

Constructed 1880 - 1887

The Pacific House • 141-143 Washington Street



Original Building Owners – Joseph Baur

In late 1881, the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad announced plans to build a passenger station on Washington Street near the Manistee River. Joseph Baur, a resident of the City since 1852 and a prosperous business person and real estate investor, saw the need for a hotel located on the north side of the river to serve traveling sales people and visitors coming into the City by rail. In 1880, he had built two stores on the southwest corner of Washington and Lincoln Streets. As the railroad business grew, he added three more stores and finally a second story level that spanned the entire block and contained hotel rooms. Named the Pacific House, the hotel opened in late 1884.

Business was so good that Baur constructed a large addition in 1887 containing forty additional rooms. The building then stood 65 feet by 120 feet in size and offered a center light and service court. All partitions were brick and the protection of guests in the event of fire was given great consideration. The building renamed the Cleveland House, contained a bar, billiard room, office, dining room, kitchen, ladies' parlor, and ladies' reception room in addition to its guest rooms. Several large apartments were provided for families. The ground floor shops were occupied by various commercial tenants over the years.

The 120 foot long Washington Street façade of the two-story brick Italianate building is divided into five storefront bays, each with three windows at the second story level. A simple but elegant corbelled brick cornice tops the building. Second floor windows are double-hung, one over one unit with rounded arch stone hoodmolds and stone lug sills. The first floor storefronts are defined by brick piers at their edges and by Manistee-fabricated cast iron columns to either side of their centered entry doors. A door between the southernmost storefront and its neighbor to the north leads to the upper floor. The building has been altered by the application of a wood shingled mansard canopy above the storefronts, the replacement of a storefront door and window openings with panels of various types, and the painting of the exterior brick. The first two alterations can be rectified because all of the original material remains or easily can be replaced.

Manistee Commercial Historic District – listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places