



# The Yardmaster

## Southwestern Michigan Division



January 2025

Website: [www.ncr-div9.com](http://www.ncr-div9.com)



This photo is the Pere Marquette Steam Engine # 1225, from the Steam Railroading Institute.

### Featured Articles this Month:

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### Non-Train Related Holidays & Special Events – January 2025

- **New Years Day 1/01**
- **Martin Luther King Day 1/20**



## **Editor's Comments**

Do you have any special or unique model railroading skills or talents? If yes, how about sharing some tips & techniques with our members by writing one or more newsletter articles. This would be helpful to our other members and allow those with those special talents and skills to give back to our organization. Adding more viewpoints and variety of information would be a big boost to our readers.



## **Division 9 Board Happenings**

There was a board meeting on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club. The details of this meeting will be made available in the next few days. One of the major decisions that was made is to take a fresh look at a couple of the bylaw changes that are being considered. Tony Vacha provided the board members with an update on the status of our new website and a possible replacement for Zoom. The web address of the new website is [www.div9.ncrnmra.org](http://www.div9.ncrnmra.org). Please keep in mind that this is a work in progress. The next Board Meeting will be held on Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the home of Garry Johnson. Watch for more details as we get closer to the meeting date.



## **Division 9 Officers**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Superintendent	<a href="#">Garry Johnson</a>	<a href="mailto:elecsprk@gmail.com">elecsprk@gmail.com</a>
Assistant Superintendent	Joel Pyard	<a href="mailto:pyardj@comcast.net">pyardj@comcast.net</a>
<u>Paymaster</u>	<a href="#">Bob Lawrence</a>	<a href="mailto:robertlawrence44@msn.com">robertlawrence44@msn.com</a>
<u>Scribe &amp; Newsletter Editor</u>	Alan Bau	<a href="mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com">alanwbau@gmail.com</a>
<u>Trustee</u>	Doug Van Meter	<a href="mailto:vanmeterda@gmail.com">vanmeterda@gmail.com</a>
<u>Trustee</u>	Greg Marvin	<a href="mailto:sr@earthworkslawnandlandscape.com">sr@earthworkslawnandlandscape.com</a>
<u>Website Manager</u>	Tony Vacha	<a href="mailto:CKRHandler@aol.com">CKRHandler@aol.com</a>

## **Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:**

<b>Meetings &amp; Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Presenter &amp; Topic</b>
Membership Meeting	January 18 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	Ryan Yanez - General Manager, will be speaking on the Grand Elk Railroad
Membership Meeting	February 15 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	MMR Dan Lewis - "Getting the Most Out of DPM Kits"
Membership Meeting	March 15 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM?	Kalamazoo Model RR Club	Clinic with information, training and demonstrations involving model railroad layout building.
<b>Board Meeting</b>	April 6 <sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM	Garry Johnson's	N/A
Membership Meeting	April 19 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	Presentation by Doug Harding – "Fun with Pickles: a look at the Pickle Industry"
Membership Meeting	May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mid-Michigan Railroad Facilities in Turkeyville, Mi.	
Membership Meeting	June 21 <sup>st</sup>	TBD	TBD
Board Meeting	July 6?	TBD	TBD
No Membership Meetings in July & August			
Annual Meeting	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	TBD
Board Meeting	October 5 <sup>th</sup>		
Membership Meeting	October 18 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	TBD
Membership Meeting	November 15 <sup>TH</sup>	TBD	TBD
Membership Meeting	TBD	TBD	TBD

### **Upcoming Membership Meeting Information**

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** - We will be meeting at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club located at 648 Maple Hill Drive. After our normal business meeting, there will be an update on the Grand Elk Railroad by Mr. Ryan Yanez - General Manager (Pictured below). We will have a zoom link available for anyone unable to attend in-person.

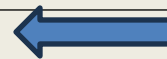
The new Grand Elk Railroad General Manager, Ryan Yanez, will be our guest speaker at our January 18, 2025 meeting in Kalamazoo, MI, everybody is welcome. Pictures taken by Rich Mahaney.





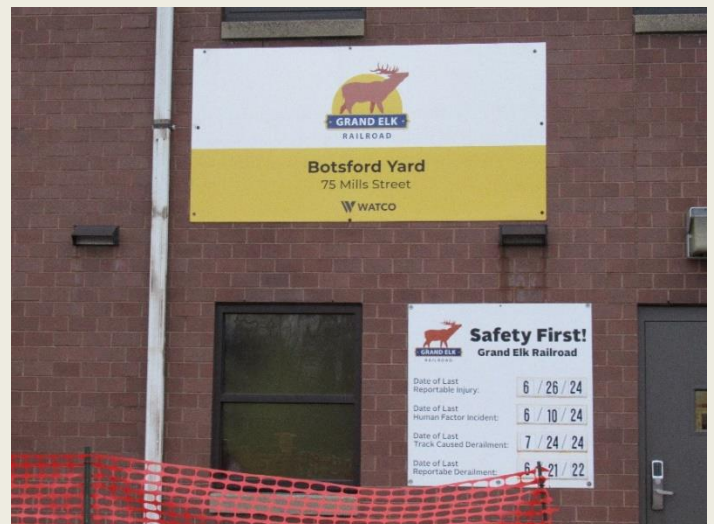
## Ryan Yanez - Brief Bio

I began railroading 9 years ago with Watco as a conductor on the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad. Prior to that, I worked in a variety of areas, the most recent being teaching Middle School History. I came into the rail industry with no experience or any idea what freight conductors did, but quickly got my feet under me and greatly enjoyed the experience. I spent around 3 years in train service as a conductor and engineer before becoming a Trainmaster based out of Wichita, KS. From there I received my first General Manager assignment to the Ringneck and Western Railroad, based out of Mitchell, SD. I have been with the Grand Elk since March of 2024 and am looking forward to many more years here.



Rich Mahaney saw this picture driving southbound on Rt. 131, just south of the Gun Lake Casino.

## Grand Elk offices and yard office







Engine working the yard



Old snowplow, that at one time I thought was being donated to the C&O Historical Museum in Clifton Forge, VA.



Grand Elk Railroad yard office in Grand Rapids along US 131.



They do a lot of transload business at this yard.

## **Upcoming Events - Continued**

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** –We will be meeting at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club. After our normal business meeting, there will be a presentation by MMR Dan Lewis on “Getting the Most Out of Your DPM Kits”. We will have a zoom link available for anyone unable to attend in-person. There is more information available in the Yardmaster November edition.

### **March 15th Membership Meeting – Kalamazoo Historical Model Railroad Club**

The Club is located at [9336 Riverview Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49004](#).

There will be no business meeting or zoom link for this event. Details of this session are still being worked out, the preliminary plan is that this meeting will focus on track issues, electrical wiring and signaling, with presentations by members of Division 9 and the Kalamazoo Historical Model Railroad Club.

Links to their website and a map are displayed below.

[Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society 501\(c\)\(3\) – Model train club in Kalamazoo, MI](#)

[Kalamazoo Model Railroad - Google Maps](#)

### **April 19<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting – Kalamazoo Bridge Club**

We will be meeting at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club. After our normal business meeting, there will be a clinic by Doug Harding. The planned clinic topic for the day is “Fun with Pickles: a look at the Pickle Industry”.

### **May 17th Membership Meeting – Mid-Michigan Railroad Facilities in Turkeyville, Mi.**

Watch for more details in future issues.

## Upcoming Train Shows

# Train Show List

The full list of shows is available here on the brand new website, which allows you to subscribe and submit your events directly. More features will be coming soon!

<https://www.trainshowlist.com>

Given that we are reaching almost 1000 subscribers every other week, please consider making a donation as part of your event's marketing budget. Please visit the Train Show List site and donate via PayPal. Thank you for your support!

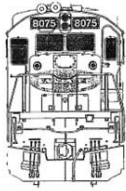


## **2025 NMRA National Convention**

**[2025 NMRA National Convention, Novi, MI | National Model Railroad Association](#)**

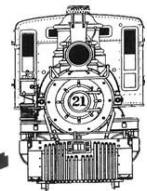
If you plan to attend or would like information about the 2025 NMRA National Convention in Novi, Mi. to be held from July 14<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>, click on the link above.





# MODEL RAILROAD SALE!

Hosted by Division 6  
North Central Region - National Model Railroad Association



**SATURDAY – JANUARY 25, 2025**  
**10am - 3pm**



## 2142 Community Center

7526 Grand River Ave, Brighton, MI 48114

**NEW Location!!  
MORE Tables!!**

**189 Tables of model railroad items - ALL scales!**  
**Door Prizes Awarded every 45 minutes!** (must be present to win)  
Food available – FREE parking

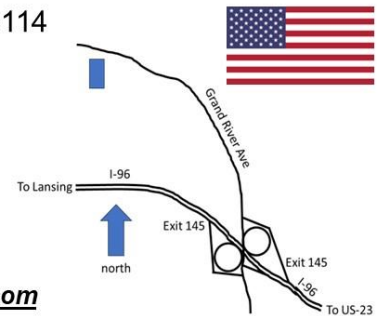
Admission –

**\$5 per person over 18 years old (spouses/children under 18 = FREE!)**

**\$10 per person Early Bird entry at 9am**

**VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS FREE (WITH ID)**

Information – Barry 734-649-3056 (6pm-9pm) [div6trainshow@gmail.com](mailto:div6trainshow@gmail.com)



# MODEL RAILROAD SALE!

Hosted by Division 6  
North Central Region - National Model Railroad Association

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 25, 2025**  
**10am - 3pm**

## 2142 Community Center

7526 Grand River Ave, Brighton, MI 48114

**VENDOR INFORMATION.....** HELLO!! Welcome to the 3rd Annual MODEL RAILROAD SALE, hosted by Division 6 of the NCR/NMRA.

Here is the info you need to be a vendor at our event....

- \* Vendor tables are \$25 each. Tables size is 30" x 8' long. There is no limit to how many tables you can buy. **We now have 189 tables!!**
- \* Tables are assigned locations on a first registered-first get system. Please note any special requests below and we will do our best to accommodate you.
- \* Set-up will start at 7:15am on Saturday, January 25, 2025.
- \* There will be one chair per table. Extra chairs may be available.
- \* We are doing an Early-Bird sale at 9am-10am for the public. You are free to sell at that time, or not. Doors open to the rest of the public at 10am-3pm.
- \* **NEW!!!** – Vendors are **NOT** allowed to have **ANY food** at their tables!! Food must be consumed at tables just off to the side of the sales area. Water is OK. This new policy will be **STRICTLY** enforced. Violation will result in not being allowed to return to this event!!
- \* There is a café/deli on the upper floor of the building for food purchases.
- \* Cancellations for table fee refunds must be given by Wednesday, January 15, 2025. No refunds if notified after that date, unless we can resell your tables.

Please send this form with your payment, check or US Postal money order.

Make out to – **DIV 6 NCR NMRA** Send to – **Div 6 Model Railroad Sale 43642 Lotus Dr Canton, MI 48188**

**EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT** – Vendors will be responsible for any injuries or loss to themselves or their property. They expressly release DIVISION 6 and it's members from any liability and agree to indemnify and hold DIVISION 6 and it's members harmless. Signing this agreement means you have read all of the factors above and agree to them. If for any reason the SALE is cancelled, refunds will be issued asap.

Electricity yes ☐ no ☐

SIGNED- \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL REQUESTS

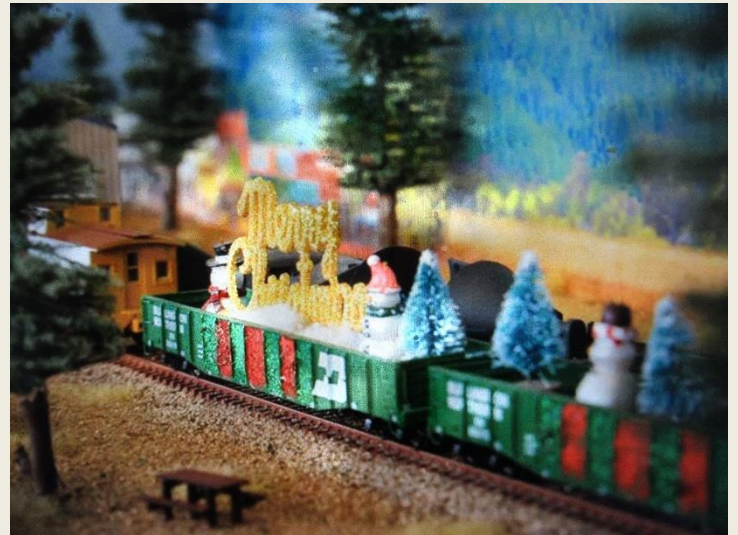


## Rich's Travels

Snow covered caboose that sits northwest of Traverse City, MI along a popular biking and hiking trail going to Suttons Bay, MI



There used to be a train ride on this trail where the caboose is located.



Holiday gondola loads.

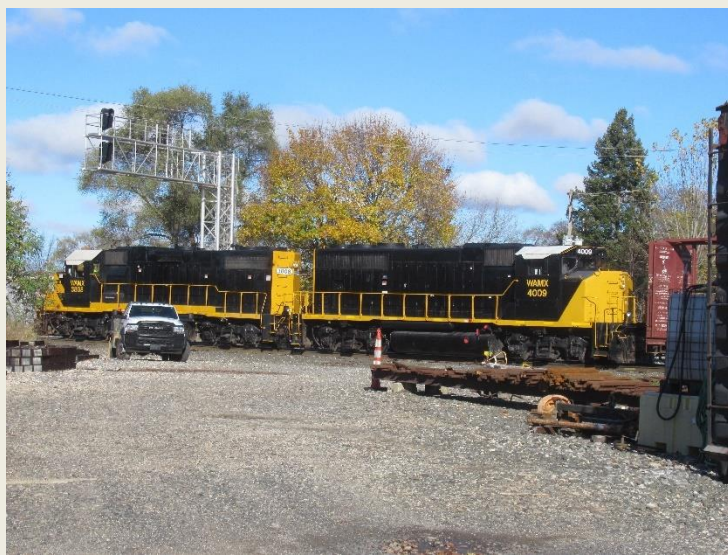


Old scenic ride, train engine from Traverse City, MI to Suttons Bay, MI now at the West Michigan Railroad





## **More Grand Elk Railroad photos taken in Kalamazoo**





**More photos of the Grand Elk, but this time from a few thousand feet.**

Grand Elk train passing the west side of the Kalamazoo Airport on Tuesday morning as we took off for our CA for trip. We took off to the North instead of the South.

The train is off in the woods between the wing and the air traffic control tower.

The other two photos show the Grand Elk Kalamazoo yard from the air.



## **Photos from Rich Mahaney Presentation on Railroad Cars and 2<sup>nd</sup> lives**

During the December Membership Meeting Rich Mahaney presented a clinic describing various interesting ways of putting your excess rolling stock to good use. A few examples are pictured on the next few pages.











## **Sanborn Maps – Kalamazoo, Mi. Part 1 of 4**

Rich Mahaney has photographed 34 Sanborn Maps of the Greater Kalamazoo area. Since these maps are quite detailed and, in many cases, somewhat difficult to read, it is planned to include a few maps in this and the next couple of issues.

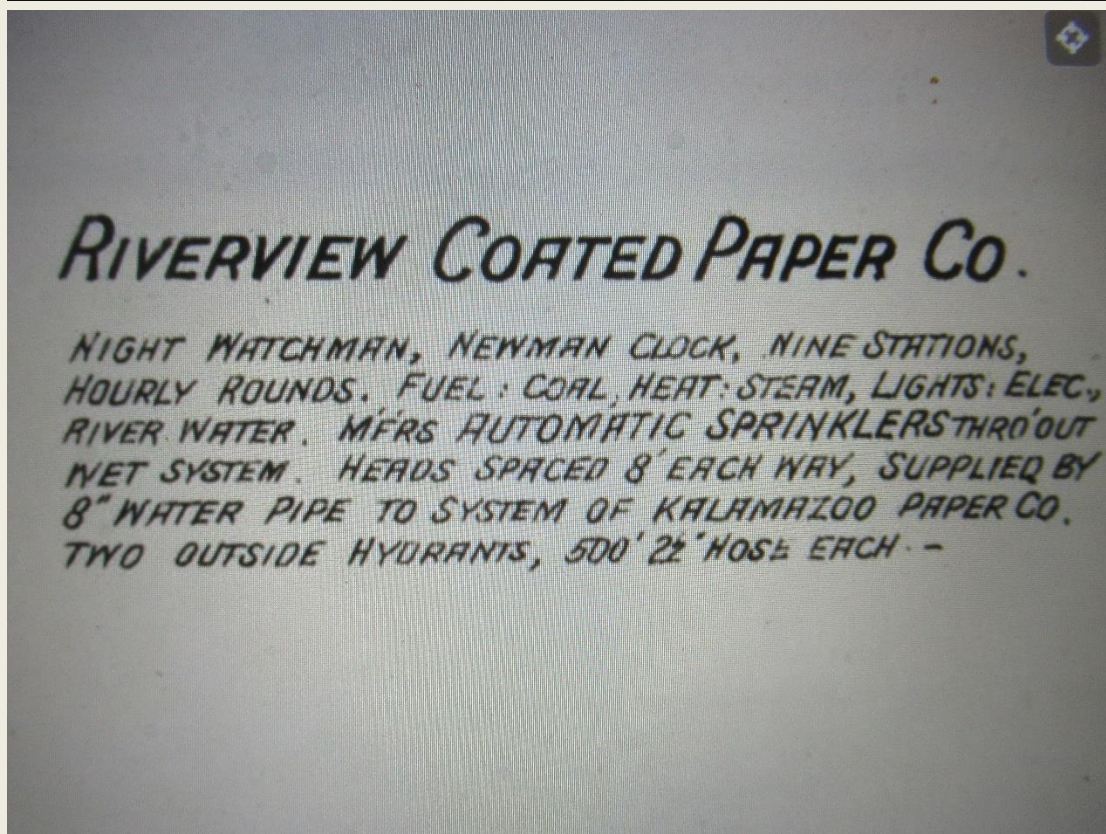
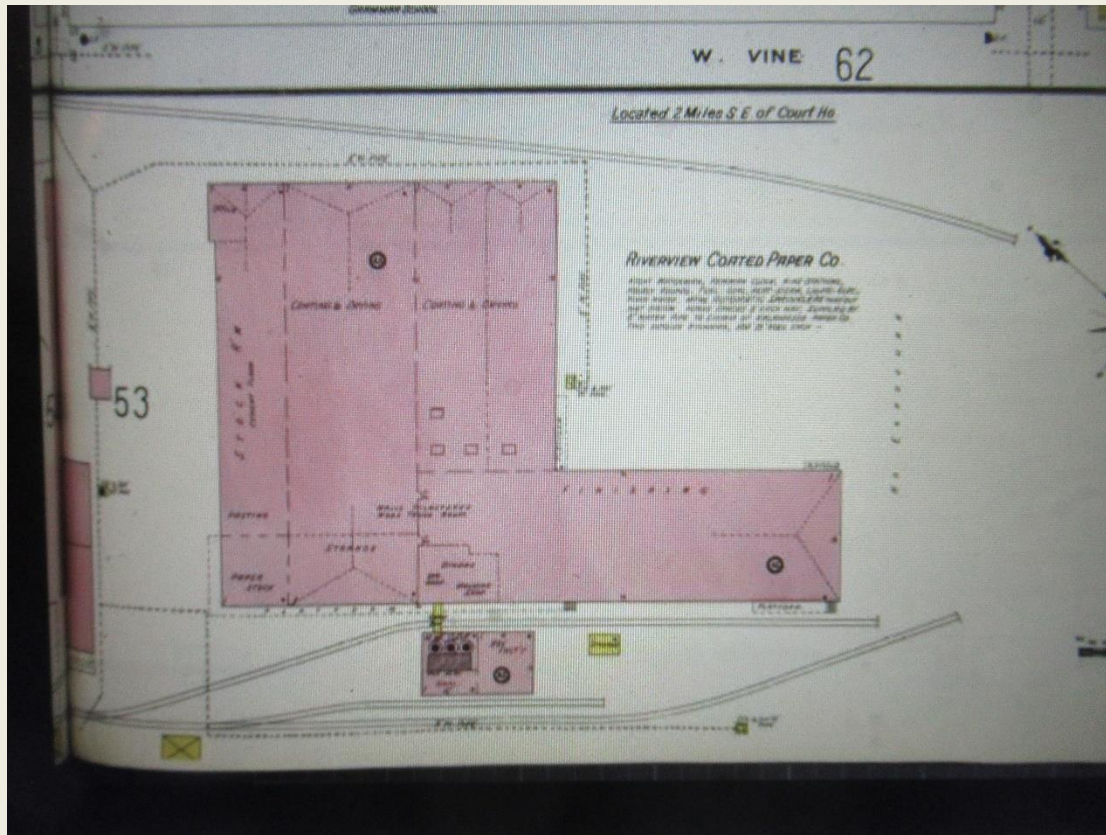
**Photo # 1** Kalamazoo Sanborn Maps from 1908.



Photo # 2 # 3 - Different parts of the city and industries showing railroad tracks, construction materials, fire protection and security.

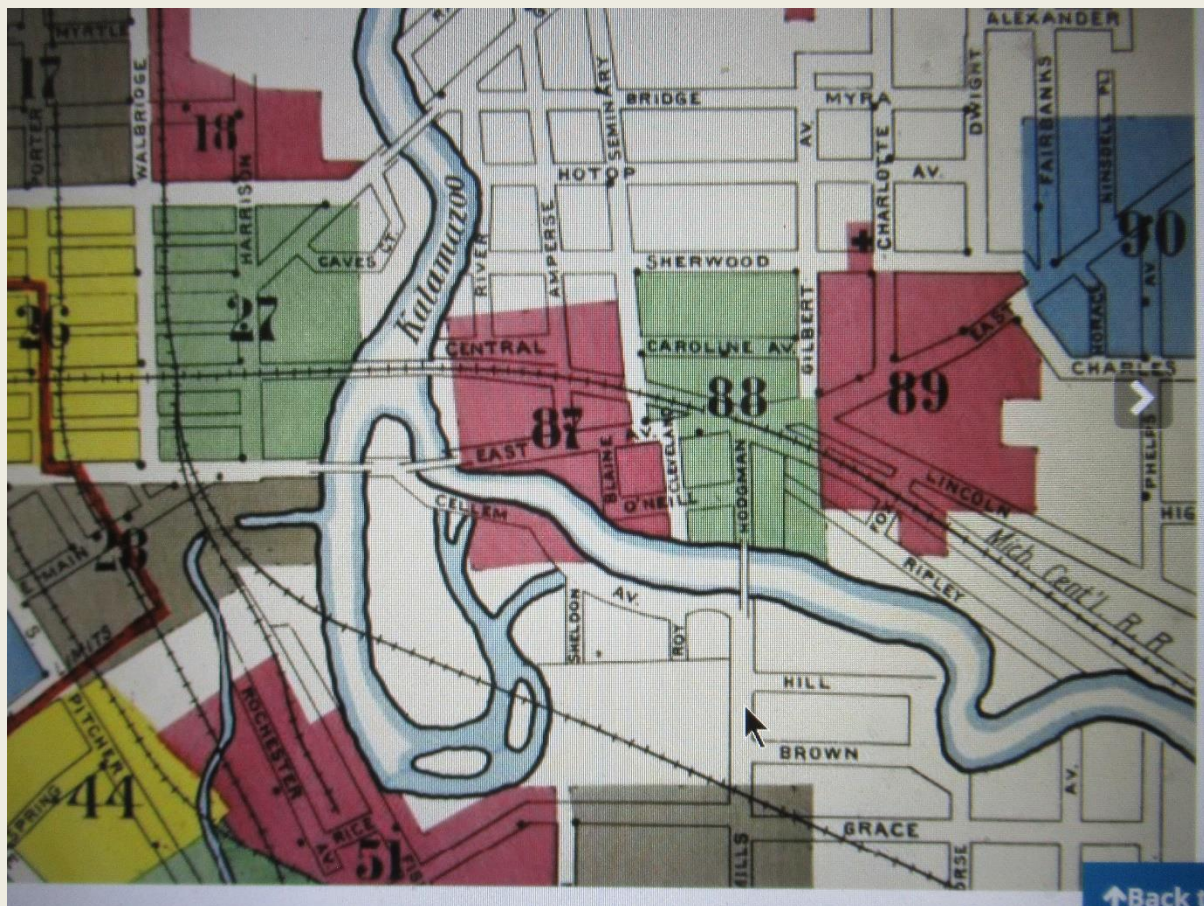
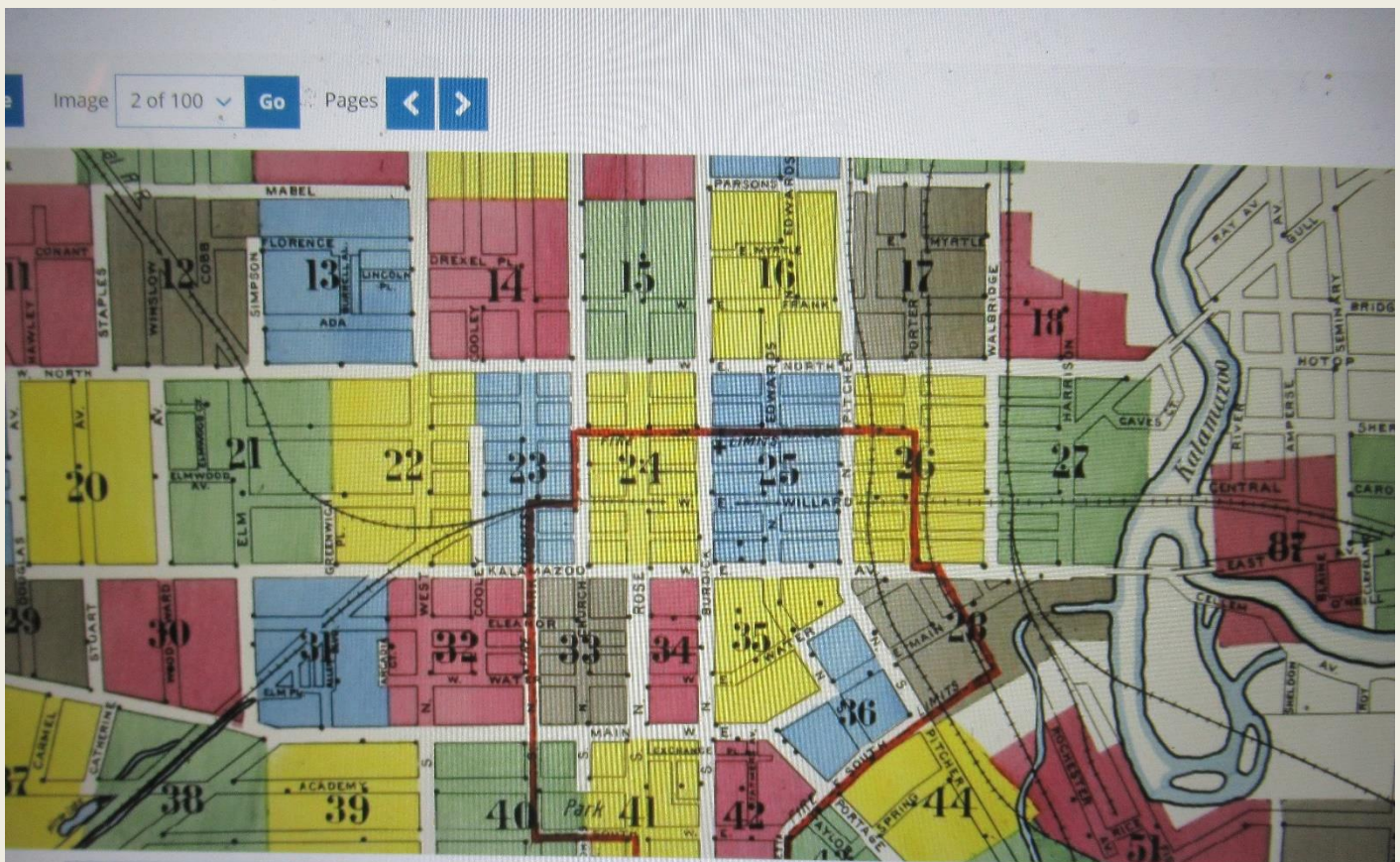


**Photo # 2 & 3** Different parts of the city and industries showing railroad tracks, construction materials, fire protection and security.



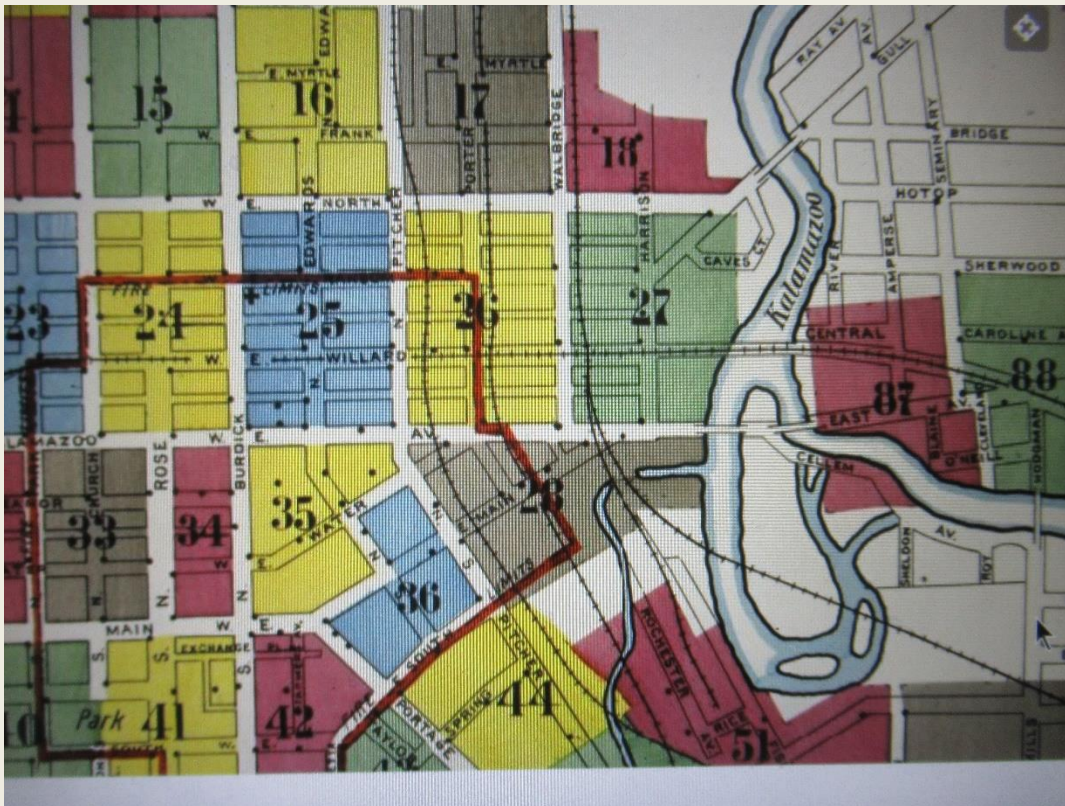
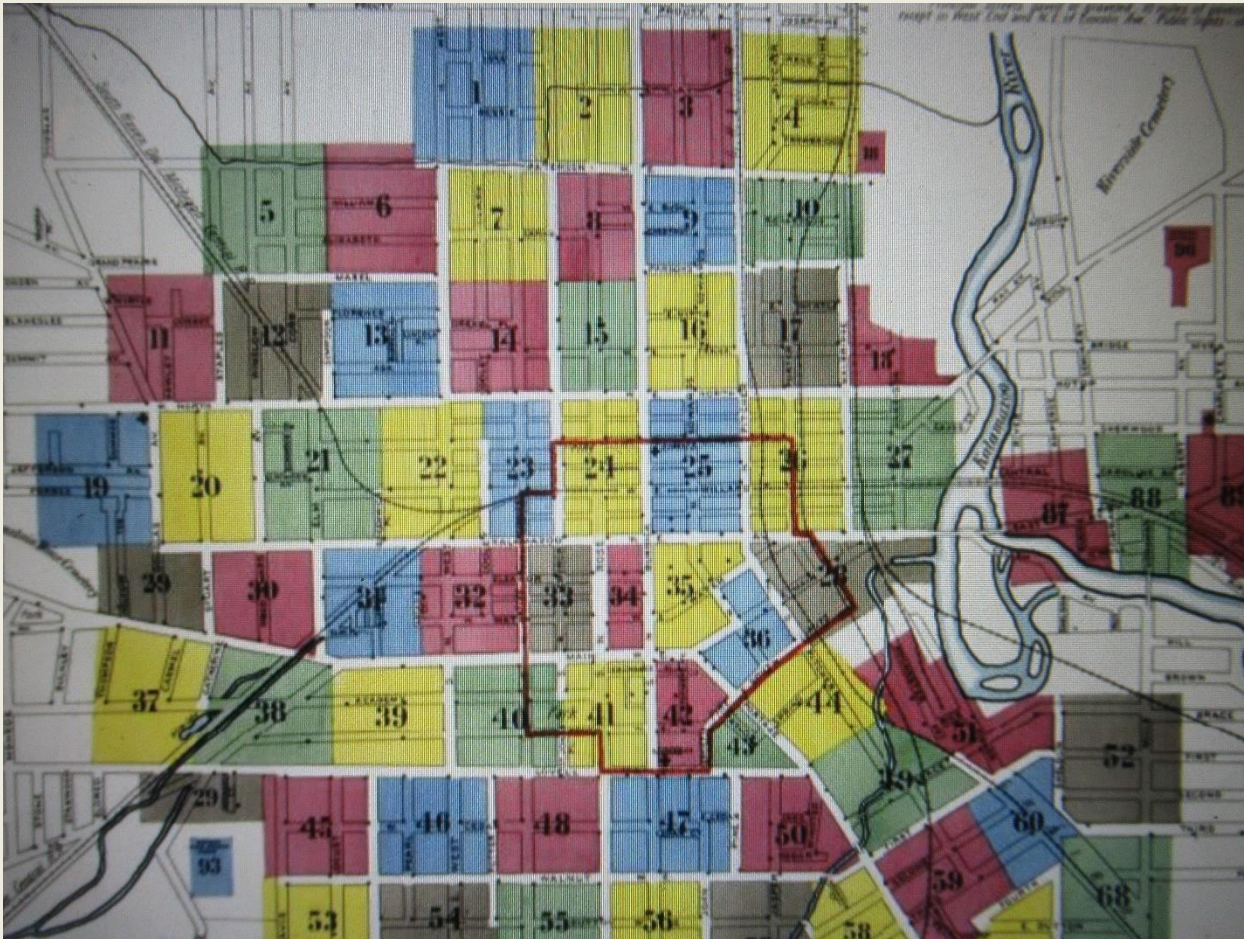


## Photo # 4, 5 & 6– Downtown Kalamazoo



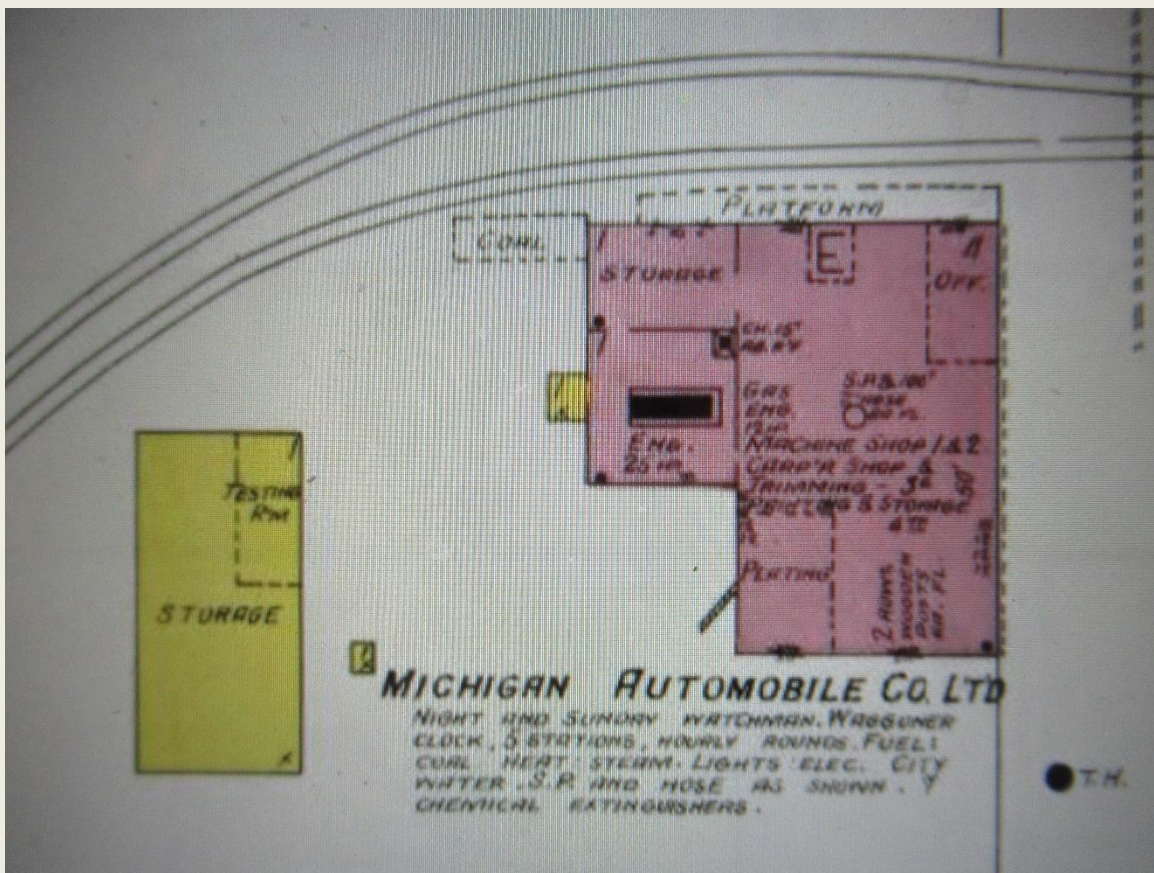
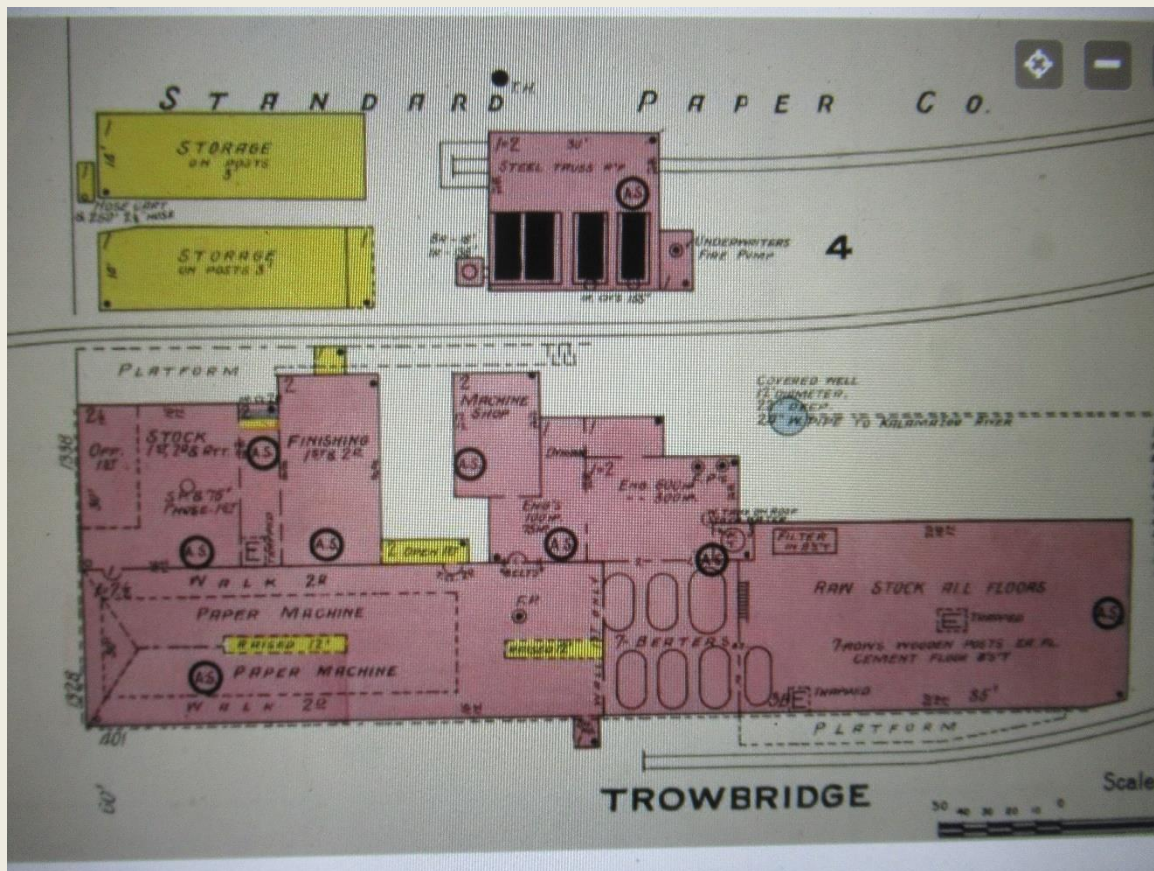


## Photo # 6 - 7



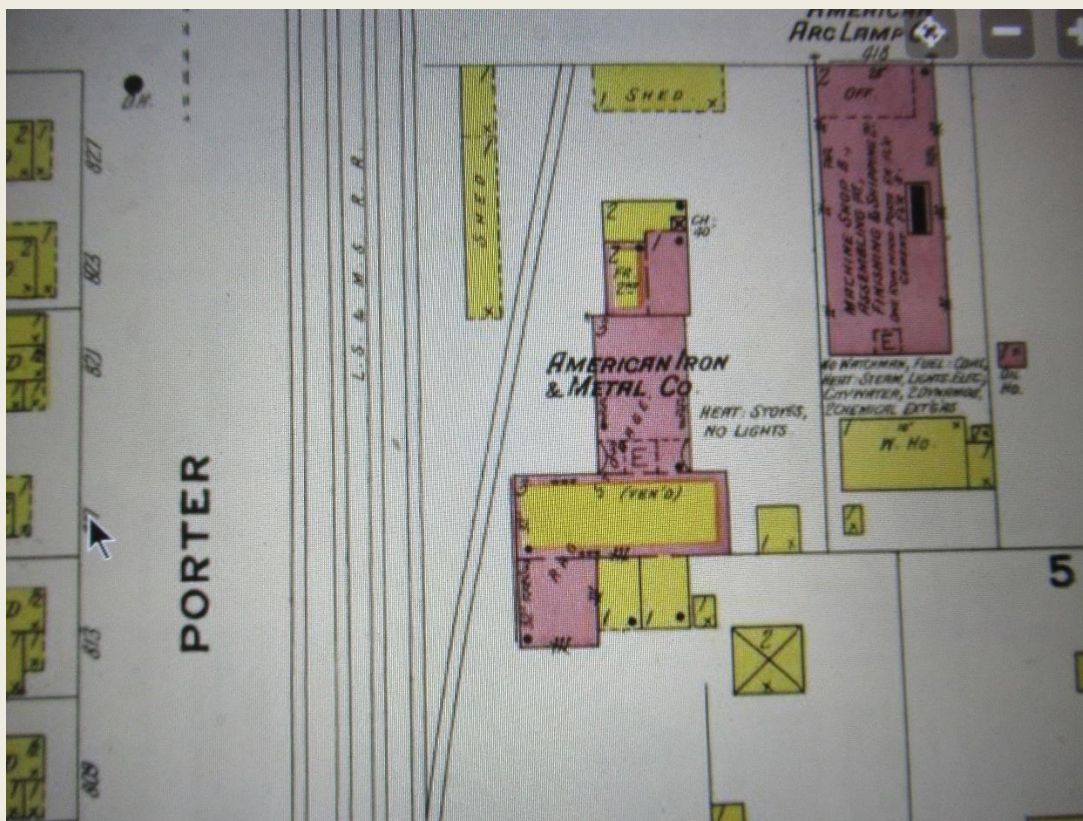
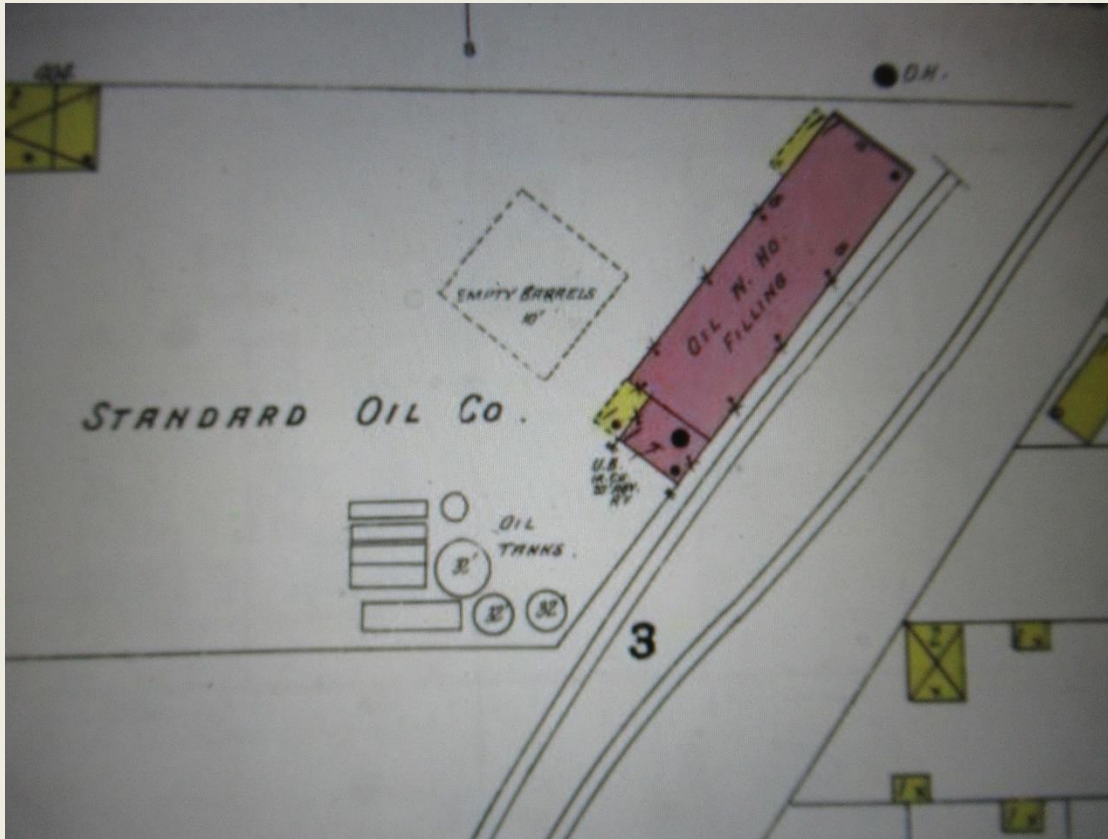


## Photos 8 & 9



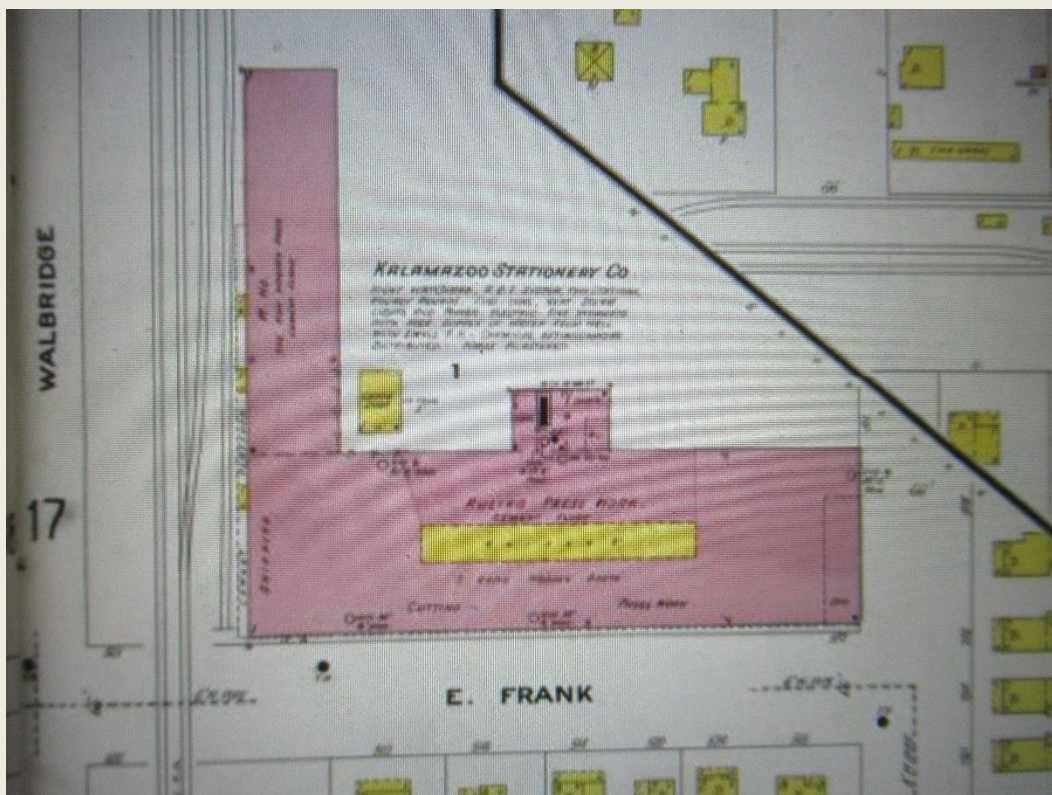
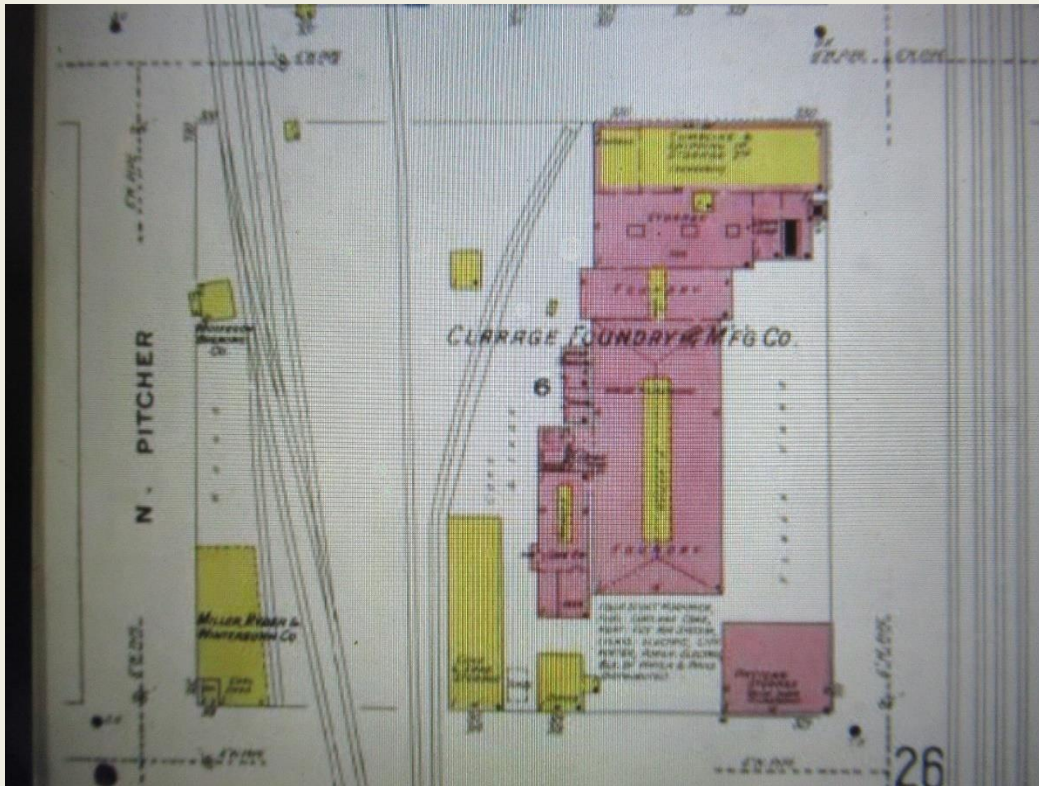


## Photos 10 & 11



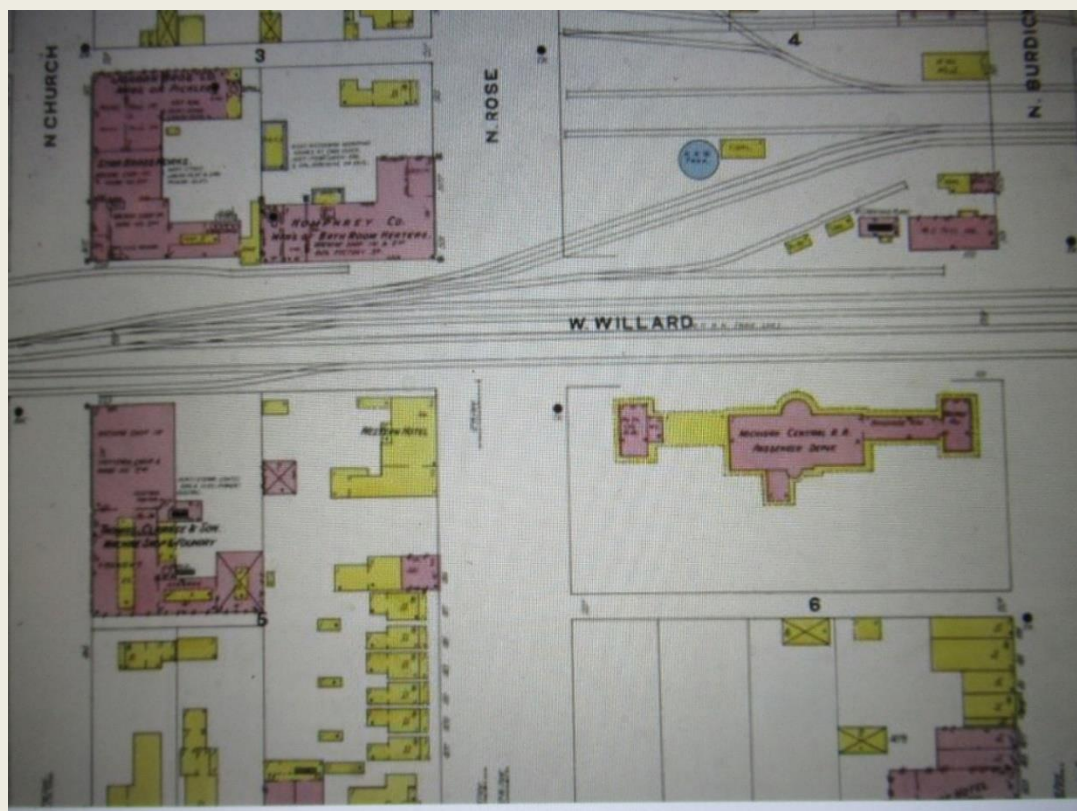
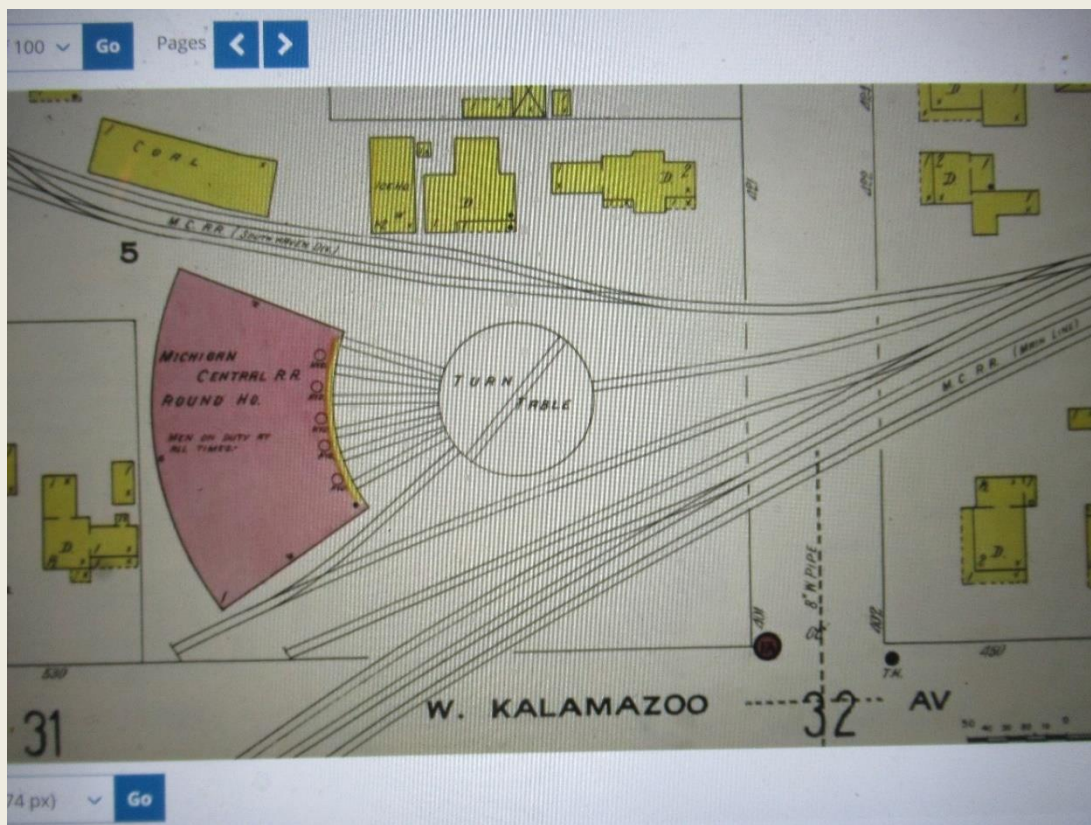


## Photo # 12 & 13





## Photos # 14 & 15



## **For Sale Items**

Do you have an excess inventory of cars, supplies, etc. which are just taking up space and most likely will never be used? You can list these items here and try to sell them, so you can buy more train stuff.

To list your for-sale items here, send your list of items along with a picture if one is available, a description of your item(s) along with your asking price and contact information. If you wish your item(s) to be listed in the upcoming newsletter, you need to submit them along with needed information no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send your information to [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com).

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**Bill Lauritsen:** has the following books for sale.

New books / magazine that I have a duplicate.

- Toy train layouts for small spaces - \$10.00. Cost was \$14.00. A great read for complete plans, ideas, and examples. I used my copy for an N gauge table top layout called Hillside.
- Realistic Animation, lighting, and sound - \$10.00 Cost was \$19.95. Make your layout come alive with sound, movement and action lighting. Has many ideas and useful information for you to choose from.

Thank you for your consideration - - email Bill at [bookmasterwc@gmail.com](mailto:bookmasterwc@gmail.com)

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## **NMRA Achievement Program**

Do you have any interest in the NMRA-NCR Achievement Program. If you want more information or have any specific questions, contact our Division 9 Achievement Program Coordinator - Dorman Wilson [N8YNW@Charter.net](mailto:N8YNW@Charter.net).



## Wrap-up

As we move into 2025, let's not forget some of the more memorable activities that that we experienced in 2024. Some of the more memorable events were the Op Sessions on Andy Keeney and Bruce Chubb's Layouts, the weathering clinic conducted by Norm Logan, the Annual Meeting at the Vicksburg Train Depot, the train ride in Coldwater, the layout tours at the Sturgis and Battle Creek model railroad clubs and the great clinics presented by our own Rich Mahaney.

The 2025 schedule of events, includes a presentation by the General Manager of the Grand Elk Railroad in January, a presentation on getting the most out of your DPM model kits, by MMR Dan Lewis in February, a series of demonstrations targeted toward helping members build their model railroading skills at the Kalamazoo Historical Model Railroad club in March and a clinic by Doug Harding on "Fun with Pickles" in April, May finds us visiting the Mid-Michigan Railroad Facilities in Turkeyville, MI. As you can see this year is off to a good start.

**Alan's Trains** – There is really nothing to add this month as I worked less than an hour on my layout. Hopefully, the next few months will see substantial progress. There is a picture of my newest locomotive.

This is a Wisconsin & Southern Locomotive EMD GP20 from Broadway Limited.



Your feedback is helpful as we move forward in planning future activities and events. Feel free to give us your thoughts, suggestions, etc.

Alan Bau  
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