



The following transcription is attributed to Clyde McKinney, about 1978. Handwritten text at end of file

Comments in **red** by Basil Shannon

SWEENY IN 1919

In 1919, Sweeny had 4 grocery and general merchandise stores and one store that sold groceries only.

Beginning with J. ____ Smith and Sons (**A**) across from the depot (**1**). This building is now the Sweeny Library. The alcove to Post Office. Randolph Smith had charge of the store and was also the postmaster. Effie Chenault was the mail clerk. A couple of years later she married Harry E Brown. Now is in Sunset Home.

This building was originally built across the railroad tracks next the old J Randolph Smith home. The Smith's also had a cotton gin next to the store. In 1914 or 15, a Mr. Miller, (father of Clifford N Miller who now lives in Houston) was the contractor who successfully moved it across the tracks. Quite a few residents said it couldn't be done.

In the next block, almost across the street from Clark's Restaurant, Doyle's Rooming House (3) run by Rosette "Aunt Rose" Orr Doyle, who was a sister of John, Frank and Tom Orr and an aunt of Lela (Orr) Nairn.

In the next block was Dr. Arrington's Dry Goods and Grocery Store(4). Creel Brockman was clerking there at the time. His wife Willie Grey was the oldest daughter of Dr and Mrs. Brockman. Next door was Dr Eades Drug Store (5)with his office in the back. This building is still standing. In the same block L A Riley had a grocery store (6).

This was the business area of Main St in 1919. There were no electric lights. There were no sidewalks with the exception of a boardwalk here and there.

A short distance beyond the depot toward Staggs there was a large packing shed (7). Cabbage, turnips and mustard greens were shipped by the car loads. Ranching and lumbering were other industries at that time. There were saw mills in the area then as now. Also frog legs were shipped out by the barrel.

In the same block as Smith's store, the Sweeny Lumber Yard (B) was located. It was owned by _____ of Brazoria and was operated in 1919 by J. W. Augsburger.

In the next block was Clark's Restaurant (C) run by the parents of present residents of Sweeny, Mrs. Allie Chenault, Muriel Orr and Marie Chenault.

At the corner this street was the two story general merchandise and grocery store (D) of Mrs. & Mrs. Jim Reynolds.

In the next block there were no buildings. A large hotel about the middle of the block had burned two or three years previously.

In the fourth block from Smith's store was a third two story general merchandise and grocery store (E). This was owned by Albert Schadler and his father. In the late twenties or early thirties, it was sold to the Ed Fraziers and later to Pete Meador. It was torn down to build Benedicts Grocery.

In the block next to Schadler's there was the Baptist Church (F). It was located behind the present church, just across the street from where the Frank Early's now live in 1978.

The cross street beyond this block led to the School House (G). It was a large two story brick building. This is where the Berta Barclay Building now stands (Tree House). The school yard was the same as now, but it was enclosed by a fence no gates, a stile over the fence at the front of the building and one at the back were the only means of entrance.

Main street went no further than where Foy's store is now. A left turn and then after a block and a half a right turn put you on the road to Bay City.

Going back to Smith's store, on the opposite side of the street was the Sweeny Real Estate Office (2). After it was closed to be used for this purpose, it became a dwelling place. One of the first occupants were the W. C. Ellis family. Torn down 1957.



Sweeney in 1919.

In 1919, Sweeney had ⁴/₅ grocery and general merchandise stores and one store that sold groceries only.

Beginning with J. V. Smith and Sons across from the depot, this building ~~is now~~ is the ~~James E. Smith~~ Library. The above to ~~Post Office~~ ~~James E. Smith~~ was in charge of the store and was also Postmaster. Effie Chenault was the mail clerk. A couple of years later she married Harry E. Brown. Now in Sunset

This building was originally ^{at} built across the railroad tracks, ^{and} next to the old J. R. Smith home. The Smith's also had a cotton gin next to the store. In 1914 or 15 a Mr. Miller, (father of Clifford D. Miller, who now lives in Houston) was the contractor who successfully moved it across the tracks. Quite a few residents said that it couldn't be done.

In the next block, almost across the street from Clark's Restaurant was Dayle's Rooming House run by "Aunt Rose" Dayle, who was a sister to John, Frank and Tom Orr and an aunt of Lela Nairn.

In the next block was Dr. Arrington's Dry Goods and Grocery store. Creel Brockman was clerking there at the time. His wife Willie Grey was the oldest daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Brockman.

Next door was Dr. Eades' Drug store with his office in the back. This building is still standing.

In the same block L. A. Riley had a grocery store.

This was the business area of Main St. in 1919. There were no electric lights then and no sidewalks with the exception of a Board walk here and there.

A short distance ~~from~~ beyond the Depot toward Staggs there was a large packing shed. Cabbage, turnips and mustard greens were shipped

by the car loads. Ranching and
lumbering were other industries at
that time. There were saw mills in
the area then as now. Also frog
legs were shipped out by the barre

In the same block as Smith's store, the Sweeney Lumber yard was located. It was owned by

of Brazoria and was operated in 1919 by J. W. Augspurger.

In the next block was Clark's Restaurant run by the parents of present residents of Sweeney, Mrs. Allie Chenault, Muriel Orr, and Marie Chenault.

At the corner of this street was the two story general merchandise and grocery store of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Reynolds.

In the next block there were no buildings. A large hotel about the middle of the block had burned two or three years previously.

In the fourth block from Smith's store was a third two story general merchandise and grocery store. This was owned by Albert Schadler and his father. In the ^{late} twenties, ^{or early thirties} it was sold to the Ed Fraziere and in the ^{later} ~~thirties~~ to Pete Meador. It was torn down to build Benedict's grocery.

In the ~~fifth~~ block next to Schadler's, there was the Baptist Church. It was located back of the present church, just across the street from where the Frank Earls now live in 1978.

The ^{cross} street beyond this block led to the School House. It was a large two story ^{brick} building. This is where the Berta Barclay building now stands. The school yard was the same as now, but it was enclosed by a fence. There were no gates, a stile over the fence at the front of the building and one at the back was the only means of entrance.

Main street went no further than Jays, where Jays store is now. A left turn and then after a block and a half a right turn put you on the road to Bay City.

Going back to Smith's store, on the opposite side of the street was the Sweeney Real Estate office. After it ceased to be used for this purpose, it became a dwelling place. One of the first occupants were the W.C. Ellis family.