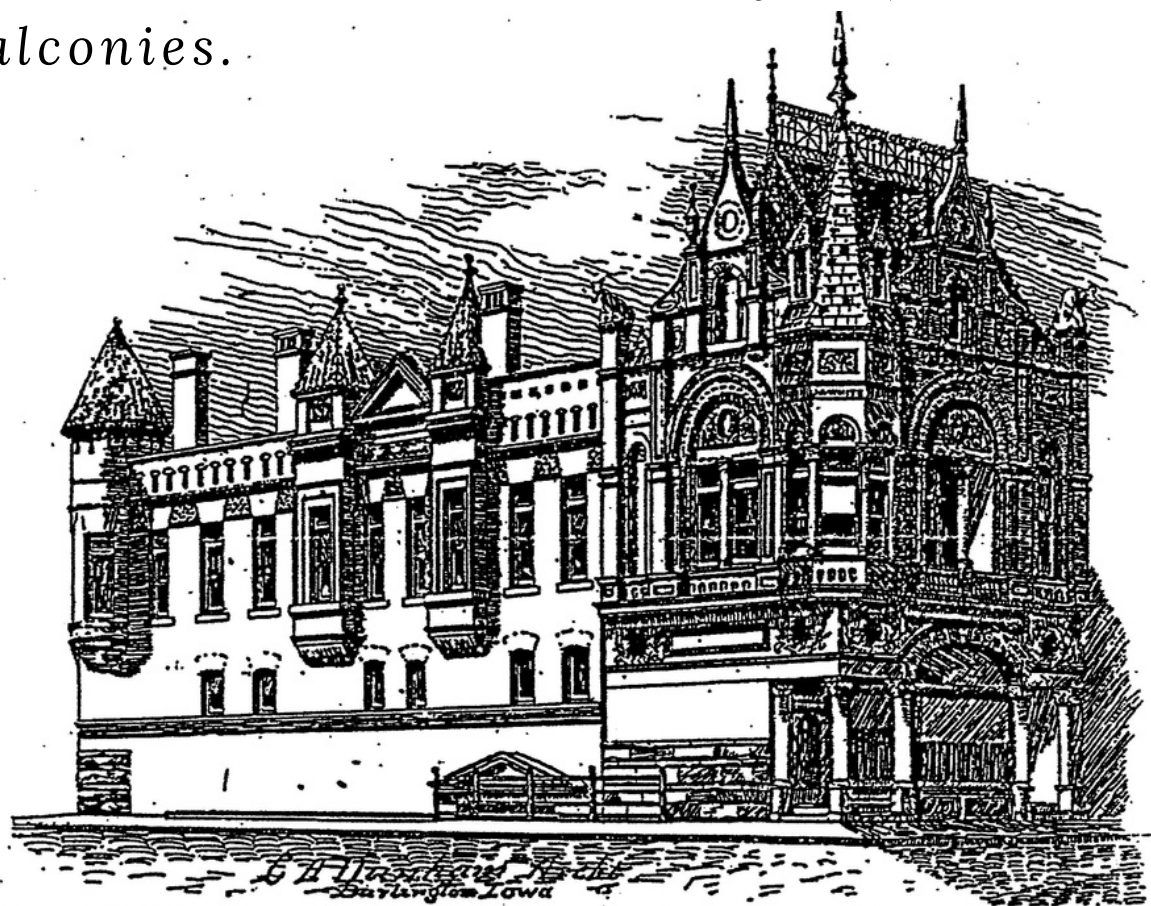
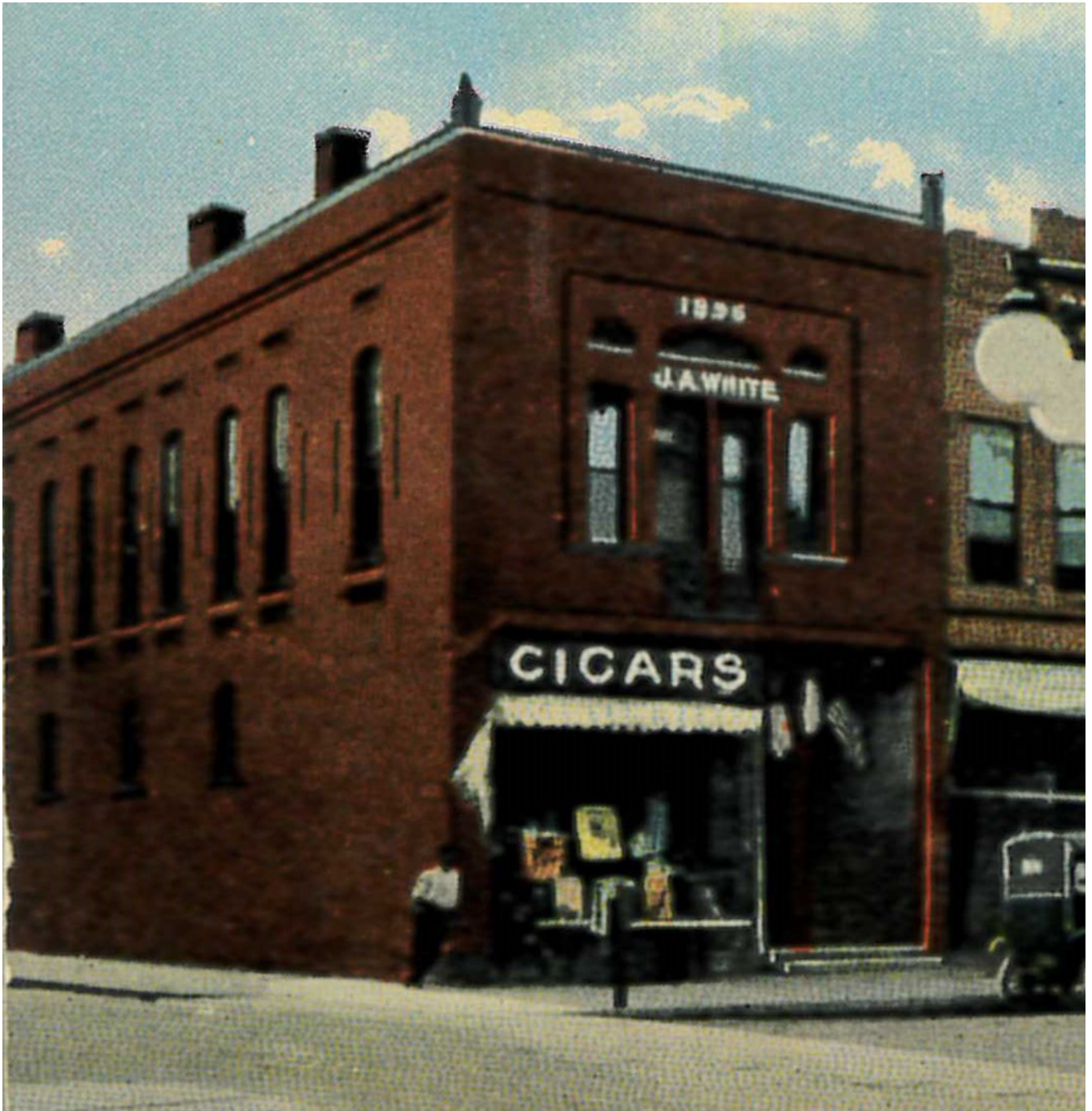


# THE J.A. WHITE BUILDING

*This building was one of four buildings erected on the Centerville Square by J.A. White in two years' time in 1895 and 1896. It was designed to be the most ornate building ever built in Centerville. The architect was C. A. Dunham of Burlington, who also designed the large building on the east side of the Square north of State Street. You will notice many similarities in these buildings with their red pressed brick and faux/real balconies.*



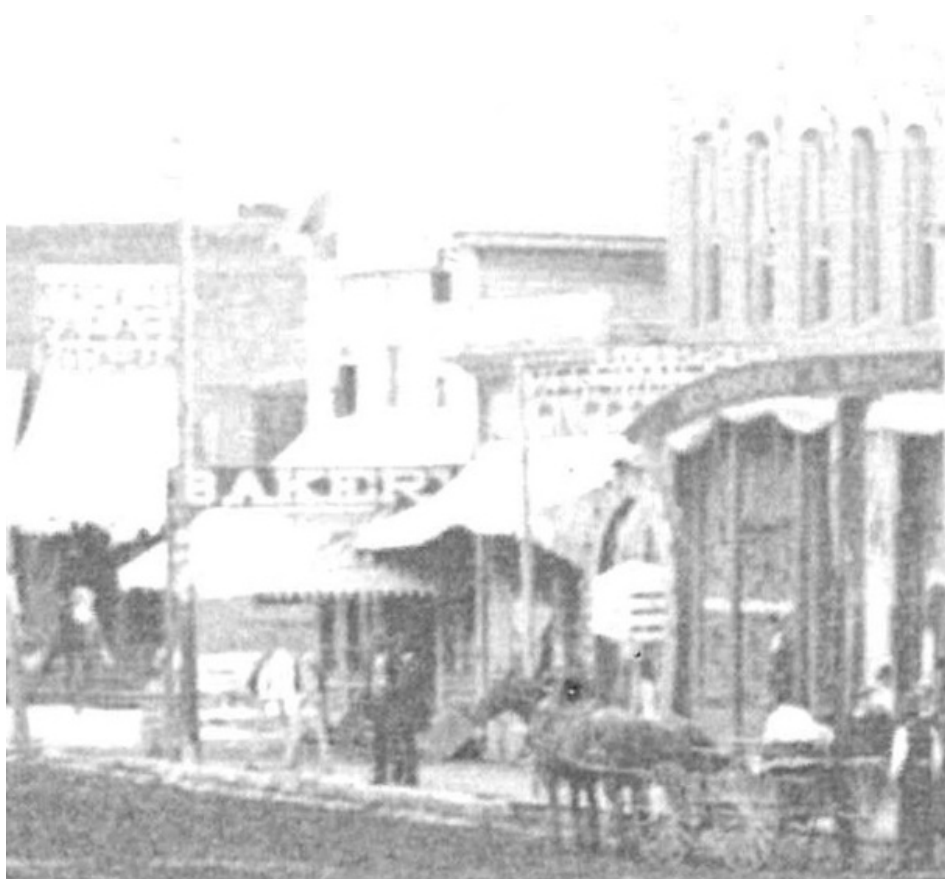
*But, as you can see, obviously, the ornate design was scaled back significantly, but the building is still a fine example of workmanship.*





A wood frame building preceded this building that housed the Alhambra Restaurant, City Restaurant, then Vienna Bakery, as well as businesses on the second floor. That building burned down in November of 1895, and the vacant lot was purchased by real estate man J. A. White. After purchasing the lot, he offered to donate it to the city so they could widen the very narrow Jackson street going west off of the Square. They declined his offer and he was offended. So he decided to build a new building that took up every inch of the lot. And he did.

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Some of the earliest businesses to move into the building were Smith and Tisue Cash Grocery, Bashaw Jewelry, Elkin's Cigar Store, which evolved into Fritch's Cigar Store, Lindsey's Cigar Store and for over 30 years was Carlson's Cigar Store and what everyone called 'The Pool Hall'. After Carlson's closed, it became The Entertainment Center, an early type of arcade business. In 1987 it evolved into Lobo's Deli and Entertainment Center, still with all the games, but deli sandwiches as well. Purdum's Clothing moved in to this building and remained here till 1992, at which time Action Real Estate moved in. It remained a real estate office until Lula's Bakery moved in and remains to this day!

These historical sketches were compiled and provided by the Appanoose County Historical Society.