

constructed c. 1868

Willard & Hall Drug Store · 451 River Street



The building at 451 River Street was home to the Willard & Hall Drug Store. An excerpt from an article published in the Manistee News Advocate reads as follows:

William R. Hall was born in Painesville, Ohio on June 16, 1847 and growing up he attended the public schools and the high school of that city. As a young man he found employment as a drug clerk and a short time later began working as a full time pharmacist. In 1868 he arrived in Manistee and began working at the pharmacy of Briggs & Willard who both operated a drugstore at 451 River Street. The next year Briggs was bought out by Hall and the firm became known as Willard & Hall.

As Hall's professional life grew, his personal life similarly started to flourish. As with many young, educated single men of the time, Hall's business stature suited him as an eligible bachelor in Manistee. In 1876, the Manistee Advocate published a brief snippet in a column called the "Matrimonial Market," of which Hall was featured in November of that year. With a tongue-in-cheek slant, the Advocate described him as such:

"Druggist, good-looking, modest, moral and industrious; 5 ft. 8 in his stockings; weight 170 avoirdupois; worth his weight in Manistee City orders; worth dying for."

In March 1878 Hall married Lois Worth in Blissfield, Michigan with the couple eventually going on to become the parents of a boy and two girls.

Meanwhile, the partnership of Willard & Hall ceased in 1882 when Hall went into business for himself, opening up a drug store on Sibben Street. However, by 1895 he had taken over the drugstore located inside the Lucas & Nungesser Block at 401 River Street.

Manistee Commercial Historic District – Listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places