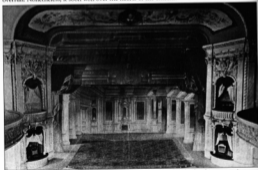




This westward view along East William Street at Union Street probably dates from the late 1890s. At far left is the brick home of Dr. Reuben Lamb (see page 62), and in the distance a streetcar works its way along Sandusky Street. City hall, at left of center, dominates the scene. It opened on March 19, 1882, and was controversial due to its three-year construction and 300-percent cost overrun. Nonetheless, it soon won over the hearts of the citizens.



City hall housed not only the city's administrative offices but also the fire department (see page 240), the public library, and on the second floor, a gloriously appointed opera house. Box seats, an ornate proscenium arch, and painted scenery flats all contributed to a sense of elegance and sophistication. About 1,100 people could be seated for a performance.