

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Presque Isle Historical Society

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Date: Interview recorded in 2008

Description: Interview with Emery Skillin about buildings on Main Street and State Street in Presque Isle.

**Brian:** Now when you were working for all those different banks all at the same bank. Their building, is that where Key Bank is now? Was it always there?

**Emery:** Yes, that's where, well, that's where the new building was because the old bank did burn.

**Brian:** Ok, and where was the old bank?

**Emery:** The old bank was on the opposite corner – remember where the W.T. Grant Store used to be?

**Brian:** Yes

**Emery:** Just a one story building? That's where the Northern National Bank used to be. And we had one of those wintertime fires up here that destroyed the building. So then they moved over on the other corner – bought that land where the bank is now, where Key Bank is now. And, uh, built a new building. It used to look funny because it went on for two or three years before they had got it all done. See that place all flattened. The whole block just gone. And then right in the middle of it was the vault. The safe. It didn't have to be housed, but it looked kind of funny for a while, there's that vault right in the middle of it. That empty lot on the corner of Main and State.

**Brian:** Now they must have had to tear down a bunch of buildings in there to build that. At that point where the bank is now?

**Emery:** Burn other buildings?

**Brian:** They must have torn down...

**Emery:** They did tear down some, yuh. There used to be – remember where the Greenlaw Block used to be? Big three story building?

**Brian:** Greenlaw Block is still there isn't it?

**Emery:** Yes.

**Brian:** Ok, yuh.

**Emery:** In a way it is.

**Brian:** Oh, Ok.

**Emery:** The building is different. It was a three story building. Remember Mrs. Olore had the little Italian restaurant?

**Brian:** I've heard of that. That was before my time, but I've heard...

**Emery:** Before your time.

**Brian:** Yuh

**Emery:** It was a boarding house and a rooming house. And a little Italian restaurant. Joe Olore's Mother.