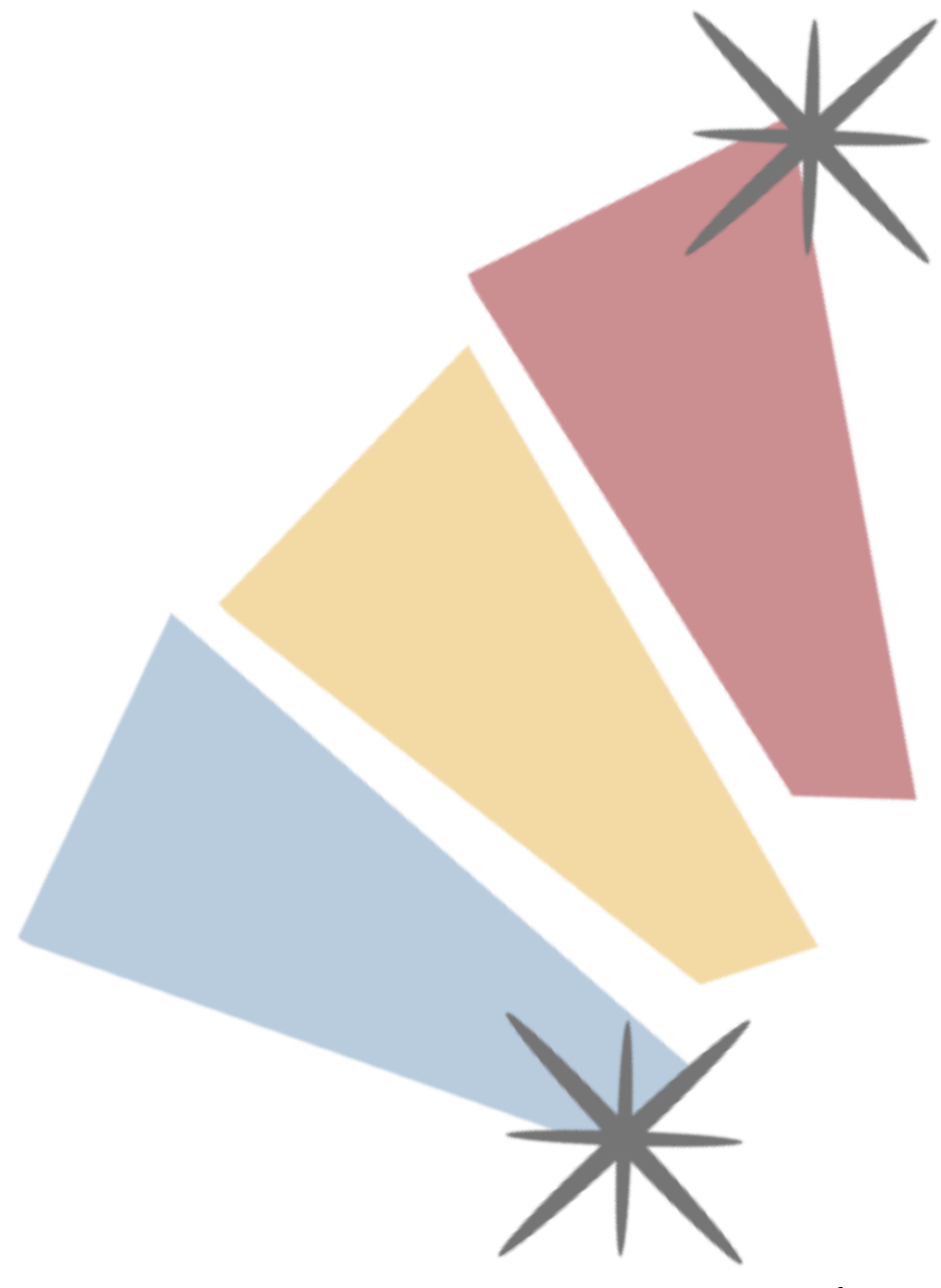


W. North Water St.

Construction 1874 Destruction 1983



In 1874, Reeder Smith built a brick block of two stores on the south west corner of South Pearl Street and W. North Water Street. One of the first businesses in the building was the Bank of New London. The bank occupied the east half.



In 1886, A.H. Pape took ownership. He remodeled the building inside and out. He added the arched front window and door and enlarged the east windows. Mr. Pape remained president until 1920. At that time, five business men purchased the building and charter from Mr. Pape. The building saw many improvements including a water proof basement and upper floor fitted out for tenants. In 1930, the Bank of New London merged with the First National Bank and became the First National Bank of New London. The new bank moved to the First National Bank's building on the other side of the street.



John Seering bought the vacant bank building. After some remodeling, he opened Seering's department store. Various stores occupied the west half of the building including a men's clothing store, a hat shop, and an A&P grocery. Dr. Pfeifer M.D. and Dr. Polzin D.D.S. opened offices on the second floor.

The Schultz Brothers franchise bought and renovated the building in 1939. They removed the wall in between and installed a large, single store front of glass, a

double central entrance, and an entrance on the east. Schultz Brothers stayed until 1969. Then Edward Belott bought the building. His business, Belott's Paint and Hardware, stayed until 1979.

In 1983, the city purchased the vacant building and tore it down to widen the intersection. A debate started about what to do with the unused space. In September 1985, Hillshire Farm donated money to landscape and finish the park. A citizen donated a large, likely Naval, anchor to honor New London's nautical history. The park opened later that year, officially named "Old City Hall Square". However people referred to it as "Anchor Park" because of large landmark on the corner.



A Trotman Anchor forged in the late 1800s