



Hudson Cultural Services

PO Box 124, Lagrangeville NY 12540

914-456-3698

January 2, 2024

Marcus Andrews

Stewarts Shops

P.O. Box 435

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Re: Nojaim Brothers IGA, 27 East Main Street  
Archaeological Historic Potential Evaluation

Dear Mr. Andrews,

Hudson Cultural Services (HCS) submits this letter in response to a request from Stewarts Shops to evaluate the archaeological potential and historic significance of the property located at 27 East Main Street, in the Town of Marcellus, Onondaga County New York. The property at 27 East Main Street features a historic marker, that designates this location as that of the first frame house built in Onondaga County, New York.<sup>1</sup> This letter outlines the research completed to determine if the property has the potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with the former frame house.

#### HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The property at 27 East Main Street, currently includes the IGA and associated parking lot. The current parcels identified as 27 E. Main Street, are shown on a street map as being 17-19, 21 and 27 East Main Street. Prior to 2003 a residential structure was visible at 17 East Main Street, but was later demolished. The location of the former structure is now open lawn. A grocery store is located at the corner of Orange Street and Main Street.

A review of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps<sup>2</sup> show that in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the buildings along Main Street were both residential and commercial. In 1911, the structure on the corner was the Powell Hotel, to the west a residential structure, followed by a Confectionary and a Dry Goods & Boot store. The Dry Goods store was made of brick, and connected to a wood frame dwelling. This Store and Dwelling correlate to present day 17-19 East Main Street. To the north of the Powell House, is St. John's Episcopal Church, which was demolished prior to 1927.<sup>3</sup>

The 1985 historic aerial shows the Powell House demolished, along with the two structure to its east. It is replaced with a large rectangular building, the IGA building, and parking areas to the west. In 2006, the former dry goods building has been demolished, and the parking area for the IGA expanded. A small lawn area marks the location

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<sup>1</sup> "Site of first frame house in Town of Marcellus. Built by Dr. Elnathan Beach who served in American Revolution; sheriff of county from 1799 to 1801"

<sup>2</sup> Figure 4

<sup>3</sup> Figure 5

of the former store and residential structure. The landscape has been leveled and graded, and portions of the former location of the residential building at 17-19 E. Main Street has been covered with asphalt.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The historic marker present at 27 E. Main Street identifies this location as being one of the earliest homes built in Marcellus. Since its initial construction the building located at present day 17-19 East Main street, has undergone numerous changes. In the mid-nineteenth century <sup>4</sup> It was the Moses Brother's Stocking Store, with a residential building to the west. By the early-twentieth century, this building is a two story brick structure, that has wooden frame additions, and is connected to a residential building. By the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century all the buildings have been removed. The continuous changes to the building, and its demolition would have had an impact on any potential archaeological deposits. In addition, the grading and leveling of the area, to create a parking lot, would have removed any potential for subsurface archaeological deposits.

It is the opinion of Hudson Cultural Services, that there is no potential for intact archaeological deposits within the lot identified as 27 East Main Street, and that no further archaeological investigations is warranted.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Beth Selig

President, Hudson Cultural Services

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<sup>4</sup> Figure 2 and Figure 3

## Exhibit A: Maps & Figures

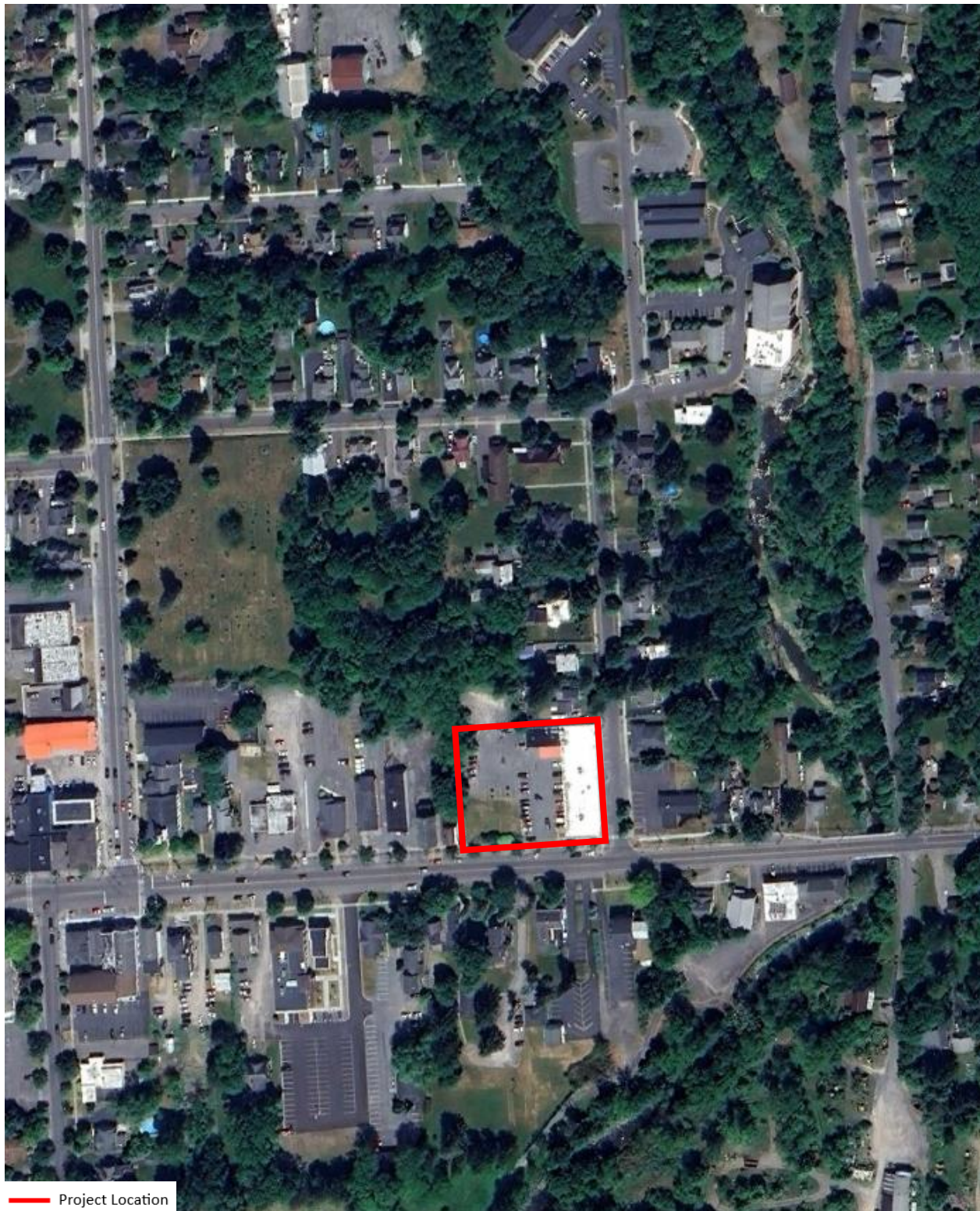


Figure 1: 2023 Aerial Image of 27 E. Main Street. (Source: Google Earth).

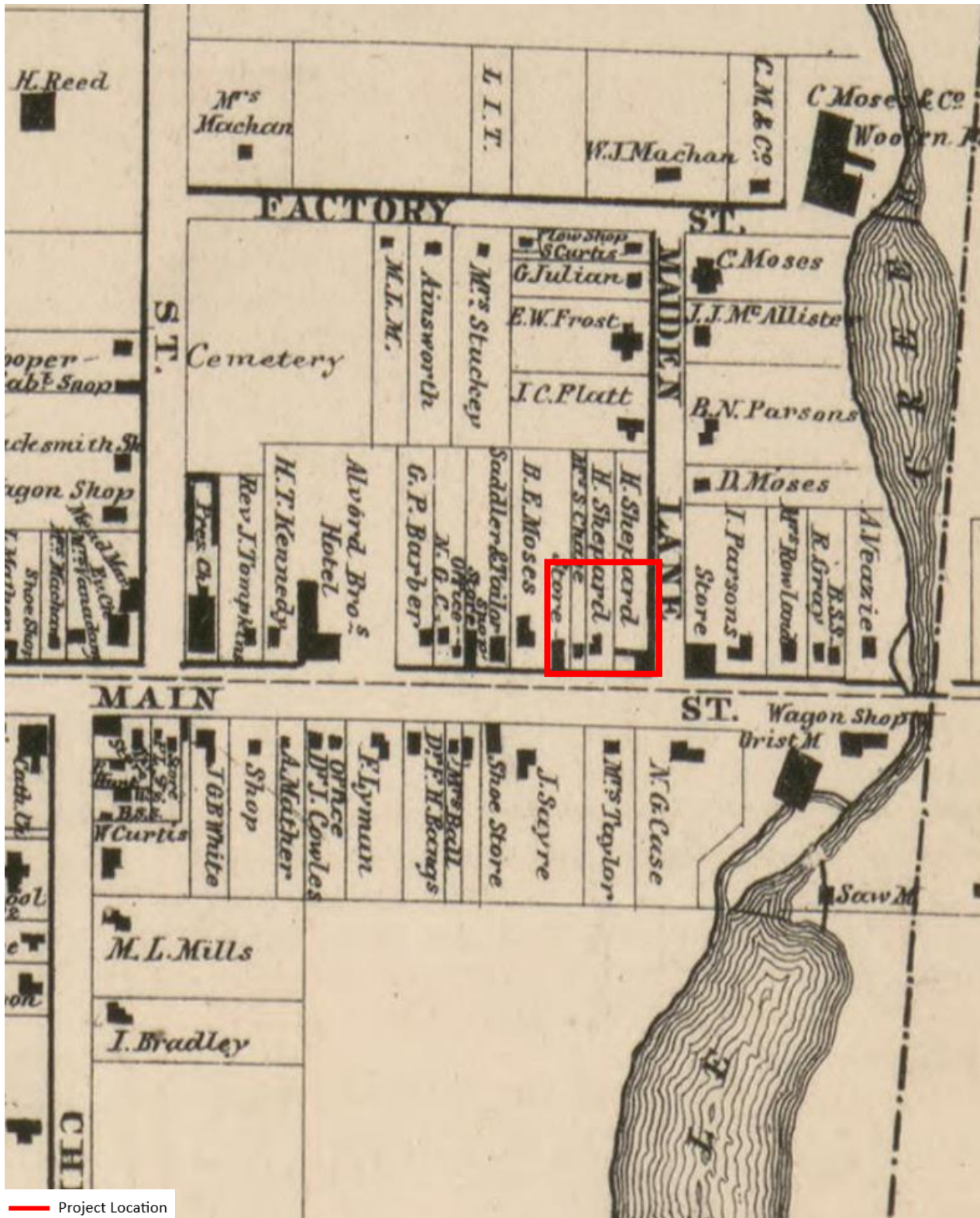
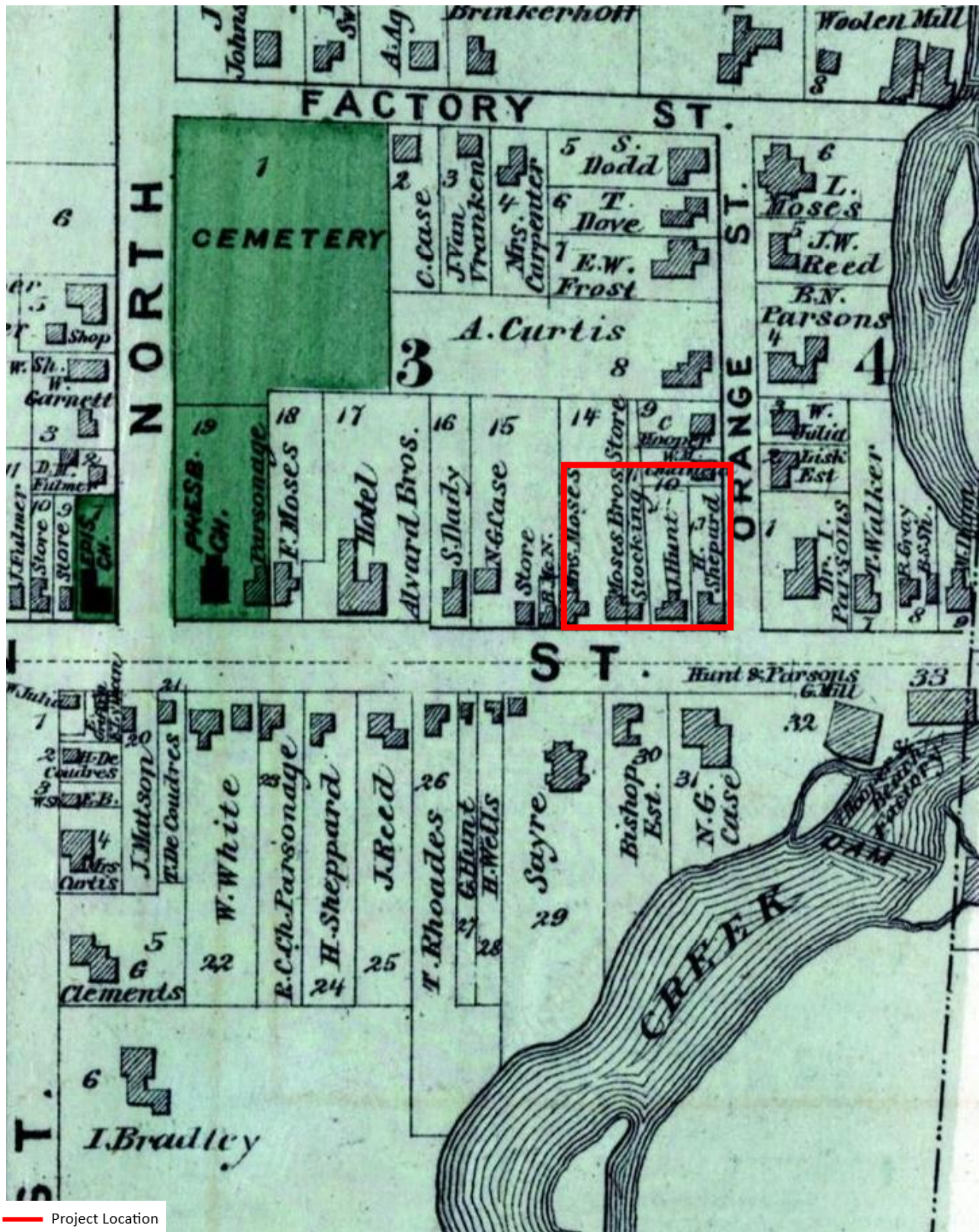


Figure 2: 1859, H. H. French. *Map of Onondaga County, New York*. (Source: Library of Congress).



Project Location

Figure 3: 1875, Walker Bros. & Co. Map of Onondaga County, New York. (Source: Historicmapworks.com).

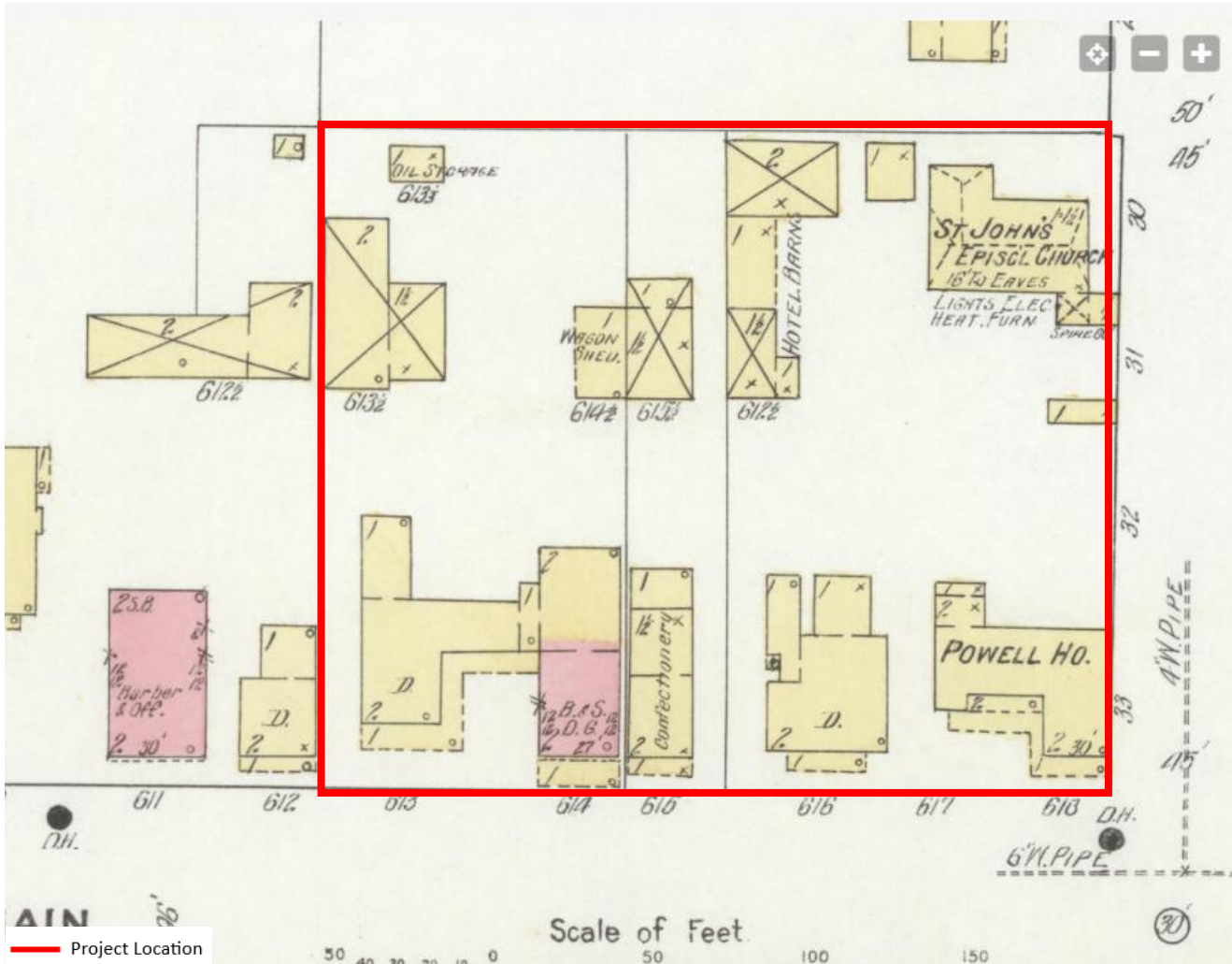


Figure 4: 1911, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York. Sheet 3. (Source: Library of Congress)



Figure 5: 1927, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York. Sheet 3. (Source: Library of Congress)





Figure 6: 1959, Aerial Image showing the Project Location. (Source: NETR Historic Aerials)



Figure 7: 1972, Aerial Image showing the Project Location. (Source: earthexplorer)



Figure 8: 1986, Aerial Image showing the Project Location. (Source: earthexplorer)

Exhibit B: Photographs



1. View to the north toward the existing IGA supermarket.



2. A historic marker identifies the location of the first frame house built in the town. View to the southwest



3. View to the south from the northern extent of the existing parking lot.



4. View to the north, of the northern portion of the parking lot.



5. View to the south for former location of buildings.



6. View to the north toward the former location of 17-19 E. Main Street.



7. View to the north toward the existing IGA and parking area.



8. View to the southwest of the Project location and existing IGA store.