

Historical Information

Built in 1900, the O'Neill Block Building originally served as a grocery, flour, and feed supply store owned by John J. and Anthony J. McKeown. The building also housed a telegraph office on the upper floor and later became home to a wholesale drug firm that operated there from 1909 to 1962.

The front windows feature Frank Lloyd Wright Luxfer Prisms, an innovative design that disperses incoming sunlight upward and inward onto the walls and ceilings rather than directly onto the floor, helping illuminate the interior more evenly.

This building is part of a district representing the largest collection of significant 19th-century commercial architecture in Dubuque. Old Main Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The area also marks the site of Dubuque's earliest center of commercial activity.