

Locating the Old Canal

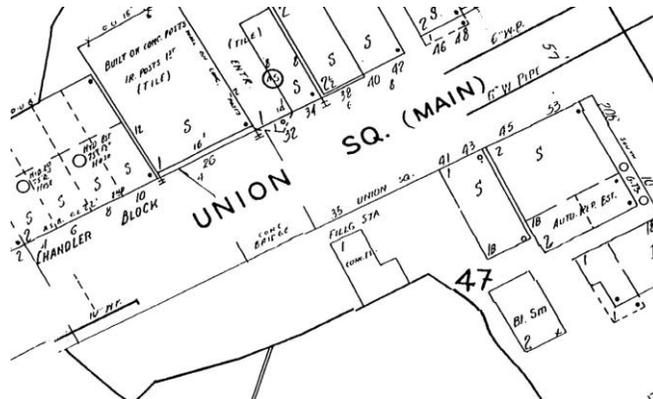
June, 2021

Where exactly was the canal that was the mill race for the old sawmill and shingle mill by the river? And which buildings on the South side of Main Streets were located where in relation to that canal?

This photo, taken in June of 1963 shows the canal being finally filled in. Note that its position just to the West of the Center Theatre Marquee would place the canal, as it then existed at least, directly under the East end of the 5 & 10 cent store (“Mr. Paperback” in the early 2000’s).

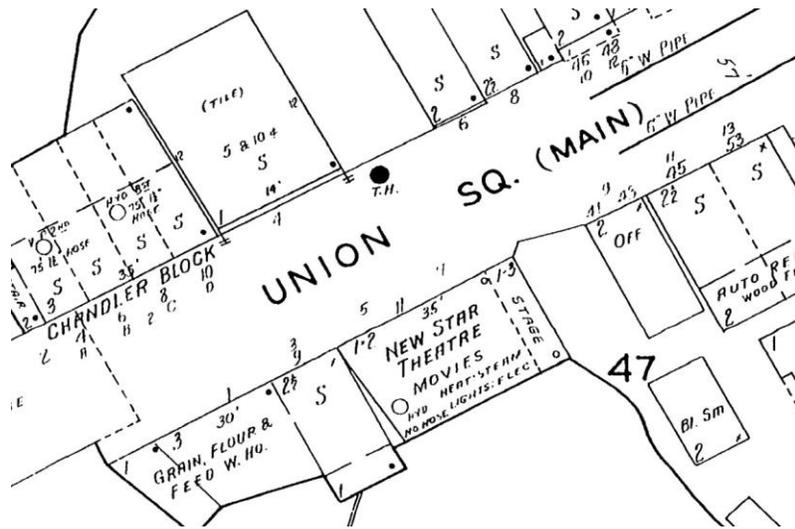


With that established, here is a Sanborn map from 1948. showing the gas station building (built in 1940: Note the “Conc. Bridge” marking in the street.



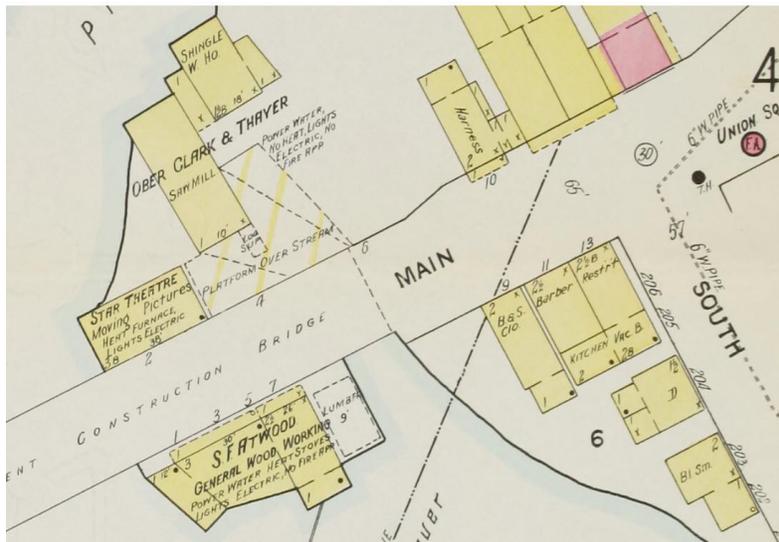
So this would place the location of the canal (at least as it was in the 1930's to 1963, just to the West of the Gas Station and of the Centre Theatre entrance.

Now, what about the buildings on the South side of Main Street (the Palmer Building and the new Star Theatre)? This is the 1931 Sanborn map:



As you can see, it would have been directly over the old canal and, on the East end and would have been on the land now occupied by the gas station. Looking across Main Street, the New Star Theatre would have extended on the East to be about even with the East end of the Centre theatre entrance. It would have extended West about half way along the front of the 5&10 Cent store.

Finally, this 1911 Sanborn map shows the canal crossing Main Street, covered by a platform on the North side. The wood lot next to the Palmer building (in 1911 owned by S. F. Atwood), became part of the New Star Theatre.



Here is an overhead picture, likely taken from the roof of the Opera House, showing the neighborhood sometime between 1891 when the Opera House was built and June of 1895 when the fire in Mayo's block (True Value Hardware store), lopped off the upper floor.



Here is a picture, taken in the early 1900's of the canal on the South side, the Palmer building is to the right.



Here is another picture, taken in 1912 (the Foxcroft Centennial) of the North side of Main Street showing the canal. The corner of the Chandler (Kondos, original Star Theatre, Mayo's picker house) building. is to the left. So, at this time, the canal was very wide. Compare to the 1963 photo above, where the canal, by that time, was only about 20 feet wide

