

Knuth Drug Store Building

9. Knuth Drug Store Building,
4850 Main Street

Main Street Looking West—Large Structure in Center of View
Is Knuth Drug Store Building after West Storefront Was
Added; Two Doors to Left Is School-Commercial Building



Knuth Drug Store

On the 1895 insurance map, the east portion of this building is shown as a meat market; this portion of the building is still shown in 1914 and is marked "confectionery." After the structure was doubled in size by adding the portion to the west, a canopy was extended across the front. As did many storeowners through the years, the Arno H. Knuths lived over the Drug Store that was their business. Knuth's obituary in the March 29, 1949, *Manistee County Pioneer Press* stated that he had operated the Drug Store for thirty years before selling it to J. W. Ellis three years prior to Knuth's death. A fond memory of this enterprise is the soda fountain that used to be within.



Verne's Emporium

The D. R. Ensigns ran the drug store before it was acquired by the Verne Hutchinsons and became Verne's Emporium. Ray and Jan Bradley, and Bill and Marilyn Barz opened the Portage Lake Pharmacy here in 1986, after purchasing the business and real estate of the Hutchinsons. The business later became Portage Lake Gifts and More in the west portion of the building. A restaurant and doctor's office as well as an antique shop, yarn shop, book store, and interior-design studio are among the businesses that have been found in the east store in past years.