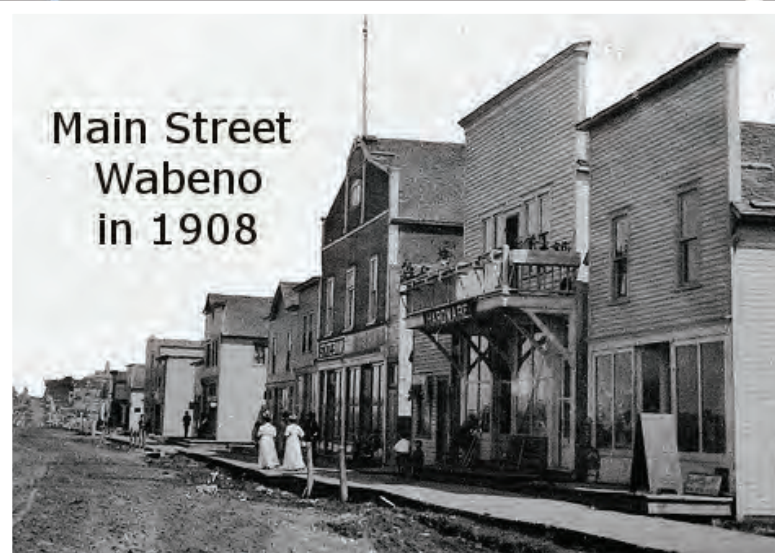


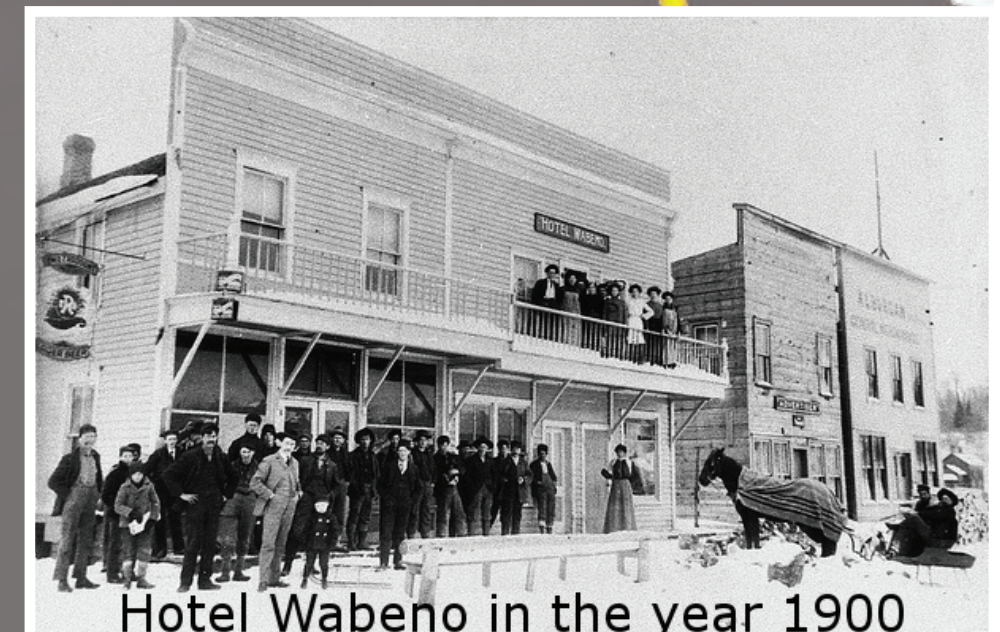
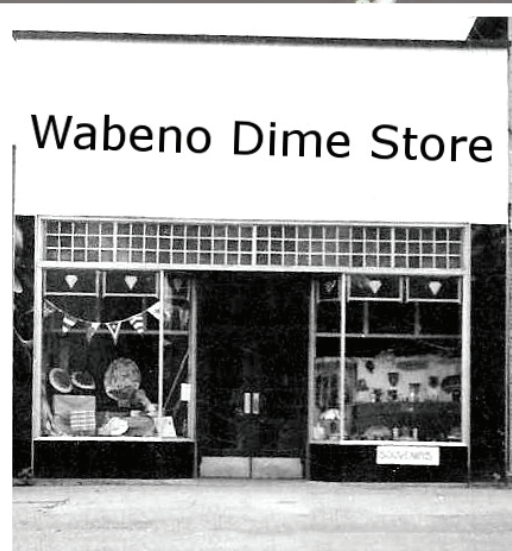
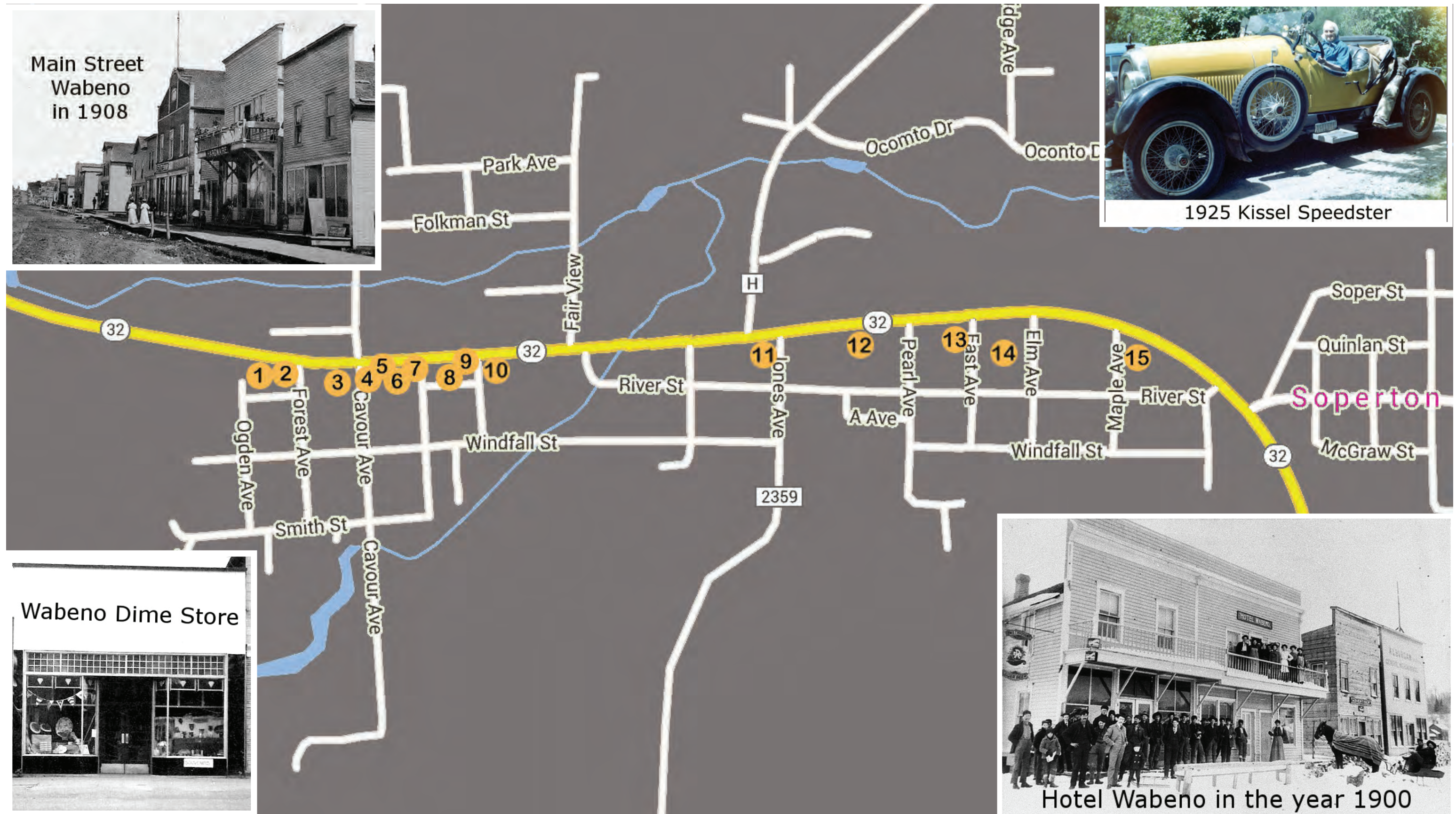
# Walking Tour of the Historical Logging Town of Wabeno, Wisconsin

On June 2, 1880, a tornado swept across northern Wisconsin from Antigo to Lake Superior, causing timber to blow down in a strip that measured 1/2 to 1 mile wide. The Native Americans called this area Waubeno". Waubeno means "the coming of the winds" or "the opening". The town took its name from this event. In the closing years of the 1800s the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad pushed north into the area, which had already been explored by the pine lumbering interests. Sawmills were soon built along the tracks, and towns would spring up around them. Wabeno was one of those towns that saw the development of numerous lumber mills, the principle ones being the Menominee Bay Shore Lumber Co., the A.E. Rusch Mill and the C.W. Jones Lumber Co. Wood fueled the local economy into the 1930s but the timber supply was exhausted and one by one the mills closed.

Resource: *Wabeno's First 100 Years 1897-1997*, Pioneer Express, Crandon, WI



1925 Kissel Speedster

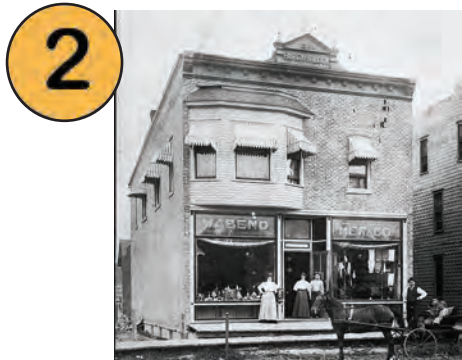






## Grand Plank Hotel

The Grand Plank was built in 1904 as a hotel for businessmen, lumberjacks coming in from the winter logging season and later hunters and fishermen. The hotel name came about because wood planks used to be laid from the railroad station behind the current public library to the hotel so people arriving or departing wouldn't have to walk in the mud. In 1928 Ceil Gayhart's parents bought the hotel which Elmer and Ceil took over after her parents retired. The Gayhart family ran it for 70 years. The Grand Plank Hotel is in the Wisconsin Historical Society's list of Historic Properties.



## Wabeno Mercantile

Anton Burgan, a Bohemian immigrant and early Wabeno pioneer, operated a meat market and grocery. His business was bought out by the Wabeno Mercantile & Co. in 1906 and located as shown in this picture. The building was later purchased by the Mischo family. As one of the oldest buildings in town, it has housed the Wabeno Mercantile Co., the Mischo Meat Market, Wabeno Post Office, Schlafke Bakery and Sparks Grocery Store. Spark's store was in this building from 1929-1990. Many families, over the years, lived in the 3 bedroom home on the second floor.



## CE Reitz Ford Dealership

The current Christian Thrift Store was once the CE Reitz Ford Dealership around 1914. Many other local businesses occupied this location; a Dodge dealership and garage, the Schlafke Bakery garage; followed by the Huettl's Apparel, The Hideaway and the Artists Way. The current owner is a nonprofit group of 11 area churches whose mission is to offer very affordable clothing and household goods for the community.



## Boehm's Drug Store

The Thayer Building has had a rich history in Wabeno. It is pictured above during the Harvest Festival Horse Race. It housed Boehm's Drug Store and was the only building on its block to survive the July 4th 1914 fire that destroyed 8 businesses which were later rebuilt in brick. At one time, Dr. Tenley had his offices on the side and back of the drug store. Among other businesses operating here were Rexall Drugs, Bahcall's Clothing, Russell Electric and the Wisconsin Public Service. Today it is an apartment building.



## Richelieu Hotel

John Pichotta built a timber framed restaurant in 1906 which was destroyed in the July 4th 1914 fire. In short order he constructed another restaurant and hotel made of brick, which still stands today. The Pichotta family sold it in 1940 to Lawrence and Pearl Mallow and it became the Richelieu Hotel, diner, soda shop and popular hangout. Since then several other businesses have occupied it including the Waldsmith Hotel, a bridal shop and a flower shop.



## White Building

Often referred to as the White building, this brick landmark was constructed after the 1914 fire that destroyed 8 buildings on this block. It has been a post office, Beck's Drug Store, a dance hall and a hardware and heating store. In 1937, it became an authorized Gambles store and served the community for decades. The west side of the building has an original advertising sign for *Eventually*, a brand of flour in the day.



## Wabeno State Bank

The Wabeno State Bank was built around 1908 and occupied the first floor with TF Moore's Buffet and Neider's Opera House upstairs. It was destroyed in the July 4th fire of 1914 and rebuilt out of brick and stands today much as it was when it was built though now on the corner of that block. It has had several owners and is now the Laona State Bank. The 'new' bank can be seen next to the White Building in # 6.



## Beck's Drug Store

Sig Beck, raised in Wabeno, returned after WWI to work in Boehm's Drug Store. After graduating from UW Pharmacy he bought the Boehm drug store stock and moved to the White Building. A 1941 article in The Northern Wisconsin News reads: "*Beck's Drug Store in Fine New Home*". SE Beck is established in a new drug store building. It is finely finished and presents an elegant appearance. The new building provides ample space for the drug store, news stand, and soda fountain as well as office of the Beck Insurance Co. and the collection department of Wisconsin Public Service Corp."



## Art's Food Mart

Built in the early 1900s, the Zingler Building was a local meat market. Art and Olivia Johnson bought Zingler's to open Quality Food Mart in 1934 which they operated till 1963. Art found a 1925 Kissel Model 6-55 Speedster (six cylinder) in the woods in bad shape and in pieces. He and his brother brought it home and refurbished it. Art and his family were often seen driving around town in the 'gold bug', especially in local parades. Today the building is a private residence and the Kissel has been professionally restored and resides in Utah.



## Eagle Saloon

Built in the 1880's, the Eagle Saloon came under the ownership of John Mallow, a colorful character, in 1897. Always popular, stories abound about a near fatal shooting at the saloon entrance and a resident ghost. He delivered beer from the railroad station to the saloon and so loved the place that after death he returned, for good. John's son, Lewis, bought the Eagle Saloon in 1921 and later the adjacent dime store and bowling alley. The saloon remained in the extended Mallow family until 1960. Several owners later, it is now an arts emporium, fine food restaurant and live theater establishment.



## Noer Hospital

The Noer Hospital was built in the early 1900's by Dr. Peter Noer. The Ovitz Hospital in Laona was a larger medical facility and over time the Noer Hospital became more like a clinic. After Dr Noer retired, Dr. Tenley's medical practice moved to the former hospital and he remained there till his retirement in the early 1960's. The town honored Doc Tenley with a parade and community luncheon at his retirement.



## Wabeno High School

In 1906, the first high school was built with partial funding from the state. In 1936 a new gymnasium and community center were added to the school. On Dec. 28, 1936 fire broke out and burned the school down but the gymnasium was saved. Classes were held in the town hall, the gymnasium and the Presbyterian Church until a new school was built in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). In 1997, a new gymnasium was constructed and later a new auditorium.

## 13 St Ambrose Catholic Church

St Ambrose Catholic Church was incorporated in 1905 with masses being held in various town homes or town buildings. Shortly thereafter land was purchased and a church built. In 1910, the church was considered too small and was split in the center. The front was moved toward the road and the back toward the hill.

An extension of 30 feet was added to the center and the interior was redecorated at a cost of \$2800. Six years later, a rectory was built and Wabeno had its first resident pastor.



## Quinlan House

4226 River Street

The Quinlan home, now a bed and breakfast, was built by MJ Quinlan, Secretary of the Menomonee Bay Shore Sawmill, in 1908, at the same time as the McGraw house. MJ and Emma raised 4 children in the home. When he passed in 1928, Emma sold to their oldest son, John who raised 10 children in the home. It remained in the family till 1954. An interesting feature of the house are the 15 tree trunks averaging 1 1/3 ft in diameter by 10 ft high in the basement supporting the structure. These trunks are over 150 years old.



## McGraw House

1784 Maple Avenue

Harry McGraw Sr. was Treasurer of the Menomonee Bay Shore Sawmill in Soperton. Harry built this home in 1908. He called his home the "Kiwhya" Lodge which was a Potawatomi word for "Sunbeam" describing the light that filtered through the windows. Harry Jr. kept the home with his wife and daughter after his parents and brother died. When it was sold to a local family, there were reports of 'ghost-like antics' around the house though a paranormal investigation did not substantiate that activity. The home is currently an art gallery and bistro.

