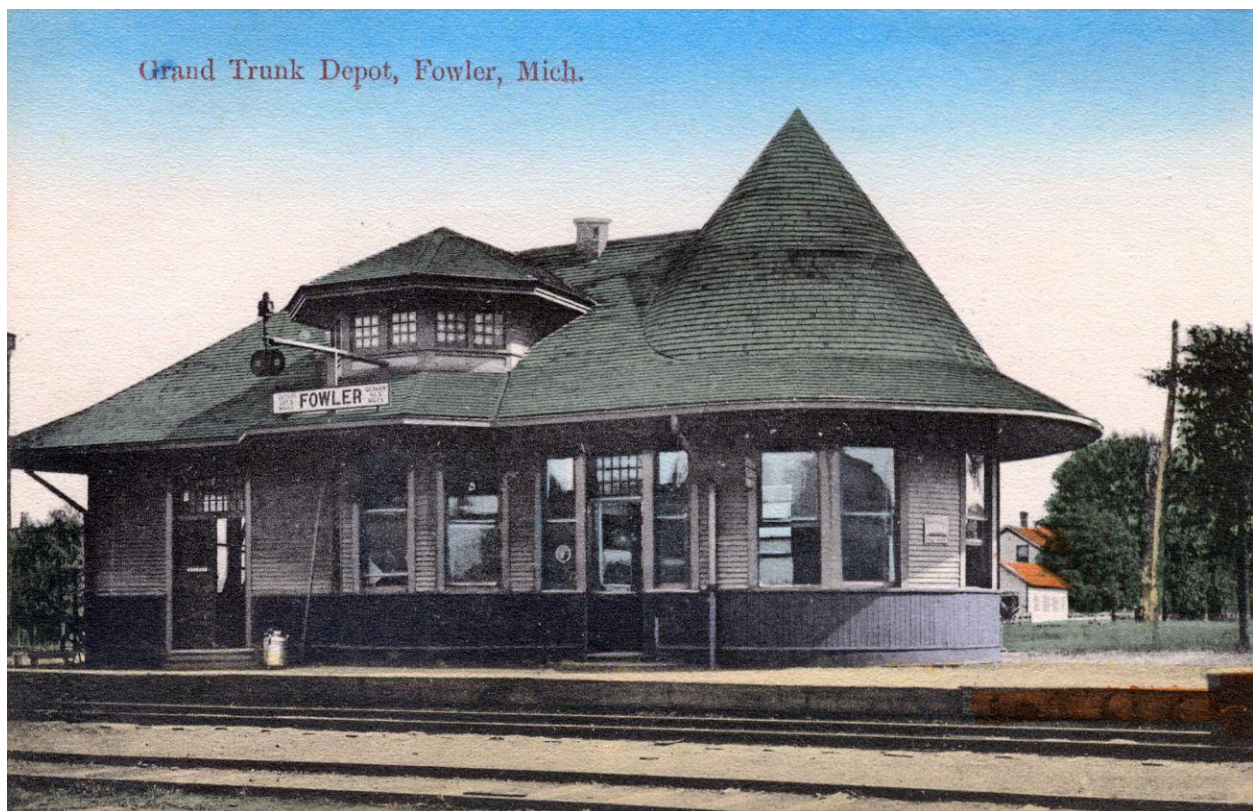# Fowler

In 1857, one hundred and sixty acres were purchased for the purpose of founding a village. It was to be called Dallas with a depot on the new railroad. A hotel and general store were erected, however, the land around it was swampy and not suitable for a village.

In 1867 the entire village was moved ¾ of a mile west and renamed Isabella. The new name proved to be unpopular and was renamed Fowler for F. N. Fowler two years later.

The train depot that had been moved from Dallas was destroyed by fire in 1898. A new building was erected and was used until the railroad passenger line closed. It was moved in 1973 and became a residence on Hinman Road.

Grand Trunk Depot, Fowler, Mich.

1898 Train Depot

The Fowler House hotel was moved from Dallas and placed on the southwest corner of Main and Clinton Streets. Later the wooden building was moved back and a brick building built on the site. The wooden building then became a feed barn.
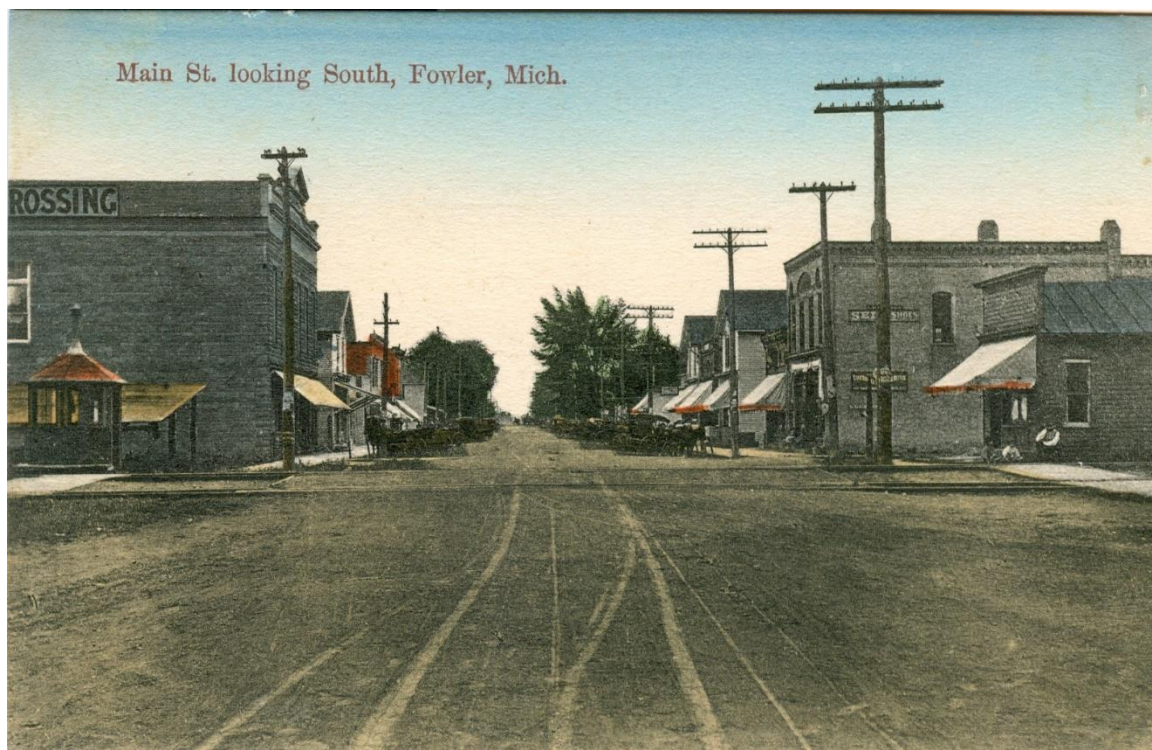
Fowler House Hotel

The Sturgis Opera House above a hardware store was the entertainment center of the town. It was used for school plays, graduations, dances, and concerts.

Sturgis Opera House

In 1947 the Fowler movie theater opened. With television arriving in the 1950's fewer people went to the movies and the theater closed. The building is now the Fowler Village Hall.
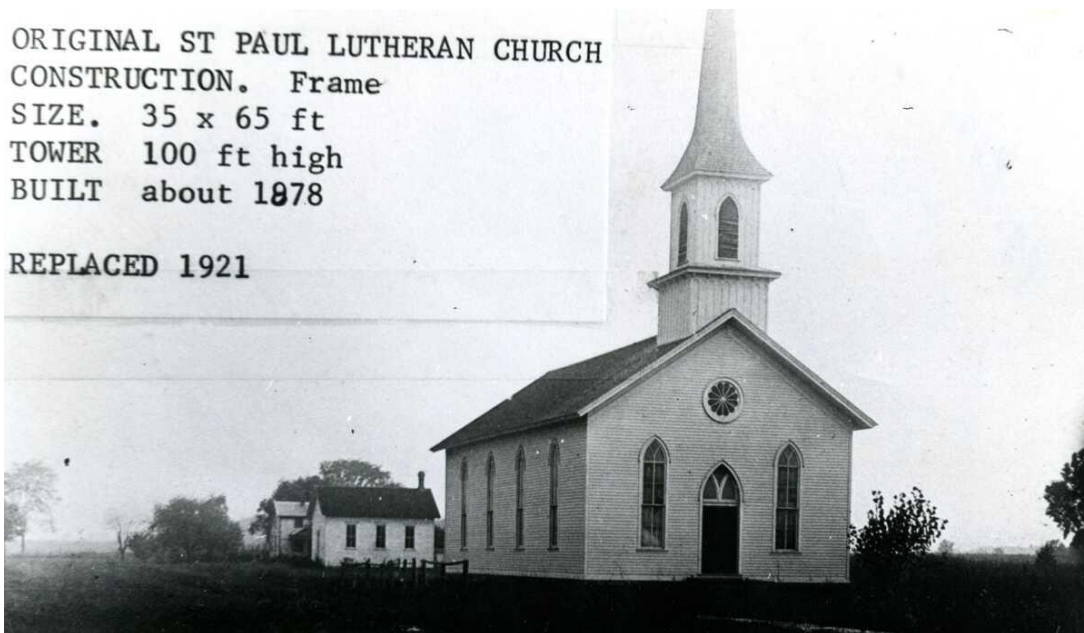
By 1880 the village had two hotels, two general stores, two hardware stores, a boot store, two groceries, two drug stores, and a furniture store.

3 West Side Main Street, Fowler, Mich.

Main St. looking South, Fowler, Mich.

Saint Paul Lutheran Church built a wooden building on Sorrell Street in 1878. After that building was destroyed in a fire in 1945, the current sandstone building was completed in 1948.
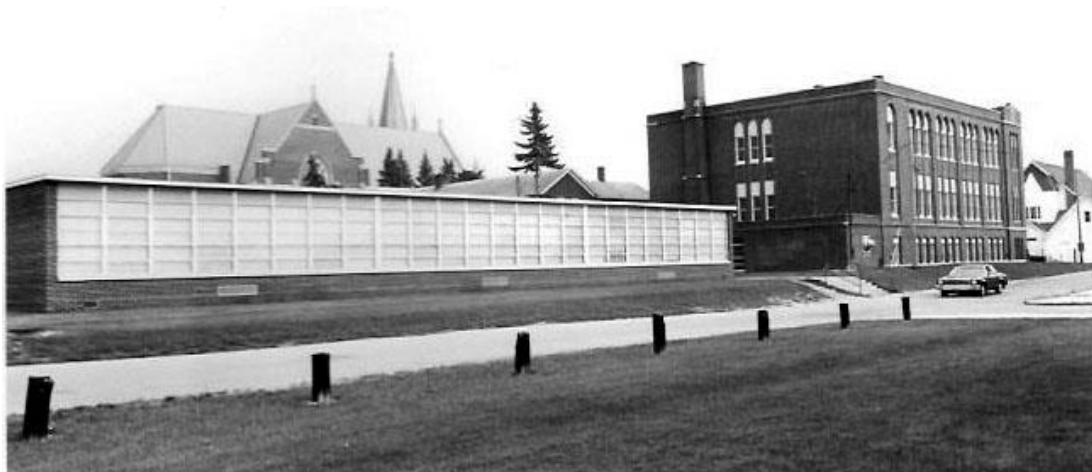

The first Holy Trinity Catholic Church building was built in 1881. Some of the Catholics were German and others Irish. The Germans wanted it named for Saint Boniface and the Irish for Saint Patrick. Both sides decided to compromise on Holy Trinity. As the church grew, a larger brick building was completed in 1917.

Clinton County Historical Society

Holy Trinity School began in 1888 as St. Joseph School. During much of its history it was a shared time school. Students attended some classes in the public school and some in Holy Trinity School.

Holy Trinity School

The first public school opened in Fowler in 1870. A two-story wooden school was built in 1873 on the corner of Wayne and Maple streets. In 1915 the wooden school was moved and a brick building built in its place. After the new high school building opened in 1959, this building was used as an elementary until Waldron opened in 1969.

1873 School

Clinton County Historical Society

Fowler High School c1918

1915 Building