

Historical Marker - L1927C - Midland Street Commercial District / Midland Street Commercial District (Marker ID#:L1927C)



Front - Title/Description

Midland Street Commercial District

The Midland Street Commercial District comprises fifty buildings in a four-block area that was the business hub of West Bay City. Prior to 1830 the area was occupied by Sauk and Chippewa Indians. In response to depleted eastern timberlands resulting from western expansion, New York lumberman Henry Sage and his partner Henry McGraw built a sawmill on the west bank of the Saginaw River in 1863. Wenona, the town that developed around the mill, was incorporated as Bay City in 1877. By 1867 plank roads were built, telegraph lines were installed, the Third Street Bridge was erected, and Wenona had become a terminus for both passenger and freight railroads. Midland Street soon housed the offices of many industries including salt, lumber, fishing, and shipbuilding.

Significant Date:

Civil War and After (1860-1875)

Registry Year: 1995 **Erected Date:** 1995

Marker Location

Address: 819 E. Midland Street

City: Bay City

State: MI **ZipCode:** 48706

County: Bay

Township:

Lat: 43.60181400 / **Long:** -83.89905800

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Midland Street Commercial District

In 1867 Major Newcomb Clark built the first commercial structure on Midland Street in Wenona, later West Bay City. Clark was Wenona's first village president and became speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives in 1885. The development that followed this initial construction project resulted in a collection of commercial buildings, dating from 1867 to 1929, on what became a major business corridor. Queen Anne, Romanesque, Georgian Revival, Art Deco, and Chicago Style buildings reflect architectural trends over a sixty-year period. By 1905 the local lumber industry declined and West Bay City and Bay City incorporated as one municipality. This well-preserved district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.