



Fairport's Main Street has been a center of activity since the first settlers arrived at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but its real growth began when the Erie Canal came through in the 1820's and the swampy land that had tended to make the village area unhealthy was drained. Prior to 1820, Oliver Tomlinson, John and Martin Sperbeck, and Isaac Beers all owned property on the future South Main Street and Peter Ripley had built a log cabin on what became North Main Street.

By 1822 Henry Amsden and J. Eldredge were running a blacksmith shop near the canal on North Main Street. Abishah Goodell and Mr. Aiken opened a grocery store on Main Street. The railroad came through the village in the 1850's, adding warehouses and both a passenger and a freight station. During the 1890's South Main Street was flanked by a number of two-story stone and frame buildings, among them the Bown Block and the Clark Block, named for their owners and builders, as well as by private homes.

This view of South Main Street was part of a full-page spread in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle on Sunday, January 17, 1932. The village of Fairport provided most of the goods and services required by those who lived in the village and the outlying areas of the Town of Perinton. South Main Street had

a mix of stores and services including banks, grocery stores, pharmacies, clothing and hardware stores, a barber shop and beauty salon, a laundry and dry cleaner's, doctors' and dentists' offices, the library, government offices, police and fire departments, the local jail, funeral homes, and a movie theater.

The streetscape remained essentially the same from the late 1800's through the 1970's when many of the commercial blocks and homes were razed during Urban Renewal and many of our daily essential shopping had moved to malls.