

*\*\*This information is to the best of our knowledge. Please submit edits/more information to [DunlapDCDC@gmail.com](mailto:DunlapDCDC@gmail.com). We are looking for facts only currently (business names, owners, dates, and photos.)*

## **719 Iowa Ave**

**Current Businesses:** Dunlap Post Office (1961 – Present)

**Previous Businesses:**

Booster Buck Woodworking Shop

Vern Weber's Blacksmith Shop

Probasco Brothers Garage (1912 – 1916)

Dunlap Opera House (1884 - )

1867 – Dunlap was platted

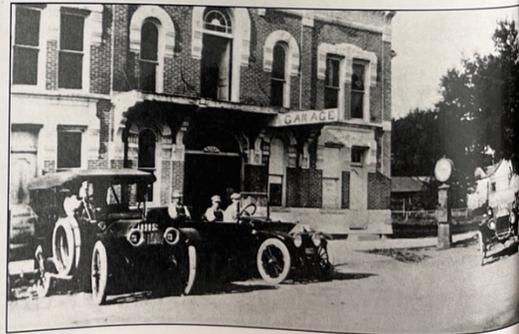
## Opera House



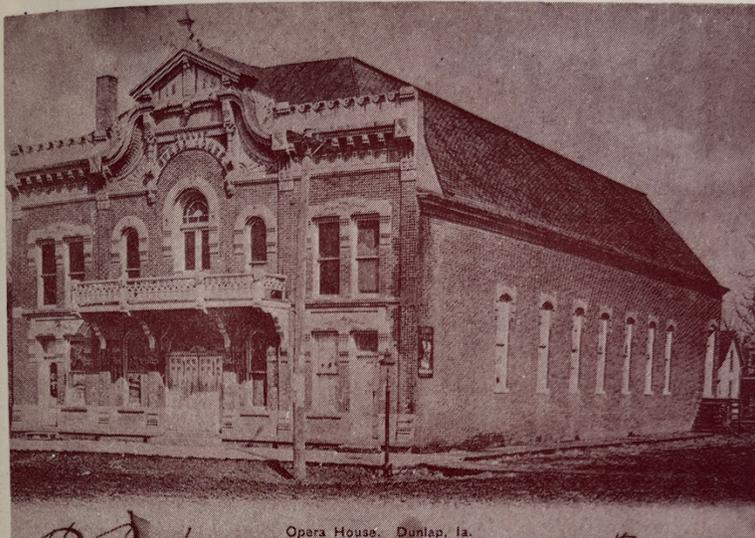
The Opera House was where the post office and parking lot are now.  
NE corner of Iowa Ave. and 8th Street.

What is known as the Dunlap Opera House was built in 1884, for the purpose of providing a skating rink for the town. Skating was a national mania at that time. But the builders, being foresighted, realized that the skating enthusiasm would be short-lived and also planned the building so it might easily be converted into an opera hall.

This venerated building stood on the corner of Iowa Avenue and 8th Street. Its original cost was \$8,000 and was planned to comfortably seat 900 people. It was heated by furnace and was nicely furnished throughout. Touring theatrical companies provided such entertainment as the Cherry Sisters and Chicago Opera. In news reports, there is the mention of memorial services held of the Dunlap Opera House in honor of the deceased President McKinley, September 1901.



## OPERA HOUSE



Opera House. Dunlap, Ia.

### *Opera House.*

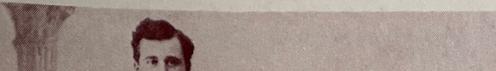
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The Dunlap Opera House was also used for High School entertainments; graduations and basketball. Frequently, local dances were held there, and its floor was reported to have been one of the finest dance floors between Boone and Council Bluffs.

Later the building was converted into a garage by the Probasco Brothers, where they sold Ford cars and also maintained a repair service. Later it was Vern Weber's Blacksmith Shop, and also it housed the Booster Buck Woodworking Shop. In the summer of 1961 it was torn down to make room for the new post office now located on that corner.

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In one i young lady w \$40, and was a dollar, as it corn for 10c, 2 bottles of p from wages o day.



Shorty Pageant & Beulah Brace  
June 30, 1929



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*\*from Dunlap Pioneers and Progress Centennial 1867-1967*



The 1832 Stodart-Dunham piano which was in the Opera House.





### 1884-1961 Famous Dunlap Landmark Disappearing

Demolition work is now underway on one of Dunlap's older and better known landmarks. The Old Opera House pictured above is going "the way of all flesh" to make room for new and modern improvement. Dunlap's new postoffice building will be constructed in the site.

Much of Dunlap history has been encompassed in and around this building. Through the years it has served in many capacities. The following paragraph concerning it was published in 1891 in the Album of Biographical History of Harrison County:

"What is known as the Dunlap Opera House was built in 1884, for the purpose of providing a skating rink for the place, which at that

time was a national mania. But the builders, looking to the near future, to a time when all interest in a roller skating rink would cease, also planned the building so it might be easily converted into an opera hall. This is a venerated building, situated on the corner of Iowa Avenue and Eighth Street; it cost \$8,000, and comfortably seats nine hundred persons. It is heated by furnace and is well furnished throughout. It was built by a stock company consisting of the following persons: S. P. Paterson, L. Kellogg, M. Barrett, G. P. Moorhead, B. J. Moore, J. A. Brainard, B. F. Carpenter, B. Jackson, J. H. Gallup, O. W. Taylor & Co."

According to information from individuals in the community the

structure was used as a place to hold school plays, graduation exercises and other community affairs. It ceased to serve this function after the new school building, the one now just remodeled, was built during the first World War and was in use by 1919 or 1920. However one source of information said the structure served as a garage for the Probasco brothers from 1912 to 1916, where they sold Oakland and Overland cars.

According to others it served as a skating rink during three different decades. During depression years of the 30's it fell on hard times and near the end of the era was sold for taxes. It was about this time it was purchased by George Gorham and has since been used as a woodworking department.

for the Booster Buck Mfg. Co. Through the 40's and 50's they retained ownership of the building and it was the scene of much activity in the fabrication of the wooden parts of the Booster Buck.

The Gorhams retained ownership of the building until this spring when it was sold to Herb Swedberg of Woodbine, successful bidder for construction of the new Dunlap Postoffice. During the past two weeks the Booster Buck Co. has moved their materials, saws, planers and equipment housed in the building to the cement block building about 150 feet west of the opera house. Already the sides of the building have started to come down and during the next few weeks it will be completely razed.—Reporter Photo.

Our new Dunlap Post Office is beginning to take shape. The foundation is in and the side walls are beginning to go up. No one has been able to tell us just how soon the building will be ready for use, but it should be this fall

By curious co-incidence it was just a year ago, the last week in August, that the Dunlap Reporter carried a newspaper report of the letting of the new postoffice contract with the final approval of the lowest bid on file. At that time the completion date was set last July 1.



