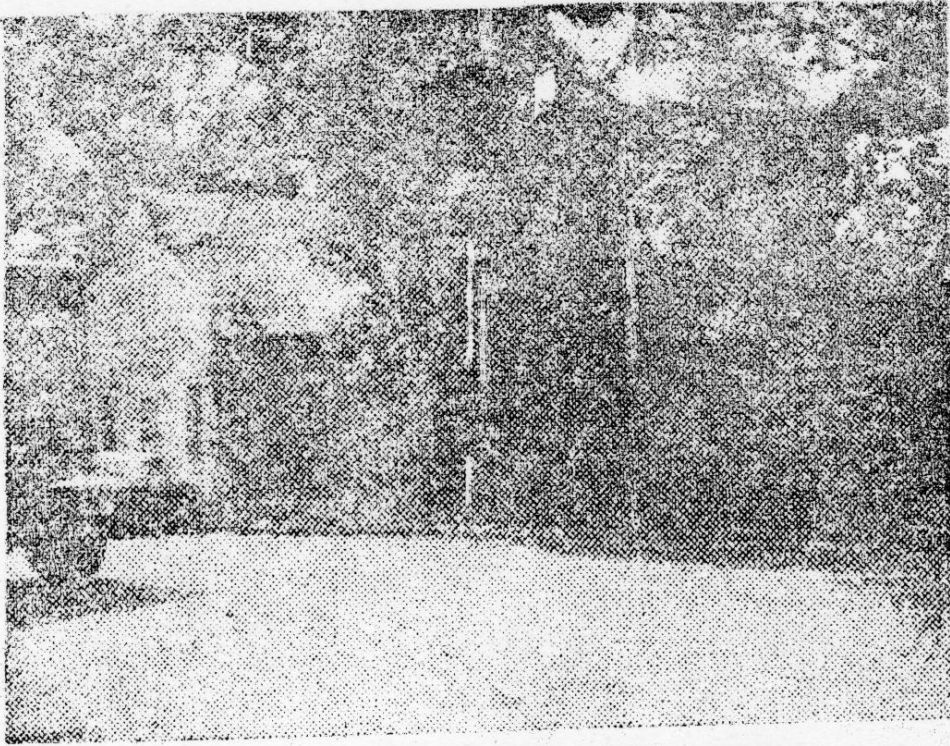


Main Street Buildings Torn Down 1957 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

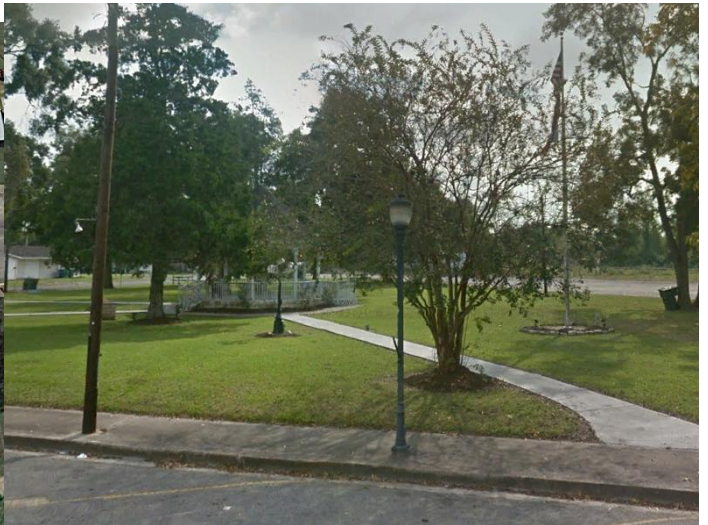
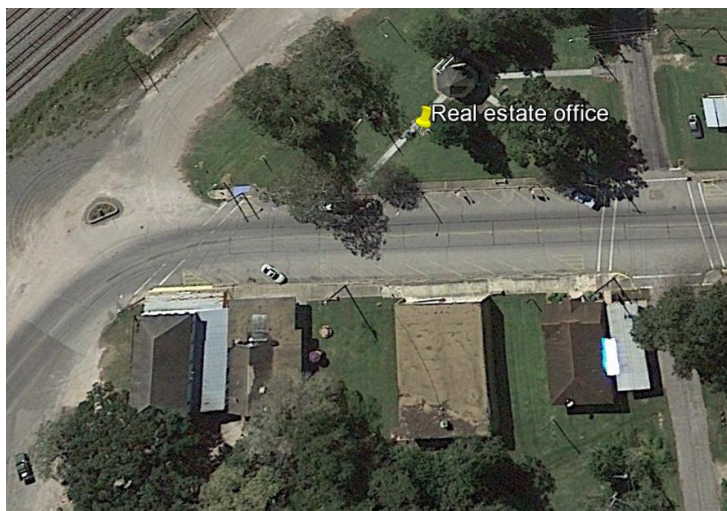
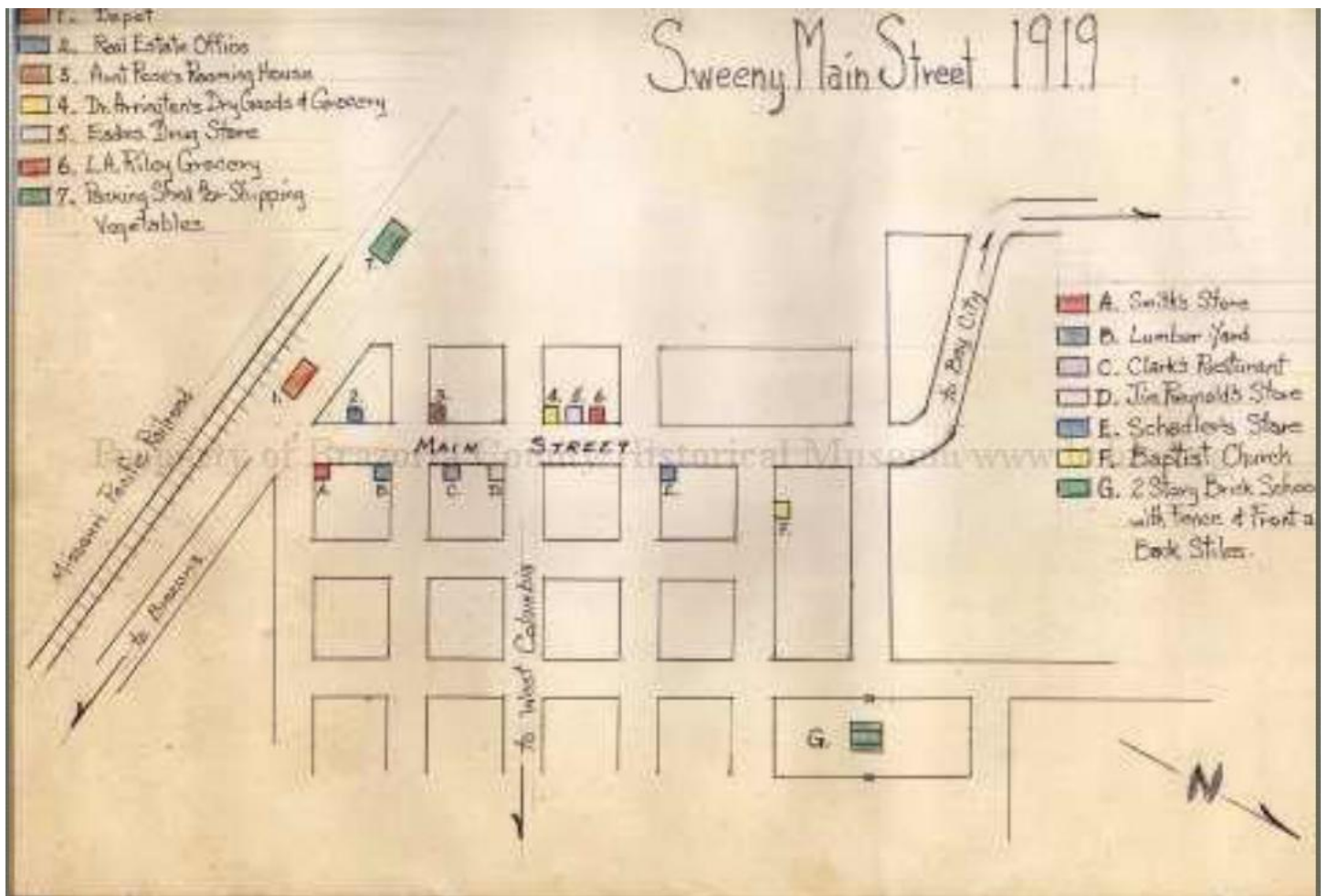
Two old buildings on Sweeny Main Street torn down including the 1st real estate office from when city was founded in 1911 (Thanks Charlene Finley for sharing this historical item.) Comments? Basil Shannon
basil_shannon@yahoo.com



This building erected in 1911 was Sweeny's first real estate office. The prospectus printed at that time offered for sale Ten-acre suburban garden farms—terms of sale: \$5.00 per acre cash, or payments at three months' periods from purchase date. Ten percent discount deducted from listed price for all cash. In 1835, Will and Thomas Sweeny purchased the land where Sweeny is located for \$1.00 per acre. Just recently, the mineral lease alone brought the owners \$100 per acre.

Probably Freepost Facts

The Real estate office in the article was located where the city park now stands (#2 on Map).



1957

Sweeny Eagles Move For Face Up-Lifting

Making way for continual growth of Sweeny two Main Street buildings were razed this week.

The buildings were in such bad state of repair that they had been unoccupied for several years, and every civic-minded person in town were elated when workmen began the job of dismantling the old structures.

However, a few old-timers can remember when one of the old buildings was the center of activity and housed the first real estate agency here. And, they can also remember the bold lettering on the roof of the building that proclaimed —"Soil richer than the Valley of the River Nile."

This was what the international experts had said at the Paris Exposition when samples of the Sweeny soil was entered in 1905 where it won first prize for fertility and germinating power.

The Industrial Land Company, with offices in the Scanlan Building in Houston, established the branch office here in 1911, and issued a prospectus that would make "Texas Brags" sound like a mild document.

Herbert D. Hurd was president of the company and they took over 14,000 acres of land and set about developing the town of Sweeny And, also letting the world know of the opportunities offered in the fertile soil of this Gulf Coast area.

In the prospectus which called Sweeny "A New Important Business Town" also pointed out — "The settlement and cultivation of the 14,000 acre tract alone will support a considerable town at Sweeny, and already trade comes there from a radius of ten to a dozen miles."

Some of the other advantages proclaimed by Mr Hurd included "Big artesian wells, pure water at a shallow depth, a most wonderful deposit of vegetable formation, corn and al-

falfa land, and cotton land that yields a bale an acre.

It also boasted of the St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico railroad that traversed and commands the Gulf Coast country of Texas. "The location of the tract and the town of the short-line international railway, means that its shipping facilities will improve constantly. The opening of the intracoastal canal will enable planters, using the Bernard river to haul their crops by water if desired, to market at Galveston or Houston.

Mr Hurd predicted that the town of Sweeny "which today has only a store, a cotton gin, and a saw mill, will become a thriving town of 500 to 1,000 people within five years"

Like Will and Thomas Sweeny, who carried a load of mules to Tennessee in 1835 where they sold them for enough money to purchase two grants of land in Texas at \$1.00 per acre (which in the townsite of Sweeny), Mr Hurd had dreams of great wealth in this area. But both were thinking of agricultural wealth, never dreaming, we feel sure, that the cultivation of the fertile lands would be laid aside for the "Black Gold" that would come from underneath the soil.

However Will and Thomas Sweeny and many of the "original 300" who settled in Brazoria County were not disappointed in the rich farmlands. Neither was Mr Hurd, who fifty years later proclaimed the fertile soil of

Sweeny, and long after the large plantation homes and slave cultivated vast acres was an era of the past, truck-farming, packing and shipping sheds, fruit and pecan crops prospered the people who made their living from the soil.

The oil field and its development has brought a new era of prosperity to Sweeny and many landmarks, such as the buildings that were torn down this week, will soon fade into memory, but the predictions of these early settlers such as "An Important Business Town" is as true today as it was 100 or 50 years ago.

The town of Sweeny still offers unlimited resources to those who live here, and many

possibilities of growth and expansion yet remain to be tapped by the vision and dreams of its citizens who dare to be as bold and boastful of its assets as were its founders and early settlers

TO
WISH YOU
HEALTH, WEALTH AND HAPPINESS
In 1958

**LOGAN'S
LUNCH ROOM**

204 2nd St
Sweeny Ph 2101

The exact date of the article is not known but it must have been in December 1957 since the above ad sends out best wishes for 1958. 208 2nd street is the current location of 1st State Bank of Louise so 204 might be about where their drive-thru lanes are located.

