



403

W. North Water St.

Construction 1853, 1892 & 1963

George Lutsey, Sr. and his wife Anna came to New London around 1848. They soon decided that the town needed a place for visitors to stay. In

1853, they built the New London House, reportedly the first hotel in town, on this location. In 1856, he built a second hotel, the Angier House, across the street. George passed away in 1857 at the age of 33 and unfortunately, both hotels faced the same destructive fate. On November 28, 1887, with temperatures below zero, the New London House burned down. Then in 1892, the Angier House burned down. That same year, on the location of the New London

House, George Lutsey, Jr., known as Elwood, built the Elwood Hotel.

The Elwood Hotel was very modern, constructed of brick, heated with hot water, and lit with electricity. The south corner featured a large hexagon tower decorated with ironwork. A veranda extended along the south and east sides and the third story boasted two balconies. The building cost was \$16,000, about \$570,000 in 2024.

With three stories and a one-story kitchen and laundry addition in the rear, the hotel offered 40 rentable rooms. The first floor included an office, a reading room, two parlors, a dining room, pantry, servant's rooms and more.

A water closet, or bathroom, extended through the three stories. The second floor featured a music hall, two convention rooms, sitting room, parlor, and larger bedrooms. The third story was about the same, with smaller rooms and no music hall.

Many local community groups used the hotel as a meeting space. Traveling salesmen considered it the best \$2-a-day house in Wisconsin. Community members including William Hatten, lumberman and politician, and Owen Crosby, engineer at the Edison, lived at the Elwood.

In 1898, Elwood married Sophia Belonger. They were members of the Congregational Church and various civic organizations. He also served as mayor for one term and a city councilperson for many years. After he died in 1933, Sophia took over the hotel until 1958 when she passed away.

In 1963, the New London National Bank purchased and razed the Elwood for its downtown location. They finished their new modern one-story bank building with drive-up window in June 1964. In December 1982, the bank added a second story and mirrored front. Today, Living Waters, Assembly of God Church occupies the building.

