

TIFFIN HOTELS OVER THE YEARS

A listing of the hotels of Tiffin is somewhat complicated and controversial by the lack of precise information on the locations and dates and also by contradictions of the authors of the history books.

There were places for travelers to stay, the early taverns had food and drink plus a loft for the weary. The earliest tavern was built by Erastus Bowe in 1817 on the Ft. Ball side of the river; another was a round-log building owned by Geo. Park on East Perry St.; another was located on the northwest corner of market and Monroe, kept by John Staub. Joel Stone's tavern was a commodious and well kept house in 1835.

John Gooden built the first brick hotel on lot 86 in 1832; he used the left-over bricks from the first St. Mary's Church.

John Staub built a two-story frame on the lot between Perry and Court St. on the east side of Washington, called the American House, operated by E. Norris. In an ad in the Tiffin Gazette in 1839 this was known as the Tiffin House at the sign of the Eagle and operated by J. & J. Staub.

Alex Mason opened the Eagle House in 1834 on the northwest corner of Washington and Perry, replacing the New York and Ohio House; in 1850 R. W. Shawhan built the Shawhan House on this location and was operated by John Staub in Dec. 1850. In 1854 French and Smith were the proprietors.

In an ad in the Tiffin Seneca Patriot of Aug. 9, 1832, Calvin Bradley announced that he had taken a lease on the well-known Center House from Richard Sneath, Esq. who had purchased it in 1826 or 1828. It was centrally located directly across from the public square in the center of business and the hotel was named the Washington Hotel with the sign of The Golden Lamb.

Calvin Bradley was a very energetic man; he built the Western Exchange Hotel in the southern addition to Tiffin. It was said the Hotel could not even be seen from Madison St. and the business was not given much chance to succeed. Mr. Bradley had a Stage Coach office here. While operating hotels he also was operating a butch-

ering business with fresh beef every Tuesday and Saturday; but in 1839 an ad in the Tiffin Gazette announced he was selling out everything and would his debtors please pay him.

In an ad in the Tiffin Gazette, Dec. 1838, the Center House and General Stage Office was open and operated by Wm. Shoate.

The hotel on the northeast corner of Sandusky and West Market was called the Western House and was operated by Jacob Boyer; another was on the corner of Sandusky and Adams later to become the Holt House and operated by Valentine Knupp.

In 1847 Warner-Beers (1888) stated that Smith's Clinton House was in Ft. Ball and the American, the Ohio, the National and the Washington Houses were in Tiffin.

In 1859 the history says there were the American, the Davis, Franklin House, Holt House, A. R. Van Doorn's and the Shawhan House in Tiffin.

Mr. Frank Dildine's book "From Wilderness to City" (1930) mentions the Seneca Hotel between Market and Madison on the east side of Washington kept by Tom McClary. The Central House, across from the Court House on Washington St. and operated by Wm. Choate; The Buckeye House on Market St. near the river; The New York and Ohio House on the northwest corner of Washington and Perry St.; The American House on the east side of Washington between Perry and Court St.