

The Webster Block / 38-40 West Main Street
By Douglas H. Shepard, 2012

The building once known as the **Webster** Block was in place at least by 1848 when the *Censor* of 18 April announced that “the **Webster** Block is undergoing a complete metamorphosis.” The result can be seen in the elaborate woodcut advertisement that ran in the *Censor* on 15, 22 and 29 May, 1849. It showed the two-door building with three occupants: **Frazine & Starr**, dry goods and groceries at today’s 38 *West Main Street*, with “A. E. **Cherry**, Dentist” on the second floor. At 40 *West Main Street* was **Baker & Cowden**, successors to G. N. **Frazine**, tin and copperware and stoves, with their “Tin Factory” on the second floor over the store.

In April 1938, when local businessman Henry **Leworthy** described the buildings he remembered from April 1878, he said, “In the business block here, Joel **Hendee** I think had a grocery store in the first building at that time. Near there, Lew **Hughes** had a saloon.” An 1879 business directory lists **Hendee** at what was then 21 Main Street, today’s 40 *West Main Street*. For **Hughes**, the directory lists a “restaurant.”