

Woolworth/Slatkin Building - Then & Now



Ferndale is lucky to still have this nearly 100 year old Spanish Revival building as part of our iconic downtown. Above is a Spring 1929 photo of the Slatkin building - more commonly known as the Woolworth building.

A building permit was issued in October 1928 to Harry Slatkin of Detroit for this building with an estimated value of \$18,000. The first merchant appears to have been D&C Radio which opened in the middle store (230) on Dec 8, 1928. It closed soon after (their logo can still be seen in the window in the photo). Lee's Hosiery opened in that location on July 3, 1929

Woolworth opened Feb 8, 1929 at 234-236 West Nine Mile Road, at 38 x 117 feet it was the largest store in Ferndale at that time. The sign in their window celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Woolworth's with "Nine One-Day Sales" each Wednesday & Saturday during May 1929.

Kroger was at 224 in this picture, but their opening date has yet to be found. The O'Dell Company - Men's & Boys Wear at 220 opened in June 1929 at the East end of the main building. An adjacent building with matching design includes Pioneer Home Bakery opened Nov 17, 1928 at 214 and A&P grocery at 212/210.



The 2025 photo shows Crane Optical at 236, Found Sound at 234, Signature Tattoo at 230, Beatnix on 9 at 224 & Red Hook Café at 200. The adjacent building, which once included the Spanish Revival brick & tile but was remodeled, includes Vibe Credit Union at 214, Union Barber at 212, and Urbanrest Taproom at 210.

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