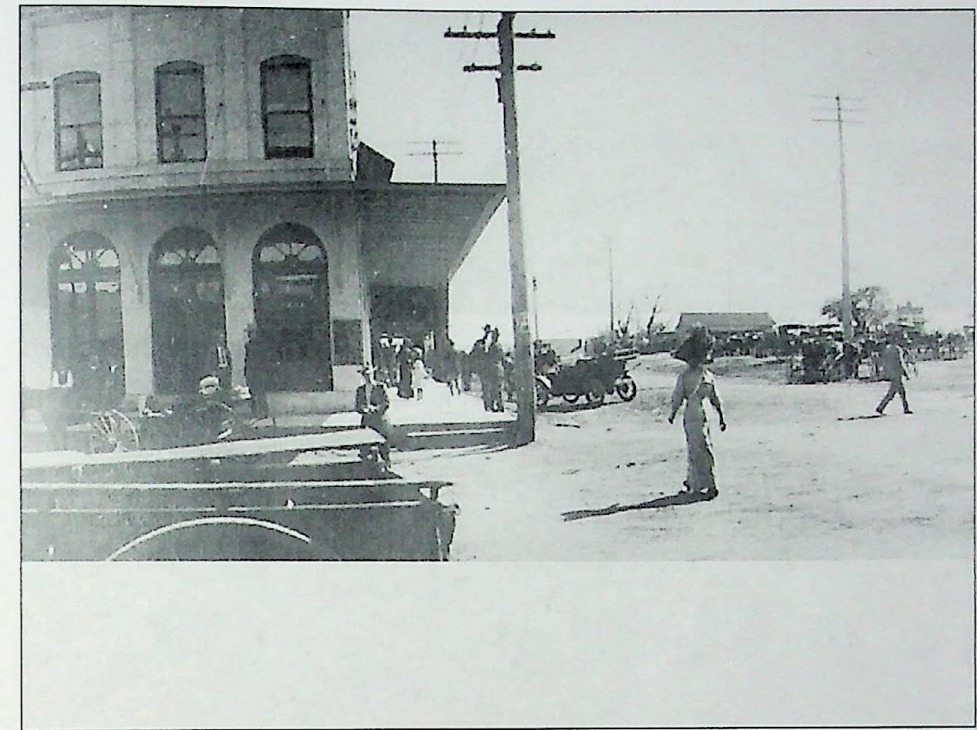


The south side of East Main St. (across from the Corner Drug). Fuel Coffee House is located in the two story building that is Watkins Grocery in this photo. Many of the photos we have from this time were from the Barler series who had the store in the photo.

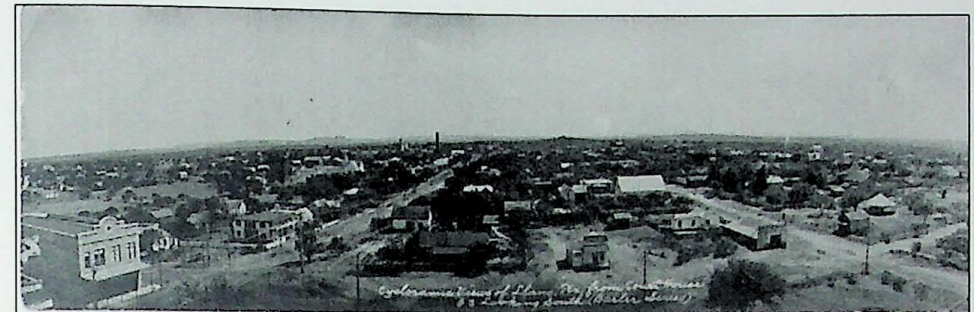


Current photo of the shops along the north side of East Main St.

This photo is taken from the corner of Ford and Main (in front of the Corner Drug Store) looking south to the far side of the square. There is now a three-story building located there that houses the Tax Office and County Offices and Arrowhead Bank is located on the far right corner. Note the automobile parked in the street, but still many horse and wagons. Also note the electric poles and lines.



This photo is taken from the corner of Ford and Main (in front of the Corner Drug Store) looking south to the far side of the square. There is now a three-story building located there that houses the Tax Office and County Offices and Arrowhead Bank is located on the far right corner. Note the automobile parked in the street, but still mainly horse and wagons. Also note the electric poles and lines.

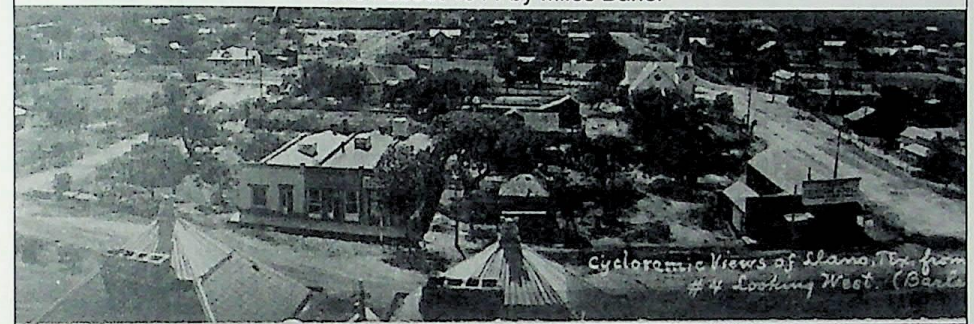


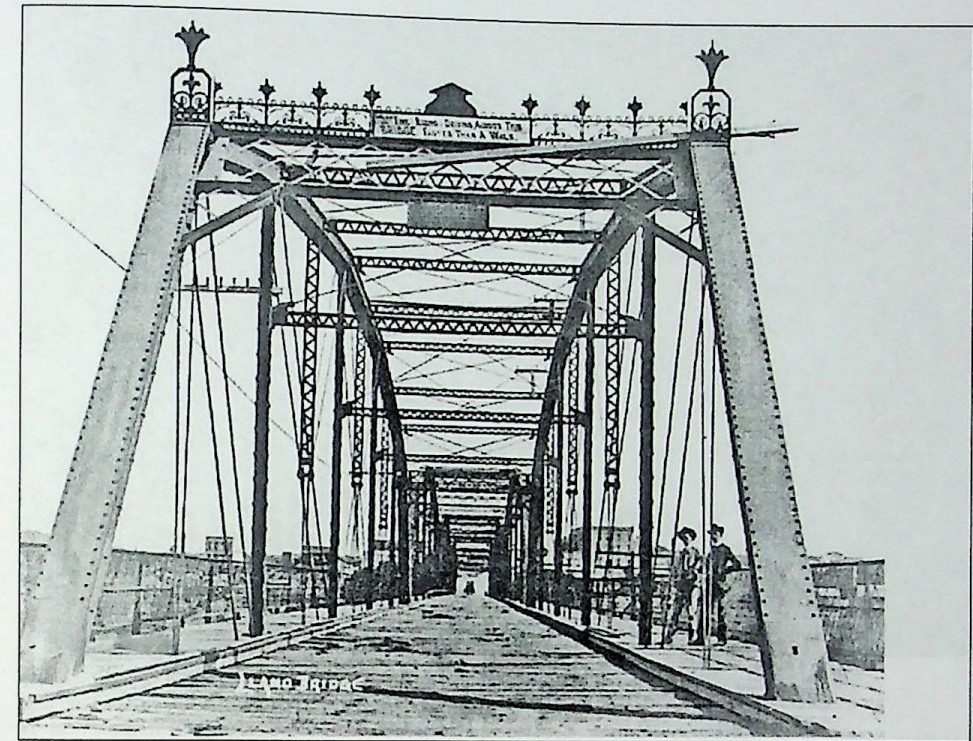
Cycloramic view of Llano looking south from the Courthouse
taken about 1911 by Miles Barler



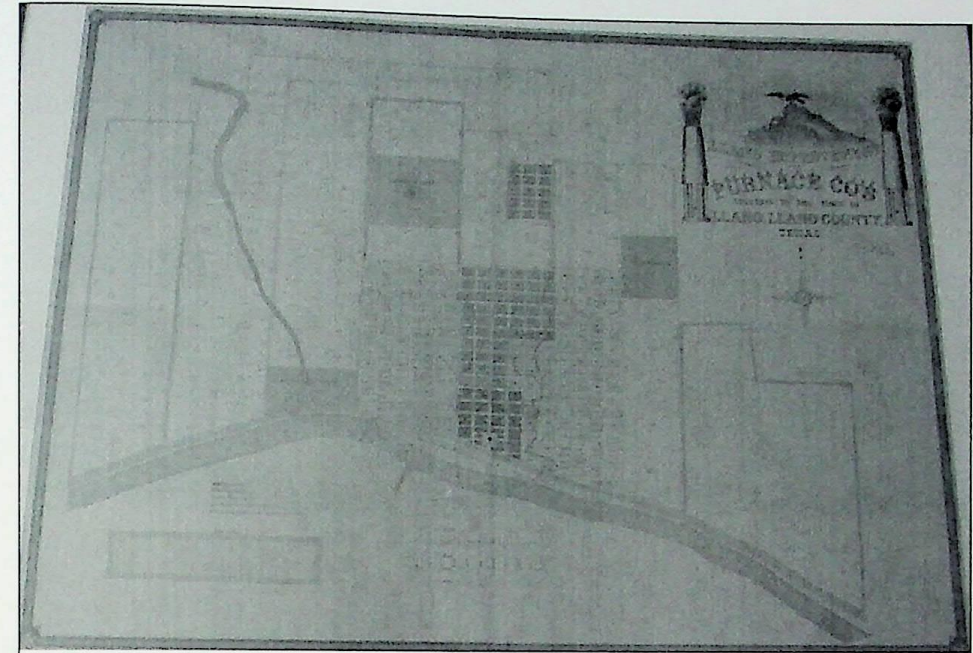


Cycloramic view of Llano looking west from the Courthouse
taken about 1911 by Miles Barler





This is the Llano Bridge that was built in 1892. It was washed out in 1935 during a rain that had the Llano River on a rise of 42 feet. Note the wooden base of the bridge

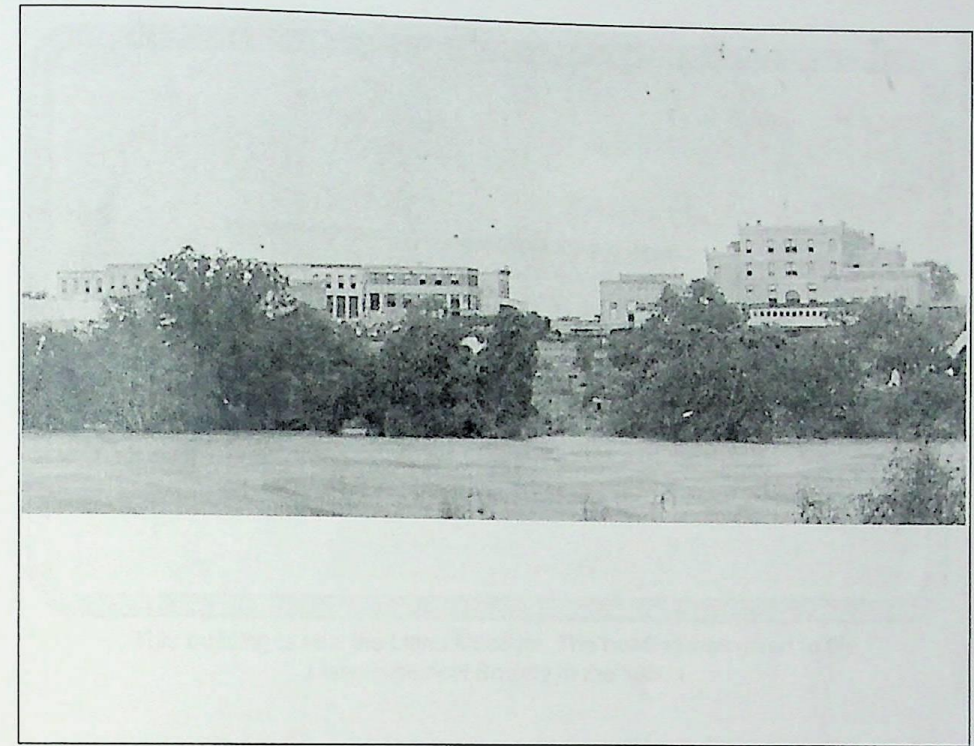


This photo is the plat that was drawn out for the North side of Llano during the Boom Era of the late 1880s

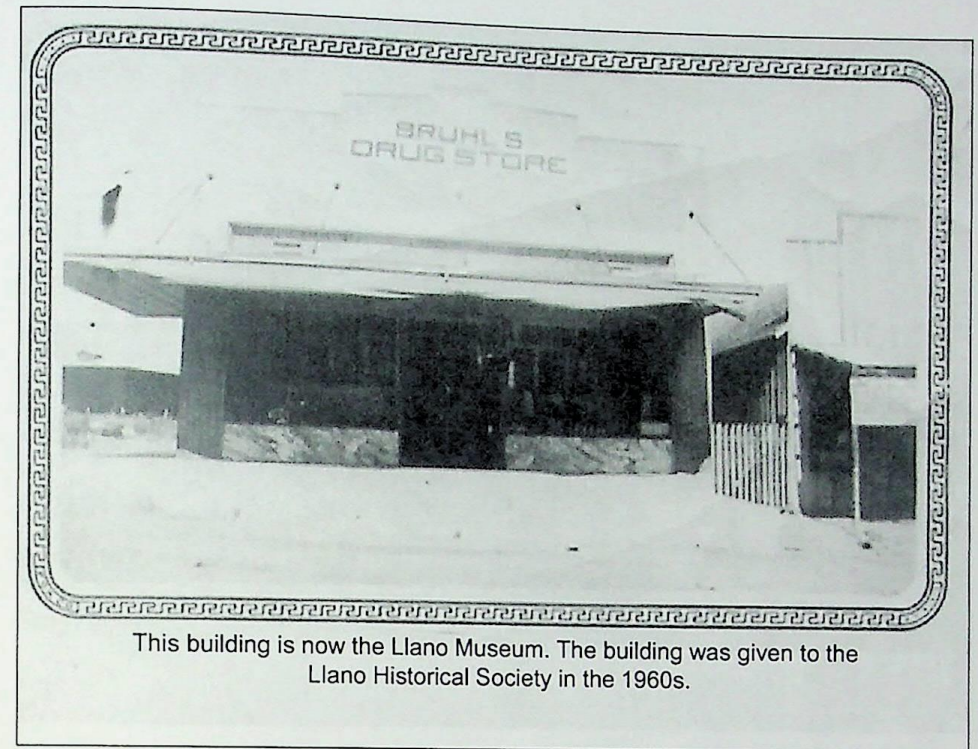
The north side of Llano remained fields until the late 1880s with only a few families living there. In 1888, Henry Exall and F.R. Malone (part of a company of land speculators) bought a hundred acre farm on the north side and after this transaction people flocked to the area in droves – a tent city popped up and over 600 people lived there.

Iron was discovered and thus began the "Boom Era" of Llano. In 1889, the group of land speculators formed the Llano Improvement and Furnace Company and by this time they had acquired over 2,300 acres of land on the north side and drew up the plat shown here. They had grand plans for everything from a water and electric power plant, an ice company, bridges, a street railway system, as well as a hotel and nice homes.

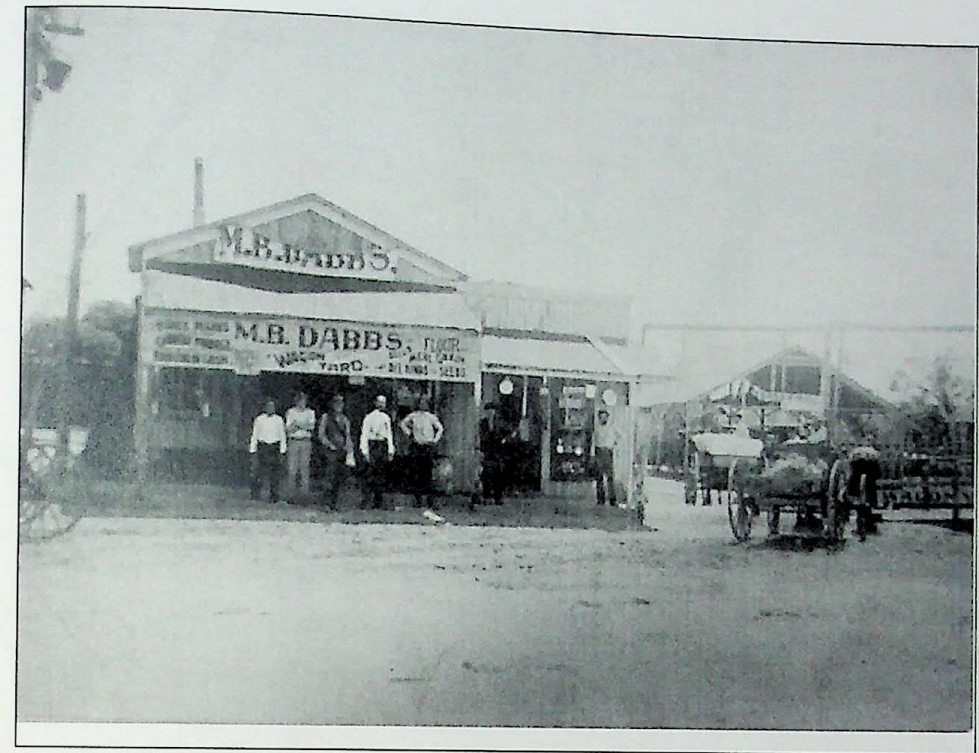
The next few years saw many of these plans come to pass – huge brick buildings and businesses went up, out went the country way of life and Llano became a fine city of entertainment and luxury – there were grand balls and galas and finely dressed men and women.



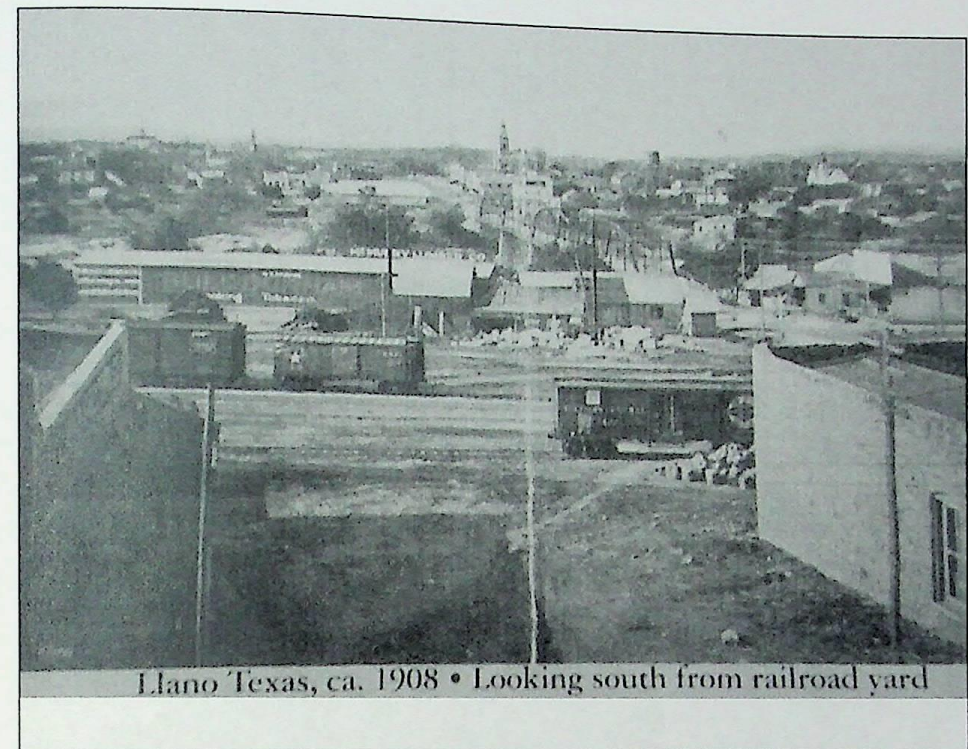
This is a view of the North Side during the Boom Era of the late 1800s. They say there were between 12,000 and 15,000 people living in the City of Llano at this time (our current population is just over 3,000). Llano was known as the "Pittsburg of the West" and called the "Iron City". But just as quickly as the "boom" started up, it went bust – with many men losing their investments. Many of the big, beautiful buildings built during this time burned – many think it may have been arson so that pay-off by insurance could help them regain some of their losses. The Badu House is seen in the photo above, but the others are gone.



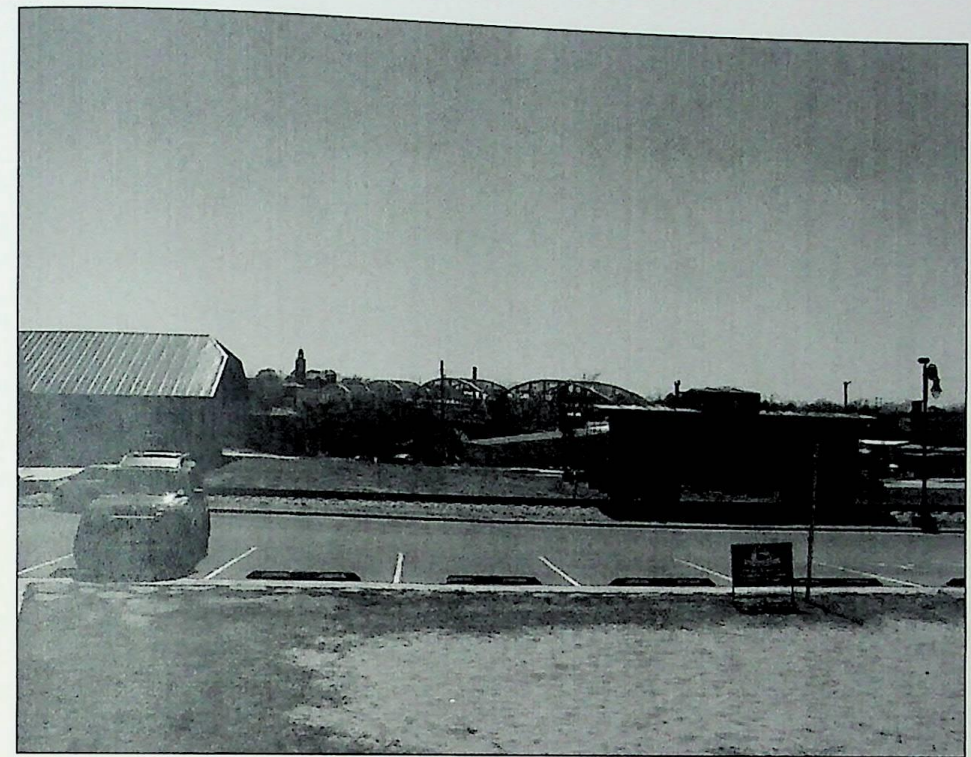
This building is now the Llano Museum. The building was given to the Llano Historical Society in the 1960s.



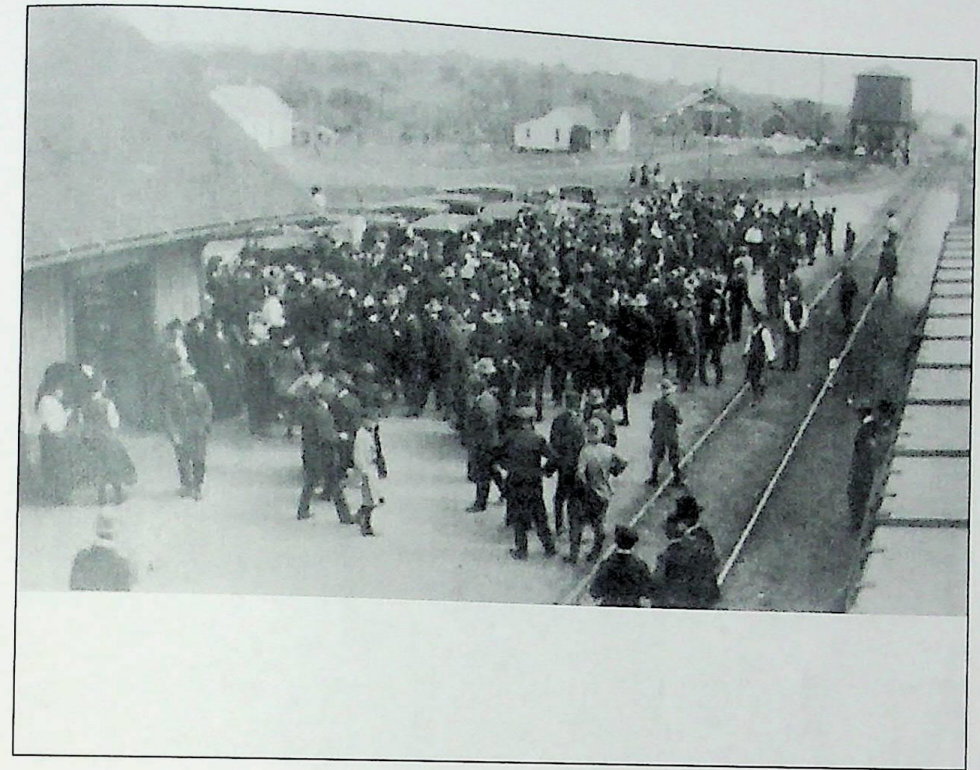
This grocery was located where the museum now stands



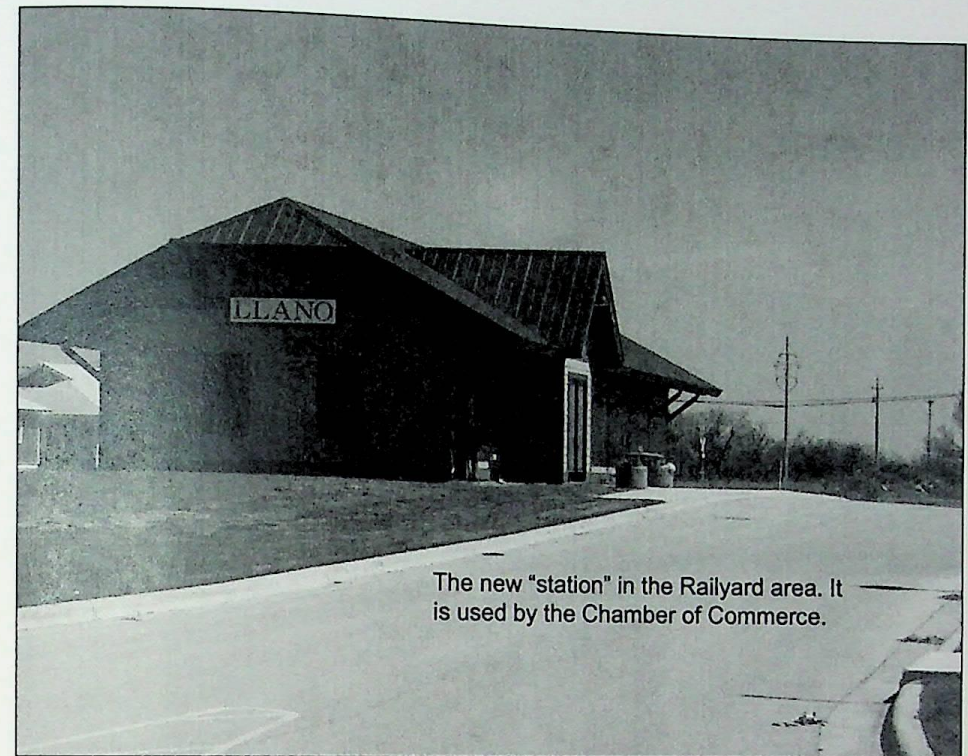
Llano Texas, ca. 1908 • Looking south from railroad yard



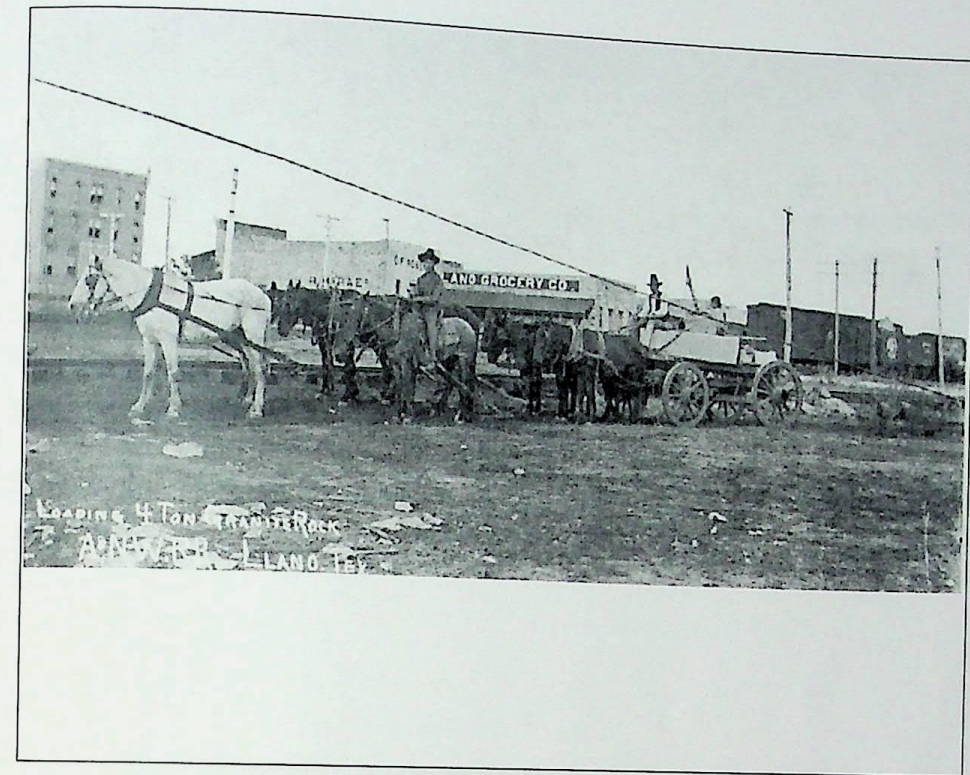
This is the old passenger depot in the Rayyard. All of the people
are waiting to take the train out of town. Passenger service ended
after more people had automobiles. The depot was torn down, and
the tracks that went across Pioneer Street (not past to the
bakery) were later removed.



This is the old passenger depot in the Railyard. All of the people are waiting to take the train out of town. Passenger service ended after more people had automobiles, the depot was torn down, and the tracks that went across Bessemer Street (right next to the bakery) were later removed.



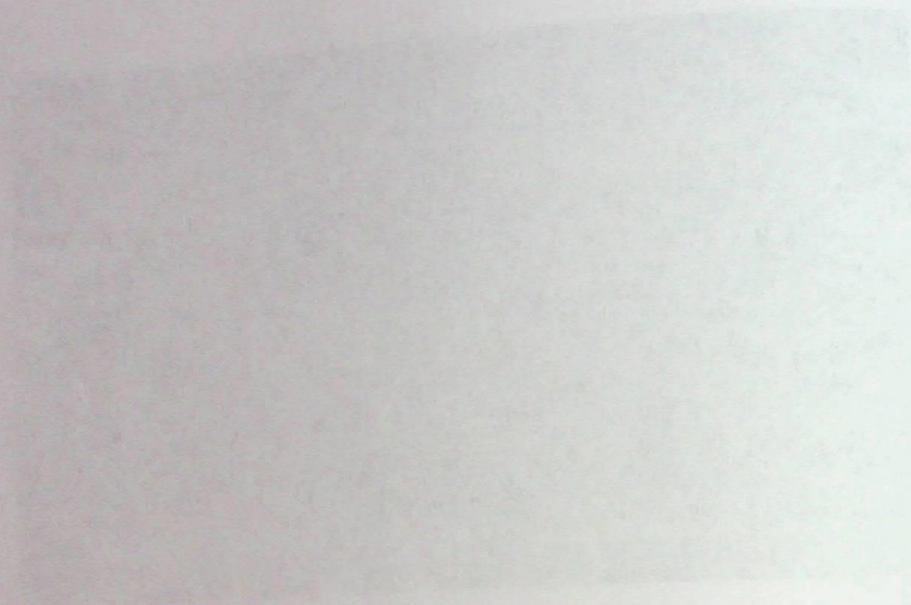
The new "station" in the Railyard area. It is used by the Chamber of Commerce.



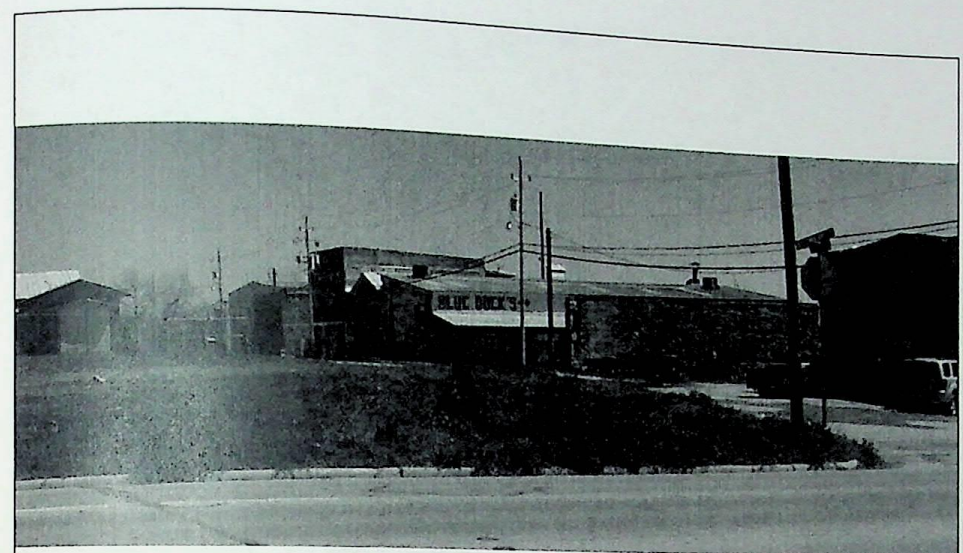
This photo is taken from the railyard looking north toward the business area of North Llano in 1905. To the far left is the Algona Hotel that later burned.



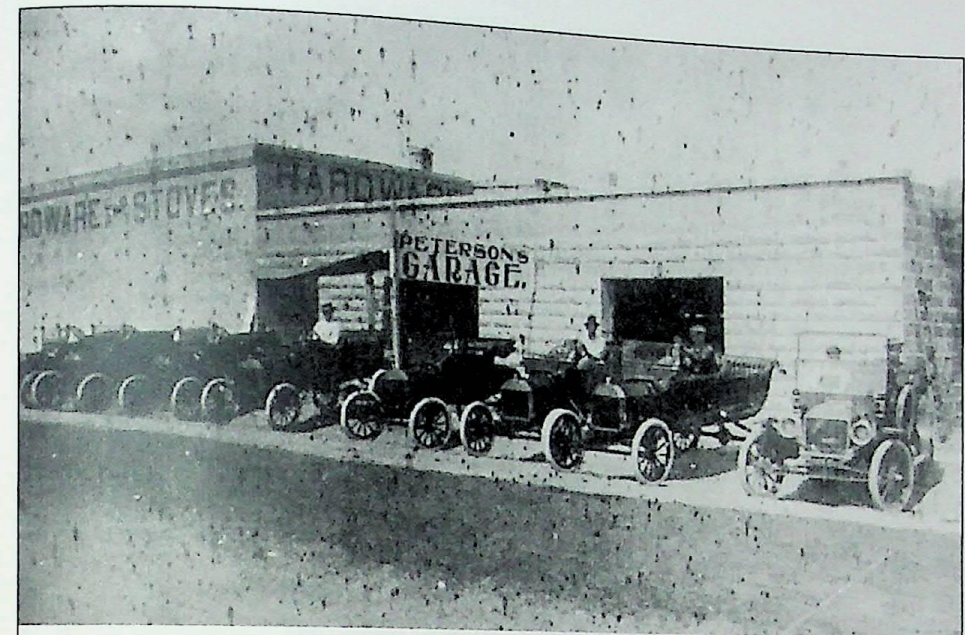
This is the strip of buildings that backs up to the railyard area. The was the main street during the time of the boom. This was taken in the early 1900s. The buildings had doors that faced both Market St. and the railyard for convenient access to both the customers and unloading of freight.



This is the strip of building that used to be the main street during the early 1900s. The building was built for the railroad and the railroad for convenient access to the unloading of freight.

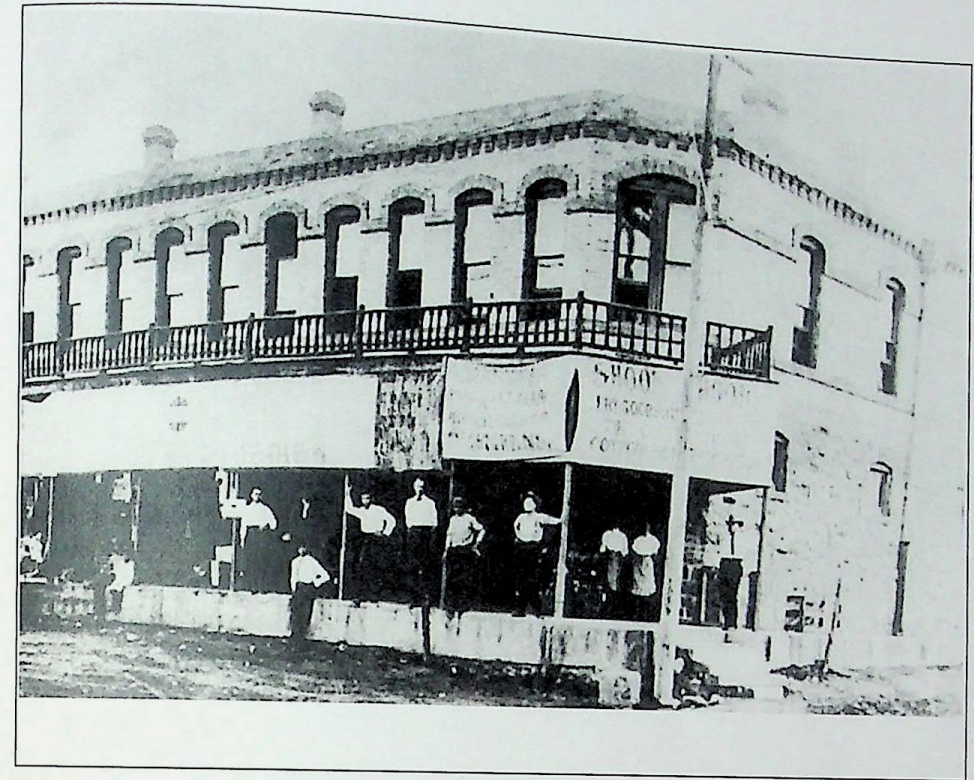


This is the same street today.

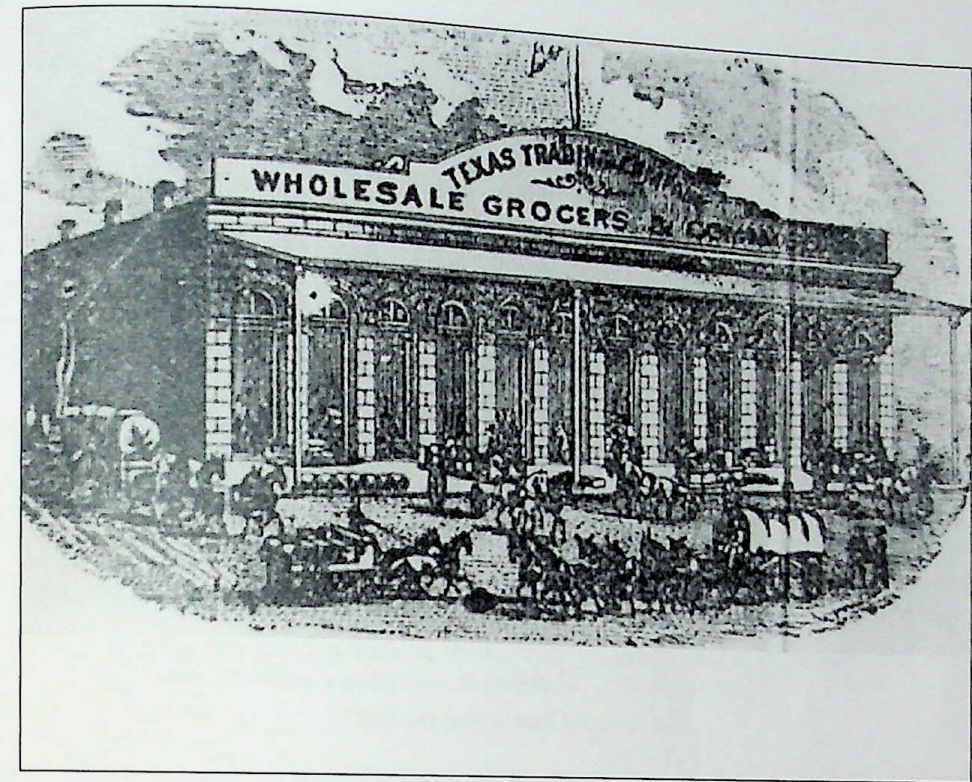


An old-time garage located on the North Side.

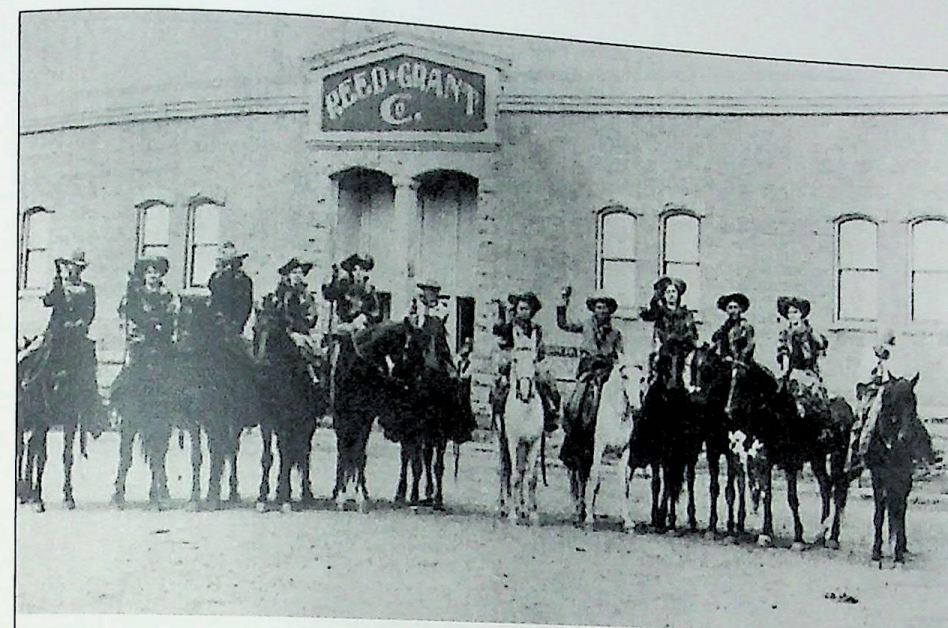
This large building was built a couple of blocks west of the rock behind the Hyatt Garage. It was built in 1892, and housed many businesses through the years. In the photo, Frank & Chuck operated a dry goods and grocery store from 1917 until 1947. It deteriorated through the years and in the 1970s the roof began to cave in and the building crumbled.



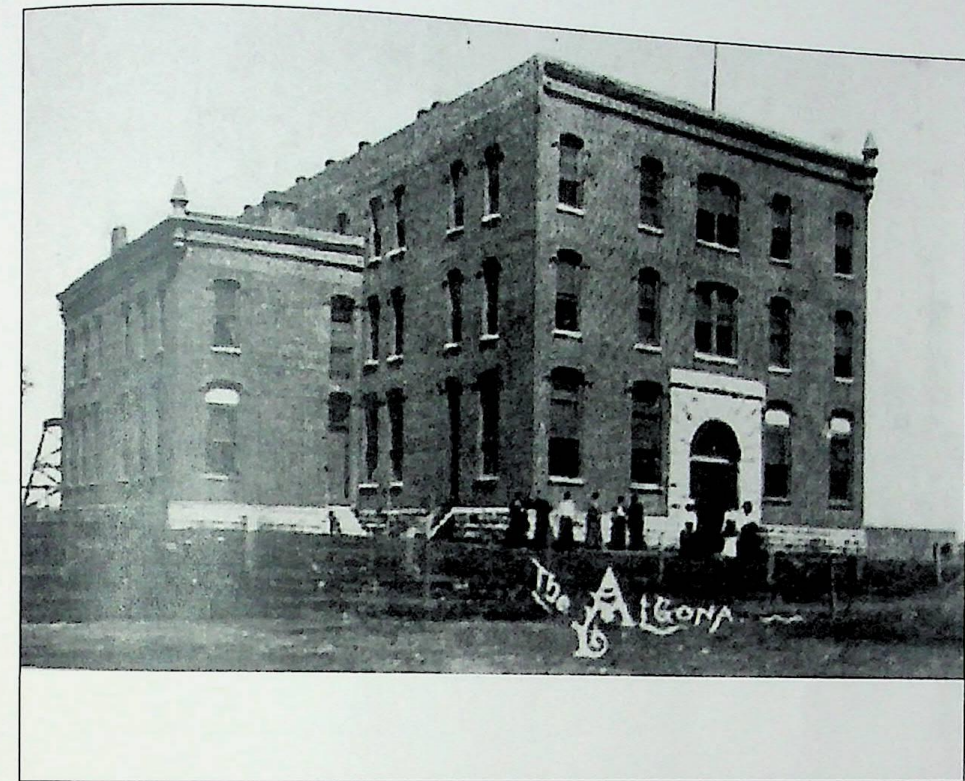
This large building was back a couple of blocks and to the south behind where Burger Bar is now. It was built in 1892, and housed many businesses through the years. In this photo, Shook & Shook operated a dry goods and grocery store from 1902 until 1917. It deteriorated through the years and in the 1930s the roof began to cave in and the building crumbled.



A drawing of a building that was located east of the Railyard. Again, this building is no longer standing. Built in 1892, the Texas Trading Company dealt in wholesale dry goods and groceries as well as cotton and wool, it went bankrupt in 1894. The company was operated by different people under various names as a dry goods company, and then leased by the Hackworth family in 1907 and remained in business until 1927. The building was torn down in the 1940s



Yet another building that was on the North Side that is no longer standing.
Take a good look at the riders – notice anything?
They are pretty much ALL women!

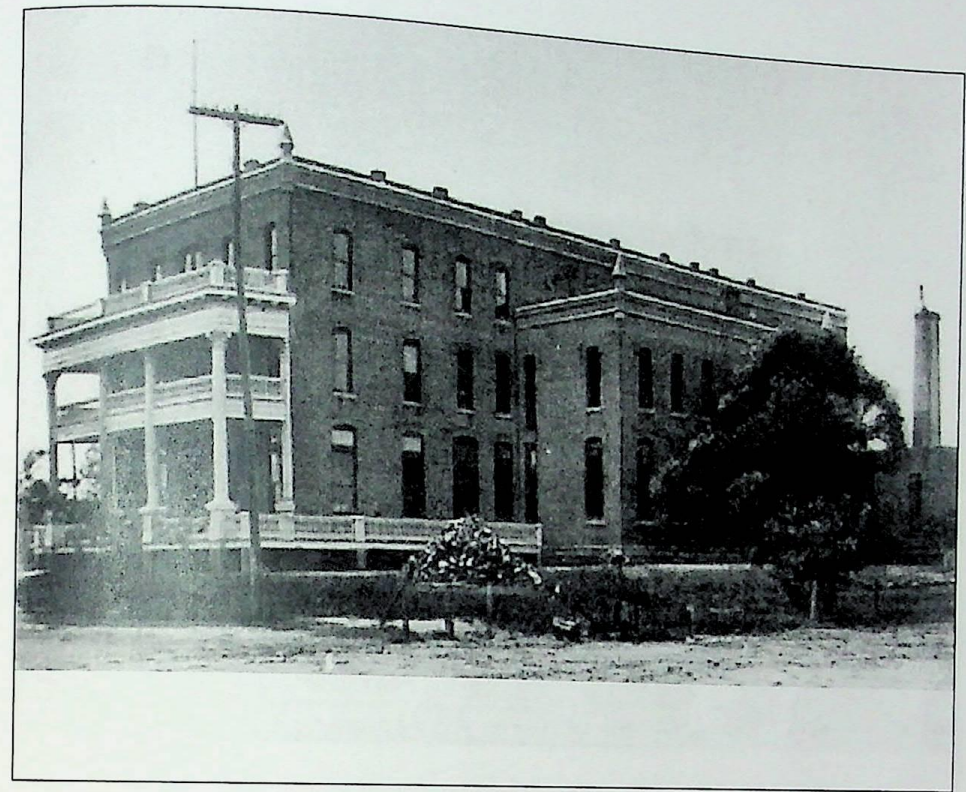


The Algona Hotel was built and opened in 1892 by the Llano Improvement and Furnace Company. The name was given by the Malone brothers – Frank and George – who were two leading men in the company who were from Algona, Iowa.

The building was enormous – the ground floor included a large foyer and the main lobby, a huge ball room with an orchestra pit, a music room, the parlors, an immense banquet room, as well as the kitchens and living quarters for the manager. There were 60 bedrooms located on the 2nd and 3rd floors, very luxurious and filled with beautiful furniture. There was a 20 foot wide hall that ran the length of the building – over 150 feet.

The building was operated as a hotel until 1897, and from 1897 until 1900 it housed the Texas Military Institute with over 50 young boys attending – ten from Llano. A tornado hit the building in 1900 taking off the roof and knocking out almost all the windows.

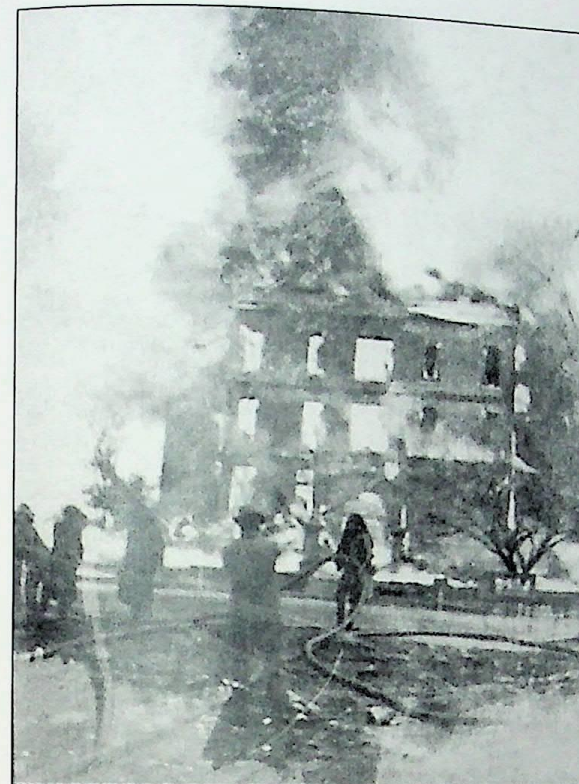
The Algona opened again in 1901 after repairs were done, and then in 1906 it sold to Franklin Settig and the Algona became the Franklin.



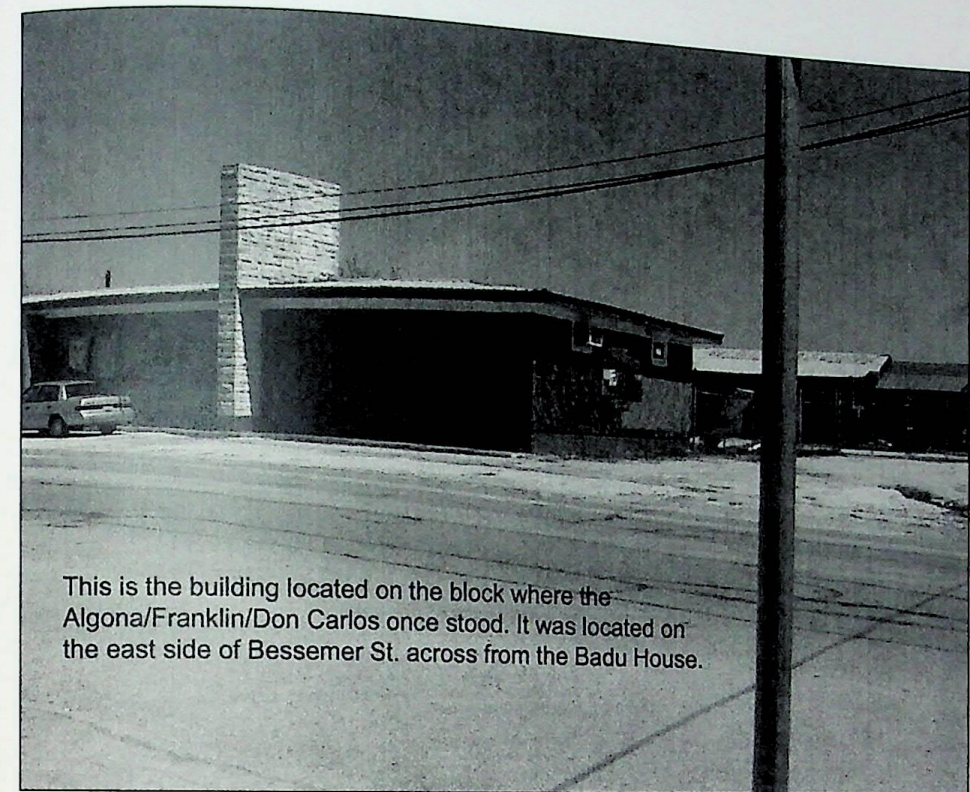
He gave the Franklin a face-lift – adding the three-story porch, several tennis courts, and a man-powered elevator at the back to carry luggage. The hotel changed owners many times through the next years.



In 1916, Charles Schultz purchased it and had a contest to rename it and it became the Don Carlos.

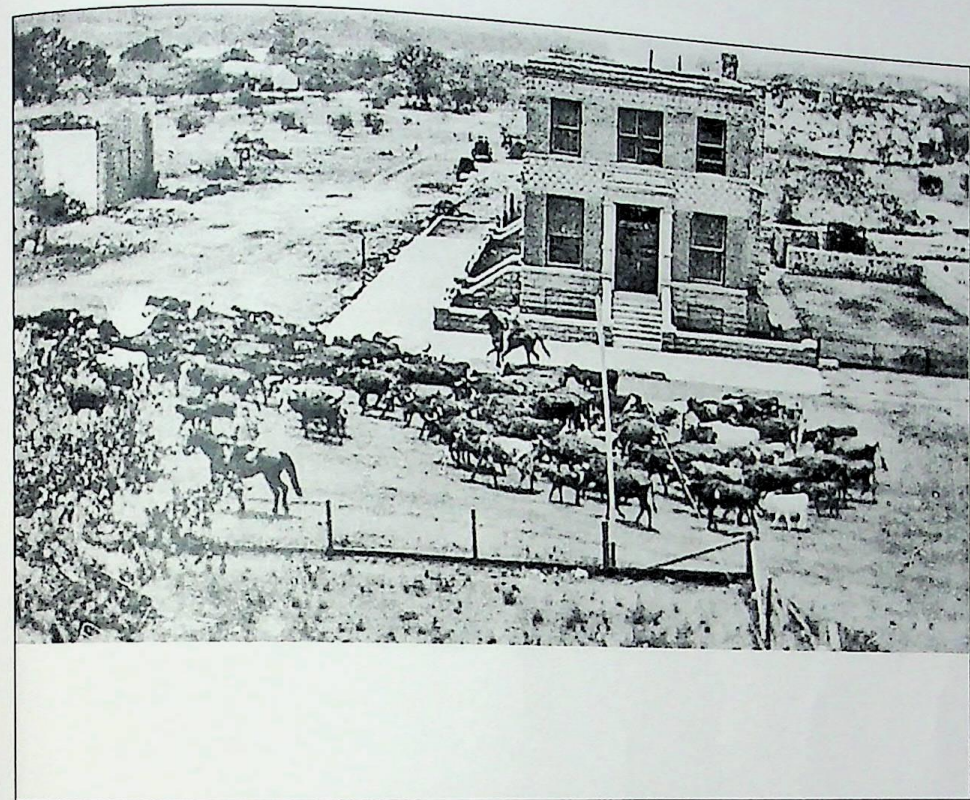


The Don Carlos was
destroyed by fire in
1923

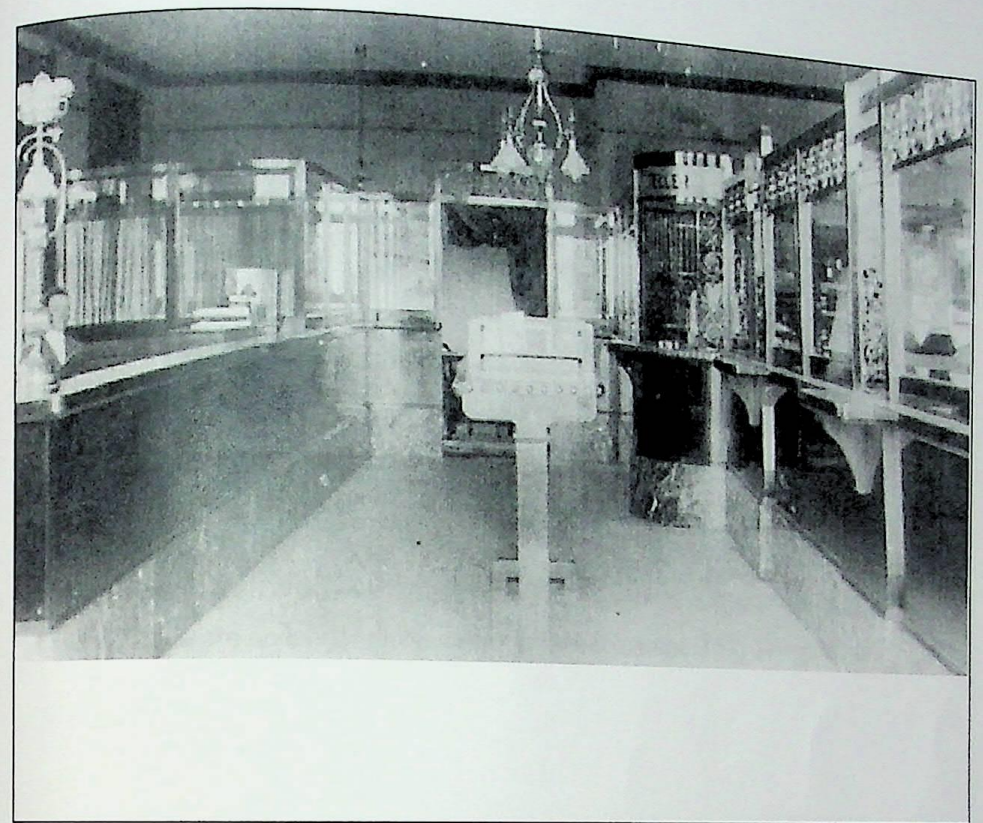


This is the building located on the block where the Algona/Franklin/Don Carlos once stood. It was located on the east side of Bessemer St. across from the Badu House.

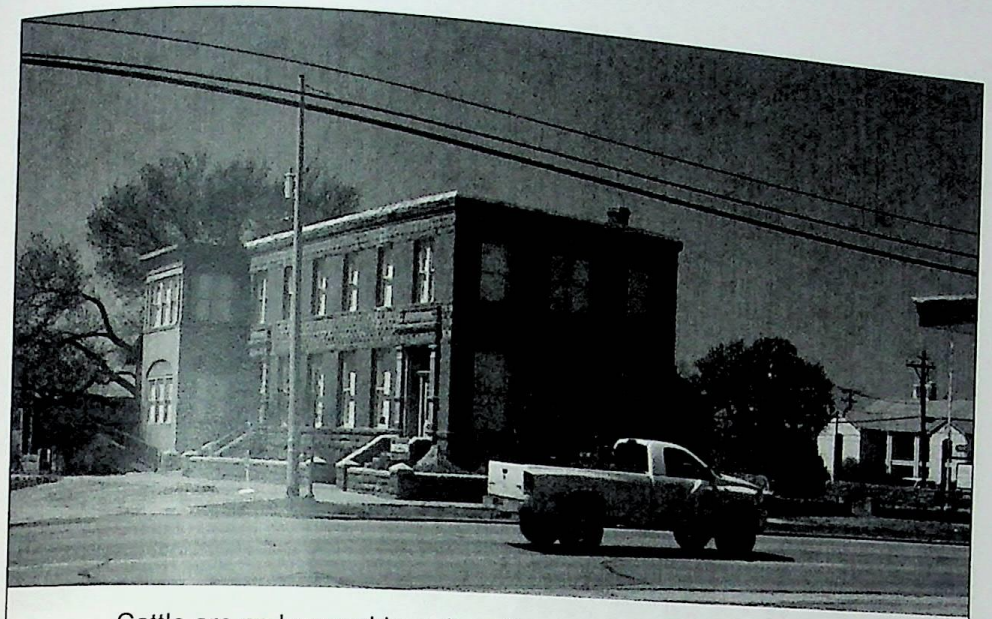
Now called the Badu House, this building was built at the very beginning of the Boom Era by the Liano Improvement and Finance Company as the First National Bank. The bank opened in May of 1900 and became defunct in 1904. Professor H. J. Badu purchased the building in 1904, leasing it to the bank for a time and then using it as his family residence. At one point the State Bank of Liano rented the lower story from Badu and his family lived in the upper floor. The building remained in the Badu family until the 1980s. This is one of the few grand buildings of that area left standing.



Now called the Badu House, this building was built at the very beginning of the Boom Era by the Llano Improvement and Furnace Company as the First National Bank. The bank opened in May of 1890 and became defunct in 1904. Professor N.J. Badu purchased the building in 1898, leasing it to the bank for a time and then using it as his family residence. At one point the State Bank of Llano rented the lower floor from Badu and his family lived in the upper floor. The building remained in the Badu family until the 1980s. This is one of the few grand buildings of that area left standing.



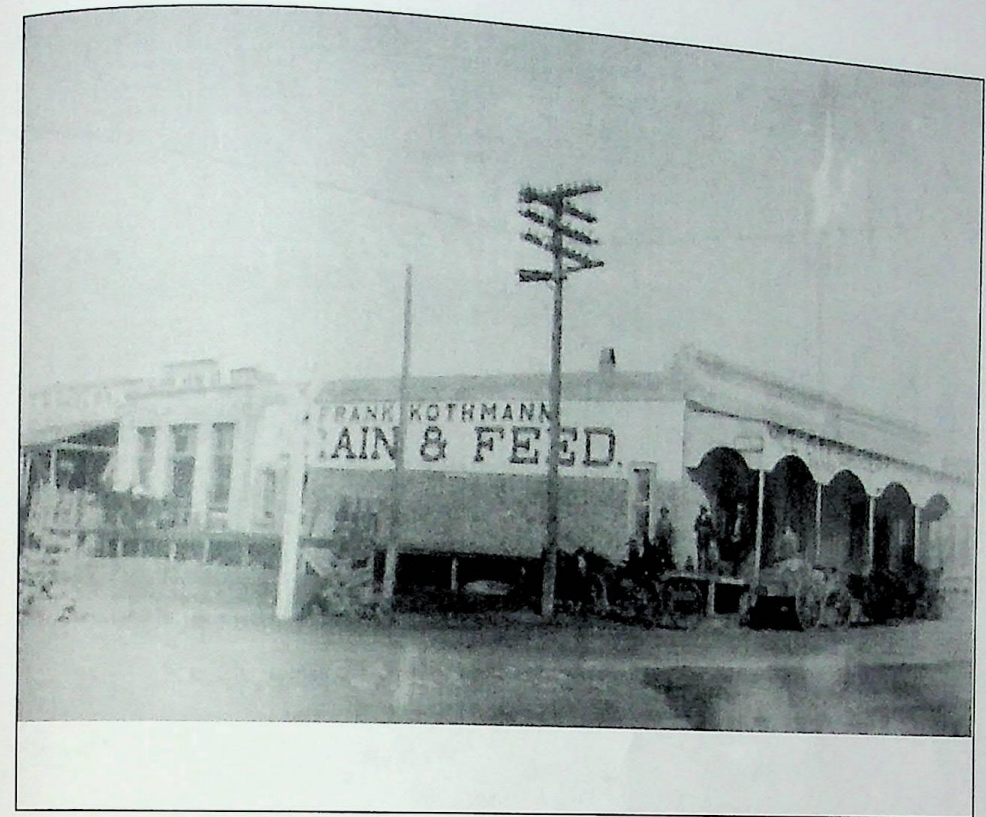
The inside of the First National Bank.



Cattle are no longer driven down the street in front of the Badu House!



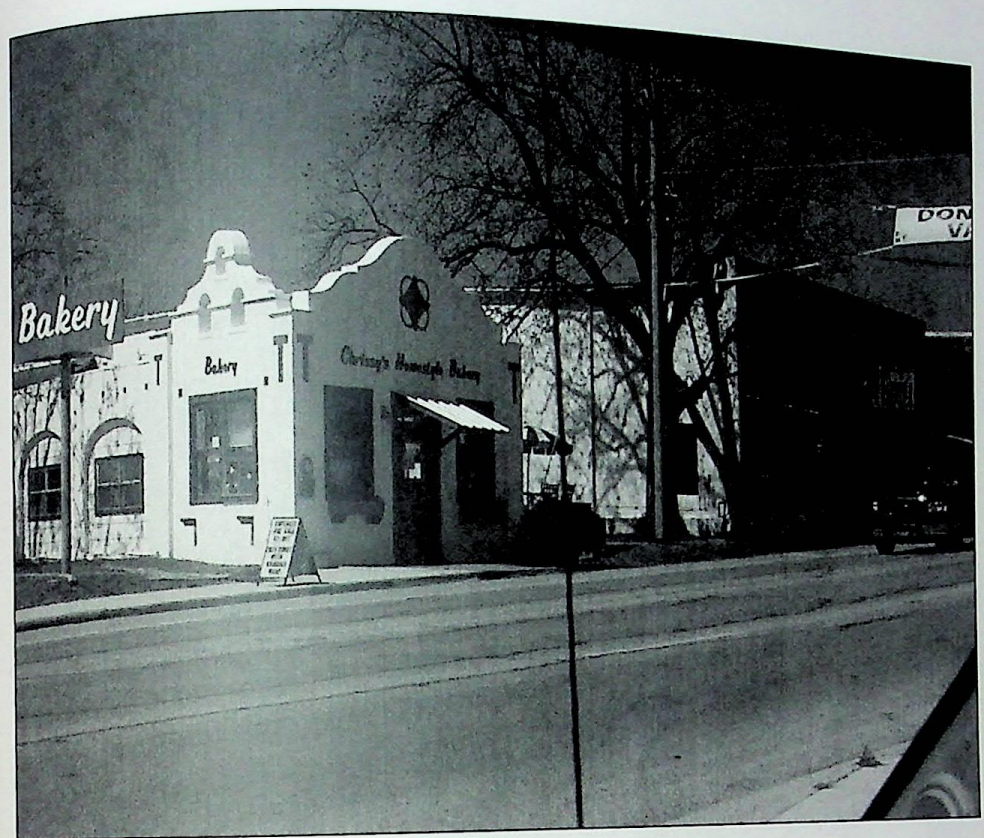
This building was located on Badu block. It was destroyed by a tornado in 1900. The block around the Badu House had been called the "Wall Street of the West" -- filled with large buildings housing many important firms of the time including bankers and lawyers.

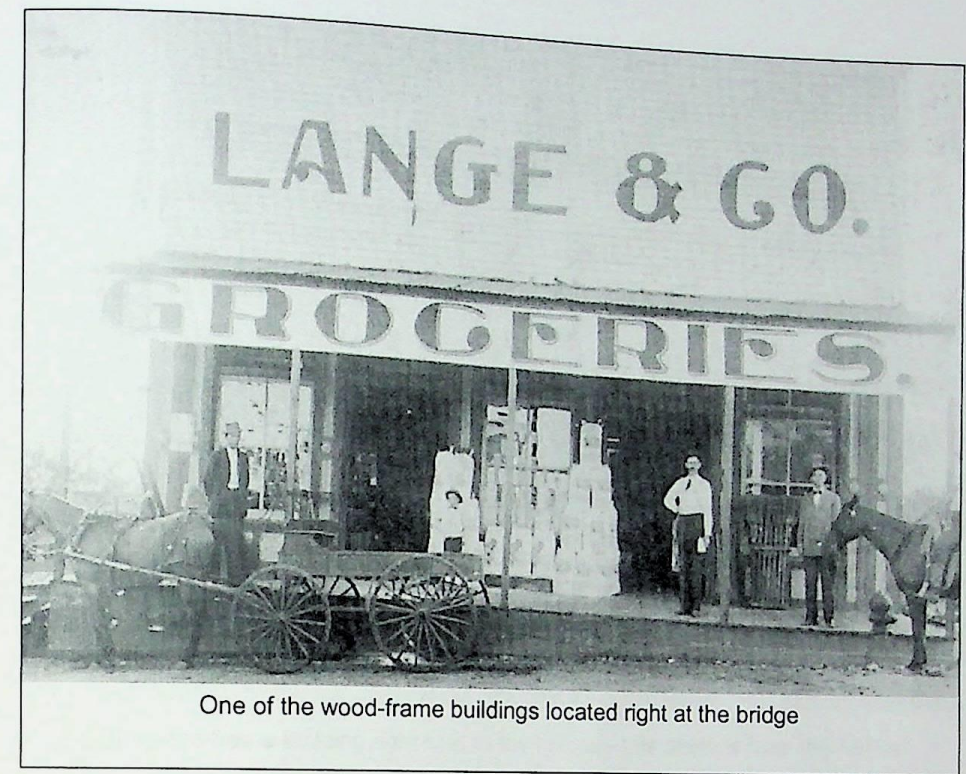


The building at the front now houses the Llano Art Guild. Note the Railroad crossing sign – the tracks crossed Bessemer St. at this location



This was the Cassaday Grey Granite Co. – Chrissy's Bakery is now located in this building. The building was built in 1910 by Cassaday, and his company was the first to use motor transportation for hauling granite.





One of the wood-frame buildings located right at the bridge



The wood-frame building right next to the bridge – this photo is from the 1970s

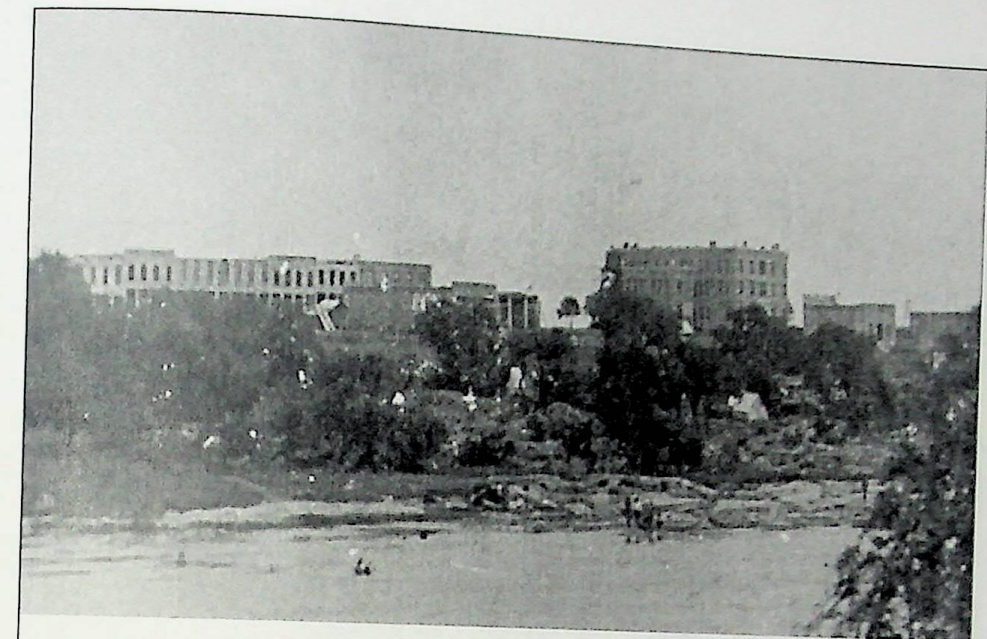
The building was owned by Frank Moore of the Lisle
 Hardware & Furniture Company. The building was
 built in 1914 and was made of only the best materials –
 which was brought in from Europe. His garden, which
 left him bankrupt – all of the money he had invested in the
 building and the development of Lisle was his money. He was
 financially ruined and the building was left as just a shell until
 when a group of donors purchased the building and city...



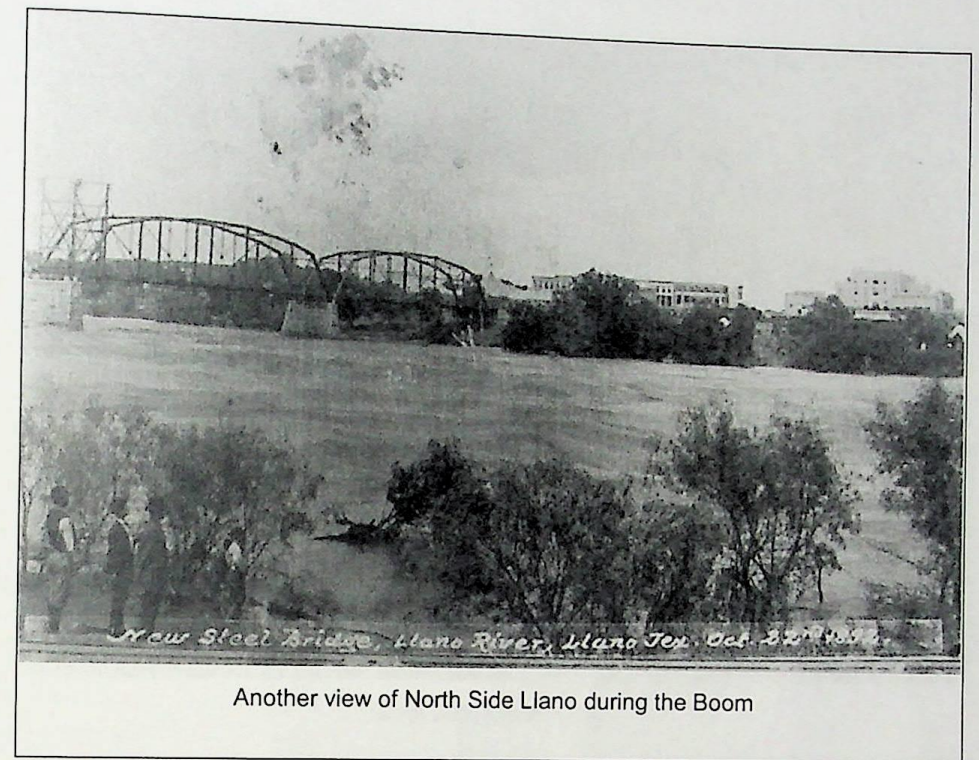
The doctors finished the building, and in four years opened the Texas Sanitarium for the Treatment of Tuberculosis. The mansion became the administration building with the parlor, an amusement room and treatment room on the first floor, and a library and roof garden on the 2nd floor. Patients lived in the forty-four sanitary tent cottages.



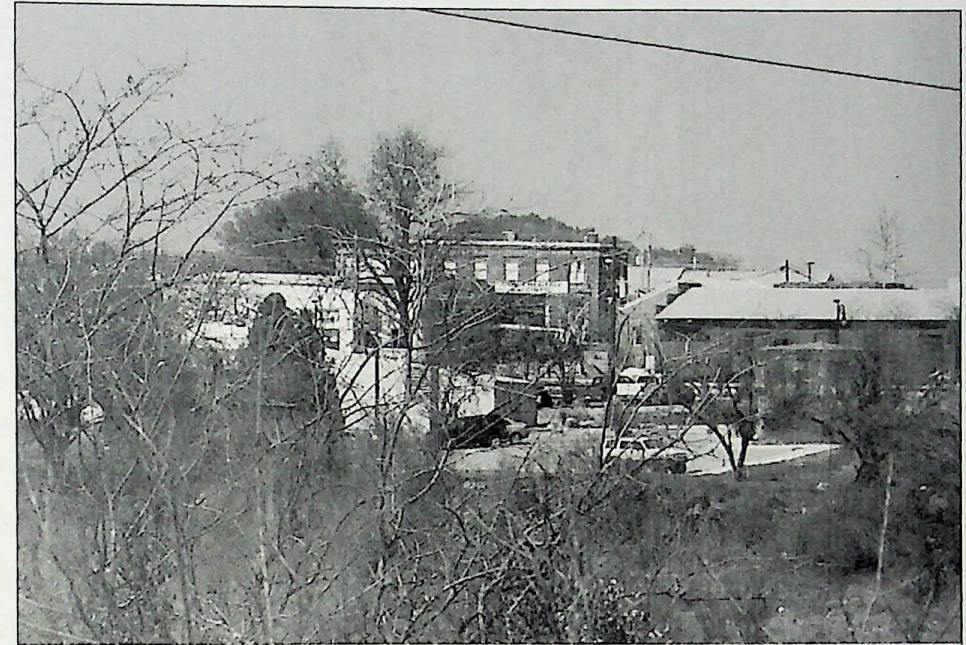
The sanitarium closed in 1911 and in 1915, T.W. Norton, prominent owner of Llano Granite Works, purchased it as a home for his family. The home became what Mr. Malone had intended – the Norton family filled it with priceless antiques and entertained lavishly. He and his wife and five daughters lived there for many years. Though he acquired much wealth and lived a fine life, life itself was not good to the family. His wife and three of the daughters died young from cancer. The two remaining daughters continued to live in the mansion and operated businesses in town – Codelia had the Pearl Beer distributorship and Catherine (called Girlie) had Norton's Dress and Flower Shop. The two women were poisoned by their nurse in the 1980s, and their estate was liquidated.



North Side Llano during the Boom



Another view of North Side Llano during the Boom



North Side Llano today

