



113-118

W. North Water St.

Construction 1896, 1913 & 1986

Three buildings originally occupied this area. In 1896, Garrett Sullivan built a two story, 30' x 80' solid brick building. With red brick on the outside and

lighter stone accents, people regarded it as the most handsome building of its time. The center stone at the top of the building included the Sullivan name and date of construction. His dry goods and clothing store occupied the first floor and balcony.

The upper level housed offices. Mr. Sullivan ran a very successful store until 1910 when he retired. James E. Cristy of Waupaca then purchased the business, renaming it Cristy's. His son, Harry, managed the store for him.

In 1919, Harry took down a wall on the second floor that divided an apartment and storage room.

This allowed him to open a ladies' ready to wear department and add a new wider staircase leading to the balcony and second floor. One of the fondest memories for many people is the cash conveyor that whisked money from the check-outs below, to the balcony office, and back again. In 1983, Cristy's Department store closed down.

Fay R. Smith rented the building to the east of Cristy's store. Since the early 1900s, Smith was widely known as a jeweler; however, he was also an optician. The store sold glasses, jewelry, silverware, cut glass, phonographs, radios, and even pianos. In the 1970's Fay R. Smith moved their business to a different location on N. Water St.

First National Bank owned the building to the east of Fay R. Smith. In 1895, a number of men chartered the First National Bank in New London. In 1933, it and the Farmer's State Bank merged to become the First State Bank. In 1986, all three buildings were completely or partially razed for the expansion of First State Bank. They built a two-story red brick building and operated out of this location for the next 37 years.

In 2022, they donated the building for the future home of the New London Library and allowing the New London Public Museum to expand into the current building on Pearl St.

