

4/27/2006 some rambling comments from John Hertzler

*We have this whole panel to do something with.*

*Somehow we need to make the whole pamphlet more interesting looking—some borders, graphics, photos, better design, or something—instead of just straight text.*

*Do we have a “mission statement” that might be appropriate to use?*

*Maybe a box someplace with our name, address, phone number. And likely at the very bottom*

*Revised April 26, 2006*

*So we have an idea of how current things are.*

*Maybe we can think of titles for the major headings of information. I think we have four major sections.*

## **Background history of the Adams Store building**

The store was constructed in 1888 as part of the Harper Block by C.A. Harper. In an article dated 11/21/1895 it was described as a “dealing in boots, shoes and rubbers, 124 South Main Street is in all respects the shoe emporium par excellence in Goshen and receives a large active patronage, giving evidence of steady and material increase. The popular and responsible firm came into existence in 1875 by the above mentioned Mr. Harper and from the first the enterprise has proved a highly gratifying venture. Handling a superior class of goods which he sells at remarkably low figures, courteous and attentive to customers, and withal a man of energy and good business qualities. The store is 22 x 125 feet and finely fitted up in natural hardwood, lighted by electricity, while specialty is made of the Boston Rubber Shoe Company goods, a large and excellently selected stock is kept constantly on hand and a perfect fit as well as quality of goods being guaranteed in every instance. Mr. Harper was born and raised in this county and served two years in the late war. He is a popular member of the G.A.R. and stand high in church and social circles.”

*Dateline 9/1/1900* - “The newly incorporated Harper Shoe Company, today opened its store. The members of the corporation are C.A. Harper and Harry Greenamyre. The corporation succeeds C.A. Harper who has been in the business in Goshen for 25 years.

The storeroom will receive a thorough overhauling and be made into a strictly modern establishment. The company will carry a full line of stock usually found in a first class boot and shoe establishment and merits the liberal patronage it will no doubt receive.”

*Dateline 7/6/1901* - “The stock of the Harper Shoe Company was sold to Salinger Brothers of the Economy at a small fraction of its real value. On account of the ill health of Mr. C.A. Harper, he was compelled to sacrifice the stock. He will retire from active business having leased his present store to Mr. C.G. Adams & Sons who will

occupy the store as soon as it can be remodeled.”

*Dateline 8/23/1901* - “C.G. Adams & Sons, the jewelers and gents and ladies furnishings, will next week move into their new room in the C.A. Harper block which has been specially fitted for their occupancy. New shelving has been placed in the long store room, handsome new tables have been made for their needs and the display window has been lengthened, narrowing to a center doorway, the entrance being titled The Adams Store.”

*Dateline 7/28/1906* - “Charles A Harper will extensively remodel his Main Street store room occupied by C. G. Adams & Sons jewelry and gent’s furnishing store. A new modern front will be constructed, the ceiling placed on the room, a balcony built in the rear portion, and new wall cases provided. It is the aim of Mr. Adams to have one of the most modern and complete jewelry and gent’s furnishing store in this section of the state.

Work on the improvement will be commenced about August 1st and hastened to completion within the month if possible.”

*Dateline 8/8/1906* - “C. G Adams & Sons stock of goods has been moved to the O. W. Cunningham store room (130 S Main) while the improvements in the Harper Building are being made.”

*Dateline 10/6/1906* - “The new room lately remodeled by Charles A Harper on South Main Street for the enterprising firm of Adams & Sons, is now complete in every respect. The main room is 125 feet deep with a balcony 30 feet long in the rear. A modern front, with fine show windows on each side of the main entrance, with plate mirrors lining the enclosed display windows on two sides and with the top and upper portions of the sides finished in quarter sawed oak, make display windows that are perfect in every detail. Prism glass with width of the store room above both show windows gives ample light to the rear of the store.

Adams & Sons can congratulate themselves on having one of the best appointed rooms in the city. The work was all done under the personal supervision of Contractor M. Fl Isbell and speaks for itself of good workmanship.”

.....

The Adams Store had almost 100 years of Goshen retail business behind it when it closed in 1997. The Adams family owned and operated the store the entire time. Ruby Pauline (Polly) Adams was the last of the Adams family to own and run the Adams Store. The merchandise sold in the Adams Store changed little over the years and many "old fashioned" items were still in the store when Polly sold the store. The Adams Store was the official distributor for Boy Scouts of America selling all Boy Scout merchandise including uniforms. An auction was held on Thursday Evening, December 4, 1997 after the store was sold to the Goshen Historical Society who plan to establish a historical Goshen museum in the building. All of the built-in cases and some free standing display cases will remain in the store. The Goshen Historical Society (GHS) also bid on various display cases, the safe, display tables, an umbrella stand and other items from the store.

Since the GHS bought the building in 1998, the entire infrastructure, the heating/cooling system, the plumbing and the lighting has been upgraded or completely replaced. The inside and outside of the building have been painted. A new awning has replaced the old one. An office has been built at the rear of the store. A former skylight has been replaced as an electric one. A new handicap accessible rear entrance has been constructed. Massive cleaning and various cosmetic changes are an ongoing project.

.....

The plan of the GHS is to display artifacts that were made or in some way pertain to Goshen. Many donations of such items have been made by Goshen residents and others and are now on display in the Goshen Historical Museum, The Adams Store. Currently the museum is open every Saturday from 10 AM to 1 PM and is staffed by GHS members.